



32nd National Day Celebration Grand Assembly

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 22-23 -
On the eve of the 32nd National Day of Brunei Darussalam, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) highlighting that challenges have great potential to bring change. Hence, do not fear change but face it with wisdom. It is wisdom that determines whether that change will be for the better.

Touching on the theme of the National Day this year, His Majesty said that the theme, 'Generation with a Vision' is appropriate because a nation that aspires to continue progressing really needs a generation with vision.

His Majesty also stressed that the citizens and residents must free themselves from all loss-causing traits such as folding arms and the lack of patriotism. These traits should no longer exist in the era of independence because independence itself is the driver and to move towards being more 'super' and progressive, not lazier and weaker.

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah 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) in conjunction with Brunei Darussalam's 32nd National Day.

The Special U.S. - ASEAN Leaders Summit Retreat 1 of the Special U.S. - ASEAN Leaders Summit

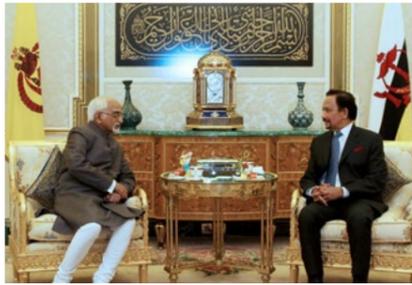


His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah in a group photo with His Excellency Barack Obama, President of the United States of America and leaders of ASEAN.

CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, February 15 – The stronger cooperation towards promoting innovation and the digital economy is important as key strategies to spur economic growth.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah 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) while attending the Retreat 1 of the Special United States of America - ASEAN (U.S. - ASEAN) Leaders Summit which was held at the Great Room, Sunnylands Welcome Centre, Sunnylands Centre and Gardens.

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3. His Majesty receives audiences



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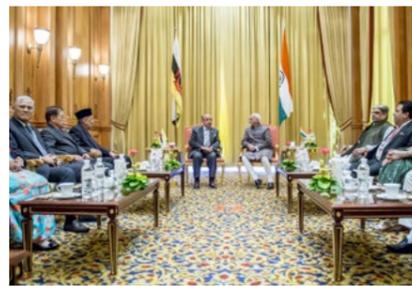
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17. MORA - Ministry of Hajj, Saudi Arabian reach agreement



17. Brunei – India ink three MoUs



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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 audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman:



His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice President of the Republic of India on February 2.



His Excellency Chirdchu Raktabutr, outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam on February 27.

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 audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman:



Madam Salma Ansari, spouse of the Vice President of the Republic of India on February 2.



Madam Parichart Raktabut, the spouse of the Ambassador of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam on February 2.



Siti Noorazimah binti Pehin Orang Kaya Maharaja Diraja Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Wahab, spouse of the Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Lao People's Democratic Republic on February 2.

His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

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 consented to send congratulatory messages to:

- His Excellency Hassan Rouhani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the occasion of Iran's National Day on February 11.
- His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait and His Highness Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait on the occasion of Kuwait's National Day on February 25.

His Majesty sends messages 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 message of condolences to:

- Her Excellency Angela Merkel, the Chancellor Federal Republic of Germany following the recent train collision in Bavaria on February 10.
- His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey, following the recent bomb explosion in Ankara on February 18.

32nd National Day Celebration Grand Assembly (continued)

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The Monarch added this is where bravery and optimism are important. Every person should dare to become a pioneer besides being open-minded on whatever is pioneered or explored.

The country needs daring pioneers who will impact positively on progress and spur the Gross Domestic Product to increase.

His Majesty also emphasised that solidarity and harmony are essential because they will catalyse peace and stability which are vital to development. Thus, both peace and stability need to continue to be protected.

Particularly during the economic downturn, both peace and stability are much needed to balance the situation, added the Monarch.

His Majesty said that with peace, the country still has the opportunity to remedy the situation either through improvement or sustaining efforts such as austerity measures, while waiting for a new dawn of economic recovery.

Patriotism, nationalism, unity and solidarity of citizens and residents in the country were clearly shown at the Grand Assembly of the 32nd Brunei Darussalam National Day Celebration held at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien.

