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His Majesty with other member economies attending the 18th APEC meeting.

PHOTO: SAMLE HAJI JAIT



His Majesty attends 18th APEC Meeting

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, November 13 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of the economies attended APEC Second Retreat Session at the Inter-

Continental Yokohama Grand. At the session, issues related to APEC economic integration and its future were discussed. The 18th APEC Meeting ended with Leaders Declaration Statement delivered by the Chairman of 18th

APEC Meeting, Prime Minister of Japan, His Excellency Naoto Kan. The APEC Meeting in Yokohama among others had successfully led the members of the economies to move forward into liberalisation of trade and investment in this region.

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Brunei shows improvement in 'Doing Business Report 2011'

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 27 – Brunei Darussalam has shown an improvement in the 'Doing Business Report 2011' where it has positioned itself at number 112 under the topic of 'Making a difference for entrepreneurs'. The result showed an improvement compared to last year where Brunei Darussalam was previously positioned at number 117. The improvement is due to reformation done by the Registrar of Companies on starting a business. With the improvement of

company registrar's efficiency and implementation of electronic system in name searches, starting a business in Brunei Darussalam has become easier. This reformation led Brunei Darussalam to increase 19 steps on the topic of 'Starting a Business'. Besides the reformation on company registrar as mentioned in the report, Brunei Darussalam also reported reformation on tax payment (reduction on certain tax rates including introducing lower rate

for small business) and cross border trading (introduction of custom electronic system). But both reformations were not adequate to enhance the nation's position in the two topics. However, with the three reformations in 'Doing Business Report 2011', Brunei Darussalam had been accredited as one of the 10 reformation countries from 117 countries that implemented 216 regulation reformations from June 2009 to May 2010.



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PHOTO: AMPLUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPLUAN HAJI TENGGAH

His Majesty and His Excellency share a light moment at the state banquet.

Brunei Darussalam – Laos close partners

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 22 – Brunei Darussalam and Laos are very close partners where its bilateral cooperation covered health, education and practical training. Both countries have also engaged in a wide range of human resource development, capacity building and several aspects of security.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in his *titah* (royal speech) at a state banquet on the occasion of the state visit of His Excellency President Choummaly Sayasone of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to Brunei Darussalam at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Prior to that, His Majesty recalled that 15 years ago, Brunei Darussalam had the honour of hosting the 28th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan.

It was on that occasion, said His Majesty, the Lao People's Democratic Republic Government outlined its plans to join ASEAN, where two years later it became a reality.

And the following year, Brunei Darussalam had the pleasure of receiving President Sephadone on a state visit.

"Since then, we have no longer been strangers. We had the great pleasure of getting to know each other well and learned much about each other's history, culture, way of

life and aspirations for the future," stated His Majesty.

His Majesty further stated that Brunei Darussalam had also been delighted to assist the people of Lao in reaching their major development targets through the regional I.A.I. programme.

"As such, we warmly thank your government and the Lao people for their fine contribution to the development of our regional association, its programmes and activities," stated His Majesty.

Regarding His Excellency's visit, His Majesty's stated that the visit is a further and most welcome step in strengthening the relationship.

The state banquet was held at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Congratulatory messages

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent congratulatory messages to:

- His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni, the King of Cambodia and the Prime Minister of Cambodia, His Excellency Samdech Hun Sen in conjunction with Cambodia's 57th Independence Day on November 8.
- His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al-Said of the Sultanate of Oman on the occasion of His Majesty's 70th birthday and to the government and people of the Sultanate of Oman on the National Day of the Sultanate of Oman on November 17.

PHOTO: SAHRIZAL HAJI MOHD. SAID



Their Majesty receive a courtesy call from His Excellency the President of Lao People's Democratic Republic and wife at the Istana Nurul Iman.

President of Lao PDR on state visit to Brunei

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 24 – His Excellency President Choummaly Sayasone of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and wife, Her Excellency Dr. Keosaychay Sayasone were in Brunei Darussalam for a three-day state visit beginning November 22.

Soon after the arrival, His Excellency and wife made a courtesy call to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The

Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office and other members of the royal family.

Later, His Excellency and entourage went on a river cruise along Brunei River and visited Kampung Tamoi

Ujong, one of the villages in Kampung Ayer.

Later in the evening, Their Excellencies were celebrated in state banquet hosted by Their Majesties at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Prior to the banquet, Their Majesties consented to receive in audience Their Excellencies at the Ceradi Laila Kenangan.

Also present at the banquet were His Royal Highness Crown Prince

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PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZI HAJI DURAMAN



Her Majesty receives audience

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 16 - Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received in audience the spouse of the High Commissioner of Republic of India to Brunei Darussalam, Madam Lal Thanziki Ralte.

The audience took place at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty sends messages of condolences

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 23 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam had sent messages of condolences to His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni, the King of Cambodia and His Excellency Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia following the loss of lives caused by the stampede at the recent Water Festival in Cambodia.

His Majesty expressed his sadness upon learning of the incident and on behalf of the Government and people of Brunei Darussalam, His Majesty offered heartfelt condolences to His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni and the people of Cambodia, especially those who had suffered personal loss as a result of this tragic incident.

In a similar message to His Excellency Samdech Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Majesty stated that he was deeply saddened to learn of the great loss of lives caused by the incident. His Majesty as well as the Government and people of Brunei Darussalam expressed deepest sympathies to His Excellency and the people of Cambodia.

While on November 3, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent messages of condolences to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the King of Thailand and His Excellency Abhisit Vejjajiva, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, following the loss of lives and damages to properties caused by the floods in several provinces in Thailand.

In both messages, His Majesty expressed his deep sadness to learn of the disaster.

In the message to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, His Majesty extended his deepest condolences to His Majesty the King and the people of Thailand, especially to those affected by the disaster.

While in His Majesty's message to His Excellency Abhisit Vejjajiva, His Majesty, the Government of His Majesty and the citizens of Brunei Darussalam expressed sincere condolences to the Government and people of the Kingdom of Thailand with sympathies to the bereaved families and those affected by the disaster.



His Majesty with His Majesty Emperor Akihito.

His Majesty's courtesy call to Emperor of Japan

TOKYO, JAPAN, November 13 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made a courtesy call to the Emperor of Japan, His Majesty Emperor Akihito.

At the courtesy call, Their Majesties discussed bilateral issues and matters of mutual interest between both countries.

His Majesty was in Japan to attend the 18th Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Meeting held in Yokohama.

Brunei Darussalam and Japan established diplomatic relation since April 2, 1984 where both countries jointly make effort in strengthening cooperation in various sectors mainly economy and energy.

Brunei – Canada discuss bilateral cooperation

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, November 13 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Canada, His Excellency Stephen Harper.

The meeting was held at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders Meeting venue in Yokohama, Japan.

At the meeting, both leaders exchanged views on mutual interest and matters on bilateral cooperation.

Brunei Darussalam and Canada established diplomatic relations since 1984.



His Majesty with His Excellency the Prime Minister of Canada.

His Majesty attends APEC Cultural Performance

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, November 13 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other APEC leaders attended the APEC Cultural Performance at the Inter-Continental Yokohama Grand, Japan.

After the performance, His Majesty and other APEC leaders attended dinner reception at the same venue.

His Majesty welcomes Malaysia and Vietnam to join TPP

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, November 13 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* (royal speech) welcomed the admission of Malaysia and Vietnam to Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

His Majesty delivered the *titah* (royal speech) at the TPP Meeting with the TPP Economic Countries Leaders held at the Inter-Continental Yokohama Grand in Yokohama, Japan.

At the meeting, His Majesty hoped that the admission of both countries will produce best agreement that will provide jobs and benefit everyone.

The TPP member countries also discussed on issues related to TPP objectives aligned with TPP agreement as multilateral free trade for integrating Asia Pacific region economy.

TPP was jointly-established by Brunei Darussalam, Chile, New Zealand and Singapore on June 3, 2005.



