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Brunei Darussalam

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Brunei – Philippines: Cooperation reflects desire to help people enjoy better lives

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 1 – Cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Philippines reflects an abiding wish to do whatever they can as neighbours, to help the peoples enjoy better lives and to build confidence in their future.

The matters were said by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* (royal speech) at a state banquet held in honour of the two-day state visit of the President of Republic of Philippines, His Excellency Benigno S.Aquino III to Brunei Darussalam.

The state banquet was held at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty also commended on His Excellency's current peace initiatives in the Southern Philippines and Brunei Darussalam will continue to assist the government of the Philippines in any way it can to achieve peace and stability in the affected areas.

Prior to, His Majesty said that the state visit by His Excellency to Brunei Darussalam reaffirms the desire of both governments to expand cooperation in various fields of mutual interest, covering agriculture, defence, air services, business ventures, education, the environment and many aspects of their work as members of ASEAN and BIMP-EAGA.

His Excellency is on state visit to Brunei Darussalam from June 1 to 2.



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a *titah* (royal speech) at a state banquet held in honour of state visit of the President of Republic of Philippines to Brunei Darussalam.

ASEAN Social Forestry Network Conference

GADONG, June 21 - Brunei Darussalam has strong forest conservation policy that serves as a guiding principle in all its forestry programmes and undertakings. The policies are currently under review to ensure that they are suitable with current developments and challenges faced by the forestry sector. One of the policies reviewed is to determine the possibility of expanding forest conservation areas by changing forest reserve areas as under forest conservation.

Thus, the government is determined to develop 30,000 hectares of forest plantations at Inter-Riverine Zone to support the domestic wood requirement. To implement the establishment of this forest plantation, it requires participation from the private sector through cooperation and co-production agreements.

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya highlighted the matters at the opening ceremony of the 2nd ASEAN Social Forestry Network Conference 2011 held at Centerpoint Hotel.

The three-day conference brought together 180 participants representing experts and representatives from ASEAN member states and partner organisations from inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations.



PHOTO: AK. AMIRULZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI

Brunei Darussalam has strong forest conservation policy. The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources said that at the 2nd ASEAN Social Forestry Network Conference 2011.



JUNE 2011 | VOLUME 26 ISSUE 6

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4 His Majesty on official visit to Federal Republic of Germany



5 More land grants awarded



6 ASEM FFM Meeting



7 HRH attends the 38th Session of OIC



7 NFABD has its own headquarters



9 e-Government Innovation Centre opened



8 Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Islamic Writing Award



11 Microsoft Academy launch



12 Signing of MoU on multimedia and animation



13 4th National Environment Conference focus on environment

His Majesty receives President of Republic of Philippines

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 1 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience the President of the Republic of Philippines, His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino III. His Excellency is on a two-day state visit to Brunei Darussalam.

The audience ceremony was held at Cheradi Laila Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present at the audience were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Brunei – Philippines: Matters of mutual interest discussed

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 1 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held a one-to-one meeting with the President of the Republic of Philippines, His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino III.

During the meeting, both leaders had an in-depth exchanged of views on bilateral relations as well as on regional and international issues of common interest.

His Majesty and His Excellency reaffirmed the long-standing relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Philippines, reflecting the close historical, political, economic, and cultural ties shared between the two countries.

Both leaders also reaffirmed their desire to further deepen and expand the relations based on mutual respect and understanding with a view to helping each other, not only in their respective national development efforts, but also in addressing regional and global challenges.

The meeting was held at Cheradi Ratna Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman.

Brunei – Philippines: Cooperation sealed in various fields

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 1 – Brunei Darussalam and Philippines have strengthened the bilateral cooperation with the signing of Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in various fields.

The cooperation agreed between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of Republic of Philippines were; MoA in the field of shipping and ports; MoA in the field of tourism cooperation; MoU on Food Security and Agricultural Cooperation; and MoU in field of sports.

Present to witness the signings were His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and President of the Republic of Philippines, His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino III.

Also present was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Present as signatories to the agreements on behalf of Brunei Darussalam were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and

her counterpart, Foreign Affairs Secretary of the Republic of Philippines, The Honourable Albert F. del Rosario.

Among the attendees at the ceremony were Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan; Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdullah; Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya; Minister of Finance II at Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdul Rahman; Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng and Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair.

Present from Republic of Philippines were Finance Secretary, The Honourable Cesar V. Purisima; Trade and Industry Secretary, The Honourable Gregory L. Domingo; Communication Operation Office Secretary, President's Office, The Honourable Herminio B. Coloma, Jr and His Excellency Nestor Z. Ochoa, Ambassador of Philippines to Brunei Darussalam.

The ceremony took place at the Baitul Mesyuarah, Istana Nurul Iman.

Brunei-Philippines: Business opportunities discussed

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 2 – A business meeting between government agencies and business entities with His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino III, President of the Republic of Philippines was held where business opportunities in Brunei Darussalam and Republic of Philippines were discussed.

During the meeting, His Excellency held separate meetings with Yang Amat Mulla Pengiran Muda Abdul Qawi, the Director of Supremo Management Services; the Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar as Chairman of Brunei Investment Agency (BIA); the Chief Executive of Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB), Mr. Vincent Chong; and the Director of Trade Development of Mashhor Group of Companies, Malai Haji Hamir bin Haji Malai Mashhor.

The meetings were held at Istana Edinburg.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna and her counterpart, Foreign Affairs Secretary of the Republic of Philippines sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in various fields.

PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR

His Majesty on official visit to Federal Republic of Germany

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, June 9 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was on a two-day official visit to the Federal Republic of Germany beginning June 8.

His Majesty's itineraries during the official visit include attending a meeting and luncheon with the President of Federal Republic of Germany, His Excellency Herr Christian Wulff. It took place at the Bellevue Palace.

His Majesty also held a meeting with the Mayor of Berlin, Mr. Klaus Wowereit held at the Mayor Hall. Soon after the meeting, His Majesty visited Brandenburg Gate, one of the historical buildings built by an architect named Carl Gotthard in 1791.

During this official visit, His Majesty also attended a get-together ceremony with Brunei citizens based in Germany. At the ceremony, His Majesty received greetings from Brunei citizens comprising of students, army personnel who are attending courses and officers who are working in Germany along with their families. The ceremony was held at Adlon Kempinski Hotel.

While on June 9, His Majesty attended a press conference with Her Excellency Angela Merkel, the Chancellor of Federal Republic of Germany. At the press conference, His Majesty underlined the opportunities to strengthen cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Federal Republic of Germany which include trade and investment; exchange of visits between officials of both countries and through regional and international bodies such as ASEM, UN and ASEAN-EU Dialogue. His Majesty also expressed his appreciation for Her Excellency's commitment in strengthening the bilateral relations especially in the field of health, defence and education.

Prior to the press conference, His Majesty and Her Excellency held a bilateral meeting at the Chancellor's office where His Majesty and Her Excellency exchanged views on bilateral relations and regional and international matters of mutual interest. Both leaders also discussed on ways to strengthen the bilateral relations between both countries.

