



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam newsletter

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PHOTO: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with other heads of delegations attending the 3rd Bali Democracy Forum.

3rd Bali Democracy Forum HM: Peace and stability come from people themselves

BALI, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, December 9 – Peace and stability are a cherished value in Brunei Darussalam which is promoted through small, carefully planned steps. The successes are judged through two ways. Firstly, on the way it added to its people's capacity to achieve what they want to do with their lives; and secondly, how

it helped them to take responsibility for their personal decisions and choices. The matters were said by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the 3rd Bali Democracy Forum held at Westin Resort Nusa Dua.

"We see this as the way for each family and each community to respect each other and to respect people from other countries. In other words, for us, the forum's theme this year suggests that lasting peace and stability have to come from the people themselves. And this is the

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BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 18 - New cooperation has been achieved in the field of information and broadcasting between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia. The cooperation was reached at the 3rd (JTCIM) Joint Technical Committee In Information Meeting between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia in the field of information.

The new cooperation in information among others include a potential joint-publications of two 'coffee table' books on oil and gas industry and flora and fauna in Borneo by Information Department of Brunei Darussalam and BERNAMA, the news agency of Malaysia.

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Brunei – Malaysia: New cooperation in information and broadcasting

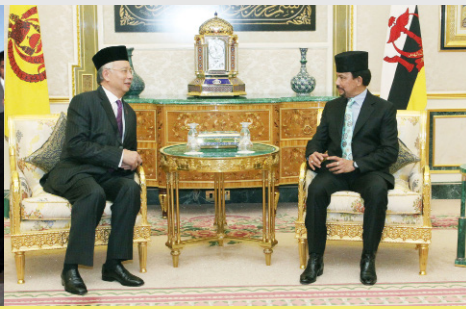


PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

The 3rd JTCIM witness new cooperation in the field of information and broadcasting



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Bilateral relation is among the matters discussed during the meeting between His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Prime Minister of Malaysia.



PHOTOS: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

Luncheon hosted by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to commemorate Prime Minister of Malaysia's work visit to Brunei Darussalam.

Brunei - Malaysia : Reaffirmed commitment elevate existing bilateral relation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 13 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Right Honourable Dato Laila Utama Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak who was in Brunei Darussalam for a one-day working visit.

Both leaders held a four-eye meeting at Cheradi Ratna Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman and discussed on bilateral relation between the two nation-states. They recalled the outcome of the 14th Annual Leaders Consultation held in Putrajaya on September 21, 2010 and reviewed the progress of implementation of the Exchange of Letters.

The Joint Statement between the Leaders of Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia on December 13, 2010 in

Bandar Seri Begawan among others stated:

His Majesty and The Right Honourable reaffirmed commitment to elevate the existing bilateral relations to a new stage of enhanced partnership and expressed mutual desire for the continued and expeditious implementation of the elements agreed in the Exchange of Letters.

Both leaders recalled the signing of the Deed of Amendment of the Brunei Deep Water Block Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) between Brunei National Petroleum Company Sendirian Berhad (PetroleumBRUNEI) and its contractors for Block CA1 of the Commercial Agreement Area (CAA) on September 21, 2010 in Putrajaya; and noted that the contractors of the block had commenced their work.

On the occasion of the visit, the

leaders welcomed the signing of the Brunei Deepwater Block Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) for the Block CA2 of the Commercial Agreement Area (CAA) between PetroleumBRUNEI and its contractors at the Istana Nurul Iman on December 13, 2010.

Both leaders viewed the occasion as a significant milestone in enhancing cooperation between the petroleum authorities of the two countries in this area. They underscored the importance of the signing of the PSAs for Block CA1 and CA2 of the CCA in carrying out the commercial agreement aspect of the Exchange of Letters and expressed satisfaction with the progress made thus far.

Both leaders reiterated their views that there remains good potential for future cooperation in both countries, especially beyond Blocks CA1 and

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*** From page 3
(HM receives Malaysian PM)**

CA2, and in the Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak, as well as possible joint venture in a third country, in the exploration and exploitation of oil and gas, and the development of downstream activities.

Both leaders also urged the Joint Malaysia-Brunei Darussalam Land Boundary Technical Committee to finalise and conclude the Terms of Reference and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Joint

Demarcation Survey of the Land Boundary by the end of 2010 to enable joint demarcation and survey activities to commence by the first half of 2011.

Also noted is the progress in the discussion on the implementation of other elements of the Exchange of Letters, including unsuspendable maritime access.

Both leaders also looked forward for the development of strategic relationships between the two countries in all fields.

His Majesty also hosted a luncheon

to commemorate the Malaysian Prime Minister one-day working visit. The luncheon was held at the Baitur Rahmah in Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present at the luncheon were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

The signing of Brunei Deep Water Block Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) witnessed by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

Both Chief Executive Officers welcome the signing of Brunei Deep Water Block Production Sharing Agreement (PSA). Picture shows CEO of PetroleumBRUNEI (right) and CEO of Petronas (left) at the signing ceremony.

Brunei – Malaysia ink pact on PSA

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 13 – Brunei Darussalam through Brunei National Petroleum Company Sendirian Berhad (PetroleumBRUNEI) inked a pact with its contractors on the Brunei Deep Water Block Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) for Block Commercial Area 2 (CA2).

Witnessing the signing were His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Right Honourable Dato Laila Utama Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak.

Signing on behalf of PetroleumBRUNEI was its Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Awang Azren bin Taib while his counterpart was Yang Berbahagia Dato' Shamsul Azhar Abbas, CEO of Petronas who is also Chairman of Petronas Carigali.

