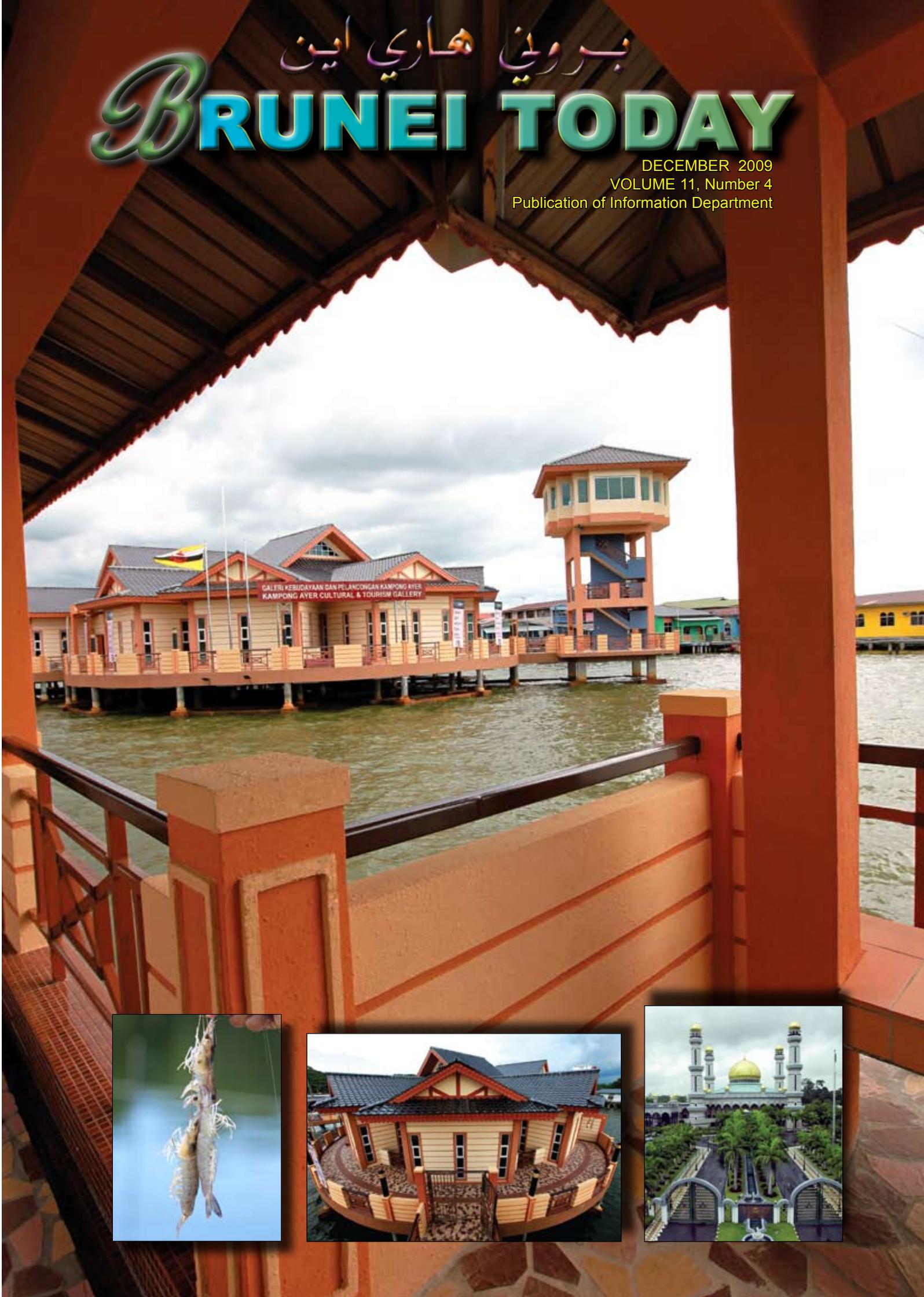
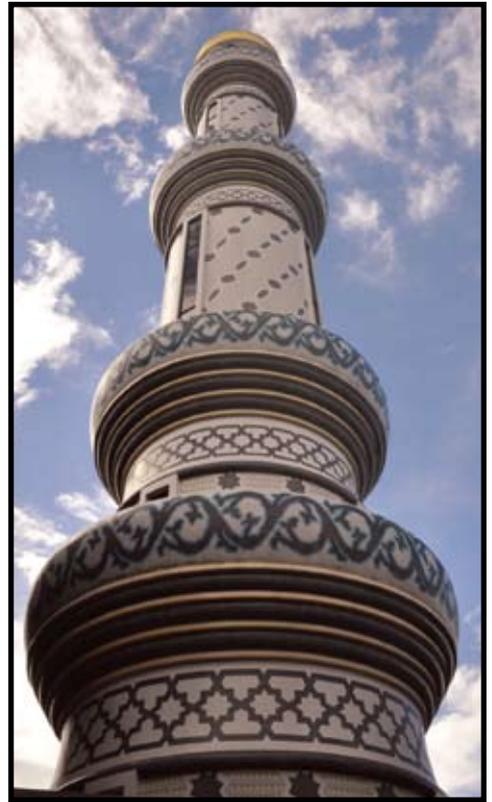


