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Kites flying, a traditional game

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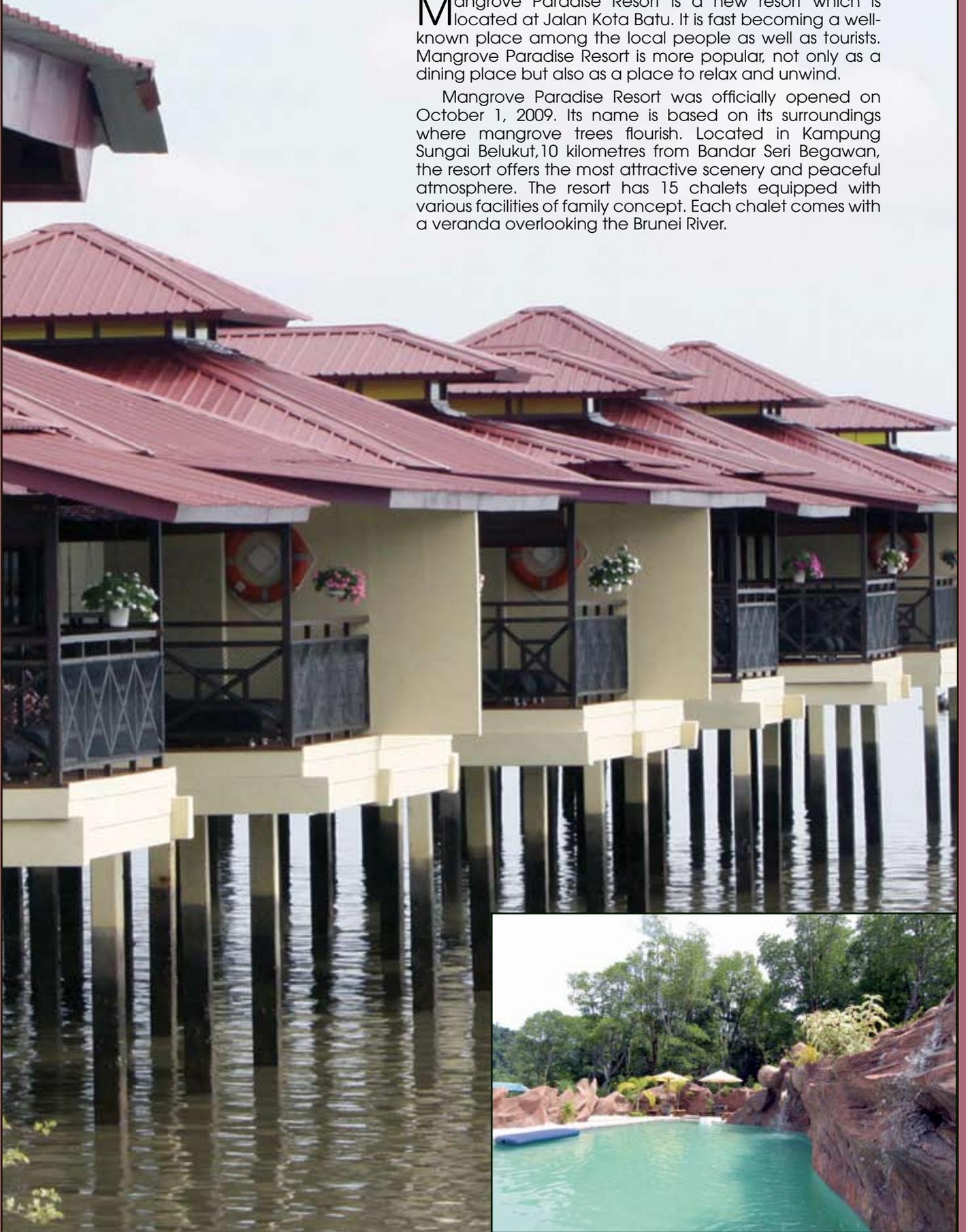
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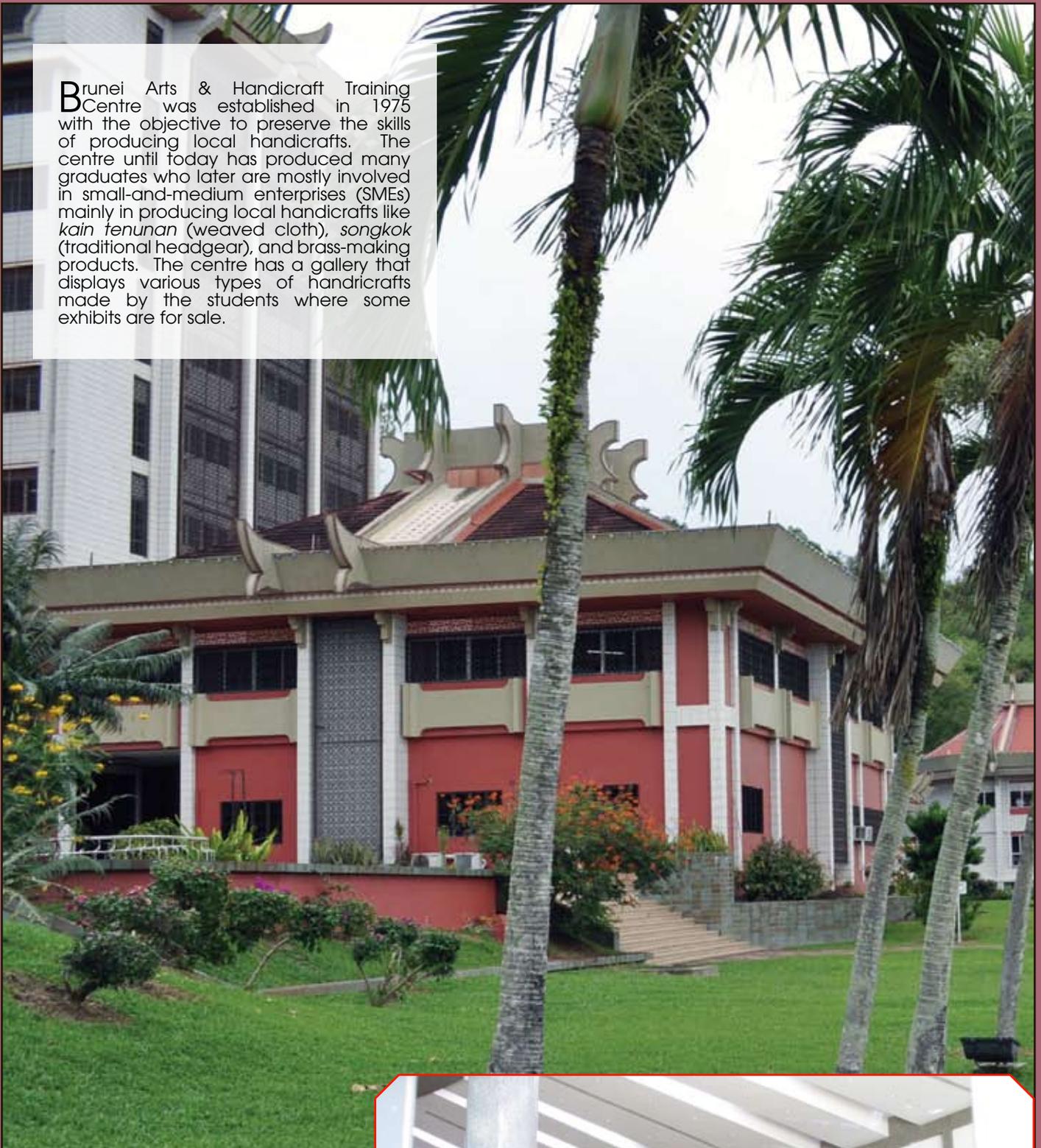
Places of Interest

