



# FIRM GRIP ON AQIDAH

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 11** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Of Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* (royal speech) said firm grip on Aqidah or faith is fundamental to safeguard Muslims and Islam in the wake of multi-faceted provocations and elements that seek to weaken the religion and its followers.

His Majesty delivered the *titah* to mark the Maulidur Rasul or birthday anniversary of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) for the year 1438 Hijrah (Islamic calendar).

The monarch said that with reports on provocations towards minority Muslims in certain countries rampant in this era, relevant parties should promptly find a peaceful resolution to ensure the protection and harmony of all people.

"In the name of Islam, the merciful religion, and humanity as well as regional solidarity, we hope this will be dealt with justice promptly," said His Majesty

The monarch went on to say that strengthening of faith, which is based



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Of Brunei Darussalam delivers a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with the birthday anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) for the year 1438 Hijrah (Islamic calendar).

on the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), is crucial to protect Muslims.

Muslims in the golden age back then said His Majesty, prioritised faith more than anything else, which made them not just protected, but also tough and revered by all.

His Majesty also calls on parties

who are responsible for da'wah or the propagation of Islam to take a more serious approach towards strengthening and empowering akidah or faith.

His Majesty warned that delaying it is no option because this will allow negative elements to take advantage of it.

## BRUNEI CELEBRATES MAULIDUR RASUL WITH MASS GATHERING

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 12** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined scores of Muslim attending the gathering and procession held to mark the birthday of Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam for the year 1438 Hijrah at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien in the capital.

The sovereign led the procession which was participated by more than 12,000 people from different organisations who took

part in the national level gathering in the Brunei-Muara District, while similar events were also held simultaneously in other districts.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel.



**4** Get-together ceremony with citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland



**6** Beware of dubious groups in the name of religion



**7** His Royal Highness The Crown Prince and Her Royal Highness PAIPA Sarah in Singapore



**8** His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness attends dinner



**9** Their Royal Highnesses joins Outdoor Walk/Buggy Ride



**10** HRH Visits the Home Team Tactical Centre



**11** HRH Visit to Singapore Armed Forces Camp



**12** HRH Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah receives AFC Award 2016



**13** Brunei, Oman hold seminar to boost cooperation



**14** Minister of Religious Affairs receives courtesy call from Oman



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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam led the procession together with, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel during the mass procession.

\*From page 1

The theme for this year's Maulud national celebration is "Berwawasan Yang Berkat Dengan Bercontoh Kepada Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam".

Maulud is an event held on the 12th day in the month of Rabiulawal in Islamic calendar (year of the Hijrah) to mark the birth of Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam.

## HIS MAJESTY SENDS CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send congratulatory messages to:

- His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Budindradebayavarangkun, The King of Thailand and the People of the Kingdom of Thailand on the occasion of His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Budindradebayavarangkun accession to the throne on December 2.
- President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, His Excellency Bounnhang Vorachit and Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, His Excellency Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith, on the occasion of its 41st National Day on December 2.
- His Excellency The Right Honourable Simon William English on the occasion of his appointment as the Prime Minister of New Zealand on December 12.
- His Majesty Sultan Muhammad the Fifth, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negeri Kelantan Darul Naim on the occasion of His Majesty's proclamation as the Fifteenth Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia on December 13.
- His Imperial Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan and Prime Minister of Japan, His Excellency Shinzo Abe as well as the Government and People of Japan on the occasion of the 83rd Birthday Anniversary of His Imperial Majesty Akihito on December 23.

## HIS MAJESTY SENDS MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send condolence messages to:

- President of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Joko Widodo following the recent earthquake in Aceh Province on December 8.
- President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, His Excellency Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi following the recent bombing at the St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Cathedral in Cairo and President of the Republic of Turkey, His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan following the recent bombing in Istanbul on December 11.
- President of the Russian Federation, His Excellency Vladimir Putin following the recent plane crash near Sochi on December 27.



# GET-TOGETHER CEREMONY WITH CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND NORTHERN IRELAND

**LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, December 22** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The 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, attended a Get-Together Ceremony with citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam who are currently in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, comprising of students, government officials on duty, attending courses as well as on vacation with their families.

Accompanying His Majesty and Her Majesty at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul Malik; Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkhiah.

Upon arrival at the hotel, His Majesty and Her Majesty were greeted by His Excellency Major General (Retired) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the United Kingdom; and wife, Datin Nurhayana Janis binti Abdullah Lim; as well as Dayang Nur Fifi Hazwani binti Hasman, President of the Association of Students of Brunei Darussalam in the United Kingdom and Eire; and Awang Mohd Syafiq Haziq bin Haji Mat Serudin, Vice-President of the Association of Students of Brunei Darussalam in the United Kingdom and Eire. His Majesty and Her Majesty then proceeded to the Wellington Ballroom for Santap.

His Majesty and Her Majesty later signed a commemorative parchment. His Majesty and Her Majesty as well as Members of the Royal Family then proceeded for a group photograph session with senior officers from the High Commission of Brunei Darussalam in London as well as the President and Vice-President of the Association of Students of Brunei Darussalam in the United Kingdom and Eire.

\* Continue to page 5



His Majesty and Her Majesty attended a Get-Together Ceremony with Citizens and Residents of Brunei Darussalam in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkhiah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkhiah in a group photo in London.



\*From page 4

His Majesty and Her Majesty as well as Members of the Royal Family then proceeded to the Grand Ballroom for the Get-Together Ceremony with citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam who are in the United Kingdom and Ireland. The Ceremony began with National Anthem of Brunei Darussalam performed by Brunei Essex Society.

The ceremony was followed by the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran by Awang Muhammad Azhan bin Dato Seri Setia Haji Abd. Aziz from the University of Portsmouth. To bless the ceremony, doa Selamat was recited by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.

