

Minutes of the Brunei Amateur Swimming Association (BASA) Annual General Meeting 2025

Date: Sunday, 4 May 2025

Time: 10:30 AM

Venue: The Theater, International School Brunei

1. Opening and Welcome Remarks

The meeting commenced at 10:30 AM with President Aziz Latip delivering an opening address welcoming all members, coaches, swimmers, officials, volunteers, and supporters to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Brunei Amateur Swimming Association (BASA).

President Aziz began by expressing deep gratitude to everyone who had contributed to BASA's success over the past year. He extended his sincere thanks to the ExCo members, dedicated coaches, hardworking officials and timekeepers, passionate volunteers, and the ever-supportive swimming parents and club representatives.

He acknowledged the significant milestones achieved by the association in the past year:

- **Growth of the Swimming Community:** President Aziz highlighted the increasing number of young swimmers joining the sport and noted that the Brunei swimming family is growing stronger. He credited this to the combined efforts of clubs, schools, and national development programs.
- **Outstanding Athlete Performances:** He shared the success of Bruneian athletes breaking national records and competing internationally—from regional events to the Paris 2024 Olympics. He specifically acknowledged Zeke Chan's recent national records at the 32nd Brunei Age Group Championships in the 100m Freestyle and 200m IM in April.
- **Institutional Support:** The President thanked several key partners:
 - **Jabatan Belia dan Sukan (JBS) and Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC)** for supporting training camps and overseas competition funding.

- **Ministry of Education** for collaboration on youth training and volunteer development.
- **Sponsors**, whose financial contributions have been vital for meet organization.
- **Technical Officials and Volunteers**, for ensuring well-run and fair competitions.
- **Talent Development Pathway:** He reflected on BASA's commitment to nurturing talent through structured development. The Brunei Swim Academy, launched in 2019, has already developed national-level junior swimmers and provides year-round training.
- **International Exposure:** President Aziz praised the increasing presence of Bruneian athletes at major events including the Olympics, World Aquatics Championships, Commonwealth Youth Games, SEA Games, SUKMA Games, and more. He recalled Brunei's Olympic journey from Anderson Lim in London 2012 to Muhammad Isa Ahmad in Tokyo 2020, and most recently Zeke Chan and Hayley Wong in Paris 2024.
- **Future Aspirations:** The President shared that BASA has initiated discussions with the Southeast Asia Aquatic Federation to host the 49th SEA Age Group Championships in 2027, pending renovation of the National Stadium pool.
- **Governance Improvements:** On governance, he shared that BASA had introduced an online integrity and feedback portal, enhancing transparency and responsiveness. This step contributed to BASA receiving additional bonus development funding from World Aquatics. He also proudly announced that a new BASA constitution had been adopted, now aligned with World Aquatics' latest governance standards. This would ensure fair elections, athlete protection, and continued eligibility for international development funding.

President Aziz concluded his remarks by urging members to maintain the spirit of collaboration and innovation. He emphasized BASA's commitment to growing swimming participation, supporting elite athletes, and strengthening Brunei's presence in the aquatic sports arena. He thanked all those involved in this shared journey and expressed excitement for the year ahead.

2. Confirmation of Quorum

The Honorary Secretary, Ang Beng Siong, confirmed that the required quorum was met in accordance with the BASA Constitution which is one third of BASA active members.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was presented and unanimously adopted without amendments.

4. Confirmation of Previous AGM Minutes (AGM 2023)

The minutes of the previous AGM held in 2023 were reviewed. No corrections were proposed. The minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

- Proposed by: Josephine Nikles
- Seconded by: Christian Nikles

5. Honorary Secretary's Report

The Honorary Secretary, Mr. Ang Beng Siong, delivered a comprehensive presentation of BASA's performance and progress for the 2022–2024 term, highlighting key achievements and strategic initiatives across several core areas:

A. BASA Objectives (2022–2024)

Mr. Ang outlined three main objectives that guided BASA's work during the 2022–2024 term:

- Close the performance gap with Southeast Asia by raising local swimmers to competitive regional standards.
- Encourage and support international exposure for athletes by facilitating participation in overseas meets.
- Enhance governance and operational structures to align with international standards and improve transparency.

