UNESCO Sub-Regional Symposium for the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Cultural Heritage in Southeast Asia

Roles of Brunei Museums Department in The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Cultural Heritage
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BY

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
The Brunei Museum
Introduction

- The Brunei Museum Department was established in 1965. It play a significant role to protect and preserve the national and cultural heritage with efficient and quality services.


- Law enforcement, the Government of Brunei Darussalam, through services of Brunei Museums Department has also organised various public awareness activities such as education exhibitions, dissemination of posters, media cooperation, public awareness and schools participation.
The 1967 Act came into force in 1984

- It provides the preservation and management of ancient and historical monuments, archaeological sites, regulating the law related to treasure trove, export and import of antiquities.
Several Provisions Act;

- *Excavations (Part III)*

States that no person can excavate any archaeological site unless an excavation license is issued by the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.
Export of Antiquities (Part VII)

States that no person can export any antiquities from the country unless an export license is issued by the Director of Brunei Museums Department.
• **Powers of Director (Part VIII)**

States that the Director of the Museums Department has the power to inspect any treasure trove or archaeological sites including the antique shops or antiques owner.
• **Miscellaneous Rules no. 43 (Part X)**

States that no person can deal commercially in antiquities unless a dealer's license has been issued by the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.
Definitions of Cultural Property

In our national Antiquities and Treasure Trove Act 1967 Rev. 1984, 1991 & 2002 a definition of cultural Property is referred;

1. Antiquity

2. Historical Object
Antiquity can be defined as any object movable or immovable or any part of the soil or of the bed of a river or lake or of the sea, which has been constructed, shape, inscribed, erected, excavated or otherwise produced or modified by human agency and this includes any part of any such object and any human, plant or animal remains at any date prior to or reasonably believed to be dated to 50 years onwards.
**Historical Object**

- **Historical Object** means any artefacts or other objects to which religious, artistic or historic interest are attached and included any ethnographic materials (such as household or agricultural implement decorative articles, personal ornaments), works of art (such as carvings, sculptures, paintings, architectures, textiles, musical instruments, weapons and any other handicrafts), manuscripts, coins, currency notes, medals, badges, insignias, coats of arms, crest flags, arms and armors, vehicles, ships and boats, in part or in whole, whose production has ceased.
Inventories and Identification

- New collections that have been acquired should produce identification.
- Taking pictures and registration of the collections are first priority.
- Inventory of the collections is the recording of items to be logged in the lager book.
- An additional form known as the ‘Object ID’ was introduced to precisely recognize criteria of the collected items in case of theft. This Object ID form has been introduced by the Brunei Museum Director in 2004.
Inventories and Identification

Start

- Bahagian Perolehan menerima surat, memorandum, minit penyerahan/tawaran objek sebagai koleksi muzium

Borang Masuk (B1) merekodkan objek yang diterima masuk

Tidak Lengkap

- Bahagian Akademi (Arkeologi, Etnografi, Maritim dan Galeri Seni) meneliti objek berdasarkan bidang masing-masing. Borang Penelitian (B2) dan Object ID

Lengkap

- Objek didaftar dalam buku lejar
- Membubuh nombor daftar atas objek dan memberikan tag kad
- Objek digambar
- Objek dihantar ke Bahagian Pemuliharaan dan Pembaikan bagi dipulihara
- Objek disimpan dalam stor untuk rujukan, terbitan dan pameran

End
Museums and Awareness Activities

- Brunei Museums Department take initiatives in organising public awareness activities highlighting the importance of protecting and preserving national cultural heritage

1. Setting-up sign board at strategic location
Organising Talks to Government and Other Agencies
Organising Talks to Government and Other Agencies
Organising Talks to Schools
Organising Talks to Schools
Organising Roadshow Highlighting The Roles of Brunei Museum Department
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The Role of Relevant Departments
People awareness has to be raised in appreciating our national property.

The Brunei Museums Department has a few skilled and professional staff to deal with the illicit trafficking in cultural property in our country.
Conclusions

- Brunei Museums Department has been actively enforced its “Antiquities and Treasure Trove Act 1967” and since then illicit trafficking activities do not prevail.
Conclusion

- Brunei Museums Department has taken some challenging initiatives such as organizing talks to schools and government agencies, conducting roadshow and disseminating posters had substantially and positively improved public awareness on the negative impacts of illicit trafficking activities.
Conclusion

Joint collaboration between the Brunei Museums Department, the Royal Custom and Exercise Department, the Attorney’s Chamber and the Royal Police Arm Forces had successfully triggered alertness at the least marginalised, if not eliminated, most of the illicit trafficking activities.
Thank You