Mangrove Paradise Resort is a new resort which is located at Jalan Kota Batu. It is fast becoming a well-known place among the local people as well as tourists. Mangrove Paradise Resort is more popular, not only as a dining place but also as a place to relax and unwind.

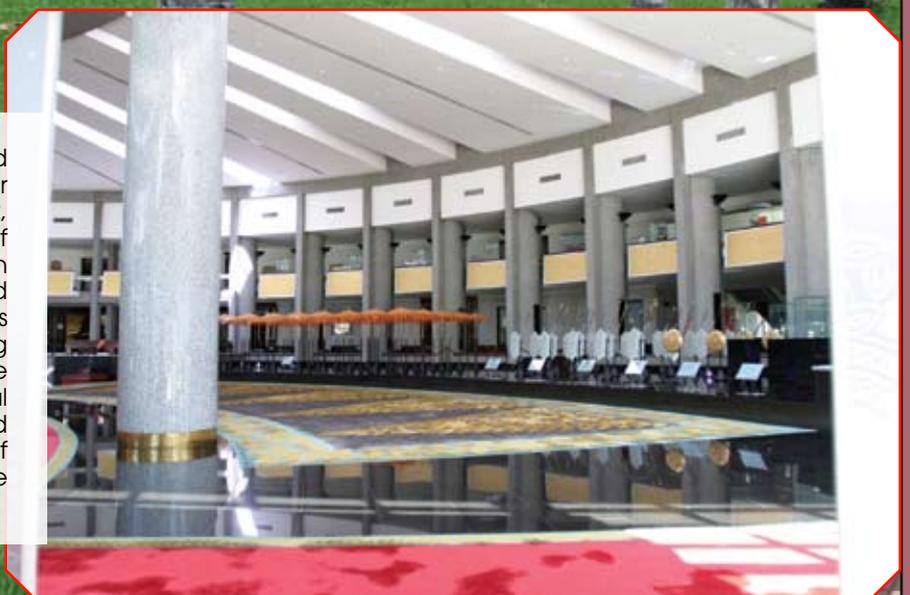
Mangrove Paradise Resort was officially opened on October 1, 2009. Its name is based on its surroundings where mangrove trees flourish. Located in Kampung Sungai Belukut, 10 kilometres from Bandar Seri Begawan, the resort offers the most attractive scenery and peaceful atmosphere. The resort has 15 chalets equipped with various facilities of family concept. Each chalet comes with a veranda overlooking the Brunei River.

