



# برونى دارالسلام

## Brunei Darussalam

# Brunei Darussalam newsletter

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## 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit focuses on ASEAN community, international relations and future

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 9** - 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, as the Chairman of ASEAN 2013 explained in his *titah* (royal speech) that this year's ASEAN Summit is focused on the development of the ASEAN Community, its international relations as well as planning the future of ASEAN.

Speaking during the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit Plenary Session at the International Convention Centre (ICC), His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stated that the overview of ASEAN is overall very encouraging. However, considering that the association only has two years to attain the ASEAN Community 2015, the ASEAN region is still facing challenges in implementing the Community Roadmap.

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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, as the Chairman of ASEAN 2013 delivering a *titah*.

## Brunei in accordance to Ahli Sunnah Waljamaah



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* in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidiladha 1434 Hijrah/2013 Masihi.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 15** - Faith is not a trivial matter, but it is a great thing that determines one's heaven or hell. The believers are guaranteed their position in heaven, whereas the disbelievers will bear the opposite.

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) in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidiladha 1434 Hijrah/2013 Masihi at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam added, therefore, we cannot make light with matters of faith, and we must be firm and stick with it. Today, we are destined to be people of faith; and we still need to be faithful until we return to Allah. We must preserve our faith by controlling and protecting it from any negative elements that can corrupt it. Faith that is accepted by Allah is sourced from the right belief, which determines our position with Him.

Earlier, His Majesty expressed his gratitude to Allah the Almighty for the opportunity to celebrate the blessed Aidiladha, which contains acts of worship that are encouraged in Islam. These acts of worship are the Sunat Aidiladha prayer and

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4. His Majesty presents and receives diplomatic credentials



5. 227 conferred state decorations



6. His Majesty holds Bilateral Meeting with UN Secretary-General



10. His Majesty attends 21<sup>st</sup> APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting



12. His Majesty checks ASEAN Summit preparations



15. ASEAN-Japan to maintain strong economic ties



17. ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership



20. Their Majesties host 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit Gala Dinner



24. ASEAN-India to further unite people, promote regional growth



26. His Majesty hands over ASEAN Chairmanship



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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 audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:



Professor Dr. Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol, President of the Chulabhorn Research Institute, Kingdom of Thailand on October 14.



His Excellency Tun Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, Vice President of the Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council (APRC) on October 14.

## 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 sent congratulatory messages to:

- His Excellency Joachim Gauck, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, the government and the people of Federal Republic of Germany on the occasion of its Day of Unity on October 3.
- Her Excellency Park Geun-Hye, President of the Republic of Korea, the government and the people of the Republic of Korea on the occasion of its National Foundation Day on October 3.

## 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 sent messages of condolences to:

- His Excellency Thongsing Thammavong, Prime Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic following the plane crash in Southern Laos on October 17.
- His Excellency Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III, President of the Republic of the Philippines following the earthquake that hit the central region of the Republic of the Philippines on October 19.

## His Majesty presents and receives diplomatic credentials



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 Letter of Credence to His Excellency Pengiran Haji Abdul Haris bin Pengiran Haji Shahbudin, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving Letters of Credence from His Excellency David Ian Campbell, High Commissioner of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (above) and His Excellency Datuk Awang Sahak bin Awang Salleh, High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam (right).

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 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 presented diplomatic credentials to Brunei Darussalam's newly-appointed High Commissioner to the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and received Letters of Credence from two foreign High Commissioners to Brunei Darussalam at the Istana Nurul Iman today.

At the ceremony, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam first delivered a Letter of Credence to His Excellency Pengiran Haji Abdul Haris bin Pengiran Haji Shahbudin, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

His Majesty then received Letters of Credence from two newly-appointed envoys to Brunei Darussalam: His Excellency David Ian Campbell, High Commissioner of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and His Excellency Datuk Awang Sahak bin Awang Salleh, High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam.

Following the ceremony, His Majesty received in audience the High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the People's Republic of Bangladesh; who was then followed by the High Commissioner of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam respectively.



## Brunei in accordance to Ahli Sunnah Waljamaah

From front page

sacrificing animals to perform the *Korban*, both of which serve as benchmarks for our faith.

In his *titah*, His Majesty also insisted that Brunei Darussalam needs to preserve the Ahli Sunnah Waljamaah community, and pass them down to our next generations to come.

"Brunei Darussalam, without a doubt, has been compatible with the system of the Ahli Sunnah Waljamaah. With it, we have gained peace and tranquility. The people also appear to be very comfortable with it; united in life and similar in worship. They have never quarrelled about it," said His Majesty.

Lately, various incidents have occurred involving beliefs and there have been people insulting the Prophet and the Al-Quran. There are also those who are essentially like us: with Ahli Sunnah Waljamaah as their *mazhab* (school of thought within Islamic jurisprudence) and system, but then chose a different

path that violates the beliefs of the Ahli Sunnah Waljamaah. What is worse is that some even wrote to the religious authorities to leave Islam and chose to enter the opposing system.

Although this is happening elsewhere, His Majesty asserted, we still need to be careful, considering that its characteristic is similar to an 'infectious disease'. If we do not take steps to prevent it, it is possible that we might also be infected.

"The prevention measures are numerous. Apart from strengthening and improving religious education, all government agencies or institutions are also responsible for censoring or scrutinising the appearance of unwanted elements," His Majesty highlighted.

The Monarch explained, this method includes the recruitment of teachers or academics from foreign countries: we should not only look at their qualifications and experience, but we should also filter and make certain of their system or belief.

At the end of the *titah*, His Majesty along with other members of the royal family wished a happy Hari Raya Aidiladha to all Muslim citizens and residents, wherever they are.

## 227 conferred state decorations



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 arriving at the Investiture Ceremony. Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 5** - 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 conferred state decorations to 227 recipients. The event, in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 67<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, was held at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; alongside State Dignitaries, Cabinet Ministers, members of the Legislative Council, Deputy Ministers, foreign representatives, Permanent Secretaries, Heads of Departments and senior government officials.

His Majesty first conferred The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei, 3<sup>rd</sup> Class (S.M.B.) to 47 recipients commencing with Yang Berhormat Awang Haji A. Umar bin Husain.

The event then proceeded with the conferment of The Most Eminent Order of Islam Brunei, 4<sup>th</sup> Class (S.U.B.) to eight recipients from the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA), starting with Awang Shafrin bin Mohd. Noor.

This was followed by a total of 164 recipients who were bestowed with The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei, 4<sup>th</sup> Class (P.S.B.) starting with Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Mohammed Al-Mokhtar bin Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz.

Afterwards, the ceremony continued with the bestowal of The Most Eminent Order of Islam Brunei, 5<sup>th</sup> Class (P.U.B) to eight recipients from MoRA, beginning with Awang Haji Hassan bin Haji Kahar.

The Investiture Ceremony ended with a recitation of *Doa Selamat* led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, State Mufti.

The recipients of the state decorations were from government ministries as well as the private sector.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam conferring state decorations to the recipients at the Investiture Ceremony (above and below).



His Majesty conferring state decorations to uniformed officers at the ceremony.

