



# برونى دارالسلام Brunei Darussalam

n e w s l e t t e r

Published by the Department of Information  
Prime Minister's Office

**15 JANUARY, 2007**  
**VOLUME 22 ISSUE 25**



**Heritage :** Cloth Weaving, renowned skill passed down through generations  
**In Brunei :** Temburong District, the green jewel of Borneo  
**Colour :** Abundant of flora at flower market  
**Explore :** Kg. Ayer, Venice of the East



# Bukit Shahbandar Forest Recreation Park



**B**ukit Shahbandar Forest Recreation Park is a 70-hectare stretch of rolling verdant hills designated for jogging, hiking and cycling. It is also a popular spot for picnics and gatherings.

Bukit Shahbandar Forest Recreational Park record high visitation rates almost daily compare to other forest recreational parks. Among the factor contributing to this is its location that is easily accessible. The park is located along the Muara-Tutong highway, which is about 15 to 20 minutes drive from the capital. The park is also near to the Brunei's most grand accommodation, the Empire Hotel & Country Club.

This park has nine hills

which is considered as a significant achievement if you managed to climb all of them. However, one hill is enough for a newbie as the route and distance is equivalent to a 15-minutes walk.

Bukit Shahbandar is accessorised with good public facilities where among others, a convenient huge parking lot is erected to cater the number of guests, a number of stalls for thirst quenchers and restrooms.

This park is also known as good place for family's leisure

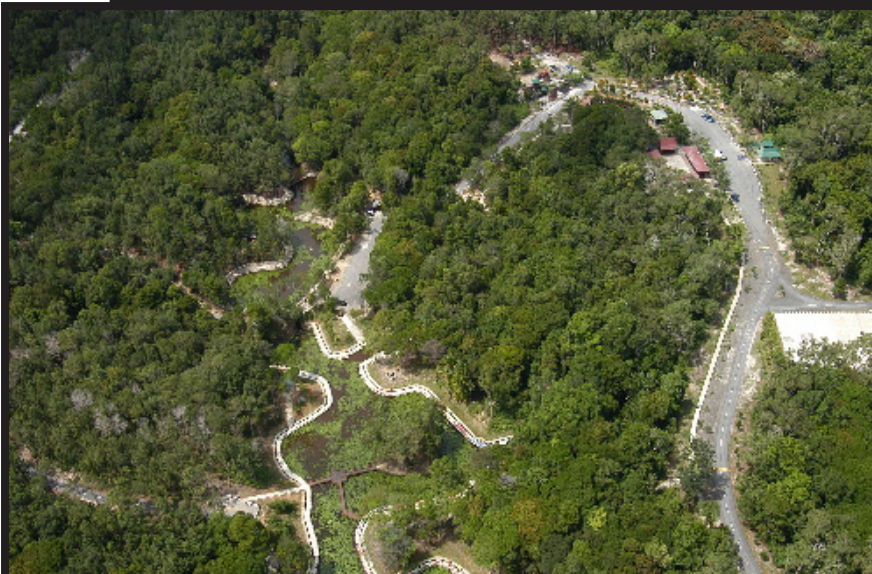
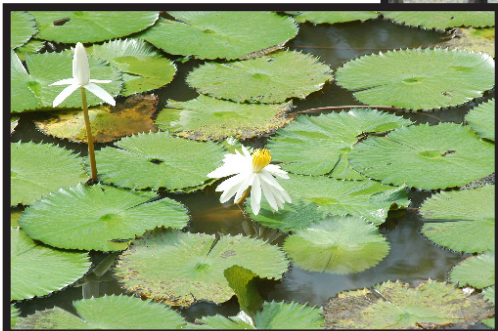
activities. There are a number of shelters provided to have a barbeque, as well as an open-air hall for you to conduct an activity, a fishing pond as well as some mini educational games such as the wooden maze.

The park was the venue for one of Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) event in 1999 and the First Brunei Marathon in 2005. This park is also frequently chosen as venue for brisk walk for ministries and departments activities.

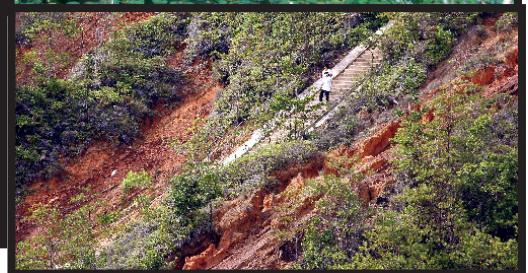
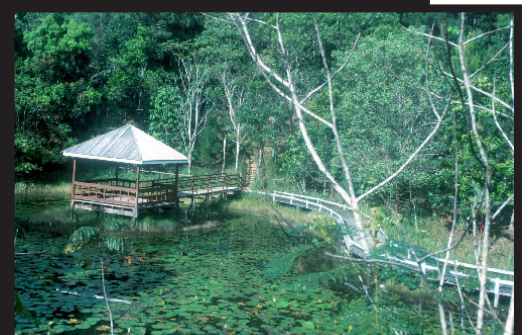
The park is one of the forest

recreational parks developed by the Forestry Department. The Forestry Department had developed forest recreational parks as a response to increasing public demand for outdoor recreational opportunities.

According to the department, aside from providing the public with venues for outdoor activities, the forest recreational parks are also used as vehicles to promote awareness on, and appreciation of, nature and forests among the public.



