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His Majesty commissions KDB DARULAMAN



PHOTO: A.K. AMIRUNIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI

MUARA, December 12 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) has commissioned the newest addition to the navy's patrol vessels of Darussalam Class, 'Kapal Diraja Brunei' (KDB) or Royal Brunei Patrol Vessel DARULAMAN.

The Commissioning of the new Royal Brunei Patrol Vessel took place at the Royal Brunei Naval Base jetty in Muara.

KDB DARULAMAN equipped with electronic warfare and decoy system is the third patrol vessel of Darussalam class after KDB DARUSSALAM and KDB

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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces inspecting the guard-of-honour by Royal Brunei Navy at the commissioning of the new Royal Brunei Patrol Vessel.

Employment Agency Order 2004 to be enforced

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 29 - The Labour Department, Ministry of Home Affairs has announced that the Employment Agency Order 2004 will be fully enforced on January 1, 2012.

This Order will require for employment agencies to be licensed. To ensure that this Order will be fully enforced by January 1, 2012, the Labour Department will no longer entertain any applications on recruitment of foreign employee or those managed by employment agencies, or

private individuals who do not possess the license issued by this department.

All matters related to the recruitment of foreign employees must be managed by a licensed employment agency. Employers are however allowed to choose between making the arrangement themselves or through a licensed employment agency.

Among the matters related managed by a licensed employment agency is the recruitment of new maid; and the

recruitment of new company workers.

While those that can be managed by the employers or through a licensed employment agency are: new maid or company license application (new, additional or renew); application to continue maid's contract or company workers (BUR555) who is already working for them; application to cancel the license; application to return cash deposit; and other related matters.



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PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

Her Majesty receives audience

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 6 - Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received in audience Yang Maha Mulia Tuanku Najihah binti Tunku Besar Burhanuddin, Tunku Ampuan of Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia.

Also present at the audience were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah.

The audience took place at the Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent congratulatory messages to:

- His Excellency Choummaly Sayasone, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Thongsing Thammavong on the occasion of the Lao's National Day on December 2.
- His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand on the auspicious occasion of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 84th birthday on December 4.
- His Majesty Al-Sultan Almu'tasimu Billahi Muhibbuddin Tuanku Alhaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Badlishah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Kedah Darul Aman on the occasion of His Majesty's proclamation as the 14th Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia on December 13.
- His Majesty Emperor Akihito, Emperor of Japan and the Prime Minister of Japan, His Excellency Yoshihiko Noda and Japanese people on the occasion of His Majesty the Emperor's 78th birthday anniversary on December 23.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Majesty signing the commemorative plaque.

*** from frontpage
(His Majesty commissions KDB DARULAMAN)**

DARULEHSAN which were commissioned by His Majesty on May 14. A short briefing on KDB DARULAMAN was presented by the ship's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel (Navy) Pengiran Mohammad bin Pengiran Haji Damit.

The KDB MUSTA'ED, one of the Royal Brunei Navy Ijtihad Class patrol vessels also drew His Majesty's attention. KDB MUSTA'ED is yet another improvement in Force Capabilities of the Royal Brunei Navy in shouldering the roles and responsibilities towards protecting the Nation's Maritime Sovereignty in conjunction with the Progress of The Defence Whitepaper. The KDB MUSTA'ED was commissioned on November 25 by the Commander of the Royal Brunei Navy Force.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN



PHOTO: AK. AMIRULNIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. AU

His Majesty in a group photo with the Royal Brunei Navy personnel.



Heads of State and Government attending the Bali Democracy Forum IV.



HM attends 4th Bali Democracy Forum

PHOTOS: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

BALI, INDONESIA, December 8 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, in a *titah* (royal speech) believed that ASEAN consisted of the 'democratic participation' and had implemented the responds to the democracy voices as referred in the theme of the 4th Bali Democracy Forum.

His Majesty made the *titah* at the 4th Bali Democracy Forum (BDF IV) held at the Bali International Convention Centre (BICC), Nusa Dua.

His Majesty said that Brunei Darussalam fully support ASEAN's most important current project, which is building a region-wide 'community'. Brunei Darussalam sees this project as an extension of the vision of the ASEAN founding fathers, in-line with the values that are cherish in Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty added that values are a heritage similarity, mutual respect, goodwill towards all and support for each other that are the building blocks for a future community that will form an ideal abode for the extended ASEAN regional family, wherein our people can develop their abilities, skills, talents and confidence to face the future.

Prior to, His Majesty said that for 27 years, ASEAN has been Brunei Darussalam's gateway to the world beyond our shores and frontiers and as a result, Brunei Darussalam in no way feel isolated or anonymous.

His Majesty said that ASEAN has helped Brunei Darussalam and her neighbours to share a regional purpose and an international identity.

His Majesty in the *titah* also emphasised the need to implement practical efforts towards realising the vision of the regional community that will take care of the citizens, their hopes and their future. In this regard, it is necessary to enhance the confidence of the family and individuals; generate the culture of mutual respect, goodwill and fairness between one another; and practically to

ensure the housing, the education, the healthcare, and the jobs for all citizens, the continuous security in all aspects of life and survival opportunity for all.

The BDF IV was officially opened by His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Dr. Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia.

The forum was attended by nine

Heads of State and Government, 24 ministers, with the overall participation involving 82 countries, compared to 39 last year.

The theme of the BDF IV was 'Enhancing Democratic Participation in a Changing World: Responding to Democratic Voices'.



His Majesty and the Prime Minister of Mongolia, His Excellency Sukbaataryn Batbold exchange views on bilateral and international issues of mutual benefit and interest.

His Majesty held bilateral meetings

BALI, INDONESIA, December 8 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held bilateral meetings with the leaders of Mongolia and Sri Lanka.

During the meeting with the Prime Minister of Mongolia, His Excellency Sukbaataryn Batbold, His Majesty and His Excellency exchanged views on bilateral and international issues of mutual benefit and interest.

Meanwhile, during a meeting with the President of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa, His Majesty and His Excellency also exchanged views on bilateral and international issues of mutual interest to both countries.

The meetings were held at the Bali International Convention Centre (BICC).



His Majesty and the President of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa during bilateral meeting.

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His Majesty sends message of condolences

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 20 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent a message of condolences to the family members of the victims of the recent tragic road accident in Tuaran, Sabah that involved the loss of lives and injuries to a number of passengers from Brunei Darussalam,

In the message, His Majesty expressed his great sadness upon coming to know of the accident and extended his condolences to the family members of the victims involved and hoped that they would be patient, and also prayed that the souls of the victims would be blessed and placed with the pious. For those who were injured, His Majesty prayed for their swift recovery.