## His Majesty holds Bilateral Meeting with UN Secretary-General

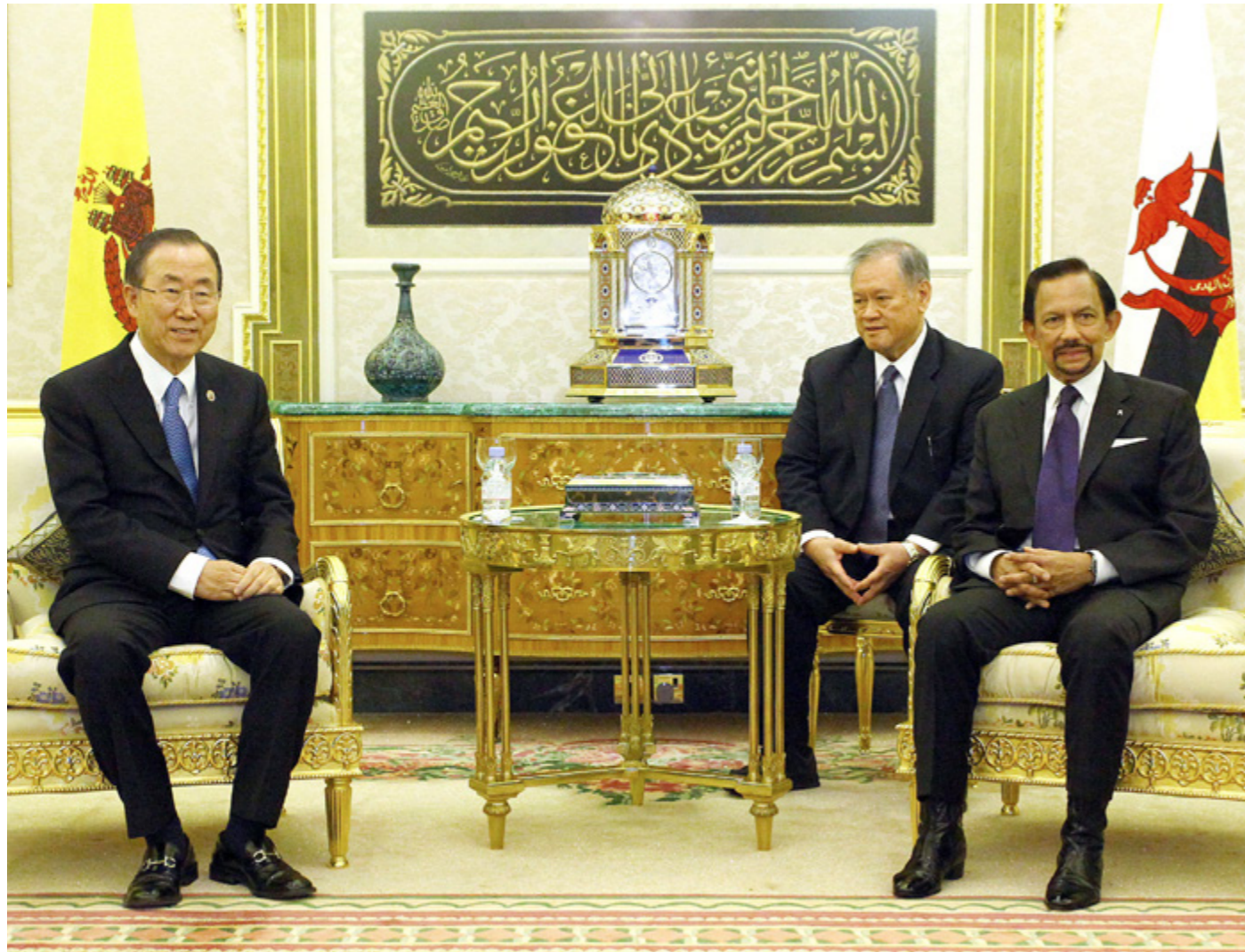
**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 11** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam conducted a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN).

The event took place at the Istana Nurul Iman, where His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon discussed matters of cooperation, as well as exchanged views on regional and international issues.

His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon was in the country to attend the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Summits, which ran from October 9-10.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam welcoming the arrival of His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations during the bilateral meeting.

## Her Majesty receives audiences

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



The spouses of the foreign representatives from neighbouring countries on October 7. Also present were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah.



The spouses of the ASEAN Heads of State and Government on October 9: Madame Ani Bambang Yudhoyono, spouse of the President of Republic of Indonesia; Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor, spouse of the Prime Minister of Malaysia; Madame Ho Ching, spouse of the Prime Minister of Republic of Singapore; Madame Daw Khin Khin Win, spouse of the President of Republic of the Union of Myanmar; Madame Nguyen Tan Dung, spouse of the Prime Minister of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; and Madame Akei Abe, spouse of the Prime Minister of Japan.



Madame Ban Soon-Taek, spouse of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on October 10.



Professor Dr. Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol, President of the Chulabhorn Research Institute, Kingdom of Thailand on October 15.



Pengiran Hajah Nor'ain binti Pengiran Haji Mohammad, spouse of the High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the People's Republic of Bangladesh on October 15.

## 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 Minister's Office received audiences at the Qashr Al-Meezan from:



His Excellency Pengiran Haji Abdul Haris bin Pengiran Haji Shahbudin, newly-appointed High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the People's Republic of Bangladesh on October 12.



His Excellency David Ian Campbell, newly-appointed High Commissioner of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Brunei Darussalam on October 8.



His Excellency Datuk Awang Sahak bin Awang Salleh, newly-appointed High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam on October 12.



His Excellency Dr. Han Seung-Soo, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea on October 28.

## His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah receives audiences

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade received audiences at the Balai Penghadapan Bukit Kayangan from:



His Excellency Sayyid Fakhri Mohammed bin Said Al-Said, outgoing Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam on October 8.



His Excellency David Ian Campbell, newly-appointed High Commissioner of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Brunei Darussalam on October 8.



His Excellency Datuk Awang Sahak bin Awang Salleh, High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam on October 15.



His Excellency Laldhuthlana Ralte, outgoing High Commissioner of Republic of India to Brunei Darussalam on October 15.

## His Majesty attends 21<sup>st</sup> APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting

**BALI, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, October 8** - 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 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting at the Sofitel Hotel, Nusa Dua in Bali. 'Resilient Asia-Pacific, Engine of Global Growth' is the theme for this year's two-day APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting.



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 attending the First Retreat Session of the 21<sup>st</sup> APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting.

On October 8, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Second Retreat Session of the 21<sup>st</sup> APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, in which the discussions focused on the theme, 'APEC's Vision on Connectivity in the Evolving Regional and International Architecture'.

The Leaders discussed efforts to promote connectivity plan in Asia Pacific to complete the same initiatives in regional and international architecture, as well as long-term plan of the APEC Framework on connectivity, which consists of three pillars, namely physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity.

The dialogue also focused on cultivating the progress of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) and entrepreneurship; as well as fostering the development and integration of the financial market.

Prior to the First Retreat Session in the afternoon, His Majesty joined 20 other APEC Leaders for a luncheon.

At the retreat session, which was themed, 'APEC's Role in Strengthening the Multilateral Trading System', His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) highlighting the usefulness of the continuous cooperation between APEC and the World Trade Organization (WTO) in monitoring trade protection.

The Monarch further voiced his support for the commitment to extend the

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On October 7, His Majesty joined the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Dialogue Breakout session, along with leaders from Australia, Mexico and Chinese Taipei. The discussions were centred on efforts to enhance regional economic integration and encourage the development of sustainable infrastructure.

Following the dialogue session, His Majesty held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Truong Tan Sang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. At the meeting, His Majesty and the President exchanged views on bilateral matters, as well as international and regional affairs for the interest of both parties.



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 a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Truong Tan Sang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

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standstill on protection measures until 2016. His Majesty stated that APEC has embarked on several initiatives such as creating exemplary measures for the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and supporting the global value chains.

This year's main agenda is aimed at the issue of connectivity, believing that it can bring APEC closer to its aspiration to realise the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP).

His Majesty also stressed that achieving regional economic integration is becoming more crucial for APEC, as the region is still facing challenging economic prospects and they are gaining special attention in international forums such as the Group of 20 (G20).

His Majesty expressed his appreciation to the APEC officials for the works that have been done in achieving the Bogor Goals and thus, bringing it closer to the aspirations of APEC 2020. The Monarch also highlighted the importance of increasing capacities, especially for developing economies.

His Majesty further showed support for the discussions made under the Economic and Technical Cooperation (ECOTECH) in coordinating and

reinforcing capacity development activities. The Monarch emphasised that the works carried out by APEC have given strong encouragement in economic development.

His Majesty then highlighted that the works under the APEC Supply Chain Connectivity Frameworks are important in facilitating trade and progress in the field, which will complement a multilateral trading system.

His Majesty also mentioned that ASEAN has started their negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement with their six dialogue partners in May this year, which is hoped to be resolved by 2015.

The agreement, which is grounded on principles that adhere to the rules of WTO with elements that enable all countries to participate, has aspirations, substantial quality, as well as a comprehensive scope. On the other hand, it provides methods that allow flexibility for developing economies, which is normally provided under the FTA with ASEAN partners.

