



Royal Speech in conjunction with *Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1432 Hijrah*

**HM:
Fulfill
Syawal
with
virtue**

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 31 – After a month of fasting in the month of *Ramadan*, Muslims in Brunei Darussalam celebrated *Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1432 Hijrah* on August 31, 2011 corresponding to *Syawal 1*, 1432 of the Islamic calendar.

In conjunction with the celebration, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to deliver a *titah* (royal speech) on the eve of *Hari Raya Aidilfitri* on August 30, where His Majesty amongst others gave the emphasis on the importance of filling the month of



PHOTO: RAMLITENGGAH

His Majesty urges Muslims to continue to achieve victories, not only during Ramadan.

Syawal with virtue, similar to how we filled the month of *Ramadan* with religious activities.

His Majesty further said that the month of *Syawal* should be filled with *takbir* and *tahmid*, *Sunat Hari Raya* prayer, forgiveness, strengthening relations and most importantly, consistently performing obligatory acts to Allah.

Muslims in Brunei Darussalam marked the first of *Syawal* with the recital of *takbir* and *tahmid* on the eve of August 31 followed by mass *Sunat Hari Raya Aidilfitri* prayers throughout the nation on August 31.

The month of *Syawal* is celebrated nation-wide where it marked victory amongst Muslims after a month of fasting in the month of *Ramadan*.

Anti-Terrorism Order 2011

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 1 – The Attorney-General's Chambers announced that His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to the establishment of an order known as Anti-Terrorism Order (ATO) 2011 to take effect from July 18, 2011.

The ATO 2011 is the manifestation of Brunei Darussalam's strong commitment in combating terrorism locally and internationally. The order covers offences such as committing terrorist acts, being members of terrorist groups, financing of terrorism and support or assisting any terrorist groups or acts.



AUGUST 2011 - VOLUME 26 ISSUE 8

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

is published monthly by the Department of Information. It reports on government, social and business events in the country. All money values are expressed in Brunei dollars \$, unless otherwise stated. Any information in this newsletter may be reproduced; a clipping of the publication would be appreciated. For free subscription (excluding postage) please write to the Distribution Unit, Department of Information, Prime Minister's Office, Old Airport, Berakas BB 3510, Brunei Darussalam.

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Her Majesty receives audiences

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 25 – Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:

- ❶ Madame Zhang Junfeng, the spouse of the outgoing People's Republic of China Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Brunei Darussalam.
- ❷ Madame Cho Sung-hie, the spouse of the outgoing Republic of Korea Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam.



Congratulatory Messages

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

- Her Excellency Yingluck Shinawatra on her appointment as the new Prime Minister of Thailand on August 8.
- President of Singapore, His Excellency S. R. Nathan and Prime Minister, His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong in conjunction with the republic's 46th National Day on August 9.
- President of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Dr. Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in conjunction with the republic's 66th National Day on August 17.
- His Excellency Doctor Tony Tan on the occasion of His Excellency's victory in the recent Presidential Elections in the Republic of Singapore on August 28.
- His Majesty Al-Wathiqu Billah Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin, Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and The Right Honourable Dato Laila Utama Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib, the Prime Minister of Malaysia in conjunction with 54th anniversary of Malaysia's Independence Day on August 31.

Royal family receives greetings



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Majesty receives greetings from local dignitaries and senior government officials.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 31 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received *Hari Raya Aidilfitri* greetings from state dignitaries, senior government officials and foreign diplomats at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah and other members of the royal family.

Brunei Darussalam celebrated *Hari Raya Aidilfitri* on August 31, 2011 which corresponded to 1st *Syawal* 1432 of the Islamic calendar.

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Brunei-based foreign diplomats greeting His Majesty.

PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

PALACE NEWSROUND

Crown Prince receives audience

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 13 - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received in audience the outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Kim Dae-Sik.

The audience took place at Qashr Al-Meezaan.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID



Her Majesty mingles with the spouses of Brunei-based diplomats.

Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness receive greetings.



PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH



Male members of the royal family receive greetings from senior government officials.

His Majesty joins citizens perform *Sunat Aidilfitri* prayer



PHOTO: AK AMIRUNIZAM PG-HAJI MOHD ALI

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 31 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined the citizens in performing the *Sunat Aidilfitri* (*Eid Mubarak*) prayer at Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque in the capital.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and members of the royal family.

The *Sunat Aidilfitri* Prayer was held at main mosques, *surau* and *balai ibadat* throughout the nation.

His Majesty and male members of royal family performing the *Sunat Aidilfitri* (*Eid Mubarak*) prayer.

ASEAN DAY MESSAGE 2011 FROM HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN AND YANG DI-PERTUAN OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

ASEAN has always been a dynamic association. It has been driven by the will of its members to do more than merely respond to the world outside South East Asia. It wishes to be part of that world, to contribute to it and to help shape it so that its people can embrace it and face its challenges with confidence.

All the steps taken over the last few years to strengthen the association's structure through the ASEAN Charter have been an expression of that wish.

In recognition, our annual ASEAN Day has traditionally given us a moment to confirm it.

Increasingly, however, it is giving us a chance to do more than that. It is becoming a time to recognise how the wish taking on lasting substance.

Our Leaders' Summits are approving ambitious, far-reaching programmes of action. Every consultation, dialogue and forum emphasises implementation and completion.

