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LADANG TERNAKAN KELULUT

Tasbee - **Meliponiculture Farm**

What is ‘Lebah Kelulut’ Stingless bee?

It belongs to the family of bees, but smaller and not stingless. With the size of 3-8 mm and very nimble movement, it is different from the honey bees. Typically, when talking about honey, it is similar to the honey bee rather than stingless bee.

Honey comes from the nectar of flowers. The honey is light in color with delicious sweet & sour fruit taste. Stingless bee honey has higher nutritional value which is good for health, fitness and beauty. Naturally its honey were suitable to cure illnesses through traditional treatment methods such as diabetes mellifluous, stroke, hepatitis, cancer, hypertension, kidney stones, gout, cough, etc. In terms of nutritional values and benefit, it is better than the normal honey.

Realising its efficacy, many local operators emerged in rearing stingless bees as a hobby and its own needs. When word came out that stingless bee honey has medicinal value and health benefits, the number of orders for the ‘Madu Kelulut’ have increased.

Brunei Today headed to Kampung Sinaut, Daerah Tutong, to meet Tasbee Meliponiculture Farm. It is Run by Awang Mitashi bin Haji Metamit one of the successful local stingless bee honey entrepreneur.



Stingless log (nest)

In the early days he often watched 'stingless' sucking flowers that decorates his yard. During the fruits season, insects will infest flower fruit which is also an additional food source for them. This raises a keen interest to learn about the life of these stingless bees.

Before he started rearing, he was determined to learn the ways and techniques of breeding and basic necessities in this enterprise. According to him, we should have sufficient knowledge before venturing into the field, especially something new such as rearing stingless.

In addition to self-study, he also gets the information from the Academy Kelulut Malaysia and local breeders there.

Successful honey companies in Malaysia indeed, have extensive knowledge in this field. Sharing of knowledge has helped him in making preparations

Supports Government Plan

Awang Mitasbi began rearing stingless from his home in 2009. Starting with several stingless log (nest) derived from plantations and forests nearby. Every day he sees temperament and development of this insect which makes it more fun and interesting to develop.

Stingless bee usually can be found nesting in the forests and fallen woods. To retrieve it, the tree will be cut down and cut according to the position of the nest. These should be made carefully to ensure the position of honey and egg sacs are intact. Precise cutting can help farmers get faster results.





After getting the logged on, you have to cut the log for topping and then put the hives on it.

The next step is the installation of the hives box that are made of wood. The size of the box depends on the suitability and size of the nest. Usually the size of the hives is between 300mm to 600mm and height of the box is between 50mm up to 200mm. Normally, transparent plastic boxes are placed on top of hives. This allows farmers to review the progress of these insects, whether there is already a pot of honey, any enemies and so on.

Stingless bee breeders will have problems when the colonies do not want to ride in the hives. As a guide, usually the colonies will rise into the hives once the installation is complete. After three days, we can see clearly some pots of honey that has been built by the colonies.

Once the installing of hives on log kelulut box is finished, the process of kelulut rearing will start.



'Kelulut' usually takes between two to four weeks to produce a pot containing honey, depending on the craft colony and an adequate food source. The honey can be harvested within a month by using a portable pump.

Besides honey, the other two substances produced is bee bread, which is a mixture of pollen and honey, saliva and fluids from the stomach of bees and propolis, a mixture of rubber plants and a special fluid which is said to have high medicinal value. In addition, stingless bees are also used to increase the yield of agricultural fruit based products as stingless bees are the main pollinating agents to plants.

Heterotrigona Itama and Geniotrigona Thoracica are two species that are preferred by the breeders. Demand of both species is very high because it is easy to maintain and produce a lot of honey and bee breed.

As of today, he has around 80 logs of 'Kelulut'.

Food source

Source of food plays a very important role to stingless bees. Like other living things, stingless bees will leave the hive when food sources are insufficient. Studies have found that, stingless bees are able to fly only 5km radius for food. Resinous trees and flowers are favored by stingless bees. It will build honey pot more quickly if there is sufficient source of nutrition.

Open burning should be avoided. Thick smokes can cause the colonies to flee. Breeding of poultry and the like is not recommended because the colonies will decrease as a result of being eaten by poultry.

The challenge

Talking about the challenges, he explained that this insect is free of the disease and thus easy to breed and develop.

The important thing is to ensure the continuous monitoring of *kelulut* logs are not exposed to animals such as frogs, lizards, ants and monkeys.