Aerial view of the park with huts located at various points to rest

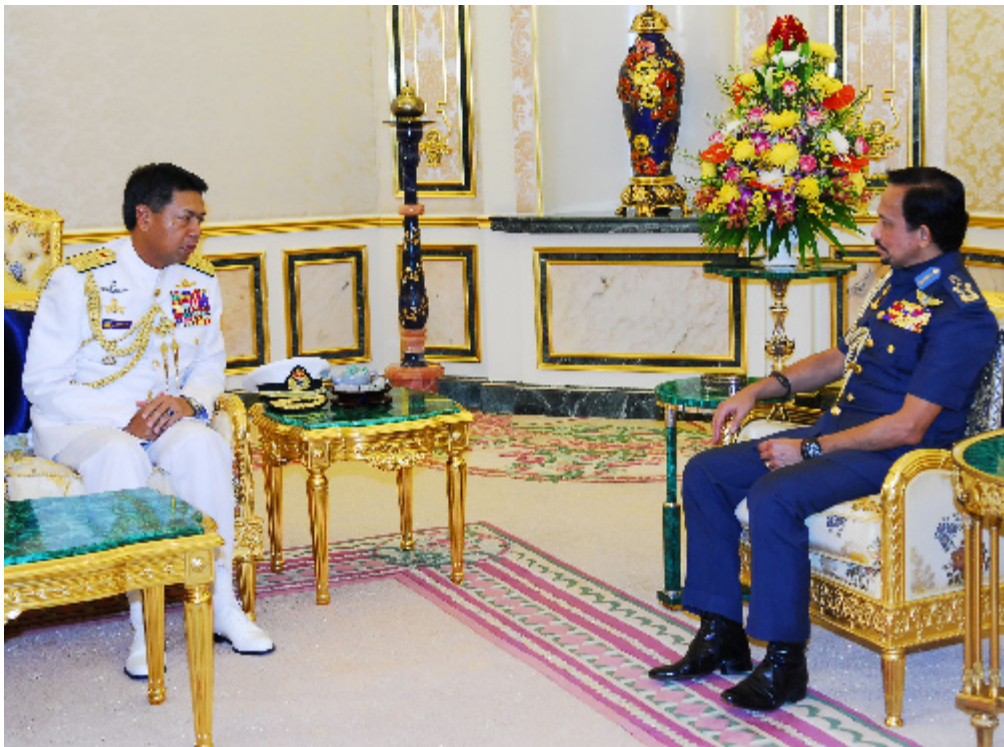




<b>COVER STORY: Shahbandar</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PALACE NEWSROUND</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>BRIEFLY: Brunei soon to have second university</b>	
<b>12th ASEAN SUMMIT</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>HERITAGE: Cloth Weaving</b>	<b>6 &amp; 7</b>
<b>BRIEFLY</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>DID YOU KNOW THAT../ CALENDAR /</b>	
<b>BRUNEI IN BRIEF / HOW TO GET TO BRUNEI?</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>IN BRUNEI: Temburong</b>	<b>10 &amp; 11</b>
<b>COLOURS: Flowers Market</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>NEWS</b>	<b>13 &amp; 14 &amp; 15</b>
<b>EXPLORE: Kg Ayer</b>	<b>16 &amp; 17</b>
<b>BRUNEI'S OWN CUISINE: Jala</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>FOCUS: Orchid Garden Hotel</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>BACK COVER: Songkok</b>	<b>20</b>

### Editorial Team

<b>Chief Editor</b>	Haji Amer Hamzah POKAPDSS HAJI AWANG ZAKARIA
<b>Editor</b>	Sastra Sarini Haji Julaini
<b>Journalists</b>	Hajah Noorhijrah Haji Idris Aida Hidup Hajah Apsah Haji Sahdan
<b>Layout</b>	Hajah Zaianit Haji Noorkhan
<b>Photographers</b>	Photography Division of Information Department
<b>Online</b>	Haji Ariffin Mohd. Noor
<b>Subscription</b>	Distribution Unit Tel. (673) 2383400 Fax. (673) 2382242
<b>Printer</b>	Borneo Printer & Trading Sdn. Bhd.
<b>General Inquiries</b>	(673) 238400 (ext 322/302)
<b>Information Department</b>	<a href="http://www.information.gov.bn">www.information.gov.bn</a>
<b>Information Gallery</b>	<a href="http://www.infofoto.org.bn">www.infofoto.org.bn</a>



**His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces granted an audience at the Istana Nurul Iman for Laksamana Tan Sri Dato Paduka Seri Mohd Anwar bin Haji MohdNor, the Malaysian Chief of Defence on January 6.**



**Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha granted an audience at the Istana Nurul Iman for Puan Sri Datin Siti Hapsah binti Omar, spouse of the Malaysian Chief of Defence Forces on January 6.**



## Brunei soon to have its second university

**ISTANA NURUL IMAN, January 1** – Brunei Darussalam will soon have its second university, established in August this year.

This was disclosed by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his New Year *titah*.

"The university will be known as Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali," said His Majesty.

As a small developing country, Brunei will not neglect human development;

and the platform for such development is education, added His Majesty. His Majesty also hoped that the establishment of this University will become a symbol of the nation's Islamic glory and will also play a role in producing Islamic scholars. The first batch of the students for the university is expected to start in August this year.

Prior to that, His Majesty's *titah* had touched on the public and private sectors. According to His Majesty, public sectors are not only providing services, but also as facilitator to the nation's development. The sovereign also called upon the private

sector to be bolder in crossing borders and exploring bigger and wider market.

"In other words, private sectors need to be more competitive and dynamic," said His Majesty.

His Majesty also touched on the country's international relations. Brunei Darussalam will continue to be involved in world organisations, such as United Nations, ASEAN, OIC and others. Dialogue, said His Majesty is the method that Brunei will always hold in settling any problems, particularly in avoiding disputes.



ASEAN Leaders in a group photo during the Retreat Session at the 12th ASEAN Summit, outside the Shangri La Hotel, Mactan, Cebu.

## Brunei welcome move to realise ASEAN Community 2015 vision

**CEBU, Philippines, January 13** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam welcomed the move to bring forward the realisation of the ASEAN Community 2015.

With the community, it would present greater opportunities, especially in attracting investment and business in the South East Asia region, as well as to strengthen the economic relations with dialogue partners.

His Majesty made the *titah* (royal speech) at the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit along with leaders from others ASEAN countries held at the Shangri La Hotel, Mactan, Cebu.

At the summit, His Majesty expressed his satisfaction that there had been significant progress in efforts to implement the decisions and programmes especially on the proposed establishment of an ASEAN Charter.

The Heads of State and Government of the ASEAN also agreed for the region to fight and eradicate HIV/AIDS. In the

Special Session during the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit, the ASEAN leaders agreed to hold the mass campaign to eradicate HIV/AIDS disease. To realise that campaign, International Community and Non-Government organisations were called to cooperate.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other ASEAN leaders also adopted one Convention and four Declaration in the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit.