Following the incident, His Majesty commanded the ministries concerned including the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and other ministries as well as the relevant authorities in His Majesty's Government to play their roles in assisting the victims involved. In this regard, His Majesty issued a command for Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office and Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerna Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports who is the Acting Minister of Health and Permanent Secretaries at the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces to go to Sabah, Malaysia in order to make all necessary arrangements to resolve this matter.

His Majesty also issued a command for all facilities including the costs of medical treatment for the injured and the transportation of the victims back to Brunei Darussalam by aircraft to be borne by His Majesty's Government.

His Majesty sends condolences message

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 18 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent a message of condolences to His Excellency Benigno Simeon Aquino III, President of the Republic of the Philippines following the loss of lives and properties caused by the recent flash floods in the southern Philippines.

In the message, His Majesty and the Government and people of Brunei Darussalam expressed their deepest condolences to His Excellency, the Government and the people of the Philippines, especially to the bereaved families of the victims of the disaster.

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(HM attends 4th Bali Democracy Forum)

His Majesty attends luncheon

BALI, INDONESIA, December 8 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended a luncheon in honour of the Heads of State and Government as well as other delegates attending the two-day 4th Bali Democracy Forum (BDF IV).

The luncheon was hosted by the President of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Dr. Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono



President of the Republic of Indonesia welcomes His Majesty prior to the Forum.

Deputy Sultan visits victims of bus accident

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 22 - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Deputy Sultan visited the patients involved in a bus accident at Jalan Ranau-Tamparuli, Kampung Kaporingan, Negeri Sabah on December, 20.

Upon arrival at Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital, His Royal Highness received a briefing on actions taken by Ministry of Health in handling the patients who are either critically injured, lightly injured or those receiving outpatient treatments.

After the briefing, His Royal Highness visited the patients who are warded in several units under the Major Medical Emergency (MME) Wards mobilised by Ministry of Health in handling the patients namely: Surgery Intensive Care Unit (SICU), Ward 7 and Ward 2.

Twenty-three victims have been registered at RIPAS Hospital where two persons are receiving treatments at SICU; 16 persons receiving treatments in Ward 7; two in Ward 2; and two has been discharged. While two from the three victims will be flown back to Bandar Seri Begawan.

The fatal accident involved 32 passengers and one driver causing seven deaths.

Heart of Borneo, an inspiration for global environmental conservation



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness in a group photo prior to the meeting.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 10

– The Heart of Borneo (HoB) is an invaluable initiative not only to the nation but as an inspiration for global environmental conservation. The Island of Borneo is one of the places in the world known as world's mega bio-diversity hotspot; and HoB is the manifestation of concern for the preservation of ecosystem covering one-third of the island across the borders of three neighbouring countries.

The matters were highlighted by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, the Royal Patron of HoB National Council at the 8th Meeting of the Heart of Borneo National Council. The meeting was held at the Prime Minister's Office in Jalan Kumbang Pasang.

According to His Royal Highness, HoB is also a global initiative involving environmental organisations around the world, the corporate sectors and the community that aim to realise the sole vision of environment conservation through the management of forest resources, conservation-area networks of productive forest areas and prudent use of the land.

His Royal Highness said that the HoB cooperation framework is based on the principles of the sustainable development through research and development activities, prudent use, protection, education and training, gathering of funds through the HoB area. Seventy-four per cent of this country's land area is still under forest reserves and 58 per

cent from this total forest reserves has been declared as Brunei Darussalam's commitment to HoB.

His Royal Highness said that Brunei Darussalam is committed to the concerted development methods which fully optimise the use of its land and forest resources, in order to improve the well-being of the citizens and residents of this country. This requirement requires all stakeholders to be more thoughtful in the governance of these limited resources.

His Royal Highness also attended the 8th Meeting of the Heart of Borneo National Council where His Royal Highness received an update reports on the status and progress of the HoB initiative by HoB's Interim Chief Executive Officer of HoB, Awang Mahmud bin Haji Yussof.

Sharing Cultures 2011

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 1 – About 130 participants from seven member countries of the World Association Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) namely Andalusia, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Republic of the Philippines Republic of Singapore, and Kingdom of Thailand were in Brunei Darussalam to attend 'Sharing Cultures 2011'.

Present to grace the opening ceremony was Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah held at Orchid Garden Hotel in Berakas. Also present were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, President of the Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Vice-President of the Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association.

Her Royal Highness consented to

deliver a *sabda* (royal speech) where she was pleased to see that this event focused on generating greater understanding between the people of this region through the sharing of each other's cultures.

"We now are able to interact instantly, through the internet and other technologies, and as the world grows ever closer, it becomes all the more vital for us to better understand each other's values and beliefs.

This path to understanding is something that is fundamental to the work and goals of the Girl Guides and I can see that this is clearly reflected, in the enthusiasm evident amongst the guides gathered here today," said Her Royal Highness.

Sharing Cultures is one of the latest projects of the Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association in promoting peace worldwide through sharing of cultures.



PHOTO: ABMAH HAJI AHAD

Her Royal Highness delivers a *sabda* (royal speech) at the 'Sharing Cultures 2011'.

3rd Asian Ladies Invitational Interport Golf Tournament 2011

JERUDONG, December 8 - Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah, Royal Patron of Brunei Ladies Golf Association (BLGA) graced a dinner in conjunction with the 3rd Asian Ladies Invitational Interport Golf Tournament 2011.

The event took place at Indera Samudera Grand Hall, The Empire Hotel & Country Club hosted by Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources on December 8

Also present was Yang Maha Mulia Tuanku Najihah binti Tunku Besar Burhanuddin, Tunku Ampuan of Negeri Sembilan and Yang Amat Mulia Tunku Puteri Dato' Seri Jawahir binti Al-Marhum



PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN

Her Royal Highness mingles with Yang Maha Mulia Tuanku Najihah at the 3rd Asian Ladies Invitational Golf Tournament 2011 dinner.

Tuanku Jaafar.

The event was highlighted with the cultural performance from Asian countries. More than 100 golfers took part in the five-day tournament. The tournament

ran from December 5 to 9 participated by golfers from Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Kingdom of Thailand, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of the Philippines and Republic of Singapore.



HRH attends 8th Ministerial Conference of WTO

PHOTOS: AZMAH HAJI AHAD



His Royal Highness delivers a *sabda* (royal speech) which among others stressed on the importance of the institutions like the WTO in ensuring fair globalisation.

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, December 16 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended the opening session of the 8th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva, Switzerland.

The conference was held at the Geneva International Conference Centre (CIGC) and chaired by His Excellency Olusegun Olutoyin Aganga, Minister of Trade and Investment of Nigeria.

At the conference, His Royal Highness also met the Minister of International Trade of Canada, The Honourable Edward Fast. Both leaders discussed trade relations between the two countries.

In the evening, His Royal Highness attended a reception which hosted by WTO held at the CIGC Building.

