

# Brunei marks Earth Hour

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HRH Prince Abdul Azim with Dato Hamdillah and spouse holding up the candles during the Earth Hour -- lights out at 8.30pm -- at Kg Ayer Cultural and Tourism Centre.



HRH Prince' Abdul' Azim, Dato Hamdillah, Sheikh Jamaluddin and the organising committee doing a countdown prior to turning off the power at the Kampong Ayer Cultural and Tourism Gallery.



**Theme song for Earth Hour.**



**Kg Ayer Cultural and Tourism Centre with the power turned off at 8.30pm last night ... and (below) lights back on at 9.30pm yesterday. - PHOTOS: JASON LEONG**



Brunei Darussalam joined the global alarm last night by pulling the plug on its iconic Kg Ayer Cultural Centre from 8:30pm to 9:30pm local time to mark Earth Hour like more than 4,000 cities worldwide.

Sheikh Jamaluddin Sheikh Mohammad, CEO of the Brunei Tourism Board, switched off the lights at Kg Ayer where Brunei pop singer Fakhru Razi performed and dedicated his song 'Experience' to mark the hour.

Also present to support the worldwide movement was Deputy Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Haji Hamdillah bin Haji Abdul Wahab, who is also the Chairman of Brunei Darussalam Heart of Borneo and Chairman of the Brunei Tourism Board.

HRH Prince 'Abdul Azim who graced the event said, "We are the world, we are the children, right now, we have to put our foot at the door (and join the global movement) ... and change it in anyway possible and hopefully our effort will lead to a brighter future for all of us. That is why we are here tonight to make the world a better place".

In line to raise awareness on energy efficiency and conservation, the Energy Division at the Prime Minister's Office and Science, Technology and Environment Partnership (STEP) Centre, Ministry of Education in collaboration with Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam and The Energy Club of Maktab Sains all marked Earth Hour 2010.



At the Ministry of Development, Minister Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdullah bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Hj Bakar **(pic)**, was given the honour of unplugging, blacking out the building at old airport road yesterday.

Also present were Deputy Minister Dato Paduka Hj Mat Suny bin Hj Mohd Hussein with Acting Permanent Secretaries Awang Hj Mohd Zin bin Hj Awang Salleh and Awang Hj Suhaimi bin Mohd Ghafar. The minister then watched a short video on Earth Hour.

At Kg Ayer, several NGOs also pledged support to Earth Hour, including Beach Bunch, SMARTER Brunei, BERSATU (SSYEAP alumni), AIDS Council and many others. Earth Hour pioneer Andy Ridley was also on hand at Kg Ayer, via videophone from Australia. Ridley sent his appreciation to all Bruneians taking part in Earth Hour.

While the lights went out, the event was made more electrifying when Brunei's top singer Fakhru Razi belted out a moving performance including his latest release "Experience", which he dedicated as the theme song for this year's Earth Hour, its lyrics resonant with love for nature.

He also sung his unreleased number "MIB" and belted out a new song he just finished writing with Hans Anwar called "Quench".

Brunei's Polar Girl, DK Najibah Era who was also present, said she was touched with the support given by Bruneians to the global cause.

Not just Bruneians but foreign expatriates from Jamaica to China, teachers Mr Nyave Yahaya Salifu, Mr Liu Lin Yang and Miss Li Ni said they were touched with the lights-off. Mr Nyave, a geography teacher, said he has been emphasizing the need for conservation to his students.

Popular Radio DJ and a member of the Beach Bunch told the Bulletin that they were there as an NGO that strongly supports conservation. The Beach Bunch, a registered association, cleaned up any mess left behind.