The ceremony continued with a



**Their Majesties and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel were greeted by citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam at the ceremony.**



**Their Majesties at a get-together ceremony at the London Hilton on Park Lane.**



**His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah at the event.**



**His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah at the event.**

*Sembah Alu-Aluan* by the President of the Brunei Students Union in the United Kingdom and Ireland, where on behalf of Brunei Students in the United Kingdom and Ireland and in conjunction with the Golden Jubilee of His Majesty's accession to the throne next year, the President of the Brunei Students Union in the United Kingdom and Ireland delivered a pledge of unwavering loyalty and allegiance to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

At the Ceremony, His Majesty received a pesambah from the President of the Brunei Students' Union in the United Kingdom and Ireland while Her Majesty received a pesambah from the members of the Brunei Students' Union in the United Kingdom and Ireland. This was followed by a Tausyeh performance by the Brunei Religious Officer Student Association

His Majesty and Her Majesty as well as Members of the Royal Family then proceeded to meet 1,907 citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam who are in the United Kingdom and Ireland, comprising of students, government officials on duty, attending courses, as well as those on vacation with their families.

GET-TOGETHER CEREMONY WITH CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS OF  
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND NORTHERN IRELAND

# Beware of dubious groups in the name of religion

In this context, His Majesty reminded students not to misuse the internet as well as to ensure that they travel for the right reason, and not otherwise.

His Majesty emphasised that students should be more cautious of religious gatherings though physically they might appear virtuous, but their “methods” may be wrong and doubtful.

**LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, December 22** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'ad ul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* (royal speech) took note of how some students have the tendencies to participate in activities such as surfing the internet, travelling or participating in religious groupings.

In this context, His Majesty reminded students not to misuse the internet as well as to ensure that they travel for the right reason, and not otherwise.

His Majesty emphasised that students should be more cautious of religious gatherings though physically they might appear virtuous, but their “methods” may be wrong and doubtful.

His Majesty Sultan stated this in a *titah*

His Majesty noted, “There is evidence that such activities have been going on for a long time with members consisting of educated individuals, government servants as well as academicians and professionals.”

In this regard, the monarch reminded the students not to participate in such doubtful groupings, especially when it is known that their principle differs from that of the government.



**His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech).**

during a get-together ceremony in London with citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, comprising students, and government officials on duty, attending courses as well as those on vacation with their families.

His Majesty noted, “There is evidence that such activities have been going on for a long time with members consisting

of educated individuals, government servants as well as academicians and professionals.”

In this regard, the monarch reminded the students not to participate in such doubtful groupings, especially when it is known that their principle differs from that of the government.

His Majesty also reminded the students to be alert at all times, adding that their main task is to study until they achieve success.

The monarch further reminded the relevant government agencies not to be silent, nor treat lightly any matters concerning developments in the country, especially matters relating to law and religion as well as national security.

Before ending the *titah*, His Majesty also reminded the important role played by parents and their responsibilities to give due attention and care about their children's activities in ensuring that they do not fall into any activities that violate any laws and religion.



# HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE CROWN PRINCE AND HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PAIPA SARAH IN SINGAPORE

**SINGAPORE, November 27** - 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 (PMO) and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman arrived in the Republic of Singapore.

Accompanying His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness are Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince is in Singapore to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Young Leaders' Programme held for four days

commencing November 28 - December 1, 2016.

Present at the Changi International Airport to greet His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness were His Excellency Lim Swee Say, Minister for Manpower of the Republic of Singapore and wife; His Excellency Dr. Janil Puthuchery, Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information & Ministry of Education as the Minister-in-Attendance and wife, Dr. Michelle Puthuchery as the Lady-in-Attendance.

Also present to greet His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness were His Excellency Haji Awang Saifulbahri bin Haji Awang Mansor, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Singapore and wife.

His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness were at the Holding Hall at the Changi International Airport, Singapore with His Excellency Lim Swee Say, Minister for Manpower of the Republic of Singapore and the wife



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince with His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore.

**SINGAPORE, November 28** - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) met and was hosted to a luncheon by His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, the Prime Minister of Singapore at the Istana Negara.

Later on, His Royal Highness consented to visit The Treasury, Ministry of Finance, Republic of Singapore.

Upon arrival at The Treasury, His Royal Highness was greeted by Mr Peter Ong, Head of Civil Service.

His Royal Highness was then ushered for a briefing, delivered by Strategist from the Strategy Group of the PMO, Mrs Melissa Khoo.

## HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS MEETS SINGAPORE PM AND TREASURY, MINISTRY OF FINANCE



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince with Mr Peter Ong, Head of Civil Service.

# HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS AND HER ROYAL HIGHNESS ATTENDS DINNER

**SINGAPORE, November 28** - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman attended a Dinner with His Excellency Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister and Coordination Minister for National Security of the Republic of Singapore and wife, Madam Teo Poh Yim. The dinner was held at the Four Seasons Hotel.

Upon arrival at the Four Seasons Hotel, His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness were greeted by His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister and Coordination Minister for National Security of the Republic of Singapore and wife.

His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness held an informal meeting with His Excellency and wife, before proceeding for Dinner.

At the end of the Dinner, His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness received a pesambah from His Excellency and wife. His Royal Highness and Her



Their Royal Highnesses attending a dinner hosted by His Excellency Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister and Coordination Minister for National Security of the Republic of Singapore and wife, Teo Poh Yim.

Royal Highness then reciprocated with gifts to His Excellency and wife.

Present at the Dinner were His Excellency Dr. Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister

for Communications and Information, Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs and Minister in-charge of Cyber Security as well as several senior officials from the Republic of Singapore.

# CONSENTS TO VISIT ZOO AND SAFARI RIVER

**SINGAPORE, November 28** - Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman consented to visit the Singapore Zoo and Safari River.

