Foundation Laying Ceremony for Temburong Bridge Project

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 16** - Brunei Darussalam will continue to move towards a steady and competitive economic growth with the construction of a bridge between Brunei-Muara District and Temburong District.

The construction of the Temburong bridge reflects His Majesty's concern for the welfare of the citizens and residents of the country.

This is one of the highlights during the arrival of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar ‘Ali Saifuddien Sa’adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to the Foundation Laying Ceremony for the Temburong Bridge Project which will be a landmark for the nation and the people in this country.

Accompanying His Majesty to the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince ‘Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince ‘Abdul Wakeel.

Brunei-Laos relations remain firm

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 12** - Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Speaker of the Legislative Council received a goodwill visit from His Excellency Amphay Kindavong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic to Brunei Darussalam.

The goodwill visit took place at the Legislative Council building.

Also present were the Secretary to the Cabinet Ministers’ Council and Clerk to the Legislative Council, Yang Dimulakan Pehin Orang Kaya Pekmera Jaya Dato Paduka Haji Judin bin Haji Asar; Deputy Clerk to the Legislative Council, Dayang Rose Aminah binti Haji Ismail as well as officers from the department.

The visit was aimed at strengthening the friendship and bilateral ties between the two countries.
His Majesty receives audiences

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar ‘Ali Saifuddien Sa’adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman:

Palace newsround

His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Serbini bin Haji Ais, newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States of America; and His Excellency Haji Na’aim bin Md. Salleh, newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Lao People’s Democratic Republic on January 23.

Her Excellency Nagma Mohamed Mallick, newly appointed High Commissioner of the Republic of India to Brunei Darussalam on January 23.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince receives audiences

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office, consented to receive in audience at Qashr Al-Meezaan:

His Excellency Chirdchu Raktabutr, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam on January 21.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER January 2016
His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Muhtadee Brunei Darussalam has consented to send congratulatory messages to:

- His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of Myanmar on the occasion of the 68th Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on January 4.
- The Honourable Sir General Peter Cosgrove, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia; and The Honourable Malcolm Turnbull, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia on the occasion of Australia Day on January 26.
- His Excellency Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of the Republic of India; and His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, on the occasion of the Republic Day of India on January 26.

His Majesty sends message of condolences

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Muhtadee Brunei Darussalam has consented to send a message of condolences to:

- His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia, following the violent attacks and bomb explosions in Jakarta on January 14.
- His Excellency the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the 68th Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on January 4.
- His Excellency Haji Na’aim bin Md. Salleh, newly appointed Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Lao People’s Democratic Republic on January 28.

Foundation Laying Ceremony for Temburong Bridge Project

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Upon arrival at project site of the Temburong Bridge in Kampung Sungai Besar, Jalan Kota Batu His Majesty was welcomed by Yang Berhormat Dato’ Seri Setia Haji Bahrin bin Abdullah, Minister of Development.

His Majesty then proceeded to the Exhibition Hall, where scale models were exhibited to showcase the construction of the Temburong Bridge as a whole.

His Majesty then signed a commemorative plaque of foundation laying of the Temburong Bridge followed with a Doa by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty then viewed the scale models and listened to a briefing on the construction of the Temburong Bridge.

The CC3 package (Navigation Bridges), which is the shipping bridge and the CC4 package (Temburong Viaduct) were also exhibited. The CC3 package involves the construction of two 11.8-kilometre two-way lanes highway bridges; a Single Tower Cable Stay Bridge located at the Brunei Shipping Line and a Twin Tower Cable Stay Bridge located at the Eastern Shipping Line.

The CC4 package involves the construction of two 11.8-kilometre two-way lanes highway bridges including a bridge across Sungai Labu to Jalan Labu, Mukim Labu, Temburong District.
Foundation Laying Ceremony for Temburong Bridge Project (continued)

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During the visit, His Majesty was briefed by Awang Haji Amer Hishamuddin bin Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Zarkana, Acting Deputy Director-General of the Public Works Department, Ministry of Development.

Some of the attractions at the exhibition were the two-tower bridge model built using 150,880 lego pieces for the CC3 package (Eastern Channel Bridge) and the Brunei Channel Bridge tower built using 365,000 lego pieces, brought in from the United States.

