

PROTOCOL AGREEMENT SIGNING CEREMONY

BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN AND YANG DI-PERTUAN OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM REPRESENTED BY MINISTRY OF PRIMARY RESOURCES AND TOURISM AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF CUSTOMS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (GACC)

Tuesday, 20 Syawal 1440 / 25 June 2019

Dewan Setia Pahlawan, Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism,

The Protocol Agreement Signing Ceremony on **The Protocol on Inspection, Quarantine and Veterinary Sanitary Requirements for Wild Aquatic Products to be Exported from Brunei Darussalam to the People's Republic of China** between the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China was held at the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism signed the Protocol on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, where as His Excellency Mr Zou Zhiwu, Vice Minister General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) signed the Protocol on behalf of the People's Republic of China.

The signing of this protocol agreement is a requirement in order to facilitate export of wild aquatic products from Brunei Darussalam to People's Republic of China. According to the Department of Fisheries, the fish export rate has increased from 1,209 metric tonnes in 2017 to 1,763 metric tonnes in 2018, valued at \$10.53 million, and 34% of the total export was to the People's Republic of China. Therefore, the main objective of this agreement is to further strengthen the cooperation between these two countries in biosecurity inspection, quarantine and veterinary sanitary requirements for wild aquatic products.

In addition, there are Foreign Direct Investment companies from the People's Republic of China already existing involved in joint ventures with local investors in the fisheries sector in this country.

Also present at the signing ceremony were Her Excellency Ms Yu Hong, Ambassador of The People's Republic of China, Yang Mulia Pengiran Haji Kamarudzaman Bin Pengiran Haji Mohd Ishak, Permanent Secretary of Primary Resources and Tourism dan Yang Mulia Awang Abdul Halidi Bin Mohd Salleh, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Primary Resources and Tourism and heads of departments of the Ministry as well as the delegation from The People's Republic of China, and a number of local companies that have exported and will be exporting their products to The People's Republic of China.