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Brunei Darussalam

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Brunei Methanol Plant officially opened

SUNGAI LIANG, May 25 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah Sultan, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has officially opened Brunei Methanol Plant (BMC) based at Sungai Liang Industrial Park (SPARK).

Soon after the official opening, His Majesty toured around the methanol plant, visited the plant's control room and was briefed on the processes of producing methanol by BMC's Chief Executive Officer, Kinya Tsuji.

This world class plant with a cost of about USD600 million to build is located on a 16-hectare piece of land. The plant is the country's largest investment apart from investments for exploration and production of oil and gas and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).

The plant provides job opportunities to locals and business opportunities to small-and-medium entrepreneurs (SMEs) through supplying of products and new services needed by BMC in ensuring that the operation of the plant and company run smoothly.



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

Brunei Methanol Plant (BMC) officially opened by His Majesty.

Brunei-China rediscovers close ties

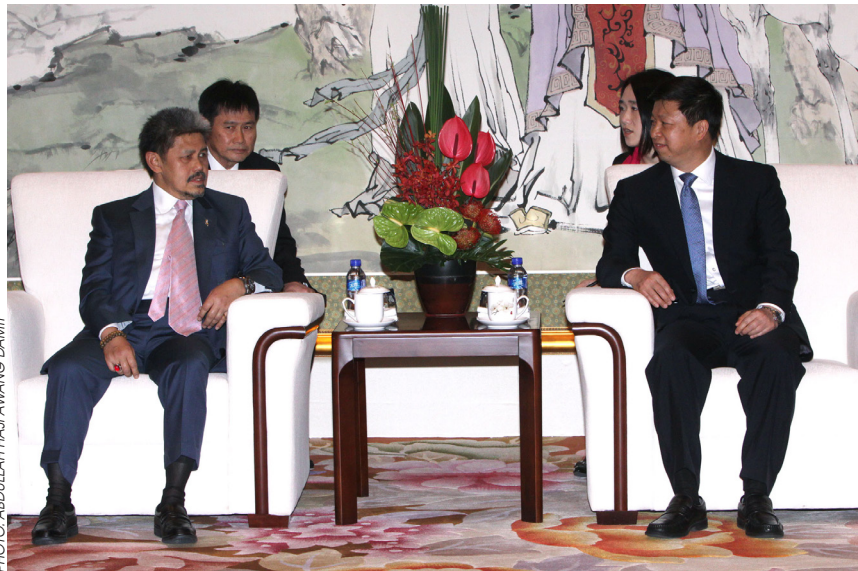


PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

His Royal Highness with China's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Song Tao.

SHANGHAI, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, May 8 – For over the past 20 years, Brunei Darussalam has been rediscovering the close ties it shared with the people of China, hundreds of years ago. It has helped us to link our past, our present and our future.

These were said by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade at the official launching of Brunei Darussalam Pavilion Day at the Shanghai World Expo 2010.

"And right now in Shanghai, these all come together in the message behind our Expo theme; A proud past..., A prosperous present....And an exciting future.

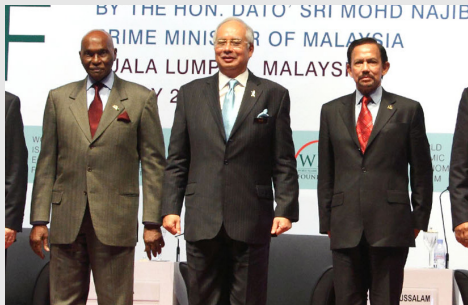
"So, in that spirit, I warmly thank the Government of China and the people of Shanghai.

"We wish you a most rewarding and successful six month and thank you once again for looking after us so kindly and so well," said His Royal Highness.

The highlight of the Brunei Darussalam Pavilion Day was a cultural performance which showcased a traditional Brunei wedding ceremony comprising presented



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PHOTOS: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT 1



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HM receives diplomatic credentials

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 27 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received diplomatic credentials and received in audience from four newly-appointed envoys to Brunei Darussalam.

- ❶ His Excellency Min Yongnian, People’s Republic of China’s newly-appointed Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam.
- ❷ His Excellency Flavio Saraiva De Carvalho Fonseca, Republic of Angola’s newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam.
- ❸ His Excellency Zeljko Bosnjak, Republic of Croatia’s newly appointed non-resident Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam.
- ❹ His Excellency Carlos Frota, Portugal’s newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam.

The ceremony was at Istana Nurul Iman.

Her Majesty receives in audience

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 15 – Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received in audience the wife of the High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam, Madam Baseerat-Un-Nisa. The audience took place at Istana Nurul Iman.



PHOTO: HERNE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

The Deputy Sultan attends the swearing-in of new judges

ISTANA NURUL IMAN, May 8 - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Deputy Sultan presided over a swearing-in ceremony for the newly-appointed president of the Court of Appeal and the Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court.

Justice John Barry Mortimer was appointed as the new President of the Court of Appeal for a period of three-years.

Meanwhile, Justice Anthony Gordon Rogers was appointed as the new Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court for a period of three-years.

Also present at the ceremony was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkihah.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN



His Royal Highness receives the Vice Governor of the People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 26 – His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received in audience the Vice Governor of the People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China, His Excellency Chen Wu.

His Excellency is in Brunei Darussalam for a three-day work visit. The audience took place at the Istana Nurul Iman.

NEWS

His Majesty visits Meragang Form Six Centre

MUARA, May 5 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made an unscheduled visit to Meragang Form Six Centre.

Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim.

Among the places visited by His Majesty were Art and Design room; staff room; library; chemistry lab; Amphitheatre and Multipurpose Hall.

Meragang Form Six Centre started its operation on March 2009 with cost of \$17 million to build on a 4.86 hectares piece of land. Some 1,000 students are currently studying at this institution.

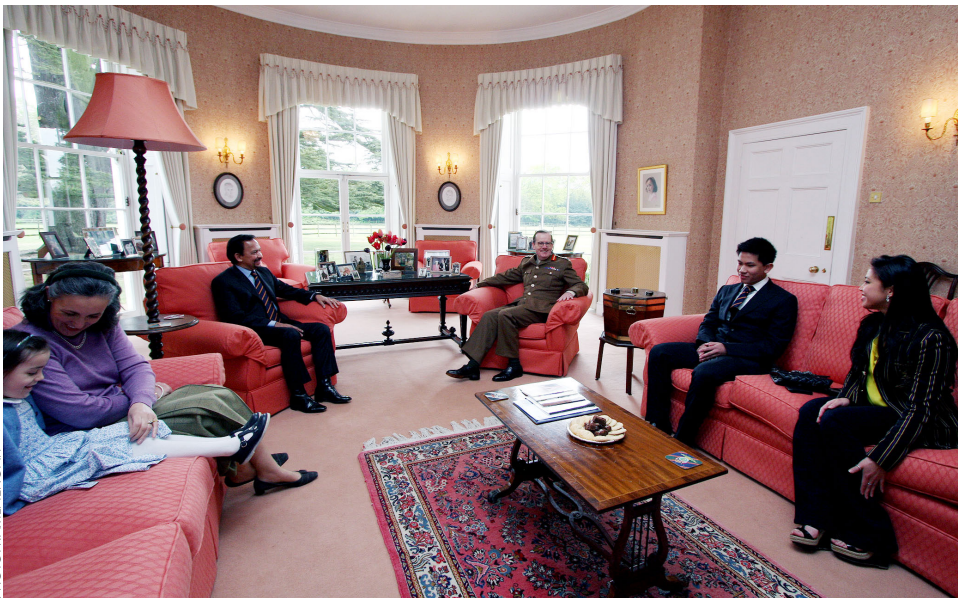
His Majesty viewing some of the exhibition by the students.