بروني هاري اين BRUNEI TODAY

DECEMBER 2009
VOLUME 11, Number 4
Publication of Information Department





Editorial Advisory Board

Dr. Haji Muhammad Hadi Muhammad Melayong
(hadi.melayong@information.gov.bn)

Editor

Sastra Sarini Haji Julaini
(sarini.julaini@information.gov.bn)

Text

Sastra Sarini Haji Julaini
(sarini.julaini@information.gov.bn)

Hajah Noorhijrah Haji Idris
(noorhijrah.idris@information.gov.bn)

Layout

Hajah Zaianit Haji Noorkhan
(zaianit.noorkhan@information.gov.bn)

Proof reader

Hajah Norpisah Md Salleh
(norpisah.salleh@information.gov.bn)

Photos

Shrimp Culture in Brunei Darussalam
Photography Division of Department Of Information
Haji Ariffin Md.Noor
Ak. Abu Bakaruddin Shah Dinny Pengiran Haji Kamaruddin

Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkia

Haji Ariffin Md. Noor
Mahmud Ibrahim
Ak. Abu Bakaruddin Shah Dinny Pengiran Haji Kamaruddin
Hajah Zaianit Haji Noorkhan

Kampong Ayer Cultural & Tourism Gallery

Mahmud Ibrahim
Ak. Abu Bakaruddin Shah Dinny Pengiran Haji Kamaruddin

C o n t e n t s

3 - 7Shrimp Culture in Brunei Darussalam
8- 11Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkia
12 - 15Kampong Ayer Cultural & Tourism Gallery

Note on front & back cover Photos

Front cover - Kampong Ayer Cultural & Tourism Gallery
Back cover - Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkia

Published By

English News & Media IT Division
Information Department
Prime Minister's Office
Brunei Darussalam BB 3510

Tel: 673 2 383400

Disclaimer

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reprinted, reproduced or utilised in any form or by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the English News & Media IT, Department of Information, Prime Minister's Office, Brunei Darussalam.

Printed By

Borneo Printers & Trading Sdn Bhd

Shrimp Culture in Brunei Darussalam

Overview on Fisheries Industry

Brunei Darussalam is situated on the north-west coast of the island of Borneo with an estimated population of 406, 200 in 2009. Further blessed with an abundance of natural resources such as oil and gas, the citizens of Brunei Darussalam have enjoyed a comfortable lifestyle, well-structured development and a stable economy.

Realising that oil and gas might one day be exhausted, the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has given strong emphasis on the need to diversify its economy. Thus various sectors have been identified to achieve this desire such as through small-and-medium enterprises (SMEs), agriculture, info-communications technology and many more.

One of the industries that have been identified with huge potential economic contribution is fisheries.

Fisheries industry in Brunei Darussalam comprises of three sectors that are Capture Fisheries Sector, Aquaculture Sector and Seafood Processing Sector.

With the need to support its development, about 1.2 per cent that is \$116 million from the National Development

Plan (NDP 2007-2012) total budget is allocated to fisheries sector. The fisheries programmes will be focused on four main programmes; Development of Capture Industry; Development of Aquaculture Industry; Support Services for Fisheries Industry; and Laboratory Services.

Among the objectives of the sector include enhancing production through capture and aquaculture industries; to ensure permanent fisheries resources, using new technology and enhancement of promoting and marketing for fisheries products.

At the end of NDP 2007 - 2012 period, the production from Fisheries sectors are expected about 30,745 metric tonnes (mt); that are 21,330 mt from capture; 6,612 mt from aquaculture and 2,803 mt from seafood processing.

Currently the fisheries sectors of this country are estimated to be sustainably worth at least \$200 million per year.

From the \$200 million per year, aquaculture itself is expected to contribute around \$71 million to Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

** Continue on page 4*



*From page 3
(Shrimp Culture In Brunei Darussalam)

Shrimp Culture (Prawn Farming)

Shrimp Culture or Prawn Farming is one of the programmes introduced under the Aquaculture Sector.

