



Opening of the 12th LegCo session

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 5 - It is time for a transformation in business strategy and widening opportunities by not only focusing on self-sufficiency but also on an export-based approach.

The matter was highlighted by 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 *titah* (royal speech) while officiating the 12th Legislative Council (LegCo) session.

Outlining some of the focal areas that should be given special attention, His Majesty called on the private sector to explore and leverage on existing regional and international trade mediums to help spur the economy.

His majesty said that effort to facilitate the economy through effective enhancement and streamlining must go on. There are a number of concrete steps the government has recently introduced to enhance



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) while officiating the 12th Legislative Council (LegCo) session.

the business environment through infrastructural and regulatory changes to ensure a pro-business and solid private sector. Thus, His Majesty urged

entrepreneurs to be more competitive in order to be successful and seize not only domestic but also international opportunities.

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Working visit to PKBN Training Camp

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 10 - 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 made a working visit to the National Service Programme or also known as the 'Program Khidmat Bakti Negara' (PKBN) Training Camp to have a close look at the development and activities of the 5th Intake Trainees.

Shortly after the arrival, His Majesty received the Royal Salute followed by the National Anthem. His Majesty then inspected a guard of honour mounted by the 5th Intake trainees involving 286 youth, comprising of 190 male and 96 female trainees.

His Majesty then witnessed several performances by the PKBN trainees and training activities such as command task, rock climbing, abseiling and high ropes challenge.

His Majesty also viewed the PKBN Alumni Mini Gallery Exhibition at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex Indoor Stadium in Berakas. The exhibition showcases the activities and achievements of former trainees after they became PKBN alumni.



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 visit to the National Service Programme or also known as the 'Program Khidmat Bakti Negara' (PKBN) Training Camp.

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MARCH 2016 - VOLUME 31 ISSUE 3

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

is published monthly by the Department of Information. It reports on government, social and business events in the country. All money values are expressed in Brunei dollars \$, unless otherwise stated. Any information in this newsletter may be reproduced; a clipping of the publication would be appreciated. For free subscription (excluding postage) please write to the Distribution Unit, Department of Information, Prime Minister's Office, Old Airport, Berakas BB 3510, Brunei Darussalam.

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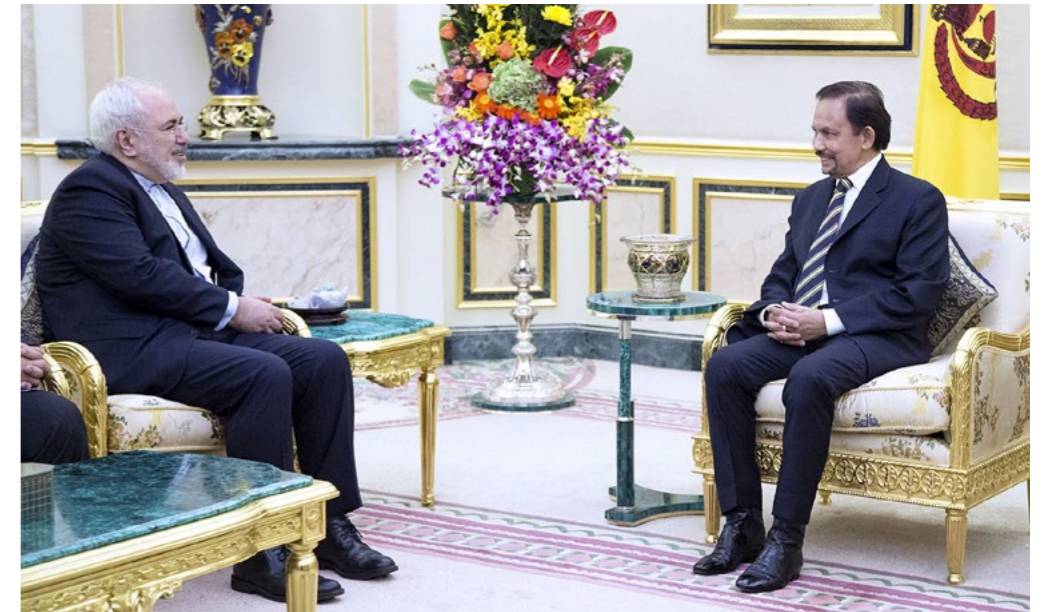
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His Majesty receives audiences