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 consented to join his subjects in celebrating the 32nd National Day.

Also present were His Majesty's sons and brothers, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's



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 during the 32nd National Day Celebration.

Office; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Mateen and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel.

The Grand Assembly commenced with the national anthem. His Majesty then consented to inspect a Guard of Honour mounted by personnel of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) and Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF). This was followed by a march-past, by more than 21 thousand participants representing

126 teams led by the Flag-Bearers carrying a giant sized National Flag, followed by the oath readers, a team bearing the national flags and logo of the 32nd National Day, RBAF, RBPF, uniformed organisations, National Service Programme (PKBN) Trainees, persons with exceptional abilities, ministries and government departments, district representatives, private sector, higher education institutions, colleges, schools, associations, public organisations and foreign associations.

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His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen at the event.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel at the event.

32nd National Day Celebration Grand Assembly (continued)

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His Majesty inspecting the Guard of Honour mounted by personnel of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and Royal Brunei Police Force.



The ceremony continued with *Silat Cakak Asli* and *Kuntau* performance comprising students of Sayyidina Abu Bakar Secondary School, Army and Police Cadets, PKBN Trainees led by the National Silat Association (PERSIB).

The reading of the Oath was led by Haji Abdul Hafiz bin Haji Md. Daud, followed by the resounding of 'Allahu Akhbar' by Redzuan bin Meludin.

Performance with the theme of 'Generation with a Vision' was performed by 6,832 youth which was divided into six segments in the form of images, texts and movements. The six images highlighted in the performances described the meaning of independence, national revenues, economic diversification, obstacles and challenges to success, mindset change towards Brunei Vision 2035 and the importance of a competitive generation.

Before leaving the event, His Majesty consented to mingle with the participants.



March-past from Ministry of Education (left) and Royal Brunei Catering (right).



The Special U.S. - ASEAN Leaders Summit (continued)

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His Majesty in the *titah* expressed pleasure with the United States' continued emphasis on strengthening its engagement with ASEAN.

The Monarch also stressed the importance for ASEAN and U.S. to discuss cooperation to address challenges facing the global economy, such as declining oil prices and volatilities in financial markets.

His Majesty also emphasised the importance of stronger cooperation towards promoting innovation and the digital economy as key strategies to spur economic growth, which is also one of the key priorities in ASEAN's Vision 2025 towards elevating the region up the global value chain.

Thus, His Majesty expressed hope for U.S. to share their best practices in creating an enabling environment that can nurture the growth of innovation and creativity in the region.

In this regard, such could be done, among others through the creation of an internship programme for

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah 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 Retreat 1 of the Special United State - ASEAN (U.S. - ASEAN) Leaders' Summit which was held at Great Room, Sunnylands Welcome Centre, Sunnylands Centre and Gardens.

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The reading of the Oath led by Haji Abdul Hafiz bin Haji Md. Daud.



An overview of the National Day performance.



Some of the students who participated in the National Day performance.



The Special U.S. - ASEAN Leaders Summit (continued)

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ASEAN nationals with various U.S. companies, as one possible way towards contributing human resource development.

Lastly, His Majesty acknowledged that technological advancements are making it easier for businesses, both big and small, to operate globally.

Therefore, His Majesty emphasised the importance of promoting greater use and awareness of technology and the digital economy in order to stay competitive in the global

economy.

His Majesty's arrival at the Sunnylands Welcome Centre, Sunnylands Centre and Gardens was greeted by His Excellency Barack Obama, President of the United States of America.

Retreat 1 began with an Opening Remarks by the President of the United States of America followed by the Opening Remarks from His Excellency Choummaly Sayasone, President of Lao's People Democratic Republic as Chairman of ASEAN.

Working Dinner

CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATE, February 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 Darussalam attended a Working Dinner for the Special U.S. - ASEAN Leaders Summit.

During the working dinner, the Leaders held strategic discussions on the Asia Pacific region including the United States' engagement and supporting the ASEAN Community; as well as upholding ASEAN Centrality and ASEAN-led mechanisms.

The leaders also discussed ways to address shared challenges to regional peace and stability.