His Majesty welcomes the admission of Malaysia and Vietnam to Trans-Pacific Partnership.

PHOTOS: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT



His Majesty delivers a *titah* in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidiladha 1431.

Hari Raya Aidiladha 1431

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 16 – It is vital to be close to Allah The Almighty as those who are close to Allah have strong faith, high awareness and noble manner. A nation will be peaceful and the world will be harmonious if there are many of this kind of people.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said these in his *titah* (royal address) in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidiladha 1431 Hijrah.

His Majesty further said that Allah has trained us on how to be close to Him. One of the methods is through act of piety in form of sacrifice. By performing this act of good deed means a step forward towards being close to Allah.

Brunei Darussalam celebrates Hari Raya Aidiladha 1431 on November 16, 2010 which corresponds to 10 Zulhijah 1431 of the Islamic calendar.

PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

His Majesty opens RBAF Staff College

SG. AKAR, November 25 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) consented to officiate the opening ceremony of the RBAF Staff College.

Shortly after the arrival, His Majesty proceeded to the Royal Dais and received the Royal Salute followed by the inspection of the Static Guard of Honour mounted by five officers and 103 other ranks personnel from the Third Battalion Royal Brunei Land Force.

After the inspection, His Majesty consented to proceed to the RBAF Staff College accompanied by the Deputy Minister of Defence and RBAF Commander.

Prior to officiating the RBAF Staff College, His Majesty consented to deliver a *titah* (royal speech) where among others, His Majesty urged RBAF to be more bold and on guard in facing any difficult conditions in this era of globalisation. His Majesty also called for RBAF to be more aware of turmoil and be prepared to face any eventualities.

Prior to leaving the RBAF Staff College, His Majesty had a photo session with Senior Officers of the Ministry of Defence and RBAF as well as participants who are attending the first RBAF Command and Staff Course.

Staff College Course is a course provided by the RBAF, supported by Massey University, New Zealand. The college prepares specially crafted academic subjects and invited international specialist lecturers and Directing Staff to ensure the students are exposed to a range of military perspectives and experiences. Course participants comprised of RBAF officers, Brunei government agencies and military officers from neighbouring countries obtaining the rank of Major or equivalent.

The course duration runs for 39



PHOTO: ABDUL KADIR, MOHD. TAHIR

His Majesty at the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Staff College.

weeks which will be divided into three semesters consisting of Command, Leadership and Management; Operations as well as International Relations and Strategic Environment. The course also offers academic components of the land force, navy and air such as Joint Operations. The main objective of the course is to broaden the professional and academic knowledge and to develop command, analytical and communication skills in order to prepare them for higher appointments.

Staff College will award Post Graduate Diploma in Arts (Defence and Strategic Studies). Course participants will also have the opportunity to embark on the Masters degree by furthering special programmes. To ensure the effectiveness of the course is controlled

and accredited at international level, the psc (j) component of the course will be assessed by the RBAF Defence Academy while the academic component of the course will be assessed in accordance with Massey's standard aside from conducting the internal and external validation.

Participants whom are attending the first intake of the RBAF Staff College course consists of 11 RBAF officers, an officer from the Royal Brunei Police Force and Internal Security Department respectively and seven military officers from the armed forces of neighbouring countries such as Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Republic of Singapore, People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The RBAF Staff College is based at Sungai Akar Camp.

886 receive honorary medals

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 1 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to award honorary medals to another 886 more recipients.

The Investiture Ceremony was held in conjunction with His Majesty's 64th birthday anniversary.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office presented the honorary medals on behalf of His Majesty.

Some 107 people received *Pingat Jasa Kebaktian* or Meritorious Service Medal (P.J.K.). A total of 422 recipients received *Pingat Indah Kerja Baik* or Medal of Excellent Service to the State (P.I.K.B.) and a total of 357 received *Pingat Kerja Lama* or Long Service Medal (P.K.L.).

The ceremony took place at the Istana Nurul Iman.



PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH

His Royal Highness presents the honorary medals.

BERAKAS, November 4 – The inaugural TechXpo which provides a platform for consumers and businesses to discuss global technology-related trends, development and ideas has been officially launched.

Present to launch the expo was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office held at the International Convention Centre.

About 70 companies participated in the TechXpo which promises a modern and unique exhibition to local and international visitors. Among the sectors taking part in the expo are the e-government, telecommunications, security system, electrical and health facilities, transport and alternative technology companies. The participating foreign countries include China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and United States of America.

The expo is the first by the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Communications, the Ministry of Education and the Authority of Information and Technology Industry (AITI). It will run until November 7.

TechXpo 2010 launched



His Royal Highness looks on one of the technologies showcased at TechXpo 2010.

PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness attends 9th ACD Ministerial Meeting

PHOTOS: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH



TEHRAN, November 8 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended the Opening Ceremony of 9th Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting held at Summit Conference Center.

The Dialogue Meeting was officiated by the President of Republic Islamic of Iran, His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

The dialogue brings a theme 'Toward Asian Solidarity and Integrity: Promoting Prosperity, Peace and Justice'.

Meanwhile in his *sabda*, His Royal Highness said that ACD is a Pan-Asia Forum which plays an important role in creating the development of the future of Asia continent. His Royal Highness said the progress achieved by member

countries of the ACD indicates the existence of the spirit of 'Unity and Integrity'. And this can only be seen on the strengthening of financial institutions, technology and research.

His Royal Highness also welcomed the ideas offered by ACD members and hoped ACD proposals will be a way of getting that message to the people under the spirit of 'Asia Belongs To Us All'.

In the evening, His Royal Highness and other ministers and heads of delegation attended a dinner in conjunction with 9th ACD Meeting hosted by Iran's Foreign Affairs Minister, His Excellency Manouchehr Mottak as the 9th ACD Chairman.

The dinner took place at Iran International Conference Center.



His Royal Highness in bilateral meetings with His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran (left) and His Excellency Norov Vladimir Imamovich, the Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan (right).

His Royal Highness held bilateral meetings

TEHRAN, November 8 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade held a bilateral meeting with the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

At this meeting, both parties discussed current issues and common interest. Brunei Darussalam and the Islamic Republic of Iran became members of ACD in 2002 and 2004 respectively.

His Royal Highness also held a

bilateral meeting with Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister, His Excellency Norov Vladimir Imamovich. Uzbekistan joined the ACD in 2006.

The meetings took place after the opening ceremony of the 9th ACD held at OIC Summit Conference Center.

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(His Royal Highness attends 9th ACD Ministerial Meeting)



His Royal Highness (right) in a group photo with heads of delegations attending the 9th ACD meeting.

HRH attends 10th Tourism Forum in Morocco

PHOTOS: RAMLI TENGAH

MARRAKECH, MOROCCO, November 30 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended the Opening Ceremony of the 10th Tourism Forum in Menara Square in Marrakech, Morocco.

The forum was officiated by His Majesty King Mohammad VI of Morocco.

In the evening His Royal Highness and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah attended a dinner hosted by His Highness Prince Moulay Rachid held at El Badii Palace.



His Royal Highness attends the Opening Ceremony of the 10th Tourism Forum in Menara Square (above).

Their Royal Highnesses attend a dinner held at El-Badii Palace (left).



His Royal Highness with His Excellency Minister of Tourism and Handicrafts of Morocco during the meeting.

HRH meets Minister of Tourism and Handicrafts of Morocco

MARRAKECH, MOROCCO, November 30 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade held a meeting with the Minister of Tourism and Handicrafts of Morocco, His Excellency Yassir Zenagui.

During the meeting, His Royal Highness and His Excellency discussed bilateral relationship between Brunei Darussalam and Morocco.

Brunei Darussalam and Morocco established diplomatic ties on September 28, 1988.

Call for post mortem meeting

BERAKAS, November 3 – A call was made for a post mortem meeting to be held after participation of athletes in both regional and international sports events. This meeting should be held two weeks or not more than a month after the game has ended. In order

to achieve the objective and success the nation is hoping for, post mortem is important as it can identify potential athletes and their weaknesses that can be strengthened.