The most dramatic example will take place later this year when ASEAN chairs the ground-breaking 6th East Asia Summit. We will meet all the great powers of Asia and its close neighbours as partners in the business of the modern world.

We will bring to our discussions the strength of a region with clear economic, social, cultural and political objectives.

We will be building on its past and living its future, diverse in experience and united in purpose.

**SULTAN HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH
OF BRUNEI**

His Majesty joins *Isyak* and *Tarawih* prayers

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 19 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined scores of Muslims performing the *Isyak* and *Tarawih* prayers at Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha Mosque in Kampung Perpindahan Rimba.

Nuzul Al-Quran National Level Celebration 1432H / 2011M

HM: Al-Quran as source of civilisation

BERAKAS, August 17 – Deviating from the teachings of the Al-Quran is the cause of destruction of the Islamic community. This was proved through history indicating how a Muslim *ummah* which had built its own civilisation and expanded its empire receiving admiration by adhering to Allah and the Al-Quran which unfortunately collapsed after facing a crisis, especially morale crisis among its Muslim community and deviated from the teachings of the Al-Quran.

Thus for the Muslim *ummah* to return back to its civilisation and sovereignty, the *ummah* must return back to the teachings of the Al-Quran. It should be studied, read and take the essence of its teachings and implement it.

The matters were highlighted by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Nuzul Al-Quran National Level Celebration 1432H/2011M held at the International Convention Centre. Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

Although the glory of the civilisation has diminished, said His Majesty, the

basic source of principle which are the *Al-Quran* and *As-Sunnah*, which we own should not also diminish as it would always be eternally genuine. If it is used, by Allah's will, it would be able to return back the glory.

Brunei Darussalam celebrated Nuzul Al-Quran which is a celebration to commemorate the first revelation of the Al-Quran which falls on the 17th of Ramadan.

The highlight of the celebration was the awarding of prizes to the winners of the National Al-Quran Memorisation Competition 1432H.

Category A for 10 years old and below was won by Awang Muhammad Hazim bin Haji Hazilan whom received \$1500; a trophy and a certificate. Whilst Category B for 15 years olds was won by Dayang Haziqah binti Haji Hazilan whom received \$2000; a trophy and a certificate. Category C which is an open category was won by Awang Mohammad Najib bin Haji Aliakbar whom received \$2800; a trophy and a certificate. While Category D was won by Awangku Khairul Ikhwan bin Pengiran Alit whom received \$4500; a trophy and a certificate.

This year's competition had a category for *Majlis Agama Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Singapura* (MABIMS) member countries which saw the participant from Indonesia,



PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZI HAJI DURAWAN

His Majesty's Nuzul Al-Quran *titah* among others touches on food sources and encouraged public to be more cautious and sensitive with the matters pertaining to food and drinks.

Dayang Lutfi Lutfiah to emerge as champion for the category which required to memorise 10 chapters of the Al-Quran and understanding of Chapter Five (for 20 years old and below), thus receiving \$4000; a trophy and a certificate. While the category which required to memorise the 30 chapters of the Al-Quran as well as understanding of Chapter 18 was won by the participant from Brunei, Awang Mohammad Fikri bin Haji Sharbini, receiving \$7000; a trophy and a certificate.



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

The champion for category 'A', Awang Muhammad Hazim received trophy from His Majesty.



His Majesty mingles with one of the contestants.

PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

Demonstrate first-rate leadership qualities

SUNGAI AKAR, August 19 – It is hoped that future generation of leaders produced by Staff College of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) will be able to demonstrate first-rate leadership qualities, with integrity, piety and courage.

This matter was brought forward by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office and General of the RBAF in his *sabda* (royal speech) at the Graduation Ceremony Command and Staff Course 01 2010/2011. The graduation took place at RBAF’s Staff College based at Sungai Akar.

Earlier in his *sabda*, His Royal Highness expressed his

confidence that the participants will be equipped with knowledge and higher skills required to further assume duties and greater responsibilities that are greater and more challenging in their military leadership through the knowledge gained within the last nine months.

“I have been made to understand that the Staff College Course participants have proven their potential to assume greater roles in their respective organisations. I believe the participants will be able to excel in their duties towards further enhancing the standards of services in defence and security institutions.

The forging of minds and experience amongst the local and foreign participants is a key feature of the course that is hoped will enrich and add value to the course content as a whole. This mutual interaction and exchange of ideas is a beneficial method for cultivating lifelong learning and contributing directly to the development of the latest and most relevant training programmes towards building knowledge capacity as well as higher skills for each of the defence and security agencies workforce.

This achievement is also step forward for the Ministry of Defence and the Royal Brunei Armed Forces especially in meeting the various local training requirements with the main focus upon developing more officers who are both professionals and highly skilled,” said His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness further said he believes that the strategic co-operative with the University of Massey of New Zealand as well as the presence of overseas staff course instructors, the quality and prestige of the courses offered by the Staff College are at par with other renowned institutions abroad.

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PHOTOS: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness present RBAF Command and Staff Course (CSC) Overall Excellence Award to Major Yow Thiam Poh from Singapore Armed Force.



Major Mirza Rauf Shahzad from Republic Islamic Pakistan Army, the winner of the Massey University Award for Academic Excellence receives his award from His Royal Highness.



