

**CLOSING REMARKS OF THE MINISTER OF HEALTH
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM AT THE 6TH ASEAN CHINA HEALTH
MINISTERS MEETING**

BY

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Delivered during the

7th September 2017, Bandar Seri Begawan



السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته
and Good Afternoon

- Your Excellencies
- Fellow delegates
- Invited guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

1.

1. Let me first express the great pleasure I had to participate in this afternoon's meeting and to have a chance to share ideas and also concerns with those present. Many of you have travelled great distances to be here this afternoon and I am truly humbled by your attendance. I wish, on behalf of the Government of Brunei Darussalam, to thank you all for your active participation and for your engagement and candour which has made this meeting a learning opportunity for us all.

2. In particular, I wish to express my gratitude to my Co-Chair, the People's Republic of China, for their support in handling the proceedings. I also wish to thank ASEAN Secretariat for their expertise, their organization and hard work in making this meeting a successful one.

3. In closing, there is one point I wish to raise, that I believe is relevant to our discussion this afternoon. Many of us who work in health care, or are health professionals, have thought for a long time that we were the depository of knowledge in health, and consequently, were the only ones to know what to do for the health of people. We have therefore created data technology and information systems in isolation of the community that we were supposed to serve. To some extent, we have ignored incorporating in these data systems the potential of the community to be an active partner in the promotion of its own health. With emerging health challenges and increasing demand for healthcare, we can no longer afford to do this. We now have a chance to reflect on how best we can build partnerships in health using the tools that technology has provided us.

4. Leadership plays an important role in establishing a culture of innovation in our organisations where the potential to use technology for maximal health gains can be realised. As leaders, we have a responsibility for setting a vision for how we can move to a *smarter* health system that engages and meets the changing demands of our people. Having said this, I am reminded that merely having vision without action is just a dream. Good leaders create a vision, articulate it, own it, and relentlessly drive this vision to completion. I sincerely hope that our discussion today will bear much fruit.

5. On this note, it falls on me to thank you all once again for your contribution to our meeting and to declare the 6th ASEAN China Health Ministers Meeting officially closed.

Thank you.