The Working Dinner was held at the Living Room, Sunnylands Historic Home, Sunnylands Centre and Gardens. His Majesty's arrival at the Sunnylands Historic Home was welcomed by Ambassador Peter Selfridge, Chief of Protocol, United States of America.



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 Working Dinner for the Special U.S.-ASEAN Leaders Summit.



Retreat 2 of the Special U.S. - ASEAN Leaders Summit



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 discussion with His Excellency Barack Obama, President of the United States of America and leaders of ASEAN.

CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATE, February 16 - Addressing terrorism and violent extremism comprehensively through education and people-to-people exchanges is important.

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 highlighted the matter in a *titah* (royal speech) while attending Retreat 2 of the Special U.S. - ASEAN Leaders Summit which was held at the Living Room, Sunnylands Historic Home, Sunnylands Center and Gardens.

The Monarch also emphasised the importance of addressing the threats of terrorism and violent extremism in a comprehensive manner by addressing social vulnerabilities through education, tolerance, moderation and understanding.

His Majesty expressed his support in promoting inter-faith dialogues and moderation such as under the United Nations

Alliance of Civilisations and the Global Movement of Moderates.

His Majesty also acknowledged the benefits of greater student exchanges between ASEAN Member States and the U.S., as a way to promote greater understanding and trust among communities and individuals.

Earlier, Retreat 2 began with an opening remark by His Excellency Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, followed by the opening remarks from His Excellency Choummaly Sayasone, President of Lao's People Democratic Republic as Chairman of ASEAN.

During Retreat 2, the leaders discussed issues related to terrorism, transnational challenges and maritime security.

At the end of Retreat 2, His Majesty proceeded for a group photo session with leaders of the United States of America and ASEAN.

1,234 receive house key

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 4 - 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 consented to present house keys to 1,234 recipients under the National Housing Scheme and the Land Scheme for the Indigenous. The event took place at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

The event began with the reading of the *Surah Al-Fatihah* led by Pengiran Dr. Haji Badaruddin bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman, Syaria Subordinate Court Judge, Brunei Muara District, followed by a welcoming speech by Awang Misle bin Haji Abdul Karim, Acting Brunei-Muara District Officer, who among others said that under the wise rule of His Majesty, the people of the country continue to enjoy a life of comfort.



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 house key to a recipient.

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1,234 receive house key (continued)

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A total of 1,009 recipients were awarded with terrace houses and semi-detached houses under the Kampung Panchor, Mengkubau; Meragang, Tanah Jambu and Rimba National Housing Scheme. Meanwhile, 225 recipients were awarded houses under the Land Scheme for the Indigenous in Kampung Mata-Mata Katok 'B', Kampung Tungku Katok 'A' and Kampung Lugu.

According to the Housing Development Department, Ministry of Development, more than 27,000 houses have been constructed and from the amount 24,682 units of houses have been awarded to eligible recipients throughout the country. 15,844 units were recipients from the Brunei-Muara District.

After the house key presentation, His Majesty consented to visit Mukim Gadong 'B' and three schools.

His Majesty first consented to visit the home of the Penghulu of Mukim Gadong 'B', Major (Rtd) Awang Haji Bakar bin Sapar.

His Majesty then continued with visits to seven of the recipients' houses at Kampung Panchor-Mengkubau National Housing Scheme as manifest His Majesty's strong and caring character and concern for the well-being of the people, and to ensure the people enjoy good affordable houses continues to be implemented through the housing schemes.

The International School of Brunei (ISB) at Jalan Utama Salambigar in Kampung Sungai Hanching was among the main focus of His Majesty's visit. The school is equipped with top quality and modern facilities.

Also studying at the school are His Majesty's children and grandson, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.

The Menglait Secondary School in Gadong was another school visited by the Monarch. The school began operating as Menglait Primary School since 1973 and was upgraded to secondary school on January 1, 1973. With 552 students from Year 7 to Year 11, the school has 87 teaching force which emphasises on top quality education within a loving community as a way to produce dynamic individuals.

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His Majesty presenting a house key to one of the recipients.



His Majesty during his visit to one of the key recipient's house, Mohammad Rezal bin Haji Ibrahim.



His Majesty during the visit one of the recipient's house at Kampung Panchor-Mengkubau National Housing Scheme.



