



PRESS RELEASE

IMPLEMENTATION OF BRUNEI AUTOMATED CLEARING HOUSE Thursday, 19 Sya'ban 1437 corresponding to 26th May 2016

1. Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD), in collaboration with the Brunei Association of Banks (BAB), implemented the new Brunei Automated Clearing House (BACH) on Thursday, 19 Sya'ban 1437 corresponding to 26 May 2016. This is in line with the AMBD Orders, 2010 and 2015, in which AMBD has the responsibility to develop, manage and oversee payment systems in Brunei Darussalam.
2. The BACH is an electronic payment system for cheque clearing and enables banks to submit scanned cheques for clearing instead of paper copies. It also allows for the electronic transmission of direct credits thus, removing paper based payments.
3. Cheques clearing will soon be implemented in the BACH and the Manual Cheque Clearing House will subsequently be decommissioned. This new clearing process will not affect most cheque customers. Cheques will be transferred electronically within the day and will be cleared with funds available two days after the transfer (T+2). Some cashier's cheques and high value cheques will be processed with a different timetable. Special clearing will still be available.
4. The next phase of the implementation will see the ACH adopting general credit transfers. Customers will be able to transfer funds electronically between banks in real-time.
5. The ACH, together with the interbank settlement system (RTGS) introduced in 2014, will be able to support the growth of retail electronic payment in Brunei Darussalam. In due course, differential pricing and value limits will encourage customers to choose the more reliable, efficient and secure electronic methods which will substantially reduce reliance on cheques.
6. To ensure the smooth transition for both banks and customers, there will be a grace period of approximately six months from the launching of the ACH. During this period, customers will not be charged for transactions that go through the ACH. Towards the end of this period, banks will advertise their tariffs for the service, and AMBD will announce value limits on inter-bank cheques to reduce the risks that comes with these instruments.
7. For further information, the general public can download 'AMBD App' for free on both the App Store for iPhone users and Google Playstore for Android users; or visit AMBD's website at <http://www.ambd.gov.bn>

Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam

Date : 20 Sya'ban 1437 / 27 May 2016

Ref : AMBD/COMMS/2016/3