



# برونى دارالسلام

## Brunei Darussalam

# Brunei Darussalam

## newsletter

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## Brunei-China shares valuable cooperation



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam awards His Excellency Hu Jintao, the President of the People's Republic of China with The Most Esteemed Family Order Laila Utama which carries the title 'Dato Laila Utama'

**B**runei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China share a valuable body of formal cooperation. Areas of cooperation namely; education, health, culture, energy, tourism, communications, defence and legal affairs are serving both nation-states well.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stated in his royal address in conjunction with the state visit of the President of the People's Republic of China to Brunei, His Excellency Hu Jintao on April 20.

His Majesty said both nation-states respect each other's fundamental policies. Both nation-states are also working together in a most positive manner.

The sovereign is also pleased that Brunei and China will be working closely next year when Brunei Darussalam becomes the country coordinator for the ASEAN-China dialogue.

His Excellency President Hu Jintao with Madam Liu Yongqing was in the country for a two-day state visit from April 20 until 21.

## Brunei hails partnerships and values opportunities

**B**runei Darussalam welcomes partnerships with its neighbouring countries as well as members of the international community. Brunei also values every chance given to share views with her friends and colleagues in Asia and Africa.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said at the Asian-African Summit held in Jakarta from April 22 to 23.

At the summit, His Majesty also expressed his sympathy to all the families who suffered from the December's tsunami and recent earthquakes in Sumatra.

"We will continue to do whatever we can to assist the rebuilding of their lives and communities," said His Majesty.



The sovereign said the summit offered a source of inspiration during the difficult times faced by the citizens. A growing number of global problems had made us pre-occupied as it threatens the security of our countries. The global problems also undermine hopes for long-term

stability as well as weakening the confidence of our citizens in their future.

"It is therefore good that we remind ourselves of the spirit of hope, goodwill and common purpose in which our predecessors met here fifty years ago," said His Majesty.

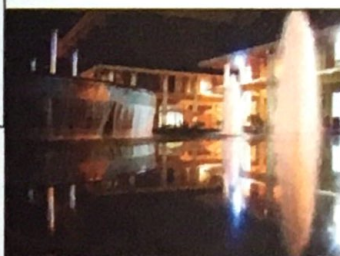
Leaders from the Asian and African region meet in Jakarta for the Asian-African Summit



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## Editorial Staff

Editor

**Sastra Sarini Haji Julaini**

[sarini.julaini@information.gov.bn](mailto:sarini.julaini@information.gov.bn)

Reporters

**Hajah Noorhijrah Haji Idris**

[noorhijrah.idris@information.gov.bn](mailto:noorhijrah.idris@information.gov.bn)

**Huraizah Ahmad**

Layout Designer

**Hajah Zaianit Haji Noorkhan**

[zaianit.noorkhan@information.gov.bn](mailto:zaianit.noorkhan@information.gov.bn)

Contributor

**Musa Mohidin**

[musa.mohidin@information.gov.bn](mailto:musa.mohidin@information.gov.bn)

Photographs

**Photography Division of  
Department of Information**

**General inquiries**

(673) 2380 400/ext BDN Division

Fax (673) 2382 012

Information Department

<http://www.information.gov.bn>

Information Gallery

<http://www.infofoto.org.bn>



## Brunei-China reaches imperative accords



Their Majesties, Their Royal Highnesses and His Excellency Hu Jintao and consort in a group photo prior to the dinner banquet

**S**everal agreements were reached between Brunei and China during the two-day state visit of His Excellency President Hu Jintao to Brunei.

Both sides agreed to enhance economic cooperation and further expand trade and two-way investment. Both sides recalled a commitment to reach a bilateral trade target of US\$1 billion by 2010.

Long-term cooperation in the energy sector would be maintained. Both sides also agreed on strengthening cooperation in transportation, telecommunications and infrastructure.

It was also agreed that bilateral cooperation in the field of health would be intensified, as both sides welcomed the Plan of Action on Health Cooperation signed by the health departments of the two countries for the period of 2005 to 2007.

Both sides had also agreed to further enhance the coordination and cooperation at the ARF, APEC, ASEM, UN, WTO and other regional and international organisations.

### Brunei-Malaysia:

## Strengthen cooperation for economic competitiveness and strength

**B**runei Darussalam and Malaysia should strengthen cooperation in many areas that include agriculture, defence, education, energy and manufacturing industry.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in his royal speech at a dinner banquet in

honour of the state-visit of His Majesty and Her Majesty The Raja Isteri to Malaysia from April 27 to 30. The dinner banquet was hosted by His Majesty Yang Dipertuan Agong of Malaysia and Her Majesty Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia.

