Meeting of Heads of State of the 20th ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit

SOCHI, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, May 20 - 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 consented to attend the Meeting of Heads of State of the 20th ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit along with representatives from the ASEAN-Russia Business Forum that took place at the Radisson Blu Resort and Congress Center, Sochi.

Upon arrival, His Majesty was welcomed by the President of the Russian Federation, His Excellency Vladimir Putin.

After the Meeting, His Majesty was then invited to join a group photo session with His Excellency the President of the Russian Federation, Heads of States and Governments of ASEAN and Secretary-General of ASEAN.

The ASEAN-Russia Business Forum offers a unique opportunity to promote a dialogue that builds among the main representatives from business, politics, civil society, and expert societies from the Russian Federation and ASEAN countries on major issues of trade, economy, investment and technology cooperation.

It will also enable participants to expand their business network, and will open new opportunities in deepening integration across regions.
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:

His Excellency Jose Rene D. Almendras, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines on May 30.

His Excellency Brigadier (Rtd) Muhammad Zareef Malik, outgoing High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam on May 11.

Continue on page 4
His Majesty receives audiences (continued)

His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

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 consented to attend the Plenary session of the 20th ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit held at the Radisson Blu Resort and Congress Center, Sochi.

The 20th ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit began with an Opening Speech by the President of the Russian Federation, His Excellency Vladimir Putin to welcome the heads of state and government of the 20th ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit, followed by an Opening Speech by the Prime Minister of Laos, Thongloun Sisoulith, as the Chairman of ASEAN.

At the Plenary Session of 20th ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit, His Majesty consented to deliver a titah (royal speech) stressing the need for regional and international cooperation to be more strategic in addressing issues of violence and crimes across the border to another, to consider measures which can help to become more resilient in dealing with economic uncertainty due to the impact of lower oil prices and uncertainties, as well as the economic slowdown in key markets.

His Majesty further expressed hope for increased engagement among ASEAN-Russia security agencies in addressing issues of terrorism and other cross-border crimes, especially in combating elements of extreme violence from entry and settlement in the region.

His Majesty also underlined the ASEAN Economic Community, which was established at the end of last year and the ASEAN economic vision for the next ten years in which it can provide significant opportunities for companies to grow more advanced.

In terms of the trade that has been set for the next ten years, His Majesty highlighted that the role of the business community is important in achieving that goal. In the meantime, strong relationships between trade-ASEAN-Russia should be fostered and facilitated.

His Majesty further emphasised that mutual understanding and friendship built between the people of ASEAN and Russia are the key to strong partnership development. His Majesty then called for a greater understanding of the diversity of the cultures of ASEAN and Russia.

This consolidation, according to His Majesty, can be seen through the commitment of Russia in conducting Symphony Orchestra performances for ASEAN-Russian Youth in ASEAN cities every year, and is welcomed by ASEAN.

Together in addressing regional and global issues

SOCHI, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, May 20 - 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 consented to attend the Plenary session of the 20th ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit held at the Radisson Blu Resort and Congress Center, Sochi.

Huge congratulations to those who achieved the following:

- His Excellency Yang Amat Berhormat Dato’ Sri Mohd. Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, and Yang Amat Berhormat Tan Sri (Dr.) Datuk Patinggi Haji Adenan bin Haji Satem, Chief Minister of Sarawak as well as the Government and people of Jordan, on the occasion of their Independence Day on May 25.
- His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and members of the royal family, following the major victory of the Barisan Nasional Party in the 11th Sarawak State Election and also on the reappointment of Tan Sri (Dr.) Datuk Patinggi Haji Adenan as Chief Minister of Sarawak on May 9.
- His Majesty sent congratulatory messages to:
  - His Excellency Yang Amat Berhormat Dato’ Sri Mohd. Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, and Yang Amat Berhormat Tan Sri (Dr.) Datuk Patinggi Haji Adenan bin Haji Satem, Chief Minister of Sarawak following the major victory of the Barisan Nasional Party in the 11th Sarawak State Election and also on the reappointment of Tan Sri (Dr.) Datuk Patinggi Haji Adenan as Chief Minister of Sarawak on May 9.
  - His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and members of the royal family, as well as the Government and people of Jordan, on the occasion of their Independence Day on May 25.

