



Tan Sri Aseh bin Hj Che Mat



Let's talk: Brunei and Malaysian delegates at the meeting. Pictures: Heloyshah



Dato Seri Setia Awang Hj Yusof

Frequent travellers card to spare the passport

Shareen Han

THE passports of Bruneian and Malaysian nationals will no longer be subject to continuous immigration endorsements through the Frequent Travellers Card Project.

This was highlighted in a meeting between Brunei's Department of Immigration and National Registration, and the Immigration Department of Malaysia, which took place at the Rizqun International Hotel in Gadong yesterday.

"The project is an effort to diversify the use of both countries' national identity cards, the Smart Identity Card of Brunei and Malaysia's MyKad, benefiting both users and service providers," says Dato Seri Setia Awang Hj Yusof bin Haji Ismail, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs during the 5th Technical Working Group Committee Meeting.

He added that security issues needed to be addressed in facilitating the smooth operation at immigration control posts,

"We faced a number of problems such as system breakdown, limited number of lanes to cater to card users and other issues of relevance. However, I feel that such problems do not hinder us from improving our capabilities," he said.

Meanwhile, the Secretary General of Home Affairs, Malaysia, Tan Sri Aseh bin Hj Che Mat, said in his opening remarks that the purpose of the project was to facilitate immigration clearances for both Malaysia and Brunei citizens

who frequently crossed the Malaysia-Brunei border, without compromising the security standards of both countries.

He hoped that a mutual decision on expanding the card facility to all neighbouring border posts between Malaysia and Brunei would be reached, so that the vision of the card, "Travelling with Ease Between Our Two Countries", will soon become a reality.

In addition, the purpose of the meeting is to strengthen ties between the two departments.

System providers, IRIS Technologies and German-based DERMALOG are working together in the implementation of the FTC Pilot Project to produce a common reader which can be used in both countries.

Brunei's Immigration and National Registration Department is currently handling two E-Government Projects: The Border Control Expansion Project and The System Migration towards E-Government to further improve the capabilities of handling the FTC Project.