

Welcome Address & Official Opening
By
Awang Yusof Amba, Acting Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Health, Brunei Darussalam
at the 5th Meeting of the ACCSQ ASEAN Cosmetics Committee
(ACC)
7 December 2005

The Empire Hotel and Country Club, Jerudong

Bismillahir-Rahmaanir-Rahim

Mrs. Werawan Tangkeo

Chair of the ACCSQ ASEAN Cosmetic Committee (ACC)

Drs. Ruslan Aspan

Co-Chair of the ACCSQ ASEAN Cosmetic Committee (ACC)

Dayang Aminah Binti Hj Md Jaafar;

Chair of The Organizing Committee,

Distinguished representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat

Distinguished ASEAN Delegates and Observers;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and a very Good Morning to all of you;

First of all, allow me to warmly welcome all of you here to the opening of the 5th ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standard and Quality (ACCSQ) ASEAN Cosmetic Committee (ACC) Meeting. Your presence here attests to the commitment of the ASEAN community to achieve the objectives of ACC.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The cosmetic industry today is a multi-billion dollar industry; with a multitude of products widely used by most people in our daily life. Cosmetic products are readily available off the shelf, through direct sale or network distribution, etc.

Needless to say, both the Regulatory Authorities and the cosmetic industry need to play a major role in ensuring that the cosmetic products available in the market are of good quality, safe and with substantiated claimed benefits.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Brunei Darussalam imports all its cosmetic products. Currently we are in the process of formulating the control of cosmetic products in line with the ASEAN Cosmetic Directive (ACD).

In preparation for the implementation of ACD, Brunei Darussalam has participated in all the capacity building activities which were jointly organised by the EC-ASEAN Economic Programme on Standards, Quality and Conformity Assessment, which include regional workshop and training in the European Union. On this note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the EC-ASEAN for their support in our participation.

As part of the preparation, a preliminary dialogue was held in July 2005 between the Ministry of Health and some of the major cosmetic importers in Brunei Darussalam with the aim of providing an insight into the ASEAN Cosmetic Directive Requirements and future legislative control of cosmetic products in our country.

In the 10th ASEAN Summit held in Vientiane, Lao's People Democratic Republic, in November 2004, the "*ASEAN Framework Agreement for the Integration of Priority Sectors*" was agreed. In supporting the Agreement, we the ASEAN member countries are already moving towards deeper integration by strengthening our cooperation under existing economic initiatives and also accelerating regional integration of which ACC contribution has significant impact.

With the strong commitment of the ASEAN Member Countries in the ASEAN Cosmetics Committee (ACC), I am confident that its objectives can be achieved and implemented by 1st January 2008.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have indeed come a long way. From the establishment of the ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality Cosmetic Product Working Group (CPWG), with the main goal to facilitate and to complement the objectives of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) by producing the ASEAN Harmonized Cosmetic Regulatory Scheme (AHCRS) in 2003, to the establishment of ACC to oversee the implementation of the ACD.

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, through the Ministry of Health, will continue to give its full support towards achieving the aims of the ASEAN Cosmetic Directive.

In conclusion, to our distinguished delegates and participants, may I wish you all, a fruitful and rewarding meeting. While all of you are in Brunei Darussalam, I hope you will also have the opportunity to explore the unexpected treasures of Brunei Darussalam.

On that note, Ladies and Gentlemen, with *Kalimah Bismillahir-Rahmaanir-Rahiim*, it is indeed my pleasure to declare this 5th ACCSQ ACC Meeting officially open.

Thank you.