His Majesty was briefed by Yee Kok On, Director of Department of Roads, Public Works Department while taking a closer look at the lego models.

The magnificent model was built by P-Nut’s Merchandise Team headed by Norhasha binti Amin as well as her colleagues, Siti Nur Fatannah Aznina binti Haji Azahari and Fatin Afiqaa binti Haji Mohammad Ali within two weeks.


His Majesty viewing the full scale model of the Temburong Bridge.

The Temburong Bridge, which will link Jalan Utama Mentiri in Brunei-Muara District and Jalan Labu Estate in Temburong District, traversing the Brunei Bay is one of the largest public infrastructure projects ever carried out in the country. The construction will be carried out in several phases and is expected to be completed in 2019.

Her Majesty graces Special Assembly for Women

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 16 - Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to attend the Special Assembly for Women in conjunction with the Maulidur Rasul celebration for the year 1437 Hijrah.

Upon arrival at the International Convention Centre, His Majesty was welcomed by Yang Berhormat Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Zarkana, YPPH; Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Ustaz Haji Japar, Assistant Lecturer of KUPU SB; and Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Haji Jofri, Raja Permaisuri Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Jofri, first runner-up of the 2013 Southeast Asia Youth Musabaqah Tilawah Al-Quran while its translation was delivered by Hajah Siti Jannah binti Haji Japar; Assistant Lecturer of KUPU SB.

Dr. Hajah Masnon in her welcoming address among others touched on the theme, Menghayati Sunnah Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam (Understanding and practising the Prophet’s Sunnah).

“The highlight of the ceremony was the recitation of the Al-Quran read by Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna. The ceremony commenced with a recitation of the Al-Quran by Dayangku Fauziah Nadhirah binti Haji Saleh Ab Rahaman, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zanah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sabdul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna.

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Pengiran Haji Jofi, first runner-up of the 2013 Southeast Asia Youth Musabaqah Tilawah Al-Quran while its translation was delivered by Hajah Siti Jannah binti Haji Japar; Assistant Lecturer of KUPU SB.

Dr. Hajah Masnon in her welcoming address among others touched on the theme, Menghayati Sunnah Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam (Understanding and practising the Prophet’s Sunnah).

“Sunnah is a source of knowledge and reference that derived from Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam whether his words, actions, declarations of his characters and manners,” said the Raja Permaisuri Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Jofri.

She further explained that the theme encourages Muslims to study, seek and strive to learn as well as to practise whatever comes from the life of Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam.

She added that this is because the arrival of Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam is a blessing to the world.

Dr. Hajah Masnon also expressed her gratitude for the consent of Her Majesty to attend to the ceremony.

The highlight of the ceremony was the Special Talk titled ‘Menghayati Sunnah Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam’ (Understanding and practising the Prophet’s Sunnah), presented by the Dean of the Faculty of Usuluddin.

The ceremony was also enlivened with a choral performance delivered by students of the Bandar Seri Begawan Arabic Preparatory School, narrating the characteristics of Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam, which are siddiq (honest), amanah (trustworthy), tabligh (delivers the prophecy of Allah the Almighty) and fathanah (intelligent).

This was followed with a performance of Dikir Marhaban by a group of female officers and staff from the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA), Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) and members of the Council of Women of Brunei Darussalam (MWNBD).

To bless the ceremony, a Doa Selamat was read by Datin Hajah Maznah binti Haji Muhammad.

The Special Assembly for Women in conjunction with the Maulud celebration for the year 1437 Hijrah was jointly organised by MoRA and MWNBD in collaboration with MoHA.

This year marks the 22nd event since its inception in 1995 where it was organised specifically for women to commemorate the birth of Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam and his role in enhancing women’s status, as well as being an example to follow.

Also present at the ceremony were the spouses of Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran-Pengiran Cheteria, Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers as well as spouces of the Permanent Secretaries and Deputy Permanent Secretaries.
MoHA to continuously improve public services

Towards this vision, MoHA will continuously improve the welfare of the community, in addition to educating the value of unity, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) carries various responsibilities and needs to be prepared to ensure excellent service and the increase in security as well as the development of the community’s inclusive socioeconomy.