Some of the recipients under the National Housing Scheme and the Land Scheme for the Indigenous.



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Mabohai Primary School at Jalan Jawatan Dalam was also visited by His Majesty. The school's vision is towards the excellent co-curricular education standard equivalent to Brunei Vision 2035, while the mission of the school is to

polish talent and skill, potential and character of pupils in the involvement of co-curriculum based on the Malay Islamic Monarchy. The school has 248 pupils from Pre-school to Year 6.



His Majesty sharing a light moment with ISB students.



His Majesty with His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah during His Majesty's visit to International School of Brunei.



His Majesty during his visit to Mabohai Primary School.



His Majesty during his visit to Menglait Secondary School.



His Majesty in a group photo with one of the recipient's family.

His Majesty visits Tamu Kianggeh



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 taking a closer look at their daily activities at Tamu Kianggeh.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 7 - 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 consented to pay a visit to Tamu Kianggeh in the capital.

Happiness brightened the vendors' and visitors' faces as they welcomed His Majesty.

The Monarch's deep care and attention towards the condition of his subjects is greatly reflected during His Majesty's visit to take a closer look at the activities and condition of Tamu Kianggeh which is always busy especially on the weekends.

During the visit, His Majesty took the opportunity to interact with the vendors while at the same time taking a closer look at their daily activities at the market. Such attention shows the close relationship between the Monarch and his subjects.

Despite the rain, His Majesty continued the visit with members of the public, who took the opportunity to greet and convey their sincere thanks for the caring Monarch's visit. Tamu Kianggeh is a convenient place to purchase daily necessities at reasonable prices.



His Majesty interacting with the vendors at the market.

Legal Year brings together Brunei's legal fraternity

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 4 - The opening of the Legal Year 2016 held at the High Court, Supreme Court Building was attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Muta-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

The Honourable Dato Seri Paduka Haji Kifrawi bin Dato Paduka Haji Kifli, Chief Justice officiated the Opening of Legal Year 2016 with the inspection of the Guard of Honour comprising of Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) personnel.

This was followed by remarks from the Chief Justice; Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Paduka Hajah Hayati binti Pehin Orang Kaya Shahbandar Dato Seri Paduka Haji Mohd. Salleh, Attorney General and Mohamad Rozaiman bin Dato Seri Laila Jasa Abdul Rahman, President of the Law Society.

As part of the court's efforts to further enhance access to justice, the Chief Justice during the opening of the Legal Year 2016 announced that the Small Claims Tribunal (SCT) will open its doors to the other three districts this year. Individuals will be able to have easy access to the tribunal in filling their claims and have their cases consulted and heard in their respective districts.

A channel of cooperation has also been established between all relevant stakeholders that deal with small claims, namely the Labour Department and the Department of Economic Planning and Development.

He said that the aim of the SCT is to provide easy access to justice, cheaper, faster and less formal adjudication of cases.

He added that the main method of resolving such cases is through mediation at the consultation stage and in turn, the court users will feel more assured knowing that mediators who deal with their cases are

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Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Muta-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah at the opening of the Legal Year 2016.



The Honourable Dato Seri Paduka Haji Kifrawi bin Dato Paduka Haji Kifli, Chief Justice inspecting the Guard of Honour comprising of Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) personnel.

Legal Year brings together Brunei's legal fraternity (continued)

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accredited. On the issue of legal aid, the Chief Justice said that the access to the court system is one of the main stays of the rule of law.

The Chief Justice stated that Brunei Darussalam has been successful in creating a pool of senior and experienced members of the bar under the legal aid scheme to represent defendants charged with death penalty offences.

In Brunei Darussalam, provision of legal aid is subject to certain conditions and legal representation is not appointed as of right. Defendants when applying for legal aid have to undergo an examination of their financial means and if it is

assessed that the defendants clearly could not afford their own counsel, legal representation would be appointed for them by the court.

He added that based on statistics gathered for the past 10 years, 19 applications were granted for legal aid with a sum of about \$318,170.00 having been paid out to legal representatives under the scheme.