The second and third day of the 8th WTO Ministerial Conference, in Geneva, Switzerland that included the plenary session and working session under the theme 'Importance of the Multilateral Trading System and WTO'; Trade and Development'; and; 'Doha Development Agenda'. The conference approved the accessions of Russia, Samoa and Montenegro.

At this conference, His Royal Highness delivered a *sabda* in which he stressed on the importance of the institutions like the WTO in ensuring fair globalisation. His Royal Highness also touched on all the international affairs



His Royal Highness held a bilateral discussion with Mr. Gregory So, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development.

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(HRH attends 8th Ministerial Conference of WTO)

changes over the last two years that could provide new approaches to solve the Doha Development Meeting in trading negotiations.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah also held a bilateral meeting with one of his counterparts who is also in Switzerland.

His Royal Highness held bilateral discussions with the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development of Hong Kong, China, Mr. Gregory So where matters pertaining to trade relations between both countries were discussed.

The 8th WTO Ministerial Conference ended on December 17.



His Royal Highness with His Honourable Edward Fast, Canada International Trade Minister.



PHOTO: AK. AMIRUNIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI

His Royal Highness joins the walkathon held to commemorate World Day of Remembrance for the Road Traffic Victims.

Road traffic victims remembered

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 4 – A walkathon was held as part of the activities to commemorate World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims 2011. At the event, the male participants walked at a distance of 4.5 kilometres while female participants walked at a distance of 3.5 kilometres.

Present to grace the event was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik held at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin in the capital.

In addition to the walkathon, various road safety awareness activities were also held at the exhibition area such as road traffic statistics and car tyre safety checks.

The walkathon was organised by the National Road Safety Council of Brunei Darussalam in collaboration with Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD) with the hope to educate the public about the United Nations message of a 'Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020) with the theme 'Road Safety for All'.

'Talk Series' for efficient and effective management

JERUDONG, December 8 – A programme by Institute of Civil Service (IPA) known as 'Talk Series' was conducted as a platform for leaders in the Civil Service to enhance their critical thinking, innovativeness, creativity and optimism in leading their management and administration more efficiently and effectively. This is towards organisational development in the Civil Service and Brunei Darussalam in general.

This programme is one of IPA's initiatives to diversify its training programmes and a short-term approach to enhance the skills of members of the civil service in accordance to Brunei Vision 2035 which aims to form highly skilled and knowledgeable citizens.

Thus a talk was held with the topic 'Inventing the Future: Inspiration for Leaders' delivered by Andrew Grant, Chief Executive Officer of Tirian and Creative Designer of Tirian held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

In attendance at the talk was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik. Also present were the Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Wahab bin Juned; Permanent Secretaries; Deputy Permanent Secretaries; and senior government officers.



PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZI HAJI DURAMAN

Among of the attendees of the 'Talk Series' is His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

HRH: Involve all WAGGGS members through cultural exchange programmes

BERAKAS, November 5 - The Girl Guides and Girl Scouting's associations vision in the Asia Pacific region is for its members of ages to actively participate in and enjoy the international aspects of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting through programmes for cultural exchange.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, President of the Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association said in a *sabda* (royal speech) at the closing ceremony of Sharing Cultures 2011 Brunei Darussalam held at the Orchid Garden Hotel.

Her Royal Highness said that the ideas behind 'Sharing Cultures' go beyond merely in sharing experiences and aspects of our cultures. It includes the efforts amongst our community members that needed to enrich and strengthen each other's cultural heritage, whilst also developing projects that encourage the youths to revitalise their communities by educating them in areas such as environmental awareness, healthy nutrition and recycling.

Her Royal Highness said that in this manner, the association aims to give

Her Royal Highness receives greetings by the members of Girl Guides.



PHOTO: HERNE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

back to the communities that have nurtured the association and allow its members to play a positive role in caring the people throughout the region that we live in and call 'home'.

At the event, Her Royal Highness also presented certificates to leaders from seven members of World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) namely: Andalusia; Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Hong Kong; New Zealand; Republic of the Philippines; Republic of Singapore; and Kingdom of Thailand.

Sharing Cultures is one of the latest projects of the Brunei Darussalam

Girl Guides Association in sharing or exchanging cultures including foods; arts and social. The international event was participated by more than 150 participants comprising 52 participants from WAGGGS member countries; 62 participants from Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association; and 30 community members of association. During the five-day event, participants visited several interesting places, and took part in tree planting, making traditional foods, cultural performances and an international night bazaar.

Girl Guides organises international bazaar

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 4 - The Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association recently organised an International Night Bazaar. The bazaar saw participation from seven countries showcasing their traditional goods and food.

Present to grace the official opening of the bazaar was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Vice-President of the association. The event took place at the association Headquarters in Kampung Anggrek Desa.

The bazaar, among others, aimed to raise the association's fund and to provide an opportunity for Girl Guides member countries attending Sharing Cultures 2011 to taste the various traditional foods available.



PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

Vice President of Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna visits one of the bazaars.

Ministry of Health constantly promotes awareness on AIDS

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 1 – Measures to promote awareness issues related to Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) disease caused by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) are constantly undertaken by the Ministry of Health.

Brunei Darussalam although it has low HIV-related cases, it is not exempted from HIV. Most of the cases detected in Brunei Darussalam were those from monitoring measures including routine monitoring through health checks, fitness of patients infected with tuberculosis, pregnant mothers and patients with sexually transmitted diseases. It was found that most HIV cases in Brunei Darussalam were as a result of unsafe sexual activities.

Although the cases are low, we should not be complacent. With a young population and an increase in movement among the people and a large number of sexually transmitted diseases cases, Brunei Darussalam will continuously be exposed to threats produced by HIV.

The matters were said by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan

at an event to commemorate World AIDS Day 2011.

The minister further said that in this regard, the Ministry of Health urged those who feel they are at risk to undergo HIV test where this test is available for free for Brunei citizens and residents at all health centres and government hospitals. He further assured that under the Infectious Diseases Act (2003), the identity of those who are found to be HIV positive will be hidden and will not be revealed without the individual's consent.

HIV prevention programmes should aim in increasing the awareness about the HIV/AIDS especially to the youths which is one of the most vulnerable groups for HIV infection, globally as well as in Brunei Darussalam.

According to the 2009 figures released by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS, 33.3 million people were living with HIV. An estimated of 2.6 million were newly infected with the virus and 1.8 million died of AIDS at the same year. South and South-East Asia

alone accounts about 4.1 million people living with HIV and it was estimated that 270 thousand newly infected, with 260 thousand deaths caused by AIDS in 2009.

The minister said that between 2011-2015, World AIDS Day will have the theme 'Getting to Zero: Zero New Infections, Zero Discrimination and Zero AIDS-related Deaths'. The three Zeroes are intrinsically linked and one cannot be achieved without the other.

The World AIDS Campaign this year will be focusing on Zero AIDS-related Deaths. This signifies a greater push to work towards the increasing access to HIV treatment and care in the prevention of deaths due to AIDS.