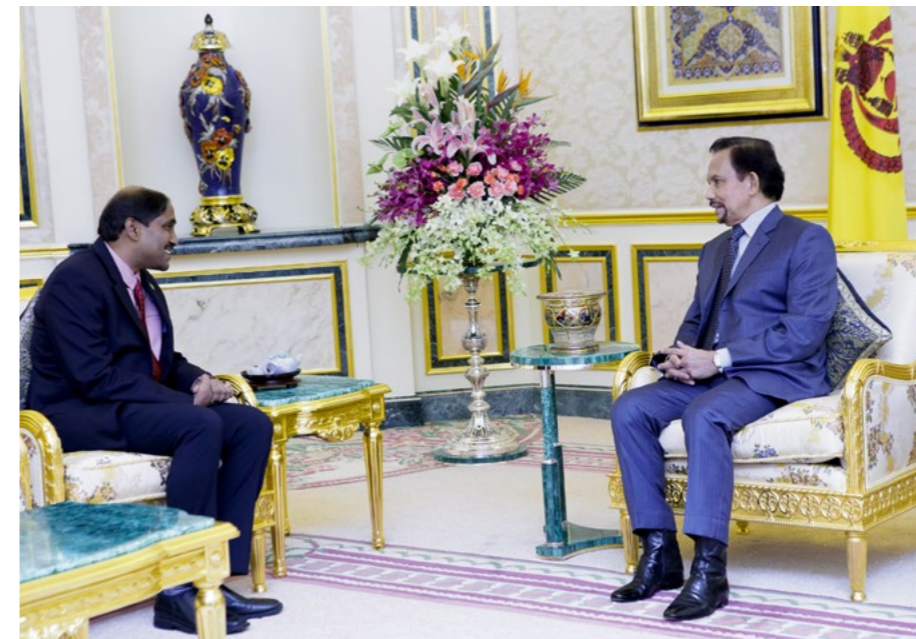
His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman:



His Excellency Manuel A. Gonzalez Sanz, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Republic of Costa Rica on March 8.



His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran on March 9.



His Excellency Jaya Ratnam, the outgoing High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam on March 12.

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 the Istana Nurul Iman:



Her Excellency Nagma Mohamed Mallick, the newly-appointed High Commissioner of India to Brunei Darussalam on March 3.



Madam Ashraf Imaniye, spouse of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran on March 9.



Datin Dayang Hajah Rafiah binti Mohd. Arif, spouse of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the United States of America on March 9.

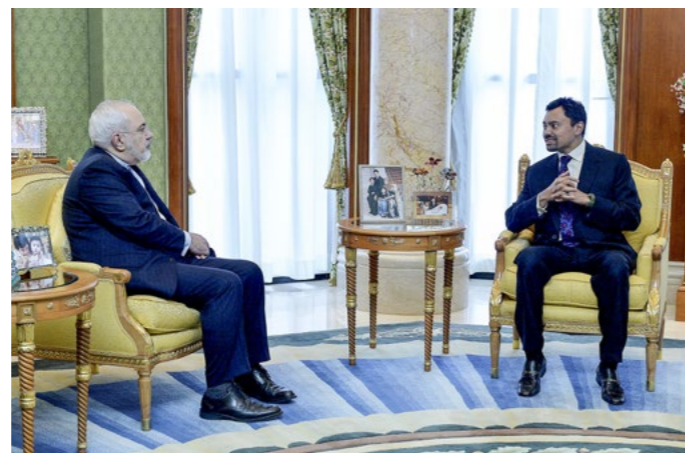


Madam Sujatha Ratnam, spouse of the outgoing High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam on March 14.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince receives audiences



His Excellency Manuel A. Gonzalez Sanz, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Republic of Costa Rica on March 8.



His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran on March 9.

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His Excellency Dato Paduka Awang Haji Serbini bin Haji Ali, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the United States of America on March 10.



His Excellency Jaya Ratnam, outgoing High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam on March 10.



His Excellency Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Yusoff bin Haji Awang Ismail, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on March 29.



His Excellency Lim Hong Huai, High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore on March 29.

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 U Htin Kyaw, President-elect of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of his appointment as new President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on March 19.
- His Excellency Mamnoon Hussain, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and His Excellency Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the occasion of Pakistan Day on March 23.
- His Excellency Md. Abdul Hamid, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on the occasion of the Independence Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on March 26.

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 messages of condolences to:

- His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey, following the recent bombing in Ankara on March 14.
- His Excellency Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, following the recent air plane crash in Rostov-on-Don on March 21.

Opening of the 12th session of LegCo (continued)



His Majesty inspecting the guard of honour.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Legislative Council Chamber Hall.

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The government has recently introduced to enhance the business environment through infrastructural and regulatory changes to ensure a pro-business and solid private sector.

“Any strategies or initiatives must take a ‘delivery approach’ to achieve the desired results,” stated His Majesty.

