

PRESS RELEASE

SINGAPORE CONSORTIUM CLINCHED IMPORTANT MASTER PLAN PROJECT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PULAU MUARA BESAR IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Singapore 3 Nov 2008 – A Singapore consortium, Surbana International Consultants Pte Ltd (Surbana) and Global Maritime & Port Services Pte Ltd (GMAPS), was appointed the Consultants for the Detailed Master Plan and Consultancy Services to develop Brunei's Pulau Muara Besar (PMB) into a port based trading and industrial area.

PMB is currently a low lying island of around 955 hectares in the Brunei Bay at the mouth of the Brunei River. The Master Plan will include the development of a modern deep water container terminal, export processing zone and manufacturing hub with all supporting commercial facilities and services. A bridge linking the island to Muara town will also be constructed.

A contract signing ceremony was held on 28th October 2008 by the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) in the presence of senior members of the government, diplomatic corp and private sector.

“With the development of PMB, I foresee many new business and employment opportunities for the people of Brunei Darussalam and for local and foreign investors, consultants and contractors”, Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Dewa Major General (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Haji Mohammad bin Haji Daud, the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, said in his opening remarks. He added that the development of PMB would become an important step in the country's drive towards diversifying the economy away from dependence on oil and gas, in line with Brunei Darussalam's Vision 2035.

The Surbana consortium won the project in an international tender conducted by the BEDB in which sixteen international and local consulting firms/consortia participated. Consent of His Majesty, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam had been obtained for the appointment.

Surbana's Business Head (Reclamation and Infrastructure), Mr Loh Yan Hui said, “The Surbana-GMAPS consortium is very honoured to be awarded this very prestigious project by the Brunei Government. We are confident that with our track record, we are well positioned to deliver the best Master Plan options possible for the PMB project. We will certainly want to reinforce the trust that the Brunei Government and the BEDB have in Singapore companies.”

GMAPS' Executive Chairman Mr Goon Kok Loon added “We have, especially in the past few years been involved in developing port master plans in a number of

countries ranging from the Middle East to South East Asia. Our extensive experience in this field will complement Surbana's international experience and expertise in master planning townships, reclamation and infrastructure development, to implement the PMB master plan."

Technical investigations on PMB will commence shortly and the master plan options will be prepared for the Government of Brunei's consideration and approval. This phase of the works is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2009. Tenders for the major infrastructure contracts will be called in mid 2010. The first phase of the container port involving a 660 metre quay length and a minimum capacity of 800,000 TEUs (20-foot container equivalent) per year is scheduled for completion by end of 2012.



Signing of Agreement between BEDB and Surbana-GMAPS



Pictorial impression of future port at Pulau Muara Besar, Brunei Darussalam

Issued jointly by:

Surbana International Consultants Corporation Pte Ltd
Global Maritime & Port Services Pte Ltd

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About Surbana International Consultants Pte Ltd

Surbana International Consultants (SIC) is a Singapore grown global multi-disciplinary consultancy firm with a design track record of more than 45 years. Apart from Singapore, SIC currently has projects in over 90 cities spanning across 23 countries.

SIC's strength as a world leader in Master/Urban Planning is reinforced by its extensive track record in the Asia Pacific region, Middle East and Africa. To date, SIC is credited with the successful master planning of more than 43 regional/city/township developments globally.

A sampling of the many on-going master planning projects include

- (a) the regional master plan for 2 municipalities Al Khor and Al Wakra for the Qatar Government. The project covers a total area of 4000km².
- (b) the master plan of Al Salam City in the Emirates of Um Al Quwain in UAE covering 24km².
- (c) A – Z Township in Cambodia covering 2000 Ha

In Singapore, SIC's reclamation and infrastructure arm is one of the main reclamation consultants for the government and has been responsible for reclaiming and increasing Singapore's land mass by more than 6% since the 1960s.

About Global Maritime & Port Services Pte Ltd (GMAPS)

GMAPS specialises in creating master plans for ports, export processing zones and industrial estates, together with the requisite infrastructure and utilities. GMAPS' key personnel and associates have held senior management positions in the erstwhile Port of Singapore Authority (PSA); the Maritime & Port Authority of Singapore (MPA); Singapore Shipyards; Refineries and Logistics Companies.

In the Middle-East, GMAPS has completed or is undertaking several port master planning projects. Examples are the King Abdullah Economic City, Aseer Port and Refinery and Al-Ahsa Economic City in Saudi Arabia; Study for the development of a port for cement export in Miji, Oman and a study on oil storage facilities for Port Said East Port in Egypt. GMAPS is also currently engaged in a broad based assessment of the ports of Sharjah (Port Khalid, Hamriyah Port and Khor Fakkan).

In South East Asia, GMAPS is master planning two specialized ports in Sumatra and Kalimantan.