The matters were said by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the

President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council at a Post Mortem Meeting on Youth Olympic Games 2010 in Singapore, and the 3rd Indoor Asia Games 2009 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. The meeting took place at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium,

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* From page 8
(Caii for post mortem meeting)

Berakas.

At the meeting, a report was presented by the swimming instructor and field events instructor on the achievements and weaknesses of local athletes who took part in the Youth Olympic Games in Singapore.

His Royal Highness also suggested that preparations for the country's participation in the 26th SEA Games in Indonesia in November next year, to be carried out as soon as possible, including selection of athletes and the training programme.



His Royal Highness called for a post mortem meeting to identify potential athletes and their weaknesses that can be strengthened.

PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

16th Asian Games



President of BDNOC attends Asian Games' opening ceremony

GUANGZHOU, People's Republic of China, November 12 – Guangzhou, China marked a historic moment with the hosting of the 16th Asian Games 2010 which was officially launched by Prime Minister of China, His Excellency Wen Jiabao.

Present at the official opening was His Royal

Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC).

Brunei Darussalam's contingent of eight athletes was led by Chef de Mission, Awang Haji Muhd. Zamri. The contingent will participate in four events.

National flag hoisted at Athlete Village

GUANGZHOU, November 10 – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) attended the flag hoisting ceremony for the participating country in the 16th Asian Games.

Also present were Chef de Mission of Brunei Darussalam's contingent, Awang Haji Muhd. Zamri bin Dato Paduka Haji Hamdani and national athletes.

The games which is held once in four years is the second most important after the Summer Olympic Games.



His Royal Highness attends the flag hoisting ceremony for 16th Asian Games.

PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

1st International Neurology Scientific Conference

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 12 – In order to realise our objective to provide all those in need with the best possible medical care, we must strive to ensure that our medical institutions are recognised as being on par with their best international counterparts. In this regard, we should never be apprehensive of learning from and collaborating with other centres of excellence in order to achieve our objectives.

The matters were said by His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim at the official opening of the inaugural International Neurology Scientific Conference.

"The world's most common causes of death and permanent disability are neurological diseases like stroke, and Brunei Darussalam is certainly no exception to this.

We are all aware, that as the population ages, the incidence of strokes will increase.

Crucial in reducing the morbidity and mortality associated with strokes is the close relationship and teamwork among health professionals, medical doctors, nurses, therapists, and radiographers as well as others in the various fields of medicine.

Since the inception of the Neuroscience, Stroke and Rehabilitation Centre last July, I am pleased to note that there is now closer cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the Krankenhaus Nordwest Hospital.

This I believe is a positive reflection of the progress achieved thus far, and I am confident that as long as there is cooperation and collaboration between all parties concerned, there will be further and greater accomplishments as time goes by," said His Royal Highness.

The conference attracted more than 200 participants consisting of doctors, nurses, lecturers and undergraduates from Health Science Institute (HSI) of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

The conference was held at UBD's Chancellor Hall.



His Royal Highness takes a closer look at an exhibition organised for the inaugural International Neurology Scientific Conference.

PHOTO: SAHRIAL HAJI MOHD. SAID

Nurses called to apply knowledge and skills innovatively



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

Her Royal Highness looks on the exhibited items displayed at the 9th Biennial International Nursing Conference.

TUNGKU, November 2 – Nursing profession require to employ a combination of physical and social sciences, nursing theory and technology, in providing care for those who are both healthy and ill, of all ages and backgrounds, and who have physical, emotional, psychological and even intellectual, social and spiritual needs. Thus nurses were urged to continue to take the lead in their own field by assuming greater responsibility for self-assessment, whilst comparing and adopting best practices, and being innovative in applying their knowledge and skills to their respective clinical settings.

The matters were highlighted by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah in her *sabda* (royal speech) at the official opening of the 9th Biennial International Nursing Conference 2010 held at Universiti Brunei Darussalam's (UBD) Chancellor Hall.

Also present was Her Royal Highness

Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah.

Prior to, Her Royal Highness also said she was pleased to note that the dynamic field of healthcare practice and research today is based not only upon scientific study but significantly as well, upon contemporary and traditional cultures. Both mainstream and minority subcultures are now given due consideration in order to deliver more culturally sensitive and competent nursing care.

The three-day conference aimed to provide a forum to bring together various perspectives on leadership development, challenges and directions that impact nurses.

Some 500 local, regional and international participants, comprising of nursing and midwifery students, nurses and midwives and other professionals such as clinical leaders, managers and educators attended the conference.

7,676 people receive Her Majesty's personnel gifts

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 7 – A total of 7,676 people received a personnel gift from Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha. The recipients were single mothers registered under the Community Development Department (JAPEM) and the Brunei Islamic Religious Council, as well as to infants born between the October 7, 2009 to October 7, 2010 who are registered under the Immigration and National Registration Department.

Her Majesty's personnel gifts were presented by Her Majesty's personnel representatives at four districts.

Present as Her Majesty's personal representative at the Brunei-Muara District were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Muta-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah. The presentation was held at Baitur Rahmah in Istana Nurul Iman.

In Brunei-Muara District, 5,412 people received the personnel gifts where 4,548 were babies and 864 were single mothers.

In Belait District, similar ceremony was held at the 3rd Battalion Officers Mess Hall, at Lumut Camp. Present as Her Majesty's personnel representatives were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah.

In Belait District, 1,122 people received the personnel gift where 951 were babies and 171 were single mothers.

Meanwhile in Tutong District, 919 people received the personal gift comprising of 771 babies and 148 single mothers. Present as Her Majesty's personal representative was Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah.

The ceremony was held at the Dewan Seri Kenangan of the Tutong



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMI

Their Royal Highnesses presenting the personal gifts from Her Majesty The Raja Isteri to recipients of Brunei-Muara District.

Civic Centre Complex.

In Temburong District, the ceremony was held at the Civic Centre Complex in Bangar Town. Present as Her Majesty's personal representative was Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah. A total of 223 people received the personal gift comprising of 165 babies and 58 single mothers.



PHOTO: HERNE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

Comets Team, the champion of the Netball Charity Tournament for Pakistan Humanitarian Fund.

Netball Charity Tournament

BERAKAS, November 14 – Comets Team emerged as champion after defeating Ivy League Team with 18 to 15 points in a Netball Charity Tournament for Pakistan Humanitarian Fund.

Amongst members of the Ivy League Team were Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah. Third place was won by Brunei Sports School Council.

The prizes were presented by the Acting Director of Language and Literature Bureau, Dayang Hajah Aminah binti Hajji Momin.

A total of 14 teams participated in the tournament organised by Youth and Sports Department with cooperation from Brunei Darussalam National Netball Association.

The final tournament was held at Multipurpose Hall, Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex.

Various strategies and measures to enhance food output



Minister of Industry and Primary Resources expressed his hope for farmers and fishermen to fully utilise resources made available by the government.

JERUDONG, November 2 - The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has prepared various strategies and measures to enhance food output by emphasising on sufficient and safe food production, easy access, optimum usage of resources and a stable market price.

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya stated the matter at a ceremony to mark 'Farmers and Fishermen's Day 2010' held at BRIDEX Convention Hall, Jerudong.

The minister also expressed his hope for farmers and fishermen to fully utilise the resources made available by the government so their efforts will bear fruition, increase food output and contribute to the country's economy.

Speaking on the theme of the 'Farmers and Fishermen's Day 2010' which is 'Food Generated, Nation Secured', it is suitable as it appreciates the deeds of farmers and fishermen as the nation's food generator.

* From page 4

Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office and other members of the royal family.

On the second day of the state visit, Their Excellencies visited Brunei Shell Petroleum Sdn. Bhd. based in Belait District; and the Royal Regalia Building in the capital.

On a separate itinerary, His Excellency received a briefing on investment opportunities available in Brunei Darussalam presented by the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB). Her Excellency visited the Brunei Arts and Handicraft Training Centre based in the capital.

