

Brunei focuses on Coomera media campus

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THE Gold Coast's film credentials have received a tick of approval with TAFE's Coomera campus signing a deal to help build a film and television industry in Asian economic powerhouse Brunei.

While it may be one of the smallest countries in the world, with an estimated population smaller than that of the Gold Coast at 417,000, Brunei's oil reserves have transformed it into one of the world's wealthiest nations.

According to financial media, the Islamic monarchy has a GDP of almost \$50,000 a person, putting it in the top 10 richest nations in the world.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) represents the beginning of a relationship between the two training organisations with an aim to establish and build a strong film and television industry in Brunei.

The ceremony was attended by three co-founders of the Institute including Lady Munji Athirah of the Brunei royal family, Ms Siti Kamaluddin, the first female film director in

Brunei and Dr Alex Fischer,

Educational Director as well as Brunei's High Commissioner Your Excellency Haji Zakaria bin Haji Ahmad.

Ms Siti Kamaluddin of Brunei's Mahakarya Institute of the Arts said the emerging industry in the country required skills and expertise.

"We just don't have the right set of trained and qualified human resources," Ms Kamaluddin said.

The Institute aims to emulate the TAFE Queensland — Coomera Campus screen and media facility and courses.

"The TAFE Queensland model is good because it concentrates on the skills required to be job ready," she said.

TAFE Queensland — Gold Coast Region General Manager Karen Dickinson said the partnership is a fantastic opportunity for all.

"The Institute wants to look at new and contemporary ways to offer film and media studies in Brunei," she said.

"Opportunities may arise for local staff and students to visit Brunei down the track."

For more information on TAFE courses visit www.tafe-goldcoast.edu.au