His Majesty reiterated the need for LegCo members to focus their deliberations on strategic issues that bring positive impact to the country, while reminding that issues being discussed must be followed up with action, and any achievements must be measured because if not, improvements cannot be made.

During the opening ceremony of the 12th LegCo, His Majesty received a royal salute and inspected a guard of honour. His Majesty was then ushered into the Legislative Council Chamber Hall accompanied by the *cokmar* or the Royal Mace.

Also present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office as Ex-Officio Member of the LegCo; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

Prior to the official opening ceremony, the first meeting of the 12th LegCo session also saw the swearing-in of five new Cabinet Ministers.

The LegCo session this year is chaired by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman as Speaker of the LegCo, who will be assisted by Yang Dimulikan Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Jaya Dato Paduka Haji Judin bin Haji Asar, Clerk of the LegCo and Rose Aminah binti Haji Ismail, Deputy Clerk of the LegCo.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office as Ex-Officio Member of the LegCo; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah in a group photo with Legislative Council members.

Working visit to PKBN Training Camp (continued)

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During the visit, His Majesty signed a commemorative parchment and received a *pesambah* (souvenir).

Before ending the visit, His Majesty proceeded to mingle and meet with the 5th PKBN Intake trainees as well as their parents and guardians, followed by photo session.

The 5th PKBN Intake began on the 6th of last December and will end on the 14th of this month, aimed to encourage and motivate the trainees to play a positive and effective role in society and the country.

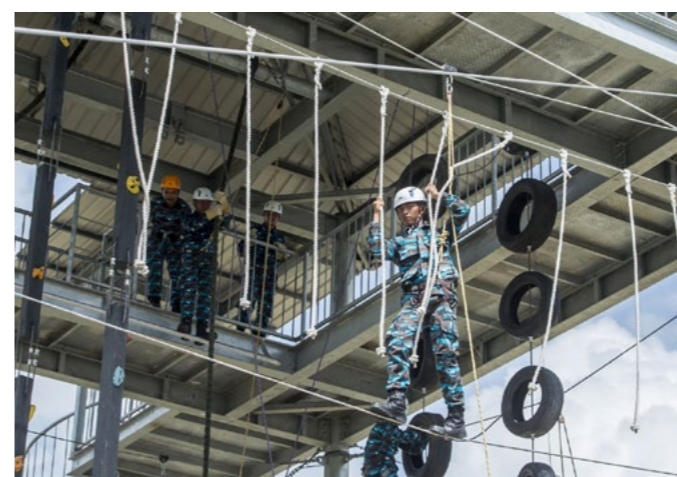
The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports will continue to monitor the achievements and successes of the PKBN Programme including feedbacks from the trainees as well as their parents and guardians. Apart from that, the Ministry and the programme’s strategic partners will continue to develop the youths in the moral, social and community service aspects.



His Majesty inspecting the guard of honour mounted by the 5th Intake trainees.



PKBN trainees during the march past.



PKBN trainees undergoing their Abseiling and ‘High Ropes Challenge’ training.



PKBN trainees undergoing their ‘Command Task’ training.

His Majesty presents and receives Letters of Credence



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 presenting a Letter of Credence to His Excellency Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Yusoff bin Haji Awang Ismail, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



His Majesty receiving a Letter of Credence from His Excellency Biravij Suwanpradhes, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam.



His Majesty receiving a Letter of Credence from His Excellency Lim Hong Huai, the High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 23 - 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 presented Letters of Credence to Brunei Darussalam's newly-appointed Ambassador and received Letters of Credence from three newly-appointed envoys to Brunei Darussalam. The ceremony took place at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty first presented a Letter of Credence to His Excellency Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Yusoff bin Haji Awang Ismail, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia who previously served as the Deputy Minister of Education.

His Majesty then received a Letter of Credence from His Excellency Datuk Ghulam Jelani bin Khanizaman, the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam, who previously served as Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Rural Development, Sabah; His Excellency Biravij Suwanpradhes, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam who previously served as Ambassador attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand; and His Excellency Lim Hong Huai, the High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam, previously served as Director-General of Southeast Asia at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore.

Following the ceremony, His Majesty received in audience Brunei Darussalam's newly-appointed ambassador. His Majesty then received in separate audiences the newly-appointed envoys to Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty receiving a Letter of Credence from His Excellency Datuk Ghulam Jelani bin Khanizaman, the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam

Their Majesties attend CNY celebration



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 and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam receiving a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from the Tiong Hwa community.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 7 - 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 and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam graced the Chinese New Year

celebration with the Tiong Hwa community at the International Convention Centre.

