



Published on *The Brunei Times* (<http://www.bt.com.bn>)

MoU on NMCC coastal surveillance system

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Wednesday, July 11, 2012 - Page A08

THE National Maritime Coordination Centre (NMCC) of the Prime Minister's Office and the Royal Brunei Technical Services (RBTS) will be collaborating in setting up the infrastructure and command centre of the National Coastal Surveillance System with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) yesterday.

Permanent Secretary (Security and Enforcement) at the PMO, Hj Hamdan Hj Abu Bakar, who was present to witness the signing in his remarks expressed his gratitude for His Majesty's consent for the implementation of the P2MK project, the acquisition of National Coastal Surveillance System together with the building of the t Command and Control Centre which will be undertaken by the RBTS.

"The MoU is a significant step in the establishment of P2MK. In fact, it is a vital accomplishment in the action plan of the Executive Committee for Maritime Security to enhance Brunei's maritime space, together with enforcement agencies and other relevant agencies with mutual interest," he said.

He also noted the MoU would enable the RBTS to "initiate the process of acquiring the system and planning the infrastructure of the centre which will be used to monitor and coordinate actions, in collaboration with enforcement agencies in Brunei Economic Exclusive Zone and its surroundings".

According to Hjh Rosmawati Hj Manaf, CEO of RBTS, the RBTS would assist the NMCC to "source for the best technical solution in line with its scoping requirement. Systems integration, transfer of technology and recruitment are some of the spin-offs expected from this important project.

Director of the NMCC, Col (L) Nooradin Hj Yaakub said that the establishment of the maritime coordination centre was a crucial aspect of the nation's maritime security domain and "takes into consideration the interest of various stakeholders including the Royal Brunei Air Force, Marine Police, the Marine and Fisheries departments, as well as other government entities."

Created as a project under the Prime Minister's Office in early 2010 to "cooradinate, assist and collate information amongst the various maritime enforcement agencies in the Sultanate, the NMCC is hoped to efficiently conduct maritime security monitoring and enforcement with the support of the latest technology systems used in maritime security, at best value for money, according to a statement from the RBTS.

"Effective monitoring and coordination among the enforcement agencies is critical in ensuring the security of Brunei Darussalam maritime space," it added.

According to the statement, the centre is "working closely with the relevant agencies in coordinating, controlling and taking appropriate measures in the event of maritime incidents, including smuggling activities, intrusion by foreign fishing vessels (IUU fishing), and shipping emergencies, necessitating search and rescue missions in the country's exclusive economic zone and the Brunei waters.

Signing on behalf of NMCC was Col (L) Nooradin with Cpt (L) Ezzadin Tahir as a witness, while RBTS was represented by its CEO Hjh Rosmawati with RBTS Manager of Business Development, Reuben Fang present as a witness.

The Brunei Times

Source URL: <http://www.bt.com.bn/news-national/2012/07/11/mou-nmcc-coastal-surveillance-system>