

# **ASEAN MEETING ON THE 2010 ROUND OF POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS**

**Jointly organized by United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and  
National Institute of Statistics of Cambodia (NIS) and  
Association of South East Asian Nations Secretariat (ASEAN)**

*Siem Reap, Cambodia  
31 July - 2 August 2006*

## **COUNTRY PAPER: BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

**DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (*JPKE*)  
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE**

**BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

# Population and Housing Census in Brunei Darussalam

## Introduction

Brunei Darussalam is a Malay, Islamic Monarchy and an independent sovereign Sultanate governed on the basis of a written constitution. Brunei Darussalam is situated on the northwest of the Island of Borneo, alongside the South China Sea. It has a total area of 5,765 square kilometers, 78 percent covered in tropical rain forest. Brunei Darussalam is divided into four administrative districts, namely Brunei Muara, Belait, Tutong and Temburong district.

The main statistical agency in Brunei Darussalam is the Department of Statistics (DOS) Department of Economic Planning and Development (JPKE), Prime Minister's Office. The DOS is responsible for conducting decennial population and housing census, large scale household surveys for collection of statistical data. It is responsible for conducting the economic census and establishment surveys through its Economic Statistics Division. The department also compiles data from administrative sources from government ministries and departments and also from the private sectors.

## Population

Brunei Darussalam had a small population consisted of local and migrant group. In 2005, the estimated population was 370,100 persons. The last census in 2001 population count was 332,844 persons. Between the intercensal period of 1991-2001, the average growth was 2.5 percent per annum. The rate had declined compared to 1981-1991 average annual growth of 3.0 percent, and the rate of 3.5 percent during the 1971-1981 period. If the current growth rate continues, the country's population will double in 28 years.

## I. The organization and administration of the census - Brief History

Censuses of population were held in Brunei Darussalam in 1921, 1931, 1947, 1960, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001. The first two censuses were conducted as part of the censuses of the Strait Settlements with which Brunei Darussalam then formed one unit. The 1947 census was conducted in conjunction with Sarawak and the census in 1960 was administered by a specially created joint Census Department for Brunei Darussalam Sarawak and Sabah (then known as North Borneo) set up in Kuching. The 1971 census was the first conducted independently by Brunei Darussalam with the assistants of experts from UN.

A local superintendent and two Deputy Superintendents of Census were appointed. The census enumeration started on 11 August 1971, the night of 10 Aug was taken as the census night and

persons were enumerated in the places where they spent the census night. The enumeration schedule ended on 18 August. The final census count was 136,256 persons, a figure which was considered close to the estimated figure based on house numbering stage. A post-enumeration survey was organized from 11 Nov to 30 Nov and it was found that the under-enumeration was less than one percent.

In August 1981, Brunei Darussalam conducted its second independent decennial census of Population and Housing. The concepts and definitions used in the 1981 Population and Housing census followed closely the Asia and the Pacific Recommendations for the 1980 Population and Housing censuses with some variations to suit national requirements. Considerations were also given for the need to maintain, as far as possible comparability with the 1971 census.

A decade later, also in the month of August, Brunei Darussalam conducted the 1991 census. The 1991 census provided comprehensive information of the population and made it possible to assess the changes of Brunei Darussalam's population. It also enabled a quantitative assessment of some of the achievements and progress that have resulted from Brunei Darussalam's Fifth Five-Year National Development Plans which was implemented in the 1986-1990. Further, the 1991 census data provide an invaluable benchmark and background for the formulation of the nation's socio-economic development plans and policies for the period of the 1990s.

## **II. Experiences of the Census 2001- Strong Points**

In August 2001, the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through the Department of Economic Planning and Development (JPKE), Prime Minister's Office conducted the decennial census of Population and Housing Census 2001.

As in the previous censuses, the main purpose was to collect, compile, evaluate, analyze and disseminate information on the demographic, socio-economic and related characteristics of the country's population as well as on households, providing comprehensive source of statistical data for economic and social development planning in particular the country's National Five-Year Development Plan. Other objectives included administrative purposes, research and private sector use as well as information for the general public.