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkhiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam; as well as other members of the royal family at the event.

Their Majesties attend CNY celebration

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Accompanying Their Majesties at the event were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam; as well as other members of the royal family.

During the event, the audience were enthralled with a dance performance by Kuala Belait's Chung Hua Middle School students, an acrobatic troupe from China's Jiangsu province and a magic show performed by a magician from Malaysia.

Before leaving the event, invited guests and the performers took the opportunity to greet Their Majesties and members of the royal family.

Among the invited guests during the event.



His Majesty and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha at the Chinese New Year celebration.



A dance performance by Kuala Belait's Chung Hua Middle School students.



His Majesty names new granddaughter

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 9 - By the command of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Office of His Majesty yesterday announced that the monarch's newborn granddaughter has been named Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muthee'ah Raayatul Bolqiah. His Majesty's granddaughter was born at 1.09pm on the 2nd of March 2016 to His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah. His Majesty and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha expressed their gratitude to all those involved during the delivery of the monarch's granddaughter, and for the messages of congratulations received following the royal birth.



Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muthee'ah Raayatul Bolqiah binti His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

Young generation should be empowered to tackle global issues



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) at the Official Opening of the 12th ISB-BGIC.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 5 – The young generation should be empowered to play an active role in shaping the future, as well as global issues related to the achievement of the universal basic education for all.

Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman as the Royal Patron of BGIC stated the matter in her *sabda* (royal speech) during the Opening of the 12th International School Brunei Borneo Global Issues Conference (ISB-BGIC), held at International Convention Centre.

Her Royal Highness touched on the theme of the conference that highlighted the importance of human rights that gives every child access to a good education system.

"Thus, it is important for young people, governments and agencies to be aware of the number of children around the world who have been denied their human rights which ultimately affects millions of lives, economic growth and prosperity," said Her Royal Highness.

"The challenge we face today and in the future is how to be as an individuals and nations that can move forward in ensuring that both basic and quality education are provided for every child by every governmental body on the global scale. Recently, Brunei Darussalam celebrated the 32nd National Day with the theme of 'Visionary Generation' where our vision is to become Zikir Nation. It is appropriate for us to emphasise the importance of how the present generation is together in achieving the vision of our country," added Her Royal Highness.

According to Her Royal Highness, "the young people sitting in this very hall today have the potential to lead their country into a brighter future. However, to realise their potential, we need to continuously invest in them, ensure that they are indeed knowledgeable and aware of the serious issues facing our world leaders today."



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman presenting a certificate to one of the participants of the International School Brunei Borneo Global Issues Conference (ISB-BGIC).

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Young generation should be empowered to tackle global issues (continued)

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Her Royal Highness calls on young people to express their opinions besides being open in decision making, while taking time to properly consider the ideas and circumstances of others.

“Being able and willing to think critically and in a caring way is a major prerequisite to becoming a responsible global citizen. Educating young people goes beyond classrooms and schools, and this conference also builds upon other important life-skills including communication, decision-making, social interaction, confidence building and character development,” said Her Royal Highness.

Her Royal Highness expressed hope that all the young delegates understand that the training they are now participating in is actually an important part of their preparation for the future.

Meanwhile, Dr. Steven Geraghty, ISB Executive Principal, in his welcoming remarks touched on the theme of the conference, ‘To Achieve Universal Primary Education’, which is very important to all of us and without education, our life opportunities will be reduced.

The event was followed by a keynote address from two overseas speakers, Chernor Bah, an Associate at the Population Council of the United States; and Jamira Burley, Senior Campaigner for Amnesty International, United States; who among others, discussed the importance of lower-level education and shared their experience and the transformative power of education.

The three day conference was attended by 250 students from 20 schools comprising ISB, colleges and secondary schools from Brunei Darussalam and Southeast Asia.



Her Royal Highness presenting a token of appreciation to Chernor Bah, Associate at The Population Council, United States.



Performance by ISB student during the ceremony.

HRH attends ACD Ministerial Meeting

BANGKOK, March 10 - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended the 14th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting, held in Siam Kempinski Hotel, Bangkok.

The Ministerial meeting was declared open by His Excellency Prayuth Chan-o-cha, the Prime Minister of Thailand.

The 14th Ministerial meeting was chaired by His Excellency Don Pramudwinai, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and was attended by delegations of 24 ACD member countries.

In the meeting, Nepal attended as a new member of the ACD. The ACD members discussed several concept papers including ACD Vision 2030, Roadmap for ACD Regional Connectivity and enhanced collaboration with private and academic parties.

