

Brunei Darussalam: Ministry of Finance Press Release

SUCCESSFUL 1ST ISSUANCE OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM GOVERNMENT'S SHORT TERM SUKUK AL-IJARAH SECURITIES

Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam (15th April, 2006) – With the consent of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam, the Ministry of Finance, Brunei Darussalam is pleased to announce the successful pricing of its 1st issuance of Short-term Sukuk Al-Ijarah securities.

The BND150 million issue will carry a yield of 3.4% and will have a maturity of 91 days. The securities will be issued by Sukuk (Brunei) Inc. on behalf of the Government of Brunei Darussalam. The issue date was on 6th April, 2006.

Dato Haji Ali Apong, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Finance said “We are very pleased with the successful outcome of Brunei Darussalam’s first issue of Sukuk. This groundbreaking transaction is aimed at developing the domestic capital market in Brunei, and it serves as our contribution to the growth of the global Islamic capital market.”

Pehin Dato Mohd Ali Daud, Acting Managing Director of IBB said “IBB (as one of the programme’s primary dealers) sees this as another encouraging and exciting milestone in the Islamic banking and finance industry in Brunei Darussalam. IBB also foresees that this programme will become an important platform for the development of an Islamic Capital Market in this country as well as the introduction of other local Islamic instruments in the future”. While Mr. Pierre Imhof, General Manager of Baiduri Bank said, “Baiduri Bank is proud to be involved in this inaugural Brunei Dollar Sukuk issue, a landmark deal that promotes the further development of the capital market in Brunei.”

These sentiments were echoed by the other primary dealers of the Sukuk Al-Ijarah programme namely, Citibank, HSBC, and Standard Chartered bank. Through separate statements, they also stated that they were pleased to have collaborated with the Ministry of Finance on this issuance and are looking forward to working together in forthcoming issues.