They were ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism; Cebu Declaration On The Blueprint of the ASEAN Charter; ASEAN Declaration on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers; Cebu Declaration Towards a Caring and Sharing Community and Cebu Declaration on the Acceleration of the Establishment of and ASEAN Community by 2015.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also attended the BIMP-EAGA Summit. At the summit, His Majesty said that the availability of transportation which is easy, faster and secure in BIMP-EAGA

will contribute towards the effort to create Community ASEAN Economy.

His Majesty then lauded the BIMP-EAGA report "Heart of Borneo" and hoped some parts of the Heart of Borneo designed are a heritage site.

At the end of the Summit, the leaders agreed to issue a joint statement on the Third Brunei Darussalam Indonesia-Malaysia- Philippines East Asean Growth Area Summit.

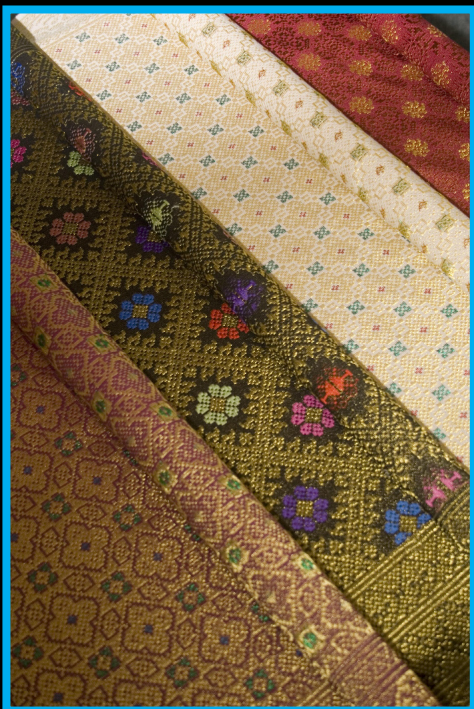
His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade signed the MoU on behalf of Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty also welcomed the commitment from the members of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) in building the ASEAN Community and ASEAN Union as long term vision. His Majesty said EPG's proposals on strengthening Asean as an organisation was very crucial for Asean's future.

EPG Group was created during the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in December 2005.



# Heritage - Cloth Weaving



High quality woven cloth passed down through generations

Cloth weaving (*bertenun kain*) is a tradition that started from the reign of Sultan Bolkiah, the fifth Sultan of Brunei. It is one of the cottage industry that still exist in Brunei Darussalam today besides plaiting (mostly for baskets, accessories made of rattan). In the past, weaving would take place after daily chores such as house keeping and cooking were done. The activity, dominated by women, was one of the ways to past their time while waiting for their husbands to get back from their own routines who were known to be fisherman and blacksmiths.

Today, Brunei's weaving products are among the best with high quality which has gained international recognition.

In order to sustain the tradition, the government in 1975 established the Arts and Handicraft Training Centre as a centre providing courses on various traditional handwork skills such as weaving, silverwork, brass work, plaiting and *songkok*-making (traditional head-gear). The centre had produced many graduates that most of them had started their own enterprises.

Normally the cloth is worn during ceremonial events at the palace or ceremonial hall (*Japau*). The cloth is also made into traditional wedding dress, and recently, as a part of the local university and institution's graduation gown. The new generation also started to make the cloth as decorative items like mini cushion cover, table-cloth, pencil case and purse. Some of the woven-cloth (in small size) are also put in picture frames and on sale as souvenirs.

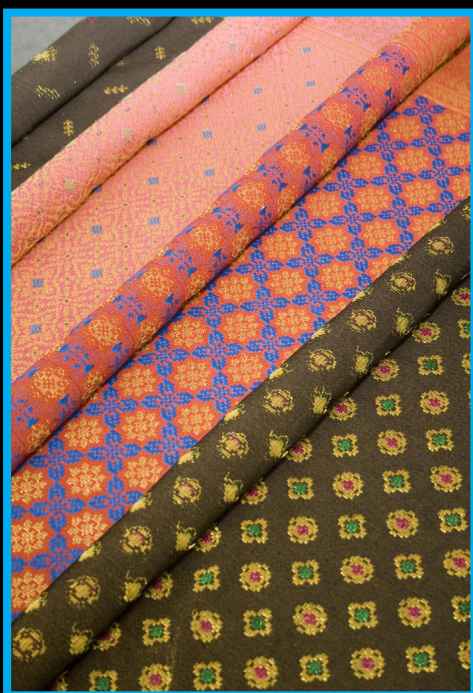
According to the official from the Brunei Arts and Handicrafts Training Centre, they received order for items like mini cushion covers and table-cloth from countries like Japan.

Hand-made woven-cloth is an expensive and high quality fabric compared to the one made by machine. There are few stages in the process of weaving. The pattern for the cloth should be prepared earlier on a graph paper. This is to ensure which design to follow and to avoid mistakes during the process of weaving.

Brunei has a few types of woven cloth namely; Kain Silubang Bangsi, Kain SiPugut, Kain Jongsarat, Kain Beragi, Kain Sukmaindera, Kain Lipatan Madu, Kain Arap, Kain Beturus and Kain Tajong. Each of these clothes has different patterns but sometimes the design is made according to client's request.

The price of the cloth is depending on the design used whether biasa (normal) or berpakan (more gold thread used). Among the list above, Kain Silubang Bangsi is the most expensive while most demanded is Kain Beragi as the price is affordable. Meanwhile, Kain Jongsarat is famous as a gift during Majlis Menghantar Berian where it has become one of the gifts from the groom to the bride.

The price of the woven-cloth is usually ranged from \$300 above and could reach to few thousands of dollars. If you wish to purchase the woven-cloth or any related products you can go to the Brunei Arts and Handicrafts Training Centre showroom at the Jalan Residency in Bandar Seri Begawan.