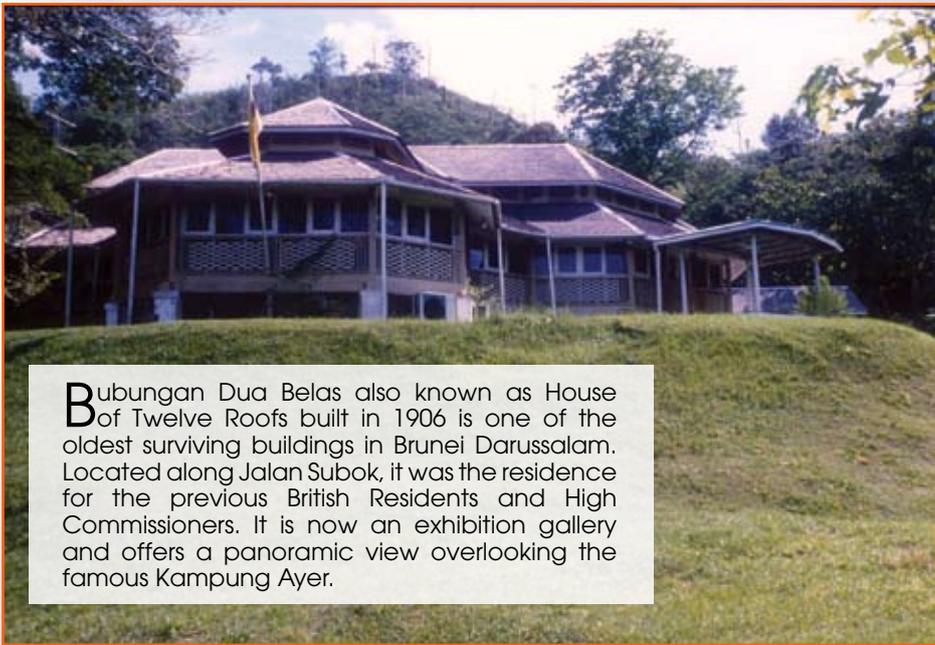


Brunei Arts & Handicraft Training Centre was established in 1975 with the objective to preserve the skills of producing local handicrafts. The centre until today has produced many graduates who later are mostly involved in small-and-medium enterprises (SMEs) mainly in producing local handicrafts like *kain tenunan* (weaved cloth), *songkok* (traditional headgear), and brass-making products. The centre has a gallery that displays various types of handicrafts made by the students where some exhibits are for sale.