The signing ceremony was held at Baitul Masyuarah, Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

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

- His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, The King of Kingdom of Thailand on the occasion of His Majesty's 83rd birthday anniversary on December 5.
- The Emperor of Japan, Emperor Akihito; and the Prime Minister of Japan, His Excellency Naoto Kan and the people of Japan in conjunction with the birthday anniversary of Emperor Akihito on December 23.
- His Excellency Thongsing Thammavong on his election as the Prime Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic on December 24.



Peace and stability are a cherished value in Brunei Darussalam, said His Majesty at the 3rd Bali Democracy Forum.

*** From frontpage (3rd Bali Democracy Forum)**

ideal we search for. Of course, it is still only an ideal, Co-Chairmen.

The world's political landscape is still darkened by the Twentieth Century legacies. Its natural landscape is damaged by pollution in all its forms. Its social landscape is threatened by elements that foster hatred among faiths, races and nations. All this creates a dark shadow over people's lives. But history teaches us that it will not be removed by anything governments seek to impose on their own. That

seems to be the prime lesson of the Twentieth Century.

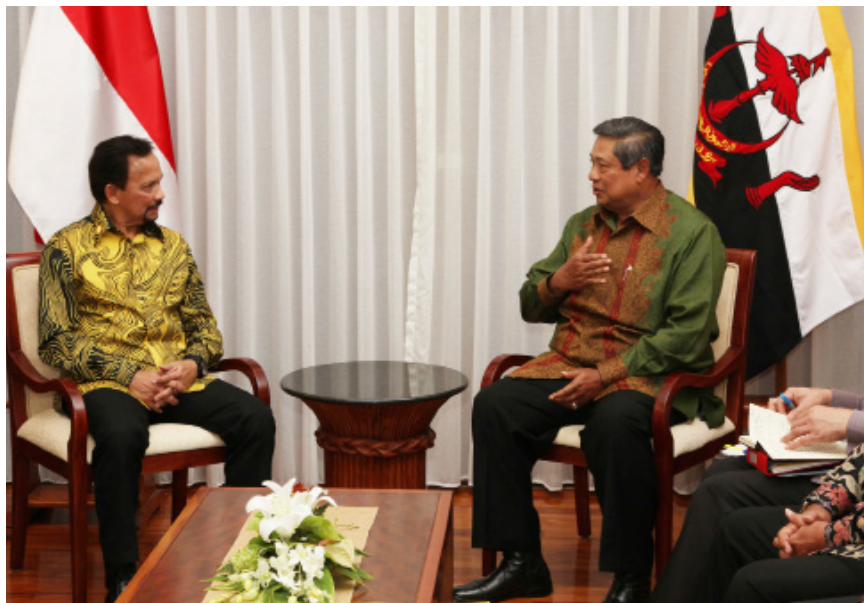
We believe it can only be dispelled by the people themselves. And, therefore, government's duty is to help each of them gain the capacity to do this," said His Majesty.

After the forum, His Majesty attended a luncheon hosted by the President of Indonesia, His Excellency Dr. Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

The forum was co-chaired by the President of Indonesia; and the President of the Republic of Korea, His Excellency Lee Myung-Bak. The forum was attended by 71 countries.



His Majesty at one of the sessions.



Both leaders expressed satisfaction on the good and close bilateral relation between both countries.

Brunei-Indonesia share good and close bilateral relation

BALI, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, December 10 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the President of Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Dr. Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono expressed their satisfaction on the good and close bilateral relation between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Indonesia.

Both leaders expressed their satisfaction at a bilateral meeting held at Laguna Luxury Collection, Resort and SPA Hotel on December 8.

Both leaders were in Bali to attend the 3rd Bali Democracy Forum held from December 9 to 10.



The President of Indonesia greets His Majesty upon arrival at Westin Resort Nusa Dua.

PHOTOS: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN



Islam encourages change for the better, stated in His Majesty's *titah* (royal speech) to mark the Islamic New Year Calendar 1432.

Move forward generate change

PHOTOS: MASRI OSMAN

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 6 – Islam encourages change. It does not want us to wait for change but instead, it encourages to work for change. Islam wants us to be at the front to generate change as stated in the Al-Quran.

The matters were said by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* (royal speech) to mark the Islamic New Year Calendar 1432.

His Majesty said this applies to other matters, especially in religious lives where we are obligated to make

changes for the better. In this case to increase good deeds, not reduce it.

Prior to the *titah*, His Majesty attended the mass *Maghrib* and *Isyak* prayers and the recital of new year's prayer to mark the Islamic New Year 1432. His Majesty also consented to award Hijrah Meritorious Awards namely *Anugerah Tokoh Ugama* and *Anugerah Bakti Hijrah*.

The recipient of *Anugerah Tokoh Ugama for Hijrah 1432* was Yang Dimulikan Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerna Raja Dato Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd. Zain. The recipient

received \$20,000 cash prize, a certificate of acknowledgement and trophy, along with first class medical treatment in any government hospitals throughout the nation.

While the recipients of the *Anugerah Bakti Hijrah for Hijrah 1432* were Awang Haji Abdullah bin Lakim and Awang Haji Anuar bin Mohd Yusof. Each recipient received \$10,000, a certificate of acknowledgement and trophy, along with first class medical treatment in any government hospitals throughout the nation.



His Majesty, His Royal Highness The Crown Prince and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik with the recipients of Hijrah Meritorious Awards.

Deputy Sultan visits areas affected due to strong wind

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 22 – His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Deputy Sultan visited the Incident Command Post (ICP) based at Balai Bomba Laut Sungai Lampai and areas affected due to strong wind.