There are a number of patterns which determine the price





The process of making a *kain tenunan*



Careful threading needed to ensure no mistakes are made during the process



A machine used for the threads



Some of the products made using the woven cloth such as pillow



This is how the threads are sorted out



# His Majesty awards house keys



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presents a house key to one recipient under the landless scheme for indigenous people for Kampong Mata-Mata (Katok 'B').

**GADONG, January 9** - His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam issued house keys to 179 recipients in Brunei-Muara District under the landless scheme for indigenous people for Kampong Mata-Mata (Katok 'B').

The ceremony was held at the Civil Services Institute (IPA) in Rimba where 98 received keys to type 'D' houses and 81 type 'E' houses.

His Majesty also toured the Civil Services Institute and visited some of the recipients' type 'D' and 'E' houses in Kampong Mata-Mata (Katok 'B').

His Majesty also visited the Business School in Gadong, the NBT Lexus Showroom, Syarikat Perniagaan & Perusahaan Fuel Station at Jalan Menglait, Gadong and the residence of Ketua Kampong Menglait, Awang Haji Mohdar bin Awang Haji Ahmad in Kampong Pengkalang Gadong.



Her Royal Highness presents the prize to one of the winner in the Environment poster Competition.

## Princess Awards Best Environment Poster Winners

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 10** – Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolqiah presented the prizes to the winner of the Environment Poster Competition on "What a Clean Environment Means to Me".

The prize presentation was held during the closing ceremony for the Asean Youth Forum on Environment held at the Indera Kayangan Ballroom at the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

Maktab Sains was chosen as the winner for the "School with the Most Creative Poster". They won \$500 cash and a framed poster and a plaque. Meanwhile, International School Brunei won the "School with the Most Participants". The school won a prize money of \$500 and a plaque. The winners in the primary and secondary category and the international participants also received their prizes.

The competition was jointly launched by the High Commission of Canada and the Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation in September 2006.

Over 300 students from 10 schools took part in the poster competition sponsored by the High Commission of Canada, HSBC and CIC Environment Services Sdn Bhd.



The Minister of Development delivers a speech at the opening ceremony of the Asean Youth Forum on Environment.

## Youths are partners in attaining sustainable development

**JERUDONG, January 8** - Youths should make an effort and have their own high aspiration for the sustainable development because they are the future leaders. The youths' involvement is necessary and it is not a choice. In this regard, youths are an important stakeholder rather than a target group and partners in order to achieve sustainable development.

The Minister of Development stated the matter during the opening ceremony of the Asean Youth Forum on Environment at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Abdullah also lauded the Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation's efforts in organising the forum, which provides a platform for exchange of experiences, views and ideas, and continuous active dialogue and collaboration so that the participants can work together on promoting Asean youth participation in environmental issues.

About 100 youths from Brunei and its Asean neighbours took part as well as from Asean dialogue partners, China and Japan. The forum featured guest speakers from the Asean Secretariat, the United Nations University and Canada's Department of Environment and Labour.



## Did you know that...

- The total population of Brunei Darussalam as of 2006 was estimated at 383,000 people where the annual rate of increase was 3.5 per cent. From the total population, those aged between 20 to 54 years old makes up the biggest segment with 54.3 per cent while the elderly aged 65 and above makes the smallest segment with only 2.7 per cent.

The majority of the population is made up of the Malays with an estimated 255,500 persons.

- The most densely populated is the Brunei/Muara district with an estimated 264,700 persons compared to Belait, Tutong and Temburong with 63,900, 44,400 and 10,000 persons respectively.
- Brunei Darussalam was known as 'Puni' or 'Poli' by Chinese historians. This was recorded as far back as 518 A.D.

## >> CALENDAR OF EVENT 2007

January 1	-	New Year 2007
January 20	-	New Year of Islamic Calendar 1428 Hijrah
February 18	-	Chinese New Year
February 23	-	Brunei's 23 <sup>rd</sup> National Day
March 31	-	Prophet Muhammad's birthday anniversary
May 31	-	Royal Brunei Armed Forces 46 <sup>th</sup> anniversary
July 15	-	His Majesty's 61 <sup>st</sup> birthday anniversary
August 11	-	Israk Mikraj celebration
September 13	-	First Day of Ramadhan
September 29	-	Nuzul Al-Quran celebration
October 13	-	Hari Raya Aidil Fitri
December 20	-	Hari Raya Aidil Adha
December 25	-	Christmas

**\*Subject to changes**

### Brunei's School Holiday

March 16 to 25	-	First Term School Holiday
June 10 to 24	-	Second Term School Holiday
September 7 to 16	-	Third Term School Holiday
November 30 to December 31	-	Fourth Term School Holiday

## >> 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 383,000 people (2006)
- 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](http://www.bruneiair.com)  
International airlines such as Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and Thai Airways also flies frequently to Brunei. Beginning July 2006, Air Asia, the Malaysian 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.





## Temburong District, the green jewel of Borneo

**In Brunei is a new column introduced in Brunei Darussalam Newsletter. For this year, we will feature the places of interest and attractions available in each district of Brunei darussalam. We hope it will provide good guides for your future visit to Brunei.**

**With the area of 5,756 square kilometres, Brunei Darussalam is divided into four districts namely; Brunei Muara, Tutong, Belait and Temburong. For this issue, we will feature Temburong District.**

### Background

Temburong district is the second largest district after Belait. It covers an area approximately 1,306 square kilometres; where a huge percentage of its area is covered by rainforest. The district is located at the north west of the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan and it is separated from the rest of the nation.

The district is divided into several *mukims* namely; Pekan Bangar, Bokok, Batu Apoi, Amo and Labu. It has a population of around 9,000 people comprising of the Malay, Chinese and other indigenous groups like Iban and Dusun.

Temburong district although located separately from the rest of the districts, the

government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has not overlooked the social welfare of its residents. A number of basic amenities such as water and electricity, telephone lines, schools and hospital are provided. Tar roads are also constructed to connect each *mukims*. Branches of government offices are also available.

The government of His Majesty assigned the Temburong District Office to administrate the district where among the objectives are to make Temburong as a unique ecotourism centre and as a hub for BIMP-EAGA countries in terms of commercial and human mobility. Other objectives include establishing Temburong as an International Research Centre for

Tropical Rainforest; and to maintain and sustain Temburong as a beautiful and tranquil environment free from pollution and unnecessary development.

