

## Country Visit to Brunei

March 13, 2013

The country visit in Brunei was organized by Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) which is headed by Dr. Chee Ming "Jimmy" Lim, Head of Energy Research and Dr. Sathyajith Mathew, Associate Professor in UBD. Both were invited participants in the recent SEAcORE February Workshop. The meeting was also attended by Dr. Saiful Husain, Deputy Director of UBD-IBM Centre, Mr. Rosman Abd Rahman, Head of Energy Power and HSE of the Energy Department, Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Mr. Lim Cheng Guan, Head of New Renewable Energy, Energy Division, also from the Prime Minister's Office.

Key points were discussed during the meeting:

1. Mr. Rosman mentioned about the eagerness and openness of Brunei government to study renewable energy as alternative source of energy for the country. He mentioned about Brunei National Energy Research Institute (BNERI). BNERI is an "institution which supports and promotes Brunei Darussalam's energy security, economic growth and environmental sustainability through research and development (R&D) activities, including the commercializing and deployment of R&D products and research on hydrocarbon exploration, production and manufacturing, electricity generation and distribution, energy efficiency and conservation and alternative energy." <http://www.ukerc.ac.uk/support/article1759>
- Mr. Rosman said that there are many things yet to be explored especially on the renewable energy potential in Brunei and the government is quite open to this.
2. He also mentioned about a pool of data that their office has - a set of real measured data for wind resource assessment, which they could share to different institutions for R&D. Other available data could also be utilized for analysis of ocean renewables.
3. For ocean renewable energy, the concrete first step is to collect that data from the ocean and then analyze its potential. At the moment from UBD side, there is no one specializing on this area, but as discussions were going on there were quite optimistic that resource assessment of ORE in Brunei is not impossible.
4. This could be done through collaborations with NTU, as technical expertise could be shared by NTU to UBD (exchange of PhD students, etc.) The Brunei government expressed their support on this endeavor.
5. For other types of energy, Brunei government is pushing for FITs in solar. UBD said that they are developing a system design system for solar energy which only needs to be integrated to actual data.
6. On the commercialization side, UBD has been active in partnering up with industries like IBM. Mr. Saiful of UBD-IBM was quite interested in the JIP Programme of ERI@N and would wish to have further discussion on this with the team.

After the meeting, the UBD team showed their laboratories and the facilities they have in the Energy Research Group under the Faculty of Science.



With UBD Team

Mr. Rosman, Dr. Mathew and Dr. Saiful