"We have identified our comparative advantages to become the centre of Islamic banking and a large producer

of *halal* foodstuffs. Both sectors hold considerable potentials as material and moral investments for our nation-state," said His Majesty.

Brunei and Malaysia could jointly harness energy, ideas and resources. Cooperation of this kind enables our nation-states to sustain each other's economic competitiveness and strength, said His Majesty.

A banquet hosted by His Majesty Yang Di-Pertuan Agong and Her Majesty The Raja Permaisuri Agong in conjunction with the state-visit of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty The Raja Isteri to Malaysia



### CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam issued congratulatory messages to:

- Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark and her Prime Minister, His Excellency Anders Fogh Rasmussen in conjunction with Her Majesty the Queen of Denmark's birthday on April 16.
- His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Goran Persson in conjunction with His Majesty the King of Sweden's birthday on April 30.
- Her Majesty Queen Koningin Beatrix Wilhemina Armgrad of Netherlands and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Jan Peter Balkenende in conjunction with the Queen's Day on April 30.



# PALACE NEWSROUND...



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:

- ① Lieutenant General John M Brown III, Commander of the US Army Pacific on April 6.
- ② Mr Grahaeme Henderson, the new Managing Director of Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sendirian Berhad and Mr Mark Carne, the outgoing Managing Director on April 7.
- ③ His Excellency Mohamed Mouldi Kefi, the non-resident Ambassador of Tunisia as the Special Envoy for the President of Tunisia on April 7.
- ④ General Tan Sri Dato Paduka Seri Haji Mohd. Zahidi Haji Zainuddin, the Malaysian Chief-of-Defence on April 14.
- ⑤ His Excellency Viadimir Nikolaevich Morozava, the outgoing non-resident Ambassador of Russia to Brunei on April 19.
- ⑥ His Excellency Andrew John Forbes Caie, the outgoing British High Commissioner to Brunei on April 19.



## New appointments at Supreme Court

A swearing-in-ceremony was held for the newly appointed President of the Court of Appeal of Brunei Darussalam and two judicial commissioners of the Supreme Court.

The ceremony was held at Istana Nurul Iman in the presence of His Majesty The Sultan of Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on April 27.

First to be sworn in was Dato Sir Derek Cons, President of Court of Appeal. The appointment was a two-year extension on his current post.

While the two new judicial commissioners of Supreme Court were Judge Barry Mortimer; and Awang Hairolarni bin Haji Abdul Majid, Chief Registrar at the Supreme Court.

Judge John Mortimer was the Vice President and Non-Permanent Judge of Hongkong Court of Final Appeal.

While Awang Hairolarni was a Counsel at the Attorneys General Chamber before appointed as Chief Magistrate and Intermediate Court Judge.





# PALACE NEWSROUND



**Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha granted audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman for:**

- ❶ Mrs Elaine Brown, spouse of the Commander of the US Army Pacific on April 6.
- ❷ Yang Berbahagia Datin Wan Kamariah Wan Abdul Rahman, spouse of newly appointed Malaysian High Commissioner to Brunei on April 6.
- ❸ Madam Catherine Caie, the spouse of outgoing British High Commissioner to Brunei on April 6.
- ❹ Madam Annmarie Henderson, the spouse of New Managing Director of Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sendirian Berhad and Madam Heather Carne, the spouse of outgoing Managing Director on April 7.
- ❺ Puan Sri Datin Seri Hajah Rasiah Mohd. Noor, spouse of Malaysian's Chief of Defence on April 14.



**His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:**

- ❶ His Excellency Datuk Ali bin Abdullah, the newly appointed Malaysian High Commissioner to Brunei on April 5.
- ❷ His Excellency Mr. Andrew John Forbes Caie, the outgoing British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam on April 7.



## Third South East Asian Youth Quran Reading Competition: Youth should play their role

**Y**outh of this country are urged to play their role as a 'regional player'. To become a regional player, they must have the ability to think and act according to the regional political paradigm.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said at the prize presentation ceremony for the Third South East Asian Youth Quran Reading Competition on April 8 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

The sovereign said that with that level of awareness, youth of the regional and international arena would hold a much bigger role as problem identifier, problem solvers and strategic brokers.