The winner of the RBAF CSC Commendation Award, Major Mohammad Zulkarnain from Royal Brunei Land Force received his award from His Royal Highness.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince General in a group photo with senior officers of Ministry of Defence, RBAF and participants of the course.

People with special needs receive gifts



PHOTO: RAMLITENGAH

His Royal Highness during the presentation of the personnel gifts from His Majesty at Baitur Rahmah in Istana Nurul Iman.



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim presents His Majesty's personnel gift to one of the recipients in Belait District.



PHOTO: HERNIE SULLIANA HAJI OTHIMAN

One of the recipients at Tutong District receives his gift presented by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.



PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen presents His Majesty's personnel gifts in Temburong District.



PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah in the similar occasion at the Reception Hall in Istana Nurul Iman.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 28 –

In conjunction with the upcoming *Hari Raya Aidilfitri* celebration, more than 12,000 people comprising of those with special needs, orphans, the poor and recipients of monthly welfare assistance in all four districts received a personal gift from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The presentation of the gifts was held for two consecutive days from August 27 – 28 in all four districts.

Present as personal representatives of His Majesty were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah held at Istana Nurul Iman for recipients in Brunei-Muara District; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim for recipients in Belait District; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik for recipients in Tutong District; and His Royal Highness Prince

'Abdul Mateen for recipients in Temburong District.

The presentation ceremony of gifts for 5566 male recipients of Brunei-Muara District was held at Baitur Rahmah, Istana Nurul Iman. It was presented by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince. Also present was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik. While 2955 female recipients received their gifts at the Reception Hall, Istana Nurul Iman presented by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah. Also present was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah. This ceremony took place on August 28.

While presentation ceremony of gifts for other districts were held on August 29 which saw 1702 recipients receiving the gifts at Belait District; 1850 recipients from Tutong District; and 581 recipients for Temburong District.

Understand the main value of Commonwealth Games Federation

BERAKAS, August 29 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) in his *sabda* (royal speech) hoped that the national athletes and officers have an in-depth understanding of the main value of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) which is 'Humanity, Equality and Destiny'. It is a source of inspiration in bringing together the millions of commonwealth citizens.

His Royal Highness in his *sabda* also reminded athletes to maintain the good name of the country, with a high level of discipline and behaviour, as well as shun prohibited activities in order to avoid unwanted implications.

His Royal Highness made the *sabda* at the ceremony to hand over the national flag to the country's contingent to the 4th Commonwealth Youth Games held at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium.

His Royal Highness also advised the nation's contingent to make detailed planning not only from the aspect of training and competition preparation but also covering health care and daily needs.

Brunei Darussalam will be participating the 4th Commonwealth Youth Games in the Isle of Man in the



Brunei Darussalam's Chef de Mission receives the national flag from the President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC).

PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

United Kingdom beginning from September 7 to 13.

His Royal Highness presented the Brunei Darussalam's national flag to the National Contingent's Chef de Mission, Pengiran Anak Sofian bin Pengiran Anak Haji Ibrahim.

The national contingent comprises of three athletes, two coaches and a physiotherapist. The athletes will take part in the athletics and swimming events.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 15 - About 200 youths from throughout the country representing uniformed associations, youth's associations/club, institutions related to youth, individual attended a Youth Dialogue Session organised by the Department of Youth and Sports. The dialogue focused on issues of entrepreneurship and creative industry among youths. The youths voiced their opinions on helping develop their personal qualities, such as youths who are self-reliant, and with leadership characteristics, initiatives, self-confidence, determination, diligence and creativeness.

Present at the dialogue was His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim held at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

One of the suggestions highlighted was the establishment of a Brunei Academy of Arts that provides learning programmes to encourage youths to think positively and be creative.

It is hoped that through the dialogue session, the ministry responsible will be able to plan youth's involvement through various programmes and activities which is in line with their interest towards realising the National Vision 2035.

Youth Dialogue Session



His Royal Highness delivers a *sabda* in respond to one of the ideas presented by a youth representative.

PHOTOS: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN

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(Demonstrate first-rate leadership qualities)**

The graduation saw the awarding of three Best Student Awards. The recipients were Major Yow Thiam Poh from Singapore Armed Forces, the winner of the RBAF Command

and Staff Course (CSC) Overall Excellence; Major Mirza Rauf Shahzad from Republic Islamic Pakistan Army, the winner of the Massey University Award for Academic Excellence; and Major Mohammad Zulkarnain bin Haji Abdul Wahab from Royal Brunei Land Force, the winner of RBAF CSC Commendation Award.

The course runs for 39 weeks which is divided into three semesters consisting of Command, Leadership and Management, Operations as well as International Relation and Strategic Environment. The course also offers academic components of the land, navy and air force in its joint operations components.

Nationwide *Tadarus* Al-Quran Youth Assembly

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 13 - A nationwide reading of the Al-Qur'an involving an estimated 7,000 youths were held as part of a religious activities for the holy month of *Ramadan*. The reading of the Al-Qur'an were held at two venues with 4000 male youths at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah in Kampung Kiarong; and 3000 female youths at Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque in the capital.

Present to grace the ceremonies were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Her Royal Highness Princess

Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah at Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah and Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque respectively.