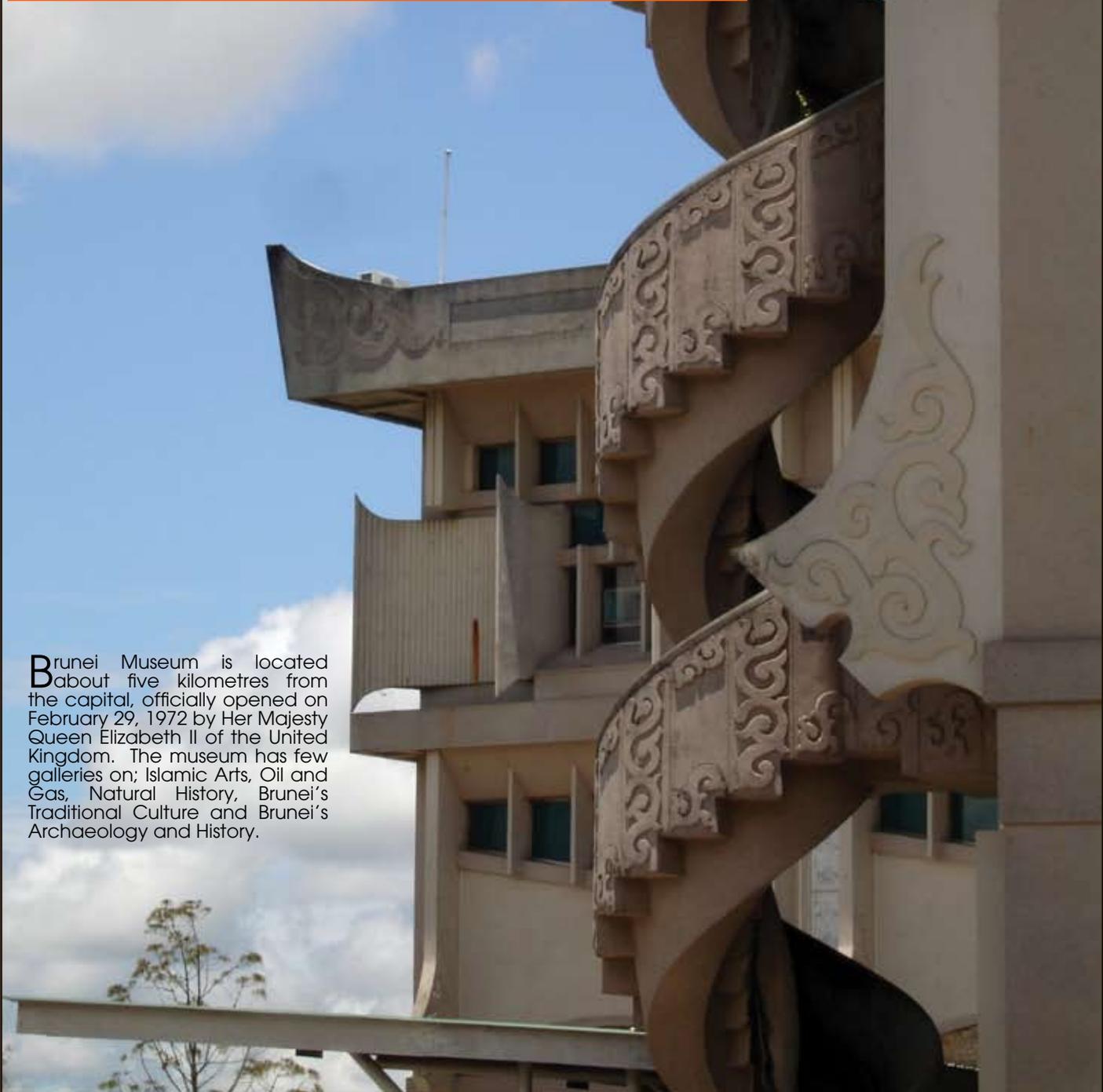


Royal Regalia is strategically located in the heart of the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan. It was established in 1992, to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's accession to the throne. The building houses ceremonial regalia including the royal chariot, gold and silver ceremonial armoury, the traditional jewel-encrusted coronation crowns and a replica of the throne used by His Majesty on state occasions.





Bubungan Dua Belas also known as House of Twelve Roofs built in 1906 is one of the oldest surviving buildings in Brunei Darussalam. Located along Jalan Subok, it was the residence for the previous British Residents and High Commissioners. It is now an exhibition gallery and offers a panoramic view overlooking the famous Kampung Ayer.



Brunei Museum is located about five kilometres from the capital, officially opened on February 29, 1972 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom. The museum has few galleries on; Islamic Arts, Oil and Gas, Natural History, Brunei's Traditional Culture and Brunei's Archaeology and History.



In year 2002, Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sendirian Berhad (BSP) opened the Oil & Gas Discovery Centre (OGDC).

The centre was officially opened by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on September 14, 2002. The opening of this centre symbolised the long-term commitment of BSP towards sustainable development of Brunei Darussalam and its people.



In 1991, the nation's oil and gas industry achieved a historical milestone when the Seria field produce its billionth barrel. In commemoration of this, a monument named as the 'Billionth Barrel Monument' was built near the original site of the Well No. 1. The monument was commissioned by Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sendirian Berhad (BSP) and designed by a local architect.

The Billionth Barrel Monument was officially opened by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on July 18, 1991.

Today, the monument not only has become one of Brunei's landmarks but also depicts the nation's achievements in its oil and gas industry.



Silver Jubilee Park is situated at Jalan Maulana in Belait District, facing the South China Sea. With an area of 12,679 hectares, the park was built to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's accession to the throne. Children would enjoy playing at the play ground whilst adult can spend time brisk walking at the beach.



Sungai Dua Recreation Jetty is located at Kampung Sungai Teraban, Belait District, on the way to Sungai Teraban Immigration Post Control. The wooden jetty is perfectly built on a river and within the community of Kampung Sungai Teraban. It is a perfect spot for a family picnic and those who love fishing.



