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Modern housing beautifying the Kampung Lurong Sikuna

Kampung Lurong Sikuna, Mukim Peramu which is situated right across the Royal wharf, Bandar Seri Begawan is now experiencing development changes with the Upgrading Pilot Project of 'Kampong Ayer' or Water Village. It is an initiative by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam toward beautifying the Kampong Ayer environment with the construction of modern houses that will be more orderly, comfortable and safe to live-in by the people of Brunei Darussalam.

The houses were built while still maintaining the characteristics of houses in Kampong Ayer, resilient and provide the same amenities houses on land and caring for a healthier environment, especially the waters of Brunei River. The housing project is divided into two types of houses, namely, the type 'A' one-storey house with an area of 130 square meters that costs BND65 thousand and equipped with three bed rooms, whilst the type 'B' 2-storey house costs BND90 thousand with an area of 198 square meters has four bed rooms.



This project was implemented on the 2nd of April 2, 2011 and completed on 10th July, 2012.

The construction of the houses under the Kampong Ayer Upgrading Pilot Project completed with the construction of a network of roofed bridges, sewerage system including treatment plants and sewage pumping station to Sungai Kebun. The construction of two platform areas were for the purpose of leisure, landscape and jetty. The electrical substation building, Water piping systems and fire prevention fighting system were also built.

With the flooring and concrete columns and flame retardant wooden walls, shows the structure of the houses were built using high quality materials making the living conditions in Kampong Ayer better.

Among the privileges of the houses under this project is the granting of permanently grants which will be extended to other houses in Kampong Ayer

It will also portray the beautiful image of Kampong Ayer as one of the heritage to be proud off and a sustainable for the future generation.



Tourism Potential

With the new construction of modern houses, Kampong Ayer especially Kampung Lurong Sikuna has the potential to attract additional tourism with the opening of The Cultural and Tourism Gallery Water Village. The gallery was opened on, August 19, 2009 making Kampong Ayer remains a focal point for visitors, especially tourists from foreign countries.

Kampong Ayer constitutes an integral part of early history of Brunei. Prominent visitors in centuries past described the immerse water village as the "Venice of the east", filled with myriad attractive treasures. Throughout the years, skilled artisans such as blacksmiths, silvers smiths, weavers and padians or riverine vendors have been frequently associated with the unique sights and sounds of Kampong Ayer.

The pioneer upgrading project for Kampong Ayer is meant to provide infrastructure and facilities for the residents in the interest of future generations living with a high quality of life. The project would undoubtedly increase the pulling power of Kampong Ayer in a unique way, consistent with the demands of the day and the present climate of change.





Delegation of Brunei Darussalam with the delegates from other countries discussionsing on issues concerning women.

Women Organisation of Brunei Darussalam – The Voice of Brunei Women

Introduction

The contribution of women to the society is immense. In Brunei Darussalam the success and ability of women is no less impressive with those from abroad. They are able to make the nation proud, whether at national level or internation arena, for example the Women's Council of Brunei Darussalam (MWNBD) who are members of the ASEAN Confederation of Women's Organization (ACWO) since 24 January 1986.

As a member of the organization, recently, members from MWNBD composed of MWNBD Vice President I, Pengiran Datin



Paduka Hajah Mariam binti Pengiran Haji Matarsat along with six other members of the MWNBD Governance Board, Dayang Hajah Kertini binti Orang Kaya Paduka Setia Diraja Abang Haji Abu Hanifah, Datin Hajah Siti Hajar binti Pehin Orang Kaya Dato Paduka Seri Setia Diraja Mohd Yusof, Dayang Hajah Arabeyah binti Orang Kaya Seri Wijaya Haji Abdullah, Pengiran Hajah Jamilah binti Pengiran Haji Matarsat, Datin Hajah Latifah binti Haji Yakub and Dayang Hajah Sauyah binti Haji Kula attended the General Assembly and 16th ACWO Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



General Assembly And 16Th ACWO Conference

The assembly was also attended by other National Women's organisation from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar, Republic of Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, and representatives from the United Nations Women (UNW) and the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW). The assembly held biennially, carries a theme of women's issues and discuss issues affecting women, such as women in politics, empowerment of women in the economy and socio-culture; HIV / AIDS; women and girls trafficking; information technology; climate change; MDGS; Women in the global economy; and stopping violence as well as eradicating all forms of discrimination.

