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Meteorological seminar an open platform for information exchange



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Haleh Kootval, Chief of Public Weather Services Division, WMO at the opening ceremony of the seminar on Social and Economic Benefits and Delivery of Meteorological and Hydrological Services. Picture: BT/Rebecca Oi

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

THE first day of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) seminar on Social and Economic benefits and delivery of meteorological and hydrological services heralded two sessions.

Dr Glen Anderson, Chief of Party, USAID-funded Climate Change Resilient Development Project said that reliable information and forecasts about storms, floods, droughts and extreme temperatures can help save thousands of lives and reduce millions of dollars in yearly damages.

A primer titled *Assessing the Socio-Economic Benefits of Meteorological and Hydrological Services* was compiled by economists, social scientists, meteorologists and hydrologists to present socio-economic benefits (SEB) studies to national and hydro met services, said Dr Anderson.

Haleh Kootval, Chief of Public Weather Services Division and World Meteorological Division expressed her gratitude to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Brunei Meteorological Department for hosting the seminar.

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The first session was background to socio-economic benefits studies of meteorological and hydrological services. An Introduction and short history of SEB was presented by Dr Anderson followed by Dr Jeff Lazo on contextual and analytical contributions from the social sciences in support of SEB assessment. Dr Anderson continued with the designing of an SEB study and a ten minute discussion.

The second session was on economic essentials, defining measuring benefits and cost by Dr Lazo. The session was dedicated to issues related to the WMO Strategy for Service Delivery whereby a practical Implementation Plan approved by WMO's Executive Council is presented to participants. Eight sessions are scheduled for the whole seminar which will conclude on October 25.

The objectives of the seminar are to increase the capacity of NHMS in determining and demonstrating the benefits of the services they provide to various user sectors, to inform and strengthen the development of the WMO-World Bank joint publication through regional experience and insight

The Brunei Times

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