His Majesty ended his official visit on June 9.



His Majesty at a get-together ceremony with Brunei citizens based in Germany comprising of students, army personnel who are attending courses and officers who are working in Germany along with their families.



His Majesty and the Mayor of Berlin visit Brandenburg Gate, one of the historical buildings built by an architect named Carl Gotthard in 1791.

His Majesty visits Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, June 10 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was in London to visit The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment (HCMR) based at Hyde Park Barracks in Knightsbridge.

Accompanying His Majesty were Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azimah Ni'matul Bolqiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bulqiah.

At HCMR, His Majesty witnessed the 'Change of Guards' from The Queen's Life Guards where His Majesty then proceeded to Indoor Riding School to witness a 'Pass-off Routine' comprising of eight Queen's Life Guards personnel under the command of His Royal Highness Second Lieutenant Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

His Majesty then proceeded to the Hyde Park Barrack Square to witness the 'Change of Guards' under the command of His Royal Highness. Before dismissing his duty, His Royal Highness asked for His Majesty's consent to exit from the parade.

His Majesty also presented the Sword of the Blues and Royals to His Royal Highness symbolising His Royal Highness' successful completion of the Ceremonial Horse Riding Course. The sword signifies the officer as part of the Blues and Royals of the Household Cavalry.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment (HCMR) based at Hyde Park Barracks in Knightsbridge.

PHOTOS: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

More land grants awarded

PHOTO: HAJI MOHD. YUSUF MOHD. YASSIN



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presents the land grants to one of the recipients.

BERAKAS, June 27 – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam continues to ensure that its people are provided with good social welfare and benefits. Thus the government for many years have awarded land titles and keys to new homes for deserving citizens as part of its effort to deliver good social welfare.

Latest saw 73 recipients receiving land grants under the Temporary Occupational License Land Grant Scheme (TOL) based in Brunei-Muara District.

Present to personally award the land grants was His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. The ceremony took place at the Lambak Kiri Secondary School in Mukim Berakas.

To date, more than 2,300 land lots have been awarded under the TOL scheme nationwide. Other schemes include the Land for the Indigenous Citizens Scheme, the National Housing Scheme and the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Housing Scheme.

Soon after the presentation ceremony, His Majesty visited academic institutions, the houses of the land title recipients and a number of government institutions including the Land Transport Department in Sungai Akar; Municipal Depot of the Municipal Department in Kampung Belimbing; and a cottage industry.

National Israk and Mikraj 1432 celebration HM: Improve prayer through learning

BERAKAS, June 29 – A call was made for Muslims especially the young generation and children to always improve the prayers through learning. While the task of teaching and providing guidance are also borne by parents as we all know that it is a specific responsibility for religious teachers.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made the call in his *titah* (royal speech) at an Israk and Mikraj 1432 Hijrah / 2011 celebration held at the International Convention Centre.

His Majesty said Allah The Almighty had conferred one supreme bestowment upon Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) that is the obligation of the five-times daily prayer. This obligation was later declared as the pillar of the Islamic religion.

Speaking on the awards as appreciation and recognition to religious teachers, His Majesty hoped that these awards would motivate religious teachers to continuously enhance their leadership and teaching qualities.

This year's Israk and Mikraj celebration was highlighted with the presentation of awards for Excellent Asatizah, Meritorious Asatizah and Special Award.

The Excellent Asatizah Award in School Leadership was awarded to Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Kassim bin Haji Lamat. He received \$12,000, a certificate, a plaque, a souvenir, recommendation facilities to further studies and free medical facilities including expenses of first class ward in government hospitals.

While five recipients received Excellent Asatizah Awards in various fields. The recipients were;

- Dayang Hajah Saripah binti Haji Abas whom received the Excellent Asatizah Award in Teaching Al-Quran;
- Dayang Norfazilah binti Haji Jumat received the Excellent Asatizah Award for Teaching Arabic Language;
- Dayang Saripah binti Syed Haji Mohamad Ali received the Excellent Asatizah Award for Teaching Syariah;
- Dayang Hajah Suriani binti Haji Bungsu received the Excellent Asatizah Award for Teaching Usuluddin;

Muslims especially the young generation and children are call to always improve the prayers through learning. His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made the call in his *titah* (royal speech) at an Israk and Mikraj 1432 Hijrah / 2011 celebration.



PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR

- Dayang Hajah Safiah binti Haji Omar Ali received the Excellent Asatizah Award for Teaching Islamic Religious Knowledge.

They each received \$7,000, certificates, a plaque, a souvenir, and recommendation facilities to further their studies.

For the Meritorious Asatizah Award, the recipient was Awang Haji Johari bin Haji Kamis. He received \$5,000, a certificate, a crystal plaque, souvenir and free medical facilities including expenses in first class ward in government hospitals in the country.

Meanwhile Special Awards in Arabic and Religious Education was awarded to Awang Ali Mohamed Moustafa Ali Elsaghir; and in the award in general education went to Awang Haji Kanan Mohamed Abdullah Mohamad Ali. Both received \$4,000 each, certificates, crystal plaque, souvenir and facilities and recommendation to further their studies.

ASEM FFM Meeting

HRH attends 10th ASEM FFM Meeting



His Royal Highness at the 10th Asia-Europe Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FFM).

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY, June 6 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade was in Budapest, Hungary to attend the 10th Asia-Europe Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FFM).

In Godollo, His Royal Highness attended a Working Lunch and the first and second Plenary Sessions for the 10th ASEM FFM. The meeting was chaired by the Rt. Hon. Baroness Catherine Ashton, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union and Vice President of the European Commission.

His Royal Highness delivered a statement in the first plenary session highlighting the role of regional partners and international organisations in addressing non-traditional security challenges.

Ministers also exchanged views on regional and international matters such as developments in both regions, the situation in the Middle East, climate change and counter-terrorism.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah, in the evening joined other Foreign Ministers and their spouses at a Gala Dinner at the Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest.

Education vital for regional development and ASEM's future

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY, 7 June – The importance of education for regional development and the future of ASEM was highlighted by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade at the fourth plenary session of 10th ASEM FFM held at Godollo Grassalkavich Castle.

The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary, His Excellency Janos Martonyi.

Brunei Darussalam, said His Royal Highness, like many developing countries focused on education and has received assistance from Europe, Australia and New Zealand. As a result, Brunei Darussalam has a bright and

motivated young generation. However at the moment, Brunei Darussalam needs to do more than just training the teachers and sending the children overseas to obtain qualifications. Brunei Darussalam has to widen its scope of efforts.

His Royal Highness also expressed his happiness to see what has been planned by ASEM Ministers of Education in Denmark last month, particularly their ideas about lifelong learning, training and vocational education.