The dry season will also disrupt production. Stingless bees are not fond of extreme hot temperatures. The temperature in the nest area should not exceed 30 degrees Celsius. When exposed to higher temperatures for a long period of time, it will most likely leave the nest.

Rain will also inhibit the activities in the stingless's hive. Propolis that is exposed to water will be damaged and '*kelulut*' will have to work hard to fix it. Water entering the nest will cause mold and bacteria.



Awang Mitasbi bin Haji Metamit (right) one of the successful local stingless bee honey entrepreneur.



Market

To further strengthened his company, he joined the Kampung Sinaut Consultative Council One Village One Product (1K1P)) and Tourism Tutong.

In terms of price, stingless bees honey is more expensive than the honey bee and is less common in the market. Given the efficacy of stingless bee honey that is very well known, it is absolutely an overwhelming market where customers have to wait for it.

In addition to stingless honey, he is trying to diversify its products based on kelulut propolis soap. This soap is good for health, especially for the treatment of skin disease and the like.

The market price per 100ml is BND 15.

Conclusion

Visitors who have visited the park will definitely feel amazed by its beauty. Surrounded by various types of flowers with the kelulut log arranged beautifully is definitely a sight for sore eyes and create a peaceful atmosphere.

Now his company is among the most favored destination of visits at various levels of society. He is generous and willing to share his knowledge and experience with entrepreneurs and anyone interested in rearing stingless bee.

He hopes more local entrepreneurs will emerge as the market is overwhelming. He is confident that the company can be profitable if well planned and implemented seriously.



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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

BrulPO Contributing To **المباك كماجواز ايكونومي**
The Emergence Of **THE BRUNEI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD**
Knowledge-Based
Economy

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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
المباك كماجواز ايكونومي بروني
THE BRUNEI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD



Brunei Darussalam Intellectual Property Office (BrulPO) Director, Puan Shahrinah Yusofkhan (middle) with officers and staff.

Modernizing the economy to be more knowledge-based action is appropriate in the world today due to the changes of global economic activity.

The progress of a country's prosperity, especially in developing countries is caused by manufacturing industries and resources. Now the prosperity of a country is increasing due to its ability to innovate and produce products or services that are value-added which is then used in the global supply chain.

A country's ability to innovate in response to the global economic climate among them are depending on its ability to provide protection to the Intellectual Property (IP).

IPs such as Patents, Industrial Designs and Trademarks are among the intangible assets. Although intellectual property is not transformed significantly as land or building factories or stock certificates, but the property also has a real market value when used for creating business handled by relevant enterprises such as startups.

Brunei Darussalam is no exception in order to modernize the economy to be more knowledge-based.

Here is where Brunei Darussalam Intellectual Property Office (BrulPO) plays an important role in assisting countries to establish a knowledge-based economy through the acceptance of the application for registration of Trademarks beside Patents and Industrial Designs and national IP policy coordination.

BrulPO background

BrulPO was established on 1st June 2013 in accordance with a collaboration between Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) and Attorney-General Chambers (AGC) Office to restructure the administration of IP in Brunei Darussalam.

The restructuring began with the establishment of the Patent Registration Office (PRO) establishment on 1st January 2012 under BEDB which in turn was followed by the transfer of Industrial Designs Registration Office on 1st October 2012 and also Trademarks registration Office on 1 June 2013. However, copyright advisory services still remains under AGC's jurisdiction.

Rasional estiblishment of Bruipo

Starting June 1, 2013, PRO has been known as the BrulPO to reflect the expansion of the role and the capacity to accept applications for the registration of trademarks, in addition to the Patent and Industrial Designs.

According to the Director of BrulPO, Yang Mulia Puan Shahrinah Yusof Khan, the move was in response to the need to have national IP offices so that policy coordination becomes easier.

"This is a positive step in terms of efforts to strengthen the protection of IP as the measures provide a comprehensive IP management," says the Director of BrulPO.

"IP Protection is seen as a critical step in ensuring economic growth because such protection promotes innovation and the creation of knowledge-based economy," she said. According to Mrs. Shahrinah, this holistic approach will not only put Brunei Darussalam on par with the IP offices in the region, but will also be able to establish and promote a business-friendly ecosystem that can ensure that IP belongs to companies small and medium, as well as multinationals companies are equally protected.

"Most importantly, such step is not only in line with the initiatives under the Action Plan 2011-2015 for ASEAN Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in modernizing the offices of IP in the region, but is also in line with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's New Year 2014 titah where he aims Brunei Darussalam in creating a more business friendly environment to boost economic growth and create more jobs opportunities for the local population, particularly in the private sector," said the Director of BrulPO.



