Philippine President on state visit to Brunei Darussalam

A further boost in Brunei – Philippine relations

The long-standing relations, especially in economic cooperation, between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Philippines were given a further momentum last week with a three-day state visit to the Sultanate by the republic’s President, His Excellency Mr. Fidel V. Ramos.

In speeches at a state banquet in honour of the visiting Philippine head of state, both His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Philippine leader reaffirmed the close and cordial ties that exist between the two countries.

Both members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, ASEAN, the links between the two countries go back a long way into history, said His Majesty at the banquet at Istana Nurul Iman (Nurul Iman Palace) on 6 August.

The Philippine leader arrived to a red carpet welcome in Bandar Seri Begawan earlier in the day, at the head of a high-level 28 member-delegation that included his wife, Mrs. Amelia M. Ramos, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Roberto R. Fomulo, Secretary of Trade and Industry His Excellency Rizalino S. Navarro, Secretary of Transportation and Communications, His Excellency Jesus V. Garcia Jr., the Press Secretary, His Excellency Jesus C. Sison, senior Philippine government officials and businessmen.

Met at the Brunei International airport by His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei’s Foreign Affairs Minister and his wife, Yang Teramat Mula Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah, the president’s convoy headed straight to Istana Nurul Iman for the formal welcome ceremony.

Upon arrival at the palace, the Philippine President and his wife were greeted by 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.

*Continued on page 5*
ASEAN urged to be most mindful in planning future activities

His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqr Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah speaking at the closing ceremony of the 27th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM).

His Royal Highness made the remarks in the opening statement of the 27th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) on July 22, which was followed by the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the Post Ministerial Conference (PMC). The ARF-PMC was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 22 - 28 July 1994.

His Royal Highness further stressed that there would also be temptations to forget that development brought obligations to fellow citizens and could cause societies to divide.

"This is where I see one of ASEAN’s most important future challenges. We have to decide how we are going to help our people cope with this new situation."

In fact, this aspect of our work can be seen as more of a duty than a challenge “because we are probably all going to have to rely more and more on ourselves,” he said.

The minister went on to say that the global situation would probably stay complex and changeable unless "we are well prepared, it could disturb our part of the world at a time when our future development depends on regional stability."

Speaking on ASEAN certainties, the minister said that economic development for its own sake could not be counted as one of such certainties. "In spite of what outside observers might claim, it's no guarantee, in itself, of future success," he pointed.

"Naturally, it is very important. But I hope we can work hard to establish some deeper certainties."

These are, said His Royal Highness, that "we could all continue to feel that our major interests are well served from within ASEAN, and assurance that our economic and political arrangements would lead to opportunities of real benefit to the people."

To do this, he pointed, ASEAN has to guarantee that it will continue to respond well to the particular needs of each member country, and to continue strengthening the

* Continued on page 3
policy of mutual respect, consensus and unity.

In political terms, His Royal Highness said, this means that one member country’s difficulty should be seen by other members as their own. In the field of economic development, the key words are cooperation and specialisation, not just competition. This has been the character of our association in the past.

The minister also welcomed the recent idea of the economic ministers to accelerate AFTA (ASEAN Free Trade Area) and was pleased to see the establishment of the various sub-regional growth areas, resulting in a more unified market and in turn making us attractive to investors.

His Royal Highness noted that cooperation with the dialogue partners and regional neighbours is being given new impetus while the concept of the ASEAN Regional Forum is also being seen in the same light. ASEAN is now taking a lead in discussions on regional security and is good for us and for the region as a whole, he added.

The two-day meeting was officially opened by Thailand’s Prime Minister, His Excellency Mr. Chuan Leekpai. Thailand’s Foreign Minister, His Excellency Squadron Leader Prasong Soonsiri and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.

A joint communique issued at the end of the meeting highlighted various topics on political and security cooperation, international and regional issues, international economic issues and external relations.