The Chief Justice emphasised the importance of the legal aid scheme as part of the justice system and stated that not all capital defendants have the financial means to appoint their own private legal representation. Therefore it is of utmost importance that legal aid

continues to be part of the legal system so that poor capital defendants are afforded with adequate and qualified legal representation. This will ensure that these defendants are of the same equal footing as a capital defendant who can afford their own private legal representation.

He also added that appointed legal representatives should also be adequately remunerated for their services to ensure that they will continue to take on death penalty cases for poor capital defendants.

The opening of Legal Year is an annual gathering that brings together Brunei Darussalam's legal fraternity.



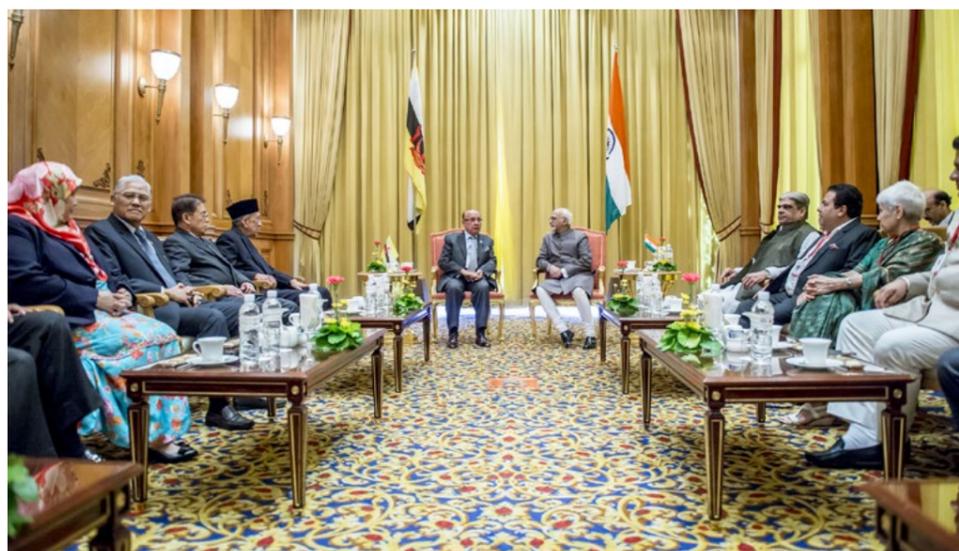
The opening of the Legal Year 2016 held at the High Court Building-Supreme Court.



Some of the Brunei Darussalam's legal fraternity at the opening of the Legal Year 2016.

Brunei - India discuss mutual interest matters

JERUDONG, February 2 - Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of India will continue to strengthen bilateral relations and the long standing friendly relations. The matter was discussed during a meeting between Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, the Speaker of the Legislative Council and His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice President of the Republic of India at the Empire Hotel and Country Club. The meeting also touched on the other matters of mutual concern or interest.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, the Speaker of the Legislative Council receiving a courtesy call from His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice President of the Republic of India and delegates. Also present were Legislative Council Members.

Vice president of Republic of India official visit

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 2-3 - His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Hamid Ansari, the Vice President of the Republic of India and spouse, Madam Salma Ansari, are currently in the country for an official visit.

His Excellency and spouse first paid a visit to Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin (SOAS) Mosque located in the capital.

The visit began with a video presentation on the history of the mosque, followed by touring the mosque.

In the evening, His Excellency and spouse attended a reception night held at the Empire Hotel and Country Club hosted by the High Commission of India and Indian community in Brunei Darussalam.



His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Hamid Ansari, the Vice President of the Republic of India signing the tour book at the Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin (SOAS) Mosque.

His Excellency noted the valuable service that Indian people have rendered to the local community, in fields such as health and professional services and praised for their service in Brunei and confident that in years to come they will continue to do that work consciously to see more bilateral cooperation.

The next day, His Excellency delivered a speech at the Senate Room, Chancellor Hall, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

His Excellency highlighted that the sustained economic growth in India is driven by a youthful population with rising aspirations, make India one of the most dependable long term energy markets in the world.

"At present, India imports crude oil worth USD 1 billion from Brunei. Though India is the third largest importer for Brunei, the total import from Brunei was only a fraction of India's global crude imports of more than USD112.748 billion in 2014-2015," said His Excellency.

