



## Enhancement of Brunei-Bangladesh relations

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 22** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, the Honourable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The Audience Ceremony took place at Cheradi Laila Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman.

Prior to the Audience Ceremony, His Majesty welcomed the arrival of Her Excellency the Honourable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh at Istana Nurul Iman, and subsequently introduced Her Excellency to members of the royal family.

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, the Honourable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh during the Audience Ceremony.

## Bilateral Meeting with President of the People's Republic of China

**BEIJING, April 26** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held a Bilateral Meeting with His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, which took place at East Hall, Great Hall of the People, Beijing.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

At the Bilateral Meeting, His Majesty and His Excellency discussed bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China and exchanged views on regional and international matters of mutual importance.

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, which took place at East Hall, Great Hall of the People, Beijing.



3. His Majesty receives audiences



9. Official Banquet in honour of PM of People's Republic of Bangladesh's Official Visit



10. Trade connectivity, an important component



11. His Majesty attends Gala Dinner



12. Prayer shapes a Pious Ummah



13. Charity Polo Day 2019



14. His Majesty presents Letters of Credence



16. CIPTA Awards Ceremony



17. Launching of Distribution of His Majesty's Personal Gift of Dates



19. Launch of 2<sup>nd</sup> BIBD Connects



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## His Majesty receives audiences

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience at Istana Nurul Iman:



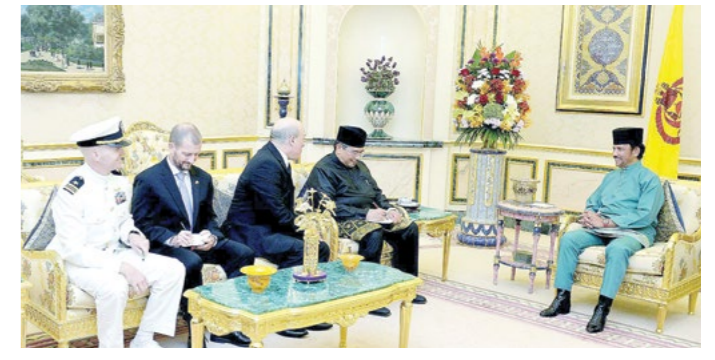
Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim, Member of Parliament of the House of Representatives (Port Dickson Parliamentary Constituency) and the President of the Parti Keadilan Rakyat, Malaysia on April 16.



Newly appointed Brunei Darussalam envoys, His Excellency Haji Mahadi bin Haji Maidin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; His Excellency Haji Shahbudin bin Haji Musa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Japan; Her Excellency Pengiran Hajah Nooriyah binti Pengiran Lela Wijaya Pengiran Haji Yusoff, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Republic of Korea; and His Excellency Haji Haris bin Othman, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the People's Republic of Bangladesh on April 15.



His Excellency Ismail bin Haji Salam, newly appointed High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam on April 15.



His Excellency Matthew John Matthews, newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Brunei Darussalam on April 15.



Assistant Minister for Utilities (Rural Electrification) of Sarawak as the Minister in charge of Sarawak's Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr. Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Junaidi on April 23.



Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan, His Excellency Kentaro Sonoura on April 23. Accompanying His Excellency were His Excellency Motohiko Kato, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam; and Mr. Shingo Miyamoto, Director, Second Southwest Asia Division, Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan.



His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Hamad Al Rumhy, Minister of Oil and Gas of the Sultanate of Oman on April 24. Accompanying His Excellency were His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed bin Hashil bin Rashid Al-Maskari, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam; and Mr. Harib Abdullah Al Kitani, Chief Executive Officer of Oman Liquefied Natural Gas, LNG.

## His Majesty sends message of condolences

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to send a message of condolences to:

- His Excellency Malthripala Sirisena, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and His Excellency Ranil Wickremesighe, Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, following a recent bomb attacks in Sri Lanka on April 22.

## Her Majesty receives audiences

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received in audience at Istana Nurul Iman:



Madam Ameena Mohd. A.M. Al-Maliki, spouse of His Excellency Jassim Ali Abdullah Al Obaidli, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Qatar to Brunei Darussalam on April 9.



Madam Elena Sermivolos, spouse of Vladen Stanislavovich Sermivolos, the outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Brunei Darussalam on April 30.



Her Excellency Homeira Rigi Zirouki, newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Brunei Darussalam on April 30.



Madam Rosita Ismail, spouse of His Excellency Ismail bin Haji Salam, newly appointed High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam on April 30.



Her Excellency Pengiran Hajah Nooriyah binti Pengiran Lela Wijaya Pengiran Haji Yussof, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Republic of Korea; Dayang Hajah Mahani binti Haji Taja'ah, spouse of His Excellency Awang Haji Mahadi bin Haji Maidin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; Dayang Hajah Zaidah binti Haji Abu Hanifah, spouse of His Excellency Awang Haji Shahbudin bin Haji Musa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Japan; Dayang Suraya binti Haji Salleh, spouse of His Excellency Awang Haji Haris bin Othman, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the People's Republic of Bangladesh on April 30.

## His Royal Highness the Crown Prince receives audiences

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Ministers' Office, consented to receive in audience at Qashr Al-Meezaan:



Newly appointed Brunei Darussalam envoys, His Excellency Awang Haji Mahadi bin Haji Maidin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; His Excellency Awang Haji Shahbudin bin Haji Musa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Japan; Her Excellency Pengiran Hajah Nooriyah binti Pengiran Lela Wijaya Pengiran Haji Yussof, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Republic of Korea; and His Excellency Awang Haji Haris bin Othman, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the People's Republic of Bangladesh on April 16.

## His Royal Highness the Crown Prince receives audiences



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His Excellency Matthew John Matthews, newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Brunei Darussalam on April 16.



His Royal Highness also received in audience His Excellency Vladen Stanislavovich Sermivolos, outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Brunei Darussalam on April 16.



Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan, His Excellency Kentaro Sonoura on April 23.



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## His Royal Highness receives audiences

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah received in audience outgoing envoys at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan:



His Excellency Emad bin Abdul Aziz bin Saad Al Muhanna, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Brunei Darussalam on April 18.



His Excellency Vladen Stanislavovich Sermivolos, outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Brunei Darussalam on April 18.

## Enhancement of Brunei-Bangladesh relations

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Also present at the Audience Ceremony were His Majesty's sons, brothers and sister; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkih; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkih; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Accompanying Her Excellency the Honourable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh were His Excellency Mr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, the Honourable Minister for Agriculture; His Excellency A.K. Abdul Momen, the Honourable Foreign Minister; His Excellency Mr. Salman Fazlur Rahman, Private Industry and Investment Adviser to the Prime Minister; His Excellency Mr. Imran Ahmad, the Honourable State Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment; His Excellency Mr. Md. Zahid Ahsan Russel, Honourable State Minister for Youth and Sports; His Excellency Mr. Nasrul Hamid, the Honourable Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources;

His Excellency Mr. Md. Ashraf Ali Khan Khasru, the Honourable State Minister for Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock; and His Excellency Mr. K.M. Khalid, the Honourable State Minister for Cultural Affairs.