The Minister stated that MoHA’s efforts include the aligning of the Ministry’s strategy so that it is in line with the Brunei Vision 2035; there are six strategic goals which act as a guide, of the Ministry’s strategy so that it is in line with the Brunei Vision 2035; there are six strategic goals which act as a guide, in order to produce interventions for students in order to produce interventions for students in order to meet the expectations of each level.

According to the Minister, the Ministry’s efforts include the aligning of the Ministry’s strategy so that it is in line with the Brunei Vision 2035; there are six strategic goals which act as a guide, in order to produce interventions for students in order to meet the expectations of each level.

The Minister also stated that in order to create a pro-business and business-friendly environment in the country, MoHA is continuously working with key government agencies such as the PENGGERAK (Delivery) Unit, Prime Minister’s Office, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (at that time), and has succeeded in updating the procedures of how to start a business from the 1st of January 2015.

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Compulsory Religious Education Order 2012 must be complied (continued)

From page 10

anthems of both countries, followed by a welcoming speech by His Excellency Cho Htun Aung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Brunei Darussalam.

His Excellency in his speech highlighted that Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar established diplomatic relations on the 21st of September 1993, where the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has consistently maintained the good and friendly relationship between the two countries.

His Excellency also expressed gratitude to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty's Government for the continuous support in the political and economical transformation towards achieving the vision and objective of ASEAN.

His Excellency also touched on the health sector, where a total of 150 comprising medical experts including doctors and nurses from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar have worked and contributed in Brunei Darussalam's health sector.

The highlight of the event was the cake-cutting ceremony in conjunction with the 68th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Launching of International Volunteer Day 2016

The Minister said that D.O.A is one of the pure initiatives undertaken by Department of Youth and Sports.

“It is, in fact, in response to the International Volunteer Day designated by the United Nations (UN) to be celebrated on every 5th of December since 1985. Alhamdulillah, personally feel overwhelmed, proud and delighted by the response of the various agencies in the country, beyond belief, because it was first held taking into account not only in Brunei Darussalam, but in all four districts simultaneously. Hence, it is a good impact for the youth who are constantly engaged in networking. In addition, they can contact each other and already know who they should contact in order to solve any issues,” said the Minister.

The Minister further added that with the networking already created today, other efforts will be easier.

About 1,000 volunteers comprised of youths throughout the district participated in D.O.A activities by bringing together voluntary organisations to volunteer on a large scale.

In this D.O.A, voluntary services provided by volunteers included social services in general such as teaching, delivering food to selected families, donating equipment to mosques, cleaning of mosques, cleaning of beaches, recycling services, home improvement and more.

Among the parties involved were Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, Kampung Rimba Village Consultative Council, Community Welfare Council, Brunei Youth Council, Brunei AIDS Council, Red Crescent Society, KESAN Alumni, Chevening Alumni, Adison Council, Red Crescent Society, KESAN Alumni, Chevening Alumni, Adison Council, Green Brunei, Green Leaders Camp Alumni, Singapore-Brunei Youth Leadership Exchange Programme Alumni (SCOT), Young Entrepreneurs Association Brunei (SUKA) led by the Belait District Office and the Tutong District Office; as well as the Department of Community Development.

Republic of Myanmar celebrates 68th Independence Day

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 10 - Voluntary service has long been embedded in Brunei Darussalam and is often referred to as a measure of community character, concept of cooperation and mutual cooperation in carrying out various community activities that represent the reflection of the spirit.

The government constantly encourages the involvement of members of the community in every community programme in line with the desire to develop the community.

In this regard, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) through the Department of Youth and Sports held a launching ceremony for the Day of Action (D.O.A) in conjunction with the International Volunteer Day which took place at the Youth Centre in the capital.

Present as the Guest of Honour was Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Habli bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports and wife, Datin Hajah Kalshom binti Haji Suhaili.

The ceremony began with the national anthem. The ceremony continued with a New Year's speech delivered by His Excellency, the Guest of Honour. Following the speech, a variety of activities were conducted by the different organisations in the presence of the Minister, the Departmental Heads and other guests.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports viewing the activities conducted by volunteers in conjunction with the International Volunteer Day 2016.


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In strengthening the religious education system in the country, the Minister explained that the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA) has provided specific strategies in providing facilities from year to year, place, preparation of teachers and so on.

The Minister added that what is most important is that no students will be dropped out of religious schools.