Pamphlets containing short and easy descriptions for the public to understand on matters related to Intellectual Property (IP) such as Trademarks, Patents and services offered by the service BruIPO.



EMPLOYEES of BruIPO process application forms. Since 2014, BruIPO has seen an increase in applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), which entered a phase of national phase which in turn causes an increase in applications from 31 in 2012 to 127 in 2014, an increase in the application of more of 300%.

BruIPO Professional Workforce

The employees are from various qualification backgrounds, namely from Legal (specializing in intellectual property), Economics, Computer Studies, Business Administration, Design & Technology and Finance.

For general public knowledge, why do Patents, Trademarks and Industrial Design must be registered legally and laws relating to such matters must be obeyed?

"In a global business environment that is increasingly knowledge-based, intangible assets such as intellectual property has the exponent potential value. Products, brands and new designs that appear almost daily in the market is often the result of creative thinking and ideas that can then be protected through IP registration," said Mrs. Shahrinah.

"Adequate protection towards the outburst creativity is an important step in preventing possible infringement/violation and to translate ideas into business assets with a real market value," said the BruIPO Director.

"Taking full advantage of the IP system will enable companies to take advantage the ability market and enthusiastic," she said.

Intellectual property plays a role in creating a suitable environment for innovation and creativity and in turn creates further more products and services into the market locally and abroad.

Response From Entrepreneurs Locally And Abroad

According to Mrs. Shahrinah, so far, BrulPO have received and processed more application for Trademarks (due to the relevance with commercial) compared with the application for the Patent and Industrial Design.

“Most applications are from foreigners but there are also significant improvement for applications from the locals due to the increasing in the number of start-ups company in our country and public awareness activities which are conducted by the BrulPO,” she said

Two Major Challenges To Control Of Bruipo Operations

The first major challenge is the new patent system which is still adapting to the changes in terms of legislation and administration.

“The Patent system of our country was implemented only in 2012. Before that, Brunei Darussalam manages patent registration system were originally registered in the United Kingdom, Singapore or Malaysia,” said the BrulPO Director.

“Since 2014, BrulPO has seen an increase in applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), which entered a national phase which in turn causes an increase from 31 in 2012 to 127 in 2014, an increase of more than 300%,” said Mrs. Shahrinah.

The second challenge is the existing obligations that must be met to participate in international agreements and additional workload that awaits.

The BrulPO director said, Brunei Darussalam is committed to join the Madrid Protocol for the International Registration of Marks at the end of 2015 in line with its responsibilities in implementing under the action plan for 2011-2015 ASEAN Intellectual Property Right (IPR).

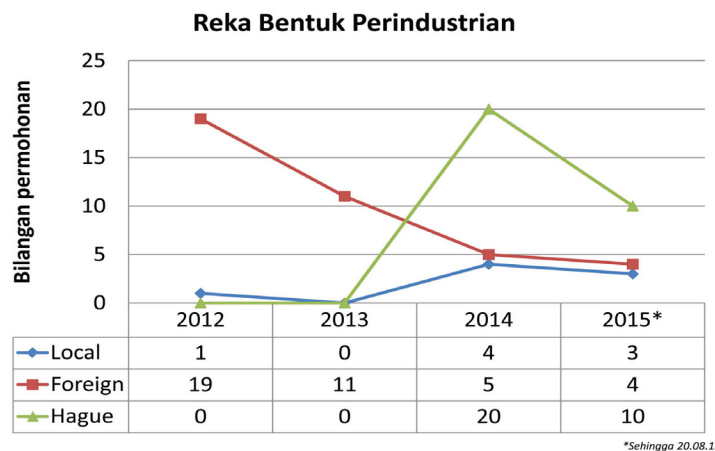
“Joining the main agreement such as this requires undertakings which will not only be a change in the procedure to handle the job but also extensive training for the staff concerned,” said Mrs. Shahrinah.

According to her, the existing BrulPO staffs undergoes continuous training in the procedure for the implementation of the PCT, although our country has joined the agreement at the end of 2012 due to the complex and constantly changing terms.

“This will be an actual fact when we join the main IP agreements such as the Madrid Protocol,” said the BrulPO Director.