His Majesty was then invited to attend the Plenary Session of 20th ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit, held at the Radisson Blu Resort and Congress Center, Sochi.
Brunei - Russian enhance cooperation in various fields

SOCHI, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, May 19 - 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 held a bilateral meeting with the President of the Russian Federation, His Excellency Vladimir Putin at the Radisson Blu Resort and Congress Center, Sochi.

Upon arrival at the special meeting room, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was welcomed by the President of the Russian Federation.

During the meeting, His Majesty and the President discussed bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Russian Federation as well as exchanged views on regional and international affairs of common interest.

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of Bilateral Relations of Brunei Darussalam and the Russian Federation since diplomatic relations between the two countries established on October 1st, 1991.

Both sides are committed to increasing trade and economic cooperation in various fields including defence, energy, transport, culture, health, education and tourism.

Addressing Global Maritime Threats

MUARA, May 4 - The ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting Plus Maritime Security and Counter Terrorism Exercise (ADMM-Plus MS & CT Exercise) co-chaired by the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) and the Singapore Armed Forces are expected to enhance military cooperation and interoperability between countries involved in dealing with maritime threats.

The cooperation with the multilateral exercise that took place in the waters of Brunei Darussalam involves ten ASEAN members comprising Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, while eight dialogue partner countries include Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and the United States.

Before continuing training to the Republic of Singapore, 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, the Minister of Defence and the Supreme Commander of the RBAF consented to visit the ADMM-Plus MS & CT Exercise.

The arrival of His Majesty at the Multi National Coordination Center (MNCC) was greeted by the Minister of Energy and Industry at the Prime Minister’s Office, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Rtd.) Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar; the Deputy Minister of Defence, First Admiral (Rtd.) Dato Seri Pahlawan Abdul Aziz bin Haji Mohd. Tamit; and the Commander of RBAF, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Mohd. Tawih bin Abdullah.

Upon arrival, His Majesty was first introduced to the ASEAN Defence Senior Officials’ Meeting (ADSOM)-Plus Leaders and Representatives. His Majesty then went to the conference room and before listening to the welcome of the Commander of RBAF, the reading of the Doa Selamat was led by the Assistant Head of RBAF Religious Department, Captain Ariffin bin Amit.

His Majesty during the meet and greet with one of the countries participating in the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting Plus Maritime Security and Counter Terrorism Exercise (ADMM-Plus MS & CT Exercise).
Addressing Global Maritime Threats (continued)

From page 7
The Commander of RBAF in his welcoming remarks among others said such an exercise provides transparency and open communication platforms that are indispensable to ease tensions, strengthen loyalty and build closer partnerships. He said that the presence of ADSOM-Plus Leaders and Representatives and the strong support of the ADMM-Plus countries reflect a clear sign of continued commitment to cooperation initiatives towards enhancing regional peace, security and stability. Meanwhile, Brigadier General (U) Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sahat, Commander of RBAF as Director of Joint Exercise in his briefing, among others, explained that the training could enhance military cooperation practically from the ASEAN level to the level of friends ASEAN dialogue.

His Majesty then visited the Maritime Security Task Force Headquarters and the Exercise Control Center at MNCC. Shortly afterwards, His Majesty boarded the RBAF Blackhawk S-70i helicopter to KDB DARUTTAQWA and had the opportunity to overlook an aerial view of all ADMM-Plus naval ships docked in the waters of the country.

His Majesty’s arrival at KDB DARUTTAQWA was greeted by Captain Haji Othman bin Haji Suhaili @ Suhaili, RBN, Deputy Commander of the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) as Chairman of Brunei for the ADMM-Plus Group of Maritime Safety Works (EWG MS).

While on the ship, His Majesty witnessed an anti-terrorist attack on the ship which involved the special forces of ADMM-Plus countries.