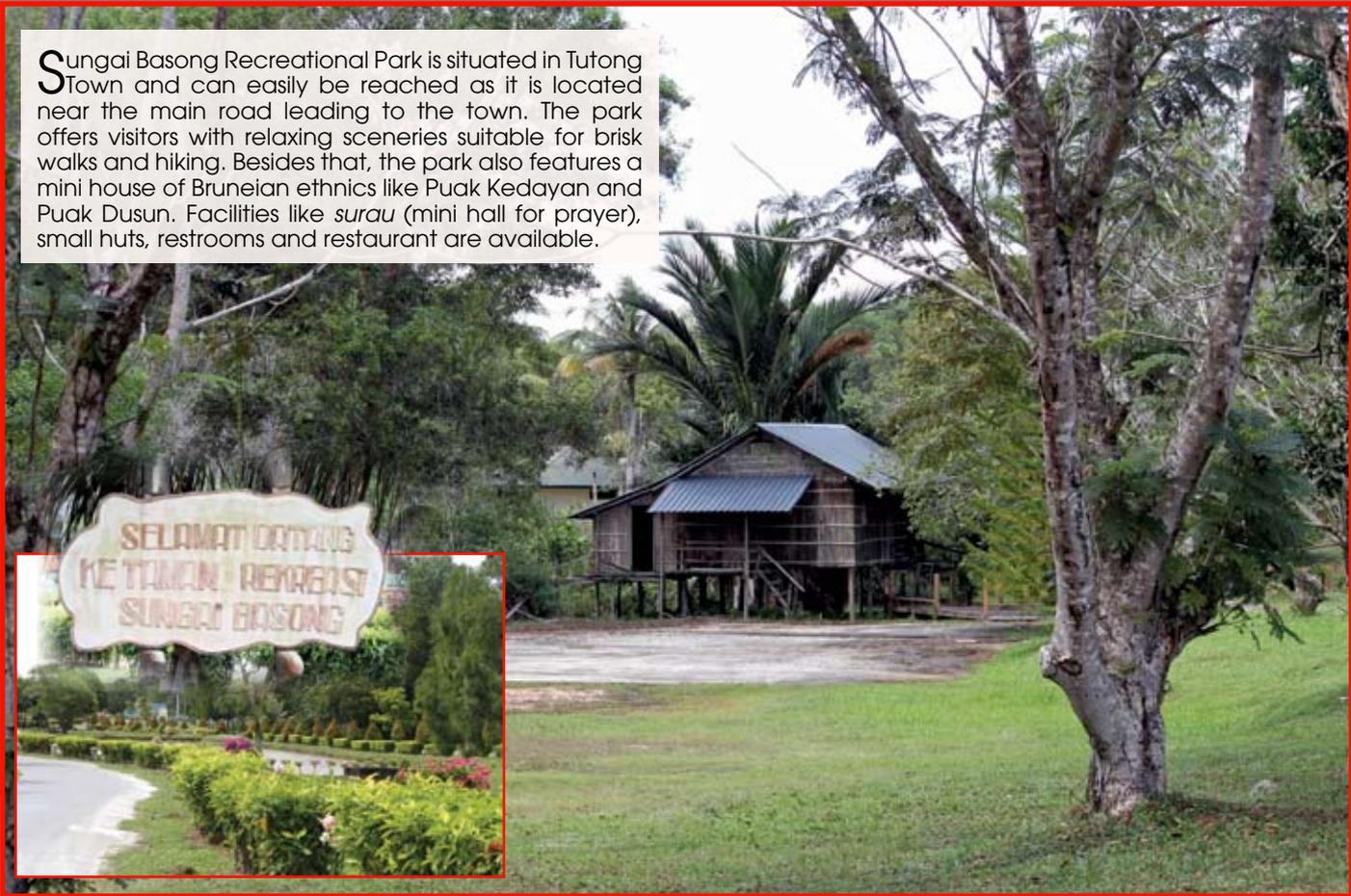
Tamu and Pasarneka Serambangun is located close to Tutong Town. This market sells various products ranging from fresh fruits and vegetables, flowers, poultry, food and drinks and also clothing. A wet fish market is also available. The prices are affordable. The best day to visit this market is on Thursday where traders throughout the country gather here to sell their best products.



Seri Kenangan Beach, located in Tutong, is one of the famous beaches in Brunei Darussalam. Visitors will be mesmerised with the beautiful sceneries the beach has to offer. Besides picnicking, visitors can also do fishing on the other side of the beach which is the Tutong River. Small huts are available for visitors along the beach area. Mini playground, beach soccer court, restaurant and restrooms are among the facilities available. The All-Terrain-Vehicle (ATV) is also available for rent.