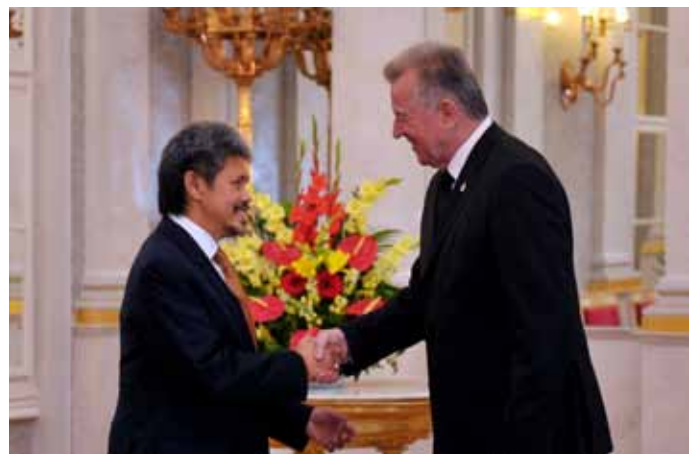
Prior to, His Royal Highness attended the third plenary session of the 10th ASEM FFM where the ministers discussed global economic and financial crisis, assessed ASEM's cooperation and exchanged views on the future of ASEM.

HRH meets President of the Republic of Hungary

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY, June 7 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade held a meeting with the President of the Republic of Hungary, His Excellency Pal Schmitt.

During the meeting, His Royal Highness and His Excellency discussed bilateral relations between the two countries.

The meeting was held at Sindor Palace, Budapest.



His Royal Highness held a meeting with the President of the Republic of Hungary, His Excellency Pal Schmitt.

PHOTOS: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

HRH attends 38th Session of OIC



PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah at opening ceremony of the 38th Session of the Organisations of Islamic Conference (OIC) Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan.

ASTANA, REPUBLIK KAZAKHSTAN, June 28 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended the opening ceremony of the 38th Session of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan.

The meeting was opened by the President Nursultan Nazarbayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan and chaired by Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Yerzhan Kazykhanov.

His Royal Highness delivered a statement during the General Debate session and noted the outstanding contribution of Kazakhstan to realising the current objectives of the organisation. His Royal Highness also reaffirmed Brunei's long standing solidarity with the Palestinian people in achieving an independent homeland.

The ministers approved a new emblem and name for the organisation, which is now to be known as the 'Organisation of Islamic Cooperation'.

His Royal Highness held bilateral meetings with the State Secretary of Republic of Kazakhstan, His Excellency Kanat Saudabayev; Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, His Excellency Yerzhan Kazykhanov; Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia, The Honourable Kevin Rudd; and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives, His Excellency Ahmed Nasseem.

In the evening, His Royal Highness attended a Gala Dinner hosted by President Nursultan Nazarbayev held at House of Reception 'Saltanat Sarai'.

Also present was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Mansurah Izzul Bolqiah.

NFABD accepted as member of FIFA



PHOTO: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah at the NFABD's Extraordinary Congress for the election of NFABD's Executive Committee.

JERUDONG, June 6 – The National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (NFABD) has been officially accepted as a full member of the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). The lifting up of the suspension enforced since 2½ years ago was considered during FIFA's Executive Committee Meeting held on May 30 this year. The positive decision was announced by the FIFA President during his

press conference. As a result, Brunei Darussalam is now free to participate in all regional and international football tournaments.

These were said by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah in his *sabda* (royal speech) at a press conference as the chairman for the Normalisation Committee for NFABD's Extraordinary Congress for the election of NFABD's Executive Committee. The *sabda* was read by Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Mohiddin, the President of NFABD held at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

His Royal Highness said that FIFA has set up an emergency committee in early April and decided to appoint a normalisation committee to bring football back in Brunei Darussalam. His Royal Highness was appointed as its chairman.

One of the mandates, set forth by FIFA emergency committee to have FIFA's conform statute. This has been carried out after several meetings and consultations with FIFA in which the statute was adopted at The Empire Hotel and Country Club on April 28. The copy of the minutes and NFABD statute were sent to FIFA on April 30 this year.

At the ceremony, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah presented appointment insignias to members of the NFABD Executive Committee. His Royal Highness was announced as the Honorary President of the NFABD.

NFABD has its own headquarters

BERAKAS, June 6 – The National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (NFABD) now has its own headquarters building based at Jalan Kebangsaan. The new NFABD headquarters building is the first project to be approved under the FIFA Goal Project Allocation. The USD1.54 million building was fully financed through the FIFA Goal Programme. It was also one of the 22 projects under the FIFA Goal Programme First Project worldwide towards world football development.

Present at the handing over ceremony was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the Honorary President of the NFABD.

The official handing over of the NFABD headquarters was signed by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah. Also signing were the President of NFABD, Dato Paduka Haji Abd Rahman bin Haji Mohiddin, representative from the FIFA Development Office in Kuala Lumpur, Darmeka Garamendi and the representative from Apex Caretaker Sendirian Berhad, Andrian Thien.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah during an official handing over of the NFABD headquarters.

President of BDNOC attends executive committee meeting

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 11 – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of Brunei Darussalam's National Olympic Council (BDNOC) attended a meeting on the Assessment and Selection of National Athletes Executive Committee.

The meeting among others identified the candidates of athletes for the 26th SEA Games to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia from November 11 to 22; 4th Youth Commonwealth Games to be held at Isles of Man from September 7 to 13; and Olympic Scholarships for athletes.

Also present at the meeting were officers from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and members of assessment executive committee.

Olympic Day Run 2011

BELAIT, June 26 – An Olympic Day Run was organised by the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) with cooperation from Department of Youth and Sports to celebrate World Olympic Day that falls on every June 23 to commemorate the birth of Modern Olympic Day on June 23, 1894 in Paris.

The event started with an aerobic exercise where almost 2,000 participants took part in the run which was divided into six categories. The run started and ended at Taman Persiaran, Jalan Sungai.

In attendance to launch the run was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of BDNOC. Also present was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul 'Aleem.

Olympic Day is celebrated worldwide with participation of thousands of people in various sports activities. It is a show of camaraderie, solidarity and peace through sports, one of the core objectives of the Olympic Movement. The event was also to give members of the community at all age levels to take up sports as a recreation and a healthy way of life.

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:

- Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and also Prime Minister of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, The Right Honourable David Cameron, MP in conjunction with Her Majesty Queen's birthday on June 6.
- His Excellency Dmitry Medvedev, the President of the Federal Republic of Russia and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Vladimir Putin as well as to the Government and the people of the Russia Federation on the occasion of the Russian Federation's 21st National Day on June 10.
- His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino the Third, the President of the Republic of the Philippines on the occasion of the 113th Independence Day of the Republic of the Philippines on June 12.
- His Excellency Choummaly Sayasone, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and His Excellency Thongsing Thammavong, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the occasion of their respective re-appointments as President and Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on June 16.

e-Government Innovation Centre opened

TUNGKU, June 4 – The e-Government Innovation Centre (eG.InC) has been set up to encourage e-Government innovation through research and education by emphasising on three elements which are research, training and forum. The eG.InC will guide e-Government research by formulating advance research; and evaluate and monitor e-Government programmes that have been achieved and updated. It will also recommend the directions for future e-Government strategic plan and blueprint besides conducting other activities such as discussing e-Government matters.