The Monarch added, the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement is another agreement which will encompass

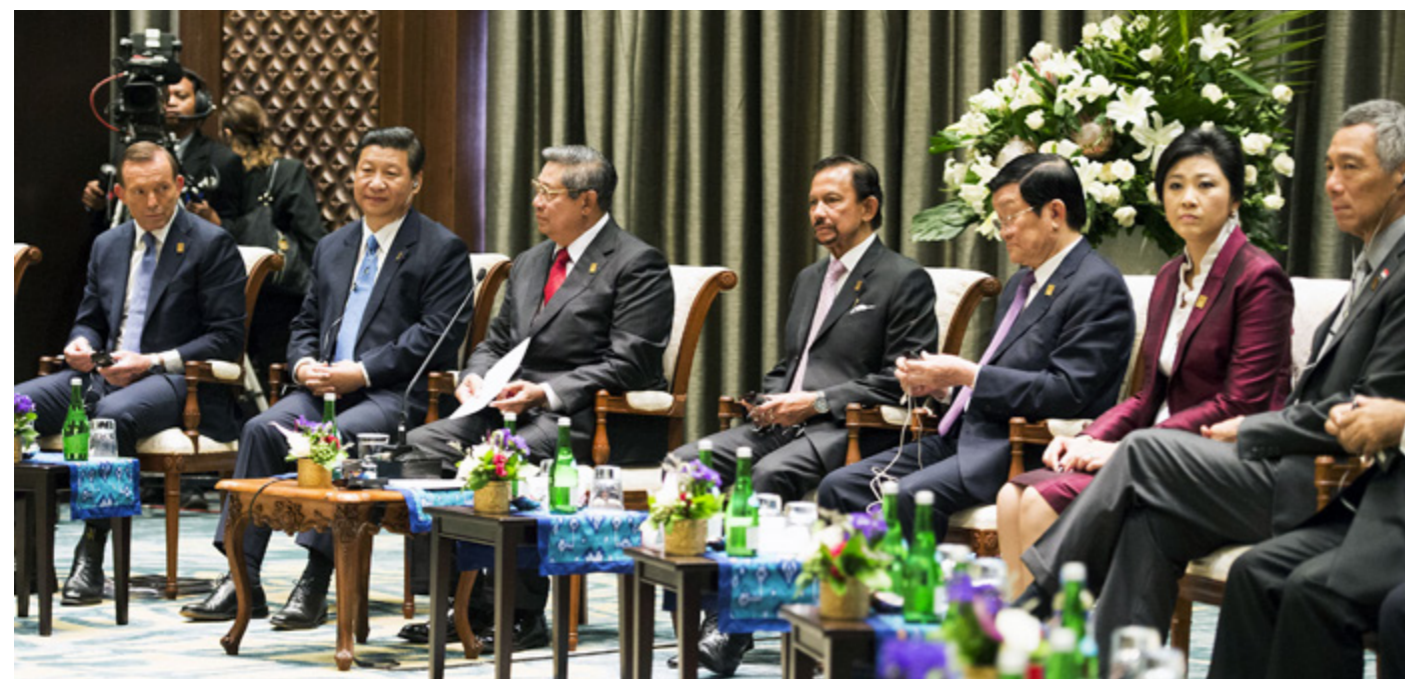
various elements of work that have been carried out by APEC, and it is expected to be approved by the end of this year.

His Majesty believes that both agreements will help achieve APEC's objectives towards regional economic integration. More importantly, it gives support to the Doha Round and realises the multilateral trading system as a whole.

With the 9<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference taking place in Bali this December, the Monarch affirmed that any form of solid support that is voiced out in the APEC meeting will be very useful in attaining beneficial results.

His Majesty further stated that APEC's contribution towards regional economic integration and trade system consolidation is very valuable. With this, His Majesty encouraged APEC Leaders to use APEC as a foundation that complements other international forums.

In the evening, His Majesty attended the APEC Gala Dinner and Cultural Reception hosted by His Excellency Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia, which took place at the Bali Nusa Dua Convention Centre (BDNCC).



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with other APEC Leaders during the ABAC Dialogue Session of the 21<sup>st</sup> APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting at the Sofitel Hotel, Nusa Dua, Bali.

## His Majesty checks ASEAN Summit preparations



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 arriving at the International Convention Centre for a close observation on the country's preparations as the host of the upcoming 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit and Conference with Dialogue Partners.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 1** - 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 took a closer look at the country's preparations in hosting the upcoming 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit and Conference with Dialogue Partners, which will be held at the International Convention Centre.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam will be chairing the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit and Conference with Dialogue Partners, which will run from October 9-10 with the theme: 'Our People, Our Future Together'.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam being briefed on the preparations for the upcoming 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit and Conference with Dialogue Partners.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam taking a closer look at the facilities for the upcoming ASEAN Summit.

During the visit, His Majesty took a closer look at several facilities for the summit, including the Plenary Hall, the Main Conference Hall, the Muzakarah Hall and the prayer room, as well as the International Media Centre (IMC) managed by the Department of Information and Radio Television Brunei.

During the Audience and Investiture Ceremony held in conjunction with His Majesty's 67<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration on September 15, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) stating his joy in seeing the unity, commitment and high dedication demonstrated by all parties involved in carrying out the country's responsibilities as the host and Chairman of ASEAN.

As the Chairman of ASEAN, His Majesty emphasised on the people-centred strategic values of the ASEAN Community, which are aimed at enabling the community to effectively make use of development opportunities and overcome regional as well as international challenges through political unity, economic integration and social responsibility. His Majesty also expressed his confidence in the continuous commitment of all parties in ensuring the success of the ASEAN Summit and Conference with Dialogue Partners.

This is Brunei Darussalam's fourth time as the Chairman of ASEAN, after chairing the event in 1989, 1995 and 2001.



## 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit focuses on ASEAN community, international relations and future



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 as the Chairman of ASEAN 2013 in a group photo with other ASEAN Leaders during the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit.

### From front page

With regards to the economic community, His Majesty added that taking into account the current economic reality, ASEAN must continue to ensure the maintenance of economic stability, as well as its place as an attractive and competitive destination for trade and investment. Therefore, His Majesty advised ASEAN to continue to work together in the fields of trade facilitation and logistics to ease the ways of doing business in the region.

His Majesty also noted that since the last summit, there have been developments in these areas: which includes introducing ASEAN immigration lanes and business travel cards; encouraging ASEAN visa-free travel; and supporting financial literacy as well as initiatives to develop Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs).

His Majesty further stated that as a whole, ASEAN needs to show stronger political determination in realising the goals of the community before 2015.

Touching on ASEAN after 2015 in his *titah*, His Majesty thanked the President of the Republic of Indonesia for his insightful suggestions, such as doubling ASEAN's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and reducing the percentage of poverty population by half before 2030.

The Monarch further thanked the President of the Republic of Singapore for his ideas on improving the ASEAN work procedures, such as reviewing ASEAN institutions and external

relations. In relation to this, His Majesty suggested the ASEAN Coordinating Council to consider these ideas in formulating a Post-2015 Vision for the region.

At the session, His Majesty also explained two important areas that need to be strengthened as a preparation for the future of ASEAN: ASEAN needs to solidify its external relations with Dialogue Partners as well as the global community and ASEAN needs to enhance the support for its institutions.

With regards to solidifying ASEAN's external relations, His Majesty stressed that ASEAN needs to continue their efforts to ensure that their current relations with Dialogue Partners will deepen and become more constructive. At the same time, ASEAN also needs to find ways to engage with other countries and regional organisations which can be considered as potential ASEAN partners. The association must ensure that it maintains a cohesive and balanced approach.

ASEAN in particular, His Majesty highlighted, must present its unity and priorities to ensure greater peace, stability and prosperity in the region in managing the interests of the great powers, or in negotiating trade agreements.

This is very important in ASEAN's efforts to draft the South China Sea Code of Conduct (COC). With this, the Monarch was pleased to note that the COC has

been included in the official agenda for the officials' meetings and consultations, which will be held regularly next year.

In this regard, His Majesty insisted that ASEAN must continue to unite in further emphasising the issue's two step approach to maintain the momentum of dialogue and consultation, while working together with China to implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC).

In order to enhance the support for ASEAN institutions, ASEAN needs to give serious consideration to the limitations faced by ASEAN Secretariat. ASEAN must be more capable of supporting its future work and be able to effectively coordinate ASEAN organs in strengthening the association's key role in the region.