World AIDS Day is remembered by many people throughout the world every December 1 to raise the awareness about the HIV and AIDS and to remind the global community to take the necessary actions to keep the pandemic in check and to achieve the ultimate goal of Zero New Infections, Zero Discrimination and Zero AIDS-related Deaths.

MRI introduced to enhance service



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

Minister of Health looks on the new Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) equipment.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 1 – In a continuous effort to provide better health care to public, Ministry of Health through its Department of Radiology, Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital launched the Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Service.

The service was officiated by Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan at the RIPAS Hospital.

With the introduction of the new service, the Department of Radiology is able to provide wider scope in diagnostic service. Currently, the department had general radiographic that fits with both digital radiography (DR) and computed radiography (CR), Multi-slice Computed Tomography (MSCT) which provide 'state-of-the-art cardiac' and angiography abilities and also Bi-planar CR Angiography system.

RIPAS Hospital is the only hospital in the nation which had the intensive treatment care that had 24-hour critical care department.

The MRI scan facility is hoped to become an advantage in aiding patients particularly those with heart attack risk or respiration and post operation critical patient.

MINDEF: Signs Support Helicopter Contract with Sikorsky International Operations, Inc.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 2 – The Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) has signed a sales and purchase contract for the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) Support Helicopter Project with Sikorsky International Operations, Inc. The said contract is for the procurement of twelve S-70i BLACK HAWK helicopters that are expected to be delivered to the RBAF between 2013 and 2015. The contract also provides MINDEF the option to purchase additional S-70i BLACK HAWK helicopters in the years to come. The delivery of these advanced new aircraft will allow the RBAF to further strengthen its troop deployment capabilities in military and humanitarian operations to fulfill its national and international obligations.

MINDEF has also signed a Blanket Order Agreement (BOA) with Helicopter Support, Inc., a subsidiary of Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, for the supply of additional spares and services to support the fleet of helicopters. The agreement will provide the RBAF with a high level of streamlined support and services to enhance the availability of the fleet of aircraft.

Signing on behalf of the MINDEF was Hajah Suriyah binti Haji Umar, the Permanent Secretary (Administration & Finance) while Sikorsky International Operations, Inc. was represented by Mr. Robert Kokorda, Vice President of World Wide Sales, Marketing and Enterprise Communications.

The signing ceremony was attended by Dato Paduka Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat, Deputy Minister of Defence; Major

The project among others aims to enhance the Royal Brunei Armed Force's rotary wing capacity to meet requirements identified in the Defence White Paper Update 2007.



PHOTO: MOHD. ZULIZI HAJI DURAMAN

General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Abidin, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and senior executives from MINDEF and Sikorsky Operations, Inc. The event was held at Bolkiah Garrison Officers' Mess.

The RBAF Support Helicopter Project was initiated to replace the current fleet of Bell 212 and BO105 helicopters and to enhance the Royal Brunei Air Force's rotary wing capacity to meet requirements identified in the Defence White Paper Update 2007. The project seeks innovative helicopter replacement solutions suitable to meet the RBAF's needs from reputable helicopter vendors via an Invitation to Tender released in February 2011.

In July 2011, MINDEF down-selected Sikorsky International Operations, Inc. and Eurocopter SAS for contract negotiation following a thorough assessment of the vendors' proposals. MINDEF announced the selection of Sikorsky International Operations on November 15 this year for

the procurement of the said capability. The S-70i BLACK HAWK is a 10-tonne, twin-engine multi-role helicopter and is the latest international version of the UH-60M now employed in the US Army. The Sikorsky BLACK HAWK is a proven combat aircraft, has so far logged more than nine (9) million flight hours and is in use in 25 nations around the world. The S-70i BLACK HAWK helicopter, with its high performance, reliability and survivability characteristics, is designed specifically to meet the most demanding military missions. Its state-of-the-art glass cockpit is ergonomically designed to enhance the pilot's situational awareness that is critical to mission success. The fleet of 12 S-70i BLACK HAWK helicopters is uniquely configured with role flexibility in mind and it will offer the RBAF the capability to conduct various mission profiles such as Tactical Air Lift, Special Operations, Search and Rescue, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and Regional Deployment.

Ministers attend receptions



PHOTO: MOHD. ZULIZI HAJI DURAMAN

Present on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng attended a reception to celebrate the 84th birthday anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Also present was the Ambassador of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Apichart Phetcharatana.

The reception was held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club on December 3.



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

Present on behalf the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair attended a reception to celebrate the National Day of the State Kingdom of Qatar on December 19.

Also present was the Head of Mission of Qatar Embassy to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Abdulla.

The reception was held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club, Jerudong.

Present on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Pehin Dato Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin, Minister of Home Affairs attended a reception to celebrate the reception marking the 78th birthday anniversary of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan.

Also present was the Japanese Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Noriki Hirose.

The reception was held at International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas on December 8.



PHOTO: AK. AMIRUNZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI

Group photo of delegations attending the meeting.

Brunei Vision 2035 gives focus on SME's growth

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 5 – Brunei Vision 2035 gives focus on long-term economic growth including the development of small-and-medium enterprises (SME). Four areas have been identified which are to assist SME and entrepreneurship to obtain and enhance their capability; to establish incubation centres to assist and promote local SME; to encourage and coordinate local participants in business activities; and reduce cost of operating SME.

Brunei Darussalam through its strategies will continue to provide benefits to SME such as renewing and introducing initiatives to facilitate business operation;

utilising the Brunei Halal Brand as one of the platforms to increase SME's access to the global market and to develop the halal industry; and to encourage the development of the SME's innovation capability through the Agro Technology Park and Eco-Aquaculture Park.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Awang Mohd. Riza bin Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Yunos stated the matters at the opening of the 29th ASEAN SMEs Working Group (SMEWG) Meeting and the 9th Joint Consultation between the SMEWG and Japan.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary

hoped that the continuous discussion, strategic sharing and Japan's support in the process to develop ASEAN Community will support and strengthen the ASEAN development and integration.

The meeting was attended by SME representatives from ASEAN countries. Other agendas discussed were issues related with the implementation of ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint (AEC) and AEC Scorecard for SME, ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development 2010-2015 and other agenda related to SME Development in ASEAN region.

The meeting took place at The Centrepoint Hotel, Gadong.

National Service Programme project launched



PHOTO: AMPIAN HAJI MAHMUD, AMPIAN HAJI TENGAH

The National Service Programme (NSP) launch is hopes to produce patriotic youths. Present to launch the pioneer programme is Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

BERAKAS, December 5 - The National Service Programme (NSP) or 'Program Khidmat Bakti Negara' (PKBN) is hoped to be introduced as a national programme and is a holistic youth development programme. It is hoped that the programme and its activities will mould and produce youths who are patriotic to the ruler, nation and religion; and responsible towards themselves, the community, the leader, and the country.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair stated the matter at the launching of the first NSP pioneer project and website held at the National Indoor Stadium of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium Complex.