Present to officially open the innovation centre was His Royal Highness Prince Haji `Abdul `Azim at the Institute for Leadership, Innovation and Advancement (ILIA) Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

The establishment of eG.InC at UBD was achieved through cooperation between Prime Minister's Office and Korean Advanced Institute for Science and Technology (KAIST).



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. AU

His Royal Highness during the launching of the innovation centre at the Institute for Leadership, Innovation and Advancement (ILIA) Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Islamic Writing Award

JERUDONG, June 27 – It is hoped that the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Islamic Writing Award will contribute towards achieving Vision 2035 which is to produce educated and highly skilled people. It is also as a form of highest recognition and honour for writers who have shown excellence in their efforts towards strengthening and expanding Islamic teachings in this country.

His Royal Highness Prince `Abdul Malik said in his *sabda* (royal speech) at the presentation of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Islamic Writing Award held at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

Earlier in his *sabda*, His Royal Highness said the effort made by the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation to produce Islamic intellectuals and scholars in this country are timely as it befits His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's aspiration to make Brunei Darussalam as 'Negara Zikir'.

His Royal Highness further said that he was made to understand that a total of 34 books of various fields produced by local writers published between 1992 to 2009 had been analysed. The books, according to His Royal Highness would definitely be able to develop and enrich Islamic pure values besides becoming as source of inspiration among the citizens to move forward and achieve excellence as knowledgeable human.

Four prolific veteran writers received Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Awards for Islamic Writers.

The recipients were;

- The State Mufti, Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz. The State Mufti received the Special Islamic Writing Award in the field of syariah;
- Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Mohamad Zain received the Special Islamic Writing Award in the fields of syariah and society;
- Pehin Jawatan Dalam Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Haji Awang Mohamad Jamil Al-Sufri received the Special Islamic Writing Award in the field of history and society;
- The late Dato Paduka Seri Setia Professor Dr. Awang Haji Mahmud Saedon received the Special Islamic Writing Award in the field of law and syariah. Present to receive the award on behalf of his late father was Awang Mahmud Shauqi.



His Royal Highness in his *sabda* (royal speech) says the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Islamic Writing Award is a highest recognition and honour for writers who have shown excellence in their efforts towards strengthening and expanding Islamic teachings in this country.



The State Mufti receives the Special Islamic Writing Award in the field of syariah.

HRH awarded 'Friendship Ambassador'

BEIJING, CHINA, June 13 – Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is currently at the People's Republic of China to celebrate the 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China.

Her Royal Highness in the evening attended a dinner hosted by the President of China-ASEAN Association, Madam Gu Xiulian.

Prior to, Her Royal Highness received a 'Friendship Ambassador' award on Her Royal Highness' contribution in strengthening Brunei-China relations.

The 'Friendship Ambassador' award was presented by the Madan Gu Xiulian on behalf of People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC).



PHOTO: INFOFOTO

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

HRH meets State Councillor of the State Council of People's Republic of China

BEIJING, CHINA, June 14 – Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade paid a courtesy call on Her Excellency Liu Yandong, State Councillor of the State Council of People's Republic of China

During the courtesy call, Her Royal Highness thanked Her Excellency for the invitation for Her Royal Highness to visit the People's Republic of China. Her Excellency expressed her appreciation on Her Royal Highness' contribution in enhancing friendship between the peoples and governments of Brunei Darussalam and People's Republic of China.

The courtesy call took place at Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

Her Royal Highness also held a meeting with Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China,

His Excellency Hu Zhengyue and met the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Zhang Zhijun.

The meeting was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

During the meeting with His Excellency Hu Zhengyue and His Excellency Zhang Zhijun, Her Royal Highness expressed her satisfaction with the progress achieved in bilateral relations between both nations since the establishment of diplomatic ties 20 years ago.

Both sides also discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation and exchanged ideas on the important regional and international matters.

Her Royal Highness was accompanied by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz.

HRH visits Urumqi in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region

CHINA, June 15 – Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade continues her visit to the People's Republic of China with a visit to Urumqi in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

During the visit, Her Royal Highness held a meeting with the Deputy Chairman of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Her Excellency Jin Nuo. Her Royal Highness informed Her Excellency that Xinjiang has become an attraction for Brunei citizens and expressed her hope that both sides will identify suitable fields for cooperation.

Her Royal Highness also attended a dinner hosted by Her Excellency.

On June 16, Her Royal Highness continued her visit to China by visiting Kashgar in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

Upon arrival, Her Royal Highness was greeted by Mr. Wang Yongzhi, Deputy Commissioner of Kashgar Prefecture Administrative Office. Her Royal Highness then visited several famous sites in Kashgar including the Id Kah Mosque, the Old Town District and the Central and West Asia International Trading Market. Mr. Wang Yongzhi also hosted a luncheon in honour of Her Royal Highness. Later in the evening, Her Royal Highness left Kashgar for Urumqi.

Her Royal Highness was accompanied by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar.

Microsoft Academy Launch

PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID



The Deputy Permanent Secretary (IT and e-Government) at Prime Minister's Office at the Microsoft Academy Programme Launching ceremony.

JERUDONG, June 2 – Information technology (IT) literate manpower are the key to the e-government vision and overall development to local Info-Communication Technology (ICT) Industry. Beside it is also a progressive steps which significant to e-Government planning.

Deputy Permanent Secretary (IT and e-Government) at Prime Minister's Office, Awang Haji Azhar bin Haji Ahmad stated the matters at the Microsoft Academy Programme Launching ceremony held at the Indera Kayangan Ballroom, The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

In few years back, a large sum of money had been allocated by the government for enhancing ICT capability and capacity such as IT literacy programme which focused on all public sector employee, he said.

Various programmes had been organised including sending government officials overseas for IT Post Graduate

Diploma courses.

Prior to that, he also touched on the cooperation between Microsoft and Microsoft Academy which marked another milestones achieved by the E-Government National Centre (EGNC).

With the establishment of this academy it showed commitment between government and private sector, and here Microsoft Corporation play role in enhancing efficiency development of IT power resources particularly for Civil Service in Brunei Darussalam.

The initiative also supports the e-Government 2009-2014 Strategic Plan mainly First Strategic Priorities in Developing Capabilities and Capacity to achieve mission and vision of e-Smart Government in the 21st Century and also to establish electronic governance and services towards providing the best to the nation in line with National Vision 2035 to produce educated and highly skilled citizen.

As the first Microsoft Academy in the world it is an exclusive and unique programme where Microsoft assisting in enhancing the skill of IT sector in Brunei, government and private sectors in coming three years.

The Microsoft Academy will be divided into two main programmes that are; first, Microsoft Academy for government, which provide one year intensive training for selected EGNC employees to work at Microsoft and assist in management and handling the EGNC Microsoft technology infrastructure under supervision of Microsoft employees.