With this direction, His Majesty aims for the High Level Task Force on Strengthening the ASEAN Mechanisms to begin their work as soon as possible. This will allow them to explore the ASEAN ways of improving its Secretariat and institutions, as well as ways to continue strong and productive relations with all its partners.

His Majesty also claimed that whatever ASEAN does for the future must be of significance to its population. Touching on the people-centred ASEAN's future, His Majesty asserted that the people of

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## 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit focuses on ASEAN community, international relations and the future



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 ASEAN Heads of State and Government during the luncheon.

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the region should continue to feel that they play a role in the ASEAN Community wherever they go.

In this regard, His Majesty suggested for ASEAN to consider an establishment for Consular Affairs Assistance to enable country members to help their citizens in places where they have no representation.

The Monarch further stated that on a broader perspective, ASEAN Leaders should continue to work together to address common challenges with all partners, such as food and energy security; climate change; and natural disasters, in order to ensure sustainable development in the region.

His Majesty then proposed a thematic

approach to this year's East Asia Summit, to enable the summit to focus on encouraging practical cooperation with ASEAN partners on issues of immediate concern to all ASEAN residents.

The Monarch added, ASEAN needs to ensure that future opportunities and benefits can be enjoyed by all relevant parties, especially youths, women and SMEs.

Therefore, it is very important for all residents of the region to know what is being carried out by ASEAN, as well as to encourage their active involvements so that they can provide support to ASEAN goals, including in addressing the socio-economic gaps and progress in the region.

The session was attended by 10 ASEAN Heads of State; the leaders of eight Dialogue Partners including China, Japan, Republic of Korea, India, Russia, Australia, New Zealand; as well as the delegates from the United Nations (UN).

Following the Plenary Session, His Majesty attended a Luncheon together with other ASEAN Heads of State and Government.

Also attending the luncheon was His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Issues related to the theme, which collectively foster the commitment of the people of ASEAN with the spirit of unity in diversity in achieving a politically integrated ASEAN Community, economic integration and social responsibility, were among the topics discussed during the summit.

At the end of the summit, Brunei Darussalam released the Chairman's Statement of the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit, and approved the Bandar Seri Begawan (BSB) Declaration on the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision; BSB Declaration on Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment; BSB Declaration on Non-Communicable Diseases in ASEAN; ASEAN Declaration on Enhancing Cooperation in Disaster Management; the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN; ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection; and Report on the Mid-Term Review of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Implementation.



ASEAN Heads of State and Government at the International Convention Centre during the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit.

## ASEAN-Japan to maintain strong economic ties



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* emphasising the importance of maintaining ASEAN-Japan's strong economic ties.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 9** - The importance for ASEAN-Japan to maintain their strong economic ties was emphasised 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, Chairman of ASEAN 2013 in his *titah* (royal speech), during the 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Japan Summit, held at the International Convention Centre.

The summit was co-chaired by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan.

Earlier, the Monarch also took note of the informal meeting held in May this year, between the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, which has agreed to explore ways to enhance cooperation between ASEAN and Japan.

In this matter, His Majesty stated his trust that the settlement of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in Services and Investment prior to the Commemorative Summit, and the effective implementation of the 10-year Roadmap will help achieve the goal of doubling trade by more than USD500 billion, as well as investment by more than USD40 billion by 2022.

At the session, His Majesty expressed his satisfaction towards Japan for playing an important role in helping ASEAN to develop economic and industrial capabilities, as well as in bridging the gap in the region. His Majesty further welcomed Japan's growing involvement in ASEAN.

Japan's declaration of enhancing heart-to-heart relations with ASEAN in 1977, said His Majesty, have resulted in various programmes that further strengthen the ties between the younger generations in the region.

The Monarch also noted that the initiative's positive results have enabled young generations to develop stronger spirits of friendship, which have also led to better trust and understanding, as proven at the moment.

In relation to this, His Majesty praised Japan's latest programmes and ongoing projects, which are the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS 2.0); the Kizuna Project and the Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Programme (SSEAYP).

His Majesty then stressed that cooperation in this relevant field should be continued in the future.

Earlier, His Majesty also welcomed His Excellency Shinzo Abe and congratulated Japan for hosting the 2020 Olympic Games, while acknowledging that Japan's organisations and dynamism have benefited ASEAN and its people in recent years.

The Monarch further expressed his gratitude in seeing the revitalisation of the Japanese economy, especially under the leadership of the Prime Minister, which has impacted the region. His Majesty also commended the good work that has been jointly carried out for the past 40 years, and hoped to chair a Commemorative Summit with His Excellency.

At the end of his *titah*, His Majesty expressed appreciation for Japan's support and friendship with ASEAN, which have been filled with dedication, especially in realising the ASEAN Community by 2015 and afterwards.

On the same day, His Majesty conducted a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Shinzo Abe, where both leaders exchanged their views on bilateral, regional and international matters.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the bilateral meeting with His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan.



His Majesty in a group photo with His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan and other ASEAN Leaders at the 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Japan Summit.



## ROK, a significant contributor to ASEAN

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 9** – The Republic of Korea (ROK) has proved itself as a significant contributor to the development efforts of ASEAN Community; and a consistent supporter of the ASEAN Centrality in regional architecture; while being actively involved in ASEAN's regional processes, including the ASEAN Plus Three activities such as East Asia Vision Group Two and East Asia Forum.

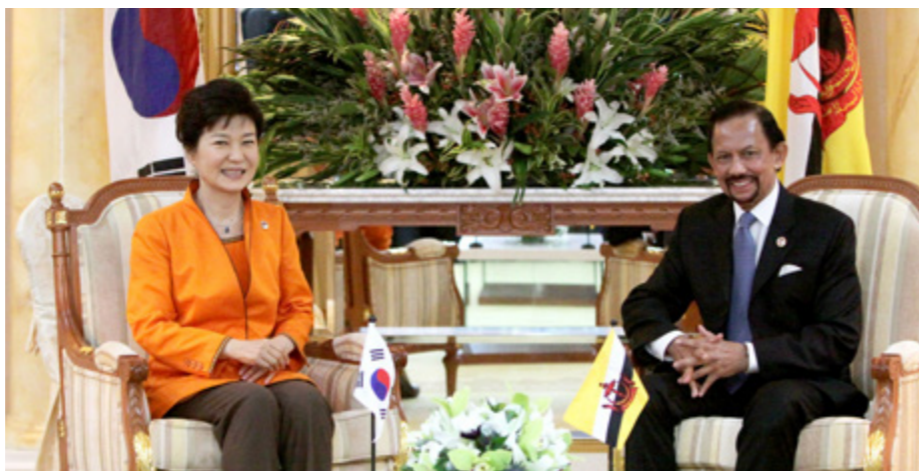
His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as Chairman of ASEAN 2013 stated the matter in his *titah* (royal speech) during the 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-ROK Summit held at the International Convention Centre.

At the summit, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam expressed satisfaction with the progress made through the ASEAN-ROK collaboration: such as the first ASEAN-ROK meeting on ASEAN's continuity, and the works done in producing a more business-friendly ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Area in order to meet the business needs of the region.

All these efforts, said His Majesty, will lead to the greater success of both ASEAN and ROK in achieving the trade target of USD150 billion in 2015, and bring benefits to the ASEAN strategic engagement.

The Monarch further showed his support towards Her Excellency Park Geun-Hye, President of the ROK's proposal to hold a Special Summit in 2014 to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN-ROK relations, as it would be a good opportunity to strengthen the strategic alliance between ASEAN and ROK.

His Majesty believes that this is very



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 Her Excellency Park Geun-Hye, President of the Republic of Korea during the bilateral meeting.

relevant to ASEAN, especially now that ASEAN is looking at the future beyond 2015. Particularly, the people of Brunei Darussalam really admire the remarkable economic transformation of ROK, from an agricultural-based economy to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) industry.

The Monarch continued, ASEAN is very interested in learning from ROK through cooperation in research and development, which will certainly be able to benefit ASEAN's creative industry and innovative capabilities. In addition, the Korean creative industry has a large fan base in the region, and such relationship will enhance understanding and the spirit of kinship among the people.

In the *titah*, His Majesty expressed his hope that ASEAN and ROK can increase their cooperation in the field of culture and the arts. His Majesty also noted that there is a desire among ASEAN members to strengthen their political-security cooperation, as based on experience; this cooperation is grounded on trust and understanding, especially through long-term negotiation processes as well as activities

implemented to improve confidence.