From KDB DARUTTAQWA, His Majesty then took a closer look at the facilities available on the Japanese ship JDS Ise DDH-182, a Japanese Hyuga-class helicopter destroyer.

Before leaving, His Majesty consented to attend at the National Level Israk Mikraj Celebration for 1437 Hijrah.

Israk Mikraj Celebration:
Prayers are the Keys to Heaven

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 5 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Muhtadee Billah witnessed His Majesty’s arrival at the National Level Israk Mikraj Celebration for 1437 Hijrah.

The ceremony began with the reading of the holy verses of the Al-Quran by Haji Malik bin Haji Jumat, Mosque Affairs Officer from the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MORA), while the meaning of the verses was delivered by Haji Haris bin Haji Suboh, the Religious Officer of Jame’ Asr Hassanil Bolkiah. The Minister of Religious Affairs in his welcoming remarks, informed that MORA through the departments and divisions under it will be holding several additional events including ‘Bengkel Kesempurnaan Sembahyang’ (Perfecting Prayers Workshop) organised by the Islamic Syiar Development Section, specifically for officers and MORA staff members in Section 2 and below.

To enliven the celebration this year, the Minister informed that the Fardu Subuh Prayer will also be held simultaneously in all mosques, surau, balai ibadat (prayer halls) throughout the country.

In addition, a briefing on Obligation in Paying Zakat (Tithe) and How to Pay It (Taklimat Wajib Mengeluarkan Zakat dan Panduan Mengeluarkannya) was conducted by the Brunei Islamic Religious Council (MUIB).

At the event, His Majesty consented to deliver a titah (royal speech) emphasizing that the relevant parties need to come up with detailed studies, not just randomly, about achievement of society, especially our students as a whole, including student in learning centre about the quality of reading the Al-Quran and their prayer.

In the titah, His Majesty said that it is rare for people to talk about improving their performance of the prayers, and that most of them only talk about improving their Al-Quran reading.

“...In my opinion, both should be given equal attention, because the lack or imperfection of prayers still exists,” said His Majesty.

Continue on page 11

The reading of the holy verses of the Al-Quran by Haji Malik bin Haji Jumat, Mosque Affairs Officer from the Ministry of Religious Affairs, while the meaning of the verses was delivered by Haji Haris bin Haji Suboh, Religious Officer of Jame’ Asr Hassanil Bolkiah.
593 recipients receive house keys

TUTONG, May 14 - 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 consented to present house keys to 593 recipients of semi-detached and terrace houses under the RPN Scheme which has with latest and safest design at the mukim and village level including the provision of houses with the provision of suitable facilities such as community halls, recreation areas, playground and more.

Out of this total, 160 people were awarded semi-detached houses, while 433 people were recipients of terrace houses.

Upon arrival, His Majesty was greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Mahat Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Mufti. The Tutong District Officer in his welcoming speech among others said that His Majesty's arrival at the key presentation ceremony was a gift to the people and is greatly appreciated by the recipients.

He added that the presentation of house keys reflects His Majesty's caring nature and attitude towards the well-being of the people and to continue to foster community solidarity in this district.

Through the wisdom of His Majesty, Tutong District continues to enjoy developments through the upgrading of public infrastructure at the mukim and village level including the provision of houses under the RPN Scheme which has with latest and safest design.

He added that the presentation of house keys reflects His Majesty's caring nature and attitude towards the well-being of the people and to continue to foster community solidarity in this district.

The ceremony began with the recital of Surah Al-Fatihah led by Pengiran Haji Shahril Azman bin Pengiran Haji Metasun, Tutong District's Syariah Subordinate Court Judge. The Tutong District Officer in his welcoming speech among others said that His Majesty's arrival at the key presentation ceremony was a gift to the people and is greatly appreciated by the recipients.

He added that the presentation of house keys reflects His Majesty's caring nature and attitude towards the well-being of the people and to continue to foster community solidarity in this district.