The meeting also adopted the Chairman’s Statement of the 14th ACD Ministers Meeting as well as the concept paper of the ‘ACD-The Way Forward’ and ‘Enhancing Private Sector Partnership and Educational Cooperation’.

Her Royal Highness in a *sabda* (royal speech) said that the development and direction of the ACD should be realistic, relevant and achievable through the co-ordination of areas of cooperation to support the existing regional initiatives. Her Royal Highness also spoke about Brunei Darussalam’s contribution to the forum especially in the field of education.

ACD was created in 2002 under Thailand’s initiative to promote cooperation in identified sectoral areas amongst member countries from Asia. Initially, the ACD has 18 members and currently, the ACD comprises 34 countries.

Her Royal Highness graces acrobatic performance



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz, Chief of Adat Istiadat touring the exhibition which displayed pictures of the 25th Diplomatic Relations between Brunei Darussalam and China.

JERUDONG, March 8 - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade graced an acrobatic performance at the Art Centre of Jerudong International School (JIS).

Accompanying Her Royal Highness was her spouse, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz, Chief of Adat Istiadat.

The event was organised by the Embassy of China with the cooperation of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) and the Brunei-China Friendship Association in conjunction with the 25th Diplomatic Relations between Brunei Darussalam and China.

Upon arrival, Her Royal Highness and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz toured an exhibition which displayed pictures of the 25th Diplomatic

Relations between Brunei Darussalam and China.

Her Excellency Yang Jian, Ambassador of China to Brunei Darussalam in her speech share a little bit of the background and history of the Acrobatic Group from the Jiangsu Province.

The event continued with a performance by the acrobatic troupe from China’s Jiangsu Province.

The performances were organised to help promote cultural exchange towards strengthening cooperative relations between the two countries.



Acrobatic performances by China’s Jiangsu Province acrobatic troupe.

Institut Teknologi Brunei upgrades to Universiti Teknologi Brunei



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, Minister of Education during the launch of the new name and logo of Universiti Teknologi Brunei.

TUNGKU, March 26 - Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB) made history when it upgraded to Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB). Present as guest of honour to launch the new name and logo of UTB was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, Minister of Education.

Professor Madya Dr. Hajah Zohrah binti Haji Sulaiman, Vice-Chancellor of UTB in her welcoming remarks said that the upgrading and renaming of ITB to UTB was a significant landmark for UTB, especially when UTB commemorated the 30th anniversary of its establishment as a higher education institution in the country.

“We are also aware that the upgrading of ITB as a university eight years ago is a recognition and trust in the maturity and ability of UTB. This is a responsibility that must be inculcated by all levels of UTB citizen with full commitment,” said Profesor Madya Dr. Hajah Zohrah.

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Institut Teknologi Brunei upgrades to Universiti Teknologi Brunei (continued)

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In reaching its 30th year of establishment, UTB continues to pursue its mission to provide experiential learning, to enhance research and to foster strong partnership, hence preparing the graduates to meet the demands of the competitive job market and fulfilling the National Vision 2035.

ITB was established in 1986, with the 1st intake comprising of 57 students. To this date, UTB has produced 5,006 graduates and currently, UTB is home to 2,169 students and 145 staff.

UTB was upgraded to a university in 18th

of October 2008, by 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.

Since then, tremendous development has taken place including the expansion of its academic programmes portfolio, establishment of strategic partnerships with industries and universities, embarking on the process of programme accreditation by professional bodies, and intensification of research activities.

UTB now offers 20 undergraduate, five Master by Coursework, Master by Research and PhD programmes.

UTB has also made a significant progress in research where UTB's research efforts are focused along three research thrusts; Oil and Gas, Green Technology and Water.

The UTB Centre for Transport Research (CfTR) was established to carry out research activities that include policy studies, transport modelling and intelligent transport system, and focuses on the areas of Transport Safety, Highway & Geotechnics, and Traffic.

ITB's centre for innovative Engineering aims to become a dynamic centre for multidisciplinary and innovative translation research.

Brunei – Costa Rica further strengthen bilateral relation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 8 - Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, Minister of Education received a courtesy call from His Excellency Manuel A. Gonzalez Sanz, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Republic of Costa Rica. The courtesy call took place at the Ministry of Education.

The courtesy call aimed to review collaboration between the Republic of Costa Rica and Brunei Darussalam.

Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Costa Rica are constantly working together to enhance bilateral relation in mutual interest of both countries in various fields.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, Minister of Education with His Excellency Manuel A. Gonzalez Sanz, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Republic of Costa Rica.