For this reason, said the Monarch, ASEAN greatly appreciates the good efforts of ROK in creating peace and stability in Northeast Asia, such as the Trust-Building Process in the Korean Peninsula and the Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative (NAPCI).

His Majesty shared that the decision to include the Kaesong Industrial Complex (KIC) in the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreement has encouraged similar initiatives towards building mutual trust and confidence in the Korean Peninsula.

The Monarch ended his *titah* by stating that ASEAN as a whole is very supportive of the President of ROK in her efforts to enhance relations between ASEAN and ROK towards fostering stronger trust and understanding in the region.

A bilateral meeting was held on the same day between His Majesty and Her Excellency Park Geun-Hye, where both parties shared their views on bilateral, regional and international issues.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as Chairman of ASEAN 2013 in a group photo with Her Excellency Park Geun-Hye, President of the Republic of Korea and other ASEAN Leaders during the 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-ROK Summit.

## ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 9** – 2013 is a very special year to review the recent successes in the fields of political-security, as well as economic and socio-cultural cooperation. 2013 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnerships, which provides a good opportunity to review the relationship between both parties.

The matter was stated 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) during the 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Summit held at the International Convention Centre.

In the *titah*, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also welcomed His Excellency Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, who attended the ASEAN-China Summit for the first time.

His Majesty noted that several activities have been carried out, such as the High-Level Forum in Bangkok and the Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Beijing, which have provided valuable opportunities to Ministers and Senior Officials, not only to re-evaluate what has been accomplished, but also to discuss ways to develop partnerships.

The Monarch then stated his awareness that commemorative activities have complemented efforts to implement the Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership. This has been further reinforced by People's Republic of China'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 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Summit.

strong support towards efforts in ASEAN Community Development and their regional key role in various mechanisms led by ASEAN, including East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN-Plus Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM Plus) and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

In this respect, His Majesty thanked People's Republic of China for their active involvement in the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Training held in Brunei Darussalam in June, as well as their contribution for the commemorative publication on ARF's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

This shows the People's Republic of China's great commitment in non-traditional security, under which ASEAN is currently working together to address several pressing

issues, from disaster management to fighting cross-border crime.

His Majesty then continued by stating that close cooperation can be clearly seen in various aspects, including trade and connections.

In terms of trade, ASEAN and People's Republic of China are ready to achieve a few important milestones. For the past five years, People's Republic of China has become the biggest trading partner of ASEAN, while ASEAN continues to be People's Republic of China's third largest trading partner since 2010, with the total bilateral trade value among ASEAN exceeding USD318 billion in 2012.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with His Excellency Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China and other ASEAN Leaders.

## ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership



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 joining other ASEAN Heads of State and Government for a cake-cutting ceremony to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership.

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At the same time, His Majesty is delighted to know that ASEAN and People's Republic of China will be working together to enhance the Free Trade Agreement in the region, and that the Economic Ministers will be commencing their first roadshow in People's Republic of China.

These efforts will further strengthen the economic relations in the region, taking into account the People's Republic of China's economic re-development, and will thus enable the region to adapt to the big shift in the global economy.

The Monarch further highlighted his satisfaction in the context of strategic

partnerships, as the official discussions on Code of Conduct have begun in the recent meetings, which reflect efforts in maintaining peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

His Majesty noted that the ASEAN officials and the People's Republic of China will hold discussions on the matter on a regular basis.

His Majesty also praised His Excellency Le Keqiang for his keynote address, where he announced the People's Republic of China's good neighbourly policy towards ASEAN, and stated that

People's Republic of China will work with the region to preserve peace and stability, including at the South China Sea.

At the end of the *titah*, His Majesty congratulated the Prime Minister of Thailand and His Excellency Le Keqiang for all their personal efforts in developing strategic partnerships.

Prior to the summit, His Majesty joined other ASEAN Heads of State and Government for a cake-cutting ceremony to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership.

## Brunei-New Zealand establishes cooperation in various fields

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 9** - 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 conducted a bilateral meeting with The Right Honorable Sir John Phillip Key, Prime Minister of New Zealand at the International Convention Centre.

The Prime Minister was in Brunei Darussalam for the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Meetings, which ran for two days.

During the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and The Right Honourable Sir John Phillip Key exchanged their opinions on issues concerning bilateral, regional and international matters.

Brunei Darussalam and New Zealand established diplomatic relations on May 5, 1984 and have shared extensive bilateral cooperation including trade, health, education and defence. New Zealand is one of the ASEAN Dialogue Partners along with Australia, People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, Republic of Korea, United States of America and Russia.



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 bilateral meeting with The Right Honorable Sir John Phillip Key, Prime Minister of New Zealand.

## ASEAN appreciates US' protection



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 co-chairing the 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-US Summit.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 9** - 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 applauded the diplomatic efforts in addressing the situation in Syria, especially the Framework Agreement and the approval of the United Nations Security Council resolution.

This was said in a *titah* (royal speech) delivered by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-United States of America (US) Summit, where His Majesty co-chaired the summit. The summit took place at the International Convention Centre.

His Majesty further mentioned ASEAN's appreciation towards the presence of the US in protecting the peace, stability and prosperity of the region; and hoped that it will continue. Apart from its efforts in political-security cooperation, ASEAN is committed to double its efforts and increased trade and investment; which was agreed during the previous summit in Phnom Penh, and followed by the Expanded Economic Engagement (E3), through which several developments in various aspects have been achieved.

"At the same time, ASEAN is also working closely to support Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), where ASEAN and US officials are cooperating to settle the Joint Investment Principles and the Joint Investment Information Technology (ICT) non-binding principles," said His Majesty.

The Monarch further stated that these initiatives have opened new opportunities to increase economic involvement, which can help provide jobs and strengthen industries to achieve common interests towards a strong, resilient and balanced economic growth.

His Majesty pointed out that another example of efforts made in this objective is through manpower cooperation, which is jointly carried out by Brunei Darussalam, the US and Indonesia. His Majesty also expressed his hope that the leaders can continue their efforts to open more similar opportunities for the benefit of the people.

Earlier in the *titah*, His Majesty welcomed the Heads of State and Government, as well as delegates of ASEAN, and His Excellency John Kerry, who was representing His Excellency President Barack Obama.

His Majesty also held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency John Kerry, State Secretary of the United States of America at the sidelines of the summit. During the meeting, His Majesty and His Excellency John Kerry exchanged views on bilateral, regional and international issues.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam together with His Excellency John Kerry, State Secretary of the United States of America at the bilateral meeting.



His Majesty and His Excellency John Kerry, State Secretary of the United States of America in a group photo with other ASEAN Leaders.



## Their Majesties host 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit Gala Dinner

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 9** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin 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 hosted a Gala Dinner for ASEAN Heads of State and Government, as well as Dialogue Partners who attended the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Meetings along with their respective spouses. The Gala Dinner was held at the International Convention Centre.

Also joining His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri at the event were His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah.

At the ceremony, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech), in which he welcomed the leaders and delegates to Brunei Darussalam, especially those who were visiting the country for the first time.

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin 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 during the Gala Dinner (left).



The cheerful atmosphere during the finale of the Gala Dinner.

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The Monarch then expressed his pleasure in receiving their presence, as well as his sincere hope that they are able to feel the comfort and hospitality during their stay in the country.

His Majesty also stated that ASEAN has grown rapidly over the past few years. Looking back at the time when Brunei Darussalam became the Chairman of the ASEAN Summit in 2001, His Majesty declared his satisfaction in seeing ASEAN's involvement has increased and has become more determined.

The Monarch further said that it is an honour to carry out the responsibilities as the Chairman of ASEAN this year, and looking forward, ASEAN is ready to work with all its companions and partners to continue the momentum towards making the region peaceful and prosperous for all citizens.

Before concluding the *titah*, His Majesty stated that Brunei Darussalam has reached the end of its time as the Chairman of ASEAN. With that, His Majesty expressed his appreciation for the support given to Brunei Darussalam throughout the year.

During the dinner, Their Majesties along with the leaders and spouses witnessed cultural performances, which involved colourful and glorious traditional and contemporary elements.