Soon after arrival at ICP, His Royal Highness received a welcoming note by the Acting Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Major General (Rtd) Dato Haji Awang Halbi; followed by a briefing from the Director of National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC), Awang Yahya bin Haji Abdul Rahman.

His Royal Highness then proceeded to visit the areas affected where the major areas affected were at Kampung Ayer. His Royal Highness visited the affected homes based at Mukim Tamoi, Mukim Burong Pingai, Mukim Saba and a school – Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Religious School based in Kampung Saba Darat 'B'.

Strong wind occurred on December 18 which resulted damages to 67 houses involving 10 mukim and 22 villages in the Brunei-Muara District.



His Royal Highness is briefed on surveillance tasks carried out at the Incident Command Post (ICP).

PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH



PHOTO: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN

a, b, c - His Royal Highness visits areas affected due to strong wind based at Kampung Ayer.



His Royal Highness in a group photo with heads of delegations attending AMED III during the official opening ceremony.

AMED III
Asia-Middle East Dialogue Thailand 2010

HRH delivers statement at 3rd AMED Ministerial Meeting

BANGKOK, THAILAND, December 15 – Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah attended the opening of the 3rd Asia-Middle East Dialogue (AMED III) Ministerial Meeting at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre in Bangkok.

The ceremony was opened by the Prime Minister of Thailand, His Excellency Abhisit Vejjajiva.

His Royal Highness, in his statement, highlighted the relevance of AMED as a dialogue that plays an important role in helping all members to understand better each other's ways of dealing with current challenges.



His Royal Highness highlights the importance of AMED in his speech.

His Royal Highness also signed a well-wishing book on the occasion of the 83rd birthday anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on December 5, 2010. The signing was held at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre.



On arrival at the opening ceremony of AMED III, His Royal Highness is welcomed by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, His Excellency Kasit Piromya.

HRH attends AMED III Official Dinner

BANGKOK, THAILAND, December 16 – Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah attended an official dinner hosted by Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Thailand, His Excellency Kasit Piromya, on the occasion of the 3rd Asia-Middle East Dialogue (AMED III) Ministerial Meeting. The dinner was held at the Royal Thai Navy Convention Hall in Bangkok.



Heads of delegations to AMED III including His Royal Highness attending an official dinner hosted by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand.

HRH receives High Commissioner of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 29 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade received in audience the out-going High Commissioner of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Peter Jonathan Enthansor Anegbah.

The ceremony took place at Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan.



PHOTO: HAJI MASVALEH HAJI MOHD ALI



PHOTO: SAHRIZAL HAJI MOHD SAID

HRH receives audience from Ukraine Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 2 – Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade received in audience the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, His Excellency Dato Paduka Oleksandr Horin.

At the audience, Her Royal Highness and His Excellency discussed bilateral relations and current cooperation.

The audience was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

HRH launches Blackberry Solution

JERUDONG, December 3 – Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah launched Blackberry Solution at Indera Kayangan Ballroom, The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

At the ceremony, Her Royal Highness was presented with a slide presentation on Blackberry Solution and also visited an exhibition of the product.

According to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Data Stream Technology Sendirian Berhad, Awang Idris, Blackberry Solution mobile phone fulfill the connectivity needs of consumers in accessing email and other applications easily.



Her Royal Highness officiates Blackberry Solution.

PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

* From Front page (Brunei – Malaysia: New cooperation in information and broadcasting)

Also agreed was placement and training programmes in areas of public relations (PR) consisting of exchange of public relations officers between both countries and training at the media centre for international events.

Meanwhile for broadcasting, Radio Televisyen Brunei (RTB) and Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM) will enhance cooperation in exchange of news by introducing special segment called 'Jendela' where Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia will feature news with human interest and values.

RTB also agreed to cooperate

with Film Negara Malaysia (FNM) to produce documentary focusing on current issues, arts, culture and heritage.

While in capacity building cooperation, RTB and RTM will form capacity building in High Definition publishing and digitalisation with cooperation from Asia-Pacific Institute of Broadcasting and Development (AIBD) and Asian Broadcasting Union (ABU).

The JTCIM ended with the signing of Minute of Agreement. The ceremony was held at the Rizqun International Hotel in Gadong.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The

Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Omar meanwhile representing the Government of Malaysia was Chief Secretary at the Ministry of Information, Communications and Culture, Yang Berbahagia Dato' Sri Kamaruddin Sjaraf.

The signing were witnessed by Deputy Minister at Brunei Darussalam's Prime Minister's Office, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Wahab and Malaysia's Deputy Minister at Ministry of Information, Communications and Culture, The Honourable Datuk Joseph Salang.

Ministers attend receptions

On behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Finance II, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdul Rahman and wife, attended a reception to commemorate the 35th anniversary of Lao PDR's National Day and 450 years of the anniversary of its capital, Vientiane. Also present was the Ambassador of Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Souvanna Phouyavong and wife.

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



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALAH HAJI MOHD ALI

Present on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdullah and wife, attended a reception to commemorate the 83rd birthday anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, The King of the Kingdom of Thailand. Also present was Charge d'Affaires of Thailand Embassy to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Thawat Sumitmor.

The ceremony was held on December 4 at The Empire Hotel & Country Club in Jerudong.

On behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya and wife attended a reception to commemorate the 77th birthday of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Japan.

Also present was the Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Norihiki Hirose and wife.

The reception was held on December 9 at International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas.



PHOTO: HERNIE SULJANA HAJI OTHMAN



PHOTO: SAHRIZAL HAJI MOHD SAID

Present on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan and wife attended a reception to celebrate the National Day of Qatar.