Accompanying Her Royal Highness were Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkihah.

Her Royal Highness and family were greeted by Madame Chew Poh Yim, wife of His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister and Coordination Minister for National Security of the Republic of Singapore.



Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim ibni Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkihah binti Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah during the visit at the Singapore Zoo and River Safari.





# THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES JOINS OUTDOOR WALK/BUGGY RIDE

**SINGAPORE, November 29** - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman joined an Outdoor Walk/Buggy Ride with His Excellency Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister and Coordination Minister for National Security of the Republic of Singapore and wife, Madam Chew Poh Yim. The event was held at the Coney Island Park, Punggol Waterway.

Accompanying His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness were Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah.

Upon arrival at the Coney Island Park, His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness were greeted by His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister and Coordination Minister for National Security of the Republic of Singapore and wife.

His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness then began the Outdoor Walk/Buggy Ride together with His Excellency and wife and later proceeded together to SAFRA Punggol for breakfast.



**His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah, with His Excellency Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister and Coordination Minister for National Security of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, Chew Poh Yim, on a buggy ride at Coney Island Park, Punggol Waterway, Singapore.**



**Their Royal highnesses in a group photo at the Jewel Bridge, Punggol Waterway.**



## HRH VISITS THE HOME TEAM TACTICAL CENTRE

**SINGAPORE, November 30** - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), consented to visit the Home Team Tactical Centre, Ministry of Home Affairs.

Upon arrival at the centre, His Royal Highness was greeted by His Excellency K. Shanmugam, Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law of the Republic of Singapore. His Royal Highness was then given a briefing on the Home Team Tactical Centre.

His Royal Highness was then ushered to view demonstrations from the Ground Response Team, Emergency Response Team and Special Response Team from the Home Team Tactical Centre and to look at the facilities of the centre.



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince during the visit at the Home Team Tactical Centre, Ministry of Home Affairs, Singapore.



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince in a group photo at the demonstrations area.

## HRH VISITS THE MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

**SINGAPORE, November 30** - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), consented to visit the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Republic of Singapore.

At the ministry, His Royal Highness was greeted by His Excellency S. Iswaran, the Minister for Trade and Industry.

His Royal Highness was then ushered for a briefing by the Secretariat, Committee of the Future Economy of Singapore.



His Royal Highness with His Excellency S Iswaran, Minister for Trade and Industry at the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Republic of Singapore.



## HRH VISIT TO SINGAPORE ARMED FORCES CAMP

**SINGAPORE, December 1** - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan General Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), and General of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces consented to visit the Singapore Armed Forces Camp.

Upon arrival at the Sungei Gedong Camp, His Royal Highness was greeted by His Excellency Ong Ye Kung, the Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) and Second Minister for Defence; Major General Melvyn Ong, Chief of Army of Singapore; and Brigadier General Kenneth Liow, Armour Chief of Singapore.

At the camp, His Royal Highness proceeded to the Armour Gunnery and Manoeuvre Simulator (AGMS) building. His Royal Highness was then presented with a briefing on the Armour Simulation Centre (ASC), and then toured the camp to take a closer look at the facilities of the building.

His Royal Highness received a *pesambah* from the Chief of Army and His Royal Highness reciprocated with gifts to His Excellency the Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) and Second Minister for Defence.

His Royal Highness then signed the visitors' book and also met with Royal Brunei Armed Forces' personnel who are currently attending courses in the Republic of Singapore before proceeding for a group photograph session.

Their Royal Highnesses ended the visit to Singapore on December 2.



His Royal Highness reciprocated with gifts to His Excellency the Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) and Second Minister for Defence.



His Royal Highness Prince General Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan General Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and General of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, with His Excellency Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) and Second Minister for Defence of Singapore; and Major General Melvyn Ong, Chief of Army of Singapore in a group photo with RBAF personnel who are currently attending courses in the Republic of Singapore.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 2** - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah Ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (NFABD), received the AFC President Recognition Award for Grassroots Football 2016 in the Aspiring category, at a grand ceremony held in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates on December 1 2016.

The award was given to NFABD based on the regular activities it has conducted while maintaining several areas of cooperation with both government and non-governmental partners.

The nominations for the award are based on a points system which takes into account several criteria such as the structure and management of grassroots football as well as the philosophy and policy of member associations.

Meanwhile, AFC President Recognition Awards for Grassroots Football in the Inspiring category went to Football Federation Australia (FFA), while the Philippines Football Federation (PFF) won the Developing category.

## HRH PRINCE HAJI SUFRI BOLKIAH RECEIVES AFC AWARD 2016



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, President of the National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam with other recipients of other AFC (Asian Football Confederation) President Recognition Award for Grassroots Football 2016 and Madam Han Un Gyong, AFC Executive Committee Member from Korea. – ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION

**JERUDONG, December 20** – Brunei Darussalam welcomes foreign investments by providing a good platform and opportunities to access Asean and Islamic markets.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Home Affairs said, the move reflected the government's effort to place the country as an attractive destination for foreign investors.

Addressing this matter at the opening ceremony of the Bank of China (Hong Kong) in the country, Yang Berhormat explained that Brunei and China have a long tradition of friendship based on mutual respect and understanding.

"Bilateral relations between our two countries is further strengthened by various cooperations including energy infrastructure, agriculture, fisheries, education, tourism and personnel exchange. Today, China is the largest trading partners of the country. In line with the Brunei Vision 2035 and the initiative 'One Belt One Road of China', areas of cooperation and goals can further be explored," added the minister at a ceremony held at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

The minister added, Bank of China (Hong Kong), better known as a global leading banking group, provides comprehensive and professional service to its corporate and individual customers.