Their Excellencies ended their three-day state visit to Brunei Darussalam on November 24.



His Excellency and wife at one of the homes of Kampung Tamoi at Kampung Ayer showcasing traditional arts and handicrafts.

Data base vital to improve athletes

BERAKAS, November 2 - Assessments and the establishment of a system ranking on athletes would be feasible with the setting up of a data base. This data base would also be able to assist in improving the performance of the athletes.

The matters were said by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair at a meeting with Brunei Darussalam's Sports Associations held at Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium.

The minister further said that with existing schedules, frequent, focused and organised sport activities during the whole year, it would be able to attract and

encourage youths to strive in the field of sports. They would then be able to uplift the local sports festival as a prestigious one; and as the pinnacle of sports gathering in this nation.

Thus, there should be a standard or qualifying entry requirement for athletes to participate in the sports festival. The implementation of this, according to the minister, should be further deliberated.

The meeting was aimed to find out the developments and the planning of the national sports associations in the sport development especially on preparations for regional and international participation.



Minister of Culture, Youth & Sports said data base on athletes would be able to assist in improving performance of athletes.

Brunei-Malaysia: Strengthen cooperation combat against drug smuggling and dealers

GADONG, November 3 - Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia will continue to strengthen cooperation in tracking and pin down trans-border drug smuggling and distribution activities.

The Director of Narcotic Control Bureau of Brunei Darussalam, Awang Haji Abdul Aziz stated the matter while chairing the 15th Bilateral Meeting between Narcotic Control Bureau of Brunei Darussalam and the Department of Narcotic Crime Investigation of Malaysia.

Awang Haji Abdul Aziz said that various field of cooperation have been implemented by both countries including course and training assistance to bureau officers, the implementation of extradition on the arrested, sharing and exchange latest information, visiting programme to Narcotic Crime Investigation of Sabah and Sarawak and many more.

Malaysia's delegation was led by DCP Dato' Othman bin Harun. The meeting was held at the Rizqun International Hotel.



Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia will continue to strengthen cooperation in tracking and pin down trans-border drug smuggling and distribution activities.

Did you know that...

- 'Syair Rakis' is one of Brunei Darussalam's well-known poems; it was written by Pengiran Indera Mahkota Pengiran Shahbandar Muhammad Salleh in 1820's.
- Sultan Abdul Momin was the 24th Sultan of Brunei and ruled from 1852 – 1885.
- Brunei Darussalam became a member state of the Universal Postal Union in 1916.
- The government issued its first short-term *Sukuk Al Ijarah* bonds in 2006.

>> BRUNEI IN BRIEF

- Official name is Negara Brunei Darussalam.
- Capital is Bandar Seri Begawan.
- It is located on the north-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia.
- Land size is 5765 sq. km
- Population is estimated at 406,200 people (2009).
- It is divided into four districts – Brunei Muara, Tutong, Kuala Belait and Temburong.
- Malay is the official language but English is widely spoken.
- Islam is the official religion and it allows other religions to be practiced.
- National carrier is Royal Brunei Airlines.
- It has an equatorial climate, a uniform temperature, high humidity and heavy rainfall.

Public Warning: The trafficking of controlled drugs carries the death penalty in Brunei Darussalam

>> HOW TO GET TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM?

There are a number of ways to reach Brunei.

- By air - Brunei's national carrier, Royal Brunei Airlines travels to more than 20 destinations around the world. The airline also has worldwide office for you to book a return flight to Brunei (to know the nearest RBA's office at your place, please log to: www.bruneiair.com)
- International airlines such as Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and Thai Airways also fly frequently to Brunei. Beginning July 2006, Air Asia, the Malaysia's lowest airfare carrier also has direct flight from Kuala Lumpur to Brunei.
- Arrival by plane would land you to Brunei International Airport (BWN), the sole airport in the nation.
- For those who enjoy journey by sea, you can reach Brunei by boat or ferry. The main ferry terminal in Brunei is the Serasa Ferry Terminal at Muara. You can catch a ferry from Labuan, Sabah or Lawas and Sundar, both in Sarawak, a state of the neighbouring country, Malaysia. Another option is via a boat from Limbang, Sarawak which will arrive at the jetty around Jalan Residency area in the Capital.
- You would have two options of entry point to Brunei by land transport. You can enter through the Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post in Belait District or the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post in Brunei Muara District. The Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post in Belait is the entry point for those from Miri, Sarawak. While the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post is the entrance for those coming from Limbang, Sarawak; Kota Kinabalu; and Kalimantan.

Enter job market through Edexcel Business Programme and BTEC

PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN



Signing ceremony between Ministry of Education and Edexcel Pearson Company.

GADONG, November 4 – With the qualification such as Programme Edexcel Business and Technical Education Council (BTEC), students will be able to enter the job market equipped with skills and knowledge.

Thus a signing of Memorandum of Understanding was held between the Ministry of Education and Edexcel Pearson Company. Present as signatories on behalf of Ministry of Education was Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd Daud bin Mahmud, Permanent Secretary (Higher Education); whilst his counterpart was Mr Patrick Casey, the International Director of Edexcel.

Present to witness the signing ceremony was the Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar. The signing ceremony took place at the Rizqun International Hotel.

Programmes provided by Edexcel are recognised internationally where it provides academic and vocational qualifications designed specifically to develop further practical skills and to promote self-learning.

The duration of the programme is one and a half years. The first intake of BTEC 'Introductory Certificate' is scheduled to end their programme in June 2012. They will then proceed to BTEC 'First Certificate' for a year.



PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

A group photo of delegates attending the 30th ASEAN Senior Transport Officials' Meeting.

30th ASEAN Senior Transport Officials' Meeting

JERUDONG, November 8 – The conclusion achieved on several agreements in the 30th ASEAN Senior Transport Officials' Meeting (STOM) showed ASEAN's commitment as a regional group through their readiness in making sacrifice in ensuring ASEAN's long term economic growth.

This was stated by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of

Communications, Dato Paduka Haji Alaihuddin whilst chairing the 30th STOM.

Dato Paduka Haji Alaihuddin said that the conclusion achieved not only increase integration and sustainability of ASEAN member countries but will also generate other commercial activities which is hoped to bring

a comprehensively better ASEAN's quality of life.

The meeting was attended by 200 delegates from ASEAN member countries; ASEAN dialogue partners namely China, Japan, Korea; as well as representatives from ASEAN Secretariat.

The meeting took place at The Empire Hotel and Country Club

Strong emphasis on food security

BERAKAS, November 8 – Brunei Darussalam gives strong emphasis on food safety through a number of measures. One of the measures is by quarantine control on imported livestock, fish and prawn based on respective regulations. The second measure is by analysing poisonous food waste, preservatives and antibiotics

found in local and imported livestock products, crops, and seafood.

These were highlighted by the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dayang Hajah Normah Suria Hayati at the official opening of the Seafood Safety and Quality Control Seminar.

Some 100 people attended the seminar presented by Dr. Bah Piyah Tan from Malaysia's Fisheries Department, on 'Food Security Perspective: The Needs In The Future'.

The seminar was held at the Orchid Garden Hotel.



PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR

Deputy Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources outlines the importance of food safety.

Projects to upgrade sewage treatment plants

BERAKAS, November 8 – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam will continue to implement new projects to improve the country's quality of life. One of the measures is by upgrading and improving the infrastructure.

To date, Brunei Darussalam has one of the best sewerage systems in this region where 44 per cent of its population has access to centralised sewerage treatment plants supplied through 750km long of sewage pipe; and 90 per cent of the population has septic tank system and public sewerage treatment.

The Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi stated the matter at a Contract Signing Ceremony for Upgrading of Plant Level Sewage Treatment projects in Gadong and Seria held at the Ministry of Development.

Signing on behalf of the Department of Drainage and Sewerage was the Director General

* Continue on page 14

PHOTO: HERNIE SULLIANA HAJI OTHMAN



The Contract Signing Ceremony for Upgrading of Plant Level Sewerage Projects between Ministry of Development and Surati Construction Sdn. Bhd.

