



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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Brunei - Swaziland share similar experiences, aspiration



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a titah at a State Banquet in honour of King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Swaziland, at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has said that Brunei Darussalam and Swaziland share not only similar experiences, but also similar aspiration, which enable both countries to learn from and help each other.

The monarch said Brunei Darussalam and Swaziland are both committed to their respective economic progress while preserving their cultures and traditions.

With these similarities, both countries have many opportunities for bilateral and multilateral cooperation, said His Majesty.

In a titah (royal address) at a State Banquet held in honour of King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Swaziland, at Nurul Iman Palace on 25 May, the Brunei ruler pointed that at first glance, Brunei Darussalam and the Kingdom of Swaziland appear very different, but a closer look shows several similarities.

"As inheritors of proud traditions, we understand the importance of our heritage as well as the heavy responsibilities that come with leadership," said His Majesty.

"It is our duty to ensure that our

people are able to successfully meet the social, political and economic challenges of the new millennium," said the monarch, while emphasizing that "as developing nation, we have to meet the challenges of economic modernization and development."

On the national development strategy of the Kingdom of Swaziland which emphasises on economic diversification, His Majesty pointed that it mirrors Brunei Darussalam's national development strategy, while Swaziland's economic review commission and its economic reform programmes have close counterparts in the Sultanate.

His Majesty said as small countries, Brunei Darussalam and Swaziland share historical and strategic similarities, and are situated in

regions that have historically been volatile and are vulnerable to external forces over which both have little control.

The Brunei ruler further spoke on the similarities of both countries' approaches towards foreign relations, in which Brunei Darussalam agree wholeheartedly to the policy of non-involvement in the affairs of other states as well as a steadfast belief in dialogue as the means to settle disputes.

"We too believe in working and cooperating closely with our neighbours to safeguard peace and prosperity in our region," His Majesty said.

His Majesty noted that Brunei Darussalam's role in ASEAN is similar to Swaziland's role in the South African Development Community, in

• *Continued on centre page*

**BRUNEI
DARUSSALAM
NEWSLETTER**

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YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 30 June 1999. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-383941 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.

*His Majesty
happy
with
the warm
and close
understanding
between
Brunei Darussalam
and
Norway*

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has expressed happiness on the warm and close understanding between Brunei Darussalam and Norway.

His Majesty believed that such kind of atmosphere could be maintained and further enhanced in the future for the benefits of both nations and its people. His Majesty made the titah in a congratulatory message to His Majesty King Herald the Fifth, King of Norway and to Norways' Prime Minister, His Excellency Kjell Magne Bondevick on the occasion of the Kingdom of Norway's constitution and independence day.

In his message, His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also hoped His Majesty King Herald the Fifth will always be in good health and the people of Norway continue to enjoy prosperity and stability.

Meanwhile in a message to His Excellency Kjell Magne Bondevick, the Prime Minister of Norway, His Majesty conveyed his congratulation to His Excellency, the Government and people of Norway on the occasion of Norway's Constitution Day. His Majesty also wished His Excellency, prosperity and stability.

**Brunei-
Australia
sign
MOU
on defence**

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of Australia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on defence activities. The ceremony took place at the Defence Ministry of Brunei Darussalam at the Bolkiah Garrison on 10 May.

His Majesty's Government was represented by the Permanent Secretary (Policy and Administration) of the Defence Ministry, Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Alimin, while the Chief of Australia's Defence Forces, Admiral C. A. Barrie signed on behalf of the Australian Government.

A press release issued by the Defence Ministry stated that the MOU would act as a master memorandum for bilateral activities in the field of defence between the two countries. The Memorandum is aimed to further upgrade the existing cooperation.

Brunei Darussalam and Australia for the past few years have signed several memorandums of understanding to enable the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) and Australia's Defence Forces to conduct several training programmes. A memorandum of understanding signed in 1985, for instance, was related to the participation of RBAF personnel in military training programmes in Australia.

