

PRESS RELEASE
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
MINISTRY OF PRIMARY RESOURCES AND TOURISM

**THE 20th BIMP-EAGA TOURISM CLUSTER MEETING
7 – 8 August 2024, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1. The 20th Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asia Growth Area (20th BIMP-EAGA) Tourism Cluster Meeting was held on 7th and 8th August 2024 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Meeting was chaired Mrs. Yulia, Director for Inter-institutions Relations of the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy, Indonesia. The meeting was attended by Heads of Delegations from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Chair of the BIMP-EAGA Business Council and the BIMP-EAGA National Secretariat. The meeting was also joined by The Republic of Philippines and Asia Development Bank (ADB) virtually.
2. The Meeting discussed the outcomes of the BIMP-EAGA Strategic Planning Meeting held in March 2024 in Kuching Malaysia and on the deliverables for the year 2024 under tourism cluster. The Meeting highlighted on the progress of the Rolling Pipeline of Projects 2023 – 2025 and its implementation updates in the areas of connectivity, ecotourism product development, human resource development and coordinated approaches in nature, culture and heritage management including the development of BIMP-EAGA Tourism Village Network to encourage more visits to the tourism villages to contribute to the socio-economic growth of the communities.
3. The meeting also explored opportunities for collaboration with Development Partners, emphasizing the importance of joint projects to support the BIMP-EAGA Vision 2025. Additionally, the meeting briefly discussed Convergence Initiatives under the Tourism Cluster, which aim to foster collaboration between the transport and tourism sectors. Recognizing the crucial link between efficient transport systems and successful tourism development, the need was identified to develop actionable and impactful projects. These projects include improving air and land transportation routes to key tourist destinations and enhancing the visitor experience through integrated transport services.
4. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) presented the Joint BIMP-EAGA and IMT-GT Blue Economy Strategy 2030 focusing on Sustainable Tourism and the IMT-GT Blue Economy Strategy with the aim of increasing investments and providing technical support to enhance food security, fortify resilience, safeguard cultural heritage, and stimulate economic change throughout Asia and the Pacific region. The next 21st BIMP-EAGA Tourism Cluster Meeting is scheduled to be held in Indonesia.

5. The delegates had the opportunity to participate in a technical tour to Lamin Warisan, located in the Tutong District. This traditional village house, which showcases artifacts and documents from the communities in Tutong, offers an immersive experience into Brunei's heritage. Lamin Warisan, categorized as a cultural and heritage tourism site, includes activities such as traditional games, cooking, and house tours. Awarded the Social Enterprise Category of the BIMP-EAGA Vision 2025 Sector Development Awards at the BIMP-EAGA Trade Convention in 2023 by the Brunei Darussalam BIMP-EAGA Business Council, Lamin Warisan stands out for its significant contribution to cultural preservation.