

# **COMPETITION ADVOCACY IN BRUNEI DAARUSSALAM**

## **WHERE TO START?**

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## GENERAL BACKGROUND

- The economy is open and market-oriented.
- There is no specific legislation pertaining to the regulation of all aspects of competition in Brunei Darussalam.
- There is a lack of expertise in terms of competition and the processes that affect competition.

## THE LEGISLATIVE SIDE

- Whilst there is no specific legislation pertaining to ALL aspects of competition, there is an Act called the Monopolies Act Cap.73 of the Laws of Brunei.
- This Act has been in existence since 1932 and has so far not been used.
- The Act in itself has not been amended since its creation and is therefore somewhat out of date.

# The Policy Side

- Brunei Darussalam is currently at the stage of considering how to properly implement the regulation of competition from the grassroots level upwards.
- Our main weakness in this area is as stated earlier an absence of expertise in terms of knowledge on competition issues.
- In this regard, we have a keen interest in the manner in which Competition Advocacy can be conducted right from the beginning.

# Where To From Here

- There is no “one size fits all” in terms of competition systems.
- There are various systems by which competition is regulated ranging from the comprehensive single regulatory body type system employed by Australia to the sectoral regulation implemented by economies like Singapore and Hong Kong China.
- We are still considering what will work best in terms of our domestic context; which is that of a very small economy with a reasonably weak private sector.

# Where to Next?

We are most interested in the following experiences of our fellow ASEAN member countries;

- How to start the advocacy process.
- How to promote supportive interaction between all the agencies concerned.
- How to carry on this supportive interaction in terms of the different types of legislation that affect the competitive process.