



17th Teacher's Day celebration Scheme of services for teachers important

BERAKAS, October 27 – The importance of having a scheme of service for teachers was highlighted at the 17th Teacher's Day. This is to ensure calibre teachers will continue to work in schools. It is also to give a wider opportunity for teachers to achieve a higher pay, inline with their huge contribution.

These were said by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the 17th Teacher's Day celebration held at the International Convention Centre.

"I hope that the scheme of services will be immediately realised," said His Majesty.

The sovereign was also pleased to know that the Ministry of Education is updating the national education system known as 21st century national education system (SPN 21). This is an appropriate step realising that the process of globalisation awaits no one.

"The education system is not only to produce educated individuals, but more importantly, it must be able to mould a generation of thinkers," said His Majesty.

He further said being educated alone does not guarantee



One of the recipient of the Teacher's Day Award receives his award from His Majesty.

anything. However, the much awaited ones are those educated intellectuals who will form the nation's future.

He expressed his wish to have a system that is able to produce intellectuals, for confidence, for if we lack them, the country will suffer from obvious weaknesses in all aspects.

"Thus, it is now the time for us to sow the seed in the form of an education system that produces an educated and intellectual generation as our vision to wade through this 21st century," said His Majesty.



His Majesty and members of the royal family with award recipients and committee members for the Teacher's Day celebration.

Deeds not forgotten

BERAKAS, October 27 - In conjunction with the 17th Teacher's Day celebration, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to present awards to teachers who achieved remarkable accomplishment throughout their teaching careers.

This year saw four individuals received the "Guru Berjasa" award; four received the "Anugerah Khas Hari Guru"; six received the "Anugerah Guru-guru Cemerlang Keseluruhan/mata pelajaran"; and 24 received the "Anugerah Penghargaan Hari Guru".

Brunei Darussalam celebrates Teacher's Day every September 23 since 1991. This year carries the theme "Guru Beriltizam Memperkasa Keupayaan Bangsa" (Committed Teachers Enhance the Nation's Capability).



Istana Nurul Iman is opened for three days to the members of public for *junjung ziarah* (revered greetings) to Their Majesties and members of royal family. Photo shows visitors leaving the palace after greetings.

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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from:

- ❶ The Minister of Higher Education of the Sultanate of Oman, Her Excellency Dr. Rawiyah bte Saud bin Ahmad Al Busaidi on October 29.
- ❷ Malaysia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Honourable Dato' Seri Syed Hamid bin Albar on October 29.
- ❸ Singapore's Minister of Defence, His Excellency Teo Chee Hean on October 30.
- ❹ The outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Sornsilp Polteja on November 3.
- ❺ ASEAN ministers, heads of delegations, the Deputy Secretary General and senior officials of Asean on November 6. They were in Brunei to attend the 6th Asean Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime.
- ❻ The Chief-of-Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, His Excellency General Hermogenes C. Esperon Jr. on November 7.
- ❼ Chairman of Oxford Business Group, United Kingdom, His Excellency Micheal Benson-Colbi on November 14.
- ❽ Austrian's Minister of Health, Family and Youth, Her Excellency Dr. Andrea Kdolsky on November 15.



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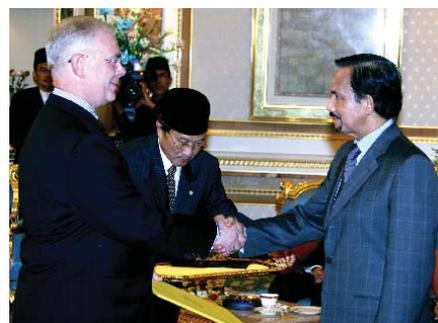
His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on November 5 presented diplomatic credentials to Brunei's three newly-appointed envoys at Istana Nurul Iman for:

- ❶ His Excellency Awang Haji Abdul Ghafar bin Haji Ismail, Brunei's newly-appointed High Commissioner to the Republic of Singapore.
- ❷ Her Excellency Magdalene Teo Chee Siong, Brunei's newly-appointed Ambassador to the People's Republic of China.
- ❸ His Excellency Pengiran Haji Alihashim bin Pengiran Haji Yussof, Brunei's newly-appointed Ambassador to Belgium.



His Majesty also received letters of appointment from three new foreign envoys to Brunei Darussalam on November 5 from:

- ❶ His Excellency Somdy Bounkhoun, the newly-appointed Ambassador of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to Brunei Darussalam.
- ❷ His Excellency Hany AbdelKader Shash, the newly-appointed Ambassador of Egypt to Brunei Darussalam.
- ❸ His Excellency Arild Braastad, the newly-appointed Ambassador of Norway to Brunei Darussalam.



Swearing-in of two Commissioners of Courts

ISTANA NURUL IMAN, November 1 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presided over the swearing-in ceremony of the Commissioner of the Court of Appeal and the Commissioner of the Supreme Court.

The new Commissioner of the Court of Appeal is the Honourable Judge Geoffrey Lance Davies and the new Commissioner of the Supreme Court is the Honourable Gareth John Lugar-Mawson.

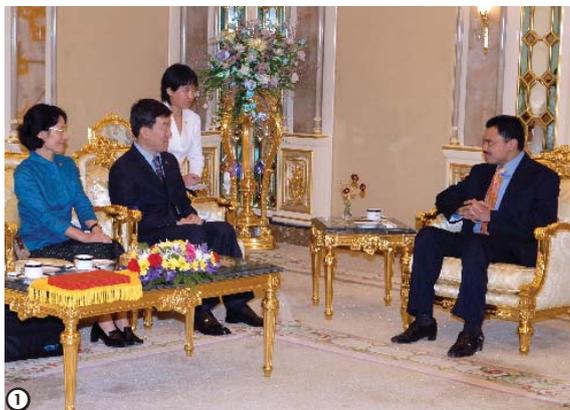
Present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah.

The letters of appointment was read by the Grand Chamberlain, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Penggawa Laila Bentara Istiadat Diraja Dalam Istana Pengiran Haji Alauddin.



Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha granted audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman for:

- ❶ The Minister of Higher Education of the Sultanate of Oman, Her Excellency Dr. Rawiyah bte Saud bin Ahmad Al Busaidi on October 29.
- ❷ The wife of Malaysia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yang Berbahagia Datin Seri Sharifah Aziah binti Syed Zainal Abidin on October 29.
- ❸ The wife of the Ambassador of Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Brunei Darussalam, Madam Nguyen Thi Phuong on October 29.
- ❹ The wife of the outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam, Madam Kanchna Polteja on November 3.
- ❺ The wife of the Chief-of-Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Madam Dr. Loma Hermenegilda Esperon on November 7.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office granted audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman for:

- ❶ Vice Minister of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Niu Dun on October 24.
- ❷ Brunei's newly-appointed High Commissioner to the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Awang Haji Abdul Ghafar bin Haji Ismail and Brunei's newly-appointed Ambassadors to the People's Republic of China and Belgium, Her Excellency Magdalene Teo Chee Siong and His Excellency Pengiran Haji Alihashim bin Pengiran Haji Yussof on November 12.