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

His Majesty visits Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH



His Majesty, Her Royal Highness and His Royal Highness with the Commandant of RMAS.

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, May 9 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, consented to visit the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) in Surrey United Kingdom, where His Majesty's son, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen will begin his Commissioning Officers' Cadet Course. His Royal Highness will spend the first term of the one-year course of the Academy's 102 Intake.

Also present was Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah.

His Royal Highness' course starts on May 9, 2010 and will be completed on April 15, 2011. The training at Sandhurst covers military knowledge and academic subjects.

His Majesty sends congratulatory message

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 25 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent congratulatory messages to His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the government and the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in conjunction with the country's Independence Day.

His Majesty attends 6th WIEF



His Majesty and other countries' leaders at the 6th WIEF.

PHOTOS: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, May 18

– His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam arrived in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for the 6th World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF).

The 6th WIEF will be held from May 18 to 20 at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre with the theme 'Gearing for Economic Resurgence'.

His Majesty will be attending the official opening of the 6th WIEF and will deliver a *titah* (royal speech) with other

Islamic leaders namely the President of Republic of Senegal, President of Republic of Indonesia, President of Republic of Kosovo, President of Republic of Maldives and the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.



His Majesty and His Excellency Mohamed Nasheed, the President of the Republic of Maldives.



Chairman of WIEF, Yang Berbahagia Tun Musa Hitam and His Majesty.

His Majesty holds bilateral meetings

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, May 19

– His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held separate bilateral meetings with two leaders attending the 6th World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) and the chairman of WIEF Foundation at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC).

His Majesty first received His Excellency Mohamed Nasheed, the President of the Republic of Maldives.

His Majesty then received Yang Berbahagia Tun Musa Hitam, the Chairman of WIEF.

His Majesty then received His Excellency Dr. Fatmir Sejdiu, the President of the Republic of Kosovo.

In the evening, His Majesty with other leaders attended a dinner hosted by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Right Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak at KLCC.

The President of Kosovo, His Excellency Dr. Fatmir Sejdiu and His Majesty.



His Majesty attends 6th World Islamic Economic Forum

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, May 19

– His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam highlighted several matters in a Special Address at the 6th World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF). Among others His Majesty spoke about the forum where it gives inspiration and dynamic practical impetus in a most

crucial areas of modern international relations to the Plan of Action set out at Mecca Summit.

"As a result, I see the first ten years of this century not in terms of crises whether economic, financial or political. I see them in the terms set out

*Continue on page 6

*** From page 5
(The 6th world Islamic Economic Forum)**

in the various themes which have been chosen for this annual gathering. New alliances... Partnerships... Security.

"And I assess them in this light. How much, I ask, have our ordinary people's lives been improved? As individuals, as families and as communities, are they better prepared to meet modern challenges? How much more confident are they now in facing the future? If we can answer these questions positively, then we are indeed responding well to the theme of the Forum's very first meeting here in Kuala Lumpur in 2005 – Development and Progress," said His Majesty.

His Majesty further said that in linking the purpose of the UN Millennium Goals to the objectives of the Mecca Summit and the work of the Secretariat here, His Majesty detects a further theme.

"I feel that it underpins almost every aspect of the international life today. I see it as the sub-text of theme of each of our Forums over the past five years. At an even deeper level, I believe that it is one of the most serious concerns of all Muslims in this twenty first century. By this, I refer to what has been given the



His Majesty at a dinner hosted by the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

popular title of Globalisation," said His Majesty.

This word, according to His Majesty, is part of everyday life and almost everyone has his own interpretation. Some rejoice in it. Some regret it. Some even condemn it.

"What I think we all agree on here, however, is that it presents a clear challenge to Muslims. The challenge is implicit in this year's theme "Gearing for Economic Resurgence,

"This I believe does not involve seeing how we can adjust or adapt our faith to a new set of realities. My

people know only one reality. They see the one world they live in. They know the one faith they believe in. In other words, they are already globalised, just as Muslims have always been for nearly one a half thousand years. As such, they wish to take part to the full in the one world they live in and they wish to strengthen the one faith they believe in. If we speak of "resurgence" here, then it is this wish I see resurging," said His Majesty.

The 6th World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) took place at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

National Al-Quran Reading Competition 1431H HM: Be close to Al-Quran



PHOTO: AK AMIRULNIZAM PG-HAJI MOHD ALI



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

Winner of *Qari* (male reader), Awangku Mohd. Adibul Amin and *Qariah* (female reader), Dayang Norfaezah receives their trophies from His Majesty.

BERAKAS, May 27 – We must be close to the Al-Quran as it is a medium to be close to Allah, a medium to communicate to Allah. Al-Quran is our basic necessity and as pillar for Brunei Darussalam as a "Negara Zikir".

This was highlighted by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the final of the National Al-Quran Reading Competition for Adults 1431 Hijrah at the International Convention Centre.

His Majesty further said that there are various measures that can be taken to realise this. One of the measures is through education; and further added

by the writing and translation of Mushaf Brunei, the writing of Mushaf UBD that has replaced its ceremonial mace.

It was also highlighted that Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) should not be the only university to carry its own Mushaf. The two new additional higher institutions - Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif 'Ali (UNISSA) and Seri Begawan Religious Training University College (KUPU SB) would soon have its own convocation ceremony, hence, a call was made for these institutions to also carry their own Mushaf.

Soon after delivering his titah (royal speech), His Majesty consented to

present the prizes to the winners of the competition.

The champion for the *qari* (male) category was Ak. Mohd. Adibul Amin bin Pg. Haji Marjuki; while Dayang Norfaezah binti Haji Emran was the champion for the *qariah* (female) category. Both champions would be representing the country at the International Quran Reading Competition to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malek.

RBAF celebrates 49th anniversary



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMRUAN HAJI TENGAH



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the RBAF inspecting the guard-of-honours (picture above) and cutting the RBAF's anniversary cake (picture at the right).