The minister added that participants of the pioneer project including parents and guardians have made history for providing support and commitment towards moving the nation's desire in making the preparations towards realisation of the NSP.

The country appreciated the huge sacrifice made by the parents and guardians in allowing their children to participate in the three-month programme.

Eighty trainees comprising of 40 male and 40 female youths aged between 16 and 19 took part in the 84-day programme starting from December 4 until the February 25, 2012.

The NSP main objective is to enhance the spirit of patriotism, commitment and sustainability among youths, strengthening the youth's understanding of the Brunei Darussalam Constitution, the Malay Muslim Monarchy concept, the nation's administrative engine, socio-economic development policies and the National Vision 2035

Civil servants urged practice healthy lifestyle

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 7 – Members of the civil service was urged to practice a healthy lifestyle. Initial data analysis obtained from the Integrated Health Screening and Health Promotion Programme for Civil Service Employees completed on July 30 showed that a large number of civil servants have risk factors that can cause non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, cancer and cardiovascular diseases. The results from the health screening is worrying if serious preventative and control measures are not taken at a much earlier stage and if there is no continuous intensive treatment and screenings from doctors.

The Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan stated the matter at a Cardiac Health Forum held at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

The minister said that there is a need for a serious change in attitude towards the practice of a healthy lifestyle through physical activities, a balanced and non-excessive diet as well as quitting smoking. These changes are vital for the having of citizens who are healthy, prosperous as well as productive and of quality among all community levels in Brunei Darussalam.

Touching on the increase on Cardiovascular Diseases (CVDs), the

minister stated that the Ministry of Health is making efforts to further raise the effectiveness of preventative and control measures to tackle the disease. According to the minister, more than \$10.8 million have been spent on purchasing medicines to treat cardiovascular diseases. This amount did not include costs on other complex treatments referred to Gleneagles Jerudong Park Medical Centre and those sent abroad for treatments.

The ministry is preparing a stronger National Plan that is through the National Programme for Early Detection of Heart Diseases and Prevention of Heart Attacks - A Strategic Plan to Reduce Morbidity and Mortality Due to Heart Diseases in Brunei Darussalam.

The forum was organised by the Ministry of Health with collaboration of Gleneagles Jerudong Park Medical Centre held in conjunction with World Heart Day 2011 and the 18th Civil Service Day.

Its theme 'One World, One Home, One Heart' has a concept of encouraging the initiatives in increasing the healthy habits at home, the workplace among the community and also globally towards the efforts in reducing the cardiovascular disease. Several specialists and cardiologists made presentations on the dangers of the disease while two patients shared their experiences with the audiences.



Minister of Health in his speech calls for the need for a serious change in attitude towards the practice of a healthy lifestyle through physical activities.

PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN

Muara Port records increase in number of arrival

MUARA, December 8 – Muara Port recorded an increase in number of cruise ships, passenger and crew arrived for the past five years. The statistic showed that in 2009, Muara Port had 24 cruise ships calls with 20,599 passengers and 9,894 crews. Meanwhile, in 2010, the number of cruise ships had increased to 34 while the passengers recorded 33,960 and 14,310 crews registered.

Until the first week of December this year, 21 cruise ships had berthed at the port and they are expecting more by end of the year. The latest cruise ship berthed at Muara Port was MS 'AIDAdiva' which carried 2050 passengers and 1025 crews.

The Department of Port in the statement praised MS 'AIDAdiva' for choosing Muara Port as one of the berthing ports as this contributed to the increase in number of tourists arrived in Brunei Darussalam and also provides business opportunities to local freight travel agents, travel agents and other businesses.

Department of Port further said that they will continuously work closely with Brunei Tourism Board in joint promotion and marketing in an effort to attract more visitors to the country. The department will also discussed with cruising/ shipping agents to attract more cruise ships made frequent calls to Muara Port on the importance of maritime security and safety aspects.

UNISSA signs MoUs with Indonesian universities

YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA, December 8 – The Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) had signed memorandum of understandings (MoUs) with two Indonesian universities. The signings were held during the UNISSA entourage working visits to several universities in Indonesia beginning December 5.

The entourage was led by its Rector, Dr. Haji Serbini bin Haji Matahir/ Md. Tahir.

The universities visited include Universiti Islam Negeri (UIN) Syarif Hidayatullah, Jakarta and Universiti Gadjah Mada (UGM), Yogyakarta.

The first MoU was signed with UIN Syarif Hidayatullah, Jakarta on December 5 and followed by UGM, Yogyakarta on December 8.

Signing on behalf of UNISSA for was its Rector, Dr. Haji Serbini bin Haji Matahir/ Md. Tahir while UIN was represented by its Rector, Professor Dr. Komaruddin Hidayat. Also signing were Datin Dr. Hajjah Mariah, Acting Director of Mazhab Shafi'i Research Centre of UNISSA and Assistant Rector (Institutional Development) of UIN, Dr. Jamhari.

Meanwhile, for the second MoU with UGM, UNISSA were also represented by Dr. Haji Serbini and Datin Dr. Hajjah Mariah while UGM were by its Rector, Professor Ir. Sudjarwadi and Head of International Affairs Office of UGM, Dr. Rachmat Sriwijaya.

Among the understanding and cooperation agreed in the signed documents were to have joint academic research and project, conducting conference or seminar, producing academic publication, exchange of academician experts, student exchange programme in relevant field, conducting relevant activities and other cooperation in beneficial fields for both universities.

i-CLID pilot project launch

KUALA BELAIT, December 10 – The i-CLID Project is hoped will facilitate cross-border trade and movement of goods and transports in the BIMP-EAGA area to help the pillars of BIMP-EAGA in boosting relations. The i-CLID which combined RFID technology and web is one of the solution tools in providing facilities to enforcement agencies in controlling cross border activity at the control post.

The Intelligent Clearance ID Tag (i-CLID) Pilot Project was launched by Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Alaihuddin at the Sungai Tujuh Control Post.

The six-month pilot project will consist of research, planning, and data collection on cross border activities prior its implementation by Custom, Immigration, Quarantine and Security (CIQS) BIMP-EAGA.

The pilot project scope which involves Sungai Tujuh Control Post and Kuala Lurah Control Post had completely setup since last October and since that estimated movement of commercial transports can be obtained online. Next project will be carried out at Sabah and Sarawak Control Posts.

5th Special Olympic Borneo Cup

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 2 – Eight teams is participating in the 5th Special Olympics Borneo Cup 5-a-side Football Championship organised by Special Olympics Brunei Darussalam (SOBD).

Present to officiate the championship was Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium in Berakas.

