



## PRESS RELEASE

### BILIF AND ILIA HOLD LEADERSHIP FORUM 2023

Tuesday, 17 Rabiulawal 1445H corresponding to 3 October 2023M

---

1. Brunei Institute of Leadership & Islamic Finance (BILIF), in collaboration with Institute of Leadership, Innovation and Advancement (ILIA), Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), organised the BILIF-ILIA Leadership Forum 2023 on Tuesday, 17 Rabiulawal 1445H corresponding to 3 October 2023M at the ILIA Building, UBD. The event was attended by professionals from both private and government organisations such as Ministry of Religious Affairs, Bursa Brunei Darussalam Sdn Bhd (BNX), United Overseas Bank Brunei, RHB Bank Brunei and Royal Brunei Airlines.
2. The forum, themed “Next-Level Leadership”, aims to explore practical leadership strategies, as well as best practices for advancing leadership to the next level. The forum also aims to discuss ways to promote inclusivity and effective management of diverse teams, while also addressing the challenges associated with leadership transformation.
3. The forum commenced with a welcoming remark delivered by Yang Mulia Dayang Hajah Sufinah Binti Haji Sahat, Chief Executive Officer, BILIF. In her remarks, she highlighted that the forum serves as a unifying platform for a diverse group of leaders, representing a wide spectrum of backgrounds, industries, and experiences in a collective effort to push the boundaries of leadership, seek innovative solutions, and magnify the impacts of leaders.
4. The forum then proceeded with a keynote speech delivered by the Guest of Honor, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ahmaddin Bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Home Affairs. Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ahmaddin shared in his keynote speech that the role of Next-Level Leaders is to ensure equitable treatment for all, regardless of generational difference in their organisations. Amongst others, Yang Berhormat also stated that effective leadership often involves collaboration and cooperation, ~~Leaders should be willing to work together,~~ not only within their own organisations or sectors but also on a national and international level ~~as it~~ [Collaboration](#) can lead to innovative solutions and shared resources that benefit everyone. Yang Berhormat also added that Effective leaders should champion fairness and give their workforce equal opportunities, eventually promoting inclusivity, fairness and mutual learning.

5. During the morning session, the event saw several sessions such as “Leadership Blueprint: Mastering Leadership Skills to Achieve Extraordinary Breakthrough Results” presented by Dr Amat Taap Manshor, Chief Executive Officer, AJM International Academy, Malaysia; a panel discussion entitled “Embrace, Engage and Empower: The Transition to Strategic Leadership” featuring Yang Mulia Dr Haji Azman Haji Ahmad, Permanent Secretary (Tertiary Education), Minister of Education; Yang Mulia Hajah Sufinah; Agnete Johnsgaard-Lewis, Managing Director, Brunei Shell Petroleum; and Mochamad Nizar Mustaqim, Program Director Arqam and Head of Strategy and Planning, ALAMI, Indonesia. The session was moderated by Yang Mulia Dayang Norainie binti Ahmad, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), UBD.
6. The event then continued in the afternoon with a presentation on “Understanding Neuroscience in Leadership” by Dr Rizki Edmi Edison, ILIA as well as a fireside chat entitled “Connect with Your Followers: Becoming the Next Level Leader” featuring Yang Mulia Haji Awang Afero Eswandy bin Haji Awang Mohamad, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, BILIF and Iran Moriff, Chief Operating Officer, Bank Islam Malaysia Bhd. The last session entitled “Are We Future-Ready Leaders Thriving with Self-Leadership?” was a panel discussion led by Yang Mulia Dr Dayang Mahani binti Haji Hamdan, Director, IPS. The panelists for the discussion included Yang Mulia Colonel (Rtd) Awang Saiful Akhmar bin Hj Mohd Shariff, IPS; Dr Rizki Edmi Edison; and Dr Amat Taap.
7. The event ended with a concluding remark by Yang Mulia Dr Dayang Asiyah Az-Zahra binti Ahmad Kumpoh, Director, ILIA. YM Dr highlighted in her remark that organisation embarking on the journey of Next-Level Leadership should support their future leaders with learning opportunities to nurture their talent and foster a culture of growth so that they will possess the adaptability to overcome ever-evolving challenges and the strategic perspectives to foster creativity and innovation.
8. Brunei Institute of Leadership & Islamic Finance (BILIF) is the Centre of Excellence for the finance industry in Brunei Darussalam under the purview of Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (BDCB). BILIF’s mission is to shape future leaders, experts, and innovators particularly in the areas of Islamic finance and leadership through immersive programmes and world-class events. For more information on BILIF and its learning and development programmes, please visit the BILIF website at [www.bilif.com.bn](http://www.bilif.com.bn) or BILIF’s Instagram @BILIF.bn.