Aquaculture is one of the fast developing sectors in the fisheries industry. The potential of aquaculture is estimated to be at least \$71 million per year. The main focus of aquaculture is on shrimp farming.

Main aquaculture activities in Brunei Darussalam are shrimp in ponds, marine fish culture in inshore and offshore cages, freshwater fish culture in ponds and hatchery of shrimp and fish. Whilst the newly-introduced industry is crab culture.

Under the NDP, the government is continuously providing strong support such as through opening more areas for aquaculture to be developed. The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) has provided several financing scheme for the public especially those involve in small-and-medium enterprises (SMEs). Other assistance

available is suitable areas (for aquaculture industry) for lease at \$25.00 per hectare. The government also provides basic infrastructure like access roads, electricity, sea water supply and cage culture.

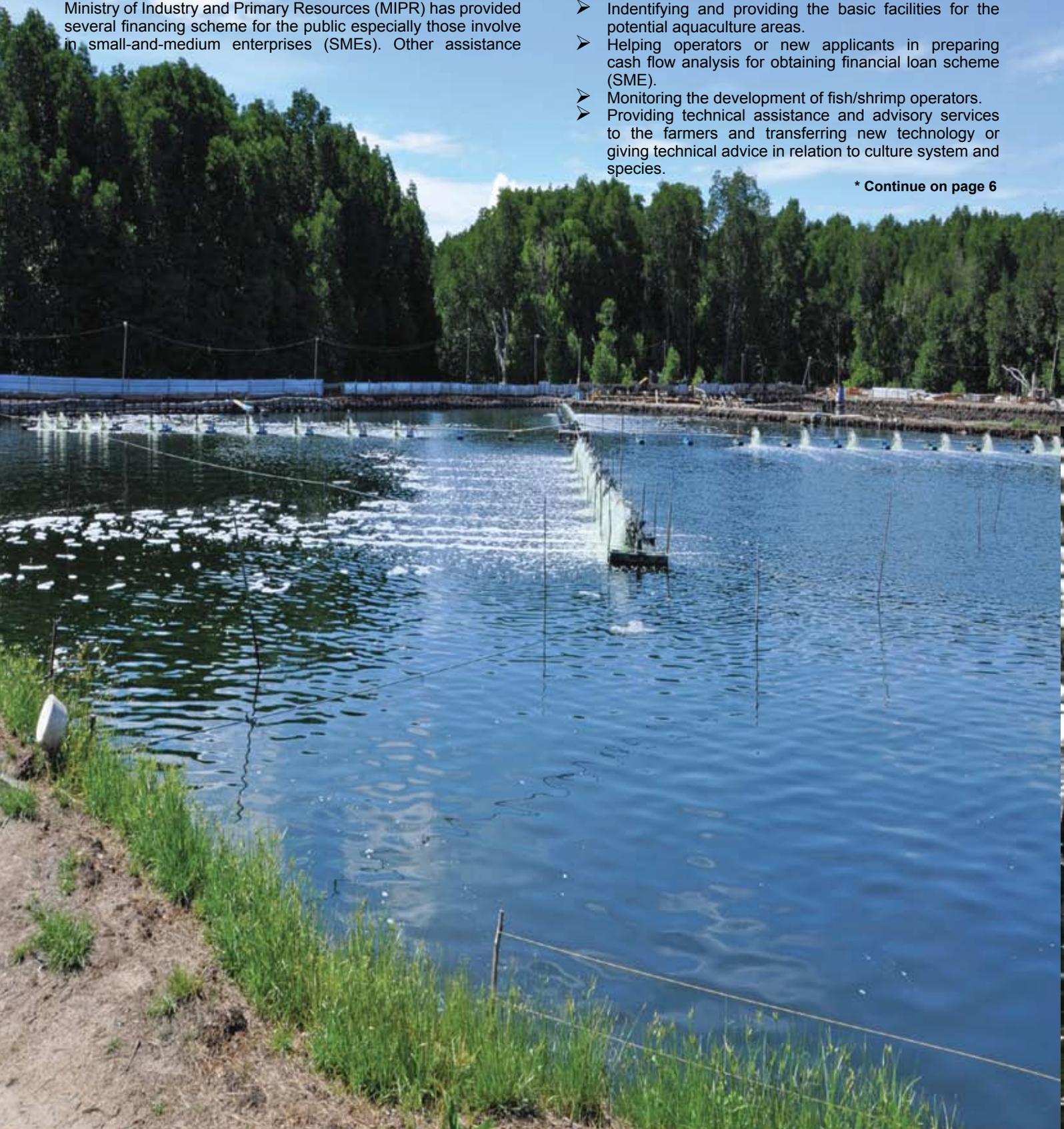
Aside from the basic amenities, support facilities are also being implemented. Technology verification and development are conducted to ensure that appropriate technology and suitable species are available to the aquaculture operators.