B. Major International Outings & Achievements

From 2022 to 2024, BASA sent swimmers to 12 major international competitions, resulting in over 23 National Records (NRs). Highlights included:

- SEA Age Group Championships (Dec 2022, KL): 7 swimmers competed; Zeke Chan broke 2 NRs in backstroke events.
- FINA World SC Championships (Dec 2022, Melbourne): Muis represented Brunei.
- SEA Games (May 2023): Debut of men's relay team, setting a new NR in 4x100m freestyle (3:38.20); Christian Nikles broke 2 individual freestyle NRs.
- World Aquatics Championships (July 2023, Fukuoka): Zeke Chan broke NR in 100m backstroke.
- SEA Age Group (Aug 2023): 8 self-funded swimmers achieved 7 NRs and 36 PBs. Zeke and Hayley won Brunei's first medals since 2012.
- World Championships (Feb 2024, Doha): Hayley achieved a PB in 100m breaststroke.
- Asian Age Group (Mar 2024): 5 swimmers earned 4 NRs and 4 PBs.
- ASEAN Schools (Jun 2024): Hayley broke 2 NRs; Sharmeen achieved a PB.
- SUKMA Games (Aug 2024): Joel broke NR in 200m backstroke.
- Paris Olympics (Jul–Aug 2024): Zeke and Hayley proudly represented Brunei.
- SEA Age Group (Dec 2024, Bangkok): Joel and Sharmeen each broke NRs.
- World SC Championships (Dec 2024, Budapest): Joel broke NR in 100m IM.

A graph displayed during the meeting illustrated the steady rise in both international participation and national records set across events.

C. National Events (2022–2025)

Mr. Ang reported that BASA had organized 14 domestic swim meets between late 2022 and early 2025. These included age group, sprint, and open/master events. A total of 42 National Records were broken in these local meets. Notable events included:

- 1st BNAG SC (Dec 2022): 231 swimmers; 8 NRs.
- 8th Brunei Sprints (Feb 2023): Relay team and Hayley broke multiple NRs.
- 30th BNAG LC (Jun 2023): Joel broke NR in 50m backstroke.

- 7th Brunei Open & Masters SC (Nov 2023): Zeke (5 NRs), Hayley (7 NRs), Joel (1 NR).
- 31st BNAG LC (Jun 2024): 278 swimmers; Hayley broke 2 NRs.
- 32nd BNAG LC (Apr 2025): Zeke broke 2 NRs.

Participation numbers remained consistently strong, particularly in age-group meets, with up to 322 swimmers in a single event. Mr. Ang encouraged clubs to further expand their swimmer base to reach future targets of 350–400 participants per meet.

Special recognition was given to para-swimmer Md Danial Hakim Harjimmey, who won multiple medals and broke NRs at the Malaysian Para Games.

D. Athlete Development

- High-Altitude Training Camp (Kunming, Dec 2023): 6 swimmers attended, including 2 self-funded athletes. This initiative, supported by JBS, aimed to enhance conditioning and performance under altitude stress.
- World Aquatics Scholarship: Haziq Samil continued his training abroad under this program. In August 2024, he transitioned from Thanyapura (Phuket) to Budapest, where the WA headquarters is located.

E. Operations & Governance Improvements

Key operational and structural upgrades included:

- International Technical Officials (ITOs): 3 new local officials were certified, bringing Brunei's total to 6 active ITOs recognized by World Aquatics.
- Hy-Tek Software Upgrade (2023): BASA upgraded its meet management system and purchased new laptops to improve meet operations.
- New Equipment: With JBS support, BASA procured new starting blocks (with backstroke latches), lanes, electronic timing pads, and a console. Installation at the National Pool is planned for Sept 2025.
- Volunteer Honorarium Scheme: A daily rate of BND 10 and bonus of BND 20 for full-meet coverage was introduced. This has significantly improved volunteer retention and engagement.
- Website & Transparency: A BASA website was launched (<https://basa.mystrikingly.com>), featuring key documents including selection policies and financial reports. A future upgrade to a formal domain and email system is planned.