Also present were Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism as the Minister-in-Attendance; and His Excellency Awang Haji Haris bin Othman, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

After the Audience Ceremony, His Majesty held a Bilateral Meeting with Her Excellency the Honourable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, which was held at Baitul Mesyuarah.

Also present was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince.

During the bilateral meeting, His Majesty and Her Excellency exchanged views on bilateral issues, regionally and internationally of mutual importance.

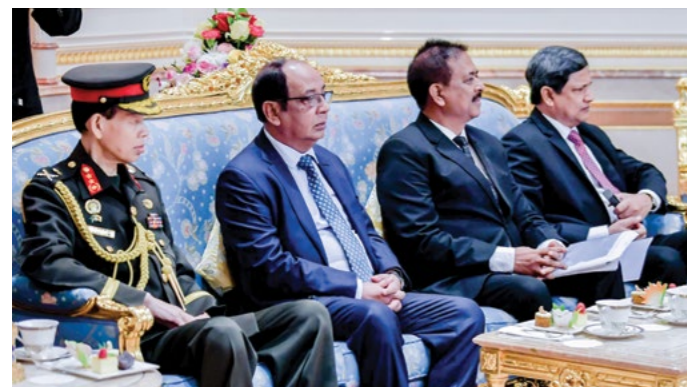
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Also present at the Audience Ceremony were His Majesty's sons, brothers and sister; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkih.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkih; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar, Yang Di-Pertua Adat Istiadat Negara; Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Setia Diraja Sahibul Karib Pengiran Anak Haji Idris and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Muhammad Ruzaini bin Pengiran Dr. Haji Mohd. Yakub. Also present were Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism as the Minister-in-Attendance; and His Excellency Awang Haji Haris bin Othman, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.



Among the delegation from the People's Republic of Bangladesh present during the Audience Ceremony.



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His Majesty in a *titah* (royal speech) expressed congratulations to Her Excellency on the recent election victory, which signifies the strong support and confidence of the people of Bangladesh in Her Excellency's vision for the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Her Excellency's commitment and firmness in advancing the economy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is admirable and under Her Excellency's leadership, the People's Republic of Bangladesh will continue to prosper.

In the *titah*, His Majesty expressed confidence that Her Excellency's visit to Brunei Darussalam will strengthen further the harmonious ties and friendship between both countries.

Her Excellency in her speech among others highlighted that the great importance of relations between the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Brunei Darussalam is founded on shared value, religion, culture, communication, and community. Her Excellency hopes that both sides will continue to expand cooperation.

After the Bilateral Meeting, His Majesty, together with Her Excellency, witnessed the Signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between the Government of His Majesty and the



Her Excellency the Honourable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh delivering her speech during the bilateral meeting.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the bilateral meeting with Her Excellency the Honourable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The MoUs were Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the field of Agriculture; Cooperation in the field of Fisheries; Cooperation in the field of Livestock; Cooperation in the Supply of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG); Cooperation in the field of Youth and Sports; and Cooperation in the field of Cultural and Arts.

The MoU on Scientific and Technical

Cooperation in the field of Agriculture was signed by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, on behalf of His Majesty's Government. While signing on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was His Excellency Mr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, the Honourable Minister for Agriculture.

The MoU on the Cooperation in the field of Fisheries was also signed by the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, on behalf of His Majesty's Government. While signing on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was His Excellency Mr. Md. Ashraf Ali Khan Khasru, the Honourable State Minister for Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.

The Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, on behalf of His Majesty's Government and the Honourable State Minister for Ministry of Fisheries and

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Among the delegation from the People's Republic of Bangladesh during the bilateral meeting.



Among the Cabinet Ministers present during the bilateral meeting.



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Livestock on for the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh also signed the MoU on the Cooperation in the field of Livestock.

The MoU on Cooperation in the Supply of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) was signed by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mat Suny bin Haji Md. Hussein, Minister of Energy, Manpower and Industry for His Majesty's Government and His Excellency Mr. Nasrul Hamid, the Honourable Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources for the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The MoU on the Cooperation in the field of Youth and Sports was signed by Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin on behalf of His Majesty's Government and His Excellency Mr. Md. Zahid Ahsan Russel, the Honourable State Minister for Youth and Sports for the People's Republic of Bangladesh.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Excellency the Honourable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh after the signing of Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) between His Majesty's Government and Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports also signed on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the MoU on Cultural and Arts Cooperation. While signing on behalf of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was His Excellency Mr. K.M Khalid, the Honourable State Minister for Cultural Affairs.



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, on behalf of His Majesty's Government and His Excellency Mr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, the Honourable Minister for Agriculture on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh signing the MoU on Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the field of Agriculture.



Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, on behalf of His Majesty's Government and His Excellency Mr. Md. Ashraf Ali Khan Khasru, the Honourable State Minister for Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh signing the MoU on the Cooperation in the field of Fisheries.



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mat Suny bin Haji Md. Hussein, Minister of Energy, Manpower and Industry on behalf of His Majesty's Government and His Excellency Mr. Nasrul Hamid, the Honourable Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources for the People's Republic of Bangladesh signing the MoU on the Cooperation in the Supply of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).



Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin on behalf of His Majesty's Government and His Excellency Mr. Md. Zahid Ahsan Russel, the Honourable State Minister for Youth and Sports for the People's Republic of Bangladesh signing the MoU on the Cooperation in the field of Youth and Sports.



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports on behalf of His Majesty's Government and His Excellency Mr. K.M Khalid, the Honourable State Minister for Cultural Affairs on behalf of the People's Republic of Bangladesh signing the MoU on Cultural and Arts Cooperation.

## Official Banquet in honour of PM of People's Republic of Bangladesh's Official Visit

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 22** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam held an Official Banquet in honour of Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, the Honourable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and delegation who are on an Official Visit to the country.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam with Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, the Honourable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh during the Official Banquet at Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present at the Official Banquet held at Istana Nurul Iman were were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.

Accompanying Her Excellency the Honourable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh were His Excellency Mr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, the Honourable Minister for Agriculture; His Excellency A.K. Abdul Momen, the Honourable Foreign Minister; and His Excellency Mr. Salman Fazlur Rahman, Private Industry and Investment Adviser to the Prime Minister.

Also in attendance were Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism as the Minister-in-Attendance and Datin.

The Official Banquet began with the recitation of *Doa Selamat* by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.

His Majesty then consented to deliver a *titah* (royal speech) highlighting that Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of Bangladesh have enjoyed cooperation in various fields of mutual importance and have seen active exchanges between both countries within the past years.