Congratulatory messages

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent congratulatory messages to:

- His Excellency Lieutenant General Thein Sein, Myanmar's new Prime Minister on October 25.
- His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni, The King of Cambodia and His Excellency Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia in conjunction with the kingdom's 54th Independence Day on November 11.



His Majesty receives in audience His Excellency Mahmoud Abbas, the President of the State of Palestine at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Palestinian President in Brunei on work visit

ISTANA NURUL IMAN, October 23 – Palestinian President, His Excellency Mahmoud Abbas was in the country for a two-day work visit. Upon arrival, he was received by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade at the Brunei International Airport.

During his work visit, His Excellency had an audience with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Istana Nurul Iman. Also present at the audience were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah.

Both leaders held talks on current and bilateral issues.

In the evening, His Majesty hosted a banquet in honour of His Excellency's work visit.

This is the first visit by His Excellency to Brunei Darussalam since elected as the Palestinian President in 2005.



Banquet hosted at the Istana Nurul Iman in conjunction with His Excellency Mahmoud Abbas visit to Brunei Darussalam.

Intellectuals should act as thinking specialist



His Majesty and members of the royal family in a get-together session with guests at the event.

BERAKAS, October 23 - Scholars and students must become mentors, educators and thinking specialists. They are the source of intellectual culture and they must be supported to develop this healthy culture.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said at the Hari Raya Celebration of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation, held at the International Convention Centre.

"Intellectuals including students are those who are to be followed because of their good characters and attitude but they themselves must not become followers of immoral activities, no matter who they are," said His Majesty.

This is our vision because intellectuals and students should mould the future generation, act as thinkers and present and future leaders.

Their sincere dedication and strong commitment towards the responsibilities of leadership will further strengthen their authority and credibility among the community.

Accompanying His Majesty to the event were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

The celebration saw the participation of students from primary to tertiary levels as well as teachers who are selected for their academic, co-curriculum achievement and participation in schools, colleges and institutions projects and programmes.

This year's celebration was significant because it was also the foundation's 15th anniversary. It was also more significant to all in the nation as this is the 40th anniversary of His Majesty's reign.

More citizens receive house keys and land grants



The sovereign presents a house key to one of the recipients.



His Majesty mingles with a senior citizen.

LAMBAK, November 8 – Two hundred and forty-four people received their land grants and keys to their new house from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Nakhoda Ragam Vocational School in Lambak Kanan.

From the total recipients, 142 received type 'D' houses and 62 received type 'E' houses under the landless scheme for indigenous citizens in Kampong Sungai Buloh in Jalan Muara and 40 received land grants under the grant scheme of temporary occupied land (TOL).

Until May 2007, the Housing Development Department has received 4,978 applications under the landless scheme, out of which 3,225 have been allocated houses.

The landless scheme was originally handled by the Land Department but was officially taken over by the Housing Development Department in November 4, 2000, which processes housing, applications, manages and maintains housing estates under the scheme.

Following the presentation of house keys and land grants, His Majesty visited various sections of the vocational school, which is located along the Muara-Tutong highway.

The school offers seven programmes. The entry requirement is Malay For Lower Secondary Assessment Exam (Penilaian Menengah Bawah - PMB) and students undergo National Trade Certificate (NTC3 followed by NTC2). During the course, they will undergo three to six months of industrial attachments.

Currently, the school has 100 staff with 193 students undertaking building construction (such as carpentry and joinery, plumbing and pipe-fitting, brick-laying and concreting as well as painting and decorating), electrical electronics and general studies such as hair dressing and beauty.

His Majesty also visited several houses of successful recipients of the land grants in Jalan Perusahaan Serasa and Jalan Kapok Kanan.

His Majesty then visited a filling station in Kampong Pegaiayan in Jalan Muara, Ken & Tan Sdn Bhd, which deals with local boat building industry; the house of Sungai Buloh village head, Pengiran Haji Ahmad bin Pengiran Haji Omar; and a cooperative departmental store in Kampong Sungai Buloh.

His Majesty also visited type 'D' and 'E' houses in Kampong Sungai Buloh; house of village head of Kampong Tanah Jambu and Salar, Haji Asar bin Haji Barudin; and to Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD) and Standard Chartered Bank at Hua Ho Manggis.

Audit to ensure successful civil service

BERAKAS, November 10 – To ensure a successful civil service, a comprehensive audit to evaluate and assess the needs of employees in each government agency; and determine the suitable manpower needed must be implemented.

The call was made by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the 14th Civil Service Day held at the International Convention Centre.

He added that public's assessment must also be taken into account when conducting the audit such as through Customer Satisfaction Studies. With this, success is not only evaluated through the eyes of service providers but also customers.

The sovereign also highlighted that one criteria of success is when the civil service is able to make quick and accurate decisions. This is what the public or customers want and long awaited for. Thus, mechanisms in civil services such as the system of performance evaluation and selection procedures must be conducted in a careful and fair manner. This is to ensure that the civil servants are of calibre and competent.

He also said in preparing for future challenges, the civil service must come up with correct strategies. The entire



Signing the commemorative book in conjunction with the civil service exhibition.

levels of civil service need to understand and appreciate the strategic plans and move towards achieving the goal.

Also present at the celebration were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkihah, Her Royal Highness

Princess Hajah Muta-Wakilah Hayatul Bolkihah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bulqiah.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of the Quality Control Circle awards to 11 groups which achieved Silver Category in the convention; and the presentation of certificates for retirees to 11 senior government officers.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince receive audiences from male intending *haj* pilgrims.



Her Majesty, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri and member of female royal family receive audiences from female intending *haj* pilgrims.

Royal audience to intending *haj* pilgrims

ISTANA NURUL IMAN, November 13 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha dan Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar granted separate audiences to intending *haj* pilgrims.

His Majesty received male intending *haj* pilgrims. Also present was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.

Meanwhile Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness received female intending *haj* pilgrims. Also present were Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah.

This year, a total of 1,459 people will be performing *haj*. They will be leaving to perform the *haj* in seven flights beginning November 25.

Call to expand health promotion

BERAKAS, November 15 – Relevant authorities were urged to expand the health promotion programmes such as health screening and promotion amongst civil servants and health promotions for *mukim*. This is to ensure that all levels of the community, not forgetting students, will be able to benefit from it.

The call was made by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at a celebration to mark the 100th anniversary of health services in Brunei Darussalam, held at the International Convention Centre.

According to His Majesty, health services are one of the oldest services in the nation-state. It had gone through a number of challenges and notably, achieved several momentous successes such as the eradication of Malaria since August 1987 and Poliomyelitis since October 2004.