The theme for this year’s National Level Israk Mikraj Celebration was ‘Sembahyang Kunci Syurga’ (Prayers are the Keys to Heaven) presented by Dr. Haji Mazanan bin Haji Yusof, Acting Deputy State Mufti. The Israk Mikraj celebration was further enlivened with a Nasyid presentation by youths from Mohammed Bolkiah Mosque in Kampung Serusop and Sultan Sharif Ali Mosque in Kampung Sengkuitung.

A Doa Selamat to bless the ceremony was read by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Mazanan bin Haji Yusof, Acting Deputy State Mufti. The Israk Mikraj celebration was further enlivened with a Nasyid presentation by youths from Mohammed Bolkiah Mosque in Kampung Serusop and Sultan Sharif Ali Mosque in Kampung Sengkuitung.

A Doa Selamat to bless the ceremony was read by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Mazanan bin Haji Yusof, Acting Deputy State Mufti. The Israk Mikraj celebration was further enlivened with a Nasyid presentation by youths from Mohammed Bolkiah Mosque in Kampung Serusop and Sultan Sharif Ali Mosque in Kampung Sengkuitung.

His Majesty during the visit to one of the classes at Abdul Rashid Primary School in Kampung Tanjong Maya.

Some of the guests from various levels of society in the country attending the National Level Israk Mikraj Celebration for 1437 Hijrah.
ambitions particularly in providing resilient and sustainable housing concepts in line with one of the objectives of the National Development Plan (NDP) to improve the quality of life of the people.

On completion of the key presentation ceremony, His Majesty also visited Tanjong Maya Secondary School, Mukim Tanjong Maya; Tutong; Abdul Rashid Tanjong Maya Primary School, Tutong II; Syarikat Wira Bina; Products of Mukim Tanjong Maya Consultative Council; Residence of the Head of Kampung Lubok Pulau; Bukit Beruang Fire Station in Jalan Bukit Beruang, Mukim Tanjong Maya, Tutong.

His Majesty also consented to visit some of the houses of the recipients of the semi-detached houses and terrace houses under the RPN Bukit Beruang, Mukim Teliati Tutong, the houses of Rabiatul Moneerah binti Mansor, Dayangkuyu Shahidah binti Pengiran Kahar, Muhammad Fadhlie bin Abdulhah, Haji Andy Faizal bin Haji Junli, Amiezul binti Mohammad Zulazri and Shahrul Nizam bin Sawal.

A total of 1,500 housing units were built in a residential project in the RPN Bukit Beruang area with an area of 127 hectares with an estimated expenditure exceeding BND144 million. Of the total, 1,000 were terrace house and the rest are semi-detached houses.

This housing project is run by the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) and was handed over to the Ministry of Development in May 2014 after it was completed in March 2014. The floor area of each terrace unit is 85.9m², while the plot size of the unit is 360m² and the middle unit is 250m². Each unit has three bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen and two bathrooms. Meanwhile, the floor area of each detached unit is 130m² with a plot of 400m² and each unit has three bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen and three bathrooms.

This residential area is a comprehensive housing development concept complete with land space for future public amenities such as schools, mosques, commercial facilities, community centres, parks and recreation areas as well as playgrounds.

Since the establishment of the RPN, it has grown and has been appreciated by people in the country, to this day about 27,000 houses under the RPN and the Indigenous Citizen’s Housing Scheme (STKRJ) have been built throughout the country. Of the total, 25,647 houses were awarded to qualified recipients and of that number, 1,304 were also successful applicants for RPN of Tutong District.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Development through the Housing Development Department is currently conducting a comprehensive review of the National Housing Scheme to ensure that it is resilient in meeting the growing application. Some of the long-term strategies also include optimum use to increase the number of houses in which changes can now be seen in terms of the provision of housing design, such as cluster housing and vertical housing.

His Majesty visits Brunei International Airport

His Majesty during the visit to the house of Haji Andy Faizal bin Haji Junli.

His Majesty during the visit to the Royal Brunei Operations Control Centre.

His Majesty then consented to operate the Boeing aircraft with Captain Sharifah Czarena Surainy binti Syed Hashim.