### How to get there?

Since Temburong is located separately from rest of the districts, the practical mode of access is by boat. You can get a boat from the jetty at Jalan Residency, Bandar Seri Begawan between 7am to 5pm daily with a return fare of B\$14. The journey takes about 35 to 45 minutes.

The other method is by road through the Malaysian border. You have to get your passport stamped at four immigration control post (one-way). Then you will have to cross a small river using ferry (for saloon car, this will cost about B\$4 or RM8 for one-way. Charges vary with type of transports). Most people do not prefer this method as it consumes time from queuing and stopping at the immigration control posts.

### Accommodation

If you wish to stay overnight there are few places you can stay at. The Government Resthouse is one of the best choices as it is located within Bangar Town and it is about 10 minutes walk from the Temburong Jetty. The rate per room for one person is B\$25 (room rate vary with number of person in one room); chalets are also available for rent. Another accommodation also located within the Bangar Town is the Youth Hostel. Lodging around the Bangar Town will give you chances to walk around the town as the shophouses, restaurants and *tamu* (market) are located nearby. Please note that both accommodations are provided





by the government.

Another choice is Likut Intan Guesthouse which is privately owned located about 10 minutes away from Bangar Town. For accommodation at the other areas such as Ulu Temburong, it is usually arranged by tour operators.

## Trademark

Temburong has its own trademark well-known throughout the country. The two famous trademarks are the *Wajid Temburong* (local delicacies made from glutinous rice added with *gula melaka* and wrapped with 'nyirik' leave) and *Cendol Temburong*. You can also purchase local rice from local paddy area.

## Places of Interest

Even though Temburong is separated from other districts but it has one of the main attraction for tourists visiting Brunei. Temburong offers an array of green rainforest scenery from park's garden to mini zoo, forest recreational area to national park.

Arriving at the Temburong, you can go to the Belalong Mini Park's garden located about a kilometre from the town. The mini park which resembles the Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre features a pond and six huts of similar design to those at the Kuala Belalong. The park was opened on July 22, 1993, when His Majesty visited Temburong on his 47<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary celebration. The mini park is an alternative for those who are unable to visit the Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre.

Temburong also has its own mini zoo located at Batang Duri. The Batang Duri Park is situated about 16 kilometres from the town. The park houses different types of animals such as the *Binturong* or bearcat (an arboreal civet of Asia having a long prehensile tail and shaggy black hair), owls or locally known as *Bugang*, *Burung Tioh* or Hill Myna, peacock, Musang (toddy cat/palm civet), Tanngalong (another type of civet), deer, eagles, mouse deer, and porcupine. There are also huts for visitors to stop by and take a rest.

Another interesting place to visit is the Bukit Patoi Forest Recreation Park. Located about 15 kilometres from Bangar town, the park is a part of the Peradayan



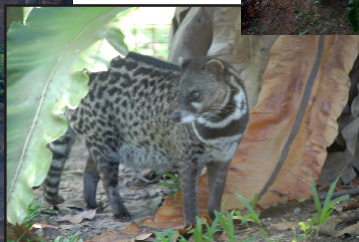
Forest Reserve which has been designated as a recreational forest by the Brunei Forestry Department. The forest reserve encompasses the twin hills of Bukit Patoi and Bukit Peradayan. The park had been known by public for quite sometime but it was only officiated on March 21, 2005 by Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamid bin Haji Mohd Jaafar, the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources in conjunction with World Forestry Day.

Common activities held by the locals are barbecue and forest walk. The trail for forest walk starts from the guard post at the base of Bukit Patoi and runs almost straight to the top of the hill, along a board-walk for most of the way. Distances are marked every 50 metres along the boardwalk. Huts are available at strategic places for taking rest. The walk to the top of the hill may take about 45 minutes to an hour, while the whole walk can

be completed in about four hours at a leisurely pace. Along the journey, you can find various species of flora and fauna and also unique rocks.

The top of the hill, at a height of 300 metres, provides excellent views towards Mount Kinabalu to the north-west. From this point, the path is marked by red flags every 50 metres and there are no huts available. The trail continues along the edge of the hill before turning south-west and passing through the forest on the summit of the hills. At about 4,000 metres the path drops off the escarpment to a waterfall before climbing up the escarpment again, eventually to leave the flat top of the hill and emerge after 5,000 metres beside a water tower.

These are some of the interesting places you can visit if you are in the Temburong District. More will be featured in the next edition.





# Abundant of flora at Flower



A perfect gateway for any plantsman is to the Flower Market based in the bustling commercial area of Gadong.

From the colourful bougainvillea to white lilies, from the soft coloured datura metel to orchid, these are among the many types of flowers you can find here.

Opened every Fridays and Sundays, as early as 7am, you will be greeted with rows and rows of white coloured canopies, each housing stalls for florists, selling various sorts of flowers and plants.

This market is well known among green thumbs as prices offered are affordably cheap, reasonable and well suited with its size and age. A young plant wrapped in a black plastic can be sold as cheap as three for a dollar. While you can also get it at \$7 for a whole basket. While processed soil which are cleaned and fertilised will cost you around \$10 for 15 plastic lots.

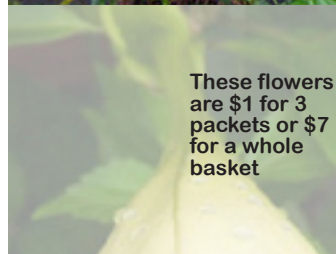
But bear in mind that there are two types of packages that determine the price – a plant with a ceramic pot, and one wrapped in a black plastic wrappings. A plant sold with a ceramic pot will cost you more as it bears the cost of the pot and the flower. While those sold wrapped in a black plastic is relatively cheaper as the wrappings are disposable and you will have to find your own urn to plant the flowers.

Catering to the market, not only flowers and plants are available but various accessories accommodating to gardening are also on sale such as fertilisers, processed soil, different sizes of ceramic pots, and even home-made shelves and garden shelters. The florists also provides delivery services should you wish to purchase the shelves and garden shelters.