TUTONG, May 31 – Members of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) are reminded that the mina enemy which is continuously lurking is negligence. Slight negligence will cause disaster or misfortune.

These were said by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) in his *titah* (royal speech) at RBAF's 49th Anniversary celebration held at Penanjong Garrison.

Despite the peace, there is still uncertainty and the possibility of the existence of unpredictable elements and threats, said His Majesty.

It is clear that these need continuous awareness and cautiousness, aside from upgrading the quality, whilst

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National Level Al-Quran Reading Competition for Adults 1431/2010



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness Crown Prince delivers his sabda (royal speech) at the National Level Al-Quran Reading Competition.

BERAKAS, May 26 – It is an obligation for everyone to continuously improve their capabilities of reading the Al-Quran, to create a generation which is proficient in reading the Al-Quran, and appreciates the Al-Quran as a universal guide to life.

This was said by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office at the finals of the National Level Al-Quran Reading Competition for Adults 1431/2010.

Also present was His Royal Highness Prince `Abdul Malik.

Earlier in his *sabda*, His Royal Highness said that that the involvement of the younger generation in this competition since a few years back has shown that the policy and system to encourage the reading of the Al-Quran from children to adults as a continuous effort by the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam towards glorifying Islamic syiar and towards the involvement and deeper understanding of the community to strengthen their piousness have begun to show its results.

A total of four *qari* (male) and four *qariah* (female) participated in the competition.

* From page 7
(RBF celebrates 49th anniversary)

undergoing joint trainings among RBAF services at all level, added His Majesty.

His Majesty also advised that all RBAF's members to master the administrative procedures like 'Balance Score Card', 'Performance Budgeting' and the upcoming 'Capital Budgeting' in which all must be implemented consistent and accurately.

Also touched was RBAF foreign operation as the benefit is wide to not only for the member involved and RBAF but also for the nation in the field of defence diplomacy.

His Majesty applauded RBAF especially its members who had and currently are on duty in the International Monitoring Mission (IMT) in Mindanao, Philippines and United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The contribution had placed Brunei Darussalam as a contributor towards international security.

In individual development, His Majesty was well-informed that the Command College Course, as component of RBAF Defence Academy will begin in November 2010 is in line with the policy of long-life learning.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince General Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister's at Prime Minister Office and General of RBAF and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Defending My Country, Brunei Darussalam" ("Mempertahankan Negeraku Brunei Darussalam").



PHOTO: MASRI OSYMAN

HRH Crown Prince attends RBAF Thanksgiving Prayers

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 30 – Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) held thanksgiving prayers in conjunction with its 49th Anniversary at the Berakas Garrison's surau.

Present at the ceremony was His Royal Highness Crown Prince General Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's and General of RBAF.

RBAF was established in May 31, 1961 where the anniversary is celebrated annually.

New ministerial cabinet line up

ISTANA NURUL IMAN, May 29 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has announced the new line up of the members of the ministerial cabinet.

The new line up is as follow;

1. His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, and Minister of Finance.
2. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah as Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.
3. His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
4. Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong as Minister of Education.
5. Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mohd Yusof as Minister of Health.
6. Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman as Minister of Development.
7. Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah

Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdullah bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar as Minister of Communication.

8. Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar as Minister of Industry and Primary Resources.
9. Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim as Second Minister of Finance at Prime Minister's Office.
10. Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng as Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
11. Pehin Datu Singamanteri Kolonel (Bersara) Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar as Minister of Energy at Prime Minister's Office.
12. Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Mohammad bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman as Minister of Religious Affairs.
13. Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman as Minister of Home Affairs.
14. Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah as Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

15. Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abd Wahab bin Juned as Deputy Minister at Prime Minister's Office.

16. Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mustapha bin Haji Sirat as Deputy Minister of Defence.

17. Awang Haji Bahrin bin Abdullah as Deputy Minister of Finance.

18. Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yusoff bin Haji Ismail as Deputy Minister of Education.

19. Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong as Deputy Minister of Development.

20. Pengiran Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar as Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs.

21. Pehin Datu Lailaraja Mejar Jeneral (Bersara) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yusoff as Deputy Minister of Home Affairs.

22. Datin Hajah Adina binti Othman as Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

These appointments took effect on 15 Jamadil Akhir 1431 Hijrah, corresponding to May, 29 2010 for a period of five years. It was also announced that the posts of State Mufti and Attorney-General are of the same level as ministers which also took effect on the same day.

Civil servants urged practice healthy lifestyle

JERUDONG, May 3 – A three-day symposium entitled 'Healthy Workplace at the Civil Service 2010' will emphasise on the importance practising a healthy lifestyle and promotes health at work. It is one of the measures to combat against risk factors for chronic diseases especially among civil servants.

Present to officially open the symposium was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office held at BRIDEX Conference Hall.

In his *sabda*, His Royal Highness urged members of the civil service to work together in upholding the responsibility of practising a healthy lifestyle and take a balanced diet, as well as stay away from habits that can harm health such as smoking, a proven health threat to smokers and those around them.

His Royal Highness also noted the rising trend of chronic diseases in the country, such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes which are related to an unhealthy lifestyle.

In the context of civil service, His Royal Highness said that chronic diseases is one of the reasons of absenteeism at workplaces, whether there is a need to go for outpatient treatment at the hospital or given a medical leave. The



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness touring the exhibition which includes demonstration on light exercise at the office.

absenteeism will lead to a decrease in the productivity and efficiency of the organisation which can directly affect the delivery and quality of civil service.

His Royal Highness also launched a book entitled 'Panduan Penjualan dan Penyajian Makanan dan Minuman Sihat di Tempat Kerja' (Guidebook on the sale and provision of healthy food and drinks at the workplace).

The symposium is jointly organised by the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Health and attended by 150 participants comprising from directors; deputy directors; heads of department to senior government officers.

Crown Prince graces 19th ITB convocation

BERAKAS, May 29 – It is hoped that more graduates, including graduates from Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB) would venture into entrepreneurship, especially in a form of technopreneur in producing products and services based on technology.

These were stated by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office at the 19th convocation of ITB held at International Convention Centre.

Graduates should instil a positive mind and possess strong self-esteem and constantly prepared in facing any challenges in choosing and path of their respective careers.

A number of 309 graduates received their certificate from His Royal Highness which are Higher National Diploma certificates in Commerce, Finance and Management, Computer Studies, Information System, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Internet and Multimedia.

His Royal Highness also presented awards to eight outstanding graduates and awards contributed by the private sector to 32 graduates.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

One of the graduates receives his certificate from His Royal Highness The Crown Prince.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness in group photo with ITB graduates.

*** From frontpage
(Brunei-China rediscovers close ties)**

by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Soon after the launching of Brunei Darussalam Pavilion Day, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah visited China Pavilion and the Brunei Darussalam Pavilion.