The Minister said that Compulsory Religious Education Order ensures that the future generation of Brunei is equipped with basic religious knowledge, at least until Class VI, where it equips them as a Muslim / Muslimah who can perform the fardu ain (obligatory).

The Minister further said that it is different when students enter primary school and study Islamic Religious Knowledge (IRK), where the subject is to complement, refine and reinforce what was already taught in primary school.

Touching on the number of students enrolled in pre-school, the Minister stated that there are 5,258 pre-schoolers registering for religious education in all four districts.

“By looking at the statistics, it shows a good sign. It means that if this goes on, then the next generation of Brunei will be equipped with religious education,” said the Minister.

Also present was Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd. Daud, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs.

The Minister’s visit was to ensure that the registration process for pre-schoolers of 2016 in religious schools across the country is running smoothly and the admission of the students are in compliance with the requirements of the Compulsory Religious Education (Chapter 215), where no Muslim children in this country will drop out of understanding and knowing the basic knowledge of Islamic education.

Out of 5,258 total enrolments across the country, Brunei-Muara District recorded the highest enrolment with a total of 3,764 new students. During the visit, the Minister also mingled with the students and interacted with the parents and guardians of the students who play a vital role in upholding the responsibility and improving the education of Islam.

A total of 92 new pupils were enrolled at the Pengiran Anak Puteri Mutawakilah Hayatul Bolkiah Religious School.

The Compulsory Religious Education Order 2012 which came into force on the 1st of January 2013, states that Muslim parents must ensure that their children are registered as pupils at a religious school, if their child is at the age of compulsory schooling on the 1st of January 2013, and continues to be a pupil for the period of compulsory religious education.

The ceremony began with the national anthem. The ceremony continued with a New Year’s speech delivered by His Excellency, the Guest of Honour. Following the speech, a variety of activities were conducted by the different organisations in the presence of the Minister, the Departmental Heads and other guests.

The Minister of Education interacting with one of the new pre-schoolers’ guardian.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 7 - The Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Brunei Darussalam hosted a Reception Ceremony in conjunction with the 68th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, held at the Songket Ballroom of the Rizqun International Hotel, Gadong.

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Radicalisation continues to be worldwide security concern

KUALA LUMPUR, January 26 – Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamdan bin Haji Abu Bakar, Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office stated that radicalisation continues to be a major concern for security agencies worldwide and will remain as one of the strongest threats faced in the region, especially with the extensive use of the internet as a tool in spreading violent extremism and radical propaganda.

The Deputy Minister also stressed that any government of Brunei Darussalam will remain vigilant against terrorism or terror-related activities happening in the country, especially in the midst of the Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) phenomenon.

The Deputy Minister stated the matter at the International Conference on Deradicalisation and Countering Violent Extremism 2016 which was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from the 25th to 26th of January.

On the second day of the conference, the programme was divided into four plenary sessions on topics related to deradicalisation programmes in certain countries and measures taken to prevent and address violent extremism, shared by invited experts.

The conference was launched by Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Laila Utama Dato’ Sri Mohd. Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia.

The Deputy Minister also shared that in order to effectively address radicalisation and violent extremism, Brunei Darussalam must not undermine the fact that neither of these phenomena are exclusive to any one group or religion nor has it always been religiously motivated.

Brunei intelligence and enforcement agencies will continue to learn and adapt best practices from the counterparts through the sharing of knowledge and experience to improve the current strategies, policies and the undergoing rehabilitation programmes run by the government.

The Deputy Minister also said that although the process of deradicalisation and reintegration is a long-term process and evaluating the effectiveness of rehabilitation efforts may be a long and challenging task, Brunei and the rest of the world believe that such efforts are significant in ensuring the long-term safety of the citizens.

For the first time this year, forty-two countries participated in the conference; Australia, People’s Republic of China, Japan, France, United States, United Kingdom, Italy, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

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Other countries including ASEAN countries participated in the conference; Australia, People’s Republic of China, Japan, France, United States, United Kingdom, Italy, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Joining in the delegation of Brunei Darussalam were senior officials from the Prime Minister’s Office and the Internal Security Department.

Introductory Visit from Royal Malaysian Navy

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 25 – Admiral Dato’ Seri Panglima Ahmad Kamarulzaman bin Haji Ahmad Badaruddin, Chief of Navy of the Royal Malaysian Navy is in the country for a three-day introductory visit from 24th to 26th of January 2016.


