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## Brunei's second refinery project to get US\$4.3b boost

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BRUNEI'S second oil refinery project is expected to attract an investment of approximately US\$4.3 billion, the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) said in a statement released following a briefing on the findings of a detailed feasibility study.

Privately-owned Brunei company PetroBru, which is leading the project, will begin construction of the integrated oil refinery facility "as early as

2013, subject to the approval of His Majesty's Government", said the BEDB.

The board hosted a closed-door briefing on the findings of the detailed feasibility study, which was conducted by Wood Mackenzie, a leading international consultant for energy companies.

Earlier this year, PetroBru was looking forward to setting up a meeting with Brunei Government officials to present the findings of the study for the facility designed to have a capacity of 200,000

barrels per day with feedstock based on 100 per cent imported crude i.e. 50 per cent Arab Light and 50 per cent Seria Light. The briefing yesterday was delivered by the head of Asia-Pacific downstream oil of Wood Mackenzie, Satvinder Roopra.

The new refinery's target markets include China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia. To be built on Pulau Muara Besar (PMB), it will complement the development of PMB as a dynamic logistics and industrial

hub and bring significant economic benefits to the country including employment opportunities, human resource development, business opportunities for local small and medium enterprises as well as spillover development in areas such as retail and tourism sectors, said the BEDB. It added: "Based upon the study's assessment of regional target markets where the demand for refinery products is forecast to grow, Brunei is well positioned to supply the regional market

deficits by setting up an export-oriented refinery facility. This is because Brunei is strategically located on the East-West trade route which provides an ideal location for such facility, targeting the increasing demand for energy security especially in the North Asia market."

The integrated oil refinery and storage facility in Brunei "would provide another unique opportunity in the country's effort to extend the oil and gas industry chain particularly in the

development of downstream industry," Dato Paduka Timothy Ong, BEDB acting chairman, said in his welcoming remarks at the briefing.

Mohd Zaman Noordin, PetroBru chief executive officer, said in his introductory background on the project that it was aimed at "supporting the Government's drive in the development of petrochemical industry and at the same time fulfilling the growing demand for refinery products in both the regional and global markets". **The Brunei Times**