Also in the cockpit was Chief Pilot, Captain Saiful Bahrin bin Bahar; Senior First Officer, Dayangku Nadiah binti Pengiran Khashiem and Senior First Officer, Dayang Sariana binti Nordin. His Majesty’s visit reflects His Majesty’s encouragement and recognition to the success of the three local women pilots. Currently, female pilots are also in charge for flights from Brunei Darussalam to London.

His Majesty then proceeded to make a visit to the Royal Brunei Operations Control Centre. The Centre is responsible for managing and coordinating the implementation of scheduled daily flights as planned.

His Majesty also viewed the latest developments on the facilities at the airport including the Asy Syuura Room where the Flight Safety Awareness course was in progress.

593 recipients receive house keys (continued)

From page 11

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 26 - 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 made a visit to Brunei International Airport.

Continue on page 13

His Majesty then consented to operate the Boeing aircraft with Captain Sharifah Czarena Surainy binti Syed Hashim.

His Majesty during the visit to the Royal Brunei Operations Control Centre.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 26 - 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 made a visit to Brunei International Airport.

Continue on page 13

His Majesty interacting with participants of the Flight Safety Awareness course held at the Asy Syuura Room.

His Majesty in a group photo with officials and members of the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) on duty at the Brunei International Airport.
LegCo Speaker receives goodwill visit from AIPA Secretary-General

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 17 - The Department of Councils of State received a visit from the Secretary-General of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA). The visit was paid by the Secretary-General of AIPA, His Excellency Periowsamy Otharam.

Also present at the goodwill visit were Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Awang Haji Abdul Rashid bin Dato Seri Setia Haji Mohamed Talib (centre), a member of LegCo, Yang Berhormat Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mohd. Shafiee bin Ahmad; and Deputy Clerk to the Legislative Council, Dayang Rose Aminah binti Haji Ismail.

The goodwill visit aimed to strengthen friendship and bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and the AIPA.

Brunei - Singapore strengthen cooperation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 18 - The Singaporean delegation in the country for the second annual bilateral meeting between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore made a working visit to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The delegation headed by Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Leo Yip who is also the Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister’s Office and Permanent Secretary for National Security and Intelligence Coordination paid a courtesy call to Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs.

The Republic of Singapore delegation led by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Leo Yip (left) who is also the Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister’s Office and Permanent Secretary for National Security and Intelligence Coordination during the courtesy call to the Minister of Home Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong (right).

Social harmony, essential for peace

ASWAN, PEOPLE REPUBLIC EGYPT, May 14 - Brunei Darussalam believes that social harmony with the spirit of goodwill among the people is very important in maintaining peace and security as it has been enjoyed today. Therefore, through education and da’wah, the government is constantly trying to instil manners and mutual respect among all parties to reject extreme ideals that can promote acts of terrorism that threaten peace and security.

The matter was stated by the Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Shafiee bin Ahmad; and Deputy Clerk to the Legislative Council, Dayang Rose Aminah binti Haji Ismail.

According to the Minister, in accordance with the teachings of Islam, it is important for all parties to reject extremism and acts against terrorism in all its forms. At the same time let all the parties, the government and the people work together to strengthen unity.

The two-day conference organised by the Minister of Waqaf, Egypt presented 12 research papers written by academic experts and civic society leaders responding to issues themed 'The Role of the Religious Institutions in both Arab and Muslim World in Facing Challenges and Hopes: A Critical Analysis and Objective Examination'.

It was launched by the Minister of Waqaf, Egypt, Professor Dr. Mohammad Mohrtar Guman accompanied by ministers and mufti from several Arab countries, Asia and Africa, academics from higher education centres as well as Islamic social and non-Muslim leaders and activists.

In the afternoon, the Minister of Religious Affairs of Brunei held a meeting with the Minister of Waqaf, Egypt, to discuss the enhancement of bilateral cooperation in the field of religion.