These successes are, however, inter connected with other developments such as housing, supply of clean water, control on the environment, improvement on the quality of basic necessities and others.

The responsibilities of the health services today has also expanded especially with the challenges faced with emergence of new diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and bird flu; and re-emergence of other diseases such as Tuberculosis, Malaria, Poliomyelitis and others. Chronic diseases that are not transferable such as cancer, kidney, coronary and diabetes also add to these challenges. There is also the challenge of rising cost of health care due to price hike for medicines, new treatment machines and modern method of treatment.

These among others led to the growth in responsibilities for the health services. Besides providing the necessary treatment, it cannot stop guiding and advising the community to practice a healthy way of living by taking proper nutrition, exercising and clean surroundings.

Thus, the urge to expand the health promotion programmes such as health screening and promotion amongst civil servants and health promotions for *mukim*.

His Majesty also highlighted a current project undertaken through the National Development Plan which is to add more facilities to RIPAS Hospital. He called for proper and detailed planning to avoid shortfall once the project is completed such as inadequate supply of equipments and medicines.



His Majesty calls for relevant authorities to expand health promotion programmes.

Her Majesty attends birthday celebration



Her Majesty cuts the birthday cake presented by the spouses of ministers and officials.

BERAKAS, October 28 - Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha attended a birthday celebration hosted by Women Council of Brunei Darussalam, Brunei Shell Ladies Association (BSLA), Brunei Darussalam Nurses Association (PENJURU) and Pertiwi Association (PEKERTI) at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Accompanying Her Majesty to the event were Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bulqiah, and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bulqiah.

Meanwhile on October 26, Her Majesty Raja The Raja Isteri also had attended birthday celebration at the Royal Berkshire Hall, Jerudong Park and Country Club.

The celebration was hosted by the spouses of Cabinet ministers along with the wife of the Confidential Secretary of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, spouses of deputy ministers, wives of permanent secretaries and deputy permanent secretaries as well as associated members.



The winner of 'Guides Action Song' receives her prize from Her Majesty The Raja Isteri.

Her Majesty graces Girl Guides Day

JALAN MUARA, November 11 – All members of the Girl Guides Association were urged to continue to contribute their efforts in the association towards achieving success in playing a vital role of upgrading the nation's youth development.

This was stressed in a *titah* (royal speech) by Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha, at the 22nd Girl Guides Day held at the Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Science College.

Her Majesty, the royal patron of the association said that an evaluation that had been carried out by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts on the Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam this year had produced a positive report.

The report, said Her Majesty, can help the members of the Girl Guides Association to improve any weaknesses of the association and further strengthen the administration.

Also present at the event were Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolqiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bulqiah.

At the event, Her Majesty presented the award to seventeen senior members of the association who were bestowed with the 'Lencana Khidmat Lama' in recognition of their long-service.

Her Majesty also gave away prizes to the Rimba II Primary School for winning the Guides Action Songs competition.

Their Royal Highnesses on official visit to Manila

MANILA, October 10 - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah were in Manila for an official visit to the Republic of Philippines.

The official visit was upon an invitation from the President of the Republic of Philippines, Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo starting from October 31 to November 9.

On November 5, His Royal Highness competed in the 2007 World Pool Championship, which the Republic of Philippines were hosting from November 3 to 11 at the Araneta Coliseum, Quezon City.

His Royal Highness was in Group 10 together with Thomas Engert of Germany, Imran Majid of England, Roman Hybler of Czechoslovakia, Lee Chee Man of Hongkong, Ku Po Cheng of China Taipei, David Alcobarro of Spain and Louis Condo of Australia.

This was the second time for His Royal Highness to join the championship. The championship was participated by 128 players from 46 countries.

Their Royal Highnesses, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Abdul Qawi and Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, the President of Philippines and spouse.



On November 9, Their Royal Highnesses attended a luncheon hosted by the President of the Republic of the Philippines, Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo at the Fort Bonifacio.

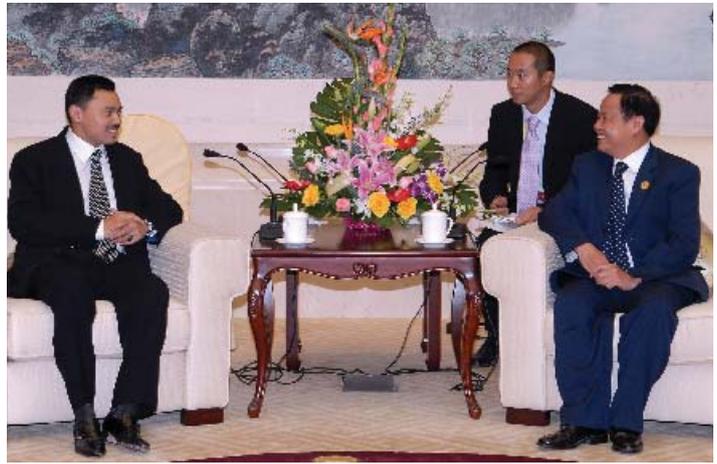
The luncheon was held in honour of Their Royal Highnesses' official visit to the republic. During the luncheon, His Royal Highness and the President exchanged

views on bilateral cooperations between Brunei and the Philippines. His Royal Highness also hoped that the visit to the Philippines would enhance the existing close relationship between the two countries.

Their Royal Highnesses ended their official visit to the Republic of Philippines on November 9.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince (right) and His Excellency Zeng Peiyan, the Deputy Prime Minister of China. (left)



His Royal Highness in audience with His Excellency Lu Bing, the Governor of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the People's Republic of China.



On arrival at Nanning International Airport, His Royal Highness greeted by Mr. Shen Beihai, the President of Information of

ASEAN-China: Broad opportunities for cooperation

NANNING, October 28 – Close relations between ASEAN and the People's Republic of China has opened opportunities for cooperation in the field of trade and investment. The relations established both at government level and among the business community is important as it is now more in-depth and does not only cover technical aspects and formal arrangement like the Free Trade Area.

These were highlighted by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office at the opening ceremony for the 4th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO).

All of these, according to His Royal Highness, have brought unity and understanding to the relations in the bid to enable us to see the future with more confidence.

Speaking on CAEXPO, His Royal Highness said the event is important in ASEAN's calendar as it showcases best companies from ASEAN and China. This expo is also a unique opportunity for entrepreneurs from Brunei Darussalam to professionally meet and share their experiences and ideas.

This year's CAEXPO, Brunei Darussalam is the 'Country of Honour' where the exhibition was held at the Nanning International Convention and Exhibition Centre, Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

His Royal Highness toured around Brunei Darussalam's national pavilion and a few other pavilions. Brunei's pavilion among others showcased the Empire Hotel & Country Club, Pulau Muara Besar project, Brunei Liquefied Natural Gas (BLNG), Muara port, wedding heritage, music and traditional dance. The aim of the exhibition was to attract more visitors to Brunei Darussalam.