Over 400 participants consisting of students from 10 primary and secondary schools, as well as dance groups joined the performances; reflecting the ASEAN unity, in line with the theme for this year's ASEAN Summit: 'Our People, Our Future Together'.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha in a group photo during the Gala Dinner with ASEAN Heads of State and Government, as well as Dialogue Partners.

## ASEAN drafts Post-2015 Vision



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 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit Media Conference.

### BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 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 as Chairman of ASEAN 2013 said in a *titah* (royal speech) that ASEAN aims to double its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from USD2.23 trillion to USD4.4 trillion, and reduce half the percentage of its poverty population from 18.6 percent to 9.3 percent by 2030.

To achieve this aim, ASEAN Leaders

have instructed ASEAN Ministers to examine future challenges in the region, and proposed strategies to address those challenges as well as formulate a Post-2015 Vision, said His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

In considering the Post-2015 Vision, His Majesty said that ASEAN Leaders are very concerned about the future challenges in the ASEAN integration efforts, and their impact on the lives of the people of ASEAN. With the economic development in the region, it is expected to tackle further challenges such as the widening income gap, the urban-rural divide and the social transformation as a result of demographic change.

In this regard, the Monarch also noted that the ongoing effects of climate change and increased competition for natural resources may have implications towards ASEAN Community's development efforts.

His Majesty delivered the *titah* during a press conference held in conjunction with the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Meetings at the Media Conference Hall, International Convention Centre.

His Majesty added that ASEAN Leaders have altogether agreed that ASEAN has achieved substantive development in the realisation of the ASEAN Community 2015, especially in the implementation of milestone initiatives.

In doing so, ASEAN Leaders once again show their commitment to work closely together to meet the targets of the ASEAN Community which have not been achieved, under the three pillars of cooperation: that are, politics, economy and socio-culture.

The Monarch further mentioned that ASEAN Leaders also stressed the importance of ensuring that ASEAN programmes and projects will provide practical benefits for ASEAN citizens.

With this, the ASEAN Leaders are satisfied with the steps taken as a response to some of the decisions made in the ASEAN Summit last April; such as dedicating the ASEAN lanes to facilitate intra-ASEAN travel, the introduction of ASEAN Business Travel Cards and facilitating the needs for visas in ASEAN countries.

His Majesty also stated that ASEAN Leaders are determined to strengthen ASEAN's relations with their partners, particularly through ASEAN-led regional processes; where the leaders believe that it is important to have good and strong relations with them all.

Therefore, the ASEAN Leaders have had beneficial discussions with several Dialogue Partners, as it is a good opportunity to get to know them better in strengthening their ties with them, His Majesty explained.

## APT to continuously improve cooperation



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 chairing the 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Summit.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 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 expressed his satisfaction with the development of trade and investment among ASEAN Plus Three (APT) countries. Although the current global economic situation is pressing, it is important to continuously improve their cooperation.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered the *titah* (royal speech) while chairing the 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Summit at the International Convention Centre, where he stated that there are still many things that APT can do together, such as exploring ways to enhance the regional supply chain by focusing on developing Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in the region.

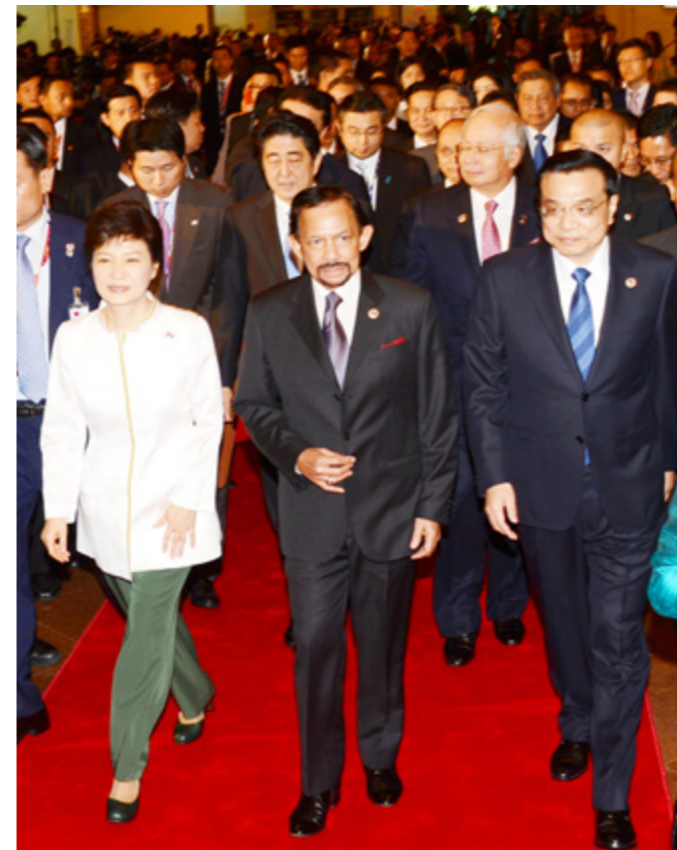
In relation to this, His Majesty suggested that it would be beneficial to encourage the involvement of all relevant parties in APT's initiatives, as well as make full use of the existing facilities in supporting APT's efforts.

His Majesty added that at the same time, ASEAN is looking forward for the support of their Plus Three allies in the settlement of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiation, which has been successful and according to schedule.

In the socio-cultural aspect, APT needs to continue to strengthen people-to-people relations by creating more opportunities for the public to meet through education, youth exchange and tourism. Even with their achievements, the East Asian region is still facing challenges.

With this, His Majesty hoped that APT will

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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 other ASEAN Leaders heading for the 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Summit.

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increase their efforts in the areas of mutual interest which will give direct impact to the community; such as improving ways to handle issues related to health, which include new infectious diseases, as well as preparing and responding to disease outbreaks.

His Majesty then stated that food security is another area that has recorded many achievements, and in moving forward, it would be beneficial to continue substantiating the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve. The Monarch also urged APT to consider enhancing their cooperation in new issues, such as energy security, as well as exploring ways to improve coordination with each other in disaster management and connectivity.

The Monarch welcomed the Work Plan that was presented by the APT officials and praised their hard work in updating the plan to include new areas of priority in developing the APT region, as well as to strengthen their cooperation for the next five years. His Majesty affirmed that all these efforts will contribute to ASEAN Community development.

The Monarch also noted that APT officials will be commencing their work to review the Report of the East Asia Vision Group II (EAVG II), which is comprehensive and the results will be presented in next year's summit.

His Majesty recalled, when the alliance began in 1997, the main focus was to ensure economic recovery, financial stability and the strengthening of ties between all countries, with the purpose of solidifying regional cooperation towards building the East Asian Community.

His Majesty said that APT has already achieved these objectives. In fact, they went beyond that. His Majesty also expressed his satisfaction with the overall progress of APT.

In the *titah*, His Majesty stated that over the past year, APT has worked hard in developing their cooperation, where numerous projects and initiatives have been carried out, especially the recent efforts made in enhancing regional monitoring mechanism and financial security network.

His Majesty believes that this will contribute towards ensuring resilient economic growth and further integrating the East Asian region.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with the ASEAN Leaders at the 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Summit.



The 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Summit held at the International Convention Centre.

## ASEAN-India to further unite people, promote regional growth

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 10** - The initiatives that directly benefit the people are connectivity works, such as the Trilateral Highway projects and last year's commemorative activities such as the Car Rally and the Sudarshini Expedition, which has demonstrated the close ties between ASEAN and Republic of India.

In this regard, 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 encouraged the inaugural meeting between the officials of ASEAN and Republic of India earlier this year, and hoped that the efforts to further unite the people and promote regional growth as a whole will continue.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stated the matter in a *titah* (royal speech) during the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit held at the International Convention Centre.

In terms of regional security, His Majesty suggested for ASEAN and Republic of India to enhance cooperation under the Joint Statement on the fight against international violence. For ASEAN, it is important to work with Republic of India in addressing issues such as violence, cybercrime and maritime securities.

His Majesty highlighted that all efforts will be guided by the Action Plan; and was pleased to know that these efforts have been updated in accordance with last year's Vision Statement and aspirations as strategic partners.

His Majesty also took note of Republic of India's intention to establish an ASEAN-India Trade and Investment Centre, which



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India attending the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit.