Brunei Darussalam Pavilion brings the theme 'Now... for the Future' where its internal concept revolved around the traditional pattern known as 'Ayer Muleh' where it symbolises the continuous harmony between nature, its rich heritage and tradition. The overall design concept binds Brunei's rich heritage and ambitions while maintaining its way of life. While the external concept showcases one of Brunei Darussalam's exclusive heritages which is the preservation of its pristine nature and natural rainforests.

Some of the materials exhibited and showcased at Brunei's pavilion include royal regalia; Brunei Darussalam's National Vision 2035; 4D cinema where visitors will experience the journey from



His Royal Highness touring the Brunei Darussalam Pavilion.

Brunei River to the Canopy Walk in Temburong District.

Visitors will also be able to taste some of Brunei's very own cuisines which are made available by Royal Brunei Catering.

Brunei's pavilion will be showcasing different themes each month where it will focus on its dynamic economy, excellent education, its rich culture and heritage, pristine nature and its high quality of life.

PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

Support for OIC's 10 years Action Program reiterated

PHOTOS: PG.HAJI BAHAR PG.HAJI OMAR



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade delivers sabda at the Official Opening and General Debate of the 37th Session of OIC Council of Foreign Ministers.

DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN, May 18 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade reiterated Asian countries' support towards the Organisation of Islamic Conference's (OIC) 10 years Action Program and expressed his appreciation on the effort made for the implementation of the program.

His Royal Highness delivered the *sabda* (royal speech) at the Official Opening and General Debate of the 37th Session of OIC Council of Foreign Ministers held at Somon Palace.

His Royal Highness also highlighted the importance of continuous commitment by member-countries to OIC's 10 years Action Program in which its implementation provides ways for Islamic ummah to be respected and prepared to face the challenges of the modern world.

His Royal Highness also welcomes the theme of this OIC Foreign Ministers Meeting especially on the main idea which focuses on security and prosperity that has become the goal of member-countries since 2005 where now is best time to witness its achievement.

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Group photo of foreign ministers attending the Official Opening and General Debate of the 37th Session of OIC Council of Foreign Ministers.

* From page 10
(General Debate of the 37th Session of
OIC Council of Foreign Ministers)

His Royal Highness attends Official Opening and General Debate

DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN, May 18 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended the Official Opening and General Debate of the 37th Session of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers held at the Somon Palace.

The conference was officiated by Syria's Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Walid Al-Moualim who is also the Chairman of the 36th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of OIC, followed by the appointment of Tajikistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Hamrokhon Zarifi as the Chairman for the 37th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of (OIC) who later delivered a speech.

This was then followed by a keynote address by the President of Tajikistan, His Excellency Emomali Rahmon. The ceremony followed with closed meeting.

Later, His Royal Highness together with other foreign ministers and officials attended a luncheon at Saodat Teahouse.

HRH attends 18th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting

PHOTOS: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN

MADRID, SPAIN, May 26 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended the 18th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting held in Recinto Ferial Juan Carlos I, IFEMA in Madrid, Spain.

In his opening statement, His Royal Highness as Joint Chairman of the 18th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting said there's a lot happening and a lot of new challenges and ASEAN and EU have new systems. But he hopes that ASEAN and EU can concentrate on positive things and strengthen the new partnership. This is because, whatever else is going on in the world today, His Royal Highness thinks one thing is absolutely certain that is Europe and South-East Asia need each other maybe more than ever before.

That is the basis of the 'enhanced partnership' we set up in Nuremberg a couple of years ago, both in the short term as we deal with the present financial and economic situation, and in the long term, especially in trade



During the bilateral meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany, His Excellency Guido Westerwelle.

and overall capacity building, said His Royal Highness.

Later, His Royal Highness attended a working lunch where the ministers discussed on several regional and international issues.

The ministers also endorsed the 'Madrid 18th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting Co-Chairmen's Statement'.

After the meeting ended, His Royal Highness attended a Press Conference with ASEAN's Secretary General, Dr. Surin Pitsuwan and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain, His Excellency Miguel Angel Moratinos.

His Royal Highness as Joint Chairman of the 18th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah greets by His Excellency George Yeo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore on arrival at the welcoming dinner.



His Royal Highness tour the "Rihlah - Arabs in Southeast Asia" Exhibition.

PHOTOS: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

Minister of foreign affairs and trade attends ASEAN – GCC dinner

SINGAPORE, May 31 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade joined other Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and the Gulf Cooperation Council at a welcoming dinner for the 2nd ASEAN – GCC Ministerial Meeting hosted by His Excellency

George Yeo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore.

The dinner was preceded by a tour of the "Rihlah – Arabs in Southeast Asia" Exhibition organised by the National Library of Singapore

Did you know that...

- Brunei Darussalam joined and became the 180th member of International Labour Organisation (ILO) in 2007.
- The nation's first mosque was built by the third Sultan of Brunei Darussalam, Sultan Sharif Ali who is also known as Sultan Berkat. The mosque known as Masjid Besar was burnt on June 23, 1578 during 'Castela War' (Perang Kastela).
- Hari Adat Istiadat (Customs & Tradition Day) was introduced in Brunei Darussalam in 2009 and to be celebrated every March 31st.

>> BRUNEI IN BRIEF

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

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

>> HOW TO GET TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM?

There are a number of ways to reach Brunei.

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

UBD's Medical Institute renamed

TUNGKU LINK, May 19 – The Medical Institute of Universiti Brunei Darussalam is now known as Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkliah Health Science Institute.

Present to officially open the building and to declare the new name was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkliah.

Also present was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkliah.

The institute was established in 2000 with the aim to produce health professionals and create diversity in supporting UBD's vision to become a university with international standard that has national features.

Her Royal Highness declaring the new name of the Institute and officially open its building.



PHOTO: HASTRAL HAZMI ABD. HAMID

Safety and health at work a priority

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 1 – Issues of safety and health at work should not be treated lightly as negligence could give a huge impact on the organisation and individual. Thus, in the bid to avoid risk from being harmed and danger, the attitude of protecting one's self and those around should be made as a culture at work.

The matters were stated by the Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Adanan at an event to commemorate Labour Day 2010

held at Kiulap Plaza Hotel.

According to the minister, safety is an important investment to be noted as security aspects could not be measured with money invested. Taking safety measures not only ensure safety and the well-being of the employees, but indirectly their family and also protect the image of the agency.

Brunei Darussalam joined and became the 180th member of International Labour Organisation (ILO) in 2007.



PHOTO: ABDUL KADIR MOHD. TAHIR

Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Adanan stress on the importance of safety at work.

Customers' needs and expectations must not be taken lightly

GADONG, May 1 – A call was made for hospitals' managers and staff members to not take lightly the needs and expectations of their customers. This has not changed since the beginning of health services until today as what is vital is how the customers received their services.