His Majesty stated that Her Excellency the Honourable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh's visit reflects the close and friendship, not only between the government of both countries but between the people as well.

This was followed by a reciprocal address by Her Excellency the Honourable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh who touched on the valuable relationship between both countries, based on shared values, religion, cultural linkage and commonalities in various aspects.

"This signifies an important achievement in the in bilateral relations that began over the past 35 years when both countries forged diplomatic relations," said His Majesty.

The signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) today will strengthen further our relationship and will ensure that it continues to keep strong in the future," added His Majesty.



Also present at the Official Banquet were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; and His Excellency A.K. Abdul Momen, the Honourable Foreign Minister.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam; and His Excellency Mr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, the Honourable Minister for Agriculture.



# Trade connectivity, an important component



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Leaders' Roundtable Session I : Boosting Connectivity to Explore New Sources of Growth.

**BEIJING, April 27** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Welcoming Ceremony in conjunction with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. The ceremony was held at Yanqi Lake International Conference Center.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to the events was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

At the Conference Center, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was welcomed by His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China. His Majesty and His Excellency then posed for a memorial photograph in conjunction with the Welcoming Ceremony.

His Majesty and the other leaders were then ushered to Jixian Hall for the first roundtable session of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. The session opened with a speech from His Excellency President Xi Jinping, and was followed by speeches from other Heads of State and Government.

In the first session, His Majesty delivered a *titah* emphasising on the need to enhance trade connectivity; to reinforce a stable and transparent multilateral trading system; as well as to strengthen the regional engagement such as ASEAN and APEC in order to boost trade linkages and pro-growth and business-friendly



His Majesty being greeted by His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China at the Welcoming Ceremony in conjunction with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, held at Yanqi Lake International Conference Center.

environments.

His Majesty stressed the importance of the early conclusion of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) between ASEAN and the five other partners, and a greater cooperation in strengthening air and maritime connectivity. His Majesty also encouraged the People's Republic of China to promote practical cooperation between Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity and the Belt and Road Initiative, and as a development partner of BIMF-EAGA to similarly explore synergies with other sub-regional initiatives, the Pan Beibu Gulf and other regions in China.

His Majesty added that the increased infrastructure development in the sub-region can promote growth in agri-food and natural resource production. Thus, His Majesty welcomed international

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His Majesty in a memorial photograph session at the Welcoming Ceremony in conjunction with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation.

# His Majesty attends Gala Dinner

After the Bilateral Meeting, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended a Gala Dinner hosted by His Excellency President Xi Jinping in conjunction with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. The Gala Dinner was held at the Great Hall of the People.

The arrival of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the hall was welcomed by His Excellency the President and wife. Before proceeding to the Dining Hall, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined His Excellency the President of the People's Republic of China and other leaders for a group photo.

The Gala Dinner began with a speech from His Excellency President Xi Jinping, welcoming all the leaders and all of their delegation. The Gala Dinner also featured a number of cultural and musical performances.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China and spouse. Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.



His Majesty with Leaders attending the Gala Dinner hosted by His Excellency President Xi Jinping in conjunction with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. Also present was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

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institutions such as Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, IMF, World Bank and Asian Development Bank to participate in the connectivity efforts.

On the digital economy, His Majesty stated the need to ensure the people can benefit from the advancements, especially with the onset of the fourth industrial revolution. His Majesty urged everyone to work together to provide accessible, secured e-platforms, and enhanced digital links to help the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

His Majesty also underlined the need to continuously investing in human resources and to ensure the communities along the initiatives of Belt and Road would benefit from sustainable development. His Majesty would like to encourage more exchanges between the people and also to promote tourism. His Majesty shared that these personal connections have enabled Brunei Darussalam to develop close partnerships and enhance mutual respect, trust and understanding. Brunei Darussalam will continue to work with the People's Republic of China and other partners to provide a better, safe and secure future.

After the first session, His Majesty attended a Working Luncheon



Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

for the Second Session Meeting. Before the Luncheon, His Majesty and other leaders posed for a family photo.

From the dining hall, His Majesty proceeded to the meeting hall for the final meeting session before leaving the Conference Center.

During the meetings, few key agendas were discussed including boosting of connectivity to explore new sources of growth; strengthening policy synergy and building closer partnerships; as well as efforts of promoting green and sustainable development in line with United Nation's 2030 Agenda.

# Prayer shapes a Pious Ummah

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 3** - Among the principles of Islam that should stand out is the call of the *Azan* for prayer. How pleasing would it be if the call of the *Azan* for prayers were not only in mosques, suraus and religious halls but can be heard even in public areas to announce the times for prayer while also establishing that these areas have a place to conduct prayers. As a Zikir Nation, the provision of facilities for worship at workplaces and at public centres is a significant element of Islam that must be duly emphasised. If these are available, performing prayers are easily taken care of among Muslims.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stated the matter in a *titah* (royal speech) at the National Level Israk Mikraj celebration for 1440 Hijrah / 2019 Masihi.

Upon arrival at the International Convention Centre, His Majesty was welcomed by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar, Yang Di-Pertua Adat Istiadat Negara; Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs as the Chairman of the Executive

Committee for Major Religious Events of 1440 Hijrah; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd. Daud, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Education; Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti; and Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar; Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs as well as other members of the Executive Committee.

Also present were His Majesty's sons and brothers; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah.

The ceremony began with a recitation of the Al-Quran from *Surah Al-Mu'minuun* verses 1-17, read by Pengiran Muhd. Amirul Aiman bin Pengiran Haji Marjuki, Education Officer at Hassanal Bolkiah Boys Arabic Secondary School, whereas the interpretation was delivered by Haji Isyrah Sadri bin Haji Osman, Education Officer at Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajah Rasidah Sa'adatol Bolkiah Secondary School.

The verses describe the seven attributes that brings success and happiness in the world and Hereafter which include faith in Allah the Almighty, performing prayers



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the National Level Israk Mikraj celebration for 1440 Hijrah / 2019 Masihi at the International Convention Centre.

and devotion to Allah the Almighty.

His Majesty then delivered the *titah* in which he also touched on verse 45 of *Surah Al-Ankabut* which highlights that performing prayers prevents viscous acts and wrong doings. Those who wish to be safe and abstain from wrong doings then pray, because it is one of Allah the Almighty's promise.

"I would like to emphasise that Brunei Darussalam is a delightful country that regularly gives priority to the worship of Allah. This is guided by the Malay Islamic Monarchy (MIB) philosophy that was instituted hundreds of years ago.

This system is obliged to protect and preserve the rights of the citizens and residents regardless of their ethnicity or creed. This is MIB, a venerable concept that is successful and content, present in a united community.

