

## 01

# Brunei / Bandar Seri Begawan

Area: 100.4 km<sup>2</sup> / Population: 64,409 /  
Population density: 641 / km<sup>2</sup>



## Current status of the city

Bandar Seri Begawan, the capital of Brunei, is located in the lower reaches of the Brunei River, which flows to the Brunei Gulf. With a strong economy supported by oil and natural gas development, in contrast with its excellent urban area, it maintains a traditional water village along the Brunei River called Kampong Ayer.

### Smart city action plan

**Vision:** Developing Kampong Ayer as the Jewel of Bruneian Heritage and facilitating its growth as part of Bandar Seri Begawan's smart city development plan.

**Focus area:** Civic and Social, Industry and Innovation, Health and Well-being

#### Project 1: Revitalization of Kampong Ayer (Water Village)

- The village of Kampong Ayer, identified as an integral part of Bandar Seri Begawan's sustainable and smart city development plan, will be redeveloped into a livable city with a sustainable environment and a diverse economy with a distinct Bruneian identity.

#### Project 2: Clean River Management Projects

- Overcome challenges related to waste generation, waste collection and disposal, implement an institutional framework that promotes sustainable waste management practices and restore the quality of the Brunei River.  
- Strengthen regulatory and enforcement measures related to effluent discharges into the river and waste management through the latest technological interventions.

## Status of progress

### Project 1

#### - Key progress

The Revitalization of Kampong Ayer is one of the projects funded by the 11th National Development Plan and implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The objective is to ensure the construction of high-quality housing units with the development of smart buildings and infrastructure as well as an integrated network of public utilities for a better standard of living for Kampong Ayer residents.

The project will involve the building of high-quality housing units, the construction of smart buildings and infrastructure, and the development of an integrated network of community amenities, while maintaining the cultural heritage and social fabric of the villages. The Revitalization of Kampong Ayer is one of the catalyst projects under the Bandar Seri Begawan Development Master Plan (BSBDMP), which was launched in 2011. Now, the government has openly endorsed the project and is currently in the evaluation stage with government stakeholders.

#### - Problems or obstacles encountered

Some challenges have been identified during the project implementation. Among these challenges are (1) the need for strong collaboration with a variety of government stakeholders. However, these stakeholders have different policy requirements and finding the best model for implementation takes time; and (2) there is a need for continuous dialogues and engagement with local communities (water village residents) as a vital strategy for the implementation process, which is also time consuming.

#### - Way forward or recommendations

Currently, the government is reviewing the timeline of the project implementation process. Also, it is opening up several proposals towards economic-oriented projects that may be linked to the Revitalization of Kampong Ayer through a Public Private Partnership (PPP) to fund or act as an alternative financial model for supporting and increasing synergy towards realizing the Bandar Seri Begawan Masterplan.

### Project 2

#### - Key progress

Through different platforms on governmental environment policies, the government has been actively pursuing mitigation projects to clean the river. Such actions have successfully reduced pollution. However, continuous efforts and the development of sustainable strategies are on-going to ensure the achievement of higher success rates.

#### - Problems or obstacles encountered

The continuous coordination and effort among a variety of government stakeholders is crucial for the implementation of the project. In addition, the community plays an important role in terms of awareness and concurrent cleaning projects. With the awareness and support from the community along with the government efforts will create a comprehensive approach to the success of the project.

#### - Way forward or recommendations

The government will continue to implement existing strategies to mitigate river pollution with the advice of consultants. Nonetheless, it is open to assistance from consultants or technical experts, collaboration and cooperation within the ASEAN Smart Cities Network for specific issues. Particularly, in locating the source of a problem and utilizing best practices in mitigating different problems.

Chief Smart City Officer

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