



## PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK

### Jan Shim...an accidental artist

Caroline Ang  
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

**I**T TAKES courage to dare to be different and one man has taken the road less trodden. Five years ago, Jan Shim left the corporate world. To some, giving up a stable income might be unthinkable but if you delve further, Jan is inspiring.

A stay-home dad cum freelance photographer, he says, "I want to be there for my children and not let them grow up with the domestic helper. We've read how working parents put their kids in harm's way by trusting the safety of their children solely in the hands of maids etc. When I have to be away for extended work, I'm grateful my mother is there to help."

Jan has carved a name as a much sought-after freelance photographer whose works are used by the likes of National Geographic and more. He adds, "My achievements are possible through the sacrifices and mutual understanding of my family. The nature of my work requires independence, mobility, odd hours and countless commuting. Work hours and demand can be unpredictable but they can be managed."

Jan says that he is "Stubborn. Determined. Almost a workaholic. Thinker. Can be philosophical about life. Witty. Possibly creative. Personality can be larger than life or smaller than a mouse! I like people who are independent, humorous, confident and who see the big picture. I avoid pessimists and sarcastic people."

"I grew up in a family of four. The only sibling passed away in 2001 at 29 years old after suffering from cerebral palsy since birth as a result of poorly diagnosed jaundice. My mother looked after him while juggling to raise me. I'm humbled by her sacrifices to care for my late brother until he succumbed to pneumonia on January 27, 2001. Not a day goes by that I don't think about my brother and although we never had 'normal' childhood together, I wish that he could experience life through my experiences."

"I used to study in Western Australia and back here, I was in an IT firm till 2004. My wife of 13 years is in the IT profession and we have two kids, Jamie and Jewel. Having children and looking after them is a full time job."

Photography was not one of his initial pursuits after leaving his job although a short stint in e-commerce selling motorsports parts got him to pick up photography to produce an online gallery. It was around the time of the Crown Prince's Royal wedding when he got acquainted with the founder of Hua Ho, Pehin Kapitan Cina Korna Diraja Dato Paduka Lau Ah Kok, with whom he served as personal photographer for several years.

As a photographer, his biggest challenge isn't the trade itself but the long commutes from his home in Seria to Bandar Seri Begawan where 95 per cent of his clients are based. He says, "With opportunities come choices. I try not to accept weekend assignments because I value my family weekends. I have turned down countless wedding photography opportunities. It takes a lot of commitment and

sacrifices to be a bona fide wedding photographer and not just a 'weekend warrior'. I put my family first and I almost always say no to Saturday work because that's the day my wife and I do our grocery shopping after dropping the kids off at school." His inspiration, achievement and vision in life is to have a happy family and a peaceful and harmonious nation.

Jan has a flair for writing. "I've always aspired to get into writing someday. It seems like a logical and complements still photography very well."

A Canon enthusiast, he explains, "The choice to go with the Canon brand has something to do with the fact that my father took many of my childhood photos on a classic Canon film SLR. My work and play camera is the EOS 5D Mark II which is abundant with significant features to complement the way I shoot."

A Brunei permanent resident, he recently sat for his citizenship exams. He hopes to one day be able to truly call Brunei "my country, my motherland". During his classes at Sekolah Siap-Siaga in Jalan Tutong under the strict tutelage of Cikgu Mansor, Jan has enriched his understanding of the nation's national heritage and philosophies.

He explains, "The career transition to photography has been a very significant, insightful and meaningful step for me. Pehin Dato Lau's humble beginnings and determination have inspired and taught me about success through perseverance. My photographic journey with Pehin has been enlightening and brought me closer to my country and gave me a sense of identity and belonging. I sat for my third citizenship exam on May 24, 2009 and that too was quite a journey — the 'Class of May 2009' led by Cikgu Mansor was nothing short of educational and character building. Exams are over and I hope I did OK to get through. My wife and children are Brunei citizens and I look forward to the day I too become one so we can be one — the oneness of a nation and that of a family which Cikgu repeatedly drilled in us ... of teamwork, unity, friendship and a bridge of peace that such values nurture."