The Nationwide *Tadarus* Al-Quran Youth Assembly was the second of its kind to be held in conjunction with the holy month of *Ramadan*. The event was organised by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports with the cooperation of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Religious Affairs.

The assembly was designed to increase the understanding among

youths on the importance of reading and understanding Al-Qur'an as guidance of life. It was also hoped to further increase youth's involvement in religious activities in facing future challenges. The Nationwide *Tadarus* Al-Qur'an Youth Assembly involved youths from higher education institutions; colleges; secondary schools; youth and sports associations; uniformed organisations and youths in general.



PHOTO: HERMIE JULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

Her Royal Highness at the nationwide *Tadarus* Al-Quran for female youths.



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

His Royal Highness at the nationwide *Tadarus* Al-Quran for male youths.

Bukit Teraja Forest, potential for ecotourism destination

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 3 - Bukit Teraja Forest has a potential as an ecotourism destination after a survey 'Teraja Survey' was conducted to find possible proposals in extending the Teraja Forest for conservation.

This was disclosed by Peter Engbers, a representative from the Panaga Natural History Society in his talk on the proposals in extending the Teraja Forest for conservation.

The talk was held at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.

According to Peter Engbers, the Teraja Survey was conducted two years ago which proposed a possible extension to the Teraja Forest area up to 27.11 square kilometres.

The talk was organised by Brunei Heart of Borneo attended by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya.



PHOTO: DK. NUR-HAFILAH PG. OSMAN

Minister of Industry and Primary Resources among the attendees during the talk.

Encouraging progress for exclusive breastfeeding

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 6 - A survey of the National Health and Nutrition 2009-2011 Phase 1 conducted by the Ministry of Health show an encouraging progress and an increase in the percentage of mothers who gave exclusive breastfeeding compared with the studies implemented a decade earlier.

The survey involving 394 babies between 0 to 24 months old demonstrated that the rate of breastfeeding within one hour after birth was as high as 92.1 per cent.

This shows that hospitals in the country encouraged mothers to breastfeed their infant at the earliest in accordance with the recommendations of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan stated the matter at a ceremony to mark the World Breastfeeding Week and the launch of a guidebook on breastfeeding.

The ceremony was held at the Health Promotion Centre in Commonwealth Drive.

The minister said that the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, through the Ministry of Health, is continuously enhancing efforts to promote, protect and fully support the practice of breastfeeding. As the Ministry of Health's continuous effort, a National Committee for Infants and Young Children's Feeding will be established to review and further strengthen and monitor the



One of the health centres' representative receives an award from Minister of Health.

effectiveness of the Breastfeeding Programme in the country.

The theme of this year's celebration 'Tell Me that Breastfeeding is a 3D Experience', emphasised on three important aspects in supporting breastfeeding. They are: time for breastfeeding babies during the first six months of their birth; place for breastfeeding at home, in the community and healthcare system; and communication for promoting and supporting breastfeeding.

Among the activities held in

conjunction with Breastfeeding Week 2011 was the setting up of a Wall of Fame at the Health Clinic Centre in the country. On it is written the slogan, 'Excellent Mother, Glorious Child' as an appreciation to mothers who have successfully breastfed their babies exclusively for the first six months of their birth. The Tutong District Health Centre emerged champion in this category, with the Berakas 'A' Health Centre in second place and the Seria Health Centre coming in third.

Diabetes third main cause of death

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 10 - An estimated 20 per cent of the population in the country suffer from diabetes and 95 per cent of the total is 'Diabetes Type II' or Diabetes Mellitus which is very concerned since it caused a high death and disability.

Due to the fact, the campaign

on diabetes care awareness was launched by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan at the Health Promotion Centre.

There are 15,972 cases of diabetes in Brunei Darussalam and it is the third major cause of death after cancer and heart disease. In the budget for

2009/2010, \$2.4 million was used for diabetes medicine. The disease does not only affect adults but the current trend shows that children are also affected by the disease.

The campaign was aimed to enhance the public's knowledge on the various aspects of diabetes such as causes, symptoms and effects of the disease as well as ways to avoid the disease by making a healthy lifestyle a culture.

The signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the Health Promotion Centre and Butra Heidelberg Cement (BHC) Sendirian Berhad was also held.

Under the MoA, BHC will cooperate with the Health Promotion Centre to promote awareness for the prevention of diabetes in line with the vision of Ministry of Health 2035 'Towards Healthy Citizens/Nations'.

Signing on behalf of Ministry of Health was General Director, Dr. Zainal Ariffin bin Haji Awang Yahya whilst BHC was signed by its General Manager, Awang Setiawan Purnama Hadi.



The signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) aims to promote awareness for the prevention of diabetes.

376 receive academic scholarship for 2011/2012 session

PHOTO: HAJI MASMALLEH HAJI MOHD. AU



Minister of Education at the get-together session.

JERUDONG, August 13 - Three hundred and seventy-six students have been selected to further their studies abroad for the 2011/2012 session. The students who have been selected to receive scholarships are fortunate and should make best use of the opportunity so that the objective of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in sending Brunei students overseas will be achieved.

The Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Dr. Awang Haji Abu Bakar made the remarks at a thanksgiving ceremony and get-together with students who have been awarded the government scholarship for further studies overseas for the 2011/2012 session.