The MIB philosophy has also proved congenial towards the world, to the extent that whoever visits this country would gain a memorable experience, are able to enjoy the peaceful and harmonious environment as well as a warm hospitality. This is the essence of Brunei, an MIB nation, where anything other than that is not Bruneian," said His Majesty.

The event was enlivened with a stage performance titled '*Kasih Illahi*' or 'Love of Allah' performed by students of Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit Girls Arabic Religious Secondary School as well as a mass recital of *Sayyidul Istighfar* by students of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Tahfiz Al-Quran Institute.

A *Doa Selamat* was read by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.

The theme of this year's celebration is '*Sembahyang Membentuk Umat Bertaqwa*' or 'Prayer Shapes a Pious Ummah'.



His Majesty in a group photo with students who performed the stage performance '*Kasih Illahi*' or 'Love of Allah'.



A mass recital of *Sayyidul Istighfar* by students of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Tahfiz Al-Quran Institute.



Pengiran Muhd. Amirul Aiman bin Pengiran Haji Marjuki, Education Officer at Hassanal Bolkiah Boys Arabic Secondary School (left) reciting verses 1-17 of *Surah Al-Mu'minuun*.

# Charity Polo Day 2019



His Majesty presenting prizes to Team Minions, led by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah (above) and to Team Smurfs, led by Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah (below).



**JERUDONG, April 21** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Charity Polo Day 2019 at the Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club.

Accompanying His Majesty to witness the afternoon Polo match were His Majesty's children and siblings, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna.

The charity event, organised by the Royal Brunei Polo Association in collaboration with Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam consisted of character themes such as 'Smurfs', 'Shrek', and 'Minions', to raise funds to assist individuals with special needs at Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam.

Participating in the Polo championship were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen, who led Team Shrek; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah who led Team Smurfs; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah, who led Team Minions. Also in Team Minions were His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Abdul Qawi and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar.

During the Polo match, Team Shrek emerged as champion after winning against Team Minions by 4 - 3 and also against Team Smurfs by 2 - 0.

In second place was Team Smurfs, defeating Team Minions by 3 - 2.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting a trophy to the champion of the Polo match, Team Shrek, led by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen, at the Charity Polo Day.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah at the Charity Polo Day 2019.

His Majesty consented to present the trophy and prizes to the winners of the Polo match.

The Charity Polo Day attracted many visitors, who also got the chance to enjoy a number of Fun-Game activities at the nearby mini carnival. The event included a performance by the Polo Kids Riding Parade from the Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club.

The event was also enlivened with a lucky draw for those who had a ticket, with a chance to win exclusive prizes sponsored by the event organisers.

The highlight of the event was the auctioning of the framed jerseys of Team Shrek, Team Minions and Team Smurfs signed by His Majesty, other royal family members and the players of all three teams.

All raised funds from the event will go to the Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam, to achieve their aspiration to increase the quality of life of individuals with special needs in the country.

Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam is a non-governmental, non-profit charity organisation, established to provide excellent service to the community, especially children with special needs who are in the care of the centre as well as providing quality education, vocational training and rehabilitation services for those who are of intellectual disability.

## His Majesty presents and receives Letters of Credence

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 15** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei consented to present Letters of Credence to newly appointed Brunei Darussalam envoys.



His Excellency Awang Haji Mahadi bin Haji Maidin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Amman, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.



His Excellency Awang Haji Shahbudin bin Haji Musa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Tokyo, Japan.



Her Excellency Pengiran Hajah Noorayah binti Pengiran Lela Wijaya Pengiran Haji Yussof, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Seoul, Republic of Korea.



His Excellency Awang Haji Haris bin Othman, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Dhaka, the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also consented to receive Letters of Credence from the newly appointed foreign envoys to Brunei Darussalam.



His Excellency Ismail bin Haji Salam, newly appointed High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam.



Her Excellency Homeira Rigi Zirouki, newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Brunei Darussalam.



His Excellency Matthew John Matthews, newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Brunei Darussalam.

## His Majesty receives Letters of Credence from 17 non-resident Foreign Envoys



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with seventeen non-resident Foreign Envoys to Brunei Darussalam.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 29** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, received Letters of Credence from seventeen non-resident Foreign Envoys to Brunei Darussalam. They were:

His Excellency Isikeli Uluinairai Mataitoga, High Commissioner of the Republic of Fiji;

Her Excellency Constantina Koliou, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Greece;

His Excellency Krzysztof Debnicki, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland;

His Excellency Fabrice Maurice Ernest Filliez, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Swiss Confederation;

Her Excellency Akua Sekyiwa Ahenkora, High Commissioner of the Republic of Ghana;

His Excellency Dr. Ramadhani Kitwana Dau, High Commissioner of the United Republic of Tanzania;

His Excellency Dr. Abdulghani Nassr Ali Al-Shamiri, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Yemen;

His Excellency George Bitar Ghanem, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Lebanon;

His Excellency Mauricio Gonzalez Lopez, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Colombia;

His Excellency Pat Bourne, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Ireland;

His Excellency José Miguel Corvinos Lafuente, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Spain;

His Excellency Niclas Kvarnström, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Sweden;

His Excellency Jaroslav Chlebo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic;

His Excellency Hunter James Nottage, High Commissioner of New Zealand;

His Excellency Abdallah Suliman Abu Romman, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan;

His Excellency Walid A. M. Abuali, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Palestine;

and His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Ghassan Mohamed Adnan Shaikho, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The ceremony took place at Istana Nurul Iman.



## CIPTA Awards Ceremony



His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, who is also the Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Brunei as the Patron of the Crown Prince CIPTA Award presenting a prize to the first place winner of the second category for Local Category, Modifying Existing Product, Process or Technology category, Sufre bin Haji Muhammad with his 'Variable Speed Multi Grits Sender Machine' (VSGS) project.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 18** - The 'Water Leakage Detection and Management' project created by Dr. Haji Sharul Tazrajiman bin Haji Tajuddin and Nur Hamizah binti Haji Awang Harun won third place in the first category for the Local Category, which is the 'Creating New Product, Process or Technology' category. There were no first and second place winners nominated in this category.

Meanwhile, in the second category for the Local Category which is Modifying Existing Product, Process or Technology category, Sufre bin Haji Muhammad won first place with his 'Variable Speed Multi Grits Sender Machine' (VSGS) project; runner-up was the 'SPOTGENIC' Project (Plant Disease Detection System) by Abdul Hafiz bin Abdul Wahab and third place was the 'Vepo Device' project by Mohammad Zufikri bin Pengiran Haji Zulkifly, Muhammad Amirul Fahmiin bin Abdullah and Wan Nur Zahidah binti Metussin.

Consented to award prizes to the winners was His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, who is also the Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) as the Patron of the Crown Prince CIPTA Award at the Crown Prince CIPTA Awards Ceremony 2019, held at Dewan Serambi Suluh, Tarindak D'Seni.