On political and security cooperation, the foreign ministers, among others noted and welcomed ASEAN’s increasingly central role in fostering political and security cooperation in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific, through initiatives such as the inaugural meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held on July 25, 1994. The ARF could become an effective consultative Asia-Pacific Forum for promoting open dialogue on political and security cooperation in the region, the joint communique said.

The foreign ministers had a wide-ranging exchange of views on the current international and regional developments including on the Asia-
His Majesty chief guest at Queen’s Review of Royal Air Force College

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a speech at the Queen’s Review of the Royal Air Force College in Cranwell, United Kingdom, at which His Majesty was given the honour of being the Reviewing Officer. Also present was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah, extreme left in picture above. The Brunei monarch, in picture at left, presenting a sword to one of the college’s cadets who had achieved excellence in his course.

From page 3 (AMM-ARF-PMC)

Pacific region, Cambodia, Northeast Asia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO), the tragic events in Rwanda, South Africa, as well as on the successful outcome of the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held in Cairo.

On international economic issues, the foreign ministers, among others reaffirmed their commitment to the objectives of promoting trade liberalization to sustain world economic growth.

The foreign Ministers also welcomed the efforts of APEC in promoting greater economic cooperation and trade liberalization and emphasized the need to take into account the different levels of economic development among APEC member countries to sustain healthy economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region.

They also noted the progress made in the consultations to launch the (EAEC) as well as the progress of the implementation of the Common Effective preferential Tariff Scheme (CEPT) for (AFTA), where all member countries had begun implementing the tariff reduction programme in 1994.

The foreign ministers expressed satisfaction at the completion of Action Plans in science and technology, environment, culture and information, social development, and drugs and narcotics control which would serve to focus ASEAN functional cooperation on areas of priority importance to ASEAN.

They also welcomed the declaration of year 1995 as the ASEAN Environment Year by the ASEAN Ministers on the Environment and the adoption of a set of ASEAN Harmonized Environment Quality Standards.

During the meeting, the foreign ministers signed the new agreement for the establishment of ASEAN fund which would provide a catalytic resource to pursue regional initiatives within the framework of ASEAN Summit decisions.

According to a press release, the fund would initially consist of $6 million in equal contributions of $1 million from each member country.

The foreign ministers also adopted the ASEAN flag as a symbol of ASEAN cooperation and solidarity in promoting the common aspirations of member countries for peace and prosperity in the region. And it was the first time in the history of ASEAN, the ASEAN flag was flown alongside the national flags of the six

Continued on page 8
Leading the welcome at the Brunei International airport, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and his wife, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah (above and below) shake hands warmly with the Philippine leader who was starting a three-day state visit with his wife, Mrs. Amelia M. Ramos. They were accorded a red carpet welcome both at the airport itself, and later at the Istana Nurul Iman.

From page 1 (Visit)

After taking the salute from an honour guard mounted by 115 men of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces in the Palace ground and inspecting the contingent, the Philippine President and his wife were introduced to a long line of Brunei dignitaries, followed by an audience.

A one-to-one or four-eye meeting between the ruler and His Excellency followed soon after the audience.

In his titah (speech) at the banquet, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stressed that the long-existing relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Philippines had been broadened and deepened through exchanges of visit at official levels and through cooperation in many fields.

The ruler hoped that the two ASEAN neighbours will build stable relationships based on mutual long-term interests.

"Your Excellency's visit is a significant contribution and commitment to such long-term relationship of confidence and friendship".

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also said that ASEAN has brought the two countries together, and as such, were part of the fastest-growing region in the world.

Barring any major upset to the stability and security of the region, said the monarch, all countries in the region will thrive and prosper.

The Brunei monarch pointed that the formation of various sub-regional economic groupings within ASEAN will increase regional cohesion and economic growth. ASEAN has the Southern and Northern Growth Triangles and now "through Your Excellency’s bold initiative, we have the East ASEAN Growth Area".