“Brunei Darussalam is also in the process of implementing a system of Protection Various Plants (PVP) which is a huge undertaking because the said matter needs trained staffs, new establishment registrations in addition to holding public awareness activities for relevant parties,” said Mrs. Shahrinah.

Statistik Reka Bentuk Perindustrian



NUMBER of applications for Industrial Design. Source: Intellectual Property Office of Brunei Darussalam (BrulPO).

Conclusion

Focusing on BrulPO allows us to understand the work and challenges related to the operations control department.

Among the many things that are easily distinct is BrulPO's role in receiving an application for registration Trademarks, in addition to the Patents and Industrial Design.

It is an important role for its contribution toward IP innovation growth in the country's economy.

In most people's idea of innovation is a comprehension that a person is paid to produce creative works and hence need to protect and reward intellectual property creation.

Innovation is also important to encourage companies growth that carry out activities of higher margins.

A successful innovation is an evidenced of when they use a major cause of expansion and increased profitability for the company.

Without a strong IP protection, what will entrepreneurs be thinking: what is the use of invest in the form of design or innovation where as our creation could be imitable by competitors?

Additionally, in the long-term future as well, strengthening the IP system to be compiled by all parties also help instill positive perception among users in the international market towards products services

Enjoying positive perception of users is important for commercial because confidences are among the factors which influence the demand of product or services.

Thus, start-ups companies' owner whose ideas can be potentially commercialize are urged to register to BrulPO for legal protection.

The future of a company's finance becomes brighter when ideas are translated into innovation that should be adopted on commercially.

Outdoor activities with Freme

Amongst other activities offered at Freme Adventure Park located in Kampung Batang Duri, Mukim Amo

Missing nature? Enjoy the greens of the forest? Would you love to hear the sound of birds chirping? Are you fond of extreme and enduring activities? All that can be experienced by going on a holiday package to Temburong District, also known as the “Green Jewels of Brunei”, which is offered by one of the leading agencies, Freme Travel Services.

Freme Adventure Park Freme Rainforest Lodge, in Kampung Batang Duri, Mukim Amo, opened earlier this year and have received an impressive number of tourists. Positive reviews by tourists have proven that Freme Adventure Park, plays an important role in promoting the Temburong District generally and Brunei Darussalam specifically, as a leading destination in the region to enjoy nature’s beauty, learn the local culture and experience fun adventures.

Freme Adventure Park

Freme Adventure Park offers several activities such as abseiling, a 70 meters suspension bridge across Sungai Batang Duri, Gibbon Climbing Tower as high as 12 meters, flying fox, rock climbing and so on. A 40 meter canopy allows travelers to see the beautiful panoramic view of the rainforest as well as tracks for those who want to have a stroll at the park.

All facilities are designed and constructed in accordance with the Association for Challenge Course Technology -ACCT or according to European standards. Security and environment issues is a priority for Freme Travel Services, particularly in hygiene and waste disposal, the risk of water contamination and welfare safety of visitors /tourists. These facilities will certainly attract visitors and tourist attention and challenge their grittiness, especially for those who are into extreme activities.

In addition to the adventurous activities, visitors will also have the opportunity to watch a traditional cooking demo by the ibans also known as 'Manuk Lulun', which is a fish dish cooked in bamboo and 'Pulut Lulun', ie a glutinous rice dish cooked in bamboo. These dishes are cooked not by using a cooking stove and gas but instead use firewoods which may be a new experience for some visitors, especially today's younger generation.

Amongst other activities offered at Freme Adventure Park located in Kampung Batang Duri , Mukim Amo



Freme Rainforest Lodge

Meanwhile, Freme Rainforest Lodge also provides accommodation that can accommodate about 40 people completed with six air-conditioned rooms, toilet, bathroom, living room and parking area.

For visitors who want to experience a lively atmosphere of sleeping in a tent, Freme Rainforest Lodge also provides some tents located near Sungai Batang Duri as well as water activities like kayaking. For those who want to enjoy the beauty of rural areas, Freme also provide bicycles for rent where they are able to see the village's authenticity. All the facilities and accommodations are placed in a relatively limited area, which is in an area of 0.35 percent hectares.



Several tents were set up near Sungai Batang Duri for visitors.

Train locals

In addition to promoting Temburong District as a tourist destination, the initiative by Freme Travel Services has indirectly helping the locals to generate income where by some residents rent their 'temuai' to transport tourists other than bus services. In addition, Freme has also hire around 15 staffs consisting of Temburong District residents by providing them with training to improve and advance their skills. The catering supplier/caterers also benefit through Freme Travel, where travel agencies also use the catering services available in this area.