MWNBD And ACWO

The 17th General Assembly in 2016 was hosted by Thailand. ACWO is a combination of 10 national organizations representing ASEAN women to strengthen and promote their role and involvement in the development of their respective countries. It is a non-government regional organization established on November 20, 1981, in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia during the ASEAN Women's Programme (AWP). ACWO General Assembly was held on February 21, 1984 together with the 3rd AWP Meeting. ACWO has a consultant status in the UN Economic and Social Council and is recognized by ACW.

MWNBD At International Level

ACWO Administrative Board is selected and appointed by rotation for a period of two years. Since becoming a member ACWO, MWNBD has held the position of the President from 1992 to 1994 and from 2004 to 2006. Secretary-General from 1990 to 1992 and from 2000 to 2002 and Treasurer from 1988 to 1990 and from 1998 to 2000. In addition to being members of ACWO, MWNBD is also formally accepted as a member of the International Council of Women (ICW-CIF), headquartered in Paris, France on 3 July 2000. Until today, 75 states have become a member of all of the world to the ICW-CIF. ICW-CIF main mission is to unite the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the National Women's Council from around the world to uplift the status of women in particular and improve the welfare of society in general. ICW-CIF General Assembly is held three times a year.

The launch of MWNBD was officiated by Her Majesty Pengiran Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, MWNBD patron on 6 April 1985.

The purpose and objectives of MWNBD is to support the national philosophy of Malay Islamic Monarchy (Melayu Islam Beraja - MIB) in all MWNBD activities; uniting the power of women through associations, organizations and charitable women and individual organizations; act as a national body representing the women of Brunei Darussalam; improve and uplift the status of women in all areas of education, economy, social welfare, culture and society, encouraging women to recognize and assume their responsibility to society and the country.

In addition, the aim is also to handle family and community problems, as a center for collecting and disseminating information on women and family, exchanging of views and experiences, as well as discussion on issues relating to women, children and families, foster friendship between women, regardless of race, religion and ranks and cooperate with the government in all fields, especially in the development of Brunei Darussalam.

MWNBD role is to act as a national body affiliated with the goals and objectives representing all women and levels and areas covering PERTIWI Association; Women's Association (WI); The Brunei government Senior Officers Wives Welfare Association (BISTARI); Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam (PPPBD); Women's Welfare Association (PKP) Belait district; The Brunei Malay Teachers Association (PGGMB); The Wives Association of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (BAKTI); The Women Graduates Association (PSW); Women's Welfare Affiliated Association (PERGANITA) Tutong District; Lambak Kanan National Housing Welfare Association (BAKANITA); The Kampung Lambak Kanan (PERBEKAL); Women's Association of Kampung Junjungan (PEWAJA) and Nurul Islam Association (PNI).



Serving our land

As living beings of the earth depending on each other, we humans need the Earth's resources to survive. We need food and water for us to be able to perform our daily routine. Rice, fruits, vegetables and other types of crops produce are our daily food resource. Large tracts of land will be more beneficial if we produce something useful for us. It is not something of a suprise if we rely on our natural surroundings.



Efforts Towards Progress

We cannot deny the world is now starting to change due to uncertain increase of climate change in global warming caused by modernization that has forced mankind to cut down trees, lessening our green surroundings.

However, there are those who maintains and take the opportunity in an effort to cultivate on the fertile land.

Kampung Lumapas Consultative Council Farming Cooperation for example, initiates 10 acres of farm land by its members mainly from the villagers.

Since its official opening on 27 November 2013 by the Minister of Home Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, the efforts of its members to expand the farms by planting chilli pepper.

In an area of five acres of land, other than chilli peppers, farmers also plant sweet corn in an effort to diverse revenue due to high demands in the market .