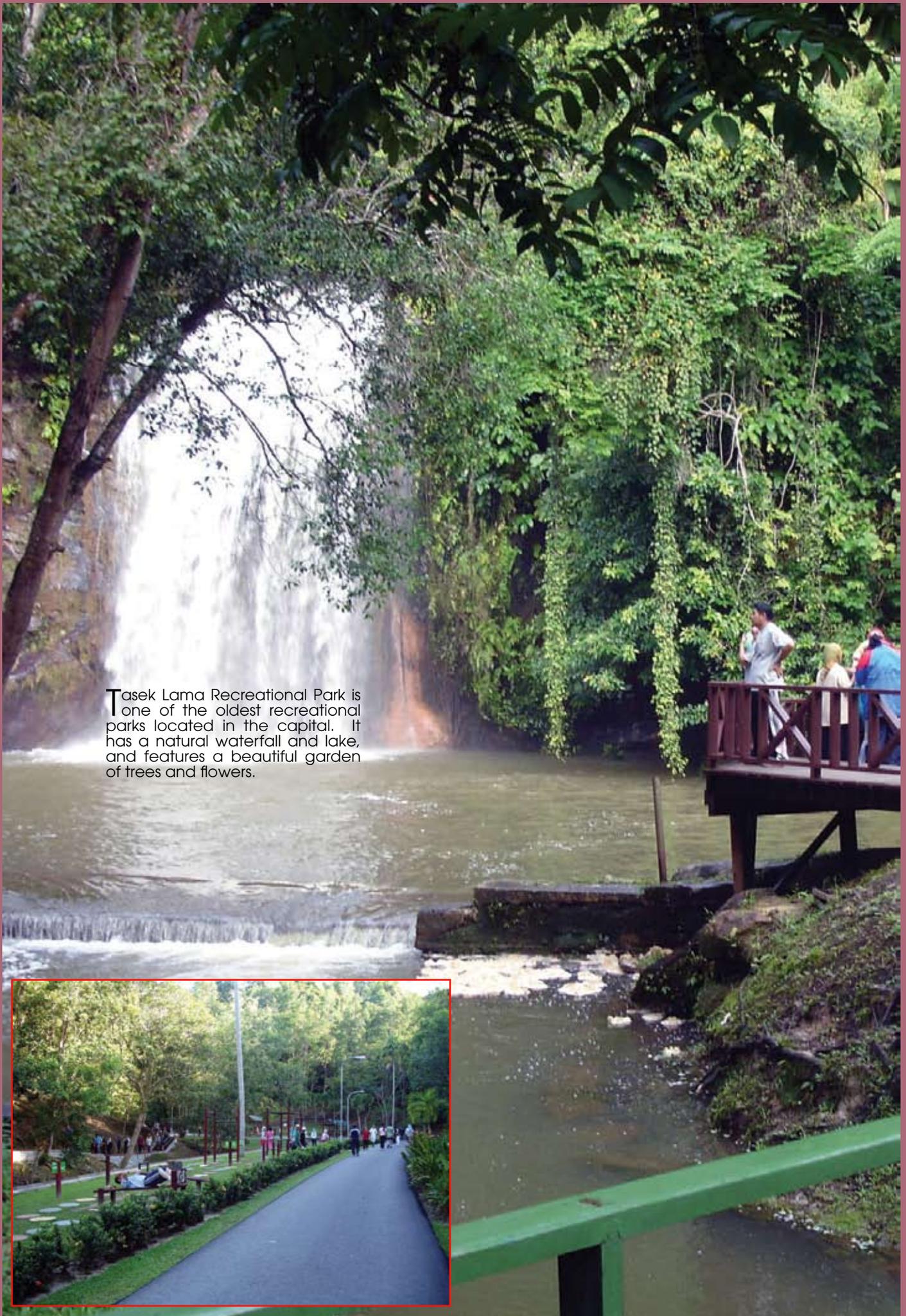


Sungai Basong Recreational Park is situated in Tutong Town and can easily be reached as it is located near the main road leading to the town. The park offers visitors with relaxing sceneries suitable for brisk walks and hiking. Besides that, the park also features a mini house of Bruneian ethnics like Puak Kedayan and Puak Dusun. Facilities like *surau* (mini hall for prayer), small huts, restrooms and restaurant are available.



Pantai Persiaran Pengkalan Pinang Penanjong, Tutong is another beautiful beach recently launched in June 2010 after receiving a facelift. Small huts are available for picnicking. Seashell collectors and young children may love this beach as seashells can be easily found here.