In addition to providing accommodation and adventure park, Freme Travel also help promote the homestay available in this area. Several longhouse homestay like the Rumah Panjang Tanjung Bungar, Rumah Panjang Kampong Sibut and Lepong Lama are included in the Freme Travel tour package.

The increase in visitors

With the addition to these activities, Freme Travel expects tourist arrivals to increase by more than 4,000 this year compared to 3,500 last year. The first quarter of this year has shown an of visitor arrivals from both outside and within the country, including students. With positive reviews from the visitors, Freme Travel continues to promote Temburong District as a tourist destination in the country. By taking full advantage of the natural rain forest, Freme Travel offers packages which would assure and leave wonderful memories for the tourists.

Initiatives by Freme Travel Services like this will hopefully help develop the tourism sector in the country thus will diversify the economy and create employment opportunities for the locals, in line with the National Vision 2035 towards making Brunei Darussalam known around the world, with a dynamic and resilient economy.



Visitors safety is a priority when they participate in the activities



Younger generations, a successor to traditional dance

The Brunei Malay Culture have indeed been firmly footholed in Brunei since centuries ago. The Sultanate, rituals, customs, and religious life in the Malay language is part of the manifestation of cultural heritage that is still here to this day.

Throughout the process of development, the Brunei culture is not spared from experiencing processes that has led to these changes. The Brunei traditional dance have also shown some changes. For those who are not experienced, it is difficult to distinguish the traditional dance with dances that have been restyled.

It is necessary to classify the Brunei culture systematically be it dance, music, costume clothing, decorative accessories, spoken traditions and so on, by creating an inventory that will help us to identify, understand and refer without doubt what is traditional and what has changed over time.

The values that are behind our traditional culture is mainly a mirror from our previous beliefs. Traditions like these affects the entire community's way of life and our nation's past.

All cultural elements has its own importance in the life of a society.

Our society needs to think forward to develop youths to be more appreciative and cherish Brunei culture in their life.

While accepting modernization, cultural heritage and traditions should be maintained and preserved, as well as practice and appreciate the Islamic faith in line with the nation's philosophy, Melayu Islam Beraja (MIB), which is a platform or guideline so as not to come off and go over cultural boundaries including dressing up, our way of life such as social interactions, behavior etc.

Participation Of Youths

To instill the Brunei Traditional Dance that is filled with customs and traditions to the youths, several programmes have been implemented. One of which is by organizing a Traditional Brunei Dance competition.

By participating competitions such as these, youths will be able to discover their talents in cultural areas, particularly in the Art of Dancing, namely the Brunei Traditional Dance, as well as to motivate them to learn and further appreciate the Bruneian dance that should be inherited for generations by instilling the MIB philosophy.

Additionally, it will also be able to create a society that is disciplined, courteous, obedient and confident, whether for trainings or competitions or matches.



The art of Bruneian dance should be inherited for generations by the children of Brunei in line with the MIB philosophy.



Types Of Dances

There are many types of traditional dance with different kinds of meaning and purpose of its own. Among the types of dances are Alus Jua Dendang, Samalindang, Dundang-Dundang, Adai-Adai, Kayum oh Ya Kayum, Zapin Laila Sembah, Joget Baju Putih, Indung Anak, Naindung, Mendayut / Medayut Lanang, Beladu Lanang and Dang Mengalai.

Alus Jua Dendang is a dance accompanied by singing, where by the groom flatters his new wife and declares his undying love. Dancers are paired together and their numbers are not limited. This dance is usually held during the Malam Berjaga-jaga wedding ceremony.

The dance also takes place during special and certain occasions.

Meanwhile, Samalindang is a traditional dance derived from a woman named Siti Samalindang.

It is performed during the feast day. The dance symbolized the Samalindang song which has ten basic movements, symbolizing beauty, fineness and sweetness that is sought-after by every woman.

Conclusion

With the rapid development of technology such as televisions and other gadgets, the interest of traditional dances are decreasing, as a result, the performance has only gained interest only by a small number of people compared with other performing arts such as singing performance. However, continuous efforts from relevant authorities with respect to the Traditional Dance competition held annually at the Brunei schools and colleges and youth organizations to some extent is a hope that dance traditions will continue to become a national heritage and that it will still remain as one identity to us.



The younger generation should know and be introduced to the culture of the nation and the nation so that we are not lost in time.

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Brunei Traditional Dance has a range of meanings and significance of its own.