Continued on page 8
In his speech during a dinner honouring His Excellency President Fidel V. Ramos and his wife, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam spoke of the longstanding relations between two ASEAN neighbours and urged that they be further enhanced for long-term mutual benefits. Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajah Manam and other members of the royal family were also at the dinner, as were members of the visiting Philippine leader’s delegation. Also in attendance were Brunei state dignitaries, cabinet ministers and their deputies, foreign diplomats and senior government officials.

The Philippine President, His Excellency Fidel V. Ramos and his wife, Amelia M. Ramos with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajah Manam standing on the dais in respect of the national anthems of the two countries which were accompanied by a 21-gun salute, after which the Philippine leader took the salute and inspected the guard of honour in front of Istana Nurul Iman mounted by men of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, pictures above and bottom left.

Below: The Philippine President while on a visit to the Brunei Liquified Natural Gas Plant onshore at Lumut, 80 kilometres from the Brunei capital. He also visited the Brunei Shell Petroleum Champion oilfield offshore.

In his own speech, His Excellency President Ramos also spoke of the close Brunei-Philippine ties, picture above. Centre, right: Mrs. Amelia Ramos flanked by Her Majesty the Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness the Pengiran Isteri when she and her husband were granted an audience at Istana Nurul Iman by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. Right: The Philippine leader and his wife looking at exhibits of the Philippine Solo Exhibition of Products and Services which he had just opened officially a short while earlier at the Bumiputra Trade Centre in Bandar Seri Begawan. Seen at far left is HRH Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah, the Finance Minister.
ASEAN holds consultative meeting

Borhon (Cros) of the MWAH<br>Brunei's Prime Minister<br>were awarded the Mahahernan<br>Award for Excellence in<br>Southeast Asian Affairs.<br>Meanwhile, ASEAN<br>Member Countries agreed to<br>hold consultative meetings<br>more often under the <br>ASEAN Plus Three Framework <br>(AP3)." (Sp.)

These arrangements were <br>announced by ASEAN's<br>High-Level Foreign<br>Ministerial Meeting, which<br>was held in Kuala Lumpur.<br>With the exception of<br>Australia, the ASEAN<br>Member Countries agreed to<br>hold consultative meetings<br>more often under the <br>ASEAN Plus Three Framework <br>(AP3)." (Sp.)

The Malaysia Foundation for <br>International Studies, a<br>think-tank in Malaysia,<br>said the meeting would be<br>a "positive step" in<br>strengthening ties between<br>ASEAN and its dialogue partners.<br>"The meeting is an indication of<br>the increasing commitment of<br>ASEAN Member Countries to<br>enhance their cooperation in<br>various fields," said the Foundation. "It<br>also shows the growing interest of<br>Southeast Asian countries in<br>deepening their relations with<br>other parts of the world."

The meeting was attended by<br>Foreign Ministers of ASEAN<br>Member Countries, as well as<br>representatives from<br>dialogue partners, including<br>Australia, China, India, Japan,<br>South Korea, and the United<br>States. The discussions focused<br>on a range of issues, including<br>trade, investment, security,<br>and political matters. The<br>participants also discussed<br>the role of the ASEAN<br>Community in promoting<br>regional peace and stability.<br>"The meeting is a strong<br>sign of the commitment of<br>ASEAN Member Countries to<br>further strengthening their<br>ties with dialogue partners,"<br>said one of the participants. "It<br>is an important step in<br>building a more<br>cooperative and<br>inclusive regional<br>order."
All levels of society should play their part to strengthen and uphold the family institution

Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam has stressed the need for all levels of the society in the country to play their part in strengthening and upholding the family institution.

This is important because a strong family institution is the main agency which produces a dynamic society, one that is highly motivated and possesses characteristics which are needed for the development of the people and the country, she said.

A strong family institution could

*Continued on page 11*
dia, the People’s Republic of China, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, the Russian Federation and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam during the 27th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting. The meetings were held on July 23.