The Minister of Health, Pehin Dato ia Haji Awang Suyoi made the call at an appreciation reception in conjunction with the Silver Jubilee of Hospital Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) held at the Centrepoint Hotel.

According to the minister, the change is not only seen in the medical world but also among its customers as the customers' knowledge on diseases and treatments including drugs that can be used have improved.

The minister further explained that the Ministry of Health's strategic plan in facing new challenges in the next two decades include the issues of improving the efficiency of the health sector, giving priority to customers, improve service quality, information and communication technology services as well as reduce mortality diseases and non-infectious diseases.

Some 100 people received the Excellent Silver Jubilee Service Award and one recipient received RIPAS Hospital Silver Jubilee Star Award.

85 per cent population surf internet

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 4 – The local population in general has access to the internet be it from their home or at work. An e-Government Citizen Survey conducted by the e-Government National Centre (EGNC) showed that 64 per cent of respondents spent more than five hours per week online; whilst 85 per cent of the respondents were on the internet from their home, office or via mobile phone.

Acting Director of EGNC, Dayang Hajah Mariah binti Haji Mohd Taha said these at the Certificate of Appreciation and Prize Presentation Ceremony for the e-Government Citizen Survey lucky draw.

The survey also showed top five main e-Government services that

require attention which are education, working and professional training, business licensing, housing and utilities and also private health.

In this relation, EGNC realised that the challenge face by the e-Government are not only in the area of IT or system, but to rebuild the internal process and to organise the processes for the effectiveness of IT user efficiently and effectively towards better services to the people and businesses. She believed with that method, everyone is able to benefit from e-Government.

The survey was organised by EGNC with cooperation from Prime Minister's Office, InfoCom Federation Brunei (IFB) and Brunei Accenture Group (BAG) Networks Sendirian Berhad.

One of the lucky survey participants receive his prize for responding to e-Government Citizen Survey.



PHOTO: AK-AMIRUNIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI

Significance of e-government highlighted



PHOTO: HASTRAL HAZMI ABD. HAMID

One of the speakers presenting his working papers at the conference.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 13 – Several issues were discussed at the 'International Conference on e-Governance and Administrative Simplification' which included the significance of e-government which has the ability to modernise the civil service in tackling the delivery of public service; and to manage the challenges available in a dynamic atmosphere through the increase in the usage of info-communications technologies (ICT).

Another matter highlighted was Brunei Vision 2035 which is to make Brunei Darussalam by 2035 a nation which will be widely recognised for the accomplishments of its educated and highly skilled people as measured by the highest international standards. The vision is also to for Brunei Darussalam to be widely recognised by 2035 as a nation which has high quality of life that is among the top 10 nations in the world; and has a dynamic and sustainable economy with income per capita within the top 10 countries in the world.

Among the objectives of this conference is to share experiences and best practices besides developing and strengthening cooperation among government officers, professors and experts from Organisation Economic Cooperation Development's (OECD) and non-members from Asia Pacific countries who are involved in the civil service..

The conference was organised by the Prime Minister's Office and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development - OECD/Korea Policy Centre.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 11 – The Fleet Renewal Programme is a new programme introduced by Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA) under the agreement to lease six Boeing 777-200ER aircrafts from Singapore Airlines (SIA). RBA will be utilising the 777-200ER aircraft to replace its current Boeing 767-300ER aircraft.

The signing ceremony for the lease agreement was held at the Royal Brunei Airlines Recreation Club (RBRC).

RBA was represented by its Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr. Robert Yang, while his counterpart was SIA's CEO Mr. Chew Choon Seng.

Present to witness the signing ceremony was Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng who is also the Chairman of RBA, members of RBA's Board of Directors and Senior Management and delegation from Singapore Airlines.

The introduction of Boeing 777-200ER into RBA fleet is part of the airlines company plan to review its fleet and expand its operation.

In addition to a higher passenger and cargo capacity than the 767's, the 777 improved products will enhance RBA's ability to grow its revenue base.

The support that RBA received from SIA brought this partnership beyond a pure lease. Under the lease terms, selected support programmes provided by Original Equipment Manufacturers to SIA are also provided to RBA to cover the aircraft engines, auxiliary power unit and other selected components.

The first aircraft is set to arrive on May 26, 2010 while the

MIPR create business and investment opportunity for SMEs

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 4 – Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) has taken strategic steps to create conducive business and investment environment for involvement of small-and-medium enterprises (SMEs) who are the backbone and main generator in developing the nation's economy.

This was said by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya at the official opening of MIPR's Customer's Day held at Setia Pahlawan Hall of the ministry.

The steps taken, said the minister is aligned with the ministry's vision to make Brunei Darussalam competitive and sustainable.

MIPR's Customer's Day was organised with the intention to disseminate information on the services provided by agencies under the purview of the ministry particularly in facilitating business development, entrepreneurship and investments.

Briefing sessions on strategic topics such as food security, SMEs, cooperative and environmental preservation were also held.

Potential marine eco-tourism sites identified

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 5 - Several potential sites for marine eco-tourism has been identified namely Pelong Rocks, Abana Patches, Brunei Patches, Litledale Shoal, Silk Rock, Cunningham Patch and Victoria Patches.

These were stated by Fisheries Officer, Dayang Ranimah binti Haji Abd. Wahab in a briefing on 'Marine Diversity' in conjunction with Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources' Customer's Day.

In this regard, several measures need to be carried out in maintaining these areas such as ensuring a controlled and protection of its biodiversity apart from being a continuous fisheries resource.

Present at the briefing was the Deputy Permanent Secretary at MIPR, Pengiran Hajah Mariana.

RBA Fleet Renewal Programme



PHOTO: AK AMIRUNIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI

The signing of the lease agreement held at the Royal Brunei Airlines Recreation Club (RBRC).

next five aircraft will arrive between June and September 2010.

Each 777-200ER aircraft will seat 30 Business Class and 255 Economy Class passengers. Both cabins will be equipped with RBA's SkyShow In-Flight Entertainment system with personal screens for each passenger. The entertainment options will include video and audio on demand, and a selection of video games.

The first flight of RBA's first 777-200ER will be to London via Dubai on the 3rd week of June 2010.

PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI



Part of the Industrial Gas Terminal (IGT) area that launch.

BSP Sdn Bhd supplies natural gas to BMC

LUMUT, May 14 – Brunei Shell Petroleum Sendirian Berhad in the bid to support the diversification of the local economy and Brunei Methanol Project Development's initiatives will supply natural gas for methanol production for 21 years to Brunei Methanol Company (BMC).

The Managing Director of BSP, Dr. Graheme Henderson said BSP has a significant role in supporting Brunei Darussalam in producing an export product which is methanol.

These were said by Dr. Graheme at the launching of Industrial Gas Terminal (IGT) in Lumut.

To ensure the the IGT will run efficiently, it will be continuously monitored by nine employees and when fully operational, it will be able to produce 2.3 million cubic feet of gas daily and delivered to BMC terminal.