Following the CAEXPO's opening ceremony, His Royal Highness attended the opening ceremony at the 4th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (CABIS). CAEXPO is part of CABIS that is held from October 28 to 31.

Enhanced bilateral relations

NANNING, October 28 - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received in audience His Excellency Lu Bing, Governor of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the People's Republic of China at the Li Yuan Resort on October 26.

During the audience, His Royal Highness expressed his happiness with the development of bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and China. His Royal Highness also expressed the hope that his visit to Guangxi would further strengthen the existing relationship.

His Excellency Lu Bing briefed His Royal Highness on the developments of Guangxi and expressed his appreciation for Brunei Darussalam's participation in the 4th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) and the 4th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (CABIS).

On October 27, His Royal Highness attended the 4th China-ASEAN Expo Welcome Banquet at the Great Banquet Hall, Li Yuan Resort where it was also attended by Leaders and senior Ministers from ASEAN member countries and China.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim left Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the People's Republic of China on October 28.

His Royal Highness was in Nanning to attend both the Opening Ceremonies of the 4th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) and the 4th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (CABIS) as a representative of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.



His Royal Highness and His Excellency Zeng Peiyan, the Deputy Prime Minister of China officiate Brunei's Pavilion 'The City of Charm' at the CAEXPO.

Did you know that...

- Jabatan Telekom Brunei (JTB) was established as a government department in 1952 and responsible for the development of communication systems and infrastructure, as well as the drastic transformation in telecommunication services, especially after Brunei's independence in 1984.
- There are 23 post offices in Brunei Darussalam located in all four districts. Brunei-Muara has 14 post offices, Tutong has three, Belait has five and Temburong has one. In addition, there are eight postal agents, 53 stamp vendors and two mini post offices throughout the country.
- Brunei Youth Council was established in 1959; it is the umbrella for youth associations in Brunei. The declaration of the National Youth Day is hoped to open up Brunei youths to the world and neighboring countries, and will widen relations between Brunei Youth Council and the World Youth Council, the ASEAN Youth Council and others.

>> 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 rd National Day
March 31	-	Prophet Muhammad's birthday anniversary
May 31	-	Royal Brunei Armed Forces 46 th anniversary
July 15	-	His Majesty's 61 st 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)

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.

Unique markets



What is notable in Brunei Darussalam is the number of food stalls available in each district. In the heart of the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, there are two popular joints which host a number of food stalls – the stalls in front of the Sheraton Utama Hotel and another facing the famous Kampong Ayer or water village in Subok. These two joints sell prepared food at a very affordable price.

Moving slightly further from the capital is the Tamu Malam (night market) in Gadong. This market not only host rows of food stall operators selling prepared food and drinks but also for those who sell fresh fruits and vegetables.

In the Tutong district, the Tamu Tutong in Kampong Serampangun is the preferred one for the residents here. Most of the business operators here come from remote places where they sell the products they themselves cultivated such as fruits, vegetables and handicrafts. Open daily, this *tamu* is situated approximately one kilometre from the town centre. Prepared food is also available here.

While in the Belait district, Tamu Sungai Mau is the most popular. Similar to other stalls in the other districts, products sold here range from prepared food to fresh goods such as fish, meat and vegetables. Two other stalls as popular as this are the Tamu Seria and Tamu Kuala Belait.

These food stalls, regardless in which district, remain the preferred choice to carry out shopping particularly for groceries. Not only has it become as a one-stop centre to shop for foodstuffs, the prices are also conveniently affordable for everyone. What remains unique is that some of the items sold here are not available at modern supermarket.





Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah officially launch 'Remember, remember... The 8th of December - back to 1962'.

Book titled 'Remember, remember...The 8th of December - back to 1962' launched

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 12 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade has produced another book entitled 'Remember, remember...The 8th of December - back to 1962'.

The book was launched by Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan.

The 265-pages book among others described about Brunei in the year 1962 with the incident that happened in that year symbolised as 'Cold War' and why it is known as 'Tiger Year'. Apart from that, the book also describes the rebellion that took place in Brunei Darussalam on December 8, 1962.

This is the second book written by His Royal Highness after his first book in 2000 entitled 'Time and River - A Memory (Brunei Darussalam 1947 - 2000)'.

The book is sold to the public in three versions; special version at \$1,000.00; hard cover at \$59.90 and plain cover at \$46.90 each or at the Brunei Press headquarters with contact line 2451468 extension 213 or in several bookshops in the country.

Comprehensive book on Brunei launched

JERUDONG, November 14 – A book which provides a comprehensive overview and analysis on Brunei Darussalam's political and macroeconomic environment was launched. The book named – The Report Brunei Darussalam 2007 is published by a London-based company, the Oxford Business Group.

The 164-page book has 12 main titles which cover various topics ranging from politics, the economy, banking, Islamic financial services, insurance, tourism to industry and primary resources. The book took four months to complete with more than 150 interviews on various aspects on Brunei Darussalam, the community and economy.

Oxford Business Group received support and cooperation from Brunei Darussalam's Prime Minister's Office.

It was officially launched by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.



The book title "The Report: Brunei Darussalam 2007 - A Window of Brunei Economy" launched by His Royal Highness Crown Prince.

Brunei-based foreign diplomats hold receptions

Three Brunei-based foreign diplomats held a reception to mark their national day in this month of October. On October 23, the Chinese Embassy held a reception to mark the 58th anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China at the Empire Hotel & Country Club in Jerudong. Present as Brunei's representative was Pehin Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya, Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office while Chinese Embassy was led by its Ambassador, Her Excellency Tong Xiaoling.

Another reception was held on October 26; this time was to mark the National Foundation Day of Korea. The reception was attended by Pehin Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan, Minister of Home Affairs. Also present was His Excellency Hwang Won-kun, the Korean Ambassador to Brunei.

The third reception held was on October 30 by the Embassy of Federal Republic of Germany. The reception was to mark the 16th Reunification Day of the republic that was attended by His Excellency Conrad Cappell, the Germany Ambassador to Brunei and Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman, Minister of Finance II.



The Minister of Finance II and spouse together with His Excellency Conrad Karl Cappell, the German Ambassador to Brunei and spouse cut a cake to mark Germany's 16th Reunification Day.

EXPLORE : *Jerudong*

Explore for this edition brings you to Kampung Jerudong, the biggest village under Mukim Sengkurong of Brunei Muara District – a 15 to 25 minutes drive from the Brunei International Airport.

Jerudong covers an area of 32.974 km² from Mukim Sengkurong's total land area. The village itself has about 15 small villages with a population of more than 6,000 people and administrated by a village head.