The statement of the summit encompassed several matters, including connectivity works, such as the Trilateral Highway projects; and several commemorative activities held last year, such as the Car Rally and Sudarshini expedition which demonstrated the close relations between ASEAN and Republic of India.



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 chairing the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit.

would further enhance trade and investment cooperation.

At the session, the Monarch also mentioned that Republic of India is one of ASEAN's most valuable partners, with over 20 years of cooperation in various fields, from space research to agriculture, where ASEAN has benefited from the country's expertise and innovation.

His Majesty also shared that at the same time, Republic of India's Look East Policy has been helping the development efforts of the ASEAN Community especially with the year 2015 approaching.

ASEAN Leaders also appreciate Republic of India's positive participation in regional mechanisms, including the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF); the East Asian Summit (EAS); and the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus).

His Majesty added, ASEAN has witnessed a lot of development over the past two decades, and is pleased with the potential to further strengthen mutual relations.

Last year, ASEAN and Republic of India agreed to increase trade to USD100 billion for the year 2015. This reflects confidence in enhancing cooperation to achieve growth, especially in the face of economic uncertainty.

With this, His Majesty welcomed the signing of this year's Trade in Service Investment and Agreements, as well as efforts to facilitate entrepreneurs in conducting businesses and investments in the region.

Earlier in the *titah*, His Majesty congratulated His Excellency Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India on the outstanding achievements of ASEAN-India 2012; in addition to the commemorative activities and the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit, which has enhanced their relations to a strategic level.

## APT continues to increase efforts in areas of mutual interests



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 co-chairing the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-UN Summit.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 10** - ASEAN greatly appreciates their existing partnership, especially with the United Nations (UN), who have been helping ASEAN's development in recent years.

The UN has provided support to the development efforts of the ASEAN Community, especially in achieving the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and in promoting peace and security regionally and globally.

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 as Chairman of ASEAN 2013, stated the matter in a *titah* (royal speech) while co-chairing the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-UN Summit with His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary-General.

Since the establishment of a comprehensive partnership in the last



ASEAN and United Nations continue to work together on issues that are directly impacting their people, such as climate change, disaster management and education; while promoting the development of youths in manpower and entrepreneurship.

meeting, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has noted the various activities that have already been implemented.

His Majesty voiced his satisfaction with the ongoing cooperation in connectivity and food security under the pillar of economics, and acknowledged the role and support of the UN in implementing the ASEAN Master Plan, as well as its involvement during the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Connectivity Symposium two months ago.

The Monarch also expressed appreciation to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for their advice and expertise in the fields of agriculture, fishery and forestry; under which they have contributed a lot towards addressing the challenges of food security in the region. His Majesty also hoped that efforts in the field will be further heightened.

In terms of socio-cultural issues, His Majesty proclaimed his wish for ASEAN and UN to continue working together on issues that directly affect their people, such as climate change, disaster management and education; while promoting youth involvement in manpower and entrepreneurship.

Touching on political security cooperation, the Monarch stated that the UN continues to support ASEAN's initiatives, such as ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and the establishment of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation.

His Majesty praised UN's proactive role in providing technical assistance and expertise, as well as preventative diplomacy. In this regard, His Majesty also voiced his appreciation to the UN Secretary-General for his personal contribution to ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), especially in providing a key role and evolution to the forum.

His Majesty was also pleased that the UN has cooperated with ASEAN in

workshops and seminars on preventive diplomacy.

These activities, said His Majesty, are of great benefit in capacity building, including gaining and improving understanding on preventive diplomacy conflict-resolving approaches.

The Monarch also assured that ASEAN will continue to be committed in supporting the UN in this matter, especially through the ARF.

On the whole, the Monarch was very pleased with the development of relations between ASEAN and UN. The widespread and diverse involvement between the two parties, especially the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has made the UN a valuable ASEAN partner for over three years.

As a step forward, His Majesty continued, both Secretariats should hold more regular consultations to monitor their cooperation. The Monarch also welcomed the UN's plan to set up a regional office in Jakarta, which will further strengthen their dialogue and coordination.

At the end of the *titah*, His Majesty thanked the President of the Republic of Indonesia for his role and contribution to the UN High Panel on Post-2015 Development Agenda.

His Majesty expressed ASEAN's hopes to work closely with UN in ensuring that Post-2015 Vision of ASEAN is in line with the global development agenda.

Earlier, the Monarch welcomed His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon to Brunei Darussalam and expressed appreciation for his attendance at this year's meeting.

At the end of the summit, Brunei Darussalam as the Chairman of ASEAN 2013, issued the Chairman's Statement of the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-UN Summit.

## His Majesty hands over ASEAN Chairmanship

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 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 as the Chairman of ASEAN 2013 handed over the Gavel to His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar as a symbolic gesture of entrusting the responsibility as the 24<sup>th</sup> Chairman of ASEAN, Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The ceremony took place at the International Convention Centre in Berakas, which marked the end of the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Meetings.

Earlier, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam expressed his appreciation in a *titah* (royal speech) to everyone who attended the summit, especially His Excellency U Thein Sein as the future Chairman of ASEAN, for witnessing the handover.

His Majesty said that Brunei Darussalam was given the honour to chair ASEAN for the fourth time, which was a challenging but rewarding task. The Monarch also expressed his gratitude for the support, commitment and the spirit of camaraderie from ASEAN associates, partners and allies.

While handing over the ASEAN Chairmanship, His Majesty gave his full support to Republic of the Union of Myanmar as next year's Chairman.

His Majesty believes that with the wisdom of His Excellency U Thein Sein as the Chairman, and through ASEAN's close cooperation and camaraderie, ASEAN will continue to build on the success that has been achieved, and increase progress towards the vision for a peaceful and prosperous region in the interests of the people and a shared future.

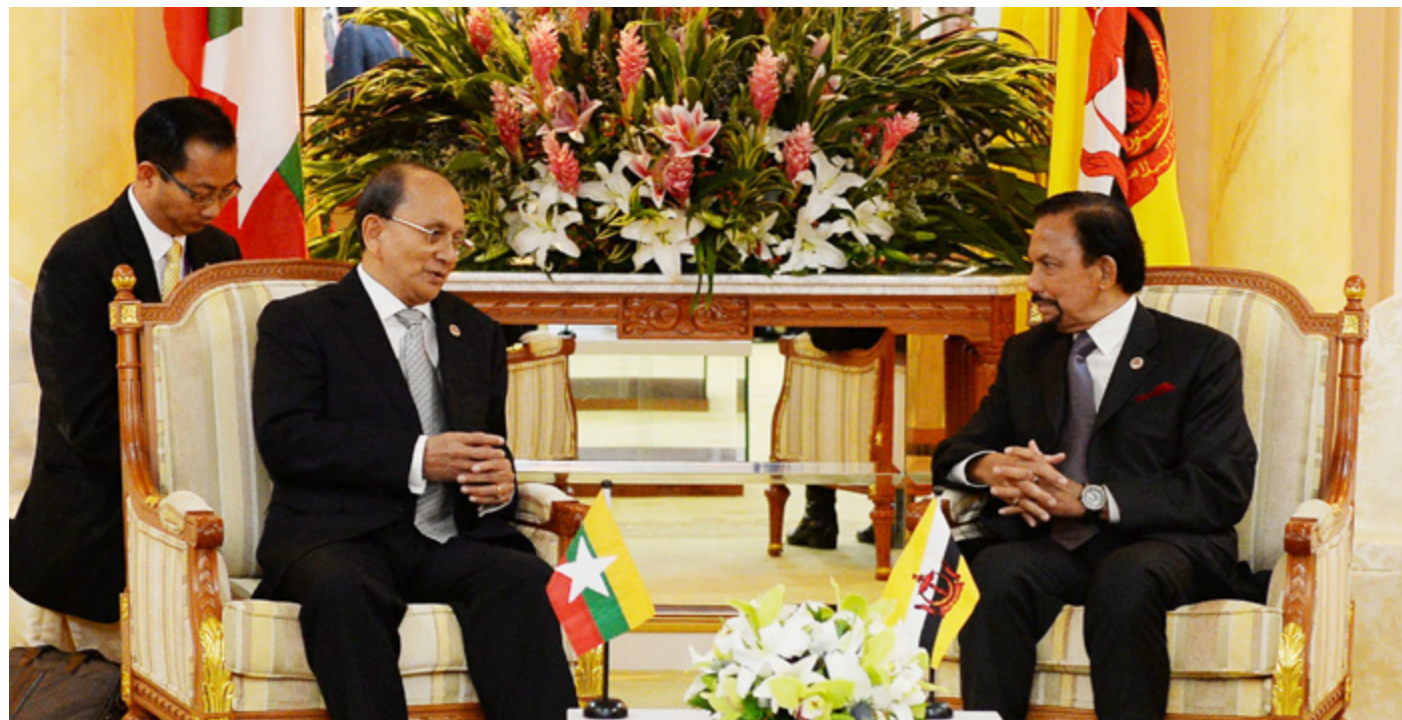
On the same day, His Majesty also held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency U Thein Sein, where both leaders discussed bilateral issues between both countries and exchanged views on regional and international affairs of mutual interest.



