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SHELL ECO-MARATHON PARTICIPANTS DEPART BRUNEI FOR THE PHILIPPINES

A sending off ceremony was held today at the Brunei International Airport for the participants of the Shell Eco-Marathon 2014. A total of 35 Bruneians from five teams will be challenging more than 100 teams from 16 different countries to break the national record of driving 142km on a single liter of fuel.

Present at the send-off ceremony was the, Deputy Managing Director of Brunei Shell Petroleum Sdn Bhd, Haji Salleh Bostaman bin Haji Zainal Abidin as well as other officials from the Ministry of Education and Brunei Shell Petroleum.

Prior to leaving for The Philippines, the five teams from University Brunei Darussalam (UBD), Sekolah Vokasional Seria Bolkiah (SVSB), and Pusat Latihan Mekanik (PLM) had the chance to do a preliminary technical inspection before the vehicles were shipped to Manila.

Among some of the aspects of the technical inspection involved a visibility test, brake test, safety belt check, and escape test, according to the stringent health, safety and environment standards set by Shell.

This is the third year that Bruneian teams will be participating in SEM Asia, as Brunei first participated in the Shell Eco Marathon in 2011, by pitting eco-cars built by students from PLM and SVSB against 103 teams representing 12 countries from Japan, India, China, and the ASEAN countries on the Sepang International Circuit.

Brunei's participation in the Shell Eco-Marathon Asia 2014 competition is the result of a successful collaboration between BSP and the Ministry of Education through UBD and Department of Technical Education (DTE).

In this year's edition, the five teams from Brunei will be competing against more than 100 other teams from 16 different countries, exposing them to the technologies and expertise used by students from other participating countries, as well as a chance to network.

The SEM competition is part of Shell's Mobility Campaign, and challenges students in finding innovative ways to develop more energy-efficient fuels and lubricants to help reduce Co2 emissions. SEM provides a unique opportunity to push the boundaries of design and build the cars of tomorrow.

To power their vehicles, teams can choose from a selection of conventional and alternative fuels. They can enter the 'Prototype' category, where cars are designed for pure fuel efficiency, or the 'UrbanConcept' category, where vehicles also have to meet certain road-worthy criteria.

There are rules regarding the specification of the engines and the chassis in both categories but, outside of those and as long as teams adhere to the safety regulations, the design of their cars is limited only by their imagination.

This year's event will be held from 6 – 9 February 2014 at Luneta Park in Manila, Philippines and will include teams from all over the Asian region.

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Notes to Editors: Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn Bhd (BSP) should be referred as BSP or Brunei Shell Petroleum for abbreviation or headline purposes. Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn Bhd's activity is primarily for the exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas from onshore and offshore fields. The Government of Brunei Darussalam and a company in the Royal Dutch Shell Group of Companies each owns a 50% stake in BSP.