

CSR Work in Bruit Island, Sarawak

WOMEN ENGINEERS SECTION



by Ir. Suhana Abdul Majid

SECOND to air, water is essential for human survival. Two-thirds of our body weight is made up of water. Therefore, it is necessary to consume adequate amounts of water for optimum functioning of cells and organs. Water is also vital for growing crops and rearing livestock as plants and animals cannot survive without water.

People in the city are blessed to have an uninterrupted supply of water which they often take for granted. Unfortunately, for people in some rural areas such as Bruit Island in Sarawak, fresh water is a scarcity. Bruit Island is home to some 30,000 people.

Located in Mukah division in Daro district, Bruit Island is the second largest island in Malaysia, after Langkawi Island. It lies in the Rejang Delta, surrounded by the South China Sea to the north and west, Sarikei to the south and



High Density Polyethylene Tanks



Completed rainwater harvesting system at Rumah Juing



Library at SK Penibong



The children at SK Sebako

Kuala Matu to the east. Currently, the island is connected to the surrounding mainland and towns by two ferry points – one at the southern end of the island and the other on the eastern side. The southern ferry point connects the island by road to the seaport of Tanjung Manis and to Sibu town. The eastern ferry point connects it to Daro town and to Mukah, the divisional administrative centre.

Due to the geography and topography of Bruit Island, the only way to obtain potable water is through rain harvesting.

Yayasan Sejahtera, a charity organisation committed to the alleviation of poverty, is currently undertaking the construction of rainwater harvesting tanks and facilities in four villages on the island: Kg. Sedi, Kg. Penuai, Kg. Sebako and Rumah Juing.

The IEM Women Engineers Section, led by Ir. Suhana Abdul Majid, has been actively assisting Yayasan Sejahtera by providing the necessary technical support to ensure the successful implementation of the rainwater harvesting system.

The platform and roof structure housing the rainwater harvesting tanks were erected by a contractor with the help of the villagers. The rainwater harvesting system consists of High Density Polyethylene Tanks and a Cyclone Filter as well as ancillary piping works.

In addition to the above, Yayasan Sejahtera also built a library for SK Penibong and donated books to some of the schools in the villages. These will go a long way to help in the education of the village children and ensure they have a bright future. ■

Ir. Suhana Abdul Majid, a civil engineer (Glasgow, 1987) is currently a Committee Member of IEM Women Engineers Section. As Managing Director of Prestasi Perintis Sdn Bhd, she is involved in infrastructure design, project management and asset management services in the transportation sector and mixed development projects.