In addition to farming, paddy fields are also commercialized at Ladang Lubok Gusi, Kampung Bakiau, Tutong. The joint approched, by siblings partnerships Dayang Hajah Hapsah binti Haji Abd. Ghani and Haji Ali Hasnan bin Haji Abd. Ghani, are part of a group of farmers cultivating over 2.5 acres paddy fields.

They started working on the field for the past five years ago by producing varieties of rice, namely Pusu, Bario, Adan and Nusan .

A Concerned Government

The government, through the relevent agencies strongly encourage the people to make use of the land. The Department of Agriculture and Agrifood, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resource ensures in the monitoring of cultivated land give advice and talks as well as and guidance by conducting Rice, Farmers Field School and Food, Farmer field School programs.

In addition, Brunei-Muara District Office in support of the efforts that have given financial provisions under activities of approximately BND65 thousand.



Generating The Economy

When we produce something that gives purpose to the community, it will promise good returns.

According to the Department of Economic Planning and Development, the agricultural sector contributed BND 82.2 million in gross domestic product (GDP) in 2013, including the BND 20.7 million for the vegetables, fruits and other agricultural products and BND 61.5 million for livestock .

The results of the efforts from the MPK Lumapas Farming Cooperation directly has provided income to the entrepreneurs although not a considerable amount, but it could give satisfaction as it is obtained from their own efforts.







MPK Lumapas Produced Chilli Cultivation Product.

Members of MPK Lumapas also plans to commercialise chilli products to the local market as a supplier to restaurants and supermarkets.

In addition, for operators of paddy fields, other than rice for private use, it will also be sold to the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood.

Such efforts should be praised as an independent business can contribute towards economic progress. It is not impossible if the agricultural sector is capable to raise the country's income and revenue and through marketing to the next level.



Awang Haji Sabli showing a model of a complete product of racing boats.

Introducing Brunei through his handicrafts

Buying souvenirs or gifts from places that we have travelled to is quite common especially when it is our first visiting that place. The souvenirs bought are then given to families, friend and to be kept as personal collection.

Among the items that are always bought as souvenirs are keychains. Besides keychains, there are other kinds of souvenirs from various countries visited which will look fascinating when arranged on a table, decorated on living room walls or kept on shelves as momento.

After retiring his service with the shell oil Company Sdn. Bhd. in 2001, Haji Sabli bin Haji Omar, 68, is now focusing full time as an entrepreneur of national handicraft shop producing various types of small boats, padian boats gambus, racing boats and a key holder shaped as congkak and boats made of Madang Sisik wood which have received an overwhelming response.

To create quality work, he does the work with extra focus and attention to the smallest details and once done it will be painted beautifully with the color of our national flag.

"I started carving about six years ago and got my skills just by reading and practising and then started to make and carve a small gambus which I learnd from woodcuting books and from my own research," said Haji Sabli. He uses any kind of woods which can be found locally and for resisitant items he uses teak wood, Yellow Acacia and Madang Sisik.

Before commercializing his handicrafts a representative from the Handicraft Center will see and discuss with him the types of gifts to be crafted such as small boats and a replica of a keris, keychains and from there he will start crafting.

Initially, Haji Sabli started his crafting by making iron chairs and table but because the price of steel is quite expensive, so he turned to carpentry.

Now, he works not only as a way to fill his time since retiring 10 years ago, but he makes as an additional income other than be used as handicraft 'One Village One Product' after receiving encouragement from YB Hj Shafiee bin Ahmad, Head of Kampong Lumut 1.

The handicrafts are produced by him self. Small crafted boats takes about three days to complete, while keychains will take three to four days and all these carvings and handicrafts are done neatly and carefully.

He is passionate and is willing to share his knowledge with others, especially to educate teens about the wooden carvings and handicrafts.

It is important to be patience and willing to learn when crafting and when you do your research, understand the information and try to produce what they have learned. Workshops conducted by him takes two hours a day. Participants are introduced to tools, security, and information on how to use it properly and safety.