This is the third year for the Ministry of Education with the cooperation from DST Group in introducing and conducting a centralised system known as Higher Education Centralised Admission System (HECAS) for processing applications for scholarships to study abroad and entry to local universities.

The ceremony took place at the BRIDEX Conference Hall.



Among the recipients of the government academic scholarship attending the session (pictures above and below).



PHOTO: DK. NUR HAFLAH PG. OSWAN

PHOTO: DK. NUR HAFLAH PG. OSWAN

Accounting Standards Order 2010 enforced

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 13 - The Ministry of Finance has announced that by command of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Accounting Standards Order 2010 is now enforced effective from August 1, 2011.

The main objective of the existence of the Accounting Standards Order is to introduce regulations and laws to control the accounting standards used by commercial establishments in Brunei Darussalam, especially companies of public importance such as financial institutions, and insurance companies.

In this regard, His Majesty has also consented for the establishment of the Brunei Darussalam Accounting Standards Determining Council on the August, 1 2011.

It is hoped that Brunei Darussalam's Accounting Standards would bring various benefits to the public. These include enhancing transparency and consistency in the preparation and release of financial statements by commercial establishments, to enable stakeholders to make evaluations, while at the same time fulfilling other related requirements.

Agreement for healthcare information and management system sealed



The Bru-HIMS among others aim to improve health and medical services.

JERUDONG, August 17—The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Ishajaya Technology Company signed two contracts agreement for Brunei Darussalam Health Care Information and Management System (Bru-HIMS).

The signing ceremony took place at Indera Samudera Hall, Empire Hotel and Country Club.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry

of Health, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Salam and Deputy Permanent Secretary (Technical and Profesional), Dr. Hajah Norlila. Meanwhile, signing on behalf of Ishajaya Technology was its Executive Officer, Elvin Hii and Sales and Marketing Director (SEA) iSoft, Jegatheswaren Ponnudurai.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan.

Bru-HIMS is one of Ministry of Health's info-communications

technology (ICT) project where all the data management in all hospital, out-patient, health centre and clinic throughout the country will be electronically operated.

Among the aims of the project is to improve health and medical services apart from to increase the efficiency of the management of patient. The implementation of this project is scheduled to be completed in two years time.

Brunei-UK: Closer cooperation in health sector discussed

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 16 – A discussion was held between the Ministry of Health and the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, United Kingdom to further strengthen and improve the existing cooperation between both parties. The matters were discussed during a courtesy call

by the President of Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, David Tolley, FRCS and delegation to the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan.

The Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan received a courtesy call from the delegates of

The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. The courtesy call was held at the Ministry of Health.

Currently, there are 20 local dental officers and 14 local medical officers who are members of The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

Convention of Rights of Children discussed

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 20 – A number of matters related to children's rights based on the United Nation's Convention of Rights of Children (CRC) were raised at Brunei Darussalam's CRC.

The discussion was chaired by the Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Datin Paduka Hajah Adina.

Also present was the Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the

United Nations Children's Rights, Professor Yanghee Lee.

CRC is a very comprehensive document that defines international principles of ethics and behavioural norms towards children. Four main principles were tabled namely, no discrimination, upholding children's best interests, children's rights to live and develop as well as respecting children's views.

Prior to, Professor Yanghee Lee made a courtesy call on Datin Paduka Hajah Adina and exchanged views on several issues linked to children. Brunei Darussalam acceded and signed the CRC on December 23, 1995. The implementation of the CRC by member nations is monitored by the CRC Committee that is required to submit the report on CRC implementation in their respective countries.

Education Minister officiates SEAMEO RETRAC 14th Governing Board Meeting



Minister of Education with members of SEAMEO RETRAC 14th Governing Board Meeting.

VIETNAM, August 13 – The Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar as President of Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) officiated the SEAMEO Regional Training Centre (RETRAC) 14th Governing Board Meeting held at Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on August 10.

The minister in his opening remarks said that the centre has made significant contributions to assist SEAMEO member countries especially Cambodia; Lao, Myanmar and Vietnam to resolve issues in educational leadership and

management at all levels.

After 15 years of its establishment, the minister urged the centre to expand the focus to serve all SEAMEO member countries, particularly in the areas of competence.

This recommendation made by the minister is in line with the vision of the centre, through the pursuit of excellence and expertise development, SEAMEO RETRAC intended to be a leading regional centre in the field of educational leadership and management, all

SEAMEO member countries who serve and enhance international cooperation and partnerships.

While in Ho Chi Minh City, the minister also held a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Education and Training of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, His Excellency Professor Dr. Pham Vu Luan. Various education issues related with SEAMEO and the centre including cooperation in technical and vocational education discussed during the meeting.

AMBD-D&B: Inked pact on consultancy works

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 17 - The Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD) and Dun & Bradstreet International Ltd. (D&B) have entered into an agreement for D&B to begin consultancy work and to assist AMBD in providing the appropriate infrastructure to meet the requirements and standards for the establishment and operation of a Credit Bureau by the AMBD.

D&B was selected and appointed as the vendor for this project based on its proven track record of having the required expertise and appropriate skills and technology to implement this project.

The signing ceremony took place at the Ministry of Finance Building.