IT Management Course for ASEAN Senior Officers

GADONG, November 11 – A total of 15 government senior officers from the participating ASEAN member countries namely Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam participated in Managing with Information Technology (IT) for Non-IT Managers Course conducted by the Public Service Institute (IPA). The course took place from October 25 to November 11.

In attendance to present the certificates was the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Dr. Haji Affendy.

The ceremony was held at Rizqun International Hotel.



PHOTO: SAHRIZAL HAJI MOHD. SAID

A participant receives his certificate from the Deputy Permanent Secretary (left).

Brunei – Philippines strengthened defence cooperation

MANILA, November 12 – The 5th Joint Defence Working Committee (JDWC) meeting between Brunei Darussalam and Republic of Philippines was held on November 11 in Manila where both countries discussed on ways to promote bilateral defence cooperation and exchanged views on promoting regional and international peace and stability.

Also discussed were the developments in the Mindanao Peace Process and the International Monitoring Team in Mindanao, where 15 members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces are currently serving.

The meeting were co-chaired by Awang Haji Saifulbahri bin Haji Mansor, Permanent Secretary (Defence Policy & Development), Ministry of Defence Brunei Darussalam and the Attorney Honourable Pio Lorenzo F. Batino, Undersecretary for Legal and Legislative Affairs and Strategic

Concerns, Department of National Defence Republic of Philippines.

After the meeting, the Brunei delegation made a courtesy call to Honourable Honorio S. Azcueta, the Undersecretary for Defence Affairs.

The JDWC between Brunei Darussalam and Republic of Philippines was established through the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Defence Cooperation signed on April 22, 2001.

The MoU serves as a framework for fostering closer defence relations and cooperation between the defence establishments and armed forces of both countries, such as military training and exercises, exchange of information on matters pertaining to security, training and defence products, and exchange of visit between respective defence and military personnel.

The next JDWC meeting is planned to be held in Bandar Seri Begawan in 2011.

* From page 13 (Projects to upgrade sewage treatment plants)

of Public Works Department, Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Ghafar. Meanwhile signing for the contractor selected for the project, Surati Construction Sendirian Berhad was its representative, Mohammad Zul Fakhri bin Mohammad Sofian.

The upgrading of the sewage plant project in Gadong will take 21 months to complete with a cost of nearly \$9.3 million. Meanwhile, the upgrading of the sewage plant treatment level in Seria with a cost of about \$8.3 million is expected to be completed in 18 months.



PHOTO: HERNIE SULLIANA HAJI OTHMAN

Minister of Communications (2nd from right) at the 'ASEAN Multi-lateral Agreement on Full Liberalisation of Passenger Air Services and Its Protocols' signing ceremony.

ASEAN Transport Ministers: Multi-lateral agreement signed

JERUDONG, November 12 – The ASEAN Transport Ministers have signed the 'ASEAN Multi-lateral Agreement on Full Liberalisation of Passenger Air Services and Its Protocols (MAFLPAS)'.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdullah.

The signing ceremony was held in conjunction with the 16th ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting where the ministers acknowledged the meeting had achieved positive and encouraging result.

In airlines sector, ASEAN ministers summarised on full liberalisation of air services for member-countries to provide

air services from any city.

The ministers also agreed to expand the scope of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on ASEAN Air Services Agreement with dialogue partners.

Meanwhile, in maritime sector, a signing of MoU on ASEAN-China Sea Consultancy Mechanism by maritime authorities from ASEAN countries was signed which includes ports control, protection of marine environment from pollution, safety of maritime transports, navigation assistance, sharing of experience and ability development.

The 16th ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting took place at Grand Hall, The Empire Hotel and Country Club in Jerudong.

National Land Use Master Plan 2006-2025

JERUDONG, November 12 – The Ministry of Development has launched the 'National Land Use Master Plan 2006-2025' which can be used as reference for national development from the usage of land for various sectors in the country.

The book was launched by Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi, soon after the launching of World Town Planning Day celebration at the BRIDEX Hall in Jerudong.

This master plan is not only as the main base to evaluate applications for land meant to be developed but it should be used for physical developments; to steer development management; and assist in formulating development policies and land management.

Promising outlook for Junjongan 1, Limau Manis paddy fields

MUKIM PENGKALAN BATU, November 16 – The agricultural sector particularly in its rice production continue to receive positive outlook as Junjongan 1 and Limau Manis paddy fields are estimated to produce two to three tonnes metric of paddy per hectare.

Thus a harvesting ceremony was carried out in the presence of the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya.

These paddy fields were developed by the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood through LNS Trading and Construction Sdn. Bhd. where paddy planting was fully developed with the usage of latest and sophisticated technologies.

Brunei – USA: Closer ties in defence

HAWAII, November 18 - The 10th Joint Defence Working Committee (JDWC) between Brunei Darussalam and the United States was held at the Nimitz MacArthur Pacific Command Center, Hawaii. The meeting discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral defence relations in areas such as training, exercises, logistics and other exchanges. Both sides also shared and exchanged views on peacekeeping and matters relating to defence and security in the region.

After the meeting, the Brunei Darussalam delegation made separate calls to Lieutenant General Darnell (Deputy Commander US PACOM), Admiral Walsh (Commander of the Pacific Fleet), Major General Bash (Deputy Commander, Pacific Air Forces) and Lieutenant General (Rtd.) Goodman (Director of the Centre for Excellence). During these calls both sides also discussed further prospects of cooperation.

The JDWC between Brunei Darussalam and the United States was established through the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Defence Cooperation signed on November, 29 1994. The MoU serves as a framework for fostering closer defence relations and cooperation between the defence establishments and armed forces of both countries.

The 10th JDWC meeting was co-chaired by Muhammad Shahrul Nizam bin Umar, Acting Director of Defence Policy, Ministry of Defence and Colonel Jonathan C. Goff, Chief of the US Pacific Command's Southeast Asia Policy Division. The meeting was also attended by military and civilian officials from both sides.

The next JDWC meeting is planned to be held in Bandar Seri Begawan in 2011.

New service scheme for doctors

JERUDONG, November 14 – Effective from October 9, 2010, a new service scheme for doctors has been enforced. The new scheme is in line with efforts towards strengthening the quality of healthcare services. It is also to encourage the citizens to study the medical field and to further advance their specialists training.

The matters were said by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato

Awang Haji Adanan at the 4th Annual Brunei Surgical Scientific Session in conjunction with the 7th Surgical Forum.

The minister expressed his hope that with the new scheme, doctors will be more committed when carrying out their responsibilities. He also hoped that doctors will strengthen the quality of their services.

Rejuvenation works for Temburong District's power supply

TEMBURONG, November 15 – A number of projects involving medium and long-term plans are currently and will be implemented to improve and upgrade power supply at Temburong District.

Some of the projects include rejuvenation works of Bellingus Power Station such as rejuvenation of diesel generator, leasing of mobile diesel generator, repairing the power station's building and to appoint a full-time technical adviser for two years.

A total of \$10 million has been allocated to carry out the total rejuvenation of Bellingus Power

Station.

The long-term plan is to construct approximately 30km high voltage (66kv) transmission line and submarine cable from Mentiri substation to Temburong, which will cost \$42 million. The construction of the new line will commence in 2011 with approximately 24 months to implement.

The matters were highlighted during a work visit by the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin (Rtd.) Dato Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin to several power stations based in the Temburong District.

ASEAN, China law practitioners should collaborate

CHONGQING, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, November 16 – Law practitioners need to benefit the opportunities for a wider cooperation, dialogue and exchange between ASEAN and China.

The Attorney General, the Honourable Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Hayati said at the 4th Top Forum China-ASEAN on the Cooperation of Law and Development.

The Honourable said the role of a law practitioner in both sectors - government and private is to increase law cooperation towards the implementation of ASEAN and China Free Trade Area.