He advices the youths today not be choosy on employment and deepen their interest with more focus as it is not easy to market their quality handicraft without disciplined work.

"My handicraft begin to be recognized since the exhibition of One Product One village that took place at the International Conference Center Berakas," he said.

His dedication and focus in making handicrafts, did not go to waste when he was entrusted to participated in the 'World Expo 2010' exhibition in Shanghai China for a week sponsored by BEDB. Two years later he was invited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade participated in the 'Asian cultural and handicraft Festival' in the Sultanate of Oman for eight days. He feels honored because his crafts has brought a name to the country.



Awang Haji Sabli bin Haji Omar, an entrepreneur that has made a success in handicrafts.



Products that are neatly displayed.



CAE Brunei Multi-Purpose Training Centre: Aviation, Disaster Management And Health Training Centre

Situated at the Rimba Digital Junction in front of Tungku Highway is a new building containing equipment worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

The said building is the theater of operations for CAE Brunei Multi-Purpose Training Centre Private Limited (CAE Brunei MPTC), which is one of 11 large-scale businesses established by foreign direct investment (FDI) in which the main facilitator is the Brunei Economy Development Board (BEDB).

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam had consented to officially open the company on September 8, 2014.

The establishment of CAE Brunei MPTC cost more than USD120 million. The company began operations in September 2014 and it is one of the largest multi-purpose training centres in the region that offers helicopter simulation

training. The training centre has advanced facilities based on modeling and simulation technology.

CAE Brunei MPTC has received certification from the Civil Aviation Department of Brunei Darussalam and the European Aviation Safety Authority in August 2014. These certifications have enabled CAE Brunei MPTC to begin operations as an international training centre in Brunei.

CAE Brunei MPTC building contains the simulation machines named as CAE 3000 Series for helicopter mission simulation training representing Sikorsky S-92 helicopter commonly used in the region for oil and gas operations.



Types of Training

The CAE Brunei MPTC offers specific training for the defence, aviation, emergency/crisis management, healthcare and energy sectors. Some of the types of training offered by the CAE Brunei MPTC include:

- · Initial and type rating training for specific aircraft platforms;
- · Recurrent and refresher training for specific aircraft platforms;
- · Mission-specific training such as low-altitude flying tactics;
- · Landing on oil platforms;
- · Familiarization and procedural training;
- · Disaster and crisis management training for first responders;
- Joint, multi-agency collaboration and coordination training for emergency scenarios.



Factors that encouraged the main CAE company based in Canada to invest in Brunei

National integrity and stability. Brunei economic capabilities, its location, its focus on security, low tax rates and close relationship with ASEAN have all contributed to CAE's decision to invest in Brunei; market opportunities due to the leadership of Brunei flight. CAE observe market opportunities because Brunei has shown strong leadership in the aviation sector. Brunei became the first country in ASEAN to use Boeing 787 Dreamliner and Sikorsky S-70I Black Hawk.

"More than 90 percent of the daily operations of CAE Brunei MPTC is run by local professional staff", said Mr. Kevin Speed, General Manager of CAE Brunei MPTC.

Basically, the company is applying its expertise in training and simulation to help customers increase the safety, efficiency and maintain readiness.

For Brunei Darussalam, CAE Brunei Multi-Purpose Training Centre (MPTC) Private Limited is a joint venture between CAE based in Canada and the government of Brunei Darussalam through the Ministry of Finance. It was (MPTC) established to meet the training needs based on high technology specialization in aviation, disaster management and health in Brunei and Asia.



Maintaining the legacy of traditional games

Most children nowadays are not exposed to the traditional games played by children from the past. The glee and joy of the children that can be heard while playing with each other outside their house made social relations among them stronger. Especially during the school holidays, neighbouring children would normally play with each other.

However, with the creation of video games, the use of computer applications, smartphones and tablets in the IT era nowadays, traditional games are being forgotten. Furthermore, games that can be played with these sophisticated equipment can be enjoyed individually or with virtual partners. In fact, some children today are not interested in interacting with the community and they prefer to stay alone and play video games. As a result, when these kids grow up, they do not know today how to interact with courtesy and decency towards other people. Over time it can lead to negative changes in society if this issue is neglected.