Maritime Museum of Brunei Darussalam: Brunei's Past Glory

Situated near the Malay Technology Museum building is a fascinating building called the Maritime Museum of Brunei Darussalam. The museum is able to receive 200 visitors at any given time and is the most recent addition within the group of museums under the management of the Museums Department.

Maritime Museum of Brunei Darussalam has a mission 'to preserve the Brunei's maritime history through artefacts that exhibit the role of Brunei Darussalam as the trading centre and major settlement'.

Exhibition Gallery

The Maritime Museum of Brunei Darussalam showcases three exhibition galleries.



Gallery 1: The Brunei Shipwreck

This gallery exhibits the discovery of the Brunei Shipwreck in 1997 which is an important find for the maritime history of Brunei Darussalam. The artefacts in the gallery highlight the country's role in maritime trading with foreign countries in late 15th century A.D. until the early 16th century A.D.

Gallery 2: Kota Batu as a Trading Centre

Kota Batu is an important archaeological site in Brunei Darussalam. This is because the site was the capital of ancient Brunei during the 14th to 17th centuries A.D.

This site serves as an administrative centre, trading centre and major residential centre of Brunei. Apart from that, Gallery 2 also showcases the role of a river in expanding the trade networks of Brunei Darussalam with foreign countries through Terindak Island

Gallery 3: Cruising Quanzhou Ocean and Brunei Darussalam - 'Maritime Silk Route'

The cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and China already existed as early as 2,000 years ago through the 'Maritime Silk Route'. The contact between the two countries became more frequent during the 5th century and continued until the 10th century and further in the 14th and 15th century. The 'Maritime Silk Route' brought together the story of two cultures from ancient times until now.

Brief History

The Maritime Museum of Brunei Darussalam was constructed under the 10th National Development Plan with a cost of BND 5 million. The building was built on 3.53 hectares (8.74 acres) of land.

Key figures in the establishment of the museum included the former Director Of Museums, Awang Haji Matasssim bin Haji Jibah, then Curator Of Archaeology Pengiran Dr. Karim bin Pengiran Osman and former Chief Museum Officer, Awang Matzin bin Haji Yahya. Awang Matzin was also entrusted with the content of the Maritime Museum. The next Curator of Archaeology, Dayang Aminah binti Haji Majid, then took over the task after Awang Matzin retired.

Now, with the establishment of the Maritime Museum of Brunei Darussalam, the duties and responsibilities of the curator is entrusted to the Curator Of Archaeology as the Head Of Division and Manager of the Maritime Museum of Brunei Darussalam Building.



Workforce

The Maritime Museum of Brunei Darussalam has a number of expert officers in the research field and archaeologists (juruuruk) specialized in the archaeological field. It also has a group of divers who are certified by Poni Divers in Open Water and Advanced Open Water diving.

In order to monitor and maintain the exhibition galleries, six attendants are employed who also assist in showing the visitors around the provided exhibits in the Maritime Museum of Brunei Darussalam building.

Official Opening

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin, the Deputy Sultan, consented to officiate the opening of the Maritime Museum of Brunei Darussalam on the 23rd of March 2015.

To commemorate the opening, various activities were held throughout 2015 to promote the Maritime Museum of Brunei Darussalam.

One was a temporary exhibition titled 'Cruising Quanzhou Ocean and Brunei Darussalam - Maritime Silk Route' which was organised from 23rd of March 2015 until 20th of October 2015.

Another programme is the 'Museum Race' which was conducted on August 2015 where the Maritime Museum of Brunei Darussalam building is one of the arenas for the activity.

The Brunei Shipwreck Tablet Application and Educational Pack was also launched in August 2015. The application and educational pack aimed to add to the facilities available in the galleries of the Maritime Museum of Brunei Darussalam.





Relax onboard a casual cruise

MV Sentosa cruise Ship owned by a local company, Sha-Zan Marine Limited Company, under the management of Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Paduka Raja Major General (Retired) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Shari bin Ahmad.

Experience the beauty of the Brunei River with views of mangrove plants is the kind of image you would be picturing just before entering the only cruise ship in Brunei Darussalam.

What made the writer very proud and excited before embarking on the cruise down the Brunei River is when the prayer for blessing and protection from Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala starts to be recited, followed by a description of the security precautions within the ship being played on the TV to all guests onboard, hence reminding the writer with Royal Brunei Airlines before it takes off.

This is one of MV Sentosa's speciality that is taking into account the safety of guests by reciting a prayer before starting its journey ngt.