With the establishment of its first branch in the Sultanate, the minister said, Bank of China can help Brunei achieve its Vision 2035, especially by assisting the country's efforts to attract Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs), developing the local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and further promoting the bilateral economic and trade relations between Brunei and China.

Meanwhile, Her Excellency Yang Jian, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam in her remarks said, the relationship between China and Brunei is excellent with bilateral cooperation expanding in many fields.

She believes that the Bank of China (Hong Kong) Brunei branch, will provide high quality financial services to Bruneians as well as Chinese enterprises, serve the local society and help further promote economic and trade cooperation between China and Brunei.

## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM - AN ATTRACTIVE DESTINATION FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs, signing the plaque.

Bank of China (Hong Kong), China's first financial institution in the country, is a commercial bank group leading and renowned in Hong Kong in terms of total assets and customer deposits.

The bank and its subsidiaries offer a wide range of financial products and services to retail customers, corporate and institutional customers and has more than 200 branches in Hong Kong.

Among those present was Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd. Roselan bin Haji Mohd. Daud, Acting Minister of Energy and Industry of the Prime Minister.



## BRUNEI, OMAN HOLD SEMINAR TO BOOST COOPERATION

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 7** – The Energy and Industry Department at the Prime Minister's Office (EIDPMO) of Brunei Darussalam and the Ministry of Oil and Gas of the Sultanate of Oman recently organised a joint seminar from December 4-6, 2016 in Muscat, Oman.

The EIDPMO, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brunei-Oman Joint Energy and Industry Seminar was officiated by Dr Mohammed bin Hamad Al Rumhi, the Minister of Oil and Gas, Oman.

In his opening address, he expressed his appreciation to see the continued success of the relationship between Brunei and the Sultanate of Oman and he hoped to see more cooperation between the two countries in the future.

Meanwhile, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Retired) Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar, the Minister of Energy and Industry at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Brunei Darussalam, in his remarks reiterated his appreciation to Oman's Ministry of Oil and Gas for the successful hosting of the seminar.

The seminar was also held back-to-back with the 17<sup>th</sup> Bilateral Consultative Meeting between Brunei Darussalam and the Sultanate of Oman, which was co-chaired by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng, Minister at the PMO and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MOFAT) II, and His Excellency Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Al-Busaidi, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman.

During the meeting, they discussed strengthening bilateral cooperation in a number of areas, including trade, energy, defence, education and religious affairs as well as exchanging views on regional and international issues.

The first Brunei-Oman Joint Seminar

was hosted by Brunei Darussalam in 2014 where by the biennial seminar was established as a platform to share best practices and exchanges on strategically prospering beyond oil and gas.

These networks were able to be built upon during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brunei-Oman Joint Energy and Industry Seminar that welcomed the inclusion of the non-oil and gas sector into its programme. This seminar reflects the ever strengthening and expanding partnership between Brunei Darussalam and the Sultanate of Oman.

Encompassing both energy and industry into the seminar's discussions mirrors the important agenda of economic diversification that the two Sultanates are looking towards in the current global economic climate of volatile oil prices.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brunei-Oman Joint Energy and Industry Seminar with the theme "Strengthening Industrial Cooperation for Economic Growth and Development" featured presentations from both Brunei and the Sultanate of Oman by relevant agencies, on Economic Resilience in the face of Falling Oil Prices; SME Development; Renewable Energy Capabilities; Ease of Doing Business among others.

In conjunction with the joint seminar, a trade delegation comprising of 25 companies was led by the Minister of Energy and Industry at the PMO where the trade delegation represented various sectors, including food, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, ICT, Muslimah fashion, business services and oil and gas.

On the last day of the seminar, a workshop was held between the private sector representatives of Brunei Darussalam and the Sultanate of Oman for trade delegations to explore the vast potential that can be tapped from

the various sectors of Oman's valuable market, and the opportunity to regard Oman as a trading hub to enter other markets in the region.

In his closing remarks, His Excellency Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Al-Busaidi acknowledged the depth of relationship between the two countries.

Meanwhile, delivering his closing remarks, the Minister at the PMO and MOFAT II, on behalf of Brunei Darussalam, highlighted the ever growing opportunity to work together in overcoming the challenges faced by the two Sultanates, especially in the current economic climate.

Site visits to industries of different sectors were also conducted as part of the trade mission, which included visits to the Oman Oil Refineries and Petroleum Industries Company (ORPIC) and Majis Industrial services at Sohar Port and Freezone.

The aim of the visits was to gain a thorough understanding of the set-up of the different industries, such as the integrated Refinery and Petrochemical Complex, which will be similar to the proposed 175,000 bbl/d Hengyi Refinery and Petrochemical at Pulau Muara Besar in Brunei that is in the construction phase.

The visit provided an insight on how the Sultanate of Oman created In-Country Value (ICV) and local employment opportunities from the project. Several areas of cooperation have been identified, such as capacity building and high value products creation such as production of polypropylene where trade delegations also visited the Gulf Mushroom Products Company.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MOFAT) II, and Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Rtd) Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar, the Minister of Energy and Industry at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Brunei Darussalam, in a photo group session with a trade delegation of Brunei Darussalam.

# MINISTER OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS RECEIVES COURTESY CALL FROM OMAN

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 5** - Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, The Minister of Religious Affairs received a courtesy call from Sheikh Ahmed bin Hashel bin Rashed bin Hashel Al-Maskari, the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam along with Dr Abdulla Said Khaflan Al Mamari, a representative of the Advisor to Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman with regard to the 'Tolerance, Understanding, Coexistence: Oman's message of Islam' exhibition in Brunei Darussalam.

The visit took place at the Dhiyafah Room, fifth floor of the extension building of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, at Jalan Dewan Majlis, a press release stated.