The AMBD was represented by its Deputy Managing Director, Awang Chong Fu Li, and witnessed by Awang Haji Adi Marhain bin Haji Leman, the Acting Assistant Managing Director; while his counterpart was Mr. Leon Chee, D&B's Director of Credit Bureau Solutions and witnessed by Mr. Nicholas Teoh, Vice President of D&B Asia Pacific Partnerships.

The Managing Director of AMBD, Awang Haji Mohd Rosli bin Haji Sabtu was in attendance to witness the occasion.

The establishment of the Credit Bureau is aimed to facilitate member banks and finance companies to pool together and aggregate factual credit information on borrowers in a centralised database. This will provide lenders with a more complete picture of the borrower's exposure to banks and finance companies for the purpose of

assessing their creditworthiness and to make informed lending decisions. On the other hand, borrowers too will have access to their credit status from the Credit Bureau.

The Credit Bureau operates from a sophisticated technology platform and provides information to its members under clear and strict rules of engagement facilitated by legislative provisions. The aggregated information, such as the payment history of borrowers on borrowing facilities available from banks and

finance companies, is disseminated online by the Credit Bureau to the financial institutions in the form of credit reports.

The establishment of the Credit Bureau is in line with the objective of the AMBD to ensure financial system stability and to strengthen the country's financial infrastructure. This initiative is in line with international best practice and prevalent in more than 50 countries worldwide, including Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, India and the United Kingdom.



The signing witnessed by AMBD's Managing Director.

PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

19 students participate 4th AYSF 2011

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 27 - Nineteen students of lower Sixth Form and National Diploma Course participated in the 4th APEC Youth Science Festival (4th AYSF 2011) held in Thailand until August 26.

The delegate also include five education officers from the Ministry of Education led by Senior Education Officer, Nor Erawadi bin Haji Ibrahim.

The 4th AYSF 2011 was participated by more than 600 participants comprising of students and education officers from 16 member countries and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC) member economies such as Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Taipei,

Singapore, Vietnam, Macau, United States of America and Thailand as host country.

The four-week festival aimed to promote awareness and interest in science and technology among the youths. It was also to explore the secret of innovation and to share their discoveries and scientific imagination.

Increase in FDI inflow recorded

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 23 - Brunei Darussalam recorded an increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows in the first quarter (Q1) 2011 by 45.7 per cent to \$383.93 million from \$267.58 million in Q4 2010.

The main investors came from United Kingdom which contributed 74.6 per cent (\$290.78 million) of total

FDI inflows followed by the Netherlands 10.1 per cent (\$38.31 million), U.S.A 6.1 per cent (\$23.80 million) and Malaysia 3.2 per cent (\$12.65 million).

By industrial sectors, Mining and Quarrying was the largest recipient of FDI inflows, which accounted for 90.5 per cent with a value of \$352.75 million, and Wholesale and Retail

Trade contributed 5.1 per cent (\$19.98 million).

FDI inflows are defined as an investment by a non-resident into Brunei Darussalam with a share of 100 per cent or more within a specific period of time. The FDI full report for first quarter 2011 is available from JPKE's website: www.depdp.gov.bn.

Online Professional Diploma launched

ANGGEREK DESA, August 25 - To survive in a knowledge-based economy and to maintain sustainable economic growth, Brunei Darussalam must compete effectively.

Apart from human capacity building, the ability to compete will also depend on the rapid technological innovation, effective management, strategic knowledge and clear focused on higher value - added goods, services and industry.

The matters were stated by Deputy Minister at Prime Minister's Office, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali at the

Launching of Online Professional Diploma in Islamic Banking and Finance held at iCentre auditorium.

He believed innovation using today's advanced technologies to exploit new ideas is the main driver of economic growth because innovation is a process, where new ideas can be changed through economic activities, towards sustainability, creating a revenue value to the product of a process and services can be traded.

Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali who is also the Chairman of Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) explained

that online learning pilot programme in Islamic banking and finance could opened up new markets, both national and internationally, that cannot be easily accessible in the form of traditional course of programme delivery, and this has been proved by various studies in other parts of the world.

The flexibility of online learning, made it suitable for lifelong learning, he said.

With the potential for global markets, opportunities for international partnerships, especially with reputable foreign universities will also implemented, he added.

The Online Professional Diploma programme is a product of Crescent Sendirian Berhad, one of incubates at iCentre. The programme has six modules and will be carried out for 18 months.

According to Founder and Managing Director of Crescent Sendirian Berhad, Dayang Hajah Salma, the programme is introduced to respond to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's *titah* (royal speech) to make Brunei as regional Islamic centre. Other than that, it is also the nation inspiration to become regional centre for Islamic banking.

Earlier this year, Crescent Sendirian Berhad had been given a large grant from The Authority for Info-Communications Technology Industry (AiTi) to establish the e-learning platform.



The Online Professional Diploma launched by Deputy Minister at Prime Minister's Office.

Seminar on IUU fishing

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 25 - Similar to other countries in the coastal area, Brunei Darussalam is also facing the most serious threats to protect its fishery resources and to ensure its sustainability.

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya stated the matter at the launching of the Brunei Darussalam National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU Fishing) Seminar held at Centrepoint Hotel in Gadong.

The threats, globally referred to as IUU fishing, have been on the increase at a very alarming rate with ecological, economic and social consequences. IUU fishing can also give rise to other maritime criminal activities such as people and fuel smuggling and drug trafficking.