Also present was the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Arab Republic of Egypt, His Excellency Awang Haji Abdul Kahar bin Haji Hussin and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Aziz bin Orang Kaya Maharaja Leila Haji Yusof.
Bilateral relations Brunei - Singapore continues to prosper

Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Haji Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badarudin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman with the High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Lim Hong Huai during the courtesy call.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 21 - The Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Haji Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badarudin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman received a courtesy call from the High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Mr. Lim Hong Huai. The courtesy call took place at the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

The courtesy call was aimed to strengthen existing relationships, to exchange views and information of mutual interest.

Also present were the Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Mohit bin Haji Mohd. David; and Deputy Permanent Secretary (Administration) and Finance; Awang Rostam bin Haji Tajjahr.

His Excellency Mr. Lim Hong Huai presented his Letter of Credence to 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 on the 23rd of March 2016.

Brunei - Russia signs MoU on Cooperation

Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Lailarja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Haji bin Haji Mohd. Yusof, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Vladimir Medinsky, Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation exchanging the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation.

According to a Press Release by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS), the Minister explained that activities in 2013 and 2014 such as the ASEAN-Russia Symphony of Young Musicians and Cultural Programme in Folk Music and Dance when Brunei Darussalam became the Chairman of ASEAN in 2013 and exchange programmes between Brunei Darussalam and the Russian Federation in the visual arts in 2014, showed youths the definition of culture, namely intellect and the creativity of the nation that brings high civilisation and glory.

Therefore, preserving and maintaining culture, history and national heritage are important for the youth to appreciate and assimilate.

ARDEX, a great opportunity to test the capability of the country

BERAKAS, May 3 - Brunei Darussalam and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) organised and co-chaired the First Meeting of the Exercise Planning Team for the ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise 2016 (ARDEX-16), held at the Muzeakarah Hall, International Convention Centre.

The Guest of Honour, Awang Haji Mohd. Abdul bin Dato Seri Setia Haji Abdul Salam, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs stated that ASEAN is one of the world's most vulnerable regions with disasters.

"The disasters that hit the region are getting bigger and the response is becoming more complex," he explained at the opening of the meeting.

According to him, disaster response is no longer a responsibility of one or both parties, but is a joint responsibility including civilians, military, international organisations and non-governmental organisations.

In addition, the ‘One ASEAN, One Response’ concept supported by the Ministry of Home Affairs when Brunei Darussalam will chair the 2nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management in 2014, will be tested for the first time in the country during the training period.

He added that ARDEX is a great opportunity to test the capability of the country and ability to respond in the worst case scenario.

The two-day meeting is a preparation meeting for ARDEX which will be held in the country this October. In general, ARDEX is a large-scale simulation exercise involving other ASEAN member countries with the objective of testing, applying, reviewing and evaluating ASEAN response mechanisms and disaster management.

In addition, ARDEX also provides an opportunity for an organiser to test the disaster response mechanisms and disaster management at the national level.

The meeting among others, discussed disaster scenarios including disaster management mechanisms and procedures at the national and regional levels that will be tested during ARDEX later.

The meeting was also attended by foreign delegations comprised of the member countries of ASEAN: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

The meeting also involved the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Ministry of Health; Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF); Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF); National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC); Fire and Rescue Department and District Offices.

From page 16

The Minister stated the matter at the Cultural Ministers Meeting Russia - ASEAN Partnership Member State on the 19th of May in Sochi, Russian Federation.

The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation, His Excellency Vladimir Medinsky.

The meeting was also attended by foreign delegations comprised of the member countries of ASEAN: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

Other ministers responsible for the culture are Ministers from Cambodia, Lao, Singapore and Thailand.

The Cultural Ministers Meeting Russia - ASEAN Partnership Member State in particular discussed initiatives towards strengthening and promoting collaborative relationships in the field of culture and humanity, especially through continuous integrated efforts.

This includes cooperation in the field of maintenance, conservation and repair of cultural heritage sites.

Generally ASEAN and the Russian Federation are satisfied with the progress of the fields that have been explored so far.

In the Joint Statement of Meetings, the ministers expressed strong support for the implementation of cooperation projects in the field of culture and arts towards the learning of the culture, the way of life and the customs of ASEAN countries and the Russian Federation by defining priority areas according to their respective capabilities and policies.