Although the MV Sentosa ship, is not as big and and luxurious sa other cruise ships abroad but it gives a fun and sweet memories to their guests, while providing a valuable and new experience to them.

MV Sentosa is a two-storey cruise ship operated by a local company Syarikat Sha-Zan Marine Sdn Bhd, under the management of Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Paduka Raja Major General (R) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Shari bin Ahmad and launched in November 2014.

In an interview with the Public Relations Manager, Taufik Hidayat explained, the MV Sentosa ship has successfully opened a new chapter in Brunei Darussalam's tourism industry ever since the launch it has receive an overwhelming response from the public including foreign tourists.

Although in the early launch, MV Sentosa wasa still unkown to the public because previously it was known as 'Tanjung Bakarang' which is used to bring dignitaries and official guests the Brunei River, but when Sha-Zan Marine Sdn Bhd took over after a year and a half of repairing and upgrading



the ship was complete and is now opened to the public as well as tourists who wish to enjoy a cruise along the Brunei River.

Taufik Hidayat also explained, MV Sentosa is a two level cruise ship and equipped with air conditioning and comfortable sofas and carpets and thus adding comfort to their guests as they sail along the Brunei River.

“MV Sentosa offers a cruise along the Brunei River with nice spacious area, with a peaceful and relatively slow sailing for the comfort and safe of the passengers while viewing the beautiful sceneries of Kampung Ayer, guests are also treated with free hot drinks and some snacks that are being sold onboard to add the comfort of relaxing to each passenger, “ said Taufik.

Taufik then explained, when MV Sentosa first operated, they would only cater for private clients with a rental rate of BND 1,350 for two hours but it is now opened with special packages to the public and will also provide an opportunity for them to experience cruising down the Brunei River, as well as witnessing the beauty of Kampung Ayer a chance to see for themselves the historic ‘Jong Batu’.

“What is also special about MV Sentosa is that we do night cruising, as well as offer special events like wedding ceremonies and pre-wedding photoshoot onboard, and most reservations made are for birthday celebration and all these will be prepared by the crew in accordance to the requirements of the clients.”

“In addition, we also cater buffet meals on the ship according to consultancy and options from our customers while those who book the entire ship can specify the time of departure from the jetty and also have their own catering service,” explained Taufik.



Public Relations Manager, Taufik Hidayat (center) with the crew of MV Sentosa.

Operation Hour

According to Taufik again, MV Sentosa has introduce a river cruise for two hours starting on 9 August 2015 to the public either in groups or individually costing as low as BND29 for adults, while children from two to 12 years cost BND19.

There are also special rates offered said Taufik again, where a special price for a group of six people costs BND129 and family packages that accommodate two adults and two children costs BND79.

“Throughout the cruise starts from the Queen II Jetty, passengers have the opportunity to passby the Brunei Museum, the Brunei Technology Museum, Brunei Handicraft and Arts Center, Royal Wharf, Omar ‘ Ali Saifuddien mosque, Istana Nurul Iman, Jong Batu, Kampung Ayer housings, mangrove forests, fish farms and if you are lucky enough you will have the chance to see the proboscis monkey and also watch the beautiful sunset from the river

thus adding a romantic and serence atmosphere.

“In addition to carry passengers who enjoy the beauty of the Brunei River, MV Sentoso also sails to Temburong and Labuan,” he added.

He then explained, beside having the opportunity to cruise onboard, the company also provides two other boats that the public can use for fishing activities where by each boat can carry ten passengers with a fix rental fee.

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Brunei River Cruise



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Future Plans

Meanwhile, Taufik also explains Sha-Zan Marine Shd. Bhd. Plans in the future which is to have another location to harbor their ship other than Queen Elizabeth II Jetty and will likely add stops at the Royal Wharf to facilitate more people especially for tourists to cruise the ship thus promoting the country's tourism.

In addition, said Taufik, the company also aims to further increase the existing ships and seeks to attract more tourists in promoting the Kenali Negara Kitani campaign.

To add the facilities available to the guests, according to Taufik, the company is also requesting from relevant authorities to expand and add more parking spaces as the ones that are available now are limited and thankfully their request has already been undertaken and waiting for approval from the authorities.

Another upcoming plan that can help improve the quality and services of the MV Sentosa, said Taufik, is they also intend to expand their services

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bruneirivercruise



RELAXING ... Enjoying the beautiful sunset.

in terms of food that is by introducing traditional Brunei food.