Also present was the Ambassador of Qatar to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Abdulla.

The reception was held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club on December 18.

World AIDS Day observed

BERAKAS, December 5 – In its effort to prevent HIV/AIDS, Brunei Darussalam takes serious attention on providing healthcare and treatment services for those infected with HIV.

As of October 31, 2010, Brunei Darussalam recorded 59 HIV cases comprising of 44 male and 15 female. The largest aged group are those between 20 to 29 years old – 20 people; followed by 13 people respectively in age group 30-39 and 40 – 49 years old.

The matters were said by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan at a walkathon to mark World AIDS Day.

The minister said that although HIV/AIDS cases in Brunei Darussalam is considered low, efforts towards preventing and controlling this disease are actively carried out.

World AIDS Day is commemorated every December 1 where this year carries the theme 'Universal Access and Human Rights'.



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

Minister of Health presents plaque and certificate of appreciation to the President of Brunei Darussalam AIDS Council, Datin Hajjah Edah.

\$3.89 million for dialysis centre



PHOTO: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN

Illustration of the upcoming Tutong's Dialysis Centre.

TUTONG, December 6 – In its continuous effort to provide better healthcare services to the community, the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has allocated \$3.89 million to set up another dialysis centre based in Tutong District.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held at the new site. In attendance was the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan.

This new centre is one of the projects under the National Development Plan 2007 – 2012 where construction works is expected to be completed by July 2011. The centre is built on a 1.221 acres of land at Jalan Sungai Basong.

Some of the facilities to be provided at this centre will be haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis.

Amongst the objectives of establishing this centre is to provide dialysis treatments much nearer to patients residing in Tutong District. It will also enhance the quality of health care by providing a much comprehensive services for the local residents.

2nd Brunei Darussalam – Singapore Adventure Camp



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

Awang Haji Suhaila launching the Brunei Darussalam-Singapore Adventure Camp.

LAMBAK KANAN, December 2 – Forty Year 9 students comprising of 20 students from Brunei Darussalam and 20 from Singapore are taking part in the 2nd Brunei Darussalam – Singapore Adventure Camp (BSAC).

The programme includes a camping programme held at the Sports Village, Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex, Labi Longhouse including camping site at Brunei-Muara District and Belait District. The activities also include visits to historical places in Brunei Darussalam, planting paddy at Kampung Rampayoh, overnight at Mendaram Besar Longhouse and many more.

BSAC among others aims to promote understanding, cooperation and relationship between the students; to educate on the importance of conserving environment and biodiversity besides preserving cultural heritage and developed the students' leadership ability.

Brunei Darussalam is hosting the 2nd BSAC from December 1 to 6.

The camp was launched by Acting Permanent Secretary (Core Education) at Ministry of Education, Awang Haji Suhaila at Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajah Masna Secondary School.

Did you know that...

- His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah was born on February 17, 1974.
- The Brunei Darussalam State Flag in its present form, except for the crest, has been used since 1906 when Brunei became a protected state. The crest was superimposed in 1959 after promulgation of the constitution on September 29, 1959.
- Bubungan Dua Belas or House of Twelve Roofs was the official residence of the British Resident built in 1906.
- Radio Televisyen Brunei (RTB) is the state broadcaster where Radio Brunei made its first broadcast on May 2, 1957 while its television service commenced in 1975.

>> 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.

Brunei to have 1st *halal* pharmaceutical plant

KG. SALAMBIGAR, December 6 – Brunei Darussalam will soon have its first certified *halal* pharmaceutical plant – a collaboration between Viva Pharmaceutical Inc. of Canada, Aureos Brunei Capital Fund and a group of local investors, Kukoh Bersama Berhad.

Thus a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the construction of plant for Vivapharm (Brunei) Sdn. Bhd. and

GMP-certified (Good Manufacturing Practice) manufacturer of pharmaceutical and nutraceutical products in Lambak Kanan (East) Industrial Estate.

Present at the ceremony was the Second Finance Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Dato Awang Abdul Rahman.

Viva Pharmaceutical Inc. of Canada, Aureos Brunei Capital

Fund and Kukoh Bersama Berhad are committed in investing on the nation's first *halal* pharmaceutical and nutraceutical products focusing on markets in the Asia Pacific, Middle East, Northern Europe and the United States.

Vivapharm (Brunei) will be operating on a 100,000 sq. metres plant based on a 7.5 hectares piece of land. Vivapharm (Brunei) will also be investing on research and development in producing new medicines and latest technologies based on local flora and fauna.

Prior to that, a Leasing Agreement Signing Ceremony is also held between Vivapharm (Brunei) with Brunei Industrial Development Authority (BINA), an agency under the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR).

Signing on behalf of BINA was its Assistant Director, Pengiran Haji Tajuddin bin Pengiran Haji Salleh, while Vivapharm (Brunei) Sdn. Bhd. was represented by Pengiran Adanan bin Pengiran Seri Indera Pengiran Haji Ismail.



PHOTO: AMPILIAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPILIAN HAJI TENGAH

A Leasing Agreement Signing Ceremony held between Vivapharm (Brunei) with Brunei Industrial Development Authority (BINA).

Positive indicators for fisheries sector

MUARA, December 9 – Brunei Darussalam's fisheries sector has shown positive indicators particularly in its fresh fish supply. According to Fisheries Department, the percentage for fresh fish supply has increased from 71 per cent in 2000 to 92 per cent in 2009.