Prior to the signing, Admiral C.A. Barrie inspected a guard of honour mounted by RBAF personnel, and met the Deputy Minister of Defence, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General (Retired) Pengiran Haji Ibnu Ba'asith and the RBAF Commander, Pengiran Dato Paduka Seri Major General Haji Abidin.

His Majesty confers state title on Chief of the Malaysian Armed Forces

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has bestowed one of the highest state titles on the Chief of the Malaysian Armed Forces, General Dato Seri Mohd. Zahidi.

His Majesty conferred General Dato Seri Mohd. Zahidi with the 'Darjah Keberanian Laila Terbilang Yang Amat Gemilang Darjah Pertama (D.P.K.T) first class which carries the title of 'Dato Paduka Seri'. The ceremony was held at Istana Nurul Iman on 20 May.

After the ceremony, His Majesty granted an audience to the Malaysian Armed Forces' Chief, during which they exchanged views pertaining to military cooperation between the two countries.

Meanwhile, the wife of General Dato Seri Mohd. Zahidi, Datin Seri Hajjah Rasiah was received the same day by Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam in separate audiences at Istana Nurul Iman and Istana Nurul Izzah respectively.



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam confers General Dato Seri Mohd. Zahidi, the Malaysian Chief of the Armed Forces with the title, the 'Darjah Keberanian Laila Terbilang Yang Amat Gemilang Darjah Pertama (D.P.K.T.)'.

Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha, below left, and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam, below right, grant audiences to the wife of the Malaysian Chief of the Armed Forces, Datin Seri Hajjah Rasiah.



Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha (picture above left) and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam (picture above right) receiving in separate audiences Datin Seri Sharifah Aziah, the wife of the Malaysian Foreign Affairs Minister, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Syed Hamid Albar at Istana Nurul Iman and Istana Nurul Izzah respectively on 17 May. The Malaysian Foreign Affairs Minister was in Brunei Darussalam on a three-day visit.



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving a royal salute upon arrival at the Ministry of Defence Headquarters.

RBAF to save cost

The Royal Brunei Armed Forces is expected to save up to B\$34.18 million in expenditure in a concerted effort to tackle the economic recession affecting this country.

However, the infrastructure development, the building of a permanent air base for the Royal Brunei Air Force and a base for the third battalion is still under study.

"Economic issue has become the prime factor in both projects," explained the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Commander, Major General Pengiran Dato Paduka Seri Haji Abidin in his briefing during a visit by His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to the Ministry of Defence headquarters on 24 May.

According to the RBAF Chief, the military forces will continuously carry out development through the ongoing

• Continued on page 5



His Majesty consented to receive greetings from the RBAF unit commanders during His Majesty's arrival (above). His Majesty inspecting the guard of honour mounted by members of the first battalion of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (left).

His Majesty in a group photo with Deputy Minister of Defence, permanent secretaries at the Ministry of Defence and core unit commanders including RBAF chief(below).



• From page 4
(RBAF to save cost)

planning where its commitments and manpower at all levels were greatly needed not only directly in defence aspects but also additional duties in the national interest.

The RBAF Chief in his briefing also touched on the development implemented including the Y2K project, DEFLIS and the construction of an air base and a base for the third battalion.

“The Y2K project is expected to be completed by the end of October this year with the provision of contingency programmes to overcome the unforeseen problems.”

On the development of the DEFLIS project, an inventory system for goods accounting replacing the BLIS, the RBAF Chief said that at this time it is still in the process of selecting the successful contractor through tender and is expected to be finished in December 2000. The project, according to the chief will be funded under the National Y2K budget.

His Majesty was greeted on arrival at the Ministry of Defence's headquarters at Bolkliah Camp by the Deputy Minister of Defence, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja (retired) Major General Pengiran Haji Ibnu Ba'asith.