At the championship, Brunei Darussalam listed three teams (A, B, & C); while Sabah and Sarawak sent one team each and three teams from Kalimantan (Bontang, Tarakan and Bontang). The champion will receive a trophy bestowed by Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah, Patron of Brunei Darussalam Special Olympics.



The championship which will run from December 1-4 which among others aims to showcase the talent and ability of special Olympic athletes in 5-a-side football although they lack intellectually. It also aim to share the sporting spirit and as an effort to strengthen relationship among the players.

This is the second time for Brunei to host the championship with the first in 2006.

Call to practice healthy lifestyle

TEMBURONG, December 11 - The Ministry of Health is constantly on the go to promote and create awareness on the importance of practicing a healthy lifestyle by conducting a number of awareness programmes. One such programme by the ministry is through 'Program Mukim Sihat' (Healthy Mukim Programme). This is one of the continuous strategic methods by the ministry to prevent and control chronic diseases and non-communicable diseases in which this programme is held nationwide.

The latest saw the programme carried out at Mukim Amo of Temburong District. Present to grace the event was the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan.

The Healthy Mukim Programme stressed on the importance of conducting daily physical activities and practice healthy nutrition apart from increasing the local community's awareness on health issues such as healthy lifestyle and the danger of chronic diseases.

Among the activities held were aerobic; 4-kilometre walkathon; health exhibition; healthy cooking contest; and the sale of local fruits.

1st ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports held

YOYAKARTA, INDONESIA, December 14 - ASEAN cooperation in the field of sports will provide an opportunity to work closely towards achieving 'Sports For All' for example through sharing experiences and best practices which provide an opportunity to learn from each other how to involves the public actively in sports and physical activities.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair stated the matter at the Plenary Session of the 1st ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Yogyakarta.

The minister said that in Brunei Darussalam, sports and physical activities are very important events and is a key strategy in overcoming health problems like obesity which is considered as disease of all diseases.

According to the minister, ASEAN member countries are still left behind in the pursuit of excellence in 'high performance' sports compared to other countries in Asia and globally. However, the minister believes that this can be improved through the cooperation and healthy competition.

The minister also stressed on the need to place the 'sports tourism' and sports industry, as the main agenda in cooperation.

The 2nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports will be held in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic in 2013.

17th ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 14 - The 17th ASEAN Transport Ministers (ATM) Meeting is expected to evaluate and agree on the mechanism to implement identified actions in the Brunei Action Plan 2011–2015 including the cost and monitoring of the mechanism. In the effort to realise the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015, the mechanism is needed so decisions that will be achieved will be based on the agreed period.

In attendance to represent Brunei Darussalam is the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdullah. The meeting will be held in Phnom Penh, the Kingdom of Cambodia on December 15; followed by ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting with dialogue partners on December 16.

ATM is one of the sectorial bodies under ASEAN that held annually to discuss issues of mutual interests and to set up the ASEAN Transport Sector Policy in order to realise the vision of the MPAC and AEC by 2015.

To achieve this, the cooperation efforts and integration in the ASEAN Transport Sector have been implemented based on a series of consecutive plans of action since 1994 that covers the land, air and maritime transportation and transportation facilitations.

Brunei established diplomatic relations with Palau and Serbia

PHILIPPINES, December 16 – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Republic of Palau have established diplomatic relations with effect from December 16, 2011.

The signing of the Joint Communiqué took place at the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam in Manila, Republic of the Philippines.

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was represented by the

Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Philippines, Her Excellency Malai Hajah Halimah binti Malai Haji Yussof; whilst the Government of Palau was represented by the Ambassador of Palau to the Philippines, His Excellency Mr. Ramon Rechebei.

Meanwhile, with effect from December 5, the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam established diplomatic relations with the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

The signing of the Joint Communiqué

took place at the Permanent Mission of Serbia to the United Nations in New York.

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was represented by His Excellency Latif Tuah, Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations in New York whilst Serbia was represented by His Excellency Mr. Feodor Starcevic, Permanent Representative of Serbia to the United Nations in New York.

9th Ministerial Forum on Infrastructure Development

HONG KONG, CHINA, December 17 - The 9th Ministerial Forum on Infrastructure Development in The Asia-Pacific Region has adopted a declaration of mutual understanding and the member countries steps forward with the signing on the effective use of land in urban and rural areas towards promoting sustainable integrated infrastructural development.

At the forum, the ministers agreed to adopt the efficient and effective preventive strategies to tackle the problems brought by natural disasters, including landslides and flooding. They also agreed in enhancing the city and building safety levels through the enhancement of standard design, development and maintenance to a recognised level of safety, improve the quality of urban life by implementing strategies, amongst others, pollution control, clean water supply, beautification and waste management.

Present at the forum on behalf of The Government of Brunei Darussalam was the Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi.

Brunei – Malaysia: Bilateral sea exercise

MUARA, December 19 - Royal Brunei Navy Force (TLDB) and Royal Malaysia Navy Force (TLDM) commenced its bilateral sea exercise from December 19 to 23. The bilateral sea exercise known as 'HORNBILL Exercise Series 21/2011' will involve 200 officers and crew and four vessels namely 'Kapal Diraja Brunei' (KDB) IJHTIHAD; and KDB AFIAT from TLDB; and 'Kapal Diraja' (KD) KEDAH; and KD GANAS from TLDM.

In attendance to officially launch the exercise was First Admiral Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Haji Abdul Halim bin Haji Mohd. Hanifah. Also present was Rear Admiral Dato' Anuwi bin Hassan, Commander Naval Region II, Royal Malaysian Navy and will be officially closed at Kota Kinabalu, Sabah Malaysia on December, 23. The exercise was launched at TLDB's headquarters in Muara.

The yearly exercise will start in Brunei Darussalam and ends at Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia. It aims to strengthen the diplomatic relation between both navy forces besides increasing the cooperation through understanding in operation doctrine, procedure in sea evolution and maritime warfare.

Certificate Ownership and Halal Label fully enforced in 2014



Acting Chairman of Municipal Board of Bandar Seri Begawan delivers his briefing.

BERAKAS, December 20 - The ownership of Halal Certificate and Label will be fully enforced on January, 2014. It will be enforced to all business license holders of restaurant premises, eatery places, bakery premises and beverage premises in the country.

The business license holders that failed to have their Halal Certificate and Label will not be able to renew their license after it expires. For Non-Muslim Foods, the owners are requested to put up the Non Halal Label outside and inside their premises.

The information was delivered by the Acting Chairman of Municipal Board Bandar Seri Begawan, Pengiran Haji Abd. Rahman bin Pengiran Seri Indera Pengiran Haji Ismail at a Roadshow Briefing for all owners and business license holders based in Bandar Seri Begawan Municipal Board area and Brunei-Muara District.

The roadshow was held at Muhibbah Hall in Berakas.