The forum which was held from November 10 to 14 was chaired by China Law Society and organised by China Legal Exchange Centre, Law Society of Chongqing and Southwest University of Political Science and Law.

This annual forum which started since 2007 carried the theme 'Towards Mutual Benefits and Win-Win: Legal Cooperation after the Establishment of China-ASEAN Free Trade Area'. It aims to provide a platform for high level dialogue for law professionals from China and ASEAN to further enrich exchanges, to deepen the understanding and to further enhance cooperation.

Belait District contributes 35% nation's fruit production

KUALA BELAIT, November 20 – With a production of about 1,534 tonnes metric amounting to \$3.89 million, Belait District has contributed about 35 per cent to the nation's overall fruit production.

This was disclosed by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya at a ceremony to launch the campaign for plantation of local fruits at Pak Natu, Keluyoh Rural Area Agricultural Development Farms.

Based on statistics by the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood in 2009, about 317 hectares of land have been endorsed for Rural

Area Agricultural Development Farms in the Belait District comprising of 392 farmers. However only 92 hectares have been developed thus far involving 114 farmers.

Whilst the Pak Natu, Keluyoh Rural Area Agricultural Development Farms with an area of 169 hectares with 211 members have been chosen for the campaign on Local Fruits Trees for Rural Area Agricultural Development.

Among the objectives of the campaign are to promote and provide awareness to public and new generation on the importance of

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* From page 15 (Belait District contributes 35% nation's fruit production)

preserving the varieties of local fruits.

At the campaign, 50 Durian Pulu (Durio kutejensis Becc.) trees were planted. The fruit was chosen due to its suitability with the local area; besides supporting the 'One Product One Village' programme making Belait District as the main producer of Durian Pulu in this country. Five hundred of Durian Pulu sows will be planted at these farms.

From the total area of Pak Natu, Keluyoh Rural Area Agricultural Development Farms, more than 36 hectares had been developed by 45 members with local fruits plantation such as durian, rambutan, jackfruit and cempedak. The remaining land will be developed through this campaign.

Brunei – Korea: Forum explore new opportunities for cooperation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 18 – Brunei Darussalam is keen to learn from Republic of Korea's agriculture and fishery industry as both industries are quite small in Brunei compared to Korea.

The matters were said by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya at the official opening of the Brunei-Korea Agricultural Cooperation Forum held at Rizqun International Hotel.

The minister further said that Brunei is amazed with how the people of Korea cooperate in developing their agricultural agenda from nil 60 years ago; and successfully improved the source of income for its rural community. They are also able to achieve global recognition for their agricultural products.

The minister expressed his hope that the forum would give inspiration to the people of Brunei and provides a better vision and idea on how to move forward through agricultural growth and development. He also hoped that the knowledge obtained from this forum would open the path towards better planned and developed agricultural activities by taking into account nature's sustainability and its eco-friendliness.

Jointly organised by the Embassy of Republic of Korea in Brunei Darussalam and Department of Agriculture and Agrifood, the forum was as an initiative by the embassy in exploring new opportunities which both countries could cooperate in agricultural sector focusing on paddy plantation.

The forum featured two speakers from Korea, Mr. Kim Jeong Wook, Deputy Director of the Rural Policy Division of Korea's Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Mr. Lee Byung Gwon, Team Director for Overseas Project Promotion of the Korea Rural Community Corporation.

\$167.45 million for drainage projects

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 20 – An amount of \$167.45 million have been allocated for the implementation of 31 drainage projects. These projects are categorised to five sectors namely; 20 flood prevention projects amounting to \$123.5 million; three coastal protection projects - \$35.95 million; three hydrology data projects - \$3.5 million; four possible research projects - \$1.5 million; and one asset management project - \$3 million.



The Minister of Development looks on a display of several projects carried out by the Public Works Department.

With the implementation of these projects, flood-prone areas will be reduced by 75 per cent which constitutes about 70sq. km. equivalent to 1.2 per cent of the nation's total land area.

The matters were said by Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Ghafar, the Director-General of Public Works Department at a ceremony to launch the third phase of the Kampung Subok and Kampung Belimbing Catchment - Flood Mitigation Scheme.

The Subok River catchment area is 910 hectares wide and divided into nine smaller catchment areas.

Flood often occurred on low-lying areas along Subok River where it has caused damages to assets, detached roads and have affected the daily lives especially those residing in these areas.

A number of projects have been carried out divided into four phases in which phase one and two involving the widening of Kianggeh River and Subok River had been carried out.

E-government network infrastructure for Housing Development Department

BERAKAS, November 20 – The e-government initiatives continue to move forward in Brunei Darussalam with the latest saw a contract signing ceremony for 'Housing Development Department Network Infrastructure' between the department and Syarikat Perniagaan Dinamik Giat.

Signatories for the signing ceremony was Awang Marzuke bin Haji Mohsin, the Director of Housing Development; and his counterpart, Mr. Thien Det Lin, the Manager of Syarikat Perniagaan Dinamik Giat.

This project would enable the

department's headquarters to connect with their branches through EGBandwidth where it is expected to be completed in six months. With the completion of this project, it would facilitate services such as e-mail, e-SiKAP, Promise, Government Employee Management System (GEMS) and others

Present to witness the signing ceremony was Awang Haji Mohd. Zain bin Haji Salleh, the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Development.



Signing ceremony for e-government network infrastructure for Housing Development Department.

Minister attends reception

Minister of Religious Affairs, Pengiran Dato Dr. Haji Mohammad and wife, and Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Sayyid Fakhri bin Mohamed Said and wife attended a reception to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Oman's National Day at Indera Samudera Hall, The Empire Hotel and Country Club on November 23.



National Heart Failure Symposium

JERUDONG, November 21 – The Ministry of Health supports the formation of programmes based on best practices of various disciplines towards heart failure care.

This was stated by Acting Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health, Datin Paduka Hajah Intan at the opening of the National Heart Failure Symposium held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

Datin Paduka Hajah Intan said that

unbalanced nutrition, less exercise, lack of knowledge about health and less attention on healthy lifestyle are amongst the major contributor of heart problem. Heart failure disease gives an impact on the community's health as it led to prevention and cure to be more imperative.

The symposium with the theme 'Heart Failure and Sudden Cardiac Death', aimed to show the positive outcomes of the Heart Failure Programme, which began in 2008 by the RIPAS Hospital Cardiac Centre; as well as to make the programme more accessible to other hospitals.

The symposium was attended by 200 participants including doctors, nurses, pharmacists and food research specialists from the ministry.

Datin Paduka Hajah Intan officially opens the National Heart Failure Symposium.



PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN

BEDB focus on investment, infrastructure and trade

TUTONG, November 23 – The Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) has three main focuses mainly to promote investment, implement infrastructure projects and to facilitate in developing local entrepreneurship.

The matters were highlighted by Dayangku Dina binti Pengiran Omar Ali, the account manager of BEDB at a briefing on BEDB's projects and opportunities for chief and heads of villages in the Tutong District.

According to Dayangku Dina, BEDB in promoting investments focus on industries that opens its market, trade and job opportunities, and to promote opportunities for cooperation with local entrepreneurs.

Some of BEDB's infrastructure projects include national housing scheme, modern waste management

system, the construction of Telisai-Lumut highway, and the transformation of the international airport. BEDB has built 1,500 houses for the national housing scheme in a span of 18 months with a cost of \$147.5 million.

While on promoting the development of local entrepreneurship, BEDB has focused on local youths by giving priority to youths from underprivileged families; besides emphasising on the spirit of competitiveness and being independent.

The briefing was to provide exposure and to share information on projects and opportunities that had been and will be carried out by BEDB in their bid to assist the local community and the underprivileged to improve their living standard by starting and developing their business.

UBD signs MoU with KeGRC

TUNGKU, November 25 – The Faculty of Business, Economy and Policy Studies (FBEPS) of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with e-Government/Green IT Research Centre (KeGRC) of the Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST).