Second, Microsoft Academy for Partners which will be introduced in final stage to provide same curriculum training at Microsoft for selected IT employees from partner organisations, where they will work in delivering projects around Brunei.

Under both programmes, selected employee will spend six-week at the Microsoft international facility to work together with Microsoft personnel and learn in depth about a core Microsoft technology area or solution.

Study on Brunei's indigenous fruits species

BERAKAS, June 2 – A study to evaluate and identify systematically the biodiversity of the nation's indigenous fruits will be conducted made feasible through the signing of a contract agreement on consultancy services for the 'Study on Distribution, Genetic Diversity and Development of the Indigenous Fruits Species in Brunei Darussalam'.

The agreement was signed between the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources and Centre for Agriculture Bioscience International Southeast and East Asia Regional Centre (CABI SEA).

Signing on behalf of Agriculture and Agrifood Department was its Acting Director, Dayang Hajah Aidah binti Haji Mohd. Hanifah; and her counterpart was Doctor Lum Keng Yeang, the Head Scientist from CABI SEA.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Resources, Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Amin Liew and the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the ministry, Dayang Hajah Normah Suria Hayati.

The main objective is for the publication of a scientific book on Brunei Darussalam's Indigenous Fruits. It can also increase knowledge in identifying the types of fruits besides raising awareness and appreciating the existence of local fruits as valuable heritage. This will be a five-phase project to be carried out over a period of 30 months.



The Permanent Secretary and the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Resources witness the signing ceremony.

PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

Signing of MoU on multimedia and animation

BERAKAS, June 7 – The Authority for Info-Communication Technology Industry (AiTi) Brunei Darussalam and Multimedia Development Corporation Sdn. Bhd. (MDeC) Malaysia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on multimedia and animation.

The agreement is AiTi's effort in developing and promoting local info-communication technology (ICT) establishment.

Signing for AiTi was its Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Awang Haji Yahkup bin Haji Menudin and MDeC's CEO, Datuk Badlisham Ghazali.

Present to witness the signing ceremony was Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdullah and High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Dato Abdullah Sani bin Omar.

With the signing, both sides will be able to enhance and facilitate further business cooperation between both countries in creative content, including special digital content, animation, visual effects (VFX), and also opportunities in post-production projects for creative multimedia companies in Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia.

The cooperation is hoped to produce a platform for participation in bilateral promotions in creative multimedia



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

The Minister of Communications and High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam witness the signing ceremony on Multimedia and Animation.

industry, including new media conference and digital content, trade exhibition and networking ceremonies.

The signing ceremony took place at Dewan Seri Kerna, AiTi in Berakas.

Anduki new terminal launched

SERIA, June 9 – The Aviation Department of Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP) recorded another milestone in its establishment with the launching of Anduki New Terminal after achieving zero accidents within its 42 years. The department has safely operated more than 182,890 flight hours and 876,756 landings transporting more than four million passengers.

The new terminal was launched by the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Colonel (Retired) Dato Haji Mohammad Yasmin.

The new terminal fulfills the needs of BSP's vision for 'The Future of Fuel Brunei' where it opens new and exciting opportunities where the company can contribute greater for the betterment of this country.

The upgrading and modernisation of the terminal displays new terminal building including the new generation of Sikorsky S92 helicopters, new platform and more sophisticated equipments to enhance the safety and effectiveness of the department's services and operations.

Minister attends receptions



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

Present on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Abu Bakar and wife attended a reception to celebrate the Reception of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's 85th birthday.

Also present was High Commissioner of Britain, His Excellency Rob Fenn.

The reception was held at the Indera Samudera Ballroom, The Empire Hotel and Country Club on June 6.



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

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 spouse attended a reception to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the Russian Federation's National Day.

Also present was the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Russia to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Victor A. Seleznev.

The reception was held at Indera Kayangan Ballroom, The Empire Hotel and Country Club, Jerudong on June 9.

4th National Environment Conference focus on environment

PHOTO: AK. AMIRULNIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI



The Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi delivers a speech at the 4th National Environment Conference.

GADONG, June 8 - The 4th National Environment Conference (NEC 2011) was held as a platform to engage the public and private sector on environmental issues, natural resources management, and green business for a sustainable future.

Present as guest of honour was Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi, Minister of Development held at Rizqun International Hotel.

The conference focused on how Brunei Darussalam can develop its marine resources in an environmentally and economically sustainable way.

The conference gathered speakers from Australia, Germany, Singapore, and South Africa and participation from government ministries, academic institutions and non-government organisations.

The conference with the theme 'Green Brunei: New Ideas For A Sustainable Country' was organised by Asia Inc. Forum in partnership with Alcoa, Butra Heidelberg Cement, TOTAL and HSBC.

Brunei Darussalam has potential produce marine life

PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN



The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources officiates a seminar held in conjunction with World Oceania Day.

ensure the development of sustainable fish resources.

The matters were said by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR), Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya at the official opening of a seminar held in conjunction with World Oceania Day held at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

The minister said Brunei Darussalam has a great opportunity to advance its science 'Marine Stewardship' nationally, regionally and globally and the success is a remarkable achievement by international standards.

To ensure the conservation of the ecosystem of its coral reef, Brunei Darussalam through MIPR plans to establish Marine Protection Areas (MPAs) at its coastal waters. This is to ensure that ecosystem of its coral reef is rich with biological diversity and fisheries production where it is a contribution to national food security.

In planning the next five-year National Development Plan, the minister wanted to see a national emphasis on the use and protection of this nation's marine resources and coastal.

The minister also said that Brunei Darussalam intends to participate in coral triangle initiative (CTI), an initiative undertaken by several countries bordering the 'Pacific Rim' to maintain and enrich the diversity of the population of coral and marine life.

JERUDONG, June 9 - The future of Brunei Darussalam's coastal and marine life has an encouraging potential where protection can provide the future of a productive and safe production and diversity of its marine life. With this as a guideline, the Fisheries Department has strived to

Youth Sport Fiesta platform for sports talents

PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIAL HAJI SAID



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports launched 5th Youth Sport Fiesta 2011.

BERAKAS, June 11 - Sports play an important role in contributing to the development of the nation and can build a positive attitude or personality within the individual such as discipline, teamwork and competitive spirit.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair stated the matter at the official opening of the 5th Youth Sport Fiesta 2011 held at the Indoor Stadium, Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex.

The minister added through sports, it will be able to prevent youth from being involved with cigarettes, drugs and HIV/AIDS.

While in the field of economics, sports can contribute to additional sources of income and employment to individuals in addition to enabling the growth of tourism and sports industries in the country.

The sports fiesta will run for eight days starting from June 11 to 18. A total of 14 sports events are competed with participation of 1,437 athletes and officers from six contingents.

FBBA broadens economic opportunities

GADONG, June 11 – The French-Brunei Business Association (FBBA) since its establishment has been active in bringing together the business communities of Brunei Darussalam as well as developing economic opportunities and strengthens the good relations between Brunei and France.

In Brunei Darussalam itself, many leading companies have become part of a company or association of FBBA where this is a very encouraging trend.