Traditional games are a symbol of culture to a society because it can create a friendly bond and social interactions within the community. It is a legacy and a treasure that should be preserved so that it will not go extinct.

Traditional games also have benefits that encourage us to use our mind like *congkak* and *pasang*. Game like *kikik* helps in developing creativity, while games like *tarik kalat, main carah,* and *ayam dan musang* helps in developing our physical fitness.

Brunei traditional games can be divided into two, which are outdoor and indoor games.

Among the traditional outdoor games that are still popular until today is *tarik kalat* which is commonly organised in conjunction to the birthday of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. Besides that, there are also several other outdoor traditional games such as *permainan gatah*, *tinting*, *gasing*, *kikik* and so on.

Some examples of Brunei's traditional indoor games are *congkak*, *pasang*, *catur*, *simban* and others. In the past, the games are played during the wedding ceremony on *Malam Berjaga-Jaga*,





Malam Berbedak and Berinai. This tradition is still maintained in the Royal Wedding ceremony, for instance during Malam Berjaga-Jaga where those who attend, usually the women guests, enjoy Brunei traditional indoor games such as congkak and catur.

In order to bring these games to life, there are some computer software that has been created as an effort to uphold the traditional games such as *congkak* and *pasang*.

In Brunei Darussalam, the government through various departments has tried to uphold the traditional games like congkak and pasang by organizing workshops and competitions. For example, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) Belait District Branch held a workshop on the 26th June 2013 at the Youth Centre Mini Hall, Belait District. The workshop was conducted by trainers from the Brunei Museum Department. The workshop was attended by 31 youths and students from Pg Jaya Negara Pg Hj Abu Bakar Secondary School (SMPJNPHAB), Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah Secondary School (SMPAPRSB), Perdana Wazir Secondary School (SMPW) and Sayyidina Ali Secondary School (SMSA) as well as members of the youth associations, charity organizations and government agencies from JBS also took part in the workshop.





Besides that, the Department of Co-Curriculum Education (JPK) through the Division of Arts and Culture also held a workshop on traditional game of *Congkak* and *Pasang* specifically for secondary school teachers and colleges of the national level including private schools. More than 60 teachers participated in the workshop which began on the 12th February, 2013 until 18th February, 2013, where the facilitators were also from the Brunei Museums Department.

There are also some schools that are organizing activities to raise the profit of various types of Brunei traditional games such as SMPAPRSB Lumut during the end of the school season. This activity was organized by the Department of Malay Islamic Monarchy, Malay Language and Literature of the school. The games held were permainan tinting, simban, gatah, bilon, kaki tiga, permainan carah and permainan ayam dan musang.

Conclusion

As we are in the age of globalization and IT, the popularity of traditional games are somewhat hampered. Therefore, an appropriate approach is necessary to uphold traditional games in the country. This is important so that future generations do not look cynically on traditional games that we have inherited from our ancestors.

Some efforts, such as holding workshops and activities in schools, are a noble effort that should be continued to foster a sense of community interest in traditional games. This heritage if not maintained, may eliminate the national identity.



Aquaculture sector sustainable if developed with the expertise

Mention word the industry, many will imagine the size and focus an enterprise that generates a massive income. Inadvertently, the public will also associate it with the oil and gas sector.

Apart from oil and gas sector, we are now proud to have another competitive and sustainable enterprise sector.

In this edition we will be reviewing a compony called Golden Corporation Sdn Bhd.

Company History

Golden Corporation Sdn. Bhd (GC), a foreign direct investment company, established on the invatition of Semaun Marine Resources Sdn Bhd (SMR) that wanted to develop a "Multi-Purpose Marine Resources Processing and Business Centre" in Serambangun, Tutong, back in 2010.

The Multi-Purpose Marine Resources Processing and Business Centre was completed and commenced its operation in June 2012.

This Multi-Purpose Marine Resources Processing and Business Centre was the first seafood processing plant in Brunei which is fully equipped with modern technologies.