Also present during the visit were Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd Daud, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs; Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Aziz bin Orang Kaya Maharaja Lela Haji Mohd Yusof, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Awang Roslan bin Haji Taja'ah, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Administration and Financial Affairs) at the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

The objective of the visit was to



**Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs (right) with the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam, Sheikh Ahmed bin Hashel bin Rashed bin Hashel Al-Maskari (left) with regard to the 'Tolerance, Understanding, Coexistence: Oman's message of Islam' exhibition in Brunei Darussalam.**

express appreciation and gratitude by the Sultanate of Oman's Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, and organiser of the 'Tolerance, Understanding, Coexistence: Oman's message of Islam' exhibition for the cooperation rendered by the Brunei Darussalam's Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Both parties also hoped to foster the existing close ties and exchanged views and information on matters of mutual importance such as religious education and Islamic affairs.

The 'Tolerance, Understanding, Coexistence: Oman's message of Islam' exhibition was held for three days from November 29 to December 1, at the Auditorium, Arts Centre of Jerudong International School (JIS).

Over the three days, there were lecture sessions by Dr Abdulla Said Khaflan Al Ma'mari, and two Omani cultural performances – Sand Art show and Nasyid.

# MABIMS ADDRESS HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

**KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, December 6** - Members of the Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore Religious Council (MABIMS) have unanimously admits and agrees that human rights according to Islamic teachings provides appropriate assurances of life with dignity and well-being.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, The Minister of Religious Affairs, stated the matter during the 17th Informal Meeting of MABIMS Ministers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

In his speech, he touched on this year's theme which is Human Rights from the Perspective of Islam.

According to Yang Berhormat Pehin, ancient history and contemporary is not the best and right examples of the human rights according to Islamic teachings based on theory and practises.

Yang Berhormat Pehin added that MABIMS is aware that from the past until now, the world is facing human rights issues from both Islamic and international perspectives and at the same time,



**Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, The Minister of Religious Affairs, (Second from left) with Members of the Religious Council from Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore during the 17th Informal Meeting of MABIMS Ministers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.**

MABIMS often states that universal values upon which human rights are based are appropriate and acceptable as long as they are not against the teachings of Islam.

Therefore, Yang Berhormat Pehin stressed that whatever the differences between the two perspectives, they should be understood on the context of human civilisation background, that the Ummah

are required to appreciate the blessings of Allah in making mankind of different races to mutually appreciate and not to hate one another.

MABIMS meeting is a regional forum comprising four nations that operates based on religious policy to care for the Ummah's welfare without interfering in the politics of each member country.



# RECEPTION TO MARK THE STATE OF QATAR'S 45<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL DAY

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 13** - The Embassy of the State of Qatar in Brunei Darussalam hosted a reception in conjunction with the 45<sup>th</sup> National Day of the State of Qatar at the Songket Ballroom, The Rizqun International Hotel in Gadong.

Representing the State of Qatar at the reception was His Excellency Saleh Mohammed Al-Nesef, the Qatar Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam.

Present on behalf of the Government of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the event was Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, the Minister of Religious Affairs.

Also present were His Excellency Hisham bin Abdul Wahab bin Abdullah Zaraa, Ambassador of the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia to Brunei Darussalam; Tariq Al-Yassin, Charge d'Affaires Ad Interim at the Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Brunei Darussalam; and Mahmood Al-Hinai, Charge d'Affaires Ad Interim at the



**Cake-cutting ceremony with the The Minister of Religious Affairs; the Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Brunei Darussalam; the Ambassador of the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia to Brunei Darussalam; the Charge d'Affaires Ad Interim at the Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Brunei Darussalam; and the Charge d'Affaires Ad Interim at the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Brunei Darussalam.**

Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Brunei Darussalam.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Brunei and Qatar in

2008, the two countries have concluded numerous cooperative agreements and memorandums of understanding.

## MINISTER OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS RECEIVES COURTESY CALL

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 21** - Fostering good and active relationships between Brunei Darussalam and Australia were among the topics discussed when Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, the Minister of Religious Affairs received a courtesy call from Her Excellency Nicola Rosenblum, the Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.

The meeting took place at the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

At the meeting, the Minister of Religious Affairs and Her Excellency also exchanged views, in enhancing bilateral relations and cooperation that exist between the two countries, especially in areas of common interest.

Also present at the meeting were Awang Haji Harun bin Haji Junid, the Acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, and Awang Haji Zulkifli bin Panglima Asgar Dato Paduka Haji Abdullah, Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs, as



**Minister of Religious Affairs and Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with the Acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.**

well as senior officials from the ministry.

The Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam presented her Letter of Credence to 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 on October 25, 2016.

## MARITIME INDUSTRY VITAL IN THE ERA OF GLOBALIZATION

**MUARA, December 1** - World Maritime Day is an annual event that focuses on the importance of maritime and shipping safety as well as a healthy maritime environment, in keeping with the standards set by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Accordingly, the Marine Department (MD) in collaboration with the Ports Department (PD), the Ministry of Communications hosted a World Maritime Day celebration held at the Theater Room, Headquarters PD, Muara,

Attending as guest of honor at the ceremony was the Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat, Minister of Communication.

Earlier, the ceremony began with the officiating of a new wing at the Ports Department Headquarters by Yang Berhormat the Minister of Communications.

At the ceremony, Yang Berhormat also gave a speech followed by the presentation of certificates to Brunei Darussalam ship owners for their services in accordance with IMO provision as well as a video presentation on World Maritime day 2016.

Yang Berhormat then boarded a ship for a cruise along the Brunei River until the Royal Warf in the capital, focusing on the development of several projects connected to the local maritime industry of Brunei Darussalam.

This year's theme 'Shipping: Indispensable to the World' is more focused on shipping as a connector through international transportation.

Since 50 years ago, the IMO has produced and adopted a comprehensive framework covering international regulations concerning maritime safety, maritime environmental protection, legal and welfare of the crew.



**Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat, Minister of Communications, inaugurating the official opening of the new wing to the Muara Ports Department headquarters.**

With this international regulations, shipping and sea transportation is more secure, efficient and environmentally friendly as well as governed by standards and recognized internationally.

Also present were Haji Azhar Haji Ahmad, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Communications; and Haji Salihin bin Haji Aspar, the Acting Director of Marine.

## INDIAN HISTORIC MONUMENTS EXHIBITION AT THE MALAY TECHNOLOGY MUSEUM

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 1** – India's historical monuments are spread all over the country where some historical mosques and temples are still in daily use, while others are in ruins.

This was stated by Her Excellency Nagma Mohamed Mallick, the Indian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, at the Launching Ceremony of Historical Monuments and Islamic Monuments of India Exhibition held at the Malay Technology Museum, in Kota Batu.

India said Her Excellency, is like a vast archaeological park and they wish to present some glimpses of this living history through monuments to the art and history lovers of Brunei Darussalam.

The photographic exhibition focuses mainly on the Indo-Islamic style of architecture that began with the advent of the Mogul dynasty in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, while the watercolour exhibition depicts massive forts and palaces of the Hindu Rajputs of Rajasthan in western India.

"These two collections together – the watercolours by Kashinath Das, and the photographs by Benoy Behl – show only a small sample of the monuments of India but they represent some of the important architectural styles of India. There is much in this exhibition that I hope will be more



**Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Lailaraja Major General (Retired) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports tours the exhibition accompanied by Nagma Mohamed Mallick, High Commissioner of India to Brunei Darussalam.**

attractive to Bruneians and I hope to tempt many to visit India through this exhibition," she said.

Officiating at the launch was Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, the

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

With the theme "India History through Her Monuments", the exhibition was jointly organised by the Museums Department, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and High Commissioner of India to Brunei Darussalam.



## LESSER FAMILY PROBLEMS, REDUCE SOCIAL ISSUES

**BANGKOK, THAILAND, December 22** - Issues pertaining to families and gender equality in Brunei Darussalam are given serious attention from a positive and optimistic aspect.

The country also recognises the role and contribution of women to the family and community development whereby women are given more opportunities to obtain rights in all aspects of life, education, employment and business.

This was stressed upon by Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Lailaraja (Retired) Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, during the East Asia Ministerial Meeting on Families and Gender Equality in Bangkok, Thailand with the theme A Family-Friendly Society: A Contribution to the Achievement of Social Development Goals Through Families Gender Equality.

The Ministerial Forum was chaired by the Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand His Excellency Police General



**Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Lailaraja (Retired) Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, in a group photo with His Excellency Awang Haji Ismail bin Haji Manap and members of the delegates.**

Sawat Chanittikul.

The Bangkok Declaration underscored 14 implementation actions to strengthen efforts towards the establishment of a family friendly social environment through families and gender equality policies

aside from putting to rights the women opportunity situation.

Also present was His Excellency Awang Haji Ismail bin Haji Manap, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Thailand.

## MINISTER RECEIVES VISIT

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 5** - Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Lailaraja Major General (Retired) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, received a visit at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) Building, in Berakas.

The delegation of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Jiangsu Province, the People's Republic of China was led by its chairlady Zhang Lianzhen, according to a press release issued by the MCYS.

The eight member delegation's visit was in conjunction with the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relation between Brunei Darussalam

and the People's Republic of China towards strengthening the exchange and cooperation in terms of culture, education and tourism between Jiangsu Province and Brunei Darussalam.

Among the objectives of the visit were to exchange views on heritage and culture preservation, and cooperation in youth affairs.

Also present were Her Excellency Yang Jian, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam; Haji Amiruddin bin Haji Mohd Hassan, Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary at the MCYS and senior officers from the ministry.

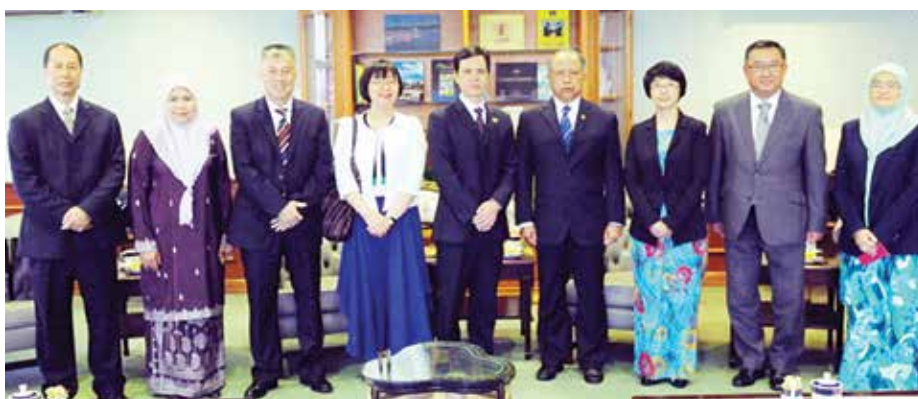
## MCYS MINISTER RECEIVES DELEGATION FROM CHINA

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 1** - A delegation of six people from Guangxi International Youth Exchange Student Institute, Republic of China Institute was on a four-day visit to Brunei starting November 29 to December 2, 2016.

The delegation led by Weng Hua, a representative of China Guangxi International Youth Exchange Institute visit Brunei to meet and share experiences with the Asean Young Leaders Training Programme (AYLTP) alumni.

The delegation led by Weng Hua, a representative of China Guangxi International Youth Exchange Institute made a courtesy call to Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Lailaraja Major General (Retired) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports. The ceremony was held at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) building.

Also present were Dato Paduka Dr Haji Affendy bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful



**Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Lailaraja (Retired) Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports in a group photo with the delegation.**

Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin and Datin Paduka Dr Hajah Norlila binti Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Jalil, Permanent Secretaries at the MCYS, as well as Her Excellency Yang Jian, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Brunei

Darussalam.