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 symbolically handing over the Gavel to His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar as the 24<sup>th</sup> Chairman of ASEAN.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the bilateral meeting with His Excellency U Thein Sein (above and below).



## Food security important for EAS

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 10** - Sustainable security is an important element for the East Asia Summit (EAS) in the long-term. It has a direct impact on the people and is closely linked to many key areas of EAS, such as environment, energy, global health and connectivity.

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 his *titah* (royal speech) while chairing the 8<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit (EAS) at the International Convention Centre.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam believes that the extensive EAS membership can complement works in strengthening existing food security at the regional and global levels in three main areas.

The first is through production and supply chain efficiencies, by improving information sharing and developing best practices. The second is through health management, by creating awareness on nutrition and a healthy lifestyle. The third is through addressing environmental aspects that are related to food security, by establishing cooperation in relation to water; sustainable fishery management and conservation; as well as by finding ways to generate sustainability in dealing with climate change and mitigating its effects.

Towards this end, His Majesty stated that EAS can begin its work in all these areas with respect to the EAS Declaration Agreement on Food Security, as well as assign their officers to take follow-up actions on its implementation.

His Majesty then expressed satisfaction regarding a Study Group, which has been established under the EAS to examine the issues of marine environmental conservation and its relation to sustainable fishery management and food security.

On the other hand, as a follow-up to the 'energy cooperation' initiative in the last summit, His Majesty was pleased with the introduction of a new workflow on 'Renewable and Alternative Power Generation', which is co-chaired by Brunei Darussalam and the United States of America (US).

His Majesty believes that it will provide useful policy proposals to the EAS. This will increase investment and participation from the private sector; in efforts to improve energy securities that ensure sustainable, stable and affordable access to energy, as well as promote inclusive economic growth and environmental sustainability.

During the summit, the Monarch stated his belief that



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* during the 8<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit.

climate change is one of the areas in which the EAS can work together to further strengthen efforts in reducing its effects, such as environmental conservation, sustainable development and disaster management.

His Majesty also voiced his appreciation for the participation of EAS countries in the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Plus Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief; and the Military Medicine Exercise, which was held last June in Brunei Darussalam.

With 18 countries working together, His Majesty explained, it gives a very strong signal that the EAS is beneficial especially in times of crisis. Therefore, EAS officials were encouraged to look into similar initiatives, aside from supporting Republic of India's proposal for a Network of National Disaster Management Agencies EAS 24-7 and Virtual Science Center.

His Majesty further stated that there are many challenges that arise in the current global political securities landscape.

However, the Monarch clarified, over the past few weeks; there has been positive cooperation among members of the United Nations in addressing issues that are of interest to the EAS. With this, His Majesty praised the Russian Federation and US for their efforts in finding a peaceful solution to the Syrian crisis.

At the end of the summit, a Chairman's Statement on the 8<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit was issued, while EAS Leaders agreed to the 8<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit Declaration on Food Security.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with ASEAN and East Asia Leaders during the 8<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit.

## Brunei-China sign two MoUs



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 arriving at the bilateral meeting with His Excellency Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 11** - 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 Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present at the event were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

During the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Li Keqiang discussed bilateral issues between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China, and exchanged their opinions about regional and international matters of mutual interest.

After the ceremony, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Maritime Cooperation was signed by His Royal Highness



His Majesty along with His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed Bolkiah during a signing ceremony of Memoranda of Understanding between Brunei Darussalam and People's Republic of China.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the bilateral meeting with His Excellency Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and His Excellency Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. While an MoU on Instrument of Cooperation between Brunei Petroleum and China National Offshore Oil Cooperation on oilfield services was signed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade as Brunei Petroleum Chairman and Wang Yilin, Chairman of the China National Offshore Oil Cooperation.

Also in attendance were His Excellency Xu Shaosi, Minister of National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC); His Excellency Gao Hucheng, Minister of Commerce; His Excellency Xiao Jie, Deputy Secretary-General of the State Council; His Excellency Ning Jizhe, Director of the State Council Research Office; and His Excellency Zheng Xianglin, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam.

His Excellency Li Keqiang was in the country for a two-day official visit to Brunei Darussalam on October 10-11.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade with His Excellency Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China after signing the Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Cooperation.

## Brunei-China relationship strengthened

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 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 attended an Official Banquet to celebrate His Excellency Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China who was on a two-day official state visit from October 10-11. The event took place at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Present at the banquet were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik. Also in attendance was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna.

At the event, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered a *titah* (royal speech), in which he, among others, expressed confidence that the improvement of Brunei-China relation to a strategic partnership level will further continue the works that have been done and open further opportunities for cooperation.

His Majesty also acknowledged the contributions given by the teachers, consultants, trainers and professional experts from the People's Republic of China for the country's development.

His Majesty further stated that Brunei Darussalam admires the achievements made by the People's Republic of China, especially in economic development, which has been successfully carried out by His Excellency Li Keqiang; and not only brought benefits to the people of both countries but also to the region as a whole.

His Majesty welcomed People's Republic of China's contributions in ensuring the sustainable economic growth of both the Republic and the region through the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area Upgrade and the Pan Asia project cooperation, as well as the Republic's support in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

The Monarch further expressed his confidence that the People's Republic of China will continue to succeed in national development efforts and produce a prosperous community under the current leadership.

His Majesty affirmed that the country will continue to uphold the One-China policy, aside from appreciating People's Republic of China's support to Brunei Darussalam as the Chairman of ASEAN 2013. The Republic's participation and contribution in recent meetings serve as a testimony of their strong commitment to further enhance the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership.

Earlier in his *titah*, His Majesty also touched on his recent visit to the People's Republic of China in April, and expressed his gratitude for receiving good hospitality from the people of the Republic. His Majesty further congratulated His Excellency's government and the people on the occasion of the 64<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China.

His Majesty described His Excellency's visit as part of the tradition signifying the alliance and cooperation between the two countries, and expressed his appreciation for the existing friendship.



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* at the Official Banquet (right).



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China during an Official Banquet (above and below).



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna attending the Official Banquet.

## Sunat Aidiladha prayer and *Korban* Ceremony

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 16** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Sunat Aidiladha prayer and *Korban* Ceremony in conjunction with the Hari Raya Aidiladha 1434 Hijrah/2013 Masihi celebration, which took place at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah, Kampung Kiarong.

Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel, as well as other members of the royal family.

The Sunat Aidiladha prayer was led by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Awang Besar and the sermon was presented by Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, Minister of Home Affairs.

Prior to leaving the mosque, His Majesty and other members of the royal family received *junjung ziarah* (meet-and-greet) greetings from the congregants of the mosque.

Afterwards, His Majesty and other members of the royal family witnessed the *Korban* Ceremony where seven goats were sacrificed and this was followed by the presentation of *Korban*



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joining the citizens of the country for the Sunat Aidiladha prayer at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah. Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel.

meat to 20 recipients by His Majesty. The rest of the meat was presented in ceremonies conducted in all four districts.

This year, as much as 14 goats and 54 cows were sacrificed, a fraction of which were delivered to 2,497 recipients who were in need: 1,809 from the Brunei-Muara District; 283 from the Tutong District; 296 from the Belait District; and 169 from the Temburong District.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting *Korban* meat to one of the recipients in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidiladha 1434 Hijrah/2013 Masihi celebration.



His Majesty conducting the *Korban* ceremony on behalf of His Majesty and the other members of the royal family.



His Majesty along with His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah during the *Korban* Ceremony in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidiladha 1434 Hijrah/2013 Masihi celebration.