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Brunei Maritime Academy set up



Minister of Communications YB Pehin Dato Hj Abdullah (L) looks on as the General Manager of Singapore Polytechnic International, Lee Leck Seng (C), signs the service agreement. BT/Rabiatul Kamit

RABIATUL KAMIT
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

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THE education minister yesterday called on all relevant government agencies to work closely with the marine industry to help Brunei tap into the blooming sector for economic diversification.

Following the service agreement between Brunei and Singapore to set up a Brunei Maritime Academy (BMA), Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Hj Abu Bakar Hj Apong said they would need to align the industry's needs and demands with the national goal of developing local content.

Citing statistics from the Energy Department at the Prime Minister's Office, he revealed that only 10 per cent of over 2,000 jobs in the sector were filled by Bruneians.

"Furthermore, it has been projected that this sector will continue to grow with the increasing activities offshore, both servicing the existing production and from future deep-water explorations," said YB Pehin Dato (Dr) Hj Abu Bakar in his speech during the signing ceremony at the Radisson Hotel.

He added that the formation of the BMA was timely in providing industry-ready locals, approved and recognised by the International Maritime Organisation.

Operating under the purview of the Ministry of Education and supported by the Energy Department at the Prime Minister's Office, as well as the Ministry of Communications, he said the new academy was set to become a centre of excellence with the transformation of technical education.

The Marine Department at the Ministry of Communications, which is currently planning Brunei's Maritime Master Plan, will play a role in the assessment and award of the seafarers.

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Meanwhile, the Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA) under Singapore Polytechnic will assist the MoE in offering a range of competency-based qualifications' training for the maritime industry through the BMA.	Copyright © 2006 - 2012 Brunei Times Sdn Bhd. All Rights Reserved.
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As one of the leading training providers of marine programmes in the region, the education minister said the SMA would help to accelerate the formation of Brunei's own academy.

The assistance provided by the SMA includes building training capability, training the trainers, and the establishment of an academic quality assurance system in accordance with the standards for Quality in Maritime Education and Training (QMET). Brunei's QMET quality assurance system is provided by the Temasek Foundation.

The Brunei Times

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