During their visit, the delegation paid a visit to the Youth Development Centre, Kampong Ayer and Kampong Sungai Matan among many other places.

## DST AND IBTE SEAL APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING AGREEMENT

**TUNGKU LINK, December 6** - The signing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and the Apprenticeship Training Agreement (ATA) for the Apprenticeship Training Program between Data Stream Technologies (DST) and the Institute of Brunei Technical Education (IBTE) was held at the DST Headquarters.

Present as the guest of honor and witnessing the signing of the MoU is Awang Abdul Latiff bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Yusof, Member of the DST Board of Directors.

Earlier during the signing ceremony of the MoU, Awang Suhaimi bin Awang Hussain, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and Dayang Ramlah binti Haji Rabah, Assistant Managing Director, Human Resources Department represented for DST.

While signing on behalf of IBTE was Dr. Chin Wei Keh, the Director as well as CEO and Awang Habib Mohammad bin Haji Wan Junaidi, Deputy CEO (Academic).

Meanwhile at the signing of the ATA, DST was represented by Dayang Ramlah binti Haji Rabah while Dr. Sheikh Lukman bin Sheikh Abdul Hamid, the Principal of the IBTE Centre, represented for IBTE.

The Apprenticeship Training Program provides training that is useful in creating the availability of jobs for graduates with skills, develop a deeper understanding of the industry and meet with the industrys' standards in a short period.

With the signing of MoUs and agreements, DST will provide an opportunity for two of the selected students to participate in



The guest of honor and witnessed the signing of the MoU is a member of the Board of Directors of DST, Awang Abdul Latiff bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Yusof.

a dual style apprenticeship, where students will participate in both academic research as well as training in DST for two years, focusing in Telecommunications and IT industry skills, especially in HNTech academic achievement in the areas of Telecommunications and IT.

## AMDC DISCUSSES IMPLEMENTING AMDD

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 9** - Brunei Darussalam hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Medical Device Committee (AMDC) Meeting held at Al-'Afiah Hall, the Ministry of Health.

AMDC comes under the ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality (ACCSQ) which was established after the signing of the ASEAN Medical Device Directive (AMDD) Agreement on November 21, 2014 of ASEAN trade ministers.

Mr. Zamane Abdul Rahman, Chief Executive of the Medical Device Authority, Ministry of Health, Malaysia, as Chairman of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Medical Device Committee, explained several issues were discussed through this meeting, particularly on how to especially how to implement AMDD, where by every state in the 10 ASEAN member countries should rectify their laws to be entered into their national law respectively.

According to him, once the progress is done, each country will start rectifying all the activities.

Also discussed during the meeting, he added, were each country's report on rectification situations with dialogue partners, namely the United States and Japan, where they can help in the effort to implement the rectification.

He further added that the dialogue partners are able to help out on technical and training assistance to Asean member countries and with this, it will speed up the rectification process



Mr. Zamane Abdul Rahman, Chief Executive of Medical Device Authority, Ministry of Health, Malaysia, chairing the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Medical Device Committee Meeting – AMDC.

The implementation of AMDD is to establish a system that is synchronised for the registration of medical equipment in Southeast Asia towards the formation of integrated medical equipment market in this region.

AMDC aims at ensuring the implementation of AMDD is on the right track by monitoring actions taken by ASEAN member countries, as well as provides technical support and acts as a reference expert in all matters relating to the agreement.

The meeting is held twice a year and the fourth will be held in April 2017 in Cambodia.

Among the agenda discussed during

the meeting was monitoring actions of Asean member countries on the implementation of the AMDD and to give Asean members technical support and as referral experts in all matters relating to AMDD.

Meanwhile, as a preparation for the 3<sup>rd</sup> AMDC Meeting, a workshop on Asean Common Submission Dossier Template (CSDT) was held from December 5 to 6, coordinated by a Consultant from US-Asean Connectivity through Trade and Investment (U.S-ACTI) that aimed to enhance the capacity of technical supervisors from Asean member countries besides giving understanding and interpretation on AMDD.



## ARDEX SIMULATION EXERCISE TESTS ASEAN MECHANISM DISASTERS

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 3** – The Asean Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise 2016 (ARDEX-16) is aimed to test and evaluate mechanisms pertaining to emergency response and disaster management in line with ASEAN Standby Arrangements and Standard Operating Procedures (ASEAN SASOP).

The three-days exercise, that started on November 29, concluded with an Official Closing Ceremony by Awang Haji Idris bin Haji Mohd. Ali, the Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) at Musyawarah Hall, International Convention Center, Berakas.

In his remarks, Awang Haji Idris was delighted with the results of operations between the ASEAN- Emergency Rapid Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) and the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) with ASEAN Coordinating Center and the UN's Onsite Operations and Coordination and Coordination Center (OSOCC).

He explained, it was also good to learn of the interoperability between the local and international responders; where they worked together using a common command structure.

He further added that it was seamless how they operate together in providing support to the affected authorities.

The National Standard Operating Procedure (NASOP) he said, also tested the District Disaster Management Committee and the District Emergency Operations Center (DEOC) plays an important role in disaster management in their respective areas during the training coordination.

He said, it was the first for many local stakeholders to have close cooperation with regional and international motivators.

The training he said, is a good opportunity for the drivers of national emergency to work closely and receive support from the ASEAN member countries.

He then added that the coordination exercise also saw the cooperation between the Asean Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination



**Awang Haji Idris bin Haji Ali, Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs presenting an appreciation letter to coordinating organisers of the exercise.**

of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) as well as mobilising foreign military assets through the Multi-National Coordinating Centre, the Ministry of Defence.