International Robot Olympiad 2011 Competition

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 20 - Brunei Darussalam's delegation to the 13th International Robot Olympiad 2011 in Tarumanagara University, Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia returned home with commendable awards. This year's competition carried the theme 'Robot for Helping People from Natural Disaster' participated by Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of South Korea, the People's Republic of China and the United States of America.

The competition was held from December 15-18.

According to the head of the delegation, Awang Azahan bin Haji Abdul Wahab, Education Officer at Science, Technology and Environment Partnership (STEP) Centre, Ministry of Education, each participating country had to invent and programme its own robot according to the category of its entry.

Nine-year-old Owen Anak Denis Tawan from the Muhammad Alam Primary School, Seria won in the 'Prison

Break Wheel Junior' category.

Meanwhile, Muhammad Akmal Ikrami bin Haji Mohammad Azmi and Ahmad Izzat bin Haji Ishak from the Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Science College emerged the champion in the 'Prison Break Wheel Challenge' and 'Prison Break Legged Challenge' category.

The six students are the winners of Brunei Robotics Olympiad organised by STEP. Next year's competition will be held in South Korea.

More health centres for better health care

PENKALAN BATU, December 28 - More health centres are in the pipeline in the bid to deliver better health services to the community. One health centre which is currently under development is the Pengkalan Batu Health Centre.

Present to oversee its latest development was the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan.

The construction of this health centre begun in November 2009 and is expected to be completed by June or July 2012.

This \$4.2 million centre is expected to house Outpatient Services and Facilities; Accidental and Emergency Section; Women and Children Section; Flu Clinic; Administration Section; and other facilities.

This new health centre is expected to serve a catchment of 15,000 to 20,000 people.



Images of the proposed health centre.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) OCTOBER 2011

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the first 10 months of 2011 increased by 2.1 per cent on average compared to the same period in 2010. CPI for October 2011 increased by 2.8 per cent compared to October 2010. The year-on-year increase was largely due to higher indices for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, following amendments to the excise duties for cigarettes, tobacco and tobacco products through the Customs Import Duties (Amendment) Order 2010 and Excise Duties (Amendment) Order 2010 effective from November 8, 2010.

Month-on-month changes showed that the CPI for October 2011 increased by 0.1 per cent over September 2011. This was due to increases in the indices for Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance (0.3 per cent); Transport (0.3 per cent);

Restaurant and Hotels (0.3 per cent); and Miscellaneous Goods and Services (0.1 per cent). On the other hand, decreases were recorded in Clothing and Footwear (0.6 per cent); and Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages (0.1 per cent), while the indices for Tobacco; Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels; Health; Communication; and Education remained unchanged.

An increase of 1.3 per cent in the price of Household Textiles mainly contributed to the increase in the Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance index. The index for Transport increased due to higher costs of Transport Services by 2.2 per cent. The growth in the Restaurants and Hotels index was caused by a 0.3 per cent increase in the price of Catering Services. An increase of 0.6 per cent in

the price of Personal Care items lead to the increase in the Miscellaneous Goods and Services Index.

The index of Clothing and Footwear fell as a result of decreased in prices of clothing. Meanwhile, the decline in the index of Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages was due to lower prices of Fish and Seafood; Milk, Dairy Products and Eggs; Vegetables; and Mineral Waters, Soft Drinks, Fruit and Vegetable Juices.

Note: CPI is a measure of price changes of goods and services paid by the consumer in a specified period. The list of goods and services in the CPI is based on the average expenditure per household from the Household Expenditure Survey. The CPI full report is available from Department of Economic Planning and Development's website: www.depdp.gov.bn

Donation for less-able students

PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID



One of the students receives donation at one of Special Aid Programme ceremonies.

TEMBURONG, December 29 – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam continue to ensure that its people receive good social services. One programme is by providing financial aid to the less-abled students which is the Special Aid Programme.

Through this programme, students who are less-able receive \$400 to assist them in preparing for the new school term. The latest saw 28 students to receive the aid where the presentation was held at Tanjong Maya Secondary School Multipurpose Hall.

Present to hand over the donations was Awangku Abdullah bin Pengiran Haji Tengah, Acting Permanent Secretary (Core Education) on December 20.

While on December 27, 1340 students from less-capable families in Brunei-Muara District received \$400 each. Present to hand-over the donations was Acting Director of Administration and Services, Ministry of Education, Awang Haji Kassim bin Haji Mohd. Yassin. It was held at Rimba II Secondary School.

Similar ceremony was held at Belait District on December 28 where 396 students received the donations. On hand to deliver the donations was Acting Director of Planning and Management Estate, Awang Haji Ibrahim bin Haji Bagol for recipients from secondary school students; while Deputy Director of Secondary Education Section, Pengiran Zahari bin Pengiran Haji Ahmad handed over the donations to primary school students. It was held at Sayyidina Ali Secondary School.

While for Tutong District, 363 students received the donations. Present to deliver the donations were the Deputy Director of Administration and Services of Ministry of Education, Awang Haji Ramli bin Ismail for primary students; and Acting Special Tasks Senior Officer (Secondary), Schools Department, Ministry of Education, Awang Cheung Huat Joo for secondary school students. The function was held at Tanjong Maya Secondary School on December 28.

On December 29, similar ceremony was held at Temburong District where 140 students received the donations. In attendance to present the donations was Permanent Secretary (Core Education), Ministry of Education, Awang Haji Mahrub bin Haji Murni. The function was held at Pekan Bangar Community Hall Complex.

Closer cooperation in education

TUNGKU LINK, December 29 – Brunei Darussalam's education sector received a boost with the signing of two Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) namely between Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and Korea's Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEP); and Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB) and Malaysia's Petrokon Utama Sdn. Bhd. (PUSB).

This MoU between UBD and STEP will further strengthen cooperation related to technology industry and innovation. Through this MoU, innovation research can be done based on Republic of Korea's goals besides exchanging of information and professional research on innovation.

Signing on behalf of UBD was UBD's Vice Chancellor, Dato Dr. Haji Zulkarnain while STEP was presented by its President, Professor Yeoul Hwangbo. The signing ceremony was witnessed by Ambassador of Korea to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Byung-Koo Choi. The function was held at UBD on December 28.

While amongst the agendas agreed through the MoU between ITB and PUSB will enable its engineering students to participate in PUSB's incentive scheme. Selected students for this scheme will receive financial incentive in their final year in a form of monthly top-up for government degrees and tuition fees and other allowances besides being offered a position in PUSB once they have completed their studies.

For this year alone, two students majoring in BSc. Engineering in the field of Electrical and Communication Engineering, one Higher National Diploma (HND) student in the field of Civil Engineering and five HND students in Mechanical Engineering are enlisted in this scheme.



PHOTO: DK NUR HAFILAH PG. OSMAN

Vice Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and President of Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEP), Korea shakes hand after the signing ceremony.

Change on pension and allowance's payment regulation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 29 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented for changes on Service Pension, Old Age Pension, and Less-Capable Allowance Payment Regulation.