On hand to greet His Majesty were the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Chief, Major General Pengiran Dato Paduka Seri Haji Abidin and both Permanent Secretaries at the Ministry of Defence.

Upon arrival His Majesty received a royal salute mounted by 105 members of the first battalion of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces under the command of Major Abdul Ghani.

The Royal Brunei Armed Forces was formed on 31 May 1961 and at present comprises of five major divisions with respective command since 1 October 1991.



His Majesty being briefed on the Royal Brunei Armed Forces by its Commander, Major-General Pengiran Dato Paduka Seri Haji Abidin.

Health check-up programme for elderly people begins 1 June

The Health Ministry will conduct a Health Check-up Programme for the Elderly People at all government hospitals beginning 1 June this year, the Acting Minister of Health has announced.

The programme which is aimed at giving free health check-up for citizens and permanent residents who are 60 years of age and above, is a new move to be conducted in phases to give community service for the older people, he said.

In a speech marking the launching of World Health Day at the International Convention Centre in Berakas on 8 May, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abd. Aziz said diseases such as diabetes, heart diseases, high-blood pressure, and reduced capability due to poor eyesight and hearing usually affect the older people. Most of these diseases do not show any symptom or sign and may go unnoticed to them or members of their family until it is too late.

In this respect, he said, the programme will provide a systematic check-up for health status of the older people in order to identify and treat diseases and health problems.

In his speech read by the Permanent Secretary of the Health Ministry, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Ahmad, the Minister said that health is not the only issue related to the elderly people. There are also the social,

religious and financial aspects related to ageing and to face these challenges would require cooperation between various government agencies and the private sector.

Touching on the role of the private sector in giving medical and health service in the country, the Minister highlighted that the Jerudong Park Medical Centre will continue to operate as a private hospital.

At present, the Government is selecting proposals from a number of foreign investors at international level who have shown their interest to commercially carry out services at the Centre in providing various medical services and options to citizens and people of the country.

This year's World Health Day bears the theme 'Active Ageing Makes The Difference', emphasizing due attention for elderly people and ensuring that they are still capable of playing their role in the community.

In a statement in conjunction with the World Health Day on 7 April, the Acting Health Minister stressed the need for the Health Ministry to protect the prosperity and life quality of the elderly people in the country.

An exhibition on the health of the elderly people and a forum were also held in conjunction with the occasion. The exhibition was participated by the Islamic Dakwah Centre and the Social Affairs Services Unit.



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in conversation with His Majesty King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Swaziland, at an audience prior to the banquet at Istana Nurul Iman, above, while picture right, shows the Brunei monarch consented to receive souvenir from His Majesty King Mswati III.



• From page one
(Brunei-Swaziland share similar experiences, aspiration)

which both nations share the desire to promote dialogue, consultation and consensus as a means of achieving successful and mutually beneficial co-operation.

"Both realise the importance of implementing free trade areas, as we have illustrated with the ASEAN Free Trade Area and what you have demonstrated with the SADC and the Common Marketing Eastern and Southern Africa," His Majesty said.

His Majesty stressed that such economic initiatives are important for developing countries such as Brunei Darussalam and the Kingdom of Swaziland.

The Brunei monarch earlier noted that His Majesty King Mswati III's visit offers an opportunity to further strengthen ties of friendship and co-operation between Brunei Darussalam and Swaziland and to strengthen the bonds between Royal families of both countries.

Meanwhile, His Majesty King Mswati III in his reply stressed



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty King Mswati III receiving a royal salute mounted by the Royal Brunei Armed Forces personnel. Also seen were Her Majesty the Raja Isteri, Her Royal Highness the Pengiran Isteri and Her Royal Highness Inkhosikati Lambhikiza (above). Picture bottom shows the royal visitors being greeted on arrival by state dignitaries, while His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah looks on.



