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AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION  
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Australia-Brunei Darussalam partnership to strengthen coral reef monitoring**

**Bandar Seri Begawan, 13 April 2025** – Australia and Brunei are building collective efforts to support coral reef monitoring through the Australian Government’s Marine Resources Initiative (MRI) Phase 2 Workshop in Bandar Seri Begawan.

The workshop brings together scientists from the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) and the Brunei Darussalam Department of Fisheries to enhance national coral reef monitoring capabilities. AIMS Principal Research Scientist Dr Manuel Gonzalez-Rivero is leading the session to highlight key areas for bilateral cooperation and identify collaborative pathways for the region.

The Marine Resources Initiative (MRI) Phase 2 supports Southeast Asian countries in strengthening their capability to manage and protect marine environments, particularly coral reefs. This work includes strengthening reef data integration and knowledge synthesis to support evidence-based coral reef management.

AIMS scientists have worked with the Brunei Darussalam Department of Fisheries to train local reef monitoring professionals to use the technology, transfer knowledge and adopt and adapt it to meet with the local needs.

An important objective of the MRI is to establish long lasting relationships between coral reef researchers and professionals across Southeast Asia and Australia.

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