In order to support the industry, MIPR has introduced Aquaculture Shrimp Industry Section under the Fisheries Department. The main role of the section is to develop or monitor the aquaculture industry in the country targeting the optimum level and continuous production of fish and shrimp.

Meanwhile their functions are:

- Planning /implementing the development progress of seawater fish/ shrimp culture in Brunei Darussalam.
- Process the new application applying for the aquaculture industry.
- Identifying and providing the basic facilities for the potential aquaculture areas.
- Helping operators or new applicants in preparing cash flow analysis for obtaining financial loan scheme (SME).
- Monitoring the development of fish/shrimp operators.
- Providing technical assistance and advisory services to the farmers and transferring new technology or giving technical advice in relation to culture system and species.

* Continue on page 6





Some of the work involved in shrimp farming.





A large amount of feed stock allocated for shrimp farming



***From page 4
(Shrimp Culture In Brunei Darussalam)**

The shrimp culture industry started as far as 1993 with it gradually developing and now the industry are well received by local entrepreneurs. Currently, there are about 12 shrimp companies operating in the country at designated areas.

Several sites throughout the nation had been identified as a potential breeding ground with the largest based in the Tutong District. About 47 per cent of prawn sales are contributed from those cultivated in this district. Among those in this district are the prawn hatchery in Kampung Kuala Tutong; Semaun Aquaculture Sdn. Bhd. cultivation site at 'Telisai Sungai Paku Fasa 1'; Usaha Asilati Sdn. Bhd. site at Kampung Keramat 'Telisai Fasa 1'; Dua-Dua Sdn. Bhd. site at Kampung Keramat 'Telisai Fasa 1'.

More sites around 230 hectares have been offered for interested entrepreneurs in the effort to expand the local prawn farming that included 130 hectares in Tutong District cultivated by six companies; and 100 hectares in Brunei-Muara District cultivated by seven companies.

The shrimp culture total areas provided by the government are about 230 hectares and divided into phases that are;

Area & Phase No.	No. of company operating at the area
Telisai and Sungai Paku Phase I	5
Pangkalan Sibabau Phase I	3
Pangkalan Sibabau Phase II	4

More facilities will be built for continuous research projects such as construction of Aquaculture Development Centre and Serasa Broodstock Development Centre.

Also available are hatcheries support facilities providing shrimp prawn farming and good quality fry.

Currently, the species breed in shrimp culture industry in Brunei Darussalam are the Blue Shrimp *Litopenaeus stylirostris*, known as Udang Rostris and Black Tiger Prawn (*Penaeus monodon*) or Udang Harimau.

Our interview brought us to one of the local companies involved in shrimp culture. Located at Pangkalan Sibabau, in Mentiri; the company, Helif Aquaculture Sendirian Berhad is currently developing 5.8 hectares of land with about 21 culture ponds.

Why choose aquaculture out of other business?

Besides government support and incentives, Brunei Darussalam has a number of advantages compared to other countries in the region, such as clean and unpolluted environment, absence of typhoons, floods and other natural phenomena, said Mr. Chuah, the Manager of Helif Aquaculture.

The matters were supported by Awang Mohaimin Damit, an officer from Mobile Technical Unit, Fisheries Department; stating that since the shrimp culture has been introduced in the nation, Brunei Darussalam is very lucky as common challenges faced are disturbance from monitor lizard and otter attacking the culture shrimps but not diseases.

How about the markets for the shrimp?

The markets, both local and foreign are favourable. As of today, Brunei Darussalam had successfully exported its shrimp to countries like Japan, Korea and the U.S.A.

Statistics showed that total export rate in 2006 had doubled compared to 2005. In 2005, the county's shrimp export was 197.45 tonnes metric with a worth of \$3.05 million and in 2006 was 374.79 tonnes metric with a worth total of \$6.05 million.

As for Helif Aquaculture, all of its shrimp production is only for domestic consumption. With its available ponds with sizes around 3,500 to 5,000 square metres each, it can produce about 2.5 tonnes metric per ponds. The company's shrimp productions are sold at two leading department store.

The whole process of shrimp culture (taking example from Helif Aquaculture, other company may takes less or more times depending on the method) takes about five months. The period includes preparing the pond which takes about a month and four months for breeding.

