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First methanol cargo to leave Brunei soon

By Narissa Noor

In Brunei's first major step downstream from oil and gas, a vessel called the 'Sunny Orient' in a few days' time will make its maiden voyage from the waters just outside the Sungai Liang Industrial Park with a 10,000-metric tonne cargo of methanol produced by the Brunei Methanol Company.

Acting Chairman of the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB), Dato Paduka Timothy Ong, during a briefing of BEDB's projects update to the French Brunei Business Association (FBBA), said this yesterday at the newly rebranded Radisson Hotel.

The US\$450 million plant developed by Brunei Methanol Company (BMC), the first major investment at Sungai Liang Investment Park (SPARK), a joint venture between Petroleum Brunei and two leading Japanese companies, Mitsubishi Gas Chemical and Itochu, will be officially launched on May 25.

SPARK is administered by the Sungai Liang Authority (SLA), a body corporate established by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to support the development of a globally competitive industrial and petrochemical hub.

The construction of the Single Point Mooring System is also complete and will facilitate the transport of methanol exports direct to offshore tankers.

The plant, SPARK's first tenant, has a targeted production capacity of 2,500 metric tonnes (MT) per day (or 850,000 MT per year).