Jerudong is fast becoming into a commercial and residential quarter. Where it was mostly covered with thick forest back before Brunei's independence, Jerudong, today, is fast becoming a popular vicinity to set up commercial joints and even a favourite amongst those who plans to set up their own homes. The number of shops and houses is gradually increasing over the years.

An adequate supply of basic amenities like water, electricity, telephone and good road, added with direct connectivity to the Hassanal Bolkiah highway are some of the good reasons why this area is popular. Besides these, there are schools ranging from government primary schools to international ones; mosques; government offices; and low rental fees compared to those in the capital are also some attracting factors.

But the main impact was brought by the development of nation's playground, the Jerudong Park Playground in early 1990's. Roads leading to Jerudong received facelift and more houses and lands were developed into business premises and shop houses.

Currently there are more than 1,000 houses belonging to individuals and the government; and also about 20 business premises and shop houses in Jerudong.

Did you know that Jerudong hosts five of the nation's accommodation?

Arrived in Brunei and do not know where to stay? Jerudong is perhaps the right place for you to choose.

Have you heard of the Brunei's magnificent five-star resort hotel, the Empire Hotel and Country Club? It is perfectly situated in Jerudong and only about 15 minutes drive from Brunei International Airport and it is about a five-minute drive to the playground. The hotel itself features great facilities like the golf course, beach, swimming pool and cinema.

Others accommodations available are the Holiday Lodge Hotel, LR Asma Hotel, Goodview Hotel and Nazira Guesthouse. All of these accommodations offer affordable rate and are located close to the Jerudong Park Playground.

The main attraction for the area is the Jerudong Park Playground. The Playground offers various games such as bumper car and go-kart. Food stalls are also available within the playground.

The playground also houses the amphitheatre where music concerts and shows are staged. Also available is a polo club – Jerudong Polo Club.

The area is also suitable for those who enjoy brisk walk or jogging, as there is a walking trail built on the road side. A mini stadium is also present within the area.

Another main attraction is the Jerudong beach, which is famous for its fish market. Fresh fish and seafood are sold at an affordable price. Fresh vegetables and fruits are also available.

If you love recreational activity, why not visit Bukit Shahbandar Recreational Park? Bukit Shahbandar is one of the local favourite outdoor spot for recreation. Besides enjoying the fresh air and green scenery of the park, you can have a picnic or barbeque here. The 70-hectare park is a perfect spot for brisk walk, jogging and cycling. It is also a great place for hikers as Bukit Shahbandar has nine hills for you to climb. Facilities like hut, well-built track and washroom are provided for visitor's convenience.



Tired of outdoor activity and feeling hungry? Looking for something to eat? You can stop by at the Nasi Katok Jerudong's stall. The stall is one of famous hang out dining place for family and friends to enjoy the dish called Nasi Katok. Nasi Katok is packed rice with sambal (sauce which is usually spicy) and fried or grilled chicken (fried or grill) or beef. The packed rice is sold at a minimum price of \$1.00 where the stall is usually opened until late hours.

There are also other good restaurants where you can enjoy not only local dishes but also those of Thai, Malaysian and Chinese dishes.

Jerudong is also a home for private specialist hospital, Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC) and cardiac centre, the Gleneagles. With a first class treatment, JPMC is conveniently located at the frontiers of the South China Sea providing calm and tranquility for those who come here. The health services here are similar as those available in the nation's main referral hospital, the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital.

Jerudong although situated at the outskirts of the capital, it play a big role for the tourism industry. In particular, it house the famous Empire Hotel & Country Club, a popular theme park and also to a leading privately-run medical centre. Furthermore, it also offer good pricings and benefits for those who plan to set up their homes or even their own businesses.



Photo credit: Empire Hotel & Country



Photo credit: Empire Hotel &

TUDUNG DULANG, a dish cover



Tudung Dulang with velvet cloth widely used as souvenir for tourist.

Another traditional handicraft like basket-weaving is the making of *tudung dulang*, a dish cover. Using mostly natural sources such as palm leaves, the *tudung dulang* comes in various sizes and colours with sparkling sequins, beads and designs.

Originated from Kampong Ayer (water village), the making of *tudung dulang* was famous among the housewives where it was mostly used to cover food from flies and other pests.

However today, the *tudung dulang* which is a symbol of the past and part of a rich cultural heritage, it is treated with traditional value and as a decorative ornament. The materials used have also expanded today with some using velvet cloth replacing the leaves and colourless plastic material to cover the whole shape.

Consumers are spoilt for choice as the dish cover has more varieties, be it using velvet or the traditional palm leaves.

The *tudung dulang* is also famously used during a traditional Malay wedding particularly during the *Majlis Menghantar Berian*. Gifts given from the groom-to-be to the unmarried elder sister of the bride-to-be are usually covered using the *tudung dulang*.

The *tudung dulang* is mostly sold at the tamu, or open market, situated on the banks of the Kianggeh River in central Bandar Seri Begawan with an exceptionally low price.



The traditional *tudung dulang* from palm leaves still the best choice for covering dishes.



A lady choosing the mini *tudung dulang* for decoration.



Varieties of *tudung dulang* sold at Tamu Kianggeh in the capital.

Photo credits: Hajah Noorhijrah, Hajah Apsah & Dk.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade in audience with:

- a. President of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency S.R. Nathan
- b. His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore
- c. The Senior Minister of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Goh Chok Tong



Bilateral relations strengthened through exchange visit

SINGAPORE, November 5 – A delegation of high ranking officers from the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was in Singapore for the 13th Brunei Darussalam-Singapore Exchange Visit.

The delegation was led by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Accompanying His Royal Highness was Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah.

The programme started with a visit to Biopolis, Singapore's high technology bio-medical facility building. It commenced its operation in 2005 after it was first launched in 2000. Its objective is to develop the bio-medical science industry as a main core of the city-state's economy. Seven buildings are located within the Biopolis which house different centres in the field of pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical technical technology and health care services.

A welcoming dinner was hosted for Their Royal Highnesses by Singapore's Foreign Affairs Minister, His Excellency George Yeo at the Grand Hyatt Hotel on November 3.

On November 4, His Royal Highness presented prizes the winners of the friendly golf tournament. The tournament was participated by Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and Deputy Permanent Secretaries from both nations.

His Royal Highness also met His Excellency S.R Nathan, the President of the Republic of Singapore; His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, the Prime Minister of Singapore; His Excellency Goh Chok Tong, the Senior Minister at Singapore's Palace on November 5. Various matters were discussed during the meeting discussions on the bilateral relations between the two countries and a number of regional and international matters.

The visit is part of a regular series



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of exchange between the two countries that began in 1990 by the-then Prime Minister, His Excellency Goh Chok Tong. It is aimed at promoting and strengthening the working relationship between Brunei Darussalam and Singapore's political leaders, civil servants and corporate leaders in an informal setting.