The construction of IGT facility was fully completed in December 2009 and natural gas has been delivered to BMC since the first week of January this year for Brunei Methanol plant's pre-commissioning activities.

The IGT facility is located adjacent to Brunei LNG which processes natural gas from BSP's Champion or Ampa Offshore field.

The Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) (left) on behalf of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting the Honorary Pilot Wing to Malaysia's Chief of Air Force.



PHOTO: AK AMIRUNIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI

His Majesty awards Honorary Pilot Wing

RIMBA, May 14 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam awarded the Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAF) Honorary Pilot Wing to Malaysia's Chief of Air Force (TUDM), Yang Berbahagia General Dato' Sri Rodzall bin Daud

The award is as recognition of Yang Berbahagia's outstanding service, valuable efforts and contributions in strengthening between Brunei and Malaysian's Air Force.

The award was presented by the Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (ABDB), Major General Haji Aminuddin Ihsan held at Royal Brunei Air Force Base.

Two agencies collaborate fight against corruption



PHOTO: AK AMIRUNIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI

The Anti Corruption Bureau and Royal Customs and Excise sign MoU to fight against corruption.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 15 –The Anti Corruption Bureau and Royal Customs and Excise have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to fight against corruption.

The MoU was signed by the Acting Director of Anti Corruption Bureau, Ang Swee Kiang and the Controller of the Royal Customs and Excise, Awang Yahya bin Haji Idris.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Awang Haji Omar bin Haji Abdul Rahman and the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Finance, Awang Haji Bahrin bin Abdullah.

The MoU is to enable both agencies to implement anti corruption awareness program to the new recruits or other members of the Royal Customs and Excise such as educational seminars and activities.

'The Green Wave' to preserve forest resources

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 15 - More than 1000 trees will be planted simultaneously in a number of locations nationwide on May 22 which is one of the activities under a project known as 'The Green Wave'.

Among those involved in this project are students which will educate and nurture sense of awareness and understanding to them on the importance to protect and manage the forests.

In this regard, the presentation of young trees to school representatives was held at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR). The trees were presented by the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the MIPR, Pengiran Hajah Mariana.

Meanwhile, the Forestry Director, Awang Haji Saidin said that 'The Green Wave' is a global campaign which enables the children and youths to make a difference through one school, one tree, one step at one time. Those who wish to participate may register at <http://greenwave.cbd.int> before May 22.

The cultivation of young trees simultaneously is an activity which supports Forestry Department's social programme in conjunction with World Forestry Day with the aim to cultivate as much as 60 thousand trees in 2010. It is also Brunei Darussalam's support on United Nation Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which acknowledges every May 22 as International Biodiversity Day.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary at Ministry of industry and Primary Resources handing over a tree to representative from schools.



PHOTO: ABDUL KADIR MOHD. TAHIR

Nursing carnival promotes healthy lifestyle

PENKALAN BATU, May 16 – Brunei Darussalam celebrated International Nursing and Midwifery Day 2010 by organising a nursing carnival where it promoted healthy lifestyle.

The nursing carnival was held at Taman Mini Perayaan Kampung Parit and was officially launched by Acting Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Hazair.

Various activities were arranged at the carnival such as an exhibitions involving Nursing Health Promotion; Emergency Management Ambulance Services (EMAS); resuscitation and emergency aid; JPMC and Gleneagles; Institute of Medicine, Universiti Brunei Darussalam; Narcotic Control Bureau; and Fire and Rescue Department.

The International Nursing and Midwifery Day is an event celebrated every May 12 worldwide and this year's celebration brings the theme 'Delivering Quality, Serving Communities : Nurses Leading Chronic Care'



The Nursing Carnival launch by Deputy Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi.

PHOTO: AMPLUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPLUAN HAJI TENGGAH

ICE focus on challenges and opportunities for educators

TUNGKU LINK, May 17 - The 15th International Conference on Education (ICE) 2010 will provide opportunities for discussion to compare rhetorically education reformation with realistic effective implementation.

The matter was stated by the Senior Lecturer of Sultan Hassanul Bolkiah Institute Education (SHBIE), Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), Pengiran Hajah Jamilah as Secretary of ICE 2010 during a press conference.

The conference will be held for four days commencing on May 24 at UBD with the theme 'Challenging Models and Challenged Mind: Start Effective Education Reformation'.

The main focus of ICE Conference 2010 is challenges and opportunities faced by educators either teachers, education administrators, trainee teachers or students who face various changes and needs.

New control post in Temburong

KAMPUNG PUNI, TEMBURONG, May 17 - The setting up of the new Puni Control Post in Temburong District will facilitate the control of those entering and exiting Brunei Darussalam. It is also to replace the current post control which has been in operation since 1972.

The construction is also to implement one of the department's core businesses which are towards controlling and managing people's entry and exit to this country in the bid to sustain peace and harmony of Brunei Darussalam.

The matters were stated by the Acting Director of Immigration and National Registration, Awang Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman at the foundation laying ceremony of the new Puni Control Post.

The foundation laying ceremony was led by the Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Adanan.

Construction works for the new control post begun in January 2010 with a cost of more than \$6 million and scheduled to be complete by July 2011.

Brunei celebrates International Museum Day

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 18 – Museums play an important role in sustaining cultural values where it should be handled wisely.

This was said by Dato Paduka Awang Haji Jemat, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports at the official launching of International Museum Day.

The permanent secretary said that the 21st century is a century full with challenges where globalisation can be seen everywhere as it is a process of changing the mind, ideology, technology which engages one to the international world. The world is more exposed to foreign cultures through the mass media.

In this regard, the museum is a place where historic artefacts, arts, knowledge are displayed, preserved and stored as research materials and for public's viewing.

This year's celebration brings the theme 'Museum for Social Harmony' which emphasises on museum's role towards social harmony that encompasses various aspects such as international harmony, culture, development and many more.

Launching of the International Museum Day by Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Jemat.



PHOTO: HATRIL HAZMI ABD. HAMID

Proper fish handling program launched

BATU MARANG, May 20 – The Fisheries Department will continue to facilitate the development of the fisheries industry; supports the development of seafood product; and guide entrepreneurs to properly handle seafood products by practising Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP).

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya stated this at the official launching of a program for proper fish handling and responsible fishing for fishermen and seafood manufacturers at Kampong Batu Marang.

The minister said there are opportunities and potentials to develop the seafood processing industry and increase the production of processed seafood products for local consumption. It can also help in the reduction of imported processed seafood.

This program was conducted with the aim to enhance the quality of captured fish by sustaining its freshness and enable it to be marketed in good quality and sold at a high price which will give good returns to the fisherman.

The minister also took a closer look at the processing of belacan (a seafood product) by residents of kampong Batu Marang. Majority of the residents are full-time fisherman registered with the Fisheries Department and some are part-timers.