The four-day seminar was attended by 90 participants from various government agencies. The seminar was conducted by an expert, Professor of Law and Director, Australian National Centre for Ocean Resource and Security (ANCORS) from University of Wollongong, Australia, Professor Dr. Martin.



Minister of Industry and Primary Resources delivers his speech at the seminar.

PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

6th BIMP-EAGA strengthen commitment of cooperation

CAGAYAN DE ORO, PHILIPPINES, July 27 - The 6th Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines – East Asian Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Transport Ministers Meeting reiterated their commitment to strengthen cooperation to ensure the smooth and prompt implementation of prior transport initiatives, including the establishment of a more facilitative procedure in BIMP-EAGA within the framework of the ASEAN agreements.

Brunei Darussalam's delegation to

the meeting was led by the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdullah.

In his address at the opening of the 6th BIMP-EAGA Transport Ministers Meeting, the minister highlighted the challenges in the implementation of the 4th Transport BIMP-EAGA Memorandum of Understanding namely the Expansion of Air Linkages; the Establishment of Efficient and Integrated Shipping Services; Cross Border Movement of Buses and

Coaches; as well as Transit and Inter-State Transport of Goods. According to the minister, the challenges come from the difference in procedural and legal framework of the 4th BIMP-EAGA countries and need the ministers' immediate attention. Towards this, the minister urged BIMP-EAGA transport senior officials to put in together greater efforts to expedite the full implementation of the MoU.

Brunei Polytechnic to accelerate human resources development

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, JULY 27 – The establishment of the Brunei Polytechnic is in line with the need to accelerate human resource development as highlighted in the National Development Plan and the Brunei Vision 2035, implementation of the Primary Education Policy, the Ministry of Education Map 2007-2011 and three new qualifications framework for the Technical Vocational Education (TVE) in providing alternative ways for development.

The matters were stated by Brunei Polytechnic Head of Committee, Dr. Haji Ashri in his briefing on Brunei Polytechnic to the students of Merang Sixth Form Centre.

"Brunei Polytechnic has a vision to become a former world-class institutions and delivering technological skills and knowledge by using innovative approaches to teaching and learning.

While its mission is to equip students

for employment and able to contribute to the development of the workforce with 21st century skills," he said.

Among the academic school and sections under the Brunei Polytechnic are School of Business, School of Information and Communication Technology and Schools of Science and Engineering.

He further added that School of Business will offer Advance Diploma in Accounting, Finance, Management, Marketing and Entrepreneurship.

Meanwhile, School of Information and Communication Technology will offer Advance Diploma in Computer Network, Information and Technology System, and Web Computing.

During the briefing, he also talked on the academic portfolio, framework, temporary campus, and benefits of the Brunei Polytechnic.

For application, students can browse through www.hecas.edu.bn, he added.

Al-Quran Reading Competition among ASEAN Universities

TUNGKU, July 20 – Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) held an Al-Quran Reading Competition inter-varsity ASEAN in conjunction with its the 25th anniversary.

The male participant (Qari), Ahmad Syafiq bin Mat Razali representing Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and female participant (Qariah), Dayang Hajah Maidah binti Haji Abdul Rahman representing UBD emerged as the champions.

The prizes were presented by the Acting Minister of Education, Dato Awang Haji Yussof bin Haji Ismail.

UBD had organised similar competition in 1998 and 2006.

Currency declaration enforced

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, JULY 27 – As part of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's continuous effort in combating money laundering and terrorism financing activities, Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD) would like to announce that commencing August 1, 2011; every person moving into or out of Brunei Darussalam with Physical Currency and Bearer Negotiable Instruments with total value exceeding \$15,000 (or its equivalent in a foreign currency) is required to declare/ report such amount to the officers of the Royal Customs and Excise Department upon

arrival or officers of Immigration and National Registration upon departure using the prescribed forms which will be made available at every control posts at all major entry and exit points of Brunei Darussalam.

This new reporting requirement is pursuant to the Anti-Money Laundering Order, 2000 and is in line with international standards, which require countries to have measures in place to detect the physical cross border movement of cash and bearer negotiable instruments. Failure to give a full and accurate report can be fined not exceeding \$50,000, imprisoned for

a term not exceeding three years or both.

This declaration requirement is not a restriction to bringing in or taking out of Brunei Darussalam, any type of document of physical currency and bearer negotiable instruments. The public is advised to read the General Information section which contains further information on the currency declaration requirements before filling in the form.

For further information, members of the public can contact AMBD at +673 2382 253 or browse www.ambd.gov.bn.

Hybrid Paddy Seedlings



PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN

Minister of Industry and Primary Resources visiting the paddy field.

WASAN, July 30 - Hybrid paddy can be produced up to four to 14 metric tonnes per hectare compared to the inbred type paddy. According to a study by the Agriculture and Agrifood Department, several types of hybrid paddy have been identified as having potential for higher production and are suitable for planting in this country.

These were stated by the Acting Director of Agriculture and Agrifood, Dayang Hajah Aidah at the launching of the Production of Hybrid Paddy Seedlings and the Planting of New Hybrid Rice in Brunei Darussalam.

The ceremony was held at Wasan Paddy Plantation Area, in Mukim Pengkalan Batu.

