

# Borneo Bulletin Spectrum

COMMUNITY. FEATURES. ENTERTAINMENT.

## Life at sea for KOTUG's female cadets

TODAY marks the annual and international Day of the Seafarer in which we celebrate the service and contribution made by our seafarers. This year's theme and focus is the importance and value of seafarer women.

Gender equality and enhancing female and local participation at all ranks and positions have always been part of KOTUG's vision.

"At KOTUG we celebrate diversity and inclusivity, and are very proud to have Bruneian women on board our vessels," said QHSE/DPA Operations Hajah Bismi Nur Amalina binti Haji Yusop, who herself joined the company in the beginning of 2018.

"We give our full support to Bruneians who wish to pursue a career in the maritime industry."

Currently, KOTUG has 17 Bruneian crew including able-bodied seamen, deck ratings and engine cadets.

KOTUG operates three tugboats in Brunei that assist with the berthing and un-berthing of LNG Carriers at the Brunei LNG

Terminal in Lumut. The dedicated team of seafarers maintain a high standard of professionalism to ensure operational and safety standards are met.

Nursyarifah binti Sabtu and Rammanie anak Lanting are engineering cadets and are part of the tugboat team that supports the Brunei LNG operation in Lumut.

They both joined KOTUG in 2015 after completing their Diploma in Marine Engineering at the Brunei Maritime Academy.

Nursyarifah was always interested in hands-on work, having done vehicle repairs and modifications with her family members.

"At first, it was a bit of a culture shock for me when I joined the crew on board the tugboat as I only had gained theoretical knowledge until then during my study," she said.

The first few weeks at sea were a life-changing experience for her and she was also glad that the chief engineers and the rest of the crew were very welcoming.

She said, "My parents have

always been supportive of my career choice to pursue Marine Engineering, and I'm thankful to KOTUG for offering me a very positive environment as a female cadet."

Rammanie, meanwhile, mentioned that it was difficult in the beginning when she was assigned to the tugboat for her first trip.

"After spending some time in the engine room and being guided by the chief engineer, I slowly felt more comfortable carrying out the required tasks," she said.

"I feel that I have learnt a lot over the past years during my sea-time training on board the tugboat. I can now carry out various engine room duties independently when instructed by the chief engineer."

As cadets, Nursyarifah and Rammanie each serve eight weeks on board the 'RT Leader' on a back-to-back rotation scheme. Female crew members are given individual en-suite cabins and enjoy the same rest-work hours as everyone else on the tug.



Rammanie anak Lanting is seen in the Engine Room of the 'RT Leader'

The cadets are scheduled to undergo their Officer of Engineering Watch oral examinations at the Maritime and Port Authority of Brunei Darussalam (MPABD) by the end of June.

After passing their examinations and obtaining Class III certification, they will join the tugboats as junior engineers.

"The cadets have been a pleasure to work with. I wish them all the best in their upcoming examinations and hope to see

them again soon," said Chief Engineer on the 'RT Leader' Deddy Zelvian.

Asked about their future plans once they have obtained their Class III certificates from the MPABD, Nursyarifah said, "My focus at the moment is building a good career as a seafarer and perhaps later I will consider an onshore position."

"If we can become Brunei's first female chief engineers, that would be a dream come true," she said. - Text and Photos by KOTUG



The 'RT Leader' is seen in front of the Brunei Gas Carrier 'Abadi'