Whilst in 2009, the local demand for fish is 14,470 metric tonnes and imported fish were 1,415 metric tonnes. This indicated that the nation is able to achieve 92 per cent in self-sufficiency for supply of fresh fish.

The matters were said by Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya, the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources at the launching of Fish Carnival 2010 held at the Muara Fishing Landing Complex.

Speaking on aquaculture, the minister said that this sector is expected to grow rapidly and will be able to fulfill demands in meeting lack of production from the capturing sector. Thus he called for this country's aquaculture to further develop so that it could contribute towards food security.

However the minister reminded that we should also abide to Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries recommended by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) where it emphasises for the relevant parties involved in fish capturing and aquaculture to work together in protecting and managing fisheries' resources and sea life.

About 68 entrepreneurs involved in the fisheries industry took part in the carnival. It is one of the activities organised by the Fisheries Department where one of its objectives was to promote the fisheries industry as a potential industry towards contributing to the nation's economy.

PHOTOS: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD.ALI



Minister of Industry and Primary Resources launches Fish Carnival 2010.



The minister visiting the participating stalls.



Acting Minister of Education witnessing the Signing of MoU between UBD-University of Harvard.

UBD – University of Harvard: MoU for Kuala Belalong project

TUNGKU, December 9 – Closer ties have been fostered between Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and University of Harvard especially in areas of research on Kuala Belalong.

This was made feasible with the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between both universities. Present as signatories to the MoU was the Acting Vice-Chancellor of UBD, Associate Professor Dr. Zohrah binti Haji Sulaiman; and her counterpart on behalf of University of Harvard and Smithsonian Institution, Dr. Stuart Davies, the Director of Centre for Tropical Forest Science (CTFS).

The result from this research would provide a long-term scientific data on climate changes in producing models that could forecast; and policy decisions that would guide and guarantee an improvement in the ecosystem and climate.

No discrimination for facilities and services provided

JALAN KEBANGSAAN LAMA, December 10 – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam continues to provide facilities and basic services such as health, education, housing to all citizens and residents without gender discrimination.

Brunei Darussalam has also become a member of the 'UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women' (CEDAW) since 2006. It indicates a positive government policy on women's involvement in developing the country.

The matters were highlighted by the Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Datin Hajah Adina at a ceremony to mark the new Islamic year 1432 and to celebrate those who had recently performed the *haj*

Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports (right) receives the donation for the Mentawai and Merapi Disaster Humanitarian Fund from President of Peritiwi, Datin Paduka Hajah Jusnani.



pilgrim.

Gender indicators in Brunei Darussalam have shown that women's status in this country is high such as entrance for primary school are more than 99 per cent, and more than 70 per cent of Universiti Brunei Darussalam's graduates are women.

Despite these positive progresses,

the deputy minister also said that there are still issues that still need analysing such as protection, family, poverty, leadership, women in criminal activities and many more. Thus, the ministry with cooperation from the Women's Council are currently drafting 'Women Plan of Action' and 'Plan of Action Against Domestic Violence'.



Deputy Minister of Prime Minister's Office, Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Wahab (centre) launches 'The Report: Brunei Darussalam 2010'.

Detail report in 'The Report: Brunei Darussalam 2010'

JERUDONG, December 16 – Latest detail report on Brunei Darussalam's banking, capital markets, construction, economy, energy sector, industries, politics, telecommunications and information-technology, real estate and tourism sectors are now available through 'The Report: Brunei Darussalam 2010'.

This book published by United Kingdom's Oxford Business Group is a joint collaboration with the Prime Minister's Office.

A launching ceremony was held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club. Present as guest of honour was Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Wahab bin Juned, the Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

Food hygiene, safety through grading system

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 16 – To enhance and promote the importance of food hygiene and its safety, a grading system has been introduced to restaurants and food premises.

Restaurants and food premises will be given certificates after being inspected. The grades comprise of Grade A – 91 to 100 per cent; Grade B – 81 to 90 per cent; and Grade C – 71 to 80 per cent.

The matters were said by the Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Home Affairs, Dato Paduka Awang Sa Bali at a ceremony to present acknowledgement certificates for hygienic premises. The ceremony was held at Bandar Seri Begawan (BSB) Municipal Board.

Second evaluations on food premises within the vicinity of the BSB Municipal Board had been carried out from May 25 to June 8 this year. From these inspections, six premises have been given Grade A; 13 with Grade B; and 17 with Grade C.



PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

Representative from one of the premises receives accreditation certificate from Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Home Affairs.

Asian Para Games: National contingent achieves commendable performance

BERAKAS, December 20 – The national contingent for the Asian Para Games 2010 held in Guangzhou, China achieved two silver and two bronze medals. The medals were obtained through track and field events namely shot put and javelin throw – two silver

medals from Dayang An Nurhaiyyu binti Yusuf and Awang Shari bin Haji Jumaat.

While bronze medals were from Dayang Norhensan binti Haji Mataha for discus throw and Awang Hirdan bin Haji Kadir for javelin throw.

The contingent's arrival at the Brunei International Airport was welcomed by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Jemat bin Haji Ampal.

The national contingent for the Asian Para Games at the Brunei International Airport welcomed by Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.



PHOTO: SAHRIAL HAJI MOHD. SAID

33 tourist guides accredited

JALAN MENTERI BESAR, December 21 – The tourism sector received a boost with certification and accreditation of 33 tourist guides after completing an intensive two-week training programme.

The programme was facilitated by the Tourism Development Department with two trainees certified by the World Federation of Tourist Guide Associations (WFTGA).

Present to hand over the certificates and accreditations was Awang Mohd. Riza bin Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Yunos, the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources.