Wood-base processing industry welcomed

MUKIM BUKIT SAWAT, May 22 – The involvement of local companies in downstream processing and value-added industrial activities based on wood is one of the industries welcomed by the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as it fulfils consumer's demands and needs

and able to enhance the rate of recovery of wood material consumer and reduce waste.

The minister of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR), Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya stated the matter at the official opening of the Tri-sum (B) Company Private Limited Downstream Wood Industry at Kilometre 14, Kampung Sungai Mau, Jalan Labi.

The minister said, although the estimated production value rate of the company's contribution to the overall gross output for timber products is still relatively low, that is USD0.655 million from USD20 million, but the wood industry has given a significant impact on the usage of wood waste and an increase in recovery rate.

The policy of utilising optimum crude material and exploration of new products based on

downstream industry are suggested to timber industry entrepreneurs in the country, said the minister.

In regards to that, said the minister, MIPR has identified Sungai Mau area in Mukim Bukit Sawat as the area for downstream solid wood and non-timber based products processing industry for any new related applications.

He also touched on the industry's requirement for higher and reliable electricity sources and on the government policy of 'cut one, plant four'.

The minister further added that the Government is also promoting non-wood product activities like pharmaceutical and cosmetic, ecotourism and development of medicinal substances based on natural resources which are undoubtedly halal.



PHOTO: ABDUL KADIR MOHD. TAHIR
Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources look on one of the woods available at the factory.

Energy Day

GADONG, May 24 – Efforts towards instilling a culture of frugal, efficient and wise energy consumption undertaken should be continued intensively, integrated and unwavering.

This is as a preparatory measure in facing unavoidable circumstances from continuously being dependent on natural resources or to consume it at a low price as experienced today.

These were said by the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Mohammad at the official launching of Energy Day celebration held at The Rizqun International Hotel.

At the ceremony, the minister also presented the prizes to the winner of the inaugural National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Initiatives Awards.

In conjunction with the Energy Day, Energy Section at the Prime Minister's Office also organised the Switch, Off and Set (S.O.S) where the campaign starts from 9.00am until 9.00pm. As part of the campaign, prices for gas petrol have also been set to unsubsidised prices.



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT
Brunei Darussalam joins other countries in the world celebrate Energy Day, picture show Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office launch the celebration.

Ministry of Religious Affairs launch Strategic Plan 2010-2014

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 22

– A book outlining the strategic plan of the Ministry of Religious Affairs for the years 2010-2014 was officially launched. The strategic plan focuses on six main themes where it involve effective religious education, amar ma'ruf nahi munkar, secure social security, laws which fulfil syariah wants, halal and clean food and products, quality and excellent services.

Present to launch the book was Pehin Dato Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd Zain held at the State Legislative Council building.

The book was launched in conjunction of the 50 years anniversary of Religious Services.

The event also saw the launching of the ministry's Main Statistic Book where it would be as the main source of reference. This book would be continuously updated and published from time to time.

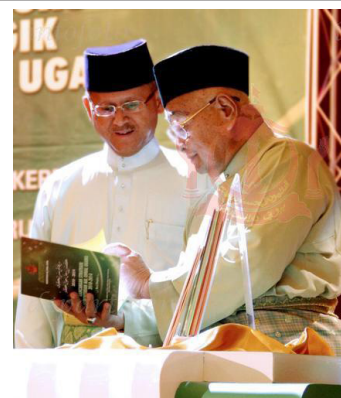


PHOTO: AZIMAH HAJI AHAD
Minister of Religious Affairs, Pehin Dato Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd. Zain launch the ministry Strategic Plan 2010-2014 book.

25% increase on energy usage

BERAKAS, May 27 – Energy usage in Brunei Darussalam in a period of six years particularly from 2000 to 2006 has increased to as much as 25 per cent. This could be further seen through the subsidy by the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on price for purchase of petroleum for vehicles. Over the past five years an amount of more than \$1.92 billion has been subsidised specifically for Premium 97, Super 92, Regular 85 and Diesel. The year 2008 saw the highest amount for subsidy totalling to \$340 million.

The matters were highlighted by the Deputy Director of Unit Petroleum of the Prime Minister's Office, Pengiran Haji Harun bin Pengiran Haji Abd. Rahman at Energy Forum held at Manggis Mall.

Speaking on the forum entitled 'Energy efficiency in transport: an integrated solution', it is not just crucial for Brunei Darussalam's energy sector but also for other nations worldwide.

Three panels namely Senior Special Officers at the Ministry of Communications; the Technical Director of Urban Design and Land Development Meinhardt Singapore Private Limited and Senior Expertise of EV Business Office, Mitsubishi Motors Corporation, Japan were invited to share their knowledge and experience.

The forum was held in conjunction with Energy Day 2010 with the theme 'Value Our Precious Energy'

Brunei needs to develop high quality education system



PHOTO: AMRIYAN HAJI MAHMUD AMRIYAN HAJI TENGAH

Participants attending the conference made of from local and foreign.

TUNGKU LINK, May 24 – Developing a high quality education system relevant with economic and social realities of 21st century has become a priority for Brunei Darussalam. What is vital to the idea of a quality education system is a high quality of teaching provided by the teachers to the students.

These matters were highlighted by the Permanent Secretary (Higher Education) at Ministry of Education, Awang Haji Mohamad Daud at the Official Opening of 15th International Conference on Education held at the Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

The Permanent Secretary stated there have been greater emphases on teachers' values, skills and knowledge based on good teaching; expanding teachers' roles and responsibilities

that are shared collaboratively with other professionals; and personalising learning for individual students to accommodate a greater diversity in learning.

The conference's theme is 'Challenging Models, Challenging Minds: Initiating Effective Educational Reform and Development'.

The four-day conference will feature 94 working papers involving 22 invited foreign and 42 local speakers.

Among the countries participating in the conference are Australia, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Korea, Libya, Malaysia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United States of America and Vietnam.

Vice Governor of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on working visit to Brunei

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 26 - The Vice Governor of the People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, His Excellency Chen Wu is in Brunei Darussalam for a three-day working visit.

One of His Excellency itineraries was a visit to Kampung Batong Paddy Field. The visit to paddy field aimed to observe the progression of the Research and Development Cooperative Project between Yulin City, People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China with the Agriculture and Agrifood Department of Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources of Brunei Darussalam.

Currently, several expertises and staff from China particularly from Yulin City are doing research at the

Kampung Batong Paddy Field until mid-October in the bid to identify suitable and quality paddy to be planted in this country.

Prior to that, His Excellency and entourage had enjoyed a cruise along Brunei River and visited the Kampong Ayer Cultural and Tourism Gallery.

His Excellency also made a courtesy visit to Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya at the Rizqun International Hotel in Gadong.

Among the matters discussed during the visit were the ways to strengthen cooperation in agriculture, tourism and trade.