In Brunei Darussalam, standard stocking is 30 shrimps per cubic metres and the less number the better, said Awang Mohaimin Damit.

He further added that, the standard stocking is implemented in order to ensure the shrimps produced are even in size.

Usual size of four months of breeding with standard stocking of 30 shrimps per cubic metres is 25g per shrimp.

Other than that, the shrimps are also properly feed, four to five times daily where its food is imported from Malaysia.

The feed given to the shrimp, according to the Awang Mohaimin Damit are properly checked in terms of ingredients. It is to ensure the ingredients used are *halal*.

In order to ensure the quality of the shrimps, a surveillance programme is carried out by members of Mobile Technical Unit.

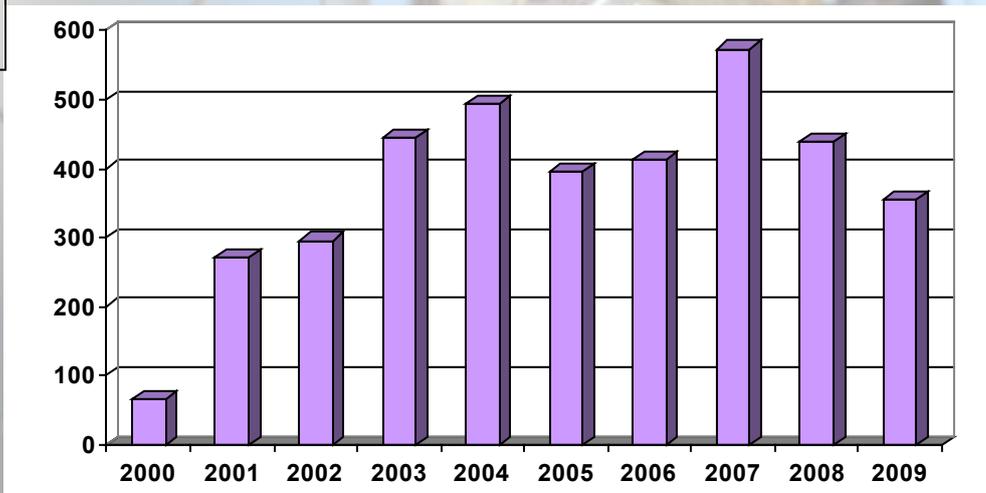
With all the efforts and cooperation made by both entrepreneurs and government, the productions of shrimps are growing positively.

In its infant years when shrimp culture was introduced (2002) the production was 66.0 mt (\$0.66 million) and by year 2009, the production was 354.06 mt (\$2.85 million).

Table below shows the production of shrimp from year 2000 - 2009

PRODUCTION OF SHRIMP FROM YEAR 2000 – 2009

□ Metric Tonne



Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Production (mt)	66.00	271.00	295.89	445.18	493.17	394.48	413.05	573.29	438.44	354.06
Worth \$ (million)	0.66	2.71	2.96	3.78	4.28	3.06	3.57	4.46	3.20	2.85

The preferred species cultivated in Brunei Darussalam is Rostris prawn which is sold to the local market through fishmongers and seafood processing industry.

As culture shrimps are available most of the time (as different company breed at different time) therefore consumers are getting used to purchase it compared to sea shrimps which are seasonal (available at specific time within a year).

With strong support from the government, awareness of benefits in developing the shrimp culture industry, it is desired that this industry will succeed in achieving the desired goal in assisting efforts to diversify the economy.



One of the end products of shrimp are prawn crackers, a popular snack among the locals.





JAME' 'ASR HASSANIL BOLKIAH

Brunei Darussalam is situated on the north-west coast of the island of Borneo where historical findings suggest that the Brunei Kingdom began more than 1,500 years ago, pre-dating Islam. Its earliest existence was believed to be a tributary province of the Java-based Majapahit Empire. After the disintegration of the Majapahit Empire, Brunei rulers took charge of their own territorial responsibility.

Ancient Chinese texts referred Brunei to as either Puni or Puli and documented interactions with the Chinese Empire in the years 518, 523, 616, 669, 977 and 1369-1643 AD.

Imperial Chinese texts also indicated that Muslim influence was established in Brunei as early as 977 AD, and the employment of Arabic characters in Brunei's written language, hitherto Sanskrit, started before 1370. Imperial Chinese texts noted that Brunei's king named Awang Alak Betatar embraced the Islamic faith in 1371 in conjunction with his marriage to a princess from a neighbouring kingdom. The Chinese people who came to Brunei in 1370 said that Brunei was ruled by an Islamic ruler known as Ma-ha-mo-sha or Sultan Muhammad Shah. Consequently, Sultan Muhammad Shah is the Islamic name of Awang Alak Betatar. As a territory administered by a Muslim government, subsequent Brunei sovereigns became known as sultans.