The 'Eco BN - Waste Management Bin' project by Janelle Joyce Ampongan Peres, Muhammad Haziq Safwan bin Sheran and Nurayezha Barasi Nurul Islam, students of Seri Mulia Sarjana School received second place in the Creating New or Modifying Existing Product, Process or Technology by Young Inventors category, followed by the 'Blind Assist Sensory Suit' (BASS) project in third place by Adriana binti Masidey, Mohammad Dzy Anaqy bin Rudy and Siti Nurfatina Aleeya binti Jasmy, students from Berakas Secondary School.

The 'Smart Junior' Competition was won by Chung Ching Middle School students, Jordan Hee Shan Yung, Loo Chun Yung and Sharlaine Tan Qi Jie with their 'My PenPal - Pen for Dyslexics' project; while runner-up were Saariisha Theventharan, Yong Bong You and Ling Wei Ming, students from Chung Hua Secondary School with their 'Bfit Shoes: Burn the fat and be fit' project. Third place was won by students from Berakas Secondary School, Luqman Al Hakim bin Musa, Eta Nurzafirah binti Junaidi and Nor Zaidah binti Zainal Abidin with their project 'Innovative Green Energy Collector'.

Meanwhile, Siti Nurhasya Dinie binti Abdul Mahdi, Che Ku Ahmad Habib bin Che Ku Ahmad Amir dan Adam Fitri bin Mohd Shariff



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince presenting a prize to third place winners of the first category for Local Category, the Creating New Product, Process or Technology category, Dr. Haji Sharul Tazrajiman bin Haji Tajuddin and Nur Hamizah binti Haji Awang Harun with their 'Water Leakage Detection and Management' project.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince presenting a prize to first place winners of the 'Smart Junior' Competition, Chung Ching Middle School students, Jordan Hee Shan Yung, Loo Chun Yung and Sharlaine Tan Qi Jie with their 'My PenPal - Pen for Dyslexics' project.

Lei, from Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Tengku Lela Segara, Terengganu Darul Iman won the 'ASEAN Young Inventor' category in the ASEAN Category with their TE-Ractor project.

However, there were no winners for the ASEAN Category for 'New Invention and Innovation' as well as the Crown Prince CIPTA Awards 2019 trophy.

In an interview, Nur Hamizah binti Haji Awang Harun, third place winner of the 'Water Leakage Detection and Management' project for the Local Category, expressed her happiness and that she did not expect to win.

"We worked very hard on this project and this was the first time we participated for the sake of trying, but alhamdulillah although we did not get first place, we managed to get third place," said Nur Hamizah, who is a former UTB graduate.

Preparation for the project took three months and the idea to produce the project came about when one of her family members was facing water leakage problems outside their house.

Since then, she has been trying to find solutions to prevent water leaks outside houses, thus created 'Water Leakage Detection and Management'.

The project is an innovative product that detects water leakage in main water supply pipes outside houses.

Meanwhile, the ASEAN Young Inventor category was won Che Ku Ahmad Habib bin Che Ku Ahmad Amir, a student from Tengku Lela Segara Secondary School, Terengganu with the 'Te-Ractor' project, which is a seafood dryer and can detect weather changes and the presence of rain.

## Launching of Distribution of His Majesty's Personal Gift of Dates



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah as the Chairman of the Yayasan Board of Governors presenting His Majesty's Personal Gift of Dates to a representative of the Royal Brunei Police Force.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 16** - A total of 126 metric tonnes of Safawy dates were divided for all the Muslims in Brunei Darussalam, regardless of age and citizenship, where each person will receive a 300g box of dates.

The launching of the Distribution of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's Personal Gift of Dates in conjunction with the month of Ramadan 1440 Hijrah / 2019 Masihi was held at the International Convention Centre.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah as the Chairman of the Yayasan Board of Governors consented to grace the event.

The arrival of His Royal Highness was greeted by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Setia Diraja Sahibul Karib Pengiran Anak Haji Idris bin Pengiran Maharaja Lela Pengiran Muda Abdul Kahar as First Deputy Chairman of the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) Board of Governors; Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs as member of the Yayasan Board of Governors; Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yusof, Second Minister of Defence as the Chairman of the Yayasan Board of Directors; and Dato Paduka Awang Eddie bin Dato Paduka Haji Sunny, Managing Director of Yayasan as well as other members of the Yayasan Board of Governors.

The event commenced with the reading of *Surah Al-Fatihah* led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar, Chief Syarie Judge. This was followed by a welcoming speech by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yusof, Second Minister of Defence as the Chairman of the Yayasan Board of Directors.

His Royal Highness then delivered a *sabda* (royal speech) and presented His Majesty's Personal Gift of dates to Military Commanders as well as the Commandant of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) Training Institute; Formation Directors of the Royal Brunei Police Force; Penghulu Mukims and Heads of Village.



His Royal Highness presenting His Majesty's Personal Gift of Dates to a representative of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.



His Royal Highness presenting His Majesty's Personal Gift of Dates to one of the Penghulu Mukims and Heads of Village representing the citizens and residents in all districts.

To bless the ceremony, a *Doa Selamat* was read by the Chief Syarie Judge.

The launching ceremony marks the beginning of the Distribution of His Majesty's Personal Gift of Dates in conjunction with the month of Ramadan 1440 Hijrah / 2019 Masihi to all Muslim residents in the country.

All Penghulu Mukims and Heads of Village will then distribute His Majesty's Personal Gift of Dates to the residents in their mukims and villages. Military Commanders as well as the Commandant of the RBAF Training Institute and Formation Directors of the Royal Brunei Police Force too will distribute His Majesty's Personal Gift of Dates to officers and staff under their respective departments and formation units.

To ensure the distribution is carried out smoothly, YSHHB has prepared a distribution procedure and a special form to be distributed through the Heads of Village nationwide.

It is hoped that the Heads of Village and those who are responsible in distributing His Majesty's Personal Gift will follow the distribution procedures that has been set and will use the special form provided so that every Muslim in the country will receive theirs.

His Majesty's Personal Gift of Dates portrays the Monarch's care and attention towards the citizens and residents of the country.

## Brunei - Slovak Republic share parliamentary affairs

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 30** - Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Speaker of the Legislative Council (LegCo) received a courtesy call from His Excellency Jaroslav Chlebo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic at the Dewan Majlis Building.

Also present during the courtesy call was Rose Aminah binti Haji Ismail, Deputy Clerk of LegCo as well as senior officers of the Department of Councils of State.

The courtesy call is the first official meeting, signifying the good relationship between the two countries. Both sides had the opportunity to share issues related to legislative and parliamentary matters in both countries.

During the courtesy call, His Excellency Jaroslav Chlebo shared about the 4.0 revolution era in increasing capacity development which can be an example in generating the country's economy.