On his blog at [www.shimworld.com](http://www.shimworld.com), which is his voice to the public, he says, "I owe much of what I am today to my wife and family who encouraged me in the face of uncertainty. I am thankful and grateful to all my friends, associates and clients who in their own ways trusted and supported me till this very day including visitors and subscribers of SHIMWORLD."

Over the years, Jan has captured images of His Majesty, the Crown Prince and famous personalities such as celebrity chef Bobby Chinn, golfer Tiger Woods, Air Asia's Dato Tony Fernandes, Hong Kong actor/producer/host Eric Tsang, TV presenter Lorraine Hahn, Malaysian singer-songwriter Dato Siti Nurhaliza, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Vietnam Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung.

His closing remarks? "As a Brunei PR, I aspire to be a Brunei citizen someday. Should that day come, I think I would be ecstatic beyond words. I'm extremely thankful to His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei for this opportunity." **The Brunei Times**

## Eurocopter to make a 'landing' at Bridex 2009

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

**T**HIS year's Brunei Darussalam International Defence Exhibition (Bridex 2009) will be held for the first time at the new exhibition centre which is being built at a prime ocean-front location near the Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club, Jerudong.

The exhibition centre is equipped with a fully air-conditioned purpose-built 10,000sqm exhibition hall with an adjoining apron space of 5,000sqm for static displays.

The organiser said that the exhibition centre will provide a secure setting for exhibitors and delegates to meet and discuss the latest advances in defence and security technology, as well as networking, building vital alliances, forging partnerships and developing new business opportunities.

Organised by Royal Brunei Technical Services (RBTS) and fully supported by the Ministry of Defence, Bridex 2009 is scheduled to be held from August 12 to 15, 2009, and expected to be officiated by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The first Bridex was held from May 31 to June 2, 2007. The event saw the participation of 108 companies representing 16 countries, with more than 60 international delegates from 17 countries and over 11,000 visitors.

One of the exhibitors is Eurocopter South East Asia Pte Ltd, a subsidiary of Eurocopter, one of the world's major suppliers of helicopters.

The Eurocopter Group, based in Marignane, France, is a European helicopter manufacturing and support company formed in 1992 from the merger of two companies, Daimler-Benz Aerospace AG (DASA) of Germany and the helicopter divisions of Aérospatiale of France.

As a result of the merger of

the Eurocopter Group's former parents, the firm is a wholly owned subsidiary of European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company (EADS).

Eurocopter manufactures AS 332 Super Puma medium-sized twin-engine transport/utility helicopter, AS 350/AS 355/EC 130 Ecureuil light utility helicopter, AS 365/SA 365 Dauphin medium-weight multi-purpose twin-engine helicopter, Eurocopter EC 665 Tiger military attack helicopter and EC 725 Cougar long-range tactical transport helicopter, among others.

The French Defence Ministry recently has ordered five additional EC 725 helicopters from Eurocopter as part of the government's economic recovery plan.

It secures work for 100 Eurocopter personnel and 150 suppliers' employees over a period of three years.

The five helicopters are scheduled for delivery between late 2010 and early 2012.

The contract was placed by the French DGA (*Délégation Générale pour l'Armement*) and comprises the

delivery of five EC 725s plus the related support services.

The helicopter will be built at the Eurocopter plant in Marignane, in the Bouches-du-Rhône area of France.

The five helicopters will join the 14 EC 725s that are currently in operation with the French Armed Forces. Since December 2006, the EC 725 has been used to support France's NATO operations in Afghanistan, performing emergency medical services, search and rescue missions and escort duties, and providing humanitarian aid.

The EC 725 is the latest addition to the Cougar family. The EC 725 is a twin-engine helicopter with a five-bladed main rotor in the medium-lift category.

The rotary-wing aircraft has an exceptional fuel capacity with a flight endurance of five-and-a-half hours and can also be refueled in flight.