The programme ran from November 2 to 5.

Involvement of all party needed

JERUDONG, November 6 – The involvement of all parties that include the public and private sectors as well as members of the civil society are needed in combating transnational crime as adopted at the ASEAN Convention in combating terrorism during the 11th ASEAN Summit.

This was said by the Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan during the opening ceremony for the 6th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (6th AMMTC) at the Royal Berkshire, Jerudong Polo and Country Club.

The opening ceremony was attended by ministers from ASEAN members countries, the Deputy Secretary-General of the ASEAN Secretariat, senior government officials of ASEAN, delegates of the 6th AMMTC and other invited guests.

According to the Minister of Home Affairs, natural disasters and contagious diseases, terrorism and other transnational crime continue to pose as serious threats to the security of the region despite the positive developments in our region in recent years.

The minister is confident that the outcome of this meeting will further enhance and strengthen existing cooperative measures and exchange

of information to combat transnational crime.

The stability of ASEAN as a regional organisation in all these years rests heavily on our strong adherence to the principles of mutual respect, non-interference consensus, dialogue and consultation.

The opening ceremony was followed with the 6th AMMTC, which was chaired by the Minister of Home Affairs and attended by the ASEAN Minister, Deputy Secretary-

General of the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Senior Officials and the delegates from the ASEAN member countries.

The Brunei delegation was led by Dato Seri Paduka Haji Eusoff Agaki, Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

The 6th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), was followed with the 3rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime with China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.



Minister of Home Affairs (centre) with ASEAN Ministers, Deputy Secretary-General of the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Senior Officials and delegates from the ASEAN member countries.

Brunei's Health Services, 100 years of progress

Citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam, as a result of strong support from the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and high level of awareness from members of the community and non-governmental organisations, continue to enjoy efficient and proper health care. What makes it more unique is that medical care continues to be provided at minimal charges for citizens who have to undergo medical examinations.

This year's November 15 marked 100 years of health services in Brunei Darussalam, symbolising years of progress and achievements. Present to commemorate the celebration was His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. In conjunction with this celebration too, His Majesty launched the Brunei Darussalam Health Convention 2007.

History

The year 1907 marked the beginning of Brunei's medical and health history as the then Deputy British Resident assigned to Brunei was also the residing doctor. In 1919, medical officers from Labuan made monthly visits to Brunei; and patients who required further treatment were in return sent to Labuan. In 1924, the services later expanded to rural areas.

Brunei's health system, however, was only officially established in 1929 with the formation of the Medical Department along with the appointment of the first state medical officer. Besides these, Public Health and Sanitary Programme was also introduced. In the same year too, the first 18-bedded government hospital was opened. Based in Pekan Brunei (Brunei Town), the hospital was officially opened by His Majesty Sultan Ahmad Tajuddin Akhazul Khairi Waddien.

The health system began to expand to the other parts of the nation such as the establishment of government hospitals in the Tutong, Temburong and Belait Districts in 1932. In 1940, the Child and Maternity Clinics were introduced; followed with the establishment of a Health Office in 1958 along with the appointment of a Medical Officer.

The rural population was not forgotten as the Flying Doctor Services was introduced in March 1965.

The health services continue to expand as by 1967, the General Hospital in the town centre had expanded to 212 beds and became the largest referral hospital. Various services were available ranging from medical, surgery, ophthalmology, gynaecology, and anaesthesia. Hospitals in the other districts also showed further progress as the Belait District had 94 beds; and Bangar Hospital in Temburong with 16 beds. Formerly, these hospitals only had six beds.

Dental service in 1967 was also introduced at the General Hospital in

the capital, Kuala Belait Hospital and School Dental Clinics. In 1970, Brunei's health services introduced the Haj Medical Support Team where its task was to oversee the welfare of Brunei's haj pilgrims.

Brunei's health services progressed further over the years – increase in numbers of hospitals and health centres are just some of the progress achieved. Currently there are four government hospitals and two private hospitals which include a cardiac centre. The numbers of beds in hospitals have increased from just 18 beds in 1929 to 897 in 2006. Plans have also been made for a women and children hospital.

To ensure that all levels of the community receive proper health care, more health centres and clinics have been established. Today, there are 15 health centres, 15 maternal and child health clinics available throughout the country; and more in the pipeline. Furthermore, the ministry are providing eight travelling clinic and flying medical services for rural areas.

Human Resources Development

The number of nursing manpower in the health system have significantly increased from only two 'dressers' in 1923 to 20 nurses in 1952; and as of August 1, a number 1801 nursing manpower was recorded.

The trend kept on growing with only two local doctors in 1968 to 169 in 2007. More local doctors are also now specialising in various fields.

The Ministry of Health work closely with the Ministry of Education in the bid to produce well-skilled, trained and qualified nurses. The Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkliah College of Nursing, which is under the Ministry of Education provide the training needed where qualified students will be given a Diploma. The students are not only given classroom lessons but also firsthand experience handling patients. The students are also given an opportunity to explore nursing abroad with annual study trip to the neighbouring countries such as Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

Students who excelled through their Diploma courses will then be given a scholarship to further their studies to a Bachelor Degree in related fields. Meanwhile, a part-time Postgraduate Diploma course in Primary Health Care was also introduced in the local university, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) beginning year 2000.

Infrastructure

A large amount of budget is allocated for the Ministry of Health as a measure towards creating a proper infrastructure for the health system and services each year. In the National Development Plan (NDP) 2007-2012, a total of \$149, 152, 000 is allocated for medical and health.

The latest NDP is focusing on several aspects such as; national health emergencies preparedness; improvement of health quality and management, and staffs' proficiencies; improvement in hospital facilities and services; and improvement in the Primary Health Care services. A number of projects and programmes have been planned to realise these focus such as renovation and upgrading of the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) and Suri Seri Begawan (SSB) Hospitals; construction of new Dialysis Centres in the Belait and Tutong District; and a new legislation will be introduced while existing legislation will be reviewed to regulate and monitor the health sector.

Since the last 20 years, health services kept on improving like the establishment of Cardiac Rehabilitation Centre and Cardiology Department, Diabetes Centre, Oncology Centre, Psychiatric Daily Care Centre, Paediatric Intensive Care Unit and Surgical Intensive Care Unit.

Medical services also introduced additional services such as orthopaedic, mammography, dermatology and medical rehabilitation services.

The importance of technology is not undermined. In NDP 2007-2012, some of the new technologies will be acquired to enhance the management and quality of medical and health services. E-health programme will continue to be enhanced where it is an integrated national health care management information system in all hospitals and health centres, with compatible national patient data base and national electronic medical record system. Through the previous NDP, various modern technologies were also obtained with the latest - a 64 multi-slices CT scan which is now available in RIPAS.

Today, the health system is divided into two main departments; Health Services; and Medical Services.

