



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION  
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Australia-Brunei reef partnership yields AI-driven coral reef monitoring**

Australia and Brunei Darussalam are sharing AI-based coral reef monitoring technology to help protect reefs in the face of increasing climate change and local ocean pressures.

High Commissioner H.E. Michael Hoy said he was proud to bring together scientists from the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) and the Brunei Darussalam Department of Fisheries to step up Brunei's coral reef monitoring capabilities.

"Protecting coral reefs is a globally shared challenge, vital in locations where people rely on healthy reefs for their livelihoods and where reefs hold significant cultural and spiritual significance," he said.

Since 2022, scientists from AIMS have worked with the Department of Fisheries to train 57 Brunei local reef monitoring professionals to use AIM's [ReefCloud](#) technology, a digital platform that uses AI to analyse coral reefs.

AIMS Principal Research Scientist Dr Manuel Gonzalez Rivero said ReefCloud allowed users "to rapidly and cost-effectively provide real-time information on coral reef condition – essential to inform good reef management decisions."

"The project successfully collected about 340,000 data records to describe the status of coral reefs across 13 sites along the coast of Brunei Darussalam," he said.

AIMS' International Partnerships Manager Dr Britta Schaffelke said the Brunei Darussalam Department of Fisheries will have ongoing access to ReefCloud improvements, new information and training products from AIMS.

"An important objective of MRI is to establish long-lasting relationships between coral reef researchers and professionals across Southeast Asia and Australia," she said.

"Brunei Darussalam's fringing reefs and submerged coral reef patches host highly biodiverse coral communities with species richness comparable to the neighbouring 'Coral Triangle' zone," Dr Schaffelke said.

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