Both sides exchanged views and discussed on matters that can serve as a platform for collaboration such as providing assistance



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Speaker of the Legislative Council with His Excellency Jaroslav Chlebo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic during the courtesy call at the Dewan Majlis Building.

in the tourism industry and in other areas to deepen the good and close ties between the two parties.

## Launch of 2<sup>nd</sup> BIBD Connects

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 29** - Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD) has opened its second 'BIBD Connects' facility at Taman Mahkota Jubli Emas in the heart of the city as part of the bank's efforts to enliven communities and to promote social enterprise through the provision to MSMEs a platform for constant commercial engagement.

BIBD Connects is a community hub developed by BIBD to provide a convenient and unique one-stop shop for the public. The award-winning initiative is also equipped with amenities such as banking, food & beverage outlets and a dedicated public recreational and leisure area.

The second BIBD Connects was launched by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar, Minister of Development as Co-Chairman of the Bandar Seri Begawan Planning and Development Committee and Kampong Ayer Housing Issues; and Mubashar Khokhar, BIBD's Managing Director and CEO.

The latest BIBD Connects hub introduces a new and prominent landmark known as 'Frame Brunei Darussalam', a 9.3-metre structure built in the shape of a picture frame carrying Islamic motives designs and decoration.

Frame Brunei Darussalam offers dual viewpoints of Brunei's two most popular landmarks – the Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin (SOAS) Mosque and



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar, Minister of Development as Co-Chairman of the Bandar Seri Begawan Planning and Development Committee and Kampong Ayer Housing Issues; and Mubashar Khokhar, BIBD's Managing Director and CEO launching the second BIBD Connects.

Kampong Ayer (water village), where it will not only add value to Taman Mahkota Jubli Emas and the beautification of the city but will also help portray the unique culture, history and life of Bruneians.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy, who is also Chairman of BIBD, said: "This year marks one year since we successfully launched our first BIBD Connects location in Lambak Housing Scheme and I am proud that this initiative recently received global attention and acknowledgement in the form of an award."

"*Alhamdulillah*, following up on this success and in an effort to capture more

communities to enhance their lifestyle and provide them with the same convenience and engagement opportunities, we are happy to launch our second BIBD Connects – this time in the heart of the city. This is part of our strategy to promote the ease of doing business and boost opportunities among local MSMEs, in line with strategies under Brunei's Wawasan 2035," added the Minister.

The new BIBD Connects also features an interactive TV which allows the community to connect with the bank through live communication via webcam. Apart from showcasing the bank's latest products and digital services, the interactive TV will also assist the bank in data collection and will act as a service point through the BIBD Contact Centre.

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In providing visitors with useful information about Brunei, BIBD Connects will also feature a tourism directory in support of Brunei government's tourism campaign, the 'Kenali Negara Kitani' (KNK) or 'Know Our Country'.

Other amenities at the new facility include a walk-in ATM, an LED-TV, a VIP room, a security cabin, one unit of bicycle rack, shaded seating areas and a recreational garden.

The new community hub also houses local vendors such as Samalindang Gallery, Geo Eats, Piccolo Café, Happy Cream and Wanwana Sandwich.

Construction of the hub began on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2019 and was completed in 30 days, showcasing Brunei's capabilities on modern architecture, and BIBD's collaboration with local designers and contractors in design-thinking new concepts, and making them into a reality.



The Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism; and the Minister of Development touring one of the local food & beverages outlet housed at BIBD Connects.

## Brunei River a destination for tourist attraction

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 17** - Brunei Darussalam is currently experiencing a positive drive in tourism development.

However, efforts to continue conserving and retaining values, heritage, culture and history need to be maintained.

Thus, the 'Brunei River Heritage Trail' was introduced to educate and create awareness among locals and visitors about the history and birth of Brunei Darussalam.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, stated the matter at the 'Brunei River Heritage Trail' Promotion Ceremony which took place at the Royal Wharf in the capital.

According to the Minister, the ministry has seen an increase of 7.4 per cent of tourists coming to the country last year compared to the year 2017.

"We believe that it will continue to increase from time to time. *InsyaaAllah*, I hope we all will continue to strive to maintain the country's culture and heritage and continue to support and promote tourism for Brunei Darussalam," he said.

The 'Brunei River Heritage Trail' Promotion is one of the initiatives of the Brunei Tourism Development Department in its ongoing efforts in promoting and displaying the tourism products available in the country.

The Heritage Trail tour packages showcase the Brunei River as a tourist destination intended to provide information and to create awareness for local and foreign visitors on Brunei Darussalam's historical development.

The Brunei River is rich with its own history and with the launch of the heritage trail package, it is expected to enhance the preservation of Brunei's culture and heritage.

Among those included in the 'Brunei River Heritage Trail' is the story of the history of the establishment of traditional houses on the river banks now known as Kampong Ayer; the legendary history of the island, among them the '*Jong Batu*', which tells the story of Nakhoda Manis and his mother; and '*Lumut Lunting*' - the story of war between the kings of Brunei with the Majapahit empire in the legend of '*Syair Awang Semaun*'.



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism launching the 'Brunei River Heritage Trail' at the Royal Wharf.

The latest landmark of Brunei, the 750-metre Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha bridge can also be seen while following the heritage trail. In commemorating the name of Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha, the bridge is the world's second longest single-pylon cable-stayed bridge which is now one of Brunei's iconic landmark.

Islamic cultural sites can also be seen from the Brunei River such as the Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Mosque, Taman Mahkota Jubli Emas and the Golden Dome of Istana Nurul Iman.

In addition to the landmarks and historical sites located along the Brunei River, Kampong Sungai Bunga can also be seen and identified through the modern house-line on the water.

The village is a resettlement under the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to provide housing equipped with modern facilities for Kampong Ayer, with schools, clinics and other facilities available to the villagers.

With the increase in flight destination routes by Royal Brunei Airlines, the demand for diversified packages and tourism products offered will grow, not only for the international market, but also for the local market.

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In the meantime, with continued involvement and cooperation with stakeholders, agents and locals, the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism continues to be committed to further expanding tourism products and to attract more tourists to the country.

Travel agents are the key to bringing tourists to this country by actively promoting travel destinations and packages abroad as well as by providing quality packages and services.

At the same time, it is imperative for locals to take the opportunity to produce and to sell their products and handicrafts to meet the ever-changing market and customer needs. The purchase of local products is also part of the travel experience.

The promotional launch ceremony was also filled with mini exhibitions featuring various tourism products, comprising nine representatives from government agencies, travel service providers and villagers who exhibited and sold their products.

At the end of the event, the Minister along with invited guests and members of the Brunei Tourism Development Board were also taken aboard the Brunei River Cruise, which provided the opportunity to witness some of the interesting places offered in



The Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism (fourth, left) with invited guests and Brunei Tourism Development Board Members onboard the Brunei River Cruise.

the 'Brunei River Heritage Trail' package.