The event, jointly hosted by Brunei Darussalam through its National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) as well as the AHA Centre, have also tested the ability and capacity of related government agencies in disaster management

Few strategies were tested during the exercise including the One ASEAN, One Response; the ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan (AJDRP); the Chapter 6 for ASEAN SASOP about ASEAN's Facilitation and Utilization of Military Assets and Capacities as well as the role of a Secretary-General of ASEAN as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator.

Over 150 emergency response personnel from Asean and other international and regional bodies took part in the exercise.

## Export of fishery products to European market

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 5** - One of the missions of Fisheries Department, Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) is to significantly increase production in fisheries industry by targeting export markets. The department provides support and guidance to local companies to ensure compliance and acceptance of their products by the importing countries.

One of the potential markets to be explored is the European Union (EU) market. The initiatives undertaken by the Department of Fisheries, MPRT resulted in the approval to export to EU and the award of EU Numbers by the Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG Sante), European Commission to local companies deemed as qualified and approved to export to the EU Markets

by the Fisheries Department. The EU approval's came into effect on December 5 2016.

This is pursuant to the full recognition of the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism as the Competent Authority by the Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG Sante), European Commission for exporting aquaculture products from Brunei Darussalam to the countries in the European Union.

The approval for Brunei Darussalam has been published in the DG Sante website <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/sanco/traces/output/non-eu-listsPerCountry-en.htm> since 22 November 2016. With the announcement and approval, two shrimp processing plants operating in Tutong Serambangun namely Golden

Corporation Sdn Bhd has been given an EU Number which enable these factories to export their products to the European market.

With this development, local entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to penetrate the European market which is estimated to be worth EUR 21 billion a year, which contribute 24 percent of the global export market for seafood.

The Department of Fisheries will expand the accreditation and the recognition to other fisheries sector in line with the 5-year Strategic Plan of MPRT and the Department of Fisheries. Brunei's exports of seafood products is estimated to increase by approximately 121 percent by the year 2020 with an estimated value of over BND 200 million a year.

## UNISSA SIGNS MOU WITH UNDHAR

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 28** - In an effort to boost its reputation abroad, Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) actively fosters strategic cooperation with higher educational institutions abroad.

In view of this, UNISSA recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Universitas Dharmawangsa (UNDHAR), Indonesia.

Signing on behalf of UNISSA was Dr Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, Rector of UNISSA, while UNDHAR Indonesia was represented by Dr Kusbianto, SH, MH, the Rector of the university.

Dr Haji Norarfan welcomed the Indonesian delegation and expressed hope that the signing of the MoU will strengthen ties between the two parties, particularly in academics and research.

The rector of UNDHAR also welcomed the intention to cooperate with UNISSA.

The agreement covers the exchange of students and academic staff from both institutions, journal writing and research as well as sending students and staff to pursue Masters and PhD at UNISSA.

During the visit, the two papers were presented during public lectures delivered by Prof Dr Lahmuddin Lubis, Head of Senate of the university and Dr Zamakhsyari Hasballah, Dean of the Faculty of Islamic Studies. Prof Dr Lahmuddin Lubis presented a paper on 'The Existence of Education and Islamic Education Board in Indonesia (Pre and Post Indonesian Independence)', while Dr Zamakhsyari Hasballah, presented papers in Arabic on 'The Role of the Council of Ulama in Indonesia in Facing Present Challenges'.

Also present to witness the signing were Dr Arman bin Haji Asmad, the Acting Deputy Rector of UNISSA, and senior officers of UNISSA.



The exchange of documents after the signing ceremony between Dr Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, Rector of UNISSA (right) with Dr Kusbianto, SH, MH, UNDHAR Indonesia Rector.

## MINISTER OF HEALTH WORKING VISIT TO THE SULTANATE OF OMAN

**MUSCAT, THE SULTANATE OF OMAN, November 30 – December 3** - Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Zulkarnain bin Haji Hanafi, the Minister of Health, and Dr Hajah Maslina binti Haji Mohsin, the Deputy Permanent Secretary (Professional), as well as two senior officials from the Ministry of Health made a four day Working Visit to several health care facilities in Muscat, The Sultanate of Oman.

The Minister of Health and delegation had the opportunity to meet His Excellency Dr Ahmed Al Saidi, the Minister of Health

Oman and his senior officials.

Bilateral discussions were held on regional, international and health-related matters of interest to both countries and their people.

Future collaborative projects identified are setting up of an Emergency and Crisis Management Center; Advance Specialty Training for Bruneian doctors including staff exchanges; and a joint leadership programme for health care professionals through a global classroom.

## NOVEMBER CPI INCREASED

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 21** – The Department of Economic Planning and Development (JPKE) would like to inform the public that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for November 2016 increased by 0.2 percent compared to October 2016. Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Index and Non-Food Index both increased by 0.1 per cent and 0.2 per cent respectively.

The increase in overall CPI in November 2016 was due to higher prices of Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance (1.9 per cent), followed by Clothing and Footwear (2.1 per cent) and Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages (0.1 per cent).

Indexes that experience decreases are Transport (0.3 per cent), Recreation and Culture (0.3 per cent) and Communication (0.1 per cent). These were due to lower prices of passenger transport by air, holiday packages, stationery and drawing

materials and telephone and telefax equipment.

Meanwhile, indices that remained unchanged are Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels and Education.

Compared to November 2015, the CPI for November 2016 declined by 0.8 per cent. Meanwhile, for the period from January 2016 to November 2016, the CPI has slipped on average by 0.7 per cent.

CPI is a measure of price changes of goods and services paid by the consumer in a specified period and compiled on a monthly basis. The list of goods and services in the CPI is based on the average expenditure per household from the Household Expenditure Survey. The CPI full report for November 2016 is available from JPKE's website: [www.depd.gov.bn](http://www.depd.gov.bn)