Tasek Lama Recreational Park is one of the oldest recreational parks located in the capital. It has a natural waterfall and lake, and features a beautiful garden of trees and flowers.



Ulu Temburong National Park extends over 500 square kilometres of undisturbed rainforest which covers most of the southern part of Temburong District. Visitors can observe the rainforest's diverse treetop ecosystem using a canopy walkway. The canopy walkway is about 250m high which gives visitors a panoramic view of one of the oldest rainforests in the world.





Kite-flying, a favourite past time.

Kite flying, a traditional game



A flexible bamboo used to make a kite.

Man has always had a great fascination for flying so much so that many stories have been told through the ages about his futile attempts to imitate the natural ability of birds to soar or cruise in the air.

In his failure he resorted to the next best thing: invented something that flew or he could send airborne.

This was probably what led him to make the kite more than two thousand years ago.

Records show that historians differed on who was the first creator of the kite. Some claimed it was a Greek called Archytas, while others credited it to a Chinese named Han-Sin, who existed about 200 years ago after Archytas.

Whatever the annals say about this, one thing was certain that it was made for pleasure to satisfy man's longing to take to the air.

In Brunei Darussalam, kite-flying has for centuries been a popular traditional game, both with adults and children.

In the olden days, kite-flying was popular at Kampung Ayer where it was often played from the *pantaran* or veranda and *titian* (a bridge connecting from one house to another).

As time went by, with more people migrating to mainland, the flying of kites as a favourite pastime followed suit to the mainland.

The kite, which is called *kikik* in Bruneian language, consists of a wooden or bamboo framework covered with paper, clothing or synthetic material.



Bruneian kite enthusiasts prefer using bamboo, particularly one species known as *buluh temiang* because of its greater flexibility. According to Awang Mudin, a kite-maker, the *buluh temiang* must be in medium size where it is not too soft or hard. The bamboos must be cut evenly to ensure that the kites can fly.

The other components of a kite are paper, string and glue.

Before commercial glue came into the scene, kite producers used cooked rice or sago, known locally as *ambuyat* to make the paper or clothing stick to the framework.

However most kite makers still prefer the traditional sago to the modern-day gum.

The various parts of the framework are tied with string in accordance with the kind of shape and size of the kite.

Once it is completed, a long string is attached to the kite, which is sent aloft by the action of wind on its surfaces.

The height or distance can be determined by manipulating the string from the ground.

Kite-flying from the earlier days has always been more than just a game. To make it an exciting game, duel often happened between friends.



It was for this reason that each kite player was always on the alert by having several feet of the top part of the string coated with ground glass and cooked tapioca flour, making it quite sharp and stiff. The idea was to entangle and sever an opponent's kite string.

One could recall that sometimes about a dozen or more kites were seen flying in the sky, attacking and trying to cut one another out of circulation.

The one that survived the ordeal was declared winner of the eagerly-fought battle.

The vanquished were never disheartened by the experience. Each was even more determined to become the victor in the next encounter.

There are a number of popular spots for kite-flying where it often involves beaches and open areas. More can be seen at housing areas.

Neighbours and friends who share the same interest usually play together.

Various names are given to kites which included *billis*, *sia manjar*, *sijulak*, *lasik*, *jangkang* and *lipat*.

The origins of these names are not clear but it is believed that the names were derived from its design, shape and size.

Kite-flying remains as one of favourite past time activities in Brunei Darussalam, where throughout the year a number of activities would be held such as a kite festival involving local and foreign kite enthusiasts.

It has also always been as one of the itineraries organised in conjunction with the birthday anniversary of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.



A scenic view of Selirong Island, a mangrove island, with a boat on the water and a large tree in the foreground. The image shows a tropical coastline with a large, gnarled tree trunk in the foreground, leading to a body of water where a small boat is visible. The background features a clear blue sky and distant landmasses.

Selirong Island is a small mangrove island located on the north of Temburong. It is covered by mist early in the morning which gives it a sense of mystery, but as soon as you set your feet there, behind the cloudy mist, you can witness all the awe and wonders of the tropical ecosystem up close and personal.