His Majesty King Mswati III during his visit to the Royal Regalia, above, while Her Royal Highness Inkhosikati Lambhikiza touring the exhibition on the Brunei Shipwreck at the Brunei Museum, right.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty the Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness the Pengiran Isteri, His Majesty King Mswati III and Her Royal Highness Inkhosikati Lambhikiza and members of the royal family of both countries at a banquet in honour of the royal visitors at Istana Nurul Iman.

on the success Brunei Darussalam has achieved through her resettlement programme, the efforts she is making towards economic diversification as well as in investment which emphasises eco-tourism as an area of particular potential for the future.

"All of these issues are at the centre of our own plans for the Kingdom's development, and I know that we can take this opportunity, as partners and friends, to share ideas on these and other areas of common interest," he said.

On the purpose of the visit, His Majesty King Mswati III underlined that it was aimed at building the relationship between the two countries, and to enable both countries to learn from each other in a whole range of important areas.

He said Swaziland is currently embarking on a review of her constitution, using a system which he believed has similarities to Brunei's 'Ketua Kampong' process, involving the chiefs and their

subjects.

On the economic front, Swaziland's focus has been to create the right environment to encourage her private sector to expand and to drive the economy forward and has, among others, revised the investment incentives to attract greater local and international businesses.

His Majesty King Mswati welcomed Brunei businessmen to invest in areas such as tourism, manufacturing and agriculture in Swaziland.

Also attending the State Banquet were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah and other members of the royal family.

The Swaziland delegation included Her Royal Highness Princess Sikhanyiso, His Royal Highness Prince Lindani, His Royal Highness Prince Gabheni and Her Royal Highness Princess Manfombi Shiywe.

Prior to the banquet, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam received His Majesty King Mswati III and Her Royal Highness Inkhosikati Lambhikiza in an audience at Istana Nurul Iman. At the ceremony, His Majesty and King Mswati III exchanged souvenirs.

On arrival at the Brunei International airport earlier in the day, His Majesty King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Swaziland and Her Royal Highness Inkhosikati Lambhikiza and delegation were welcomed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna.

His Majesty King Mswati III and Her Royal Highness Inkhosikati Lambhikiza then proceeded to Istana Nurul Iman, where they were welcomed by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang



• Continued on page 9



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah inspecting a guard of honour of seventy-two personnel from Provost Unit of the Singapore Armed Forces, left, before he meets His Excellency Mr. Goh Chok Tong at the Presidential Palace, above.

Crown Prince's official visit to Singapore

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah arrived in Singapore on 17 May for a three-day official visit to the republic, on the invitation of the Singapore Prime Minister, His Excellency Mr. Goh Chok Tong.

His Royal Highness was greeted on arrival at the Changi International airport by the Chief of Protocol at the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Brunei Darussalam's High Commissioner to Singapore, His Excellency Pehin Datu Pekerma

Bijaya Colonel (Retired) Dato Paduka Haji Hussin bin Haji Sulaiman, the High Commissioner of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Tee Tua Ba, and His Excellency Mr. Matthias Yao Chih, the Minister of State for Defence and Minister-In-Attendance.

The official visit of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah began with a visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, where His Royal Highness was welcomed by the republic's Minister of

Foreign Affairs and Minister of Law, Mr. S. Jayakumar and was briefed on the Ministry's role and objectives.

His Royal Highness also made a courtesy call on the Acting President of Singapore, His Excellency Mr. Lim Kim San at the Istana. Prior to the meeting, His Royal Highness received a royal salute and inspected a guard of honour of seventy-two personnel from the Provost Unit of Singapore Armed Forces. His Royal Highness also met the Prime Minister of Singapore, His Excellency Mr. Goh Chok Tong at the Istana.

In the evening, His Royal Highness was entertained to a dinner by the Singapore Premier. Accompanying His Royal Highness were His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Qawi.

The following day, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah visited the SAFI Military Institute where he was received by Singapore's Minister of State for Defence, His Excellency Mr. David Lim, Chief of the Singapore Armed Forces, Brigadier General Lim Chuan Poh and Commandant of the Institute, Brigadier General Stephen Wong. During the visit, His Royal Highness was briefed on the various role of the Institute and toured some of its facilities.