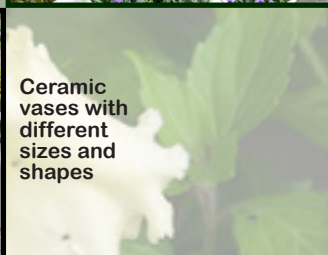
What makes this market is unique is that you can literally park your car next to the stalls. It makes shopping or scouting for flowers and plants easier as you do not have to carry the items you purchased. This will also make purchasing processed soil more convenient as you only need to carry it a few steps to the car and safely tuck it into the booth of your car.

This market started its operation in 2001 under the Municipal Board's jurisdiction. Two hundred and seventy eight stalls are set up where it will only cost vendors \$70 to rent a space - \$10 for license and \$60 for rental fee.

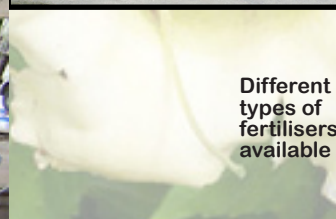
A permit is required should you wish to bring these plants abroad. It is available at the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.



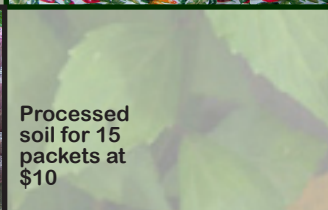
These flowers are \$1 for 3 packets or \$7 for a whole basket



Ceramic vases with different sizes and shapes



Different types of fertilisers available



Processed soil for 15 packets at \$10





# ‘Brunei village’ handed over in Aceh

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 9** – The “Brunei Village” in Aceh was officially handed over to the people there on January 8.

The Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs, who is also the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation, Pehin Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin handed over the second phase of the project to the Governor of Aceh Province, Dr Ir. Mustafa Abu Bakar.

The presentation ceremony took place at the project site in Desa Mamplam, Kecamatan Leupung, Kabupaten Aceh Besar.

The relief package in the second phase of the Yayasan Initiative for the Humanitarian Aid to Aceh includes 70 housing units and a medical clinic (package A), schools and facilities (package B), and a mosque and an orphanage (package C). They have been completed at a cost of nearly B\$600,000.

The 70 units of houses are expected to provide shelter for more than 200 people and will eventually be able to accommodate up to 500 people who were badly affected by the tsunami in December 2004.



The Chairman of the Board of Directors of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation, at the ceremony to handing over the Brunei Village in Aceh to the Governor of Aceh Province.



Another new MoU signed between Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation and District Officer of Aceh Jaya to build another religious school.

## MoU signed to build another religious school

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 10** – Another new Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation (YSHHB), Pehin Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin and District Officer of Aceh Jaya, Basri Emka.

The latest MoU is another commitment by YSHHB to build another *pasentren* or religious school in Teupin Rambot, Calang.

Calang, a coastal town about 150km from Banda Aceh, was one of the most badly damaged areas after the tsunami in December 2004. More than 95 per cent of the infrastructure was wiped out as a result of the disaster.

The new project is expected to cost around B\$400,000 and the money will come from the donations collected by the YSHHB Initiative Humanitarian Fund for Tsunami Victims in Aceh and the Tsunami Victims Humanitarian Fund, under the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

The MoU signing yesterday was witnessed by the Brunei Ambassador to Indonesia, Pehin Datu Harimau Padang Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Hj Awang Hussin bin Hj Ahmad.



The 70 units of houses are among the relief package in the second phase of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah foundation's initiative to rebuild Aceh.





## Minister attends reception

Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdullah and wife with His Excellency U Tin Htu, Myanmar's Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam and wife at the reception to celebrate the 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar on January 5 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

## Cultural Village another tourist attraction

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 15** - Cultural Village Project would become another tourist attraction in Brunei Darussalam. The project will be completed by mid year of 2008 in conjunction with the Visit Brunei Year Festival 2008 with the theme 'Know Your Country.'

Once completed, the cultural village is expected to fulfill with the exhibitions on history; arts and handcrafts; and uniqueness of Kampong Ayer.

The project will be build at the Kampong Ayer in front of the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan. The selection of Kampong Ayer as a location for the project is strategic because Brunei history started from Kampong Ayer.



The Deputy Minister of Industry and Primary Resources among those who attended the launching ceremony to kick off the campaign to promote Brunei at the residence of village head of Kampong Setia B.



The signing of MoU between Ministry of Health and Brunei Shell Petroleum witnessed by the Minister of Health.

## US\$5M for development of Health Promotion Centre

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 10** – A sum of US\$5 million was donated by Royal Dutch Shell towards the development of a Health Promotion Centre in Brunei Darussalam. This commitment was formalised with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ministry of Health and Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn Bhd (BSP).

The donation was announced by the company in July 2006 to mark the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Signing on behalf of the Ministry of Health was its Permanent Secretary, Dato Paduka Serbini while Dr. Grahaeme Henderson, Managing Director, signed on behalf of BSP. The signing was witnessed by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Suyoi.

The project is a public-private partnership between the Ministry of Health and Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn Bhd. The project is in line with the World Health Organisation's drive to promote health as stated in the Ottawa Charter, which is aimed at 'Creating Supportive Environment', 'Strengthening Community Action', and 'Developing Personal Skills'. Among others objectives are to increase knowledge and awareness of the public regarding health aspects and risk factors of major diseases in the country, especially lifestyle-related diseases.

## Congratulatory Messages

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent congratulatory messages to His Excellency Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union Myanmar and His Excellency Lt. General Soe Win, the Prime Minister of the Union Myanmar in conjunction with the country's 59<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Anniversary on January 4.





A replica of the Cendera Kenangan Kekal monument commemorating the 60th birthday anniversary of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam

## Waterfront Monument at the capital

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 11** – Bandar Seri Begawan will soon have a waterfront monument. The monument is built to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of His Majesty The Sultan and Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The waterfront front named as 'Cendera Kenangan Kekal' will be built at the former site of Immigration Post Control in the capital with a front view of Kampong Ayer, renowned water village. The monument is a gesture of appreciation from residents of Brunei MUara District to His Majesty.