Semaun Marine Resources Sdn Bhd is a business involved in the shrimp hatchery and fish established in 2002.

Thus, with the full capability and wide aquaculture experience from Golden Corporation Sdn Bhd, Semaun Marine Resources and GC became strategic partners and together they have integrated the aquaculture industry in Brunei Darussalam which includes the upstream and downstream processes; the aquatic feed, shrimp fry, shrimp farming, processing and delivery of finished products to both local and international market.

Managing Operation

Golden Corporation managing about 300 hectares of shrimp farms, where its business operations include supplying shrimp fry and aquatic feed to local entrepreneurs and also provides buy-back support and further processing in their processing plant.

Apart from shrimp farming and seafood processing, Golden Corporation Sdn Bhd also operates a fleet of 20 state-of-the art fishing vessels that fish in Brunei's deeper teritorial waters. The vessels are equipped with sonars to prevent the catching of dolphins







Staff

According Managing Director, Mr. Richard Chuang, 70 per cent of their employees are locals and 30 per cent are foreigners.

Establishment of Golden Corporation San Bhd

"The marine catch, by the local fisherman, is divided into two categories - marketable fish and unmarketable fish. For marketable fish, they can easily sell them off to the local market. As for the unmarketable fish, local fishermen have limited ideas on how to utilise them. To solve this issue, the local fisherman can sell the unmarketable fish to us," the Managing Director said.

Thus, the principal business of the company is in aquaculture and seafood processing. Work operated including farming, harvesting and processing of all kinds of marine resources.

The government support

The government departments provide many opportunities for overseas exposure. We have been given opportunities to participate in international food expo and exhibition.

"We were also invited for a visit-and-learn tour from companies of related industry in other countries so that we can implement ideas into our business."

Products and Services

Golden Corporation Sdn Bhd provides the following products and services: for raw processing plant, the company process all kind of seafood products, fish oil, aquatic feed, surimi (a soft and smooth mix, made of seafood that is blended into products such as fish ball) and ice.

For its hatchery operation the company produces shrimp and fish fry.

For its shrimp aquaculture, the company has three operations namely Keramut Shrimp Farm (70Ha), Telisai Shrimp Farm (28Ha) and Penyatang Shrimp Farm (200Ha).

For the value-added products, the company produces seafood snacks, frozen tuna cuts, sashimi grade tuna. Frozen fish balls, fish cakes, Tuna patty, processed Prawns and ready-to-eat seafood products.

"Other than these, we do provide technical expertise material and market support for local Bruneian to set up fish or shrimp farms," said the Managing Director.

Conclusion

Golden Corporation Sdn Bhd has several advantages that can be utilized to become a leading company in the aquaculture sector in Brunei Darussalam.

First, the company enjoys strong support from the authorities in our country. Second, the company is the first company in Brunei Darussalam that has integrated seafood processing factory equipped with modern technology and expertise in the field of aquaculture and seafood processing.

Third, the company was the first company in the world to be awarded dual international certification.

The shrimp farm certification recognizes the company has a food management system that meets the highest standards.

Fourth, the company breeds Rostris shrimp. Incidentally, there are only two countries in the world that breeds rostris shrimp in which Brunei Darussalam is value-added products using marine resources. one of them.

When all of these advantages are utilized properly, Golden Corporation Sdn Bhd can one day become a leading company at home and abroad due to its ability to expand its market scope.

Incidentally, the products produced by GC also include packaged food such as fish balls, processed shrimp, prepared seafood and so on.

It is possible within the next few years GC sales will be worth hundreds of millions of US dollars as one of its seafood growth strategies is to expand its production facilities to produce more



This is likely to be more significant because one of its long-term plans is to implement innovations in order to produce new value-added products to penetrate new markets.

It is also not impossible within the next few years Golden Corporation Sdn Bhd will grow into a giant company that is our national pride.

This can be= a reality as the aquaculture sector is sustainable and Golden Corporation Sdn Bhd itself has big ambitions as expected from a private firm.