F. Strategic Initiatives

- Digital Infrastructure: Plans are underway to develop an official BASA website and domain with organizational email accounts.
- Hosting Bid – SEAAG 2027: BASA is actively pursuing its bid to host the 49th SEA Age Group Championships in 2027, pending completion of the National Pool renovation. This would mark Brunei's return as a SEAAG host after 10 years.

6. Honorary Treasurer's Report

The Honorary Treasurer, Ms. Linda Lai, presented a detailed financial overview of BASA's financial position for the fiscal years 2022 and 2023. She also provided preliminary information for 2024 and explained BASA's income sources, spending priorities, and outstanding financial tasks.

Financial Summary (2022–2023)

- 2022 Opening Balance: BND 43,146
- Deficit for 2022: BND 28,207
 - Due primarily to expenses related to organizing national and international competitions, training camps, and athlete support.
- Net Accumulated Funds (End 2022): BND 14,939
- 2023 Surplus: Approximately BND 2,000
 - Due to controlled spending and increased revenue from sponsorships and competition income.
- Net Accumulated Funds (End 2023): BND 16,998

Ms. Linda shared that most of the association's income came from:

- Sponsorships and Funding Support from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (JBS)
- Meet Revenue generated through registration fees for national competitions

She explained that tournament expenses covered a range of operational needs, such as:

- Pool rental and venue logistics
- Meals and allowances for volunteers and technical officials
- Competition medals and prizes
- Preparation costs for national athletes participating in regional meets (e.g., travel, training camps)

Audit Status

The Treasurer acknowledged that the audit for financial year 2024 had not been completed in time for the AGM. However, she assured members that the audited report would be made available on BASA's official website as soon as it is completed within the year.

Hard copies of the 2022 and 2023 audited financial reports were made available during the AGM for member reference. Members were invited to review them, with copies held by committee member Farid Pg Idrus.

Preliminary Financial Position (as of 31 December 2024)

- BND Account Balance: BND 26,566 (unaudited)
- USD Account Balance: USD 32,352 (unaudited)

World Aquatics Development Fund

Ms. Linda noted that BASA has consistently received USD 25,000 annually in development funding from World Aquatics. The grant is disbursed in two installments each year.

- These funds have been vital in supporting:
 - Overseas training camps
 - Local meet organization
 - Equipment upgrades and operational costs

She emphasized the importance of these funds in enabling BASA to deliver quality events and developmental programs despite rising operational costs.

Approval of Financial Report

Ms. Linda called for the approval of the financial report.

With no objections from the floor, the report was unanimously accepted and approved.

7. Amendments to the Constitution

Following the Honorary Treasurer's Report, Honorary Secretary Mr. Ang Beng Siong presented a comprehensive update on the amendments to the BASA Constitution.

Mr. Ang informed the members that the newly revised constitution had been officially adopted in March 2025, following discussions and approval at the previous AGM in 2022. Since then, BASA submitted the document to the Registrar of Societies (ROS), who granted in-principle approval in December 2024. Softcopy via QR code of both the revised and previous versions of the constitution were made available to members for review on the spot.

Key highlights of the constitutional amendments included:

- **Updated Governance Framework:**
 - The constitution was modernized to align with World Aquatics governance guidelines and local regulatory requirements.
 - Revisions were made to ensure clarity in organizational structure, electoral processes, athlete welfare policies, and integrity measures.
- **Executive Committee Structure:**
 - Although the total number of ExCo members remained at 10, the structure was updated.
 - A new role—Athlete Representative—was formally introduced, following World Aquatics' recommendation. This position ensures that athlete voices are represented in policymaking and committee deliberations.

- **Membership Categories & Fees:**

- Previous membership types (which included multiple classifications) were simplified into two categories:
 - Affiliate Members (Clubs)
 - Associate Members (Individuals)
- Membership fees were revised as follows:
 - Affiliate Clubs: BND 150 annually (previously BND 15)
 - Associate Members: BND 50 annually (previously BND 5)

- **Introduction of Swimmer Registration Fee:**

- Starting 1 January 2026, clubs will be required to submit a list of all active swimmers, each of whom must pay an annual swimmer registration fee.
- The purpose is to maintain an accurate database of registered swimmers and to ensure eligibility and identity verification (e.g., nationality) for participation in competitions.
- Swimmers not registered will be ineligible to compete in any BASA-sanctioned events.

