

MoU between Lylsens Sdn Bhd, Bureau Veritas (BV) Brunei

Aiming to enhance on-site competencies

Goh De No
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A NEW Bruneian consultancy and training company is looking to focus on providing training to improve on-site competencies and at the same time, reducing the unemployment rate the Sultanate faces.

Lylsens Sdn Bhd yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bureau Veritas (BV) Brunei, a QHSE (quality, health and safety, environment, and social responsibility) specialist, to identify a framework for co-operation, which will lead to training and certification for Bruneians, especially those without tertiary qualifications.

Lailawati POKS DSP Hj Mohd Salleh, managing director of the company, said that with their two subsidiaries, Lylsens Consultancy and Lylsens SkillTech, they hope to move away from the conventional HSE (health, safety and environment) training that is more commonly available.

"We are focused on people who don't have the (academic qualifications). It's easier for engineers, but if you have people who have Form 2 or 3 qualifications, some are lucky just to get into technical (schools) and in terms of capacity, they (schools) don't have enough now," she said, adding that every year 4,000 people "are going nowhere". Brunei has a frictional unemployment, and that it's not the quantity, but the nature of why they are unemployed that is the issue, she explained.

"With BV and Lylsens SkillTech, we are aiming to focus on the competency at the workplace to improve the quality there. For example, in the government, we are good (at building higher level competencies) but what we are looking at are things like site super-



Dr Hj Kamaruddin DSP Hj Taib (2nd L), chairman of BV, exchanging documents with Lylsens Sdn Bhd Managing Director Lailawati POKS DSP Hj Mohd Salleh (2nd R) as BV's Operations Manager Amir Mahalingam (L) and Lylsens Consulting's Commercial Manager Andreas Struijk looks on at the BV office in Kiulap yesterday. Picture: BT/Goh De No

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vision. We can offer management and HSE, but this is the focus for us," she said.

At the same time, Lailawati said that with the same facilities, they want to tackle unemployment issues by training people with skills like plumbing, painting, masonry, brick-laying and so on.

"Even for electrical (works) like cable jointing, how to do that safely and so on. All these people, at some point, will need to be certified.

Other countries have already started it but we are not there yet and with a government body, we want to help with this," the MD added.

Lailawati said that with BV's expertise, they are capable of providing certification, however, whether or not it will be approved by the authorities is another matter, and there is some work to be done for that.

As a private company, Lylsens is

confident it has the capacity and can provide the expertise.

Lylsens Consultancy, the other subsidiary of the company, is looking to work towards managing, coordinating and consultancy in providing risk assessments; project controls; providing purpose fit based Project Management Teams (PMT), to name a few.

The consultancy company is looking at projects related to environmental and alternative en-

ergy perspective, people and resources, economic and development, and quality of life.

BV's Chairman and Director Dr Hj Kamaruddin Dato Seri Paduka Hj Talib said in a statement that they believe Lylsens is a good choice as it is 100 per cent local, highly professional and shares the same core values as BV. "We look forward to working with them," he said.

Amir Mahalingam, operations manager of BV, said the company has been in Brunei since 1989, and is looking to expand into many aspects and more importantly, to develop local content.

"With Lylsens, they are Bruneians with global experience and that comes hand-in-hand with what we are looking at. We want Bruneians which are global and in a nutshell, that is our partnership," he said.

Struijk said that for Lylsens, the key factor now is to get acceptance in the market.

"Companies that we propose to want to see someone reputable providing them services. If they see that we just started with 50 locals, they would rather go with an international company because they will think that these people are not experienced. So it's up to us to prove them wrong and show them that we can do it with a local workforce," he said.

To achieve that, Struijk said that they have a technology transfer system in place for Bruneians working with foreign entities. Lylsens is looking at training beyond the oil and gas field, and is trying to open involvement in building and construction and even health.

The MoU was signed at the BV office at Kiulap yesterday between Lailawati as managing director of Lylsens and Dr Hj Kamaruddin on behalf of BV. **The Brunei Times**

Financing vital factor in alternative energy selection

Ying Chia
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

FINANCING is a considerable element in deciding which alternative energy source or projects to implement but will not be the deciding factor, said attendees at the National Conference on Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy: Policy Options for Wawasan 2035, on Wednesday.

Asked whether economics or financial capital investments into particular alternative energy sources would be the deterrent factor against selection, Dr Ghouri Bhuyan, Principal Advisor-Alternative Energy at Canadian firm Powertech Labs Inc, said, "In the context of when you're talking about expenses, most of those technologies are still at the developmental phase, like in the context of ocean energy; thermal, wave or osmotic, these are basically at different stages of (development)."

Jamie Stephen, a representative of Powertech's Bioenergy Team, said that longer-term suggestions

like the seaweed energy project, "have a big potential to contribute to the energy mix but currently uneconomical".

Dato Hj Ali Apong, Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Guest of Honour at the event said that he was open to ideas, "as long as it can save our gas for other purposes".

Many of the solutions that were presented at the conference have high financial capital costs, making them often unfavourable to implement, and as Dato Ali noted, was something to consider but is not the deciding factor. "That's why you have to weigh everything accordingly," he said. "What's the best way to finance it. In the end, can you afford it or not?"

Funding is not really the main criterion for deciding which alternative energy to pursue, he added, saying, "For some people they don't mind - if it's clean they'll just pay for it."

"But one day, our oil will be finished so it's better to think early than later. Then we can be participating in research, not

necessarily implementing it but participating in research (such as more studies)," added Dato Ali who suggested Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) could also collaborate with other research facilities around the globe.

Making reference to the Tenaga Suria Brunei (TSB) Solar Photo-Voltaic plant in Kuala Belait, Dato Ali said, "Things like this, we can do more collaborations with big industries, to do things. Mitsubishi is doing solar but other companies could be doing wind." Research like this is important because "otherwise if you don't do any studies, we end up doing something that we regret in the future you see, because we didn't think of it", he added.

The Brunei Times

Dr Gouri Bhuyan from Powertech Labs Inc, talks on Ocean energy, during the opening of National Conference on Energy Efficiency and Conservation & Alternative Energy, held at Empire Hotel & Country Club, Jerudong on Wednesday, July 27.

Picture: BT/Rudolf Portillo

