

**Survey Research on e-Learning  
in Asian Countries - Fiscal Year 2002  
(Country Specific Report - Brunei Darussalam)**

- Table of Contents -

1. Market: Market Trends of e-Learning.....	1
1.1 Status of IT Promotion (Centered on the Internet).....	1
1.1.1 Outline of the Internet.....	1
1.1.2 Outline of ISP .....	1
1.2 Status of Education and Training System.....	1
1.2.1 Higher Education .....	1
1.2.2 Vocational Education .....	1
1.3 IT Human Resources Required.....	2
1.4 E-Learning Market Trends.....	2
2. Technology: Trends of e-Learning System (Synchronous & Asynchronous).....	3
2.1 Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).....	3
2.1.1 Overview .....	3
2.1.2 Activities Related to e-Learning .....	3
3. Advanced Activities .....	3
4. Government Policy and its Vision (Mid- and Long-term Direction).....	4
4.1 Status of IT Policies.....	4
4.2 E-Learning Related Measures as Part of IT or Educational Policies.....	4
4.3 Laws Regulating Rights for Intellectual Property and Personal Information in e-Learning .....	4
4.4 Vision .....	4
4.5 International and National Conference.....	4

## 1. Market: Market Trends of e-Learning

### 1.1 Status of IT Promotion (Centered on the Internet)

#### 1.1.1 Outline of the Internet

Brunei is one of the countries in Southeast Asia that have an advanced telecommunication infrastructure. Brunei plans to further improve the infrastructure. The estimated population of Brunei is about 270,000, of which one out of every three persons has a telephone.

Brunei has two satellite communication ground stations through which direct call, telex, and facsimile services to various regions in the world are provided. Systems presently used in Brunei include an analog telephone switching system, a fiber-optic cable link to Singapore and Manila, a packet switching system for accessing high-speed computers in foreign countries, a cellular automobile telephone system, and a paging system. The introduction of microwave and solar battery telephone has allowed direct calls to all remote areas in the country.

According to the statistics of ITU (2001), the number of Internet users in Brunei was about 35,000, which means that the Internet diffusion rate in this year was about 10.45 %. The ITU survey in 1999 showed that the number of Internet users in that year was about 25,000. This indicates that the number of Internet users in Brunei has been growing.

#### 1.1.2 Outline of ISP

Internet service started by BruNet in 1995 was deregulated in 2000.

### 1.2 Status of Education and Training System

#### 1.2.1 Higher Education

Half of the population of Brunei is composed of youths under 20 years old. Citizens aged five years and above can receive education free of charge. Students are also sponsored by the government to study abroad if studies concerned are not available locally.

Higher education institutions in Brunei include Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB). There are also various technical and vocational institutions.

Brunei did not have a university until the mid-1980s. Thus, students requiring higher education had to study in foreign universities, particularly in those of the British Commonwealth of Nations. In 1985, however, UBD was established to satisfy the need to develop human resources which respond to the demands of the country, with the cooperation of universities in the U.K. and Malaysia.

Brunei focuses on the fostering of teachers in order to reduce the shortage of teachers. Approximately 40% of UBD students receive teacher training. Teacher certificate/diploma can be obtained at the completion of the third year, unlike the bachelor's degree.

Other higher education organizations include Institut Teknologi Brunei, established in 1985. It provides specialized education in management and accounting, information science, electric and electronic engineering, etc. In addition to the term of study, which is two and a half years, six-month practical training in companies or other organizations is required. Those who have completed these courses are given qualifications accredited by the Business and Technician Education Council. The graduates can be admitted to UBD as transfer students.

#### 1.2.2 Vocational Education

Technical and vocational schools in Brunei are classified into the two levels; a lower course which admits graduates of lower secondary schools, and an upper course which admits graduates of upper secondary schools and those of a lower technical/vocational course.

Students of these courses major in various fields, such as electricity, electronics, information science, mechanics, architecture, craftwork, agriculture, oceanography, and nursing. The terms of study of such schools depend on the school, specialty, and type of course (e.g., full-time course and part-time course), etc. The maximum lengths are two and a half years for lower courses and three and a half years for upper courses.

Some schools take an education method whereby in-school education and practical training in companies are provided alternately, not in-school education only. Many schools provide their education in accordance with educational courses certified by British private vocational awarding bodies, such as the City and Guilds of London Institute and the Business and Technician Education Council.

### 1.3 IT Human Resources Required

Information unavailable.

### 1.4 E-Learning Market Trends

Major vendors and users are as follows:

- Brunei Shell Companies (oil and gas)
- DST Communications (service vendor)
- HSBC Bank (banking institution)

## 2. Technology: Trends of e-Learning System (Synchronous & Asynchronous)

### 2.1 Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD)

<http://www.ubd.edu.bn/>

#### 2.1.1 Overview

Brunei did not have a university until the mid-1980s. In 1985, the UBD was established to satisfy the need to develop human resources which respond to the demands of the country, with the cooperation of universities in the U.K. and Malaysia.

Applicants for UBD must have at least two "A" level passes in the Brunei Cambridge General Certificate of Education. The university makes a selection from among applicants. UBD has over 300 staff and over 2,800 students. Bachelor's degrees can be obtained in the faculties of arts and social sciences, business economics and policy studies, Islamic studies, science, education, medicine, etc. The term of study for each faculty is four years. UBD also offers graduate courses, yet they are limited to master's courses for a few specialties (e.g., public policy, education management).

#### 2.1.2 Activities Related to e-Learning

UBD is working on e-learning experiments, as it plans to use e-learning to supplement existing teaching delivery mode. Several faculties are planning to implement e-learning within the next two years.

Some lecturers have already started e-learning experiments. UBD is looking into establishing a standard operating environment for mounting course contents that is compatible to the common platforms.

UBD has the Educational Technology Centre equipped with a videoconference system for international meetings, and also with facilities to present conference documents and minutes.

## 3. Advanced Activities

Information unavailable.

## 4. Government Policy and its Vision (Mid- and Long-term Direction)

### 4.1 Status of IT Policies

In accordance with e-ASEAN Framework, IT development at a national level is led by the Brunei Darussalam Information Technology Council, which drives three programs of e-Government, e-Business, and e-Brunei. The e-Government Program Executive Committee and the e-Business Program Executive Committee are respectively in charge of the former two programs.

### 4.2 E-Learning Related Measures as Part of IT or Educational Policies

"The 8th National Development Plan", a five-year plan for 2001-2005, puts emphasis on human resource development and utilization of IT. e-Learning is considered to be an intrinsic part of the national IT development strategy.

### 4.3 Laws Regulating Rights for Intellectual Property and Personal Information in e-Learning

Information unavailable.

### 4.4 Vision

Information unavailable.

### 4.5 International and National Conference

The following conference related to e-learning was held:

#### (1) "The Brand New Learning World"

- Period: April 2001

This was a seminar on e-learning organized by Hewlett-Packard and Komputer Wisman Sdn Bhd with the cooperation of the Ministry of Education. Lectures were given by host companies. The seminar had approximately 120 participants from public and private sectors.