



**THE DEVELOPMENT AND STATE OF THE ART OF  
ADULT LEARNING AND EDUCATION**

**NATIONAL REPORT OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

**BY**

**The Department of Technical Education  
Ministry of Education  
Brunei Darussalam**

**8 May 2008**

## **1. General Overview**

The Department of Technical Education (DTE) which was established in January 1993 under the umbrella of the Ministry of Education is the major provider of technical and vocational education and adult and continuing education programmes in Brunei Darussalam.

The provision of adult and continuing education has been in existence in Brunei Darussalam since 1958 when the Language & Literacy Bureau initiated classes with the objective to eradicate illiteracy amongst adults. In the 1960s, the Adult Education Classes operated under the Department of Education and in 1993, were finally transferred to come under the DTE. Whilst the primary objective remains the same, over the years the emphasis has shifted greatly towards the improvement of general education, the acquisition of technical and vocational knowledge and skills and the provision of enrichment programmes as part of the lifelong learning for the general public in Brunei Darussalam.

## **2. Adult Learning and Education (ALE) in Brunei Darussalam**

### **2.1 Policy, Legislation and Financing**

The Compulsory Education Order, 2007 under the Constitution of Brunei Darussalam (Order under Article 83(3)) has been enforced since 27 November 2007. This Order provides a nine-year compulsory education for a child of compulsory age (a child above the age of 6 years who has not yet attained the age of 15 years) with primary and lower secondary education in Brunei Darussalam. This is a major step in further enhancing the status of the literacy rate in the country.

The Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam is committed to improving and ensuring a better future for the younger generations and has made substantial efforts to review and improve its educational services. The Ministry of Education Strategic Plan 2007 - 2011 provides a broad strategy framework for a range of internal and external plans which contributes to the education services in Brunei Darussalam. It encompasses all effort to advance its educational reform to new level by focusing on three strategic themes: professional, accountable and efficient organization; quality education and teaching and learning excellence [Ministry of Education Strategic map, Brunei Darussalam]. The strategic plans focus on providing and developing high quality education services for all, now and for the future of the nation.

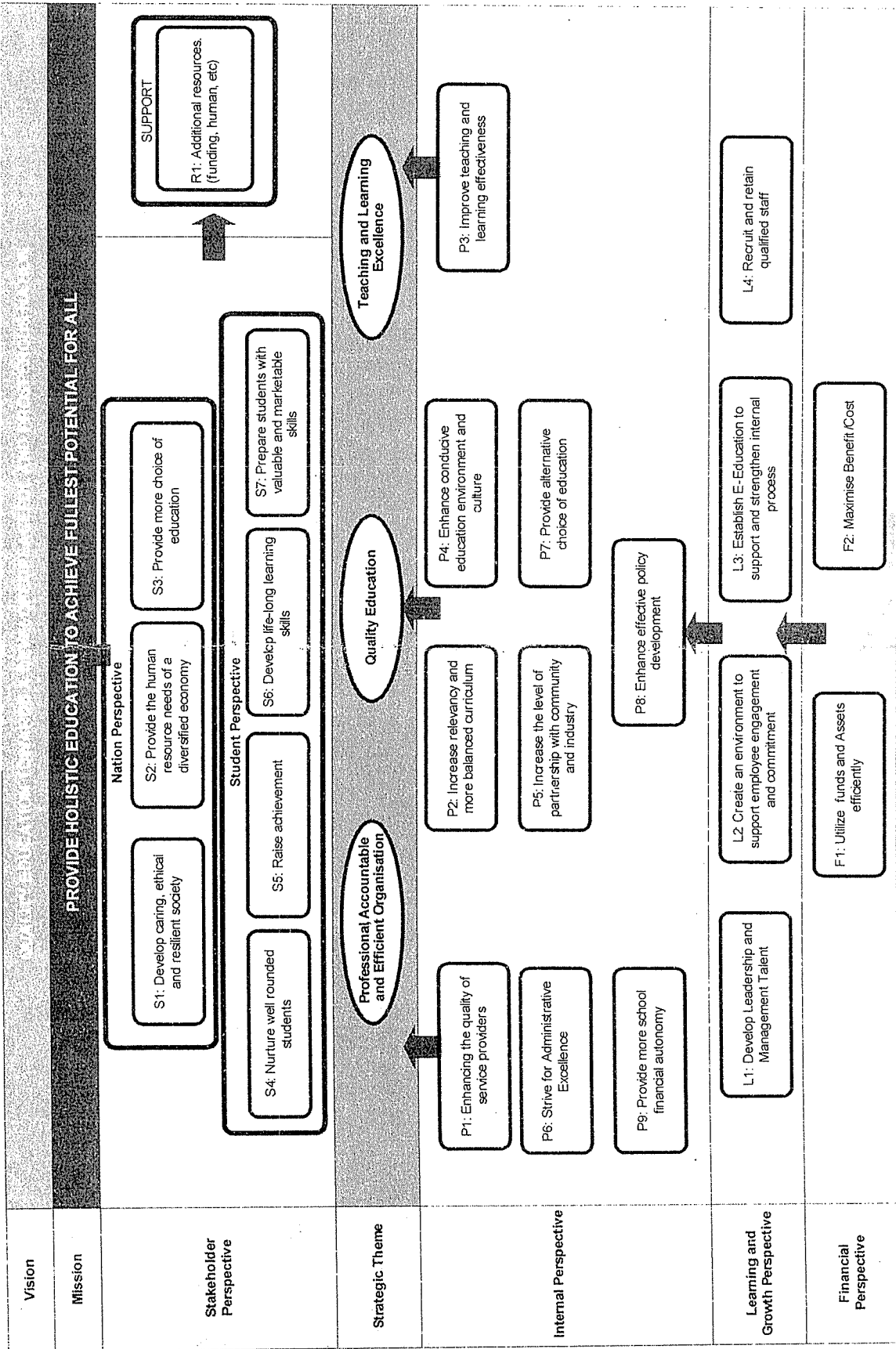
A new long-term development framework was formulated for a 30 year period which begins in 2007 and is known as the National Vision 2035. This long-term development framework consists of the national vision, the outlined strategies and policies for development and the national development plan.