The matters were stated by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair at the Annual Get-together Dinner of the FBBA held at Centrepoin Hotel.

The minister said that the international relationship and nation's trade development is a microcosm for international bodies in matters related with APEC, ASEM, AFTA, ASEAN and ASEAN-EU.

Also present at the get-together dinner was French Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam and Patron of FBBA, His Excellency Patrick Louis Le Vert.



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair at the Annual Get-together Dinner of the FBBA.

PHOTO: AK. AMIRUNIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI

International Archive Day celebrated



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

There are still many people with limited knowledge on the role of the National Archive. The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports stated the matter at a ceremony to celebrate International Archive Day.

JALAN MENTERI BESAR, June 13 – Efforts towards promoting to the public on the role of the National Archive is a proactive and correct step. This is because there are still many people with limited knowledge on its role. There are still many people who perceived the National Archive as a place to store old documents solely used for the department only. While there are those who perceived that it is difficult to get access to the documents and

that even if there is access, it is only for historians and academia.

In this regard, it is important to understand that the records and documents stored at the National Archive are information given by a number of parties especially government agencies. It is protected with care as proof of implementation of official duties in accordance with legal and administrative requirements.

The matters were said by Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports at a ceremony to celebrate International Archive Day held at the National Archive Building.

The records and documents stored are a national heritage and a highly valuable source of information. It is an accurate testimony on the society's development such as on its economy, socio-politics, environment, religion and technology.

Universally, said the minister, archive institutions are facing a number of challenges which are not only derived from composition of the document material itself, resulting in damage but also from the risks of floods, fire and war. While audio-visual and electronic archive materials face the risk of technological obsolescence from the rapid progress of information communication technology.

In any situation, the archive's integrity must be defended in line with the responsibility of maintaining

and preserving valuable national documents and records. This can be achieved by giving attention to the contents in the 'Universal Declaration on Archives and Code of Ethics for Archivists' by those involved in archive duties.

Speaking on the celebration, Brunei Darussalam's National Archive is the first to organise 'International Archive Day' from the Southeast Asian Regional Branch of the International Council of Archives (SARBICA) established in 2010.

In conjunction with International Archive Day, an exhibition with the theme 'Memori Kolektif Bangsa' (Nation's Collective Memory) is currently held where it involves participations from members of the public. The exhibition is opened to the public until August 13.

It is hoped that through this celebration, members of the public will be more aware on the importance of records and archive as the basis to document the national and society's identity. It is also hoped that the public will be aware on the importance of long-term care towards archive and providing relevant access for the purpose of research and reference.

Brunei Darussalam's National Archive was established in 1977 where its role is to collect and protect government and public records that have historical value for reference and study purposes based on Brunei Darussalam Archive Act 1975.

ILM Academy and Open University Malaysia signs MoA



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

The Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office witnesses the signing ceremony.

BERAKAS, June 13 - The ICT Leadership and Management (ILM) Academy is continuously on the go to improve its quality and excellence in teaching in its effort to produce quality and marketable graduates.

In this regard, a signing ceremony of Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between ILM Academy and Open University Malaysia (OUM) was held at Knowledge Hub based in Anggerek Desa.

Signing on behalf of ILM Academy was its General Manager, Dayang Hajah Hasnah binti Haji Azri; while OUM was represented by its President and Vice Chancellor, Yang Berbahagia Profesor Emeritus Tan Sri Anuwar Ali.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Awang Haji Azhar bin Haji Ahmad.

World Blood Donors Day 2011

BERAKAS, June 14 – Brunei Darussalam, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) is among the 62 countries where 100 per cent of its blood donations are derived from volunteers. Thus the government is proud on this act of volunteering where those who donated do not expect in return to be paid or receive rewards.

The matters were highlighted by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan at a celebration to commemorate World Blood Donors Day 2011.

According to the minister, this act of good deed is not only encouraged in Islamic teachings but it also reflects a caring society and a society that has the spirit to help one another. However, there is still a need for blood donors to come forward since artificial blood has not been found yet.

In this regard, the Ministry of Health put strong emphasis to ensure that the blood received are safe to use where a number of about 900 to 1,000 units of blood donated undergo lab testing every month. Thus, the lab's capacity is vital and taken into serious account as the test undergone should meet international standards; and has the ability to ensure that the test results are accurate and given promptly.

The ceremony was highlighted with a forum entitled 'More Blood, More Lives Saved' by four panels to discuss and debate the theme.

The ceremony also included a presentation of Excellent



PHOTO: AK, AMIRULNIZAM PG, HAJI MOHD, AU

In Brunei Darussalam, 100 per cent of blood donations are derived from volunteers. The Minister of Health stated the matter at a celebration to commemorate World Blood Donors Day 2011.

Campaign Coordinators Award 2011. The award was presented in appreciation of the contributions and involvement in the blood-donation campaign for more than 20 years.

The celebration with the theme 'More Blood, More Lives Saved' was held at the International Convention Centre.

Brunei-Andorra establish diplomatic ties

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 17 - The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Principality of Andorra established diplomatic relations with effect from June 16, 2011.

The signing of the Joint Communique took place at the Office of the Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations, New York.

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was represented by Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations in New York, His Excellency Latif bin Tuah, whilst the Government of the Principality of Andorra was represented by Permanent Representative of Government of the Principality of Andorra to the United Nations in New York, His Excellency Mr. Narcis Casal de Fonsdeviela.



PHOTO: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

The Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations in New York, His Excellency Latif bin Tuah (L) and the Permanent Representative of Andorra to the United Nations in New York, His Excellency Mr. Narcis Casal de Fonsdeviela (R) during the signing of the Joint Communique.

12 athletes participate Special Olympics World Summer Games

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 18 – A total of 12 special athletes will be representing Brunei Darussalam at the Special Olympics World Summer Games 2011 in Athens, Greece.

The national flag presentation ceremony was held at the Brunei International Airport prior to their departure.

The flag was presented by the Permanent Secretary

at the Ministry of Culture, Youths and Sport, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Sa Bali to the head of contingent, Noel Mendiolla.

The Special Olympics Brunei Darussalam is active in participating sports event and had organised regional sports events such as Special Olympics Asia Pacific Bocce Competition in 2005, 2008 and 2010.

Pre-Bridex Walkathon 2011

JERUDONG, June 19 – As part of the activities to promote the upcoming Brunei International Defence Exhibition (BRIDEX), a Pre-Bridex Walkathon 2011 was organised by Royal Brunei Technical Services (RBTS) and Bridex Group 2011.

Some 250 people took part in the walkathon where among those who took part was the Defence Deputy Minister, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat. The event took place at Bridex Hall, Jerudong.

Brunei Darussalam will be hosting BRIDEX 2011 which coincides with the Golden 50th anniversary of Royal Brunei Armed Forces. BRIDEX is the premier defence and security event in South East Asia which brings together world's leading manufacturers and suppliers of defence and security equipment and systems from across the entire

supply chain, and high level international government and defence and security officials, providing them with a unique experience in business facilitation.