His Excellency said India's growing economy provides an opportunity to move beyond the typical energy seller-buyer relationship and has tremendous potential to diversify and generate value-addition in the hydrocarbon export chain.

In this context, said His Excellency, India is keen to work with the government of

Brunei in setting up a fertiliser plant using hydrocarbon resources that is available in the sultanate for producing fertilisers to meet agricultural requirement in India.

His Excellency added that this mutually beneficial project will create additional revenue streams and local employment.

His Excellency expressed gratitude for the assistance and cooperation rendered by Brunei in India's space programmes through the Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in Brunei, where the network was a crucial component in India's spectacular success in deploying the Mangalyaan in orbit around Mars. India also looks forward to continuing our cooperation in this area.

Currently, 10,000-strong Indian community of professionals like doctors, engineers, entrepreneurs, teachers and skilled personnel are grateful to His Majesty's Government for the support extended to the expatriate Indian community in Brunei.

"The quality of our professionals is a testimony to the strength of academic institutions in India. This is another area for us to collaborate. We would welcome more exchange of students, teachers and researchers from the academic institutions in Brunei, including this university. Such exchange would augment our people-to-people contacts. We are also keen to work with Brunei to expand mutual tourism by enhancing connectivity and streamlining visa and travel document requirements," His Excellency said.



His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Hamid Ansari delivering a speech at Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

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Vice president of Republic of India official visit

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His Excellency added that India has made rapid strides in Information Technology in recent year and this will generate additional revenue streams.

As trading economies, India and Brunei have an interest in maintaining the safety of sea-lanes and maritime security.

For some years now, Indian naval ships have been visiting Brunei and Brunei naval ship have also participated in some of the joint exercises.

His Excellency stated that India and Brunei also cooperate closely on several issues in international bodies, including in the United Nations (UN) and the Commonwealth. India appreciates Brunei's understanding of India's enhanced role in the UN and support for its candidature for permanent membership in the UN Security Council.

India and Brunei, said His Excellency share common perspectives on several global issues including climate changes where India has a long history and traditional of harmonious co-existence between man and nature, in fact regard fauna and flora as part of their family. This is part of Indian heritage and manifested in lifestyles and traditional



His Excellency and spouse, Madam Salma Ansari at the reception night hosted by the High Commission of India and Indian community in Brunei Darussalam.

practices.

His Excellency further said, India also values the support extended by Brunei in making India a full dialogue partner of ASEAN and in the on-going India-ASEAN FTA negotiations.

"It reflects Brunei understands the 'Look East' policy of India which aims at integrating India's multifaceted relations with ASEAN and beyond."

With the advent of a new government, said His Excellency, India upgraded their policy towards South-East and East Asia from 'Look East' to 'Act East' - to indicate India's resolve to move with a great sense of priority and speed to intensify their cooperation in security, trade, investment, connectivity and capacity building and strengthening people-to-people linkages with the ASEAN countries.

Brunei - Kuwait strengthen diplomatic relationship

JERUDONG, February 25 - The Embassy of Kuwait celebrated its 55th National Day with a dinner reception at the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

Present to represent the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, Minister of Education.

At the event, the Minister of Education and His Excellency Dr. Fahad Mashary Al-Thafiri, Kuwait Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam were invited to a cake-cutting ceremony.

His Excellency in his speech, highlighted the growing relations between Kuwait and Brunei, saying that over the past few years, bilateral relations have had steady progress, boosted by the frequent exchange of official visits between the two countries.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, Minister of Education and His Excellency Dr. Fahad Mashary Al-Thafiri, Kuwait Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam during the cake-cutting ceremony.

MORA - Ministry of Hajj, Saudi Arabian reach agreement

SAUDI ARABIAN, February 28 - The Ministry of Religious Affairs (MORA) and the Ministry of Hajj, Saudi Arabian agreed to continue their cooperation for the arrangement of the welfare, facilities and comfort for the Bruneian hajj pilgrims.

This matter was agreed during the ministerial-level Hajj Management Meeting between MORA and Ministry of Hajj which was held in Jeddah.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, the Minister of Religious Affairs and Yang Berhormat Dr. Bandar bin Mohammed bin Hamzah As'ad Al-Hajjar, Minister of Hajj Management Saudi Arabia attended the said annual meeting.