Before proceeding to the Raffles Institution, His Royal Highness was entertained to

• Continued on page 9



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and his brother, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim attending a dinner hosted by His Excellency Mr. Goh Chok Tong, the Singapore Prime Minister, at the Istana.

• From page 8
(Crown Prince's official visit to Singapore)

a luncheon at a leading hotel by Singapore's Minister of Education and Second Minister of Defence, His Excellency Rear Admiral Teo Chee Hean.

During the visit to the Raffles Institution, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince was briefed on the profile of the Institution and also toured its facilities.

In the evening, His Royal Highness visited Singapore's Zoological Gardens, where he was shown the Night Safari. Prior to the visit to the Zoological Gardens, His Royal Highness accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Qawi, was entertained to a dinner at the Gardens by the Minister of State for Defence and Minister-In-Attendance, His Excellency Mr. Matthias Yao Chih.

On the third day of the visit, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince consented to grant an audience to Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister, His Excellency Brigadier General Lee Hsien Loong at the Presidential Suite of the Ritz-Carlton Millenia. His Excellency was accompanied by the Minister of State for Defence and Minister-In-Attendance and the High Commissioner of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Tee Tua Ba.

His Royal Highness was also entertained to a luncheon given by Singapore Minister of Communication, His Excellency Mr. Mah Bow Tan at a leading hotel in the republic.

In the evening, His Royal Highness accompanied by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Qawi, consented to watch a football tournament between Jurong Football Club and Tanjong Pagar Football Club at Timur Jurong Stadium. His Royal Highness was welcomed at the Stadium by His Excellency Mr. Mah Bow Tan who is also the President of Singapore Football Association.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah left Singapore on 20 May. The visit to Singapore is His Royal Highness' second official visit since his installation as a Crown Prince.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah being briefed on facilities provided at the Raffles Institute by its principal. Standing next to him is Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Qawi, who accompanied His Royal Highness throughout the visit, above, while picture right shows His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim during a visit to the Night Safari at Mandai Road in Singapore.



• From centre page
(Brunei-Swaziland share similar experiences, aspiration)

Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam.

During the three-day visit, His Majesty King Mswati III and delegation toured the Royal Regalia, Brunei Museum, Kampong Ayer, Jerudong Park playground and Brunei Liquefied Natural Gas Plant (BLNG) in Lumut, Seria, while Her Royal Highness Inkhoshikati Lambhikiza's itinerary included a visit to Pusat Bahagia welfare centre in Pulaie.

His Majesty King Mswati III and Her Royal Highness Inkhoshikati Lambhikiza and delegation left the country on 27 May. His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna were again at the airport to bid farewell to the royal delegation.

Brunei Darussalam and the Kingdom of Swaziland established diplomatic relations in May 1992, and relations were further strengthened with the visit to the Kingdom by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Foreign Affairs Minister, and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah, several years later.

Minister of Foreign Affairs receives courtesy call from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Swaziland



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs receives a courtesy call from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Swaziland.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, received a courtesy call from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Swaziland on May 26.

His Excellency Albert Shabangu, was in the country to accompany His Majesty King Mswati III on a three day visit to Brunei Darussalam.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah received His Excellency Albert Shabangu at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan.

During the call, His Royal Highness and His Excellency discussed ways of enhancing bilateral cooperation and increasing contacts between Brunei Darussalam and the Kingdom of Swaziland.

The ministers also exchanged views on current regional and international issues. Brunei Darussalam and the Kingdom of Swaziland established diplomatic relations on 11 May 1992.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, the President of the Brunei Darussalam's Girl Guides Association, has received a courtesy call from two members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) Committee for the Asia-Pacific Region.