The MoU will provide a general

framework on cooperation between both institutions in facilitating discussions for cooperation especially in fields of e-government.

Present as signatories to the MoU were Dr. Fadzliwati binti Mohidin, the Acting Dean of FBEPS; and her counterpart, Professor Soung-Hie Kim, the Director General KeGRC, KAIST.



Signing of MoU for cooperation in facilitating discussions for cooperation in fields of e-government.

PHOTO: HERNIE SULLIANA HAJI OTHMAN

Bruneians partake Cyberkids ASEAN 2010 Camp

BANDARSERIBEGAWAN, November 21 – Four students from Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam Secondary School and Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajah Masna Secondary School will be participating in the Cyberkids ASEAN 2010 Camp.

The campaign will be held from November 21 to 27 at the Cyberview Lodge Resort & Spa, Cyberjaya in Malaysia. Some 100 students aged between 13 to 16 years and teachers from 10 ASEAN countries and Sri Lanka are expected to participate in the campaign.

Big potentials in enhancing energy efficiency and conservation

JERUDONG, November 23 – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is currently undertaking steps agreed for basic implementation and framework for sustainable energy policy for Brunei Darussalam.

The matters were said by the Minister of Energy at Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Colonel (Rtd) Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin at the official opening of the 40th Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Energy Working Group (EWG) Meeting.

The government, said the minister, is currently making efforts to minimise loss for more efficiency in the energy sector; exploring the usage of solar power through Tenaga Suria Brunei as platform for research and demonstration; educating the public on energy conservation; and introducing efficient energy practices for buildings.

The minister also said that the Centre for Strategic and Policies Studies (CSPS) recently carried out two researches.

The first research was a study on potential alternative energy resources and carried out a research that could be implemented in this country. Whilst the second research was on energy efficiency; and the development of a road map for conservation.

Early indicators have shown big potentials in enhancing energy efficiency and conservation.

The meeting was held at Indera Samudera Hall at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

Three companies receive AiTi Grant Scheme

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 26

– The Authority for Info-communication Technology Industry for Brunei Darussalam (AiTi) marked another milestone in promoting the local info-communications technology (ICT) industry by awarding the AiTi Grant

Scheme.

Three companies were awarded with the AiTi Grant Scheme namely; MARS Enterprise, Crescent Sdn. Bhd. and John Harith Technology Sdn. Bhd.

The ceremony was officiated with the contract signing between Chief Executive of AiTi, Awang Haji Yahkup bin Haji Menudin and the three companies at Dewan Seri Kerna, AiTi.

The signings were witnessed by Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Communications, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Alaihuddin who is also Chairman of AiTi.

MARS Enterprise, the first company to receive the grant scheme, received \$175,000 for funding of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Solution. The ERP Solution had led MARS Enterprise as the first Bruneian company to

achieve Special-Mention Recognition Award for the logistic category at the Asia Pacific ICT Award (APICTA) 2008 in Indonesia.

Meanwhile, Crescent Sdn. Bhd. was awarded with \$151,600 for funding of 'Premier Global End-to-end Online Programme for Master of Islamic Banking and Finance'.

The third recipient, John Harith Sdn. Bhd. was awarded with \$75,000 for Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) and Traceability Solution.

The grant applicant with status of AiTi Accredited Business (AAB) will be given priority during the evaluation process.

The AiTi Grant Scheme was launched last July to encourage researches and development activities in producing potentially commercial local products by local ICT companies through government financing.



One of the recipients of AiTi Grant Scheme (right).

PHOTO: ABDUL KADIR MOHD. TAHIR

Brunei hosts 7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare Development

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 26

– A number of issues were discussed relating to strengthening family institutions especially the elderly were discussed at the 7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare Development and 3rd ASEAN + 3 Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare Development.

The meetings were officially opened by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang

Haji Hazair on November 25 at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

In conjunction with this meeting, the report on ASEAN Children Forum was presented by the children who represented each ASEAN member country. The meeting which is held every three years was attended by representatives from 10 ASEAN countries responsible for social welfare and development.

Practice healthy lifestyle prevent heart disease

JERUDONG, October 31 – It is vital to shift the increasing trend in the cost of health care to one that has long-term sustainability. This is in response to the fast increasing cost of clinical health care for current and post heart attack and the increasing numbers of heart failure after a heart attack.

Strategies to prevent the disease must be strengthened. Some of the effective strategies are through public health education and awareness, prevention and self discipline in practising a healthy lifestyle.

The matters were said by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan at the official opening of the 2nd International Cardiology Nursing and Allied Healthcare Professional Conference.

The minister further said that cardiovascular disease is one of the main health problems in Brunei Darussalam. He further said that in 2009, 15.8 per cent of deaths in Brunei Darussalam were from heart-related diseases, which is the second cause of death in Brunei Darussalam after cancer.

Thus the minister also urged

members of the public to give more attention to their heart; to constantly do check-ups; practise a healthy lifestyle; consume balanced nutrition; and to exercise consistently.

The conference themed 'Uniting to improve cardiac practices' was attended by more than 200 expertises, nurses, students and other professionals related to heart disease. The conference was organised by Gleneagles JPMC held at the Royal Berkshire Hall, Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club.

MCYS responsables to produce excellent people

JERUDONG, November 29 – The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) has a wide scope of work and challenges. This ministry has the responsibility and role to elevate and produce excellent Bruneian people.

Apart from that, MCYS also has the responsibility to ensure the people's welfare are secured; and to produce Bruneians that will inherit and enliven the Malay Islamic Monarchy (MIB) concept, history, language, culture and civilisation.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair stated the matter at the ministry's Strategic Plan Workshop 'The Leadership Team: Strategy Reaffirmation Workshop' held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

About 50 participants comprising of directors, deputy directors, assistant directors, senior officers and departments from the ministry attended the three-day workshop.



Minister of Health presents a token of appreciation to one of the speakers at the conference.

PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

'Weekend Without Plastic Bags' introduced in 2011

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 31 – As the amount of waste that need to be disposed in Brunei Darussalam is high, it is high time to promote the 3R – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

The matter was said by the Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi at the official opening of 'Green Carnival 2010' held at Recreation Park, Jalan Menteri Besar.

The minister also said that in response to a campaign 'A Day Without Plastic Bags' held in May this year, similar programme will be held focusing on 'Weekend Without Plastic Bags' to be introduced in phases from the first quarter of 2011.

To ensure the success of this program, the Department of Parks and Recreation (JASTRE) had carried out discussions with vendors and supermarkets across the nation where agreement and support have been achieved.

During the carnival, the minister also presented prizes and certificates to the winner and participants of '3R' competition and officially launched a 'Cycling Path' in conjunction with 'Green Carnival' 2010. The carnival was organised by JASTRE and 3R Group 'US' Business Project 2010-2011, Business School.

Groundbreaking ceremony for Performance Optimisation Centre (POC)

BOLKIAH GARRISON, November 4 – The Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) will soon have a Performance Optimisation Centre (POC) which provides latest facilities to develop fitness, training and research, enhance sports performance and rehabilitation of the Military Personnel of the RBAF.

In this regard, a groundbreaking ceremony for the proposed POC was held at Bolkiah Garrison. Present as guest of honour was Haji Awang Saifulbahri bin Haji Awang Mansor, Permanent Secretary (Defence Policy and Development) at Ministry of Defence.

The construction of this centre is valued at \$6.1 million scheduled to be completed by early July next year. The total built up area is 2910 square meter.

Brunei hosts SEACEN – IRTI/IDB Workshop

GADONG, November 5 – Brunei Darussalam recently hosted the SEACEN – IRTI / IDB (South East Asian Central Banks Research and Training Centre - Islamic Research and Training Institute, Islamic Development Bank) Workshop on 'Building A Sustainable Islamic Banking System: Liquidify Management'.

A total of 36 participants representing 17 institutions from 14 SEACEN members countries participated in the workshop including representatives from Afghanistan; Brunei Darussalam; Albania; Cambodia; Indonesia; Malaysia; Korea; Bangladesh; Philippines, Iran, Sri Lanka; Maldives, Pakistan and Turkey.