BRIDEX serves as an exclusive marketplace to showcase the latest, innovative and value-enhancing technology solutions in land, sea, air and security systems to address the wide spectrum of security challenges being faced by countries in the region and around the world.

This is the third BRIDEX to be held in Brunei where the first event was held in 2007 and later in 2009. This year's BRIDEX is scheduled to be held from July 5 to 9. For more information on this event, more details are available at www.bridex2011.com.

5th Petanque Pan Pacific Games: Brunei 1st runner-up

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 20 – Petanque Team of Brunei Darussalam 2 emerged as 1st runner-up in the 5th Pan Pacific Games in Kao Rai Club, Pattaya, Thailand after being defeated by Singapore Team 2 in the final with 13 to 4 points.

Brunei team in the triple shooting event comprised of Pengiran Haji Asmalina bin Pengiran Haji Jaya; Abdul Hafiz bin Abdul Majid; and Muhd A'afiq Izzuddin bin Haji Wira.

The 5th Petanque Pan Pacific Games was held for two days from June 17 to 18. It was participated by 20 teams from six countries namely Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and Taiwan.

The last tournament held in Singapore saw Brunei collecting one bronze medal through triple event.

Business Licensing System to ease business transaction

JERUDONG, June 21 – A new application known as Business Licensing System (BLS) is envisioned to facilitate applications to register business companies and permits via online. It is hoped that BLS will be as the main service centre to provide entrepreneurs a platform to apply 30 types of licenses from 13 government agencies. This new system is one of Brunei's e-government flagship projects involving a number of agencies which will enhance productivity and efficiency.

Thus a signing ceremony was held for 'The Design, Development, Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Maintenance of BLS Integration to Licensing Agencies Backend System' held at Royal Berkshire Hall, Jerudong Park Polo Club.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Mohd Amin Liew bin Abdullah and the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs, Dr. Haji Affendy bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin. Meanwhile, Shinba Edaran (B) Sdn. Bhd. was represented by its Director, Yang Berbahagia Dato Bistamam.

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

The Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources and the Ministry of Home Affairs are the two ministries responsible to implement this project.

Brunei ICT companies partake CommunicAsia 2011

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 20 – A number of information technologies (ICT) companies from Brunei Darussalam will be taking part in CommunicAsia 2011 held from June 21 to 24 at Marina Bay Sands Exhibition Halls, Singapore.

During the exhibition, the dynamic local companies will be promoting Brunei's ICT products to the international market apart from increasing knowledge on latest technology; as well as exchanging ideas and views through business networking with other international companies.

The participating companies are BruGPS Technologies Sdn. Bhd.; Bulan Sabit Sdn. Bhd.; Telekom Brunei Berhad (TelBru); Network Integrity Assurance Technologies Sdn. Bhd. (NIAT); ILM Academy; Mars Enterprise; Padian.com; Expansys Technologies and Infindo. These companies are gathered by the Authority Info-communications Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam (AiTi) where AiTi has been actively promoting Brunei's ICT products and services at CommunicAsia under Brunei Darussalam's Pavilion since 2008.

Brunei-Jamaica establish diplomatic ties

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 21 - The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of Jamaica established diplomatic relations with effect from June 20, 2011.

The signing of the Joint Communiqué took place at the Office of the Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations in New York.

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was represented by the Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations in New York, His Excellency Latif bin Tuah, whilst the Government of Jamaica was represented by the Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations in New York, His Excellency Mr. Raymond Wolfe.



PHOTO: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

The Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations in New York, His Excellency Latif bin Tuah (L) and the Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations in New York, His Excellency Mr. Raymond Wolfe (R).

Islamic Education Debate Competition among ASEAN Universities

TUNGGU, June 22 - As part of its 25th anniversary of its establishment, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) had organised an Islamic Education Debate Competition among ASEAN Universities.

Emerged as champion was Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia where the winner received \$1,500 and a challenge trophy; followed by University Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia and Universiti Sabah Malaysia in second and third place.

Present to award the prizes was the Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abu Bakar held at Chancellor Hall, UBD.

A total of eight teams comprising of ASEAN universities took part in the competition.



PHOTO: AK. AMIRULIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. AU

Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abu Bakar delivers a speech at the Islamic Education Debate Competition among ASEAN Universities.

Brunei-Monaco establish diplomatic relations

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 23 - The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Principality of Monaco have established official diplomatic relations with effect from June 22, 2011.

The signing of the Joint Communiqué took place at the Office of the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam in Paris, France.

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was represented by the Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to France, His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Zainidi bin Haji Sidup, while the Government of the Principality of Monaco was represented by the Ambassador of the Principality of Monaco to France, His Excellency Jean Pastorelli.



PHOTO: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

The Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to France, His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Zainidi bin Haji Sidup (L) and the Ambassador of the Principality of Monaco to France, His Excellency Jean Pastorelli (R).

Deputy Minister receives courtesy call

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 25 - The Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Wahab received a courtesy call from Member of Parliament and head of delegation from the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts of the Republic of Singapore, The Honourable Encik Zaay Mohamad.

The courtesy call was held at the Prime Minister's Office in Jalan Kumbang Pasang.

The visit by the delegation was in conjunction with the joint production of 'Xpedisi Siswa' and 'Titian Minda 2011' between Radio Televisyen Brunei (RTB) and MediaCorp Singapore.



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

The delegation from Member of Parliament and head of the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts of the Republic of Singapore paid a courtesy call to the Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

Brunei supports sustainable fisheries Action Plan

THAILAND, JUNE 27 - Brunei Darussalam supports the Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 besides adopting the resolution on the respective plan.

Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya stated the matters at the Ministerial Meeting of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for ASEAN Region Towards 2020: Fish for the People' Adaptation to a Changing Environment held in Bangkok, Thailand on June 17.

At the meeting, the minister also informed the programmes implemented in Brunei fisheries sector and steps taken for ensuring continuous fisheries and aquaculture sources for ensuring food security towards 2020.

The meeting was officiated by Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, The Honourable Mr. Trairong Suwankiri and chaired by The Honourable Mr. Theera Wongsamut.

Brunei Darussalam's delegation to the meeting comprised of the Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR), Dayang Hajah Normah Suria Hayati; Director of Fisheries, Dayang Hajah

Hasnah and officers from MIPR and Fisheries Department.

The ministers of ASEAN and SEAFDEC in the meeting agreed on the importance of fisheries sector in ASEAN and its role in giving contribution to national development, food security, and continuous development and in enhancing people standard of living.

The ministers also realised the challenges that arise and environmental changes face by fisheries sector such as decreased in fisheries and its habitat sources, apparent changes in trade terms and seafood market and impact from climate change to fisheries industry.

The Ministerial Meeting of ASEAN and SEAFDEC which is responsible on fisheries also adopted one resolution followed with an action plan which would provide direction for each country towards continuous fisheries sources and food security.

The resolution is to accept the challenges face by fisheries sector now and in the future towards 2020.

It will also be submitted for adoption by ASEAN Minister on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF).