The foundation laying ceremony was officiated by the Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Adanan. It is expected to be complete by May 2007.

## Brunei - Thailand ports sign MoU

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 15** - Port authorities of Brunei and Thailand have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperative efforts that will boost the sultanate's travel and tourism industry, and enhance the flow of goods and trade between the two countries.

This MoU is an indication of mutual commitment to strengthening bilateral ties and encouraging shipping lines from the ports of both countries and the Asean region.

Acting director of the Ports Department of Brunei, Souyono Salamat signed the pact on behalf of the government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, while Sub. Lt. Viroj Chongchansittho, deputy director general of special affairs, represented the Port Authority of Thailand.

Present at the signing ceremony was the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communications, Dato Paduka Md Yussof.



The signing ceremony between port authorities of Brunei and Thailand witnessed by the Permanent Secretary of the ministry of communications.

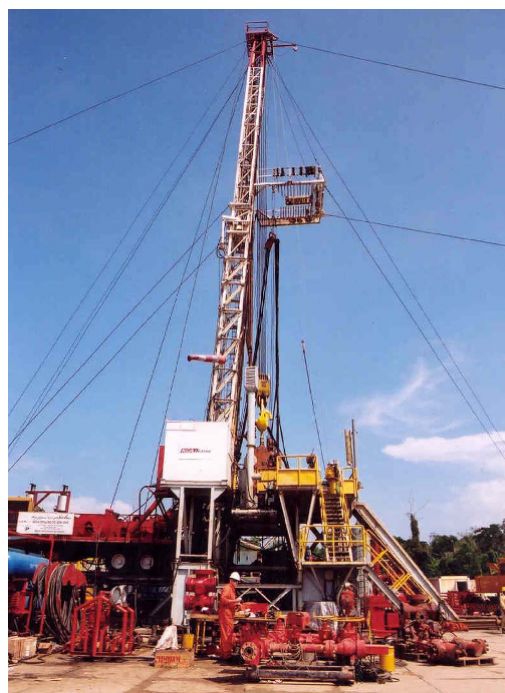
## Seria oil field fuels new growth

**SERIA, January 13** - Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP) scored another first when it successfully commenced production of oil from its Seria North Flank wells ahead of schedule just before the closing of 2006.

The accelerated advance from exploration discovery to first oil in just 27 months is a remarkable feat by any measure. Key to this achievement was the application of cutting edge technology such as fish-hook and smart wells, combined with the company's business improvement priorities strategy introduced in 2006.

This development will certainly strengthen BSP's oil position and contribute significantly to the future of oil production in Brunei Darussalam. Beginning late 2004, BSP scored successive oil strikes in the northern flank of the Seria Field through a series of exploration and appraisal wells, which were drilled using innovative technology.

The Seria North Flank project is one of the several hydrocarbon development projects aimed at breathing new life into mature fields, which the company has initiated recently.



Seria North Flank wells commence its oil productions ahead of schedule just before the end of 2006.



# Kampong Ayer, Venice of the East



Driving along Brunei River, the glaring sight of a housing settlement, standing proud above the waters is hardly unnoticed. The houses on stilts connected like a wooden maze, fondly known as 'Kampong Ayer' or water village, is undoubtedly one of Brunei Darussalam's unique legacies aging back as far as the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

In the olden days, Brunei Darussalam's inhabitants were mostly residing at the water village where the administration shifted three times. Historical findings has shown that Brunei's capital has shifted three times with the first two on the water – Kota Batu and where the museums are now (also along Kota Batu), and the final reallocation was to the dry land – where the capital is today.

Antonio Pigafetta, an Italian explorer described the water village as a housing settlement that has 25,000 households with a palace built in the centre. This was in the 16<sup>th</sup> century where the population was said to be around 100,000 people, showing signs that Brunei was a very strong, rich and civilised nation. It was said that Brunei at that time was at its peak of glory where her empire stretched as far as some of the Philippines islands.

The capital on dry land began in 1906 where the first British Resident encouraged for the movement of settling down on dry land. The Sultan moved to dryland in 1909 and the Chinese entrepreneurs moved onshore in 1910.

Today, the water village has 34

villages with a population of about 19,698 people. These 34 villages made up six *mukim* or counties – Mukim Burung Pingai, Mukim Peramu, Mukim Saba, Mukim Sungai Kebun, Mukim Sungai Kedayan and Mukim Tamoi. Each mukim is led by a Penghulu while each village is led by a Ketua Kampung or 'head village'. The uniqueness of the names were mostly derived after a person's name, where the village is located, the specialised trading activities of that particular village. To name a few - Kampong Sungai Kedayan, Kampong Sungai Asam, and Kampong Lorong Sikuna.

Aware of its significance, the government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is constantly on the go in ensuring the longevity of this settlement area. A significant amount were spent in supplying the basic necessities such as an adequate supply of electricity and water, proper sanitation system, easy access to education, proper health care, good security with the setting up of a police station, and not neglecting the obligation of the Islamic faith, a centre for learning and congregating through well structured mosques and worshipping halls.

With that, nine primary schools are currently based at the water village with one secondary school located at Kg. Sungai Kebun; and seven religious schools; seven mosques, and two worshipping halls were established; one police station with 30 officers and staff members has been set up; one health centre based at Kampong Sungai Asam, and three health clinics at Kampong Bolkiah, Kampong Menunggol and Kampong Sungai Kebun; and three fire stations – Sungai Lampai, Sungai Kebun and Pelancaran Fire Station with a strong workforce totalling to 136 firemen. The capital's fire station is also located near the water village which ensures further security for its residents.

The main mode of transportation to a large quarter of the Kampong Ayer is via a boat, locally known as 'perahu tambang' (taxi boats). A sheer \$0.50 will get you to the nearest village and this range to \$2.00 being the furthest destination. While the fare for a complete tour around the villages is usually upon negotiation between you and the taxi boat driver. On average, it will cost you about \$10.00.

Some of these villages can be accessed by land particularly those near to dry land such as Kg. Sungai Kedayan, Kg. Tamoi, and Kg. Saba Darat to name a few.