Her Royal Highness received WAGGGS Executive for the Asia-Pacific, Mdm. Letty R. Arnilla and Mdm. Hajjah Fatimah Haji Mohammad, its committee member, who is also the Chief High Commissioner of Malaysia's Girl Guide Association, at Darun Noor.

During the meeting, Her Royal Highness discussed issues on the WAGGGS movement in the region.

Also present at the meeting was the Vice-President of Brunei Darussalam's Girl Guide Association, Datin Paduka Hajjah Zaharah and several 'ad hoc' committee members of the Conference for Regional Committee of WAGGGS for the Asia-Pacific, which will be held in Brunei Darussalam in 2001.

WAGGGS is a major voluntary organization, which aims to help young

HRH Princess Hajjah Masna receives members of WAGGGS Committee for Asia-Pacific



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, President of the Brunei Darussalam's Girl Guides Association, receiving WAGGGS Executive for the Asia-Pacific, Mdm Letty R, Arnilla and its Committee Member, Mdm. Hajjah Fatimah Haji Mohammad.

girls and young women upgrade their potential as responsible citizens. To date, the organization has 10 million

members in 136 countries. Brunei Darussalam was accepted as a full member of WAGGGS in July 1996.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim, His Majesty's second son, has stressed the need to incorporate the real life application of mathematics into the teaching system in order to stimulate students' interest and motivation to learn the subject.

His Royal Highness stressed that on an academic level, mathematics usually does not attract a significant level of enthusiasm among students, not simply due to the fact that mathematics involves sums and figures, but because the conveyance of understanding from teacher to student is not always clear-cut.

Speaking of his own experience, His Royal Highness said learning mathematics is interesting although it requires diligent and constant practice.

"At the same time, I find also that maths taught in the 'chalk and talk' method has not been all that easy for me. And many other students will share the view that the subject then becomes difficult and less interesting. Thus, students end up losing interest in this vitally important subject," said His Royal Highness.

In a speech before he declared open the first Brunei Mathematics Teachers' Conference held at the Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Science College on 15 May, His Royal Highness pointed that an attractive teaching system is, therefore, essential in successfully conveying the concept of maths to students.

He hoped the conference would address the issue and come up with more apt techniques and effective communication between teachers and students.

On the learning of mathematics at a higher intellectual level, His Royal Highness said that mathematics helps people to think critically, analytically and creatively, and equips them with the ability to solve problem and investigate situations in a systematic and functional way, the skills of which are needed to bring them into the next millennium.

"Together with information technology, computers and the availability of educational software in all varieties, I feel that maths teachers now have an added advantage since they

Incorporate real life application of mathematics into teaching system



His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim stressing the need to incorporate real life application of mathematics into teaching the system before he declares open the first Brunei Mathematics Teachers' Conference.

have additional tools at hand," he said.

In Brunei Darussalam, His Majesty's Government has equipped every secondary school with computer laboratories, and funding is being made available to gradually upgrade such facilities.

Meanwhile, the Education Ministry is also supporting the Computers for Mathematics Instruction (CMI) Project organised by the Secondary Mathematics School-based Committee, which is aimed at training secondary school teachers to teach mathematics using software such as EXCEL and graphic programmes.

His Royal Highness said that feedbacks from students who were taught using the CMI worksheets have been very positive, and he hoped that more teachers would use computers to teach mathematics as this has been proven to be a very effective and attractive way to help students become enchanted with maths.

The three-day conference carried

two main themes: 'Realising Enchantment of Mathematics in Brunei Secondary Schools', and 'Current Practices and Potential for the Next Millennium', which are relevant for discussion as mathematics become even more important to people's daily lives and working environment in the next millennium.

He also hoped that teachers and delegates would have the opportunity to examine and exchange views on their teaching methods, and come up with ways to improve their instruction and upgrade their professionalism.

His Royal Highness was also confident that the conference would provide a venue for all delegates to discover better ways towards improving mathematics as a subject for students.