The Chief of Navy also paid a courtesy call to First Admiral Pengiran Dato Seri Pahlawan Norazmi bin Pengiran Haji Muhammad, Commander of the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN).

Prior to the courtesy call, Admiral Dato’ Seri Panglima Ahmad Kamarulzaman was accompanied to inspect the Static Guard of Honour comprised of the members of RBN, led by Lieutenant Pengiran Mohd. Fareen bin Pengiran Mohd. Noor.

Admiral Dato’ Seri Panglima Ahmad Kamarulzaman then proceeded to the Headquarters of RBN for a briefing on the organisation of RBN followed by a discussion session.

The introductory visit is a testimony of the esteemed relationship between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia.

Through the visit, both sides had the opportunity to discuss on bilateral activities such as the Hornbill Exercise, courses, meetings, seminars, conferences and exchange of visits as well as exploring ways to further enhance the bilateral relationship between both sides.

Admiral Dato’ Seri Panglima Ahmad Kamarulzaman was appointed as the 16th Chief of Royal Malaysian Navy on the 18th of November 2015 and was previously appointed as Deputy Chief of Navy for a period of three years.

Commander of RBAB receives introductory visit

BERAKAS, January 13 – Yang Dimulakan Pehin Datu Pekermaja Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Awang Mohd. Tawih bin Abdullah, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAB) received an introductory visit from Brigadier General Melvyn Ong Suh Kiat, Chief of Army of the Singapore Armed Forces.

Also present during the visit was Brigadier General Pengiran Dato Seri Pahlawan Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Muhammad, Commander of the Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF).

The introductory visit was a personal introduction to the Commander of RBAB. During the visit, both parties discussed ways to enhance the bilateral defence relationship and professional cooperation between both armed forces, particularly in training and exercises.

Yang Dimulakan Pehin Datu Pekermaja Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Awang Mohd. Tawih bin Abdullah, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAB) (centre) in a group photo with Admiral Dato’ Seri Panglima Ahmad Kamarulzaman (third, right) during the introductory visit.

First Admiral (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Abdul Aziz bin Haji Mohd. Tamil, Deputy Minister of Defence (right) receiving an introductory visit from Admiral Dato’ Seri Panglima Ahmad Kamarulzaman bin Haji Ahmad Badaruddin, Chief of Navy of the Royal Malaysian Navy (left) during an introductory visit from Royal Malaysian Navy.
Understand current geostrategic conditions

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 15 – The participants of the Command and Staff Course (CSC) Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) were urged to challenge the norm for the purpose of obtaining accurate knowledge and information related to their academic development throughout the course.

Yang Dimulakan Peluh Data Pekmera Jaya Mayor General Dato Paduka Seri Awang Moh. Tawih bin Abdullah, Commander of RBAF emphasised the matter during the Opening Ceremony of the 6th Command and Staff Course (CSC) 2016 at the Defence Academy RBAF Auditorium, Kampung Tanah Jambu.

The course will teach participants to understand the current geostrategic conditions around the world, specifically with tensions in the Middle East, Persian Gulf, Korean Peninsula and South China Sea.

According to the Commander, terrorism has been around for a long time, but the world today is experiencing re-existence of global attack where increasing threats can create chaos at every level: individual, regional and global.

The Commander added that as the security personnel, they are very concerned with all of these developments and are interested in finding ways to mitigate the effects of these threats.

“The security challenges faced are increasingly complicated, given the globalisation and rapid development of technologies, which have been fully tested and strengthened in our capabilities.”

“The current downturn in the economy and its implications also has the potential to affect the safety of many countries, including our own. We all know that defence is an expensive undertaking but it is not an option and we cannot compromise the security of our country even in the most demanding times.”

“We just need to be more prudent with our expense for defence and optimise our resources. Every country should always be prepared and able to counter any form of threat effectively,” said the Commander.

The Commander added that it is important for all participants to be open-minded, to analyse and discuss the situation throughout the course including 14 officers from RBAF; an officer from Royal Brunei Police Force and 12 military officers from the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, People’s Republic of China, Republic of India, Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Sultanate of Oman, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Singapore, Thailand and the United States of America.