Also present were Members of the Legislative Council, Foreign Representatives to Brunei Darussalam, the Permanent Secretary and the Permanent Deputy Permanent Secretary, Brunei Tourism Development Board Members and senior government officials.

## Brunei – Japan discuss defence cooperation

**BOLKIAH GARRISON, April 23** - The Second Minister of Defence, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof received a courtesy call from His Excellency Kentaro Sonoura, Advisor to the Prime Minister (National Security) of Japan.

During the call, the Second Minister of Defence and His Excellency discussed bilateral issues, pertaining to defence cooperation matters. They also exchanged views on the current

defence and security issues of mutual concern. The Second Minister of Defence and His Excellency also recalled their meeting at the sidelines of the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA) where both parties attended in March this year.

His Excellency is in Brunei Darussalam from the 22<sup>nd</sup> until the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2019. His Excellency visited Brunei Darussalam previously in December 2017 to share on Japan's 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy'.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence (fifth, right) during the courtesy call from His Excellency Kentaro Sonoura, Advisor to the Prime Minister (National Security) of Japan (fifth, left).

## Farewell Visit by Former Chief of Airforce of RSAF

**RIMBA, April 8** - Major General Mervyn Tan, Former Chief of Airforce of the Republic of Singapore Airforce (RSAF) made a farewell visit to Royal Brunei Air Force this morning.

Major General Mervyn Tan, Former Chief of Airforce of the RSAF also had the opportunity to make a farewell call to Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, the Second Minister of Defence.

During the call, the Second Minister of Defence expressed his satisfaction on the robust and active defence relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore that was manifested through regular exchange of visits, dialogues, meetings, bilateral exercises, trainings, cross-attendance courses, professional exchanges, exhibitions and other programmes.

Major General Mervyn Tan also made a separate farewell call to First Admiral Pengiran Dato Seri Pahlawan Norazmi bin Pengiran Haji Muhammad, the Acting Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF). Also in attendance were the Commander of Royal Brunei Air Force and the Chief of Staff, RBAF. During the call, Acting Commander of the RBAF affirmed to strengthen bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore. Both sides also expressed their satisfaction on the



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, the Second Minister of Defence (right) with Major General Mervyn Tan, Former Chief of Airforce of the Republic of Singapore Airforce (RSAF) during the farewell call.

long-standing relationship and looked forward to enhance the defence cooperation in the future.

Major General Mervyn Tan handed over his position to Brigadier General Kelvin Khong Boon on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2019.

## MoU for healthier and safer working environments

**JERUDONG, April 18** - A healthy and safe working environment can increase productivity, while improving the morale of employees.

The Ministry of Health through the Health Promotion Centre will be conducting two programmes, namely WAH (Workplace And Health) and HEAL (Happy Environment And Lifestyle) to raise awareness on the importance of having a healthy and safe working environment.

To assist in the success of these programmes, Gleneagles JPMC Sendirian Berhad will assist in funding the programmes with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Health with Gleneagles JPMC Sendirian Berhad at a ceremony held at Pantai Jerudong Specialist Centre (PJSC).

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was the Deputy Permanent Secretary (Professional) of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Haji Zulaiddi bin Haji Abdul Latif, while signing of behalf of Gleneagles JPMC Sendirian Berhad was its Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Peter Tay.

Present as guest of honour and to witness the signing was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Md. Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health.

Also present was Dr. Lim Suet Wun



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Md. Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health (third, right), witnessing the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Health and Gleneagles JPMC Sendirian Berhad.

Chairman of Gleneagles Board of JPMC and Head of IHH Healthcare Berhad Head of Corporate Services; Dr. Hajah Norhayati binti Haji Md. Kassim, Head of Health Promotion Centre; and Awang 'Izzul Hamzi bin Haji Jomari, JPMC's Gleneagles Operations Manager.

Immediately after the signing, the event was followed by presentation of a replica cheque amounting to BND120,000.00, presented by Dr. Peter Tay to the guest of honour.

The WAH programme is aimed at encouraging workplaces to provide an

environment and actions that support employees to be more active, healthy, non-smoking and have good mental health.

In addition, the programme also aims to develop and strengthen healthy lifestyle programmes at work in all ministries in the country by 2021.

The HEAL programme aims to support the intervention of physical activity in a community environment through the strengthening and retention of social networks that create opportunities for physical activity.

## Quality healthcare at 'Sea View' Ward

**JERUDONG, April 17** - The Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC) held an official opening ceremony for the new general ward named 'Sea View'.

The ceremony was officiated by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Md. Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health in his capacity as Chairman and Executive Director of JPMC.

The Minister in his speech expressed his appreciation for the contribution of the employees of JPMC, for the renovation of the new general ward. According to the Minister, the ward is part of the hospital's vision, mission and core values to provide excellent, quality and compassionate health care for the customers. More importantly, the Ward is JPMC's way of providing viable options to our discerning and prudent clients without compromising on comfort and quality of care.

The opening ceremony started with a prayer recital led by Haji Ishkandar bin Haji Buntar and was later officiated with a ribbon cutting by the Minister.

The 'Sea View' Ward is part of an extension of the JPMC Executive Suite. The ward offers high quality healthcare at an affordable cost that caters for patients in need of hospitalization. During the event, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Md. Isham bin Haji Jaafar toured around the facility guided by Dr. Meera Sahib Kabeer, Medical Director of JPMC. The event was later concluded with a group photo of the Guest of Honour with the Senior Management & Staff of JPMC.

Dr. Meera Sahib Kabeer explained that the newly opened ward at JPMC, which overlooks the serene water of the South China Sea is fully equipped and set up with all the necessary medical equipment and fittings such as automated comfortable beds and a host of other amenities including complimentary Wi-Fi.



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Md. Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health in his capacity as Chairman and Executive Director of Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC) officiating the 'Sea View' Ward.

The ward will be manned by the same group of doctors, nurses, allied health professionals as well as hospital teams who have been instrumental in providing safe and quality care that JPMC has been known for.

The new general ward consist of four-bedded room from as low as BND90.00 per night, two-bedded & three-bedded room starting from BND120.00 and a single bedded room starting from BND150.00. The aforementioned rates does not include daily treatment fee.

For further information about the new 'Sea View' Ward or general information about our inpatient services, please contact directly to the JPMC Executive Suite at +673 261 1433 ext. 2370 or email directly to executivesuite.reception@jpmc.com.bn

## BDMD celebrates World Meteorological Day 2019

**RIMBA, April 1** - Brunei Darussalam via the Brunei Darussalam Meteorological Department (BDMD), Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications, as a member of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and as the national meteorological authority, celebrates the World Meteorological Day.

World Meteorological Day takes place every year on 23<sup>rd</sup> of March to celebrate the anniversary of the convention establishing World Meteorological Organization on 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 1950.