The multi-purpose EC 725 has been designed to perform various missions, including combat search and rescue (CSAR), long distance transport, logistics support, and special operations. (ALA)

**The Brunei Times**



**Operational:** The EC 665 Tiger, an attack helicopter manufactured by Eurocopter, is in service with France, Germany, Spain and Australia. Picture: Courtesy of Eurocopter

## PROMOTIONS

### Shopping.com.bn Online Store

20th April - 30th June 2009  
Baiduri Visa (12 or 24 months) 0% Instalment Available  
Applicable for Camera, Camcorder and Dell  
Notebook/PC for purchases \$500.00 to \$3000.00

### BT Forwarding Company

Subscribe for Royal Skies and send with TNT  
and stand a chance to win prizes  
1st May - 31st August 2009  
For further info: [www.btfwdg.com](http://www.btfwdg.com)

### Baiduri Bank Promotion

1st May - 30th June 2009  
0% Instalment Plan  
& 3-Year Sign up promotion

### Rims - Trade-in available option till end July 2009

(Terms & conditions apply)  
Sin Hup Huat Company  
Tel: 2452894/93 ext 203  
Mp: 8759669  
E-mail: [Stephanie@sinhuphuat.com](mailto:Stephanie@sinhuphuat.com)

### Mercedes Benz Extended Promotion

24th April - 30th June 2009  
C180K - \$838.00 Monthly  
E200K - \$1,338.00 Monthly  
Organizer: Jati Transport Sdn Bhd.  
Venue: Beribi Showroom:  
Lot 14, 15, & 16,  
Beribi Industrial Estate Phase II

### My DST Account: Register and Win Monthly Prizes

1st April - 31st August 2009  
Register at  
<http://mydst.dst-group.com>

### Darussalam Holdings Hajj Package

April - June 2009  
Call: 2231964, 2231965

### Dream Charter June Promotion!

Free T-shirt (normally costs 18band)  
For all guests who come on a  
Sunset Cruise in the month of June.  
For more information or Booking  
@ Dream Charter, Brunei Darussalam,  
Please Call: +(673) 719744  
or +(673) 8722347  
Email: [dreamcharter@gmail.com](mailto:dreamcharter@gmail.com)

### Firoz Jaya Silkhouse's Month-End Special

28th May - 21st June 2009  
Call: 2340766 - 2670149 - 2232326 - 2220514

### Jaya Hypermart Centrepoint Electronic Fair

27th May - 30th June 2009  
Venue: Jaya Hypermart Centrepoint, Gadong

### Sailing in Brunei: Dream Charters

1st June - 30th June 2009  
Free Sailing in Brunei T-shirt for all guests  
who book a Sailing in Brunei  
Sunset Cruise for the month of June and an Invite to  
Sailing in Brunei's 6-month anniversary.

### Father's Day with Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC)

6th - 30th June 2009  
General Male Health Screening with Cancer Marker  
Call JPMC Outpatient Clinic:  
2611433 ext. 2270/2239  
Email: [marketing@jpmc.com.bn](mailto:marketing@jpmc.com.bn)

### Royal Brunei Airline's Spectacular June Promotions

Bangkok: From \$500 for 3 Days/2 Nights/2 Persons  
Hong kong: From \$110 for 3 Days/2 Nights/2 Persons  
Perth: From \$960 for 4 Days/3 Nights/2 Persons  
Call: 2212222/2334465 or  
website at [www.bruneiair.com](http://www.bruneiair.com)

### Dewi MTM Spa's Mid Year Promotion

- Pre & Post Natal Programme  
- 3-3 Star Treatment  
- Tuesday Special  
- Relaxing Slimming Programme  
Discount: 50%  
Venue: Spg 24 Kg Mengalit Jln Gadong  
Call: 2441333

### Super Star Virgo:

Set Sail on Asia's Favourite Cruise Line  
1st July - 2nd September 2009 Discount:  
Up to 50%  
Price: From \$230 to \$518 per pax + taxes  
Call: 2221747 or email: [century@brunet.bn](mailto:century@brunet.bn)

### Sailing in Brunei

Booking @ DREAM CHARTER, Brunei Darussalam  
Call: +(673)719744 or +(673)8722347;  
Email: [dreamcharter@gmail.com](mailto:dreamcharter@gmail.com)

### THOMSON FURNITURE SQUARE SDN BHD

Mid-year sale from 12th June - 2nd July  
at HQ Spg 593, Kg Beribi,  
Jalan Gadong BF2720  
Call: 2652080/81 Fax: 2652024  
and Branch Spg 1109, Km 12,  
Kg Kilanas BF2520  
Call: 2661251,2662649 Fax: 2662451