“We also intend to introduce some food products such as cakes as a dish to passengers of MV Sentosa where passengers can buy and try out traditional cakes produced by several villages and mukims. In brief, MV Sentosa in addition will not only introduce the beauty of the Brunei River, Kampung Ayer and other places, but it also aims to produce and promote traditional Brunei food dishes especially to foreign tourists and to those who are not familiar with the traditional cakes will also have the opportunity to see and taste it,” he said.

Said Taufik again, this will also indirectly help improve the country’s economy by introducing to the public as well as tourists the country’s One Village One Product (OVOP).

During the cruise along the Brunei River, the writer also interviewed some passengers.

Jeslyn, 25, from Singapore when interviewed explained, during two hours cruising along the Brunei River, it gives one satisfaction and enjoyment and even more so when it presents a green scenery, unique Kampung Ayer houses as well as the historic Jong Batu.

“Two hours cruising along the Brunei River is a short period of time because there are other places that can be explored and reached to and this cruise will be more fun if it can dock at places like the Kampung Ayer Gallery and some food stalls in the village as I had a thought that it be a wonderful if there was a chance to dock while visiting the gallery and enjoy the food there,” said Jeslyn.

Siblings Mikyllah and Mitch aged 11 and 7 years respectively, said this was their first time with their family onboard the MV Sentosa and they were even more thrilled that it was a school holiday, in addition to enjoy the fresh air, they also had the opportunity to witness the sunset which clearly uncover Brunei’s very own beautiful treasures along with its own green forests.

At the end of the cruise that evening, the writer felt excited and proud of the existence and the service provided by the MV Sentosa where it was clear that every passenger was ecstatic and satisfied with the two hour cruise while passing along to other interesting places in the country.

According to the writer's view, the Queen Elizabeth II Jetty actually has a significant potential for development, because it is not just simply just a stop for MV Sentosa to carry local and foreign passengers to be introduced to the beauty of Brunei River and cruise along several places of interest for two hours where by it can be developed by improving the place by adding more carparks, setting up a mini gallery that tells about the story behind the name of the Queen Elizabeth II Jetty, added with several eating outlets serving traditional cakes and also a place to relax while fishing which will surely boost the country's economy through tourism.

Another suggestion is to set up a souvenir shop that produces the OVOP or MV Sentosa can also make their own souvenirs such as keychains or T-Shirts with its very own logo.

Clearly now, with the Ministry Of Primary Resources and Tourism's cooperation, it will boost the country economy through tourism to be more prominent because it is not possible for us to implement this kind of efforts if we do not try and there is no failure in the early endeavor undertaken because failure is the beginning of success before something is done.



Young passengers enjoying the scenery.



MV Sentosa cruiser lounge.



Information about the security measures via television that passengers should be aware of.

Prime Minister's Office Building Complex



The Prime Minister's Office building stands magnificently in the heart of the capital's government offices along Jalan Menteri Besar. The building itself has a total build-up area of 92,000 square metres to house the operational accommodations and facilities for the Ministerial offices and its functions.

The central dome in the Atrium is suspended 40 metres high into its interior air spaces and spans 23 metres wide.

The building complex houses the Office of Prime Minister, alongside with office suites and general offices to cater for the ministers, officials and staff of the Prime Minister's Office. Other major facilities include a terraced 1,000-seat Main Theatre with state-of-art audio and visual equipment, meeting the demands of productions and performances. The theatre features VIP viewing balconies and dining galleries suitable for all occasions. The vast atrium linked to the building's largest meeting venue, which is a 30-seat Conference Chamber, suited to hosting world-class events. The Banquet Hall can accommodate around 1,000 guests.

Other facilities include various large meeting venues and conference rooms, two fully equipped commercial kitchens with 300-seat staff cafeteria, fitness gymnasium, day-care centre, large outdoor terraces, de-stressing gardens, water features and a grand parade ground.

Other buildings in the complex's vicinity area are the Ash-Shaliheen Mosque, which can accommodate up to 1,000 worshippers, and the Prime Minister's Office Museum Gallery. Both buildings are open to the general public.

The key features of the building include low consumption LED lighting; corridors, restrooms and utility areas are operated by smart sensors; the air-conditioning system is cooled using harvested rainwater; and 100% Low-Emissivity double-Glazing on all external windows makes it Brunei's first energy efficient Ministry Building.

The building became the venue for the 22nd ASEAN Summit which took place in April 24-25, 2013.

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