The Health Services has three departments – Community; Environmental; and Scientific Services.

While the Medical Services look after the hospitals in all four districts; nursing; pharmacy; laboratory; dental; and renal services.

The medical and health services also provide Haj services for Brunei's haj pilgrims; and flying doctors for rural areas.

Besides these, health facilities is available throughout the nation with four government and two private hospitals; six medical clinics which include those provided by the Ministry of Defence; 15 health centres; 15 health/maternal and child health clinics; eight travelling health clinics; four flying medical services. While dental services are available in three hospitals; eight health centres; 10 health/maternal and child health clinics; 72 schools; 33 mobile squad which include 15 schools by collect and sent; and four flying team.

* Continue on page 18

Kelupis Berinti Udang

Ingredients

1.8 kg glutinous rice
2 coconuts whole
Salt sufficiently
Palm leaf
Palm fronds

Fillings

1.2 kg dried shrimps
302 g shallot
Curry sufficiently
A little sugar

Methods to make fillings

Wash dried shrimp, soak for several minutes and drip away. Then pound finely. Peel off the skin of shallot, wash and grind. Mix curry with a little sugar and add in cold water until moderately dilute. Heat oil in a pan and fry shallot until fragrant. Add in curry and stir until done. Then add in shrimp and stir thoroughly. Remove when done and let to cool down.

Methods

Wash glutinous rice and drip away. Grate coconut, extract the milk and boil until oil is discharged. Then add in a little salt and glutinous rice and cook until half done, stir until oil is discharged and receded. Then remove. Warp dough with palm leaf and put filling in the centre, pin with palm fronds and steam until done.



* From page 16 (AMMTC)

ASEAN +3 focus on cyber crime

JERUDONG, November 7 - The emerging challenges of cyber crime and its strong linkages to other transnational crime, such as terrorism and human trafficking were the top agenda discussed by the ASEAN ministers during the meeting with China, Japan and Republic of Korea.

According to a joint communiqué, during the meeting, the ministers exchanged views on strengthening ASEAN +3 cooperation in combating transnational crime by focusing the challenges of cyber crime.

ASEAN member countries also agreed to bank on the vast experience and expertise of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, especially when it came to state-of-the-art technology and human capacity development.

They also agreed on a study that needs to be undertaken to identify clear modalities of implementation and priority projects in order to ensure effective implementation of the Asean + 3 Work Plan to Combat Transnational Crime.

* From page 17 (Brunei's Health Services, 100 years of progress)

Milestones

A number of great accomplishments were achieved as a result of proper health services.

- Since August 1987, Brunei has been declared malaria-free by World Health Organisation (WHO).
- In October 2004, Brunei is free from poliomyelitis.
- Other communicable diseases are low and under control.
- Global health indicators set by WHO like infant mortality rate and life expectancy showed a decrease in mortality rate from 36.7 per 1000 live births in 1967 to only 7.4 per 1000 lives. It is also similar with the life expectancy which has increased to 74.2 for male, and for female 77.3 (year 2005).
- The National Immunisation Programme has achieved high immunisation coverage and has met the targets set by WHO, whereby more than 95 per cent of children under five years old were immunised every year according

to national schedule.

- The nation was ranked 40th from 191 member countries of WHO as reported in year 2000 WHO health report on health system performance; 4th in Western Pacific Region, and 2nd in ASEAN.
- Meanwhile in United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report 2004, Brunei met the three health indicators that are infant mortality rate, maternal mortality rate, and prevalence of HIV/AIDS and other infectious disease and was ranked 33rd from 177 countries.

National Health Care Plan 2000-2010

In June 2000, the ministry launched the National Health Care Plan 2000-2010. It is hoped that directions, vision, mission and priorities in the strategic and instrumental goals will be more transparent and clear. In ensuring the plan is continuously relevant, reviewing process is carried out. At present, there are seven strategic goals proposed and each has its own objectives.

The strategic goals include; promoting healthy living, strengthening primary health care, strengthening the management of

priority chronic disease, obtaining new resources for health service delivery, effective management of National Health Emergencies, to improve rehabilitative care and to achieve excellent in hospital services.

Challenges

Brunei Darussalam's health services face several challenges due to many reasons which among others include chronic non-communicable and communicable diseases, re-emergence of old diseases, to ensure a continuous supply of quality and qualified human resources, rapid advancement in technology; and many more.

A number of prevention programmes against both communicable and non-communicable diseases have been established such as through awareness campaigns, formation of task groups and many more.

To ensure that a plan of action is taken at executive level by all government agencies and private sector to prevent and control avian influenza in Brunei, a National

ASEAN ministers agree to enhance network

JERUDONG, November 7 - The 6th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime agreed to raise the network usage and communication in improving the information exchange and the development of human resources between ASEAN member countries, ASEANAPOL and Interpol.

The Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan stated the matter during the meeting with media at the Conference Hall, Empire Hotel & Country Club.

The meeting according to the Minister, discussed the ways to strengthen the commitment in raising cooperation among enforcement agencies in the region in the efforts to eradicate transnational crime issues such as terrorism, drug trafficking, smuggling of weaponry, human trafficking, cyber crimes, international economy crimes and piracy.

Held once every two years, the meeting is attended by ASEAN ministers responsible for security matters, including transnational crimes. The 7th AMMTC will be held in Cambodia in 2009.

* Continue on backpage

His Majesty attends *tahlil* for late parents

JALAN TUTONG, October 18 - His Majesty Sultan Haji The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended a *bertahlil* ceremony for His Majesty's late parents, Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit at the Royal Mausoleum in Jalan Kubah Makam Diraja.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

At the ceremony, His Majesty and members of the royal family sprinkled '*Ayeng Asah-Asahan*' or scented water on the tombs of His Majesty's late parents.

Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien passed away on September 7, 1986 and Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit passed away on September 13, 1979.

Also present were cabinet ministers, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries and deputy permanent secretaries and senior government officials.

'Postcards Across Asean' winner receives prizes

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 22 - Dayangku Nur Hidayah bte Pengiran Sulaiman a 10 year old, from Tungku Primary School won the "Postcards Across Asean" competition. She was the only Bruneian to be awarded this year.

Dayangku Nur Hidayah who is a primary 5 student received the cash and book prize from Hajah Aishah bte Muhamad Husain, Acting Director of Schools, Ministry of Education. The prize presentation was held during a reception at the Multipurpose Hall of Singapore High Commission.

The "Postcards Across Asean", is a commemorative activity to celebrate Asean's 40th anniversary that was launched by the Singapore High Commission in Brunei Darussalam with the assistance of the Ministry of Education.

"Postcards Across Asean", targeted primary school students, aged between six to 12, aimed to promote awareness of Asean and build a sense of community among the younger generation in the region through the universal language of art.