Islamic teachings continue to flourish under the reign of Sultan Sharif Ali, the 3rd Sultan of Brunei (1425-1432). Under his reign, he added the name 'Darussalam' (an Arabic word) which means 'Abode of Peace' to Brunei. Brunei Darussalam (Negara Brunei Darussalam – in Malay) is the nation's official name until today. Through his reign too, the first mosque was built in this nation.

Through the reign of Sultan Bolkiah, the 5th Sultan of Brunei, Islamic teachings were widely spread among its colonial territory which went as far as some parts of today's Philippines and Borneo.

And through the reign of Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the 28th ruler of Brunei, Islam was declared as the official religion of this country as stated in Brunei's constitution. This was further emphasised by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the 29th Sultan of Brunei who announced the nation's philosophy as 'Melayu Islam Beraja' (MIB – Malay Islamic Monarchy) at the nation's proclamation of independence on January 1, 1984.

History of mosques in Brunei Darussalam

The first mosque to be built in this nation was during the reign of the third Sultan of Brunei, Sultan Sharif Ali who is also known as Sultan Berkat. This mosque known as Masjid Besar was burnt by the Spanish on June 23, 1578 during the Brunei-Spain War, known as 'Perang Kastila' (Castela War).

In today's Brunei Darussalam, there are more than 100 mosques built by the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. They are built at various places throughout the nation particularly at densely populated areas. Besides mosques, *surau* or *balai ibadat* (smaller version of a mosque) are also available. Among the objectives to build a mosque is not only meant for prayer but it will also be used to carry out other religious and community related activities like reading Al-Quran (Holy Book), religious talks and *doa kesyukuran* (thanksgiving) gatherings.

Mosques in Brunei Darussalam are under the jurisdiction of Mosque Affairs Department, the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

There are two main mosques in the nation which have become landmarks; the Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque based in the heart of Bandar Seri Begawan; and the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah based in the hub of Kiarong. Visit to Brunei Darussalam is not complete without visiting these two mosques.

Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah

Standing majestically at the hub of Kampung Kiarong is the beautiful Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah, a mosque built on a 20-acre piece of land to commemorate the Silver Jubilee anniversary of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah's reign to the throne.

Undoubtedly the biggest mosque of Brunei Darussalam, this mosque was a gift from His Majesty. Construction work to build the mosque began in 1988 and it was officially opened by His Majesty on July 14, 1994 in conjunction with His Majesty's 48th birthday. The opening ceremony was held by performing Maghrib and Isyak prayers.

The mosque is divided into several areas such as separate



male and female prayer halls; separate ablution areas for VIPs, male and female; administration block; multipurpose hall; VIP's conference room; library; royal suite; and VIP's lounge and dining area.

As one of the most beautiful mosque in Brunei Darussalam, it has become a popular tourist attraction with an average of 50 people daily. Thus the mosque is opened for visiting daily except for Thursdays and before Friday prayers.

This mosque has also become a popular venue for Muslim couples to solemnise their marriage. Besides this, the mosque is also one of the venues for Muslim couples to undergo their pre-wedding marital course.

This mosque also hosts Al-Quran reading classes for young children and adults taught by local religious teachers.

Prayer halls

With a total area of 60, 000 sq ft, the male's prayer hall can accommodate up to 3,500 worshippers. Inside this prayer hall is the largest and the most impressive chandelier which is suspended underneath the centre of the decorated dome. The chandelier is made of 24-carat gold plated with high quality of strass crystal glass from Austria.

The intricately designed prayer hall is further beautified with 48 small window arches surrounding the dome decorated with Quranic calligraphy written on its surface. The calligraphy brings up the elegance and the charm of the hall.

Each corner of the prayer hall is designed with much detail that involves not just local designs but also from abroad. As such, the 114 ft internal diameter of the dome and its ceiling was fabricated in Malaysia, while the white marbles of the wall and columns are from Italy.

The prayer hall for female is equally beautiful like the male's prayer hall. Based on the first floor, the female's prayer hall can accommodate up to 1,000 worshippers. There is another big chandelier suspended underneath the ceiling and it positioned at the centre of the dome.

Inside the female's prayer hall, the surrounding is fully decorated with marbles and granites. * Continue on page 10

* From page 9

(Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah)

Ablutions

Similar to prayer halls, the ablutions areas are separated for males and females. The ablution areas are equipped with manual and automatic power systems. The automatic system is operated by means of sensor from the United States of America (USA).