Present to officiate the launching ceremony was the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya.

The Hybrid Paddy Development Implementation Project, which has been carried out since 2009 between Brunei Darussalam's Agriculture and Agrifood Department and a Singapore Company is now in its third phase.

The project aims to ensure the continuity and authenticity of the hybrid type paddy. Planting of the paddy will be carried out commercially to ensure continuity of the project in the country, and at the same time, contribute to high yield and assist the government to achieve the 60 percent target of self-sufficiency by 2015.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) January – March 2011

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the first three months of 2011 increased by 1.6 per cent on average compared to the same period in 2010. CPI for January 2011 increased by 1.0 per cent compared to January 2010; followed by 1.8 per cent for February 2011 and 1.9 per cent for March 2011. The year-to-year increases were largely due to higher indices for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco.

Month-to-month changes showed that the CPI for January 2011 increased by 0.2 per cent over December 2010. This was due to increases in the indices for Miscellaneous Goods and Services (4.2 per cent); Food and Non-Alcoholic Food Beverages (0.7 per cent); and Transport (0.5 per cent). On the other hand, decreases were also recorded in Clothing and Footwear (1.9 per cent); Education (1.4 per cent); and Restaurants and Hotels (0.5 per cent).

Meanwhile CPI for February 2011 increased by 0.8 per cent over January 2011, as a result of higher indices for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages (1.4 per cent); and Clothing and Footwear (7.0 per cent). The indices for Education; Communication; and Miscellaneous Goods and Services decreased marginally.

Also showed an increased is CPI for March 2011 which increased by 0.2 per cent over February 2011, which was caused by higher indices for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages (0.3 per cent); Recreation and Culture (0.4 per cent); and Restaurants and Hotels (0.4 per cent). No decreases were recorded, while the indices for Tobacco; Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels; Health; and Education remained unchanged.

Islamic Digital Library System

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 30 – For the convenience of Brunei Darussalam Islamic Library users, an Islamic Digital Library System (IDLS) will be fully operated in the middle of 2013.

Hence, the signing ceremony for IDLS contract for the Brunei Darussalam Islamic Library users between the State Mufti's Office (SMO) with Alif Technologies Sdn. Bhd. was held at the State Mufti's Office.

Signing on behalf of the SMO was its Director of Administration, Dato Paduka Ahmad Bukhari while for Alif Technologies Sdn. Bhd. was its Executive Officer, Awang Haji Mohammad Arbi.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the State Mufti, Pehin Dato Doctor Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz.

The newly signed system is hoped to become a digital library system which can be accessed through the internet and will help librarians in facilitating library management.

Ground breaking ceremony

TUNGKU LINK, August 24 - Energy is one of the core research of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) apart from biodiversity, Asian studies; the safety of nutritional/agrotechnology, finance and Islamic banking.

Hence, a ground breaking ceremony for the construction of a new building for Universiti Brunei Darussalam's Energy, Science and Technology Research Group was held next to Science Faculty building at UBD.

Present was the Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Dr. Haji Awang Abu Bakar.

The new building is hoped to facilitate research works as well as enhancing the confidence of UBD researchers. A total of two million dollars have been allocated for the construction of the new building. The construction started on June 25 and is expected to be completed by June next year.

BHC Tour de Brunei 2011

BERAKAS, August 25 – Brunei Darussalam will be hosting BHC Tour de Brunei 2011 this September 7 to 11. The tournament which offers cash prize of USD67,145 has attracted participation of 16 groups.

This world class level tournament is organised by Brunei Darussalam Bicycle Federation in cooperation with Youth and Sports Department, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.



PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

The signing of sponsorship for the BHC Tour de Brunei 2011.

Brunei Tasek Climbathon

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 30 – Another sports event, namely Brunei Tasek Climbathon will be held in Brunei Darussalam this upcoming September 25.

The highlight of the event is a seven kilometres run across Bukit Helang in the Tasek Lama Recreation Park in the capital.

A sum of USD3500 will be awarded to the runner who successfully completed the run in 38 minutes.

The 2nd Brunei Tasek Climbathon is organised by Bluewaters Event Management and supported by Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Brunei Tourism and Health Promotion Centre.

According to the organiser, more than USD15,000 worth of prizes are available in form of shopping voucher, lucky draw and others.

For further information, log onto: www.bruneitasekclimbathon.com.

Did you know that...

- The First National Development Plan was launched in 1953 for a period of five years. E.R Bevington, the Commissioner of Development from the Colonial Office in Fiji, was appointed to carry out the new plan. The State Council gave a budget of \$100 million for the scheme. (Source: History of Brunei Darussalam 1800 – 1967).
- The Second National Development Plan was launched in 1962. It aimed to improve economic and social infrastructure, and increase cultural activities. (Source: History of Brunei Darussalam 1800 – 1967).
- Brunei Darussalam was ranked 32nd in the 2009-2010 Global Competitiveness Report of the World Economic Forum. Meanwhile, among ASEAN member countries, Brunei Darussalam is now ranked 3rd compared to last year in 4th position.

The improvement in the ranking reflects the substantial investment Brunei Darussalam has in building institutions, infrastructure, education and the health of its people. (Source: The Report).

>> 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 414,400 people (2010)
- 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, one of Malaysia's lowest airfare carrier 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.