As the numbers of tourists to Brunei Darussalam have increased over the years, it is vital to enhance the techniques and skills of the tourist guides. To achieve this goal, the department since 2008 in its agreement with the Association of Travel Agents of Brunei has appointed WFTGA to assist in providing the relevant trainings for local tourist guides.



PHOTO: PG.HAJI BAHAR PG.HAJI OMAR

The Deputy Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources presents certificate of accreditation to one of the tourist guides.

Brunei one of best mapped countries

BERAKAS, December 21 – Brunei Darussalam is among the best mapped countries in the world with its success in aerial survey of the whole nation using the most accurate laser scanning technology known as Light Detection and Ranging (LiDaR).

This project is implemented by Survey Department, Ministry of Development where it is one of the projects under the National Development Plan 2007 – 2012.

This aerial laser survey has produced the most accurate 3D digital terrain model (DEM) of the country with numerous elevation data measured on the ground at every one metre distance apart (exceeding six billion measurements for the whole country) with 15 centimetre accuracy (horizontal and vertical) in open areas (in forested areas; tree heights can be estimated using the information of the top of the canopy and the ground elevation).

This project has also carried out aerial survey of highly precision digital colour aerial photos depicting numerous details from the forested and urban area with trees and trails



Minister of Development (4th from right) receives a briefing on LiDaR.

(in open areas) can now be identified on these most recent images as well as rural and urban details such as drainage and transportation networks and buildings. A by-product overlaying the photos with the boundaries of private lots and gazette lands would be the standard output. Other by-products can be developed with the

information produced from the LiDaR campaign.

It provides highly valuable positive impacts on Brunei Darussalam's natural resource management, flood mitigation, climate change forest conservation programme, and improved urban and rural development.

Better road infrastructure



The signing ceremony witnessed by Minister of Development (centre).

BERAKAS, December 22 – Better road infrastructures are in the pipeline with the commissioning of the Seria Bypass Second Lane that will connect all three districts – Brunei-Muara, Tutong and Belait Districts.

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has allocated an estimated \$43 million to construct this 18.2-kilometre lane. It is projected to be completed by mid 2013.

Thus a signing ceremony was held between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Surati Construction Sdn. Bhd. for the construction of the Seria Bypass. Present to witness the signing ceremony was the Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi.

The ceremony also saw the handing-over of contracts to 12 other companies for a number of projects under the Public Works Department.

Brunei women given equal opportunities

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 23 – Women in Brunei Darussalam are given equal opportunities such as in the fields of education, training, health care, career and many more. This is in line with the nation's National Vision 2035 where it places great emphasis for women to be given opportunities in working fields and developing the nation.

These matters were stated by the Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Datin Hajah Adina at the 3rd Organisation of Islamic Conference Ministerial Meeting On Women's Affairs held in Tehran, Iran.

According to the deputy minister, women's involvement in the working field has increased from 20 per cent in 1971 to 58 per cent in 2010; whilst 49

per cent of the workforce in the public sector is women.

She further said that Brunei Darussalam is currently strengthening its efforts on 'Work-life Harmony', a program to ensure that family institutions are not affected with the rise of women's involvement in working fields.

BLS save cost, increase productivity and efficiency

JERUDONG, December 28 – In January 2010, the e-Government Leadership Forum through the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) had consented for the Business Licensing System (BLS) to be implemented and emphasised that BLS does not only provide services to facilitate the licensing of the business via the Business Facilitation Centre (BFC) at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR), but more importantly BLS project shall produce new processes agreed upon by all stakeholders.

BLS is conceptualised as a seamless online application system for businessmen who wish to register their businesses and to apply for the required registrations, licenses and permits. It will also enable businessmen to apply for a suite of license in a single, integrated form-filling process

without the need to visit the respective agencies.

It can assist businesses in reducing the overall time taken to complete business licensing application; to provide a single-window that serves as a single point of access by the members of public for business licensing-related transactions; to eliminate redundant and inefficient internal processes; and in turn improve the nation's world ranking in terms of Ease of Doing Business.

Thus a project contract signing ceremony for the Design, Supply, Delivery, Development, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Maintenance of BLS for the Government of Brunei Darussalam was held between the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) and

the appointed company.

The signing of BLS contract was held through joint collaboration between MIPR and MOHA as the representatives of the Government and Folec Communication (B) Sendirian Berhad (Folec).

Signing on behalf of the Government were Permanent Secretary of MIPR, Dato Paduka Dr. Awang Haji Mohd Amin Liew bin Abdullah and Permanent Secretary of MOHA, Dato Paduka Awang Sa Bali bin Abas while their counterpart was Awang Haji Masrah bin Haji Mansor, Chairman of Folec.

The signing were witnessed by Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary/CIO of MIPR, Pengiran Harun bin Pengiran Haji Aliuddin, Senior Special Duties Officer/CIO of MOHA and Awang Reza Faizal bin Haji Mohd. Nor, Sales Director of Folec.

Present as guest of honour at the ceremony was Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya. Also present was Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Paduka Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin.

BLS is a national level project and the project has been identified as one of the e-Government Flagships projects whereby it involves several agencies, provide high impact to the citizen, save cost and increase productivity and efficiency.

MIPR and MOHA are mandated to implement this project and BLS is co-chaired by the Permanent Secretaries of both ministries.

The process of implementing BLS will involve at least thirteen government agencies that grant business licenses and/or permits.



The signing of BLS is hoped to assist in saving cost and increase productivity and efficiency.

PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZI HAJI DURAMAN

Agreement on research and education on Islamic branding pact

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 29 – Department of Agriculture and Agrifood (DAA), Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) and Oxford Said Business School Limited, Oxford University signed a Collaboration Agreement for Project on Research and Education on Islamic Branding and Marketing for Brunei Darussalam – Phase 1.

The signing ceremony was held at Radisson Hotel in the capital and witnessed by Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Acting Director of DAA, Dayang Hajah Aidah; while her counterpart was Dr. Paul Temporal, Project Director of Oxford Said Business School Limited.

Among the projects will be implemented are training programmes in branding and marketing techniques as well as carrying out study that will specify the needs for Brunei.

The main focus on *halal* products and services branding and marketing is appropriate for the future of Brunei's *Halal* Industry such as food, agriculture, pharmaceutical and others.

It will also include research on Islam majority and minority market, opportunities and challenges, branding of food and also global market and the impact of different cultures in relations to *halal* market.



Minister of Industry and Primary Resources witnesses the signing of collaboration agreement.

The project which is expected to be completed in 12 months will enable Brunei companies and small-and-medium enterprises (SMEs) to develop Brunei's potential in *halal* sector and assist in diversifying economy through research.

PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZI HAJI DURAMAN

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX JULY 2010

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 1 - The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in July 2010 increased marginally over June 2010. Compared with July 2009, the CPI increased by 0.5 per cent.

Meanwhile, the CPI for January to July 2010 rose by 0.3 per cent compared with the same period last year.

The Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages Index increased by 0.5 per cent over June 2010. On a year-on-year basis, the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Index was 0.8 per cent higher.

On the other hand, the Non-Food Index fell 0.1 over June 2010. Compared with the same month last year, the Non-Food Index was 0.4 per cent higher.

On a period-on-period basis, the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Index increased by 0.6 per cent. The Non-Food Index for January to July 2010 went up by 0.3 per cent compared with the same period last year.

The CPI in July 2010 increased marginally over June 2010.

The Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Index increased 0.5 per cent over June 2010. Increases were recorded in rice and cereals (0.4 per cent); fish and frozen seafood (1.5

per cent); milk, dairy products and eggs (1.1 per cent); fruit (0.7 per cent); vegetables (1.1 per cent); other food products (1.1 per cent); coffee, tea and cocoa (1.6 per cent); mineral water, soft drinks, fruit and vegetable juices, syrups and concentrates (0.1 per cent).

However, the Non-Food Index decreased by 0.1 per cent over June 2010. Decreases were recorded in health (less than 0.05 per cent); transport (0.5 per cent); recreation and culture (0.2 per cent).

Based on the contribution to change, Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages (270.9 per cent) and Miscellaneous Goods and Services (96.0 per cent) were the main contributors to the increase in the overall index.

Meanwhile, the CPI in July 2010 was 0.5 per cent higher than the same in month 2009.

The Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages Index rose by 0.5 per cent compared to the same month last year.

Increases were recorded in rice and cereals (0.7 per cent); milk, dairy products and eggs (2.3 per cent); fruits (6.6 per cent); vegetables (7.0 per cent); sugar, jam honey, chocolate

and confectionery (0.2 per cent); other food products 2.0 per cent); and coffee, tea and cocoa (3.4 per cent).

The Non-Food Index also rose that is by 0.4 per cent compared to the same month last year.

Increases were recorded in housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (less than 0.05 per cent); health (1.6 per cent); transport (1.0 per cent); education (0.1 per cent); and restaurants and hotels (0.7 per cent); miscellaneous goods and services (0.6 per cent).

Based on the contribution to change, transport (48.7 per cent) and Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages (32.8 per cent) were the main contributors to the overall increase.

The average CPI for the first six months (January to July) in 2010 was 0.3 per cent higher than the same period in 2009.

Increases were recorded in Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages (0.6 per cent); tobacco (0.1 per cent); housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (0.1 per cent); health (1.6 per cent); transport (1.1 per cent); education (0.1 per cent); restaurants and hotels (0.9 hotels); and miscellaneous goods and services (0.1 per cent).

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX AUGUST 2010

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 1 - The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in August 2010 decreased by 0.1 over July 2010. Compared with August 2009, the CPI increased marginally.

Meanwhile, the CPI for January to August 2010 rose by 0.3 per cent compared with the same period last year.

The Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages Index increased by 0.4 per cent over July 2010. On a year-on-year basis, the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Index was 1.2 per cent higher.

On the other hand, the Non-Food Index fell 0.3 over July 2010. Compared with the same month last year, the Non-Food Index was 0.3 per cent lower.

On a period-on-period basis, the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Index increased by 0.7 per cent. The Non-Food Index for January to August 2010 went up by 0.2 per cent compared with the same period last year.

The CPI in August 2010 decreased by 0.1 per cent over July 2010.

The Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Index increased 0.4 per cent over July 2010. Increases were recorded in meat (0.2 per cent), fish and seafood (1.1 per cent), milk, dairy products and eggs (0.2 per cent), fruit

(0.6 per cent); vegetables (1.6 per cent); sugar, jam, honey, chocolates and confectionery (0.9 per cent); other food products (less than 0.05 per cent); coffee, tea and cocoa (2.2 per cent); and mineral water, soft drinks, fruit and vegetables juices (0.1 per cent).

However, the Non-Food Index decreased by 0.3 per cent over July 2010. Decreases were recorded in clothing and footwear (2.6 per cent); transport (0.6 per cent); recreation and culture (0.1 per cent); and restaurants and hotels (less than 0.05 per cent).

Based on the contribution to change, Transport (111.7 per cent) and Clothing and Footwear (84.5 per cent), were the main contributors to the increase in the overall index.