Under the National Vision 2035, it is hoped that Brunei Darussalam will be recognised everywhere for the accomplishment of its well-educated and highly skilled people; the quality of life and the dynamic, sustainable economy. In order to achieve the vision of Brunei 2035, 8 main strategies have been identified namely: an education strategy ; an economic strategy ; a security strategy ; an institutional development strategy ; a local business development strategy ; an infrastructure development strategy ; a social security strategy and an environmental strategy .

In order to realise the National Vision 2035, a well-coordinated national strategy will need to be implemented both from the government and the private sectors. Under the outlined Strategies and Policies for Development (OSPD) in the next 2007 - 2017, the following 8 directions will be taken under the education strategy:-

- Investing in early childhood education;
- Adopting international best practices in teaching and learning;
- Having first class secondary and tertiary education including vocational schools, that produce experts, professionals and technicians required in commerce and industry;
- Strengthening the competency in ICT for students, teachers and educational administrators including the integration of ICT in school curriculum;
- Devising programmes that promote lifelong learning and widen access to higher education;
- Promoting research, development and innovation both in government-funded institutions and through public-private and international partnerships;
- Adopting cost-effective methods of educating our people through the use of technology;
- Improving the management of all our educational institutions.

Currently, the financing of ALE in the country comes from the annual budget allocation given to the Ministry of Education. And from the annual budget allocated to the Department of Technical Education, a share of this budget is subsequently allocated to the Continuing Education Section under the DTE for the financing of ALE in the country.



## 2.2 Provision, Participation and Achievement

The Department of Technical Education, Ministry of Education is the major provider of adult learning and education in Brunei Darussalam.

Today, the Continuing Education Section under the DTE, with its motto "*It is never too late to learn*", coordinates all the ALE in the country for the Ministry of Education. The Section plays a vital role in upgrading the knowledge, skills, attitude/values and standard of living of the people in the country through the provision and implementation of non-formal educational opportunities and programs oriented to the society needs.

In addition to its main function, the Continuing Education Section also provides assistance in various community programs that are conducted by the special institutions namely: the Pulaie Pusat Bahagia for Children and Adults, Pusat Bahagia Eric Goh, and Taman Noorhidayah.

The Section has been successful in assisting a large number of students and members of the public to achieve higher academic and vocational qualifications in areas such as PMB (Lower Secondary Examinations), GCE 'O' and 'A' Levels, Quran Reading, foreign languages such as Arabic, Japanese, Mandarin, French and Korean, songkok making, dressmaking, embroidery, hand weaving, flower making and arrangement and cookery.

Overall, there are 41 learning centres nation wide which are located mainly at the selected government primary and secondary schools as well as at the Continuing Education building, with 38 part time appointed supervisors and 172 teachers to administer and handle the continuing education classes. The programmes / courses conducted and the nominal fees incurred are as shown in *Table 1* below.

In addition to these programmes / courses, some short courses such as Basic Food Hygiene and Nutrition, Job-Getting Skills, Pre-Departure Cooking Classes, Basic Telephone Techniques and Basic Housekeeping are conducted by the Continuing Education Section of the Department of Technical Education (*Table 2*).