The meeting was organised by the Ministry of Hajj, Saudi Arabian government every year with countries that will send hajj pilgrims in the upcoming hajj



Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, the Minister of Religious Affairs and Yang Berhormat Dr. Bandar bin Mohammed bin Hamzah As'ad Al-Hajjar, Minister of Hajj Management Saudi Arabia during the meeting.

session.

Earlier, MORA expressed gratitude to Saudi Arabian government for the good cooperation and support given by Ministry of Hajj during the previous hajj season.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Hajj Management was very satisfied with the cooperation of hajj pilgrims from Brunei Darussalam and the management of Brunei's hajj pilgrims during the hajj season last year.

Brunei - India ink three MoUs

Present at the signing ceremony was His Excellency Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice President of the Republic of India; Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports; Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Dr. Awang Haji Zulkarnain bin Haji Hanafi, Minister of Health; and First Admiral (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Abdul Aziz bin Mohd Tamit, Deputy Minister of Defence.



JERUDONG, February 2 - Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of India have strengthen their ties following the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) on Defence, Youth and Sports Affairs and Health Cooperation.

Signing the Defence MoU on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Datin Paduka Hajah Suriyah binti Haji Umar, Permanent Secretary of Defence.

The MoU sets the framework for bilateral cooperation on defence between Brunei Darussalam and India, including activities such as exchange visits at official and working levels, training and the conduct of joint military exercises.

With the signing of the MoU, Brunei Darussalam and India recognised interest in defence cooperation and increasing commitments of both countries in fostering the cooperation.

Both countries also signed an MoU on

Youth and Sports Affairs. Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Affendy bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Permanent Secretary of Culture, Youth and Sports signed the MoU on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The signing of MoU on Youth and Sports Affairs is to encourage and promote youth and sports cooperation between both countries apart from the exchange

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Brunei – India inked three MoUs (continued)



Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Affendy bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Permanent Secretary of Culture, Youth and Sports signing the MoU on Youth and Sports Affairs on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, while signing on behalf of Government of Republic of India was His Excellency Anil Wadhwa, Indian Secretary (East) of External Affairs



Datin Paduka Hajah Suriyah binti Haji Umar, Permanent Secretary of Defence signing the defence MoU on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, while signing on behalf of Government of Republic of India was His Excellency Anil Wadhwa, Indian Secretary (East) of External Affairs.

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programmes and so on.

Awang Haji Zakaria bin Haji Serudin, Permanent Secretary of Health signed an MoU on Health which will be able to further strengthen cooperation that can contribute to the enhancement of healthcare quality to the people and residents of both countries.

Signing all three MoUs on behalf of the Government of the Republic of India was His Excellency Anil Wadhwa, Indian Secretary (East) of External Affairs.

Present at the signing ceremony was His Excellency Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice President of the Republic of India; Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yusoff, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports; Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Dr. Awang Haji Zulkarnain bin Haji Hanafi, Minister of Health; and First Admiral (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Abdul Aziz bin Mohd Tamit, Deputy Minister of Defence.



Awang Haji Zakaria bin Haji Serudin, Permanent Secretary of Health signing the MoU on Health on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, while signing on behalf of Government of Republic of India was His Excellency Anil Wadhwa, Indian Secretary (East) of External Affairs.

Russia seeks opportunities for collaboration with UNISSA

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 9 - His Excellency Vladlen Stanislavovich Semivolos, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Brunei Darussalam made a courtesy call to Dr. Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, Rector of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA).

The meeting aimed to discuss future collaborations and strategic cooperation in the field of education, especially in Islamic studies.

According to His Excellency, Russia currently has 20 million Muslims, 170 mosques and four universities offering Islamic studies courses conducted in Arabic.

It is also an advantage to have exchange students from Russia since UNISSA also offers most of its courses in Arabic.

His Excellency said he is very optimistic in the development of Islamic education and learning cooperation networks between Brunei Darussalam and Russia where both countries have unique cultural and Islamic heritage to be studied together as well as the potential to be a tourist destination.



His Excellency Vladlen Stanislavovich Semivolos, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Brunei Darussalam and Dr. Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, Rector of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali during the courtesy call.