The conference was aimed at allowing secondary school mathematics teachers in the country to share their experiences and the fruits of their teaching efforts gained in and outside the classrooms.



53 days to go to SEA Games

Promotion and preparations of the Games 20TH SEA GAMES BRUNEI DARUSSALAM 1999



Awang Budiman

Brunei Darussalam, the host of the forthcoming 20th SEA Games is hopeful that the Games she is staging for the first time fulfills the expectation of not only athletes, officials, media representatives, but also sports enthusiasts from within and outside the Sultanate.

As the region's most prestigious sporting event draws nearer to only 53 days from the 7 August opening ceremony at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium, the various specialist committees and sub-working committees which have been set up to coordinate and implement their roles for the Games debut in the Sultanate are almost ready with their respective preparation and responsibilities towards the successful staging of the 20th SEA Games.

Promotion for the 20th SEA Games has been ongoing, regionally and internationally. Since March this year, the national flag carrier, Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA) has carried the Games' official Logo and 'Awang Budiman', the Games' official Mascot to almost every destination it serves with the aim of promoting the region's major sports event worldwide. The official Games logo and mascot bears the messages of goodwill, friendship and solidarity among the ten participating countries, all of which are members of ASEAN.

Within the Sultanate, other promotional activities are being channelled through various communication media including giant-size billboards as well as

radio, television and newspapers. Souvenir items, too, ranging from ballpoints, key chains, drinking mugs to watches and clocks are already available while the Games' posters have been circulated throughout the country as well as to participating countries. Brunei Darussalam through its Postal Services Department will also come up with commemorative stamps and first-day cover of the 20th SEA Games - to go on sale from 7 August.

Meanwhile, security is also being given high priority, so is the smooth flow of traffic in transporting athletes and contingents to and from every venue during the Games. Some 1,500 police, army and fire brigade personnel have been entrusted to ensure the safety and security of athletes and sports contingents at the Games Village in Jalan Ong Sum Ping, training venues, Main Press Centre (MPC), International Broadcasting Centre (IBC), the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium as well as at other locations.

Brunei Darussalam is also determined that athletes, officials and media people would have adequate transportation. Towards this end, the Sultanate's private sector has come forward and play their role towards making the 20th SEA Games a success - meeting the country's aspiration.

In this regard, a number of motor sup-

pliers in Brunei Darussalam have confirmed their willingness to bring in hundreds of units of cars and buses especially for usage during the Games - first staged 40 years ago in Bangkok, when it was known as SEAP (South East Asian Peninsular) Games.

The Royal Brunei Catering (RBC) has been entrusted as the official caterer for athletes at the Games Village during the 20th SEA Games in which it will prepare some 54,000 hot meals for 20 consecutive days. RBC will cater a round-the-clock daily order for athletes who need to digest their meals five hours before they take part in their respective events. RBC will also provide some 300 items of food including fish fillets (15 tonnes), chicken pieces (20 tonnes), beef (11 tonnes) fruits and vegetables (100 tonnes) noddles and pasta (12 tonnes) and rice (14 tonnes). Every menu will have all its ingredients displayed with calory counts to enable athletes decide on which menu he or she takes.

Preparations of performances for the opening and closing ceremonies' extravaganza at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium, too, are ongoing, involving more than 12,000 students and members of uniformed organisations. The opening ceremony itself, on 7 August will display performances in the form of 'Excellence and Friendship', with the climax highlighting the beauty of fauna and flora, global economic and technical resources, and displays of fireworks.

Brunei in Brief

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan

Official Language : Malay

Land size : 5765 sq. km.

Official Religion : Islam

Population : 296,000 (1995)

May rainfall : 323.1 mm (annual 2,818mm)

**THE TRAFFICKING IN AND THE ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF
CONTROLLED DRUGS ARE VERY SERIOUS OFFENCES IN
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM AND THE PENALTY
FOR SUCH OFFENCES IS DEATH.**