Brunei – Costa Rica explore various fields of cooperation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 7 - Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Costa Rica inked two documents on Framework Cooperation Agreement and a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Periodic High Level Consultations, paving the way for deeper ties in various areas of cooperation including technical, economic, scientific and cultural.

Representing the Government of Brunei during the signing ceremony at the International Convention Centre (ICC) was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and the Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and His Excellency Manuel A. Gonzalez Sanz, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Republic of Costa Rica during the signing ceremony.

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Independence and National Day of Bangladesh Reception Ceremony

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 26 - The High Commission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Brunei Darussalam held a Reception Ceremony in conjunction with the 46th Independence and Nationality of Bangladesh at Songket Ballroom, Rizqun International Hotel, Gadong.

Present to represent the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Awang Haji Bahrin bin Abdullah, Minister of Development and spouse, Pengiran Datin Hajah Norsiah binti Pengiran Haji Hamdan.

The event witnessed a cake cutting ceremony and souvenir presentation by His Excellency Mohammed Abdul Hye, the High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam and spouse, Madam Dr. Tahmin Begum.



Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Awang Haji Bahrin bin Abdullah, Minister of Development and spouse, Pengiran Datin Hajah Norsiah binti Pengiran Haji Hamdan; His Excellency Mohammed Abdul Hye, the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam and spouse, Madam Dr. Tahmin Begum during the cake-cutting ceremony.

His Excellency Mohammed Abdul Hye in his speech among others touched on the development of bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Brunei Darussalam in terms of culture, education, arts and others.

His Excellency also expressed his gratitude to His Majesty and His Majesty's Government for giving opportunities to professionals, students and workers from Bangladesh to showcase their talents, expertise and skills while they work in the country.

BIMP EAGA: Culture & Food Expo

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 30 - The 'Flavours of BIMP EAGA: Culture & Food Expo 2016' which begins today, 30th of March until the 3rd of April, offer various cultural and food exhibitions as well as unique and interesting products from BIMP-EAGA countries.

The event that was held at The Airport Mall was launched by Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism.



Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism launching the 'Flavours of BIMP EAGA: Culture & Food Expo 2016'.

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Brunei – Costa Rica explore various fields of cooperation (continued)

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Meanwhile, signing on behalf of the Government of Republic of Costa Rica was His Excellency Manuel A. Gonzalez Sanz, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship, Republic of Costa Rica. His Excellency said that the relations between his country and Brunei Darussalam has increased and strengthened through the bilateral meeting of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency Luis Guillermo Solis, President of the Republic of Costa Rica on the side lines of the 70th United Nations General Assembly at New York last year.

The Costa Rican minister also added prior to that, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the then Brunei's former minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended the retreat of the 7th East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) in Costa Rica in August 2015.

While in Brunei, the visiting minister also meets with Brunei's

high ranking officials to discuss the commonalities which both countries have.

Even though Costa Rica does not produce oil and gas, he said, the country has a very well-diversified economy. He went on to say that 30 years ago his country was only exporting four commodities and the country then was hit by a crisis that obligated them to diversify their economy, but nowadays, Costa Rica are able to export about 4,000 products to 160 countries in the world.

"I noted that Brunei Darussalam also intends to further diversify its economy and I believe this is an opportunity to work together and share the best practices," said His Excellency.

His Excellency added that Brunei also has a very important policy to attract foreign direct investments.

Brunei Darussalam and Costa Rica formally established diplomatic relations on the 14th of April 1994.

BIMP-EAGA: Culture & Food Expo

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The Multiculture Expo organised by the Brunei Darussalam BIMP-EAGA Business Council (BD-BEBC) sub-regional economic cooperation between Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, offers a plethora of different activities.

The event saw Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism officiate the 'Spice of Life: Recipes and Remedies' cookbook which contains over 80 recipes using a variety of herbs and spices, as well as a description of more than 50 species of herbs.

Various activities were held at the event, namely 'Menumpang Ambuyat' from Aminah Arif's Restaurant, a dish demonstration from participating restaurants, a 'Berbedak' Ceremony from Zella Boutique Bridal and a demonstration of the 'Ikatan Sinjang' and 'Lipatan Sinjang' from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

The expo also features cultural performances from BIMP-EAGA countries such as traditional dances, songs, games, including cooking demonstrations from renowned chefs from several restaurants namely Royal Brunei Catering Sendirian Berhad, Sorriso Restaurant, Energy Kitchen, High Frequency, Star Lodge



Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism taking part in the 'Berbedak' demonstration.

Hotel Restaurant.

The main purpose of the expo is to promote cultural exchanges between BIMP-EAGA countries and to share some aspects of traditional culture and food.

Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office attends AMRI and Related Meetings



Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Haji Hamdan bin Haji Abu Bakar, Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office with ASEAN Ministers as well as Representatives of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI) and Related Meetings.

CEBU, REPUBLIC OF PHILIPPINES, March 17 - Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Haji Hamdan bin Haji Abu Bakar, Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office emphasised the responsible use of media in managing distortion of facts, in light of the popularity of social media and new media.

The Deputy Minister addressed the matter at the 13th Conference of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI) and Related Meetings in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu. The meeting was also attended by ASEAN Ministers as well as Representatives of ASEAN Ministers of Information.

2015 is a significant year for ASEAN, towards entering the new phase of the One ASEAN Community. The Deputy Minister added that the Post 2015 ASEAN Community will be more challenging and therefore AMRI needs to increase its value in ensuring ASEAN will remain relevant and achieve its targets.

To develop the ASEAN Vision 2025 and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2025, AMRI needs to act strategically and focus on using Key Performance Indicators (KPI) to assess progress and, if necessary, make changes accordingly.

He also highlighted the role of AMRI in providing assistance to other sectors in promoting the enhancement in the quality of living of the ASEAN people. Such sectors include social protection, education, employment, health and the development of youth.

He added that AMRI is no longer a platform simply for disseminating information, but plays an important role in ensuring that ASEAN people have access to information, are well-connected, and are truly aware of the benefits of being citizens of ASEAN. During the Conference, the Ministers noted that the information and media sector of ASEAN has grown well in raising awareness about ASEAN.

To this advance, the ministers adopted the Strategic Plan for Information and Media 2016-2025 to guide the information sector in supporting other community pillars and sectors with their communication needs, and advocate the policies and initiatives implemented by ASEAN, in-line with the ASEAN Communication Master Plan (ACMP).

The conference also discussed preparation for ASEAN's 50th Founding Anniversary on the 8th of August 2017. The ministers discussed preparations to commemorate the event and instructed senior officials and its working groups to work closely with other sectors and ASEAN bodies to ensure its success.

The Deputy Minister later attended the AMRI Plus Three Conference, where the ministers shared views on the progress of ASEAN Cooperation with Dialogue Partners.

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Everyone has a role to play in the war against drugs



Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Haji Hamdan bin Haji Abu Bakar, Deputy Minister at Prime Minister's Office at the 59th Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) meeting at the United Nations Complex.

VIENNA, March 14 - It is the common and shared responsibility of all countries to work together in addressing drug threats due to its transnational nature at all levels.

Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Haji Hamdan bin Haji Abu Bakar, Deputy Minister at Prime Minister's Office emphasised the matter in his statement during the 59th Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) meeting at the United Nations Complex.

The meeting was attended by all United

Nations members including ministers, deputy ministers and head of departments responsible for illicit drug issues.

The CND meeting was established through Resolution 9 (1) ECOSOC on the 16th of February 1946, as a body to monitor and review drug policies and the implementation of the three drug conventions – Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.

This year's CND session will also have a special segment on the preparation for the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) 2016 on the World Drug Problem. The session will be held from the 19th to 21st of April in New York, United States.

The Deputy Minister said that Brunei has adopted a comprehensive and balanced approach in addressing the issue of drug abuse and trafficking through a supply and demand reduction strategy to maintain peace, security and the socio-economic development of a country, especially in

protecting women, youth and children.

He said that this is in line with His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with the sultanate's 31st National Day last year.

His Majesty emphasised the role of everyone in society – including government agencies, the public, parents, school authorities, non-governmental organisations and grassroots leaders – in promoting drug awareness and combating the drug menace.

The Deputy Minister noted the drug policy reforms in other countries that have decriminalised or legalised consumption of certain drugs and emphasised that such policies should not be imposed on other countries.

Thus, the Deputy Minister also stressed the importance of respecting each country's sovereign rights when deciding which drug policy should be considered. This includes considering the diverse political, economic, social and cultural background of each country.

Deputy Minister of Defence receives introductory call

BERAKAS, March 26 - First Admiral (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Abdul Aziz bin Haji Mohd. Tamit, Deputy Minister of Defence, Brunei Darussalam, and Her Excellency Nagma Mohamed Mallick, High Commissioner of Republic of India to Brunei Darussalam expressed appreciation at the active bilateral relations shared by the two countries, which was further enhanced by the recent signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation in February 2016.

The Deputy Minister of Defence received an introductory call from the High Commissioner of Republic of India to Brunei Darussalam.

Both sides looked forward to further strengthening cooperation through the exchange of visits, joint training and

courses, as well as other peacetime cooperation.