The 2001 census was conducted on a *de facto* basis. It enumerated all persons who spent census night (midnight 21 August 2001) in Brunei Darussalam. For visitors to the country to the country, a short and simplified was used to capture basic characteristics of the person such as name, date of birth and gender.

### ***Legislation***

The legislation to conduct a census of population and housing is provided through Chapter 78 from the Laws of Brunei Darussalam–1974 Census Act (revised in 1984). The legislation empowers census officers to collect relevant information and provides that it to be kept confidential and stipulates penalties in the case of unauthorised disclosure. All persons who stayed in the country at the time of the census were obliged to provide the required information to census officers.

### ***Organisation***

Brunei Darussalam eights Population and Housing 2001 Census was conducted by Department of Economic Planning and Development (JPKE) under the Prime Minister's Office. The First Deputy Director General was appointed as the Superintendent of the Census and a small Census Technical Committee (CTC) was established in January 1999 to coordinate and implement the various census activities. Members of CTC were staff from Department of Statistics and Department of Administration and Information Technology.

Initially the CTC met every two months, and more frequently later to discuss detailed technical matters including administration, finance, budget, recruitment, training, logistics, field work, census topics, data processing, tabulations, analysis and dissemination. A time schedule for the census activities was drawn up by the CTC. In March 2001, the relevant government ministries and departments were requested to submit topics to be included in the census to the CTC.

In February 2001, a National Coordinating Committee of Census (NCCC) was formed. The NCCC appointed members included officers from the relevant ministries and departments with JPKE as the secretariat for the National Coordinating Committee of Census. The NCCC was mandated to coordinated the Census at National level, where four different working committee were also formed, each responsible for different task.

### ***Pre-test of Census Questionnaires***

A pre-test of Census Questionnaires was held six month before the actual census was conducted. This was undertaken to test the suitability of the population and housing questionnaires, the detail field instructions and the time taken to conduct interviews. It was done in a small-scale basis.

After the assessment, an approximate time to have a fully answered questionnaire and changes made to further improve the layout of the questionnaires were done, aim to further improve the quality of data and reliability of information to be collected.

### ***Questionnaire***

The Census questionnaires for population Households schedule consisted of a total of 47 questions; It consists of I) Personal characteristics and migration II) Literacy , Education, Recreation and Health III) Women fertility IV) Economic Activity and V) Economic activity of in the last 12 months. For housing schedule, it consisted of I) Living Quarters characteristics II) Questions for the living quarters occupied by the owner only. On Household, which was second Part of the Housing schedule, it consisted of I) Household characteristics and part II) Household Equipment. Total Questions for Housing was 21 questions.

For the first time, the 2001 census asked certain eligible or targeted sub-population on knowledge and usage of computers and internets, receiving medical or health services and at which health centers, and smoking behaviors. These questions were deliberately chosen so as to enable gathering of baseline information for policy and planning purposes.

The questions on ICT provided a benchmark on the stocktaking of statistical measurement of ICT in the country, as in general, knowing how to use internet is an essentially a phenomenon of the young adults nowadays. It was also aimed to provide findings or estimate of the penetration rates or diffusion of computer and internet knowledge and usage of socio-demographic groups in Brunei Darussalam.

The four questions on Knowledge and Usage of computers and internets were 1) Does the person know how to use computer; 2) Did the person use computer last week; 3) Does the person know how to use Internet; 4) Did the person use Internet last week.

The health questions provided information on rates of population seeking medical or health services in the country as well as the utilization of government and private health centers. The profiles of smokers and the prevalence of smoking by different socio-demographic groups were important information for public health planning and related policy.

Overall, the findings from these specialized questions will also assist government in planning of the e-Government, e-Business and e-Society as well as e-Health.

The Literacy, Education, Recreation and Health questions were asked to all household members aged 3 years and above. However, for analysis purposes, questions on knowledge and usage of computers and internets, literacy and smoking, the cut-off age used was 9 years and over.

