

A Visit to Boustead Naval Shipyard and Sailing on the RMN's Frigate KD LEKIU

MARINE ENGINEERING AND NAVAL ARCHITECTURE TECHNICAL DIVISION



by First Admiral Adjunct Prof. Dato' Ir. Hj. Ahmad Murad bin Hj. Omar (Rtd)

A two-day visit to the Boustead Naval Shipyard and the Royal Malaysian Navy base in Lumut was organised by the Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture Technical Division (MNATD) on 6 and 7 April 2012. On the first day of the visit, the group of 38 participants which comprise members of IEM as well as the Institute of Marine Engineering Science and Technology (IMarEST) and a few industrial representatives was well received by Boustead Naval Shipyard (BNSy) with a very enlightening programme.

Led by the Chairman of MNATD, First Admiral Adjunct Prof. Dato' Ir. Hj. Ahmad Murad bin Hj. Omar (Rtd), the group was assisted by IEM secretariat staff and office bearers from the technical division. The visit took the group firstly into a majestic auditorium for a quick peek of the corporate video and a comprehensive presentation by BNSy corporate affairs (Public Relations) officers on the roles and activities

of the shipyard. Later, the group was taken for a tour which included the following areas:

- Shipyard layout
- Shallow water jetty
- Deep water jetty
- Synchro-lifts
- Covered module hall
- Open fabrication yard
- Workshops
- Administration and commercial offices
- Warehouses.



A tour of the shipyard



A group photo taken at the Boustead Naval Shipyard

At each stop, BNSy staff was at hand to offer some explanation on the spot and the group was given a guided tour of the shipyard and stops made at specific locations that were of interest to the group.

From feedbacks that were received, the first day visit to BNSy was indeed an eye opener to many participants that the business of ship repair and shipbuilding is indeed a complex field.

On the second day of the visit, the tour programme took the group through the gates of the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) base in Lumut. This is where the main fleet of the RMN is based, and in this naval station are



On board the RMN frigate KD LEKIU

located fleet assets such as surface ships, Combat Helicopter Squadron (Super Lynx), Training Helicopter Squadron (Fennec) and many other buildings and complexes that are home to many sailors and families. The group had an early start, as the frigate KD LEKIU was ready to set sail by 9.00 a.m. Breakfast was served on board and whilst the ship was casting its lines to sail from the jetty,

the ship's engineering officers gave a briefing on the ship's safety procedure and the programme for the day. The programme included:

- Briefing – KD LEKIU as a fighting surface combatant
- Tour (in small groups) of the ship's compartments and upper deck arrangement
- A demonstration of combat readiness, damage control and a fire-fighting exercise
- A demonstration by Super Lynx Combat Tactical Helicopters
- A deck landing by one of the Super Lynx Helicopter
- A briefing by the pilot and tactical officer (TACO) on weapons payload/ capability of the Super Lynx
- A tour of engine and machinery spaces
- Lunch in the ward-room (officers' dining room).

CONCLUSION

The two-day visit was very interesting and has opened up the minds of the participants, especially the engineers who were able to witness first-hand the marine engineers' involvement in the operation of ships and naval bases. The participants also saw the complexity of shipbuilding and ship repair, and the extensive tools and equipment that are involved. A closer scrutiny of some of the workshops demonstrated the complexity of an overhaul for a 3000 HP marine diesel engine which was being carried out within the workshops in the shipyard. The outing on board the Navy Frigate KD LEKIU provided a real life sensation of how a sailor or engineer would experience rough sea conditions and would have to work regardless of such environmental hazards. On the lighter side, amongst the participants, there was also a suggestion that a similar visit should be conducted again, but this time on the "submarines" of RMN in Kota Kinabalu. ■

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