The Deputy Minister also hopes that the defence forces from both sides can continue to work together at a multilateral level.

The Deputy Minister also recalled the ADMM-Plus Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and Military Medicine Exercise held in Brunei Darussalam in 2013, and expressed appreciation for the strong support by India which contributed to its success.

He also looks forward to India's continued support for the upcoming ADMM-Plus Maritime Security and Counter Terrorism Exercise in May 2016, which will begin in Brunei Darussalam.



First Admiral (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Abdul Aziz bin Haji Mohd. Tamit, Deputy Minister of Defence, Brunei Darussalam with Her Excellency Nagma Mohamed Mallick, High Commissioner of Republic of India to Brunei Darussalam.

Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office attends AMRI and Related Meetings (continued)

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Discussions include ongoing projects, namely Work Plan on Enhancing ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Through Information and Media (2012-2017); the Work Plan on Enhancing ASEAN-China

Cooperation through Information and Media (2015-2017); the ASEAN-Japan Cooperation Initiatives for Broadcasting and Television; and continuing the exchange of media with ROK.

The 13th AMRI Conference and Related

Meetings in the Philippines was preceded by the 14th Senior Officials Responsible for Information Meeting, the 4th SOMRI Plus Three, and the SOMRI Plus Japan Meeting which was held on March 15 and 16.

Commander of RBAF attends 13th ACDFIM

VIENTIANE, LAO PDR, March 14 - Themed "Promoting Defence Cooperation for a Dynamic ASEAN Community", the 13th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting (ACDFIM) was held where ACDFIM leaders discussed on security issues of common interest.

Yang Dimulikan Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Mohd. Tawih bin Abdullah, the Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, represented Brunei Darussalam at the meeting.

Through the Joint Statement, the ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces agreed to enhance their cooperation through confidence-building initiatives as well as practical cooperation activities in areas of common interests, through the organising of meetings, workshops, seminars, interactions, exchanges and exercises, which is included in the ASEAN Militaries Two-Year Activity Work Plan (2016-2018).

At the sidelines of the ACDFIM, the ASEAN Chiefs' of Defence Forces had a joint courtesy call with His Excellency Thongsing Thammavong, Prime Minister of Lao PDR. The Commander of RBAF also held separate bilateral meetings with



Yang Dimulikan Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Mohd. Tawih bin Abdullah, the Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) at the 13th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting (ACDFIM).

his counterparts.

Preceding the ACDFIM, the 6th ASEAN Military Operations Informal Meeting (AMOIM), represented by the Commander of RBAF and the 13th ASEAN Military Intelligence Informal Meeting (AMIIM), represented by the Director of Intelligence were held on the 12th of March 2016.

Under the platform of AMOIM, ASEAN Heads of Military Operations continued

to pursue the voluntary Two-Year Activity Work Plan (2016-2018) as agreed upon as a guideline for multilateral activities of ASEAN militaries.

AMIIM, on the other hand continued its progress in furthering the potentials of an ASEAN-centric network promoting intelligence exchanges and interactions between the ASEAN militaries intelligence community.

Defence Policy Dialogue further strengthens bilateral defence



Datin Paduka Hajah Suriyah binti Haji Umar, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence during the 5th Defence Policy Dialogue between Brunei and Singapore.

BERAKAS, March 15 - The 5th Defence Policy Dialogue between Brunei and Singapore took place at the Officers' Mess, Bolkliah Garrison.

The dialogue was chaired by both Datin Paduka Hajah Suriyah binti Haji Umar, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence and His Excellency Chan Yeng Kit, Permanent Secretary (Defence) at the

Ministry of Defence Singapore.

The dialogue was also attended by military and civilian officials from the Ministry of Defence of both countries.

The two co-chairs reaffirmed the special and long-standing bilateral defence ties between the two countries during the dialogue session.

Aside from discussing a wide range of regional and security issues, both co-chairs also noted the 40th anniversary of the bilateral defence relationship between both countries and affirmed their shared commitment to further strengthening bilateral defence cooperation.

His Excellency Chan Yeng Kit, who was in Brunei Darussalam from the 14th until the 15th of March, also toured the FIBUA Complex and Training Simulation Centre at Penanjong Camp in Tutong, the National Modeling and Simulation Centre and the CAE Brunei Multi-Purpose Training Centre as part of his visit.

During his visit, he also had a courtesy call with First Admiral (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Abdul Aziz bin Haji Mohd. Tamit, the Deputy Minister of Defence.

Initiated in 2009, the Defence Policy Dialogue between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore is aimed at fostering defence cooperation through discussion, information sharing and exploring new areas of practical cooperation, particularly at the strategic level.