Library

The mosque's library is named after the late State Mufti of Brunei Darussalam, Haji Ismail bin Omar Abdul Aziz.

There are two types of collections namely Reference Collection and General Collection.

The Reference Collection consists of a wide range of reference materials that includes thesis, manuscripts, encyclopedias, dictionaries and journals. While the General Collection has approximately 22,000 copies with more than 5,000 titles of books based on general aspects of Islam.

The library is opened for members of the public where its operational during office hours which are from 8.30 am to 11.45 am and from 2.15 am to 4 pm.

Memorable moments

A number of unforgettable moments have been recorded at Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah. One particular moment is when His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered the sermon for Friday prayer on July 15, 1994 which coincided with His Majesty's 48th birthday.

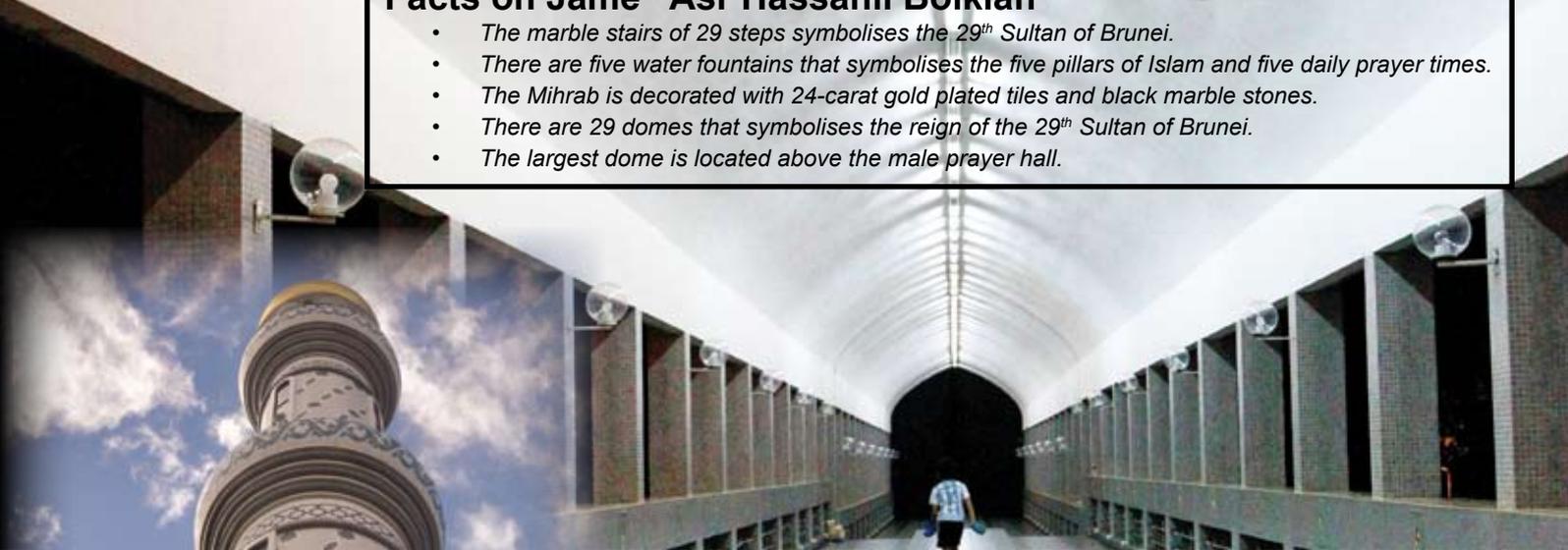
The mosque has also received visits from heads of state and government such as the late Her Excellency Benazir Bhutto, the former Prime Minister of Pakistan in 1996; His Excellency Goh Chok Tong, Senior Minister of Singapore in 1996; Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain in 1998; His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan in 2000 and many more.





Facts on Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah

- *The marble stairs of 29 steps symbolises the 29th Sultan of Brunei.*
- *There are five water fountains that symbolises the five pillars of Islam and five daily prayer times.*
- *The Mihrab is decorated with 24-carat gold plated tiles and black marble stones.*
- *There are 29 domes that symbolises the reign of the 29th Sultan of Brunei.*
- *The largest dome is located above the male prayer hall.*





Kampong Ayer Cultural & Tourism Gallery

History of Kampung Ayer

Driving along the Brunei River, the glaring sight of a housing settlement, standing proud above the waters is hardly unnoticed. The houses on stilt connected like a wooden maze, fondly known as 'Kampung Ayer' or water village, is undoubtedly one of Brunei Darussalam's unique legacies aging back as far as the 14th century.