The changes were announced by the Ministry of Finance where the payment for those pension and allowance will be rescheduled similar to civil service officers and staff monthly salary payment.

The regulation will be enforced on January 1, 2012.

DST National Football League launched

BERAKAS, December 3 – The DST National Football League 2011/2012 was launched where it is participated by 24 teams. The 29 teams comprised of 24 teams from Brunei-Muara District, two from Belait District, two from Tutong District and one from Temburong District.

Present to officially launch the league was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) as the Honorary President of National Football Association Brunei Darussalam (NFABD). Also present was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul 'Aleem.

The event took place at Berakas Sports Complex where one match was featured between Kota Ranger and BSRC from Group B. Kota Ranger won by 2-1.



Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul 'Aleem making a draw.

PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

Coffee Table Book: The Royal Regalia of Brunei Darussalam published

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 5 - The Department of Brunei Museums has published a coffee table book entitled 'Coffee Table Book: The Royal Regalia of Brunei Darussalam' with cooperation from project coordinators, Digital Impressions and DST Group as the sponsors.

The handing over of the book was held at The Royal Regalia Building in the capital.

The Director of Digital Impressions, Dato Paduka Haji Idris bin Haji Abas handed over the book to the representative of DST Group, Awang Abdul Latif bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusuf who in turn handed it over to the Director of Brunei Museums, Awang Bantong bin Antaran.

Present to witness the ceremony was Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Awang Haji Mohd. Rozan bin Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Yunos.

The publication of the book is one of Department of Brunei Museums' efforts to promote the museums and exhibition halls under its administration to visitors, and as a source of knowledge and information on culture and historical heritage of Brunei's civilisation.

The 119-page book contains nearly 80 pictures of historic events such as the Coronation of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, as the 29th Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on August 1, 1968 and the grand parade on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty's reign in 1992. The book also contains other important events including Brunei's history, collection of old royal regalia and the Brunei Constitution.

11th ASEAN TELMIN: Implementation of AIM 2015 to be reviewed

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 6 - The 11th ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministers Meeting (11th ASEAN TELMIN) will discuss several matters namely to review the early implementation of ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2015 (AIM 2015); to hold meetings with dialogue partners – People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Republic of India; as well as to hold a meeting with International Telecommunications Union (ITU). The meeting will discuss further measures to encourage international cooperation which will contribute to the implementation of ASEAN ICT projects.

In attendance to represent Brunei Darussalam is the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdullah. The meeting will be held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on December 8 and 9.

ASEAN TELMIN is an annual ASEAN ministers meeting responsible for ICT where the strategies to enhance ICT cooperation in this region will be discussed.

3rd Asian Ladies Invitational Interport Golf Tournament

JERUDONG, December 8 - Indonesia won the 3rd Asian Ladies Invitational Interport Golf Tournament; while Thailand and Singapore took the second and third place respectively.

The prizes were presented by the Acting Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Datin Paduka Hajah Adina held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

The five-day tournament were participated by golfers from Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand and Philippines organised by the Brunei Ladies Golf Association.

Commendable achievement at 4th Borneo Games

KALIMANTAN TIMUR, INDONESIA, December 11 - Brunei Darussalam's contingent to the 4th Borneo Games achieved commendable performances by bringing home eight gold, six silver and five bronze medals.

In the sports festival, the hosting country, the East Kalimantan emerged as the overall champion with 57 gold medals, 32 silver and 37 bronze medals; West Kalimantan in second place, Sarawak in the third, and Brunei Darussalam's contingent in the fourth place. South Kalimantan; Sabah; the Federal Territory of Labuan; and Central Kalimantan are among other countries that participated in the 4th Borneo Games.

The 4th Borneo Games held in East Kalimantan from December 4 to 11. The Federal Territory of Labuan will host the 5th Borneo Games in 2013.

Brunei participates 6th ASEAN Para Games

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 11 – Twenty-four athletes with special needs will be participated the 6th ASEAN Para Games that will be in Solo, Republic of Indonesia.

Brunei Darussalam's athletes will be taking part in three events namely athletics, chess and tenpin bowling.

The 6th ASEAN Para Games will be held from December 12 to 22.

Did you know that...

- The first mosque built within the Brunei Town (now known as Bandar Seri Begawan) was during the reign of Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam (1906-1924). The mosque was known as Masjid Marbut Pak Tuggal or Masjid Pekan Brunei but it was destroyed after being bombed during the Second World War in 1948.
- Brunei Darussalam's total land area of 5,756 sq.km are made of 4 per cent of private land, 3 per cent for institutional used, 37 per cent of forest reserve, and 56 per cent of government land that are not yet allocated.
- In January 2009, Ministry of Education has embarked on the National Education System for the 21st Century or *Sistem Pendidikan Negara Abad ke-21 (SPN21)*. SPN21 brought three major changes in the education system namely, the education structure, the curriculum and assessment, and technical education.

>> BRUNEI IN BRIEF

Official name is Negara Brunei Darussalam.

Capital is Bandar Seri Begawan.

It is located on the north-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia.

Land size is 5765 sq. km

Population is estimated at 414,400 people (2010).

It is divided into four districts – Brunei-Muara, Tutong, Kuala Belait and Temburong.

Malay is the official language but English is widely spoken.

Islam is the official religion and it allows other religions to be practiced.

National carrier is Royal Brunei Airlines.

It has an equatorial climate, a uniform temperature, high humidity and heavy rainfall.

Public Warning: The trafficking of controlled drugs carries the death penalty in Brunei Darussalam

>> HOW TO GET TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM?

There are a number of ways to reach Brunei.

- By air - Brunei's national carrier, Royal Brunei Airlines travels to more than 20 destinations around the world. The airline also has worldwide office for you to book a return flight to Brunei (to know the nearest RBA's office at your place, please log to: www.bruneiair.com)
- International airlines such as Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and Thai Airways also fly frequently to Brunei. Beginning July 2006, Air Asia, one of Malaysia's lowest airfare carrier has direct flight from Kuala Lumpur to Brunei.
- Arrival by plane would land you to Brunei International Airport (BWN), the sole airport in the nation.
- For those who enjoy journey by sea, you can reach Brunei by boat or ferry. The main ferry terminal in Brunei is the Serasa Ferry Terminal at Muara. You can catch a ferry from Labuan, Sabah or Lawas and Sundar, both in Sarawak, a state of the neighbouring country, Malaysia. Another option is via a boat from Limbang, Sarawak which will arrive at the jetty around Jalan Residency area in the Capital.
- You would have two options of entry point to Brunei by land transport. You can enter through the Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post in Belait District or the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post in Brunei Muara District. The Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post in Belait is the entry point for those from Miri, Sarawak and Kalimantan. While the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post is the entrance for those coming from Limbang, Sarawak and Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.