



News @ AsiaOne

Brunei school principals off to Singapore

The four day visit hosted by the Academy of Principals Singapore will feature 16 hours of mentoring workshop conducted by experts and trainers. -The Brunei Times/ANN

Fri, Jun 29, 2012

[The Brunei Times/Asia News Network](#)

THIRTY-THREE secondary school principals headed to Singapore for a mentoring workshop and to visit educational institutions.

The four-day working visit, which is organised by the Committee of Principals and Deputy Principals (JAPTIM) and the Secondary Section of the Department of Schools, is part of the professional development and capacity building of the secondary school leaders.

"They will have the rare opportunity to get acquainted with some of Singapore's best educational institutions, school leaders and experts, to further enhance their horizon, knowledge and skills in school leadership and management," said a statement provided at the Brunei International Airport.

During the working visit hosted by the Academy of Principals Singapore (APS), the school leaders will be led by JAPTIM Chairperson Marina Chek Bujang, who is also the Principal of Duli Pengiran Muda Al-Muhtadee Billah College.

The Brunei delegates will attend a total of 16 hours of mentoring workshop conducted by experts and trainers from APS. The workshop has the objective to impart onto the participant's knowledge on mentoring, both in terms of theory and practice. This programme is expected to benefit both mentors and mentees in terms of skills development and confidence to initiate, nurture and maintain a mentoring relationship.

The statement said that mentoring programme has been part of Brunei Department of Schools succession planning initiative to assist newly-appointed principals in developing their leadership skills, enhancing self-confidence and be at ease in carrying out the school leader's roles and responsibilities. At the end of the visit, eight participants among the Bruneian delegation will serve as trainers for future mentors.

JAPTIM had been initiating the mentoring programme on an informal basis since August 2011, whereby a total of 13 senior principals had agreed to act as mentors to newly-appointed principals. The mentoring programme was launched formally on March 8, 2012 along with new principal's induction programme.

While in Singapore, the school leaders will also attend a half-day seminar on school leadership titled "Leadership for the 21st Century Education".

The seminar will be presented by Singapore Ministry of Education's Deputy Director of Leadership Development Michael De Silva at Victoria Junior College.

The school principals will make a few visits to three educational institutions such as Northlight Secondary School, Outram Secondary School and Pioneer Junior College.

The school visit programme will offer a chance for the participants to see and learn for themselves some of the schools' best practices and how they create their own respective niche that reflects their strengths and identity.

The school visit will be followed by formal dialogue and sharing session with officers and trainee principals of APS, which will provide the participants with an opportunity to exchange views and discuss matters pertaining to mutual interest, leadership and management and the quality of principalship through effective professional support by members.

"Parts of the action plan that may culminate from this Singapore working visit by the school principals will be the identification of potential trainers for mentors and a Mentoring Handbook for Brunei Secondary School Leaders," said Marina Chek in the statement.

The principals are scheduled to return to Brunei on July 1.