His Excellency was also granted an audience by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office.



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

His Excellency Chen Wu and entourage during a cruise along Brunei River.

SIPA logo introduced

RIMBA, May 27 – The Agriculture and Agrifood Incentives Scheme (SIPA) logo has been launched with the objective to speed up process of technology transfer towards enhancing productivity and output of agricultural products besides providing input and basic facility towards supporting competitive agricultural products and reduce cost of production.

The logo was launched by Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya at Dewan Simpung, Horticulture Business Centre in Rimba.

All products under the scheme will be labeled with SIPA logo as an accreditation of the product's quality; and the logo will also become a symbol and identity that states the quality and safety of the food.

Towards sophisticated, excellence in communications



PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTMAN

Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar delivers his speech at the World

JERUDONG, May 26 – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through the Ministry of Communication will continue to support the development of Info-Communication Technology (ICT) industry.

The Minister of Communication, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar stated the matter at World Telecommunication and Information Society Day - WTISD.

The minister said that it is the ministry's vision to move towards a sophisticated society and excellence in communications.

The minister also stated that the Ministry of Communication is actively looking for possibilities and potentials for 'Fibre to the Home - FTTH' which enable houses nation wide to be equipped with higher broadband through optic fibre line.

The event took place at The Empire Hotel & Country Club with the theme 'Better City, Better Life with ICTs'.

e-Das launched

BERAKAS, May 10 – The Department of Town and Country Planning has launched the e-Development Application Status System (e-Das) where it allows applicants especially 'Qualified Persons' such as architects, engineers and landowners to check the status of their applications online.

The system was launched by the Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdullah.

More information on the system can be obtained via the department's website at www.tcp.gov.bn.

Brunei to host VTET International Conference

GADONG, May 19 - The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation Regional Centre for Vocational and Technical Education and Training (SEAMEO VOCTECH) with cooperation from the Ministry of Education will be organising an International Conference on Vocational Technical Education (VTET) Research and Networking from June 23 to 24.

The conference brings the theme 'Exploring Best VTET Policies and Practices through Research and Networking Initiatives'.

Twenty-two researchers representing 11 SEAMEO member countries under the Southeast Asian Vocational Education Research Network (SEAVERN) will be invited to present their research findings from the 2nd and 3rd cycles of SEAVERN projects in parallel sessions. The organiser is calling for paper presenters for parallel sessions to provide opportunities for researchers, lecturers and policymakers to share their findings, best practices and policies relevant to vocational and technical education. Poster sessions, exhibits and opportunities for informal networking will also be organised.

Be prepared to change mindset

TUNGKU, May 20 – Senior government officers, in the bid to modernise this country's civil service are urged to be prepared to change their mindset and practice openness towards the rapid development of info-communications technologies.

The Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Seri Paduka Eusof Agaki stated the matter at the closing ceremony for the 4th Executive Development Programme for senior government officers held at the Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

He also expressed his hope that e-Government would become as a factor to be 'Way Forward' so that the service provided to the public would be easily implemented, customer focus, cost-effective and overall, different and better from before.

At the ceremony, 27 senior officers from government ministries and agencies received their certificate after attending the two-month programme.

5th International Halal Product Expo in June

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 24 – The Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) will be organising the 5th International Halal Product Expo (IHPE) from June 3 to 6 at the International Convention Centre.

Apart from IHPE, an International Halal Market Conference also will be held from June 5 to 6.

The 5th IHPE will be open to the public starting 10.00am until 9.00pm.

Among the countries participating in the expo are Australia, Dubai, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, People's Republic of China, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Yemen, and local entrepreneurs.

MIPR receives delegation from chambers of commerce

JALAN MENTERI BESAR, May 25 – The Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) received a courtesy visit from Malaysia-France Chambers of Commerce Industry

(MFCCI) and European Union-Malaysia Chambers of Commerce Industry (EUMCCI).

The delegation was led by the President of MFCCI, Peer De Jong where they were received by the Acting Permanent Secretary of MIPR, Dayang Hajah Hasnah binti Ibrahim.

The delegation received a briefing on the ministry, Brunei Halal Brand, aquaculture industry, tourism activities and investment incentives in Brunei Darussalam.

Seminar on law and media related issues

JERUDONG, May 25 – A seminar on 'The Media and the Law: Exploring the Freedom and Limits of Expression' was organised where it among others highlighted issues concerning the media especially on new media.

Participating in the seminar was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Muta-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiyah.

The seminar was divided into three sessions namely; Regulators and Service Providers: their role in monitoring the new media; The impact of the new media on society and their role: the media's perspective; and The Government and the Media: the ways forward to building an affective working relationship. This seminar also saw participations from both local and foreign speakers.

The seminar which was organised by the Brunei Darussalam's Attorney General's Chambers (AGC) was attended by participants from AGCs' offices from Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Singapore; and representatives from various ministries, departments and relevant agencies in the country.

The seminar took place at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

Brunei Darussalam welcomes Queen Baton Relay 2010

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 25 – The Queen Baton Relay 2010 will soon be in Bandar Seri Begawan where Brunei Darussalam is one of the 70 countries for the baton to pass through.

According to the official website of the Queen's Baton Relay 2010 Delhi, the relay commenced from Buckingham Palace, London, on October 29, 2009. The baton will then travel through all other 70 Commonwealth nations – a historic journey that will cover a distance of more than 170,000 kilometres in 240 days. On its 100 day national tour, the baton will visit the capital of each of India's 28 states and seven union territories, plus many other cities along the way, covering more than 20,000 kilometres. By the end of its journey, the baton will have traversed over 190,000 kilometres in 340 days, making the Queen's Baton Relay 2010 Delhi one of the longest relays in the history of the Commonwealth Games.

In conjunction with this relay, an exhibition on the relay will be held from June 9 to 10. On June 8, the Queen's Baton will be arriving from Singapore, the 64th destination.

The relay will end at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium at the Opening Ceremony of the XIX Commonwealth Games 2010 Delhi on October 3, 2010.

Siemens introduces 'Green Technology' to local traders

JERUDONG, May 27 – The introduction of 'Green Technologies' by Siemens to local businesses in Brunei Darussalam is part of its commitment to reduce carbon footprint emissions in the ASEAN region.

This was stated by the Acting Chairman of Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB), Dato Paduka Timothy Ong at an event Customer Gathering for Siemens Brunei held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

The meeting gathered more than 100 customers, government officials, entrepreneurs and businessmen that focused on formation of bilateral communication between Siemens and interested parties.

There are five galleries contain background information of Kampong Ayer from historical origins until its present day. There is also a distinctive observation tower that will offer visitors a bird's eye view of water village and its surroundings.

PHOTO: MAHMUD IBRAHIM



The Kampong Ayer Cultural and Tourism Gallery (KACTG) was officially opened by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office on August 19, 2009.