ASEAN-China

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam’s Foreign Affairs Minister led the ASEAN delegation during a consultative meeting with the People’s Republic of China headed by the republic’s Foreign Minister, His Excellency Mr. Qian Qichen.

Prior to the meeting, the Exchange of Letter was signed and exchanged by the ASEAN Secretary-General, Dato’ Ajit Singh and the republic’s Foreign Minister, Mr. Qian Qichen to establish Joint Committee to promote cooperation in trade and economic relations, and in science and technology.

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

The 27th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) was followed by the ASEAN Regional Forum on 25 July. It was the first meeting held in accordance with the 1992 Singapore declaration of the Fourth ASEAN Summit, whereby the ASEAN Heads of State and Government proclaimed their intent to intensify ASEAN’s external dialogues in political and security matters as a means of building cooperative ties with states in the Asia-Pacific region.

The ARF was attended by the foreign Ministers of ASEAN, ASEAN’s Dialogue Partners comprising Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea and the United States and ASEAN’s Consultative Partners namely China and Russia, and representatives of observer countries comprising Laos, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam.

ARF to be hosted in Sultanate next year

The meeting agreed to convene the ARF on an annual basis and hold the second meeting in Brunei Darussalam in 1995. The meeting also agreed to endorse the purposes and principles of ASEAN’s Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, as a code of conduct governing relations between states and a unique diplomatic instrument for regional confidence-building, preventive diplomacy, and political and security cooperation.

ASEAN-US trade increases up to US$61 billion

In another speech by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam’s Foreign Affairs Minister as coordinator of the ASEAN/PMC 5+1 dialogue session with the United States on July 27, noted the triple increase in trade between ASEAN and the United States in just over a decade from US$23 billion to US$61 billion.

The United States is accounting for almost a fifth of ASEAN’s global trade of about 18 percent and ranks second only to Japan. United States investment in ASEAN has similarly continued to grow by over 17 percent.

“This outstanding growth over the last decade shows the increasing importance to each other of a trading relationship which, we hope will be maintained for many years to come,” His Royal Highness stressed.

His Royal Highness further noted that the Twelfth Dialogue meeting in Washington D.C. in May this year

* Continued on page 11
the need for parents to care for their children and establish communities to support them. The elderly are also important, as they provide positive personality in the community. However, children face various problems such as social inequality and neglect.

Educação também é um fator crucial para o desenvolvimento do país. As crianças enfrentam diversos desafios, como a falta de educação regular e oportunidade de aprendizado. É importante que os pais se envolvam na vida dos seus filhos e que o governo implemente políticas que garantam o acesso à educação de qualidade a todos.

The text is written in Portuguese and discusses the importance of education in the development of the country. It highlights the challenges children face and the role of parents in supporting them.

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Varieties of sports events for monarch’s birthday celebrations

Among the programmes of activities organised as part of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam’s 48th birthday anniversary celebrations were an assortment of sporting events, such as speed boats and paddle races, go-kart races and top-sprinning competition. The celebrations began on 15 July, and although it has been one month since, various programmes are still continuing in some parts of the country. Other events had included nightly stage shows and religious presentations, beach festivals, tug of war and Malay martial art contests, to name just a few.

Brunei in Brief

Capital: Bandar Seri Begawan
Land size: 5765 sq. km
Population: 267,800 (Mid-1992)
Official Language: Malay
Official Religion: Islam
July rainfall: 94.8mm
(annual 2,818mm)

PRIME LENDING RATE
July 5.75%
(quoted by Bankers’ Association)

Brunei Malay in a minute

Each fortnight we introduce our readers to a new Brunei Malay word.

As the name suggests, the word is only exclusively used in Brunei Darussalam.

We now introduce the word gasa.

Gasa is to scrub or clean thoroughly usually with a stiff brush and liquid. In standard Malay manggasa is menggosok.

In a sentence: Orang gaji itu sedang manggasa lantai dapur.

The maid was scrubbing the kitchen floor.

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.