A tour around Kampong Ayer will surely not be complete without taking

a closer look at *Nasalis larvatus*, or fondly called - proboscis monkeys. Just five minutes down the river from Kampong Ayer, along the mangroves, it is an ideal habitat for these reddish-brown coloured and long-nosed monkeys. The best time to see this endangered species is in the evening when they come out of their hiding to feed by the riverside. Today, Borneo Island is the only place where these monkeys can be found, shared among three nation-states, Brunei Darussalam, Kalimantan of Indonesia and Sabah and Sarawak of Malaysia.

To experience the olden lifestyle of Bruneians, a house situated at Kampong Tamoi is the best place to visit. A stopover upon this house will definitely take you back to the bygone era as most of the house décor are centuries old that comes in a variety – from clothing, to craftsmanship to musical instrument.

Those who inhabited the water village were very well known for their intricate handicraft, crafts work and hardworking fisherman. Some even named their village according to their specialities. The men were mostly known as fishermen and as blacksmith. As fishermen, it was only normal that they had the ability to build their own boat, a skill that is still practiced today. While the women, weaving was their favourite past time, which later accumulated to become a source of income for them.





The government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, through the Brunei Arts and Handicrafts Training Centre ensures that these particular skills passed down by generations are preserved by providing trainings to locals aged between 18 to 35 years old.

The Kampong Ayer today has changed dramatically due to a number of reasons such as fire as well as those who has decided to move on to dry land.

The biggest fire to engulf the water village is back in 1990 where a total of 194 houses were savaged specifically to one of the villages – Kampong Pengiran Pemancha Lama. The latest fire was in 2002 where a total of 84 houses from Kampong Lurong Sikuna and Ujong Kelinik burnt down resulting to 769 people losing their homes – this includes a primary school – Sekolah Rendah Lela Mencanai. Since 1987 until 2002, a record of more than 700 houses were lost due to fire.

A non-governmental organisation has fully pledged its support towards preserving the water village by providing houses to the fire victims. The Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah

Foundation (YSHHB) set up the now known Kampong Bolkiah 'A' and Kampong Bolkiah 'B' which houses 226 and 250 houses respectively. These houses are divided into two types where recipients of the houses are given 20 years to pay the full amount of the houses. Most of the recipients of this housing scheme are fire victims of September 1993 and December 1994 which involved 2,200 people.

Kampong Ayer is truly a unique legacy that should be uphold. It has deep memorable history which has shaped how our society is today. With it dating back as far as the 14<sup>th</sup> century, it will be sad loss should this traditional way of living diminished swallowed by the test of times. The government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has fully pledged in preserving this heritage by ensuring that the residents receive the basic necessities to make sure a comfortable living environment.

Kampong Ayer, the Venice of the East is here to stay. Truly one of Brunei Darussalam's cherished landmark.



A young boy proudly show his kite, one of the favourite past time at Kg. Ayer

Walking to the jetty



Generations sharing their love towards kg. Ayer walking to the jetty



A tour around the village is about \$10



'Perahu tambang' as mode of transportation





# Jala

**Ingredients:**

1.814 kg rice

1.511 kg sugar

Oil

**Method:**

Wash rice, soak until soft and drain. Grind it and sift with white cloth and sun-dry. Mix fine sugar with flour and liquefy with water. Heat oil in a pan, then, pour the liquid into mould ('tempurung mould' with 15 tiny holes), moves the mould in round motion while frying. Fry until golden brown then set aside and fold it using a special pair of sticks.



# Orchid Garden Hotel, the place to meet in Brunei

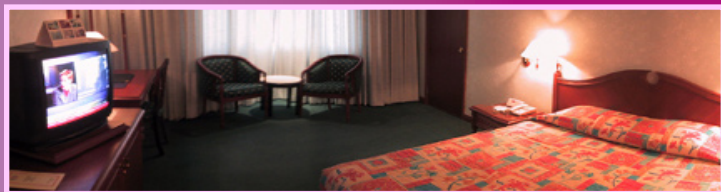
Orchid garden Hotel is strategically located between the Brunei International Airport, and the government offices. She is a 155 room four star hotel that looks out on Brunei's premier sporting facilities and the International Convention Centre, the largest meeting venue in the country.

A number of facilities are available such as huge function rooms for one to organise a meeting and even a wedding reception. The function rooms, Ceasar I and II can accommodate 90 guests each where they are equipped with five star conference facilities. While the Ceasar Grand Hall has a spacious foyer. It can accommodate up to 700 guests for theatre style and 400 for a formal dinner. As one of the biggest grand hall in Brunei, it is suitable for major business events and social gatherings.

There are also two popular restaurants to dine in – the Goldiana Café and Lounge, and Vanda, Chinese restaurant.

Orchid Garden Hotel accepts online reservations at;

[www.orchidgardenbrunei.com](http://www.orchidgardenbrunei.com)





## Songkok, a traditional head gear



Songkok were introduced to Bruneians by Arab traders – more than six or seven hundred years ago. In fact, it is considered *sunat* (voluntary good deed) for the Muslim males to don a headgear provided that is done in good taste. After a period of time, the wearing of *songkok* become a tradition and synonymous with being a Malay. Thus a symbol was born. Gradually it replaced the *dastar* as part of the Malay's national dress on most formal occasion such as during Hari Raya or wedding ceremony. Traditionally, *songkoks* were worn with 'Baju Melayu'. In school, wearing songkok has always been part of the Bruneian male's dress since time immemorial. Some government servants are given *songkoks* with the appropriate decorations as part of their uniforms. *Songkok* is a type of cap made from velvet. Black is the songkok's original colour, but today we can find it made in various colours such as red, dark blue and dark green and with patterns or decorations. The price depends on their size, materials, patterns and decorations. In 1975, the Government set up the Brunei Arts and Handicrafts Training Centre (BAHTC), songkok-making joined the other courses three years later. After completed the three-year *songkok* making course, some of the students have been using their skills to set their own business. Today with the popularity, demands for *songkoks* are increasing. The budding *songkok* industry is one enterprise that will bloom to its potential without hinderance.