- **Name Change Procedure:**

- The proposed change from "Brunei Amateur Swimming Association (BASA)" to "Brunei Darussalam Swimming Association (BDSA)" was discussed.
- ROS advised that this change must be submitted after the constitution approval is finalized.
- A follow-up application, including a proposed new logo, will be submitted to ROS by the new Executive Committee.

Mr. Ang concluded by encouraging members to review the emailed constitution documents and support the implementation of the new structure and policies that aim to modernize BASA and ensure regulatory compliance.

8. Election of New Executive Committee (2025–2027)

The election process began with the declaration by President Aziz Latip that the 2022–2024 BASA Executive Committee was officially dissolved. This was followed by the appointment of Deloitte as the independent Scrutineers for the election.

Dato Ahmad Isa, the outgoing Vice President, explained the nomination status:

- For the four Office Bearer positions, only one nomination each had been received:
 - President: Aziz Latip
 - Vice President: Dato Ahmad Isa
 - Honorary Secretary: Ang Beng Siong
 - Honorary Treasurer: Linda Lai

As there were no other nominations, it was proposed that these nominees be accepted by acclamation, and the floor agreed unanimously with a round of applause.

For the remaining six Executive Committee positions (including one Athlete Representative), eight nominations were received. The candidates were:

- Pg Abd Farid Pg Idrus
- Annie Arthur
- Christian Nikles
- Harjimmey Zainal (absent due to official duty overseas)
- Huzaimi Abbas
- Melissa Ang
- Mohammed Isa Ahmad (Muis)
- Normah bte Hj Nadi

Each nominee (except Harjimmey, whose absence was explained) gave a brief self-introduction to the members.

Ballot slips listing all eight names were distributed. Members were instructed to vote for no more than six nominees. Any ballot with more than six selections would be deemed invalid. Votes were cast in private and collected.

Deloitte, as scrutineers, carried out the ballot counting during a short intermission.

The following six nominees were elected as Executive Committee members for the 2025–2027 term:

- Harjimmey Zainal
- Mohammed Isa Ahmad (Muis)
- Christian Nikles
- Normah bte Hj Nadi
- Melissa Ang
- Pg Abd Farid Pg Idrus

The newly elected President, Aziz Latip, congratulated the new committee and emphasized the importance of participation and commitment, especially given the voluntary nature of the roles. He also thanked all the nominees and encouraged those not elected to continue supporting BASA and consider future involvement.

8. Motions and Resolutions

The following motions and resolutions were discussed and agreed:

- AGM approved moving forward with the name change from *Brunei Amateur Swimming Association* to *Brunei Darussalam Swimming Association* once the revised constitution is approved.
- A new logo will be developed and submitted to ROS together with the name change application.
- A Swimmer Registration System will be introduced starting 1 January 2026, requiring clubs to register all swimmers annually.

9. Any Other Business (AOB)

9.1 Fitness Testing Concerns

Mr. Brian Wong, parent of swimmer Hayley Wong, raised concerns over her injury during a fitness test conducted by SMRC and JBS. He questioned the relevance of certain fitness test components for swimmers and asked if BASA could formally request a review.

The ExCo acknowledged the issue and confirmed that BASA had raised similar concerns previously. BASA will continue to engage with JBS and SMRC to advocate for swimming-specific fitness protocols that prioritize athlete safety.

9.2 Swim Calendar & Communication with National Coach

Coach WuNa requested clearer communication regarding the annual swim meet calendar. Mr. Ang clarified that the calendar is published at the start of the year and shared with stakeholders. However, selection for some events is managed externally by JBS and BDNOB, causing occasional last-minute changes.

9.3 Coach Contract

The ExCo noted that Coach WuNa has not received her formal contract extension. BASA will follow up with JBS, especially as her temporary 3-month work permit is set to expire.

10. Closing

President Aziz Latip thanked all members for their active participation and support. He encouraged continued collaboration as the association transitions to the new term.

Meeting Adjourned at: 11:20 AM

Minutes Prepared by: Ang Beng Siong

Approved by: Aziz Latip

Date: 5th June 2025