### ***Field Organisation***

Appointment of Deputy Superintendent and five assistants Superintendent of Census were from Department of Economic Planning and Development. All the five Assistant Superintendents were assigned to five census districts with the assistance of Chief Supervisors, and the actual fieldworkers which consists of Supervisors and Enumerators (Numbering Stage) / Interviews (Census Stage). In the numbering stage a total of 40 Supervisors and 200 Enumerators were recruited for the numbering stage and a total of 137 Supervisors and 875 Interviewers were recruited for the Census Stage. Each census district has its own census headquarters.

### ***Training of field staff***

For the training of supervisors and enumerators/interviewers, instruction manual were prepared. In order to achieve a standard approach and to adhere to the definitions of the census, the Assistant Superintendents and the Chief Supervisors were trained in using this manual. The Assistant Superintendents lead the training in the two-stage census operation. Mock exercises were strongly emphasised during training.

Adequate training of field staff was a crucial factor for making a successful census. Hence training programs were designed so that the field staff would gain a thorough knowledge of various aspects of census procedures, knew their responsibilities and achieve consistency in their field of work. There were also special sessions held for the discussion of practical problem.

### ***Publicity***

The publicity campaign for the 2001 census was officially launched in June 2001, prior to the conduct of the actual census. Several media techniques were used to ensure public awareness of the census.

A similar publicity campaign was also used during the house numbering stage. Letters to the head of households explaining the census act and the confidentiality of personal information were delivered.

Publicity was intensified through radio and TV and a press conference was held during the data collection period.

### ***Data processing***

The data processing of the census was in two phases. Both the phases of data processing were done in the mainframe system. This approach was aimed for early production of the output.

In the first phase, basic demographic data and a question on economic activity of the population were processed to enable an overall preliminary count of the population including growth rate and basic demographic characteristics of the population to be released in the preliminary report.

In the coding of first stage, almost all the demographic questionnaires were pre-coded; with only a few remaining questionnaires to be coded. In the second phase of coding, four different groups of coders were formed to expedite the process.

For data-entry process, all the data was manually entered using a terminal screen into the mainframe program system. A computer edit was also devised to detect punching errors and missed records. Error listings were produced and verified and re-entered.

The clean database was down loaded on to personal computers for production of tabulations needed for preparation of summary tabulation report and data analysis and write-up purposes for the demographic report. The applications software SPSS was used to generate tabulations for the population reports.

### ***Dissemination***

A press conference was held during the release of the Preliminary Report of the Population and Housing Census 2001, Brunei Darussalam in May 2002. A brief summary highlights was included in this report.

### **III. Experiences of the Census 2001- Weak Points**

The following may be considered as areas of weakness:

- Additional time was needed in generating new specialized questions.
- There were difficulties in determination of cut-off age for smokers, the knowledge of computer and usage; knowledge of internet and usage.
- In literacy questions, due to literacy of different languages in the questionnaires, it was necessary to ensure no duplicate count.
- The 2001 census did not include any question on disability due to the complexity of concepts and definitions.
- Lack of expert assistance to analyze and interpret findings, in particular new specialized topics
- Year of construction of dwelling : difficulties experienced in cases whereby occupants did not know date or year of construction
- Lack of IT skilled staff caused some delay in the early production of tabulations.
- The Questionnaire of Population schedule was considered large
- No post enumeration field checks; there could be some under-enumeration
- The number of enumerators in the second stage (enumeration stage) was underestimated.

#### **IV: Future Plans**

- Brunei Darussalam plans to schedule the next decennial population census in the year 2010 or 2011.
- Brunei Darussalam will follow closely the UN Principles and Recommendations of the 2010 Population and Housing Census
- Issues and problems encountered in the previous Census will be addressed to the National Statistics Coordinating and the National Census Committee including improve strategies for effective work plan, strengthening capacity building, including ICT, prioritized questions, reduced time lag of data release
- New technology of census operation
- Improve dissemination of Census operation
- Enhancing public awareness
- Post enumeration check