**Table 1: Continuing Education: Academic and Skills classes, and fees**

No.	Subject	Duration	No. of Hours/week	Fees/per subject or course	
				Bruneian	Non-Bruneian
<b>A.</b>	<b>ACADEMIC CLASSES</b>				
1.	<b>PMB, 1 subject</b>	1 year	4 ½	\$14.00	\$21.00
2.	<b>'O' Level, 1 subject</b>	1 year	4 ½	\$17.00	\$25.50
3.	<b>'A' Level, 1 subject</b>	1 year	4 ½	\$33.00	\$49.50
4.	<b>Foreign Languages</b>	1 year	4 ½	\$33.00	\$49.50
	▪ Arabic				
	▪ French				
	▪ Japanese				
	▪ Korean				
	▪ Mandarin				
	▪ English Language				
	- Primary			\$11.00	\$16.50
	- Secondary			\$14.00	\$21.00
	- Conversation			\$33.00	\$49.50
5.	<b>Islamic Knowledge</b>	1 year	4 ½	\$33.00	\$49.50
	Al Quran, Muqaddam, Zikir, Fiqeh				
6.	<b>Commercial Subjects</b>	1 year	4 ½		
	▪ LCCI/Book Keeping				
	- Stage 1			\$14.00	\$21.00
	- Stage 2			\$14.00	\$21.00
	- Stage 3			\$17.00	\$25.00
7.	<b>Bahasa Melayu (for Foreigners))</b>	1 year	4 ½	-	\$17.00
<b>B.</b>	<b>SKILLS CLASSES</b>				
1.	<b>Home Science</b>	1 year	4 ½	\$7.00	\$10.50
	▪ Cookery				
	▪ Dressmaking				
	▪ Machine Embroidery				
	▪ Hand Weaving				
	▪ Flower Making/Arrangement				
2.	<b>Commerce/Business</b>	1 year	4 ½		
	▪ Typing & Shorthand (I)			\$20.00	\$30.00
	▪ Typing & Shorthand (II)			\$20.00	\$30.00
	▪ Typing & Shorthand (III)			\$24.00	\$36.00
	▪ Simpan Kira/Book Keeping			\$14.00	\$21.00
3.	<b>Technical/Vocational</b>				
	▪ Songkok Making	1 year	4 ½	\$7.00	\$14.00
	▪ City & Guilds 6165	1 year	4 ½	\$32.00	\$48.00
	- Technical Science				
	- Technical Drawing				
	- Construction Mathematics				
	- Construction Technology				
	- Information Technology				
	- Safety at Work				
	- Basic Construction Skill				
	- Communications				

**Table 2: Short courses conducted by the Continuing Education Section**

No.	Course	Topics
1.	Job Getting Skills	Making Career Decisions, Using available labour market information, Preparing a resume, Preparing a cover letter, Completing an application, Attending an interview, Good Grooming.
2.	Basic Skills	Telephone Techniques, Writing Business Letters, Computer and e-literacy for home makers and adult learners, Business Accounting, Numeracy, Costing and Calculation
3.	Vocational Skills	Nutrition, Hygiene, Table Setting and Presentation, Napkin/Towel Folding, Drinks and Mocktails, Techniques to Preserve Flowers, Gift/Basket Wrapping and Arrangement, Fruit Carving, Tour Guiding, Housekeeping, Event Management, Marketing

The total population enrolled in the Continuing Education Section in the year 2007 is 6017 (*Table 3*) and the number is increasing gradually each year. Subject to the individual capacity, the conditions and requirements for admission into the Continuing Education programmes / courses are the same for both citizens and non-citizens of the country, and regardless of race, gender or religion. The fees incurred are designed to be nominal so that Continuing Education is accessible to all young and adult persons in the country.

**Table 3: Enrolment in Continuing Education Section (Year 2007)**

Courses / Centre	Male	Female	Total
PMB, GCE 'O' Level and 'A' Level	851	1028	1879
Foreign languages - English, Arabic, French, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin	181	392	573
Al-Quran dan Muqaddam	58	235	293
LCCI - Book Keeping	19	78	97
Bahasa Melayu for foreigners	4	5	9
Home Science - Cookery, Dressmaking, Embroidery, Weaving, Flower Making/Arrangement	13	2096	2109
Accounting, Typing, Shorthand	109	554	663
Pusat Bahagia	89	201	290
Taman Noorhidayah	0	35	35
Rumah Al-Islah	0	14	14
Songkok Making	9	95	104
<b>Total</b>	<b>1333</b>	<b>4684</b>	<b>6017</b>