RBAF hosts ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 25 - The ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM) Logistics Support Framework Table Top Exercise commenced at the Defence Academy, Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).

The event was officiated by Brigadier General (U) Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sahat, Commander of the Joint Forces of RBAF.

In his welcoming remarks, the Commander of the Joint Forces of RBAF stated that the meeting among others was held to equally make the region become resilient against disasters and respond quickly to address any possible disaster in the future.

The Table Top Exercise was conducted to continue the ADMM Logistics Support Framework, aimed at promoting and achieving effective cooperation among ASEAN defence military establishments in areas of common interests.

Chairing the two-day meeting was Captain Hussein bin Dato Paduka, Commandant of Staff College (Joint) and also the Post Graduate Diploma in International Security with the option of pursing a Master degree for the most competent students.

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Haji Mohamad, Director of Logistics and Haji Adi Ibrahim bin Dato Paduka Haji Mahmund, Acting Director of Defence Policy.

The participants comprised of logistics experts from ASEAN Member States, representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Coordination Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre).

RBN hosts IPC on Maritime Security

MUARA, January 27 – A two-day Initial Planning Conference (IPC) for the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting – Plus (ADMM-Plus) Field Training Exercise on Maritime Security (FTX MS) hosted by Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) begins today at the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Defence Academy.

The ADMM-Plus FTX MS which is also called the Exercise Mahi Tangaroa 16, is scheduled to take place on the 11th to 16th of November 2016 in Auckland, New Zealand.

The exercise will include an International Fleet Review as so to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN).

The IPC was co-chaired by Commander Haji Othman bin Haji Suhaili @ Suhaily, Deputy Commander of RBN and Mr. Mike Thompson, Director Asia Ministry of Defence New Zealand.

The work plan to orchestrate Exercise Mahi Tangaroa ‘16 was adopted at the 6th ADMM-Plus EWG Meeting in Sydney, Australia in October 2013.

The Exercise Mahi Tangaroa 16 is aimed to promote cooperation and interoperability among ADMM-Plus member countries in addressing global common non-traditional security threats.

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Commander Haji Othman bin Haji Suhaili @ Suhaily, Deputy Commander of RBN and Mr. Mike Thompson, Director Asia Ministry of Defence New Zealand in a group photo with representatives from ADMM-Plus member countries and the ASEAN Secretariat.

The Commander of the Joint Forces of RBAF in a group photo with participants of the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM).

The participants comprised of logistics experts from ASEAN Member States, representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Coordination Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre).

The exercise will include an International Fleet Review as so to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN).

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Brunei wins Thomas Phillips Moot Debate

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 30 - Three members of the Asian Law Students Association (ALSA) Brunei and students from the Faculty of Shariah and Law of Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University (UNISSA) won the Thomas Phillips Moot Debate Competition at the Annual Conference 2016 in Malaysia.

The Annual Conference is among the major events of the ALSA International where law students from 15 countries get together to attend the Governing Council Meeting and participate in the moot debate discussions as well as the Model United Nations.

The three debaters sent by ALSA Brunei for this year’s competition were Rusyddin bin Bagul, A’bidah binti Mahri, and Hafiz bin Hamzah.

The five out of 15 countries that participated in the competition were ALSA Brunei, ALSA Taiwan, ALSA Thailand, ALSA Malaysia and ALSA Laos.

The issues to be discussed were circulated to all teams a month before the Annual Conference of Malaysia for the participants to prepare for the Bundle of Authorities / Memorials. Matters discussed were related to international criminal law.

In addition, ALSA Brunei also sent five students from the Faculty of Shariah and Law, UNISSA to participate in the Model United Nations. Two out of five participants of Brunei, Abdul Hakim bin Ahmad Zakaria and Nurhani binti Haji Chipili won the Best Position Paper.

Azilla Liyana binti Mohd. Azam Zaki, President of ALSA Brunei expressed gratitude to the team that helped train debaters in the preparation, namely Dr. Altaf Hussein and Hajah Zalwatul Sakinah binti Haji Ibrahim, Vice President of ALSA Brunei, as the former Moot Speaker for the Herbert Smith Freehills Competition Law Moot in Singapore 2014.

The President of ALSA Brunei also thanked UNISSA for the support and sponsorship of ALSA Brunei since 2010.