In the olden days, Brunei Darussalam's inhabitants were mostly residing at the water village where the administration shifted three times. Historical findings has shown that Brunei's capital has shifted three times with the first two on the water – Kota Batu and where the museums are now (also along Kota Batu), and the final reallocation was to the dry land – where the capital is today.

Antonio Pigafetta, an Italian explorer described the water village as a housing settlement that had 25,000 households with a palace built in the centre. This was in the 16th century where the population was said to be around 100,000 people, showing signs that Brunei was a very strong, rich and civilised nation. It was said that Brunei at that time was at its peak of glory where her empire stretched as far as the Philippines' islands.



Those who inhabited the water village were very well known for their intricate handicraft, crafts work and hardworking fishermen. Some even named their village according to their specialities. The men were mostly known as fishermen and blacksmith. As fishermen, it was only normal that they had the ability to build their own boat, a skill that is still practiced today. While the women, weaving was their favourite past time activity, which

later accumulated to become a source of income for them.

Today, the water village has 34 villages with a population of nearly 20,000 people. These 34 villages made up six mukim (a cluster of villages) or countries – Mukim Burung Pingai, Mukim Peramu, Mukim Saba, Mukim Sungai Kebun, Mukim Sungai Kedayan and Mukim Tamoi. Each mukim is led by a Penghulu while each village is led by a Ketua Kampung

* Continue on page 14





* From page 12

(Kampung Ayer Cultural & Tourism Gallery)

or 'head village'. The uniqueness of the names were mostly derived after a person's name, where the village is located or the specialised trading activities of that particular village. To name a few – Kampung Sungai Asam, Kampung Lorong Sikuna and Kampung Pandai Besi.

Aware of its significance, the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is constantly on the go in ensuring the longevity of this settlement area. A significant amount have been spent in supplying basic necessities such as an adequate supply of electricity and water, proper sanitation system, easy access to education, proper health care, good security with the setting up of a police station, and not neglecting the obligation of the Islamic faith, a centre for learning and congregating through well structured mosques and worshipping halls.

The main mode of transportation to a large quarter of the Kampong Ayer is via a boat, or locally known as 'perahu tambang' (taxi boats). A sheer \$0.50 will get you to the nearest village and this range to \$2.00 being the furthest destination. While the fare for a complete tour around the water village is usually upon negotiation between you and the taxi boat driver. On average, it will cost you about \$10.00.

The Kampung Ayer today has changed dramatically due to a number of reasons such as fire as well as those who had decided to move on to dry land. Since 1987 until 2002, a record of more than 700 houses was lost due to fire.

A non-governmental organisation (NGO) has fully pledged it support towards preserving the water village by providing houses to the fire victims. The Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation (YSHHB) set up the now known Kampung Bolkiah 'A' and 'B' which houses 226 and 250 homes respectively also based on Kampung Ayer.

Reliving memories of Kampung Ayer

Realising its significance and the volumes of history it recorded, and for the community to appreciate the history of Kampung Ayer, a Kampong Ayer Cultural and Tourism Gallery (KACTG) was established where it was officially opened by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office on August 19, 2009.

Built at Kampung Lorong Sikuna with 565 sq. feet in size, construction works to build the gallery began in August 2007 and completed by June 2009. With a cost of about \$3 million to build, this is the latest places of attraction worth to visit.

Visitors will be given an in-depth insight on the history, the uniqueness, beauty, culture and traditions of Kampung Ayer. It serves as a 'one stop centre' where it provides visitors with various services such as information centre, souvenir shop, a video presentation area, a venue for cultural performance and an exhibition gallery.

Walking along the walkway, you will be able to see a tower which once you have reached the top, a magnificent aerial view of Kampung Ayer and its surrounding awaits.

The history and background of Kampung Ayer are spread over five galleries where the history portrayed dated back to as far as the 10th century; the activities it ran; the evolution it experienced; the lifestyle of the old Kampung Ayer; and the economic and social development it has undergone.

The centre also promotes economic activities as entrepreneurs

are allocated spaces to promote their products especially handicrafts. Visitors will too be able to watch a live demonstration on how the handicrafts are made.

The setting up of KACTG is timely especially in reliving the memories of Kampung Ayer; and for Kampung Ayer to sustain. It provides education to all walks of life and educates the people to cherish and value the significant role Kampung Ayer played.

KACTG is under the purview of the Department of Tourism, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.