28 participants join Ship of Southeast Asian Youth Programme (SSEAYP)

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 22 - Brunei Darussalam's delegate comprising of 28 youths and their National Leader left for Japan on October 22 to start the programme.

Brunei Darussalam's delegate was led by Haji Muhammad Hafiy Abdullah Fung and will be in Japan and ASEAN member states for about 50 days and will be back home in December.

The guest of honour, Pehin Major General (R) Dato Seri Awang Haji Mohammad, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports was present at the Brunei International Airport to hand over the national flag.

Mathematics, ICT in English language by 2008

JALAN MUARA, October 31 - Ministry of Education will start the teaching of mathematics and technology information communications subjects in English language for primary one to three in every primary schools beginning early 2008.

The move is to increase the students' performance to both subjects and maintain the credibility of the students in their Malay subjects.

These matters were stated by the Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman in the prize presentation ceremony for excellent and best students of primary schools throughout the country held at the Hua Ho Mall Manggis Ballroom.

A total of 12 students were presented with the Excellent Student Awards while another 180 students received the Best Student Awards.

Brunei compete in 10 sport events at the Borneo Games

JALAN KEBANGSAAN, November 17 - Brunei Darussalam will participate in 10 from 12 sport events in the second Borneo Games Tournament which will be held in Kuching, Sarawak starting from November 26 to December 2.

The tournament will be participated by Brunei Darussalam, Sabah, Sarawak, Labuan, West Kalimantan and Terengganu as an invitation team who will hosting the next Malaysian Games (SUKMA).

Brunei Darussalam will be hosting the third Borneo Games in 2009; followed by Labuan in the year 2011.

Book Festival 2008

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 31 - Language and Literature Bureau will be organising a Brunei Book Fair in conjunction with the 24th National Day this year.

The Brunei Book Fair will be held at the International Convention Centre for 10 days starting from February 27 to Mac 7, 2008. More than 100 booths will be provided during the festival.

Two MoUs signed

SINGAPORE, November 2 - BIMP-EAGA achieved another milestone through the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 'Establishing and Promoting Efficient and Integrated Sea Linkages' and on 'Cross-Border Movement of Commercial Buses and Coaches'.

Signing on behalf of the government of Brunei Darussalam was the Minister of Communication, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abu Bakar. Meanwhile the ministers responsible for transportation from Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines signed the MoU on behalf of their countries.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the diplomatic officers from BIMP-EAGA countries.

* From page 18 (Brunei's Health Services, 100 years of progress).

Committee on Influenza Pandemic Preparedness was set up. It is chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

The rise of chronic non-communicable disease like coronary heart disease, diabetes mellitus, renal disease, cancer and hypertension in the nation are quite worrying.

Latest health statistic revealed that cancer is the top killer in the nation followed by heart disease and diabetes mellitus. The numbers of cases on other chronic non-communicable diseases are also alarming.

As the chronic non-communicable disease cases in majority is related to the individual's attitude or habit, the ministry have taken various steps such as introducing healthy lifestyles programme, awareness and health promotion programmes to the citizens. These programmes are carried for all level of ages.

In order to realise the mission, this year, the ministry launched the 'Integrated Health Screening and Health Promotion for Civil Service'. This programme is conducted in collaboration with all the ministries of His Majesty's government and the target are the civil servants.

Some of objectives of the programme are to screen for chronic non-communicable disease and eye and oral health; to give an opportunity for all civil servants to undergo health screening; increase people's knowledge on chronic non-communicable disease that are related to lifestyle, install awareness about their health and to realise that looking after one's health is a collective responsibility and to lead a productive and better quality life.

The components of the programmes include health screening which consists of blood and urine test, Body Mass Index, eye and dental examinations, pap smear and mammogram (for females above certain age only). Each of the civil servants also have to fill health screening questionnaire form and also to keep their own health record book. Referral to doctors, specialists or dieticians for treatment and or counselling will be done later depending on the screening result.

Another programme introduced is the 'Program Mukim Sihat' or Healthy Mukim Program. This programme focuses on healthy lifestyles activities with the citizens. Through this programme, the ministry with the collaboration of village and mukim consultative committee have organised activities like walkathon, health promotion talks and exhibition. Observations from few mukims that had conducted this programme showed good response.

Before this programme was implemented, the ministry also made an effort to instil healthy lifestyle with the formation of the Smoking Cessation Clinic in 2005. Health awareness and promotion programmes are also continuously carried out through the media (print and electronic), road shows and visits.

Rising cost of medicines and other medical needs are also another challenge faced. His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam highlighted these in his royal speech during the 100th year anniversary of

Istana Nurul Iman receives more than 95,000 visitors



Souvenir is given to every visitors after



ISTANA NURUL IMAN, October 16 – Brunei Darussalam began a month-long of Hari Raya Aidilfitri starting from October 13 after a month of fasting during the month of Ramadhan. This is the time when the Istana Nurul Iman, the residential palace of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is opened for three days to the members of the public, whether they are local or tourists.

The Istana Nurul Iman was opened to the public for a *junjung ziarah* (revered greetings) ceremony to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and members of the royal family.

The palace was opened from October 14 to 16 (second to fourth day of Hari Raya Aidil Fitri). At the *junjung ziarah*, His Majesty and male members of the royal family received the male visitors. While Her Majesty Raja Isteri and other female members of the royal family received female and children visitors.

A sum of around 95,000 visitors was recorded for this year's revered greetings.

Brunei's health services. He said, the challenge of rising cost of health care is due to price hike for medicines, new treatment machines and modern method of treatment. However, health services must remain its excellence.

Commitment

Brunei Darussalam has always positioned health as a priority. It is committed in developing a healthy nation. Hence, a number of initiatives to achieve this goal have been implemented and planned ranging from efficient administration to comprehensive health campaigns.

Brunei's commitment is further emphasised through being chosen to host international events such as hosting the 52nd Session of the Regional Committee Meeting for the Western Pacific in 2001. Other international meetings held in Brunei include WHO technical meetings, ASEAN consultative meeting, Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Singapore-Thailand (BIMST) Public Health Conference and bilateral meetings.

Brunei will also be hosting the WHO Regional Outbreak Communications Conference in late November. The conference is expected to be attended not only by medical experts but also by media practitioners. It is hoped that Brunei will gain and share knowledge for the further improvement of health standard in the nation.

To this day too, the government is steadfastly showing health as a priority by providing free treatments for citizens who must receive intensive treatment such as in Malaysia or Singapore. All cost which include travelling fair, accommodation and hospital charges are taken care by the government. While those receiving treatments in the country are charged at a very minimum price – from \$1 for registration to free medicines and checkups.

All of these have shown the relentless effort by the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in developing Brunei Darussalam into a healthy nation. Numerous challenges have been faced but with proper guidance and support, Brunei Darussalam today has one of the most excellent health system in this region.

