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Brunei develops climate model

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THE country is developing its own climate model for better future projections.

The Minister of Communications YB Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Hj Abdullah Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Hj Bakar yesterday explained the initiative during a ceremony observing the World Meteorological Day at the Times Square Shopping Centre.

“For developing the model, a number of officers have undergone courses in the United Kingdom and made working visits to countries in the region such as Singapore and the Philippines, to learn how they operationalise the model,” he said. The climate model has been used by other countries to simulate the interactions of the atmosphere, oceans, land surface and ice.

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The minister said the project was one of several initiatives and targets set by the Brunei Darussalam Meteorological Department (BDMN), as it looks to put more emphasis on achieving international standards in meteorology.

“There is a need to make sure that we prioritise fulfilling the international standards, and as I have been informed BDMN will receive the Quality Management System ISO 9001:2008 very shortly,” he said. A system to detect sudden changes in the atmosphere posing risk to incoming and departing flights at the Brunei International Airport has also been introduced this year.

The minister said remote sensing – the process of securing information about areas from a distance, typically aircrafts and satellites – has also allowed Brunei to issue 117 early weather warnings last year, between one to six hours before the predicted incident. “The effectiveness of early warning has also been increased through the cell phone technology; many of us have downloaded apps like Brunei Weather Apps and Mobile Weather,” he said.

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