The learning centres nation wide which conduct the various Academic and Skills classes at the selected government primary and secondary schools are as shown in *Table 4* below:

**Table 4: Learning Centres (for Academic and Skills) for Continuing Education**

<b>CENTRES</b>	
<b>ACADEMIC</b>	<b>SKILLS</b>
<b><i>Brunei/Muara District</i></b>	
SOAS College	S.R. Pular Ulak
SR Dato Marsal	S.R. Pulaie
SR Jerudong	S.R. Sengkurong
SR Mata-mata	S.R. Kiarong
Bahagian Pendidikan Lanjutan	S.R. Mata-mata
Pusat Latihan Polis, Gadong	S.R. Serasa, Muara
Post Office, Berakas	S.R. Anggerek Desa, Jalan Berakas
Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, Berakas	S.R. Dato Basir, Lambak Kanan
Sekolah Rendah Sengkurong	S.R. Dato Othman, Lambak Kiri
	S.R. Jerudong
	Bahagian Pendidikan Lanjutan
<b><i>Tutong District</i></b>	
Pusat Bahagia	S.R. Muda Hashim
Sekolah Rendah Kupang	S.R. Muda Mahkota
	S.R. Penanjong, Tutong
	Masjid Kg. Penabai, Kuala Tutong
	Bangunan Dewan Koperasi Pertama, Kg. Tanjong Maya
	S.R. Penapar
	S.R. Danau
	S.R. Lubok Pulau
	S.R. Tumpuan, Telesai
<b><i>Belait District</i></b>	
Pusat Bahagia Eric Goh	S.R. Lumut
SR Ahmad Tajuddin	S.R. Merangking
	S.R. Mohd Alam, Seria
	S.M.P.J.N. Pg. Hj Abu Bakar, Mumong
	Balai Ibadat Badan Kebajikan Saudara-saudara Baru, Lurong 3, Seria
<b><i>Temburong District</i></b>	
Pusat Bahagia	S.R. Sultan Hassan, Bangar
SR Sultan Hassan, Bangar	



### 2.3 Adult Literacy

Adult literacy rate is defined in Brunei Darussalam as the percentage of persons aged 15 and over who can read and write.

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report 2007/2008, the literacy rate age 15 and above (%) in Brunei Darussalam is as shown below:

Year	2001
Male	95.2
Female	90.2
Total	92.7

It can be seen from the above that the rate of literacy is improving steadily and with the recent enforcement of the Compulsory Education Order, 2007 and the steady expansion of formal education, it is hoped that the illiteracy rate will eventually decline to zero.

The Compulsory Education Order, 2007 under the Constitution of Brunei Darussalam (Order under Article 83(3)) that was published on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2007 is An Order to provide compulsory education for a child of compulsory age (a child above the age of 6 years who has not yet attained the age of 15 years) with primary and lower secondary education in Brunei Darussalam.

Under this Order, where a child of compulsory age fails to attend regularly as a pupil at a private or Government school, each parent of that child is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding B\$5,000, imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or both.

### 2.4 Expectations of CONFINTEA VI

Some expectations of CONFINTEA VI and issues to be addressed are as shown below:

- Sharing of experiences and good practices amongst member countries with regard to ALE;
- Sharing of research work done on ALE;

- The issue of increasing commercialisation of higher education and its effects on the provision of ALE;
- The issue of the changing definition of literacy to include the ability to use computer in the rapidly changing era of Information and Communication Technology.

### **3. Conclusion**

The Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam, is committed in producing human capital with knowledge, skills and competencies to meet the changing economic conditions and economies of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The economies of the 21<sup>st</sup> century requires workers to be lifelong learners with the capacity to continuously adapt and change as market opportunities and labour market of the knowledge economy change. As well, the need to be lifelong learners is vital due to the rapid emergence of new occupations and careers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The Ministry of Education will continue to support the development and implementation of education and learning programmes which allow for learning throughout life in a variety of contexts. This will include at all level of education from preschool through to tertiary and extending to adult education and learning in the country.

#### References:

1. Brunei Darussalam Government Gazette dated 27<sup>th</sup> November 2007;
2. "Education Statistics 2005, 2006 and 2007" published by the Management of Education Data Section of the Department of Planning, Research and Development of the Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam;
3. The Ministry of Education Strategic Plan 2007 – 2011. Brunei Darussalam;
4. Human Development Report 2007/2008, published by Palgrave Macmillan for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 2007;
5. Vision of Brunei 2035;

6. Prospectus, Continuing Education Section, Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam.

~dhmt/..