At the sidelines of the meeting was a cultural festival that aimed to promote ASEAN Cultural Tourism and Arts and Culture ASEAN to showcase the cultural arts, dance and handicraft traditions of all the ASEAN countries.
Brunei Darussalam - Singapore share information on current crime trends

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 9 - Brunei Darussalam and Singapore continue to be exposed to the challenges of dynamic security.

In this regard, it is important for both countries to cooperate with each other through a variety of measures and initiatives, such as through meetings and annual bilateral exchanges.

Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister’s Office, Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Yusof stated the matter at the 2nd Bilateral Meeting between Brunei Darussalam and Singapore, which took place at the Prime Minister’s Office.

According to Permanent Secretary, the Annual Bilateral Meetings provides space for partner agencies of both countries to meet, discuss, and share experiences and best practices such as counter-terrorism and transnational crime.

Through this meeting, it is hoped to create a continuous exchange of information related to crime trends and domestic experiences in addressing issues of violence, cybercrime, missing and stolen travel documents and illegal drug trafficking.

“We hope to have participants for our initiatives to be, i) more prepared with knowledge and understanding in current security issues in both countries; ii) create additional networks with other law enforcement agencies in Brunei Darussalam and Singapore; iii) develop leadership skills and; iv) foster closer ties between the two countries in the field of security and enforcement,” he added.

The 2nd Bilateral Meeting organised by the Division of Security and Enforcement of the Prime Minister’s Office of Brunei Darussalam and the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Singapore was chaired by the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister’s Office, Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Yusof and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Leo Yip.

The bilateral meeting was then followed by a visit by the Singapore delegation to the Royal Brunei Police Force and Al-Istah Centre at the Narcotics Control Bureau. A number of friendly sports matches were organised during the Singapore delegation’s stay in the country.

Since the signing of the Letter of Intent between the Prime Minister’s Office (Security and Enforcement) of Brunei Darussalam and the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Singapore on the 10th of September 2014, both sides have successfully presented the 1st Bilateral Meeting, held in the Republic Singapore in May 2015.

One of the decisions made at the meeting was the co-operation of the Joint Training Annual Exchange Programme for Senior Officers of Brunei Darussalam and Singapore.

With the spirit of mutual cooperation, both parties have successfully organised the Joint Training Exchange Annual Program on the 16th until the 27th of November 2015 in Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore.

The Memorandum of Cooperation was signed by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports of Brunei Darussalam, Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Habib bin Haji Mohd. Yusof and the Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation, His Excellency Vladimir Medinsky at the Swissotel, Resort Sochi Karmelia.

Brunei - Russia signs MoU on Cooperation (continued)

From page 17

the countries of ASEAN and the Russian Federation to enliven the ASEAN - 20th Russia Year of Culture in conjunction with the Commemorative Summit ASEAN - Russian.

Particularly in relation to cultural and art cooperation, Brunei Darussalam is moving forward where in a separate programme, Brunei Darussalam through MCYS and the Russian Federation through its Ministry of Culture has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation that is expected to intensify the learning process, exchange of information and experience sharing in both fields for the benefit of both countries.

The Memorandum of Cooperation was signed by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports of Brunei Darussalam, Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Habib bin Haji Mohd. Yusof and the Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation, His Excellency Vladimir Medinsky at the Swissotel, Resort Sochi Karmelia.

UNISSA - UoS collaborate in various fields

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 15 - In an effort to increase its reputation internationally, Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University (UNISSA) has stepped forward with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with University of Sharjah (UoS), United Arab Emirates.

The MoU signing ceremony took place on the 15th of May 2016 at the UOS Chancellor’s Office, United Arab Emirates.

Signing of the MoU on behalf of UNISSA was the Rector of UNISSA, Dr. Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, while signing on behalf of UoS was UoS Chancellor, Professor Hamid M Al-Naimy.