Bruneians participate in 8th ASEAN Skills Competition

GADONG, November 6 – A total of 14 Bruneians will be participating in the 8th ASEAN Skills Competition in Bangkok, Thailand held from November 14 to 24.

In this regard, the handing over a national flag was held at the Technical Education Department.

The Permanent Secretary (Higher Education) at the Ministry of Education, Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Daud handed over the national flag to the Acting Assistant Director of Technical Education, Awang Haji Abdullah bin Ahmad, the head of Brunei's delegation.

A total of ten ASEAN countries will be participating in the competition namely; Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

The competition will be held in Challenger Hall 1 and 2, IMPACT Exhibition and Convention Centre Bangkok. A total of 21 Skill Areas will be competed.

Brunei will be participating in Automotive Technology, Bricklaying, Cabinet Making, Cooking and Fashion Technology.

President BDNOC attends 16th Asian Games

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 8 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah left for Guangzhou, People's Republic of China to attend the 16th Asian Games.

Brunei Darussalam's contingent will be participating in five sports event which involves nine athletes. The 16th Asian Games will be held from November 12 to 27. This year is the country's sixth participation in the games since 1990.

Brunei LiveWIRE Business Awards launched

GADONG, November 9 – The Brunei LiveWIRE Business Awards has been launched featuring three categories namely; Category A – Business Plan Award; Category B – LiveWIRE Business Network Award; and Category C - LiveWIRE Brunei SME Award.

Present to officially launch the awards was the Permanent Secretary (High Education) at the Ministry of Education, Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Daud.

The deadline to participate these awards is on July 29, 2011.

Further information and inquiries are available at 2220964 or by e-mailing enquiry@livewire-brunei.com or through www.livewire-brunei.com

Humanitarian Aid Fund established

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 18 – In its bid to reduce the burden of victims of those affected by the tsunami waves in Merapi and the eruption of Mount Mentawai in Indonesia, the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam launched the Merapi and Mentawai Disaster Victims Humanitarian Aid Fund.

The fund will be collected through a short message service known as 'SMS Brunei Prihatin'.

The 'SMS Brunei Prihatin' was launched by the Minister of Religious Affairs, Pengiran Dato Dr. Haji Mohammad and the Acting Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Datin Hajah Adina who are the co-advisers of this fund.

The 'SMS Brunei Prihatin' is a collaboration between the Community Development Department, Radio and Television Brunei, DST Group and B-Mobile Communications Sendirian Berhad.

Collection of contribution via SMS will end on December 31, 2010.

Development Minister visits UK's Poundbury Development

UNITED KINGDOM, November 18 – The Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi was in Dorset, Cornwall visited Poundbury, Dorset upon the invitation of 'Prince Foundation'.

Poundbury Development is the urban extension in Dorset, and is famous internationally as a pioneering example of urban development. It was designed by His Royal Highness Prince Charles, Prince of Wales who outlined his pioneering ideas in his book - 'A Vision of Britain'.

The minister was accompanied by the Brunei Darussalam's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, His Excellency Awang Haji Mohd Aziyan bin Abdullah and officers from the Ministry of Development.

Brunei hosts homestay programme for HK students

KAMPUNG BEBULOH, November 17 – Brunei Darussalam received a delegation of 39 students and four teachers from Hongkong for a homestay programme held from November 15 – 17.

Among the homestay's itineraries were cultural exhibition and performances presented by Kampung Bebuluh Consultative Council. The homestay delegation also made performance during the visit to the village.

UBD - UTM ink pact

TUNGKU, November 20 – The nation's first university, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM).

Among the scopes of the MoU include cooperation in research, teaching and training development programme, exchange of staff and students for research activities, discussions, and exchange of students and information.

Signing on behalf of UBD was its Vice Chancellor, Dr. Haji Zulkarnain bin Haji Hanafi; while his counterpart was Professor Dato 'Ir Dr. Zaini bin Ujang.

The signing was held at Seminar Room, Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah Institute of Health Science.

Minister of Health attends conference

BERLIN, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, November 23 – Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan attended the two-day International Ministerial Conference on Healthcare Financing – Key to Universal Coverage held at the Axica Convention Centre in Berlin beginning November 22.

The conference was jointly organised by World Health Organisation (WHO) and German Ministry of Health and Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation.

Twenty-seven health ministers from six regional health organisations attended the conference.

The conference among others discussed issues in World Health Report 2010 and achievements in health financial system in various countries.

Pehin Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan also held separate bilateral discussions with German's Minister of Health, His Excellency Dr. Philippe Rosler; and Minister of Home Affairs and Health of Denmark, His Excellency Bertel Haarder.

Brunei-Laos: MoUs in culture and sports

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 23 – Brunei Darussalam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic have fostered closer ties with the signing of Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) in the fields of culture and sports.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair.

Meanwhile his counterpart for the MoU on Cultural Cooperation was Lao's Minister of Information and Culture, His Excellency Mounkeo Oraboun; while for MoU on Sports Cooperation was Lao's Minister at Prime Minister's Office who is also Director General of National Sports Committee and President of Lao National Olympic Committee, His Excellency Dr. Phouthong Seng Akhom.

With the signings of the MoUs, it is hoped that it would further strengthened and develop cooperation in areas that beneficial for culture and sports.

The signing ceremony was held at the Mutiara Ballroom, Raddison Hotel in the capital.

Brunei-Australia strengthen defence ties

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA, November 24 – The 11th Joint Defence Working Committee (JDWC) meeting between Brunei Darussalam and Australia has looked into the progress of bilateral defence cooperation, which included military exercises and trainings between both countries, and discussed ways to further strengthen relations. Both countries also exchanged views on issues related to maritime security and peacekeeping operations, as well as matters relating to defence and security in the region.

The meeting were co-chaired by Muhammad Shahrul Nizzam bin Umar, Acting Director of Defence Policy at the Ministry of Defence of Brunei Darussalam and Mr. Martin Kennedy, Acting Assistant Secretary, South East Asia Branch, International Policy Division, Department of Defence of Australia. Senior military personnel and civilian officers from both countries and a representative from the Brunei Darussalam High Commission in Australia, also attended the meeting.

The JDWC between Brunei Darussalam and Australia was formed through a Memorandum of Understanding on Defence between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of Australia signed on May 10, 1999.

The next JDWC meeting is expected to be held in Bandar Seri Begawan in 2011.

World Road Traffic Victims Commemoration Day

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 26 – Brunei Darussalam observed World Road Traffic Victims Commemoration Day with *Maghrib* and *Isyak* Mass Prayers, recitals of *Surah Yaa Siin*, and special prayer at selected mosques throughout the nation.

According to statistic from the Department of Land Transport, Brunei Darussalam recorded 29 casualties due to road accidents in 2008 and the number increased to 35 in 2009.

The United Nations General Assembly in 2005 adopted a resolution which calls for governments to mark the third Sunday of November as a day for World Road Traffic Victims Commemoration Day. Its main objective is for recognition to victims of road traffic crashes and the plight of their relatives who have to cope with the emotional and practical consequences of these tragic events.

'Temburong Bisai' Festival launched

TEMBURONG, November 28 – In its bid to attract more domestic and foreign tourists to visit Temburong District, a festival known as 'Temburong Bisai Festival' was launched.

The festival was launched by the Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Home Affairs, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Majid held at Kompleks Utama Bumiputera, Bangar Town.

This festival would feature Temburong's culture and its uniqueness, and it is also one of the efforts to promote the district as an eco-tourism destination. Among the activities included in the festival are weekend expo and bazaar, Exploration of Temburong, Temburong Bisai Photography Competition, tug-of-war and boat control competition.

The festival is jointly-organised by Temburong District's Office and Brunei Darussalam's Tourism Development Board, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources through the 'Kenali Negara Kitani (KNK)' Campaign.

The festival will be held until December 19, 2010.