This day also commemorates the essential contribution of all the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services around the world to the safety and wellbeing of society.

Each year, the celebration focuses on a theme of topical interest chosen especially by the WMO. 'The Sun, the Earth and the Weather' is the theme of this year's World Meteorological Day which aims to highlight the role of the Sun in delivering the energy that powers all life on Earth, and drives the weather, climate, ocean currents and the hydrological cycle.

To celebrate this year's World Meteorological Day, the BDMD held a ceremony at the Garden's Veranda Hall, Rimba Garden Central.

The guest of honour was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications.

Also present were Yang Berhormat Members of Legislative



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications launching the Flash Flood Guidance System.

Council, Pengiran Mohd. Amirrizal bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Transport, Research and Development at the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications; Haji Hairul Mohd. Daud bin Haji Abdul Karim; Pengiran Haji Mohd. Zain bin Pengiran Haji Abd. Razak, Deputy Permanent Secretaries at the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications as well as Muhamad Husaini bin Aji, Acting Director of Meteorology; head of departments, deputy head of departments, and senior officers from the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications, as well as special invited guests which include representatives from weather and climate services end-users.

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The ceremony commenced with a welcoming speech by Muhamad Husaini bin Aji, Acting Director of Meteorology, as chairperson of the event.

In commemorating the occasion, the Minister of Transport and Infocommunications officiated the launching of the 'Brunei Darussalam Flash Flood Guidance System (BFFGS)'. The Flash Flood Guidance System is a tool that provides BDMD's operational forecasters with real-time informational guidance products pertaining to the threat of small-scale flash flooding. It also provides the necessary products to support the development of warnings for flash floods from rainfall events through the use of remote sensed precipitation and hydrological models.

The Minister in his speech highlighted that in moving forward bringing Brunei Darussalam towards a 'Smart Nation' status and in facing the '4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution', effective use of technology is an essential producing data that meets the needs of the nation.

The Minister explained that BDMD plays an important role in utilising the Industrial Revolution' developing technology, such as 'Internet of Things' (IoT) and 'Artificial Intelligence' (AI) which can

contribute towards achieving the country's vision 2035.

The Minister and invited guests later toured the World Meteorological Day 2019 exhibition that showcased educational information related to the new Brunei Darussalam Flash Flood Guidance System.

Other product services such as the BDMD's Colour-Coded Weather Warning and Weather Hazard Index System as tools to better prepare for extreme weather events, were also part of the exhibition.

Other government agencies from National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC), National Road Safety Council (MKKJR), Public Works Department (JKR), Department of Environment, Park and Recreation (JASTRE), Forestry Department, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Energy, Manpower and Industry Brunei Darussalam (MEMI), Survey Department, University of Technology Brunei (UTB) and a graduate from Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) also participated in the exhibition. Private companies such as RAB Global Green Sdn. Bhd., Rennovo Solutions Sdn. Bhd. and Rimba Garden Central were also part of the exhibition, showcasing weather-related products.

## Launching of Smarter Brunei-Telbru Hydroponics Garden

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 2** - The Smarter Brunei-Telbru Hydroponics Garden located at the SMARTER Brunei Centre in Jalan Sungai Hanching provides gardening opportunities for the centre's differently abled persons.

In conjunction with World Autism Awareness Day 2019 (WAAD 2019), the SMARTER Brunei Centre launched the SMARTER Brunei-TelBru Hydroponics Garden.

Present as guest of honour to launch the garden was Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

The Hydroponics garden is sponsored by Telekom Brunei Berhad (TelBru) and is supported by two private individuals who have donated equipment and materials as part of the SMARTER Brunei project.

With the establishment of the garden which practices the latest hydroponics methods, it will be able to provide SMARTER students another means of generating income, which has always been fully supported by TelBru to foster freedom among those who live with autism, an aspect that is considered important in the development of their life skills.

The products of their garden will be sold to the public who

are interested in supporting this local initiative fund that will be reinvested in the education of students.

WAAD is celebrated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of every April all over the world in an effort to increase autism awareness among the society.

This year, WAAD carries the theme 'Assistive Technologies, Active Participation' where autism supporters across the world have begun to shift their focus from consciousness to acceptance.



The Minister taking a closer look at the Smarter Brunei-Telbru Hydroponics Garden.



Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports (seventh, right) at the launching of the Smarter Brunei-Telbru Hydroponics Garden.

## Braille, Orientation and Mobility Workshop focuses on inclusivity of differently-abled persons

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 9** - The braille machine is an important tool for differently-abled persons (OKU) which enables them to read and write various information as well as current affairs.

Therefore, in an effort to give exposure to the public on the use and the importance of the braille machine for differently-abled persons, the Community Development Department (JAPEM) has organised the Braille, Orientation and Mobility Workshop.

The workshop was conducted with the cooperation of the Special Education Unit of the Ministry of Education; Special Religious Education Unit of the Islamic Studies Department; Ophthalmology Department of the Ministry of Health and the Brunei Darussalam National Association for the Blind (BDNAB), as well as volunteers from University Technology Brunei (UTB).

Present as guest of honour and to launch the Braille, Orientation and Mobility Workshop was Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

At the launching, the Minister stated that the workshop is one of the action plans that done inclusively by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports in collaboration with government agencies, private agencies and related organisations.

“This year we are also applying the idea of inclusivity towards OKU, where two trainings will be conducted for visually impaired persons and hearing impaired persons,” said the Minister.

Inclusivity is one of the main key in ensuring the success of the action plans.

“We want to train the differently abled especially the children who are visually impaired to acquire the skills to communicate and use these skills in their studies,” said the Minister.

Also present was Yang Berhormat Dayang Khairunnisa binti Awang Haji Ash’ari, Legislative Council member; Muhammad Hamzi bin Omar, President of BDNAB; and Rostinah binti Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Sura Pahlawan Dato Paduka Awang Haji Tahir, Acting Director of JAPEM.

The Braille, Orientation and Mobility Workshop is divided into five sessions throughout the month of April until October. The first session will be held for 15 days, which already began on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April until the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2019.



Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports witnessing the use of braille machines by the visually impaired students.

The workshop attracted as many as 52 participants comprised of students, parent, government officers and teachers.

The workshop included a briefing titled ‘*Memata-matai Mata Awda*’ which means ‘Looking after your eyes’ delivered by Pengiran Dr. Noor Affizan binti Pengiran Haji Abd. Rahman, Ophthalmology Consultant from the Ministry of Health and an eye screening.

Participants were also introduced to the braille machine as well as its functions, technical orientation and mobility in both theory and practical. Other than that, participants were also introduced to the functions, techniques and use of the White Crane.



One of the visually impaired students trying the braille machine at the Braille, Orientation and Mobility Workshop.



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