Meanwhile, the CPI in August 2010 increased marginally compared to the same in month 2009.

The Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages Index rose by 1.2 per cent compared to the same month last year.

Increases were recorded in rice and cereals (0.6 per cent); milk, dairy products and eggs (2.1 per cent); fruits (8.1 per cent); vegetables (9.4 per cent); sugar, jam honey, chocolate and confectionery (1.3 per cent); other food products (1.9 per cent);

and coffee, tea and cocoa (5.6 per cent); and mineral waters, soft drinks, fruit and vegetables juices (0.2 per cent).

The Non-Food Index also fell by 0.3 per cent compared to the same month last year.

Decreases were recorded in clothing and footwear (2.1 per cent); furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance (0.3 per cent); transport (0.8 per cent); communication (0.5 per cent); and recreation and culture (0.6 per cent).

Based on the contribution to change, food and non-alcoholic beverages (1818.5 per cent) and Miscellaneous Goods and Services (427.6 per cent) were the main contributors to the overall increase.

The average CPI for the first eight months (January to August) in 2010 was 0.3 per cent higher than the same period in 2009.

Increases were recorded in Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages (0.7 per cent); tobacco (0.1 per cent); housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (0.1 per cent); health (1.8 per cent); transport (0.9 per cent); education (0.1 per cent); restaurants and hotels (0.8 hotels); and miscellaneous goods and services (0.3 per cent).

Brunei Book Festival 2011

BERAKAS, December 6 – The Language and Literature Bureau will be organising the Brunei Book Festival 2011 from February 26 to March 7, 2011. More than 21 domestic and foreign bookshops have registered for the book fair.

A number of activities have been arranged during the book fair such as the launching of new books published by the bureau, colouring competition, quiz, story-telling competition and many more.

One hundred and fifty booths have been allocated for those who wish to participate in the book fair.

The book fair will also coincide with the 18th Annual General Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Publishers Association (APPA) to be held from February 21 to 23, 2011 held at Rizqun International Hotel.

The book fair will take place at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.



Acting Director of Language and Literature Bureau gives a briefing on Brunei Book Festival 2011.

Tourism Village and Homestay to be launched

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 26 – More places of interests had been introduced in Brunei Darussalam to support domestic tourism known as 'Kenali Negara Kitani (KNK)'.

The latest places of interest will include Kampung Sungai Matan Consultative Council of Mukim Kota Batu where on January 1, 2011 the council will launch its tourism project known as 'Tourism Village and Matan Homestay'.

The tourism project aims to promote Kampung Sungai Matan as 'Ekopelancongan Kampung Nelayan (EKN)' where it will feature the village as a fishing village as part of the 'One Village One Product' Campaign.

It will also generate the economy and incomes of Kampung Sungai Matan's villagers through tourism packages offered. Among the packages are experiencing the typical Brunei lifestyle in a fishing village; Matan Homestay; and cruising along Brunei River.

Many activities will be organised in conjunction with the launching ceremony such as visiting and cruising the Kampung Ayer, fishing competition, exhibition and selling of food product by villagers.

Since 2006, Kampung Sungai Matan had held several tourism projects such as the annual Matan Carnival and Fishing Challenge.



Matan Homestay offers fishermen style village and great traditional delicacies.

Induction course to strengthen leadership

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 23 – Thirty-four *penghulu* (head of *mukim*) and head of villages attended an induction course organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Civil Service Institute (IPA) at the Dewan Penghayatan, IPA.

The induction course among others aimed to strengthen the quality of leadership particularly in handling problems and making *mukim* and village consultative councils to be more effective.

With such course, it is hoped that respective heads would be able to enhance the required skills and knowledge in carrying out their duties.

The course which was held from December 11 – 23 included various matters such as law and regulations and current issues.

'Bridging Brunei Darussalam to the World 2010' expedition concludes

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 30 – The 'Bridging Brunei Darussalam to the World 2010' expedition ended after 17 months of travelling over 84,232 kilometres.

The expedition saw Dayang Norhayati binti Abu Bakar and Awang Harun Kurt Eichbauer travelled to 30 countries across France, Spain, Morocco, North Africa, Cape Town in South Africa, Buenos Aires in Argentina, Ushuaia in Antarctica, North America and Alaska.

The expedition among others aimed to promote Brunei Halal Brand Logo, the Brunei Darussalam Halal Certification Logo and Brunei's tourism industry to foreign countries.



Permanent Secretary at MIPR receives national flag from Dayang Norhayati after the completion of 'Bridging Brunei Darussalam to the World 2010' expedition.

MIPR launched new website design

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 30 – Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) launched its newly-designed website and official Facebook.

The website and Facebook were officiated by Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya at the Dewan Setia Pahlawan in the ministry.

The minister in his speech emphasised on leveraging on the available existing information technology which had been heavily invested by the government.

He further added that this information technology is a means to facilitate the provision of services to the public as a whole and specifically the business community, in a faster, more friendly and effective manner that can assist the ministry to discharge its functions and roles more effectively.

The new website design was the first website for the ministry to be fully developed by its own personnel through its Information Management Unit.

The ministry began using website as an effective communication tool that provides accurate information to public since 2006.

The website can be browsed at www.bruneimipr.gov.bn. Whilst for Facebook, it can be found by typing Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources on Facebook's search engine.



PHOTO: AMPUN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUN HAJI TENGAH

Beautiful firework display during a national celebration in Brunei Darussalam.



PHOTO: RAMU TENGAH

Traditional dance showcasing the beauty and elegance of Bruneian culture.