

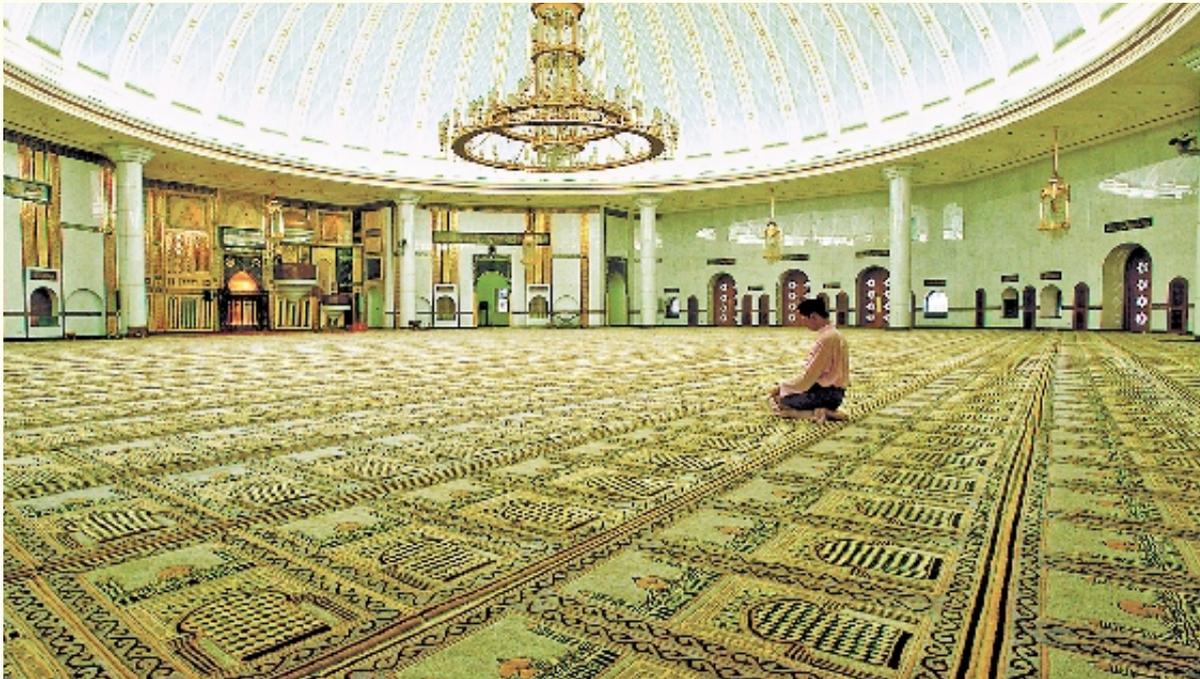
Brunei

Generous response to the tsunami disaster

London-Islamic Tourism

Brunei's tourist industry and attractions emerged unscathed by the tsunami disaster. But the country made, and is continuing to make, every effort to assist its stricken neighbours. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has lauded the efficiently run Brunei's Regiment Aid Post (RAP) set up in the tsunami-ravaged Panga Pucok in Aceh, Indonesia to provide relief and medical aid to thousands of refugees.

After travelling to Aceh in mid January, Brunei's Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports said financial aid and rebuilding of schools and homes for the survivors are badly needed. Awang Jemat Ampal, emphasised that financial aid is more appropriate because it can be used to purchase all the necessities they required at a cheaper price, including stationary and books for children.



The money could also be used in the reconstruction of schools and houses. Awang Jemat emphasised that his ministry has established contact with representatives from Indonesia's Social Department who could help in the purchase and distribution of the necessary items. The Ministry has the cooperation of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation which has set up a base in Medan. Various appeals for donations have been

launched throughout Brunei. The Museums Department set up the Tsunami Disaster Donation Fund at the Arts and Handicrafts Centre.

*Brunei Darussalam's vision is to promote the country as a unique tourist destination and gateway to tourism excellence in South East Asia. The objectives are to create international awareness of Brunei Darussalam as a holiday destination; to maximise earnings of foreign exchange and

make tourism one of the main contributors to GDP. In addition, it will create employment opportunities.

The country offers a wide variety of attractive places to be visited and experienced. The rainforest and National Parks are rich in flora and fauna. Its most magnificent mosques, water village (traditional and historic houses on stilts), rich culture and Jerudong Theme Park are among the uniqueness of Brunei Darussalam. ■