Usage of standard imperative for producers and consumers



PHOTO: DK NURHAFLAH PG. OSMAN

The Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources speaking at the Seminar on the Establishment of the National Standards Act for Brunei Darussalam.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 27 - The usage of accredited standard is not only important to outline characteristics and requirements need to be abide by the product producer and service provider, but it is also important for consumers so they can enjoy safe and quality product.

The Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Mohd. Amin Liew who is also the Chairman for the National Standard Council, stated the matters at the Seminar on the Establishment of the National Standards Act for Brunei Darussalam.

The National Standard Council, said the Permanent Secretary, functions to organise all services on development of national standards and quality for enhancing industrial efficiency besides developing economy and protection to consumers.

The seminar was held as a continuous effort to encourage more participation and greater awareness across agencies for the formulation of National Standards Act.

Two working papers were presented at the seminar. The first working paper was from Skrine Berhad on 'Overview of the Project on the Establishment of National Standards Act and Its Coverage' presented by Faizah Jamaluddin; followed by 'SQAM Infrastructure, Principle of Standardisation and National Measurement System' from Salmah Md. Nordin and Dr. Md. Nazri Zainal Abidin of Sirim Berhad, Malaysia.

More than 50 people participated in the seminar that took place at Dewan Setia Pahlawan, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources in Jalan Menteri Besar, Berakas.

Preparatory meeting on 3rd HoB Council Meeting

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 4 – The 7th Heart of Borneo (HoB) National Council Meeting was held at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources where amongst the matters discussed was on preparation for the upcoming 3rd HoB meeting. The 3rd HoB will be held in Kalimantan, Indonesia.

The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya who is also the Chairman of HoB National Council.

The meeting was also to update the National Council Members on the ongoing project under Brunei HoB Project Implementation Framework (PIF) and new projects proposed by lead agencies especially collaboration with international foreign research institutes.

Brunei participates in SEM Asia 2011

SERIA, June 4 – Brunei Darussalam will participate for the first time in the Shell-Eco Marathon (SEM) Asia 2011 held at the Sepang International Circuit, Kuala Lumpur from July 6 to 9, 2011.

Brunei Shell Petroleum Company (BSP) in cooperation with Department of Technical Education, Ministry of Education will be sending a team representing the Mechanical Training Centre, Kampung Tungku, Gadong and Sultan Bolkiah Vocational School, Seria.

The national team of 21 automotive students will be joining 103 teams from 12 countries.

Home Affairs Minister attends 100th Session of International Labour Conference

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 11 – The 100th Session of International Labour Conference is held in Geneva, Switzerland on June 1 to 17 where Brunei Darussalam is represented by the Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin.

The conference among others is discussing standing items such as the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work; Budget Proposal for 2012 to 2013 and Convention and Recommendations.

Brunei Darussalam became the 180th member of International Labour Organisation on January 17, 2007.

Link Road and Bridge from Old Airport to Kampung Menglait built

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 15 – To further ease road transportation for road users, a project to build a Link Road and Bridge from the Old

Airport area to Kampung Menglait has officially commenced. A foundation laying ceremony for the project was led by the Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi.

The project amounting to approximately \$8.4 million is expected to be completed in December 2012. It is one of the projects under the National Development Plan 2007-2012 carried out by the Public Works Department.

Among the scopes of this project include the construction of a four-lane bridge across Sungai Kedayan; construction of new road leading to the bridge and an exit lane to the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Highway; upgrading of Jalan Menglait's road junction; installation of street lights; and construction of concrete sewage along the road.

Green growth discussed at Global Green Growth Summit 2011

SEOUL, KOREA, June 20 – Matters related to development strategies for green growth and to reinforce cooperation among countries were discussed at the Global Green Growth Summit 2011 held in Seoul, Korea. The first day of the summit saw three sessions of discussions namely; 'Building Planet-Responsible Civilization', 'Green Growth & Sustainable Development Governance: Rio+20 & Beyond', and 'GGGI and a New Framework of Cooperation'.

Three more sessions were held which touched on 'Prospects and Challenges of the Korean Economy', 'G20 & Global Governance', and 'Towards Better Development Cooperation: HLF-4, G20, MDGs'.

Brunei Darussalam was represented by the Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi.

The summit focused on initiatives for promoting green growth, enhancing global governance and exploring stronger cooperation amongst stakeholders as well as sharing of experiences in the areas of green growth implementation.

While in Seoul, the minister and delegation had the opportunity to visit Eco-City Songdo, and the National Institute of Environmental Research Building as a model of a green building in Incheon, Seoul.

70 athletes for 3rd ASEAN Schools Games

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 22 – Seventy athletes from Brunei Darussalam School Sports Council will participate in the 3rd ASEAN Schools Games 2011 to be held in Singapore from June 30 to July 8.

Brunei's contingent will be participating in seven from 12 sport events namely; athletics, badminton, golf, netball, sepak takraw, swimming and tennis.

Green and red lanes at Brunei International Airport

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 22 – The Customs and Royal Excise Department will be introducing the green and red lanes systems at the Brunei International Airport effective July 1, 2011 as allocated under Chapter 99 of the Customs Order, 2006.

The green and red lanes among others will aim to ease the inspection of goods brought into the country more systematically based on World Customs Organisation (WCO) guidelines and to meet international standards.

It is also to support His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's aspiration to make entry easier for passengers without ignoring and affecting safety aspects.

The system will also provide option for passengers to declare the goods brought in. For declaring the goods brought in, arriving passengers are required to fill a special form that can be obtained from the plane or at Brunei International Airport's arrival hall.

Making a false declaration is an offence under the Customs Order, 2006 where those found guilty will be charged with a fine of \$40,000 or one-year imprisonment or both.

Proposing Team wins Bridging Mind 2011

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 25 – The Proposing Team emerged as the winner in Bridging Mind 2011 with the theme 'New Media Is A Challenge'. While best performance was won by Awang Mohammad Husen bin Haji Ibrahim from Brunei Darussalam.

Bridging Mind 2011 is a programme produced under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore as an effort to strengthen bilateral relations between both countries through testing students' skills and talents in expression of ideas and stage performance.

Bridging Mind became a part of MoU's programme between Brunei Darussalam and Singapore since 1990.

Present to witness Bridging Mind 2011 were Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Paduka Haji Omar and Member of Parliament of Republic of Singapore, The Honourable Zaqa Mohamad.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- Istana Majalis was built in 1921 and it was the first Istana (palace) built on land. In 1922, Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam II moved from the palace in Kampong Ayer (water village) to Istana Majalis.
- The Authority for Info-communications Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam (AiTi) was established in January 1, 2003 by the AiTi Order 2001 to function as telecommunications industry regulator, national radiofrequency spectrum manager and developer of Brunei Darussalam's ICT industry.
- On April 1, 2006, the Telecommunications Successor Company Order 2001 and the Telecommunications Order 2001 were brought into force.
- His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam had consented for the establishment of the National Science and Technology Committee (NSTC) on October 26, 1994 under the Ministry of Development.

>> 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.