Also present at the signing of the MoU was the Deputy Rector of UNISSA, Dr. Haji Mohammad Hussain bin Pehin Penyurat Haji Ahmad; Director of Research Center for Mazhab Shaff Li UNISSA, Dr. Azime bin Haji Matala; and several senior officials of the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam to the United Arab Emirates and senior officials of UoS.

In the memorandum, both universities agreed to collaborate in academics, student and staff mobility programmes, and research in Islamic studies and other areas that can be expanded from time to time.

Immediately after the MoU Signing Ceremony, the UNISSA delegation held a visit and discussion with the Faculty of Shariah and Law, UoS and the Islamic Financial Studies and Research Center.

Delegates were welcomed by the Dean of the Faculty of Shariah and Law, Professor Awad Al-Khalaf and Director of the Center for Islamic Financial Studies and Research Sharjhan, Dr. Ibrahim Ali Al-Mansoori.

Since its establishment, UNISSA has been keen on improving its recognition and reputation internationally to achieve its vision as a pure Islamic university of international standards by liaising with foreign institutions of higher learning in the international arena.

In the memorandum, both universities agreed to collaborate in academics, student and staff mobility programmes, and research in Islamic studies and other areas that can be expanded from time to time.

Immediately after the MoU Signing Ceremony, the UNISSA delegation held a visit and discussion with the Faculty of Shariah and Law, UoS and the Islamic Financial Studies and Research Center.

Delegates were welcomed by the Dean of the Faculty of Shariah and Law, Professor Awad Al-Khalaf and Director of the Center for Islamic Financial Studies and Research Sharjhan, Dr. Ibrahim Ali Al-Mansoori.

UNISSA represents Brunei at 2nd ISCC Meeting, Thailand

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 23 - In an effort to widen strategic partnership and networking between Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University (UNISSA) and leading universities in Southeast Asia and internationally, the Rector of UNISSA, Dr. Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal was recently invited to attend Second Islamic Studies Coordinating Committee (ISC) Meeting, which took place at Phuket Graceful Resort & SPA Hotel, Phuket, Thailand on the 20th- 22nd of May 2016.

The 2nd ISC Meeting was organised and sponsored by Prince Songkla University (PSU) with aim to discuss the project to be implemented as a result of the resolution proposed at the first ISC Meeting.

The proposed project includes education aimed at producing a new generation of well-nurtured moral, comprehensive knowledge and a healthy body, with emphasis on things such as the Course Curriculum and Guidelines, Pedagogy; and Wassatiyah Research; Establishment of Understanding and Collaboration with emphasis on key areas as follows:

Continue on page 20
UNISSA represents Brunei at 2nd ISCC Meeting, Thailand (continued)

From page 19

Student promotion and development and academic exchange, dialogue between religion and culture and communication, and textbooks written translation and academic for understanding and real application of Islam.

This project proposal is useful for religious education and Islamic religious education management experience to develop the education, science and harmony of religious life that will continue to exist in the future.

The meeting also discussed the preparation for holding the 4th International Islamic Studies Conference scheduled to be held in April 2017.

At the same time, the meeting also aimed to increase the involvement of academicians and representatives of each country to plan and contribute positively in the upcoming International Islamic Studies Conference.

A total of 19 leaders representing 16 countries attended the Second ISCC Meeting. Those present included Tan Sri Professor Dr. Mohammad Kamal Hassan from International Islamic University of Malaysia; Professor Dr. Mohammed Hassan Awad of Azhar University, Egypt; Professor Dr. Mohammad Ahmad Musallam Al-Khalailih, Department of Mufti, Jordan; Professor Dr. Sinasi Gunduz, University of Istanbul, Turkey; and some other representatives from Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Egypt, Jordan, Turkey, Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam, Timor-Leste, India, China, Cambodia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Republic of the Philippines, and the host Thailand.

Participating in the UNISSA delegation was Deputy Rector, Dr. Haji Mohammed Hussain bin Pehin Penyurat Haji Ahmad who had previously attended the 3rd Asian Islamic Universities Association (AIUA) Meeting at Fatoni University, Pattani, Thailand on the 17th - 19th of May 2016.