He also said that youth of this country is a part of the international community. Therefore, this competition is a medium to contribute and provide a positive role both regional and international.



**Winner of the Third South East Asian Youth Quran Reading Competition, Awang Suro from the Republic of Indonesia receives his prize from His Majesty**

## Generate avenues for more interactions



**His Royal Highness The Crown Prince urges to install the spirit of tolerance and camaraderie**

**M**ore avenues should be created to enable youths in the South East Asian region to interact. It is also as a medium to equip themselves as important contributors in the international arena. This is also to install the spirit of tolerance and camaraderie to further strengthen the existing cooperation and understanding.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah said on April 6 at the official opening of the Third South East Asian

Youth Quran Reading Competition.

Through the competition, according to His Royal Highness, the country has placed the ties of cooperation among youths in the South East Asian region on a solid foundation towards collectively working for the good of this region.

"Youth programs should also be viewed from a long term perspective within the agenda to strengthen our nation ethnic consolidation by being aware that today's youths are tomorrow's leaders," said His Royal Highness.

## Prophet Muhammad birthday anniversary: Work hard to earn *halal* living

**K**nowledgeable and skilled youth should move forward in the bid to fulfil work opportunities which is *halal* and pure.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in his royal address in conjunction with the birthday anniversary of Prophet Mohammad on April 20.

"With regards to the unemployment issue, my government had given the opportunity for everyone to acquire working skills and entrepreneurial experiences that could improve their mobility. It is an important investment that could give benefit in general,

"It is not difficult to acquire working skills and entrepreneurial experiences that had been introduced by my government. However, how far has the objectives been met? It may have been set back by several factors where one of it is the individuals themselves," said His Majesty.

If this is one of the causes of unemployment, it is the individuals who should improve. Besides this, the individuals should have strong will and determination to release their selves from



**His Majesty and royal entourage joined scores of Muslims celebrating the birthday anniversary of Prophet Mohammad**

unemployment, said His Majesty.

In conjunction with the celebration of the Prophet Muhammad's birthday anniversary, His Majesty also said that we should follow Prophet Muhammad's attitude where he encouraged his *ummah* to work hard. Hence, His Majesty urged citizens and residents of this nation-state to continue earn a *halal* living. It is the responsibility to fulfil the needs of those under our care, said His Majesty.





**His Majesty with His Majesty The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia**



**His Majesty with the Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi**



**His Majesty looks at an art creation displayed at Multimedia University, Cyberjaya**



**Her Majesty gives away gifts to children hospitalised at the Paediatric Ward of Kuala Lumpur Hospital**



**His Majesty mingles with Malaysian-based Brunei officials and their families**

## **Their Majesties' state-visit to Kuala Lumpur**

**H**is Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty The Raja Isteri were on state visit to Malaysia from April 27 – 30.

Their Majesties arrived at Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) Base in Subang on April 27. During the visit, Their Majesties received courtesy call from the Honourable Prime Minister Dato' Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi and spouse; and had an audience with Their Majesties the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin and The Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah.

Among places visited by His Majesty during the state-visit were Multimedia University, Setia Ikhlas National Service Program Camp and Terendak Camp. During the visit to Terendak Camp, His Majesty was presented with maroon beret and honorary parachute wing. His Majesty also performed Friday Prayer at Federal Territory Mosque and attended luncheon hosted by His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong at the Istana Negara.

While Her Majesty visited Paediatric Ward of Kuala Lumpur Hospital, National Planetarium and Kuala Lumpur Handicraft Centre. Her Majesty also attended luncheon hosted by Her Majesty The Raja Permaisuri Agong at the Istana Melawati in Putrajaya.

Their Majesties also attended state welcoming ceremony at the Parliament Building and met with Bruneians based in Malaysia.

During the visit, Their Majesties attended a state banquet hosted by His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and private dinner hosted by the Prime Minister.





## Asian-African Summit 2005: Declarations for the betterment of the regions

**T**wo declarations were signed at the Asian-African Summit 2005. The two declarations were the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP) and the declaration on the Tsunami, Earthquake and Other Natural Disasters.

Among others, the NAASP underscored the urgency of promoting economic development in the Asian and African regions, as stated in the 1955 Bandung Conference. Poverty and under-development, gender mainstreaming, communicable diseases, environmental degradation, natural disasters, drought and desertification, digital divide, inequitable market access and foreign debt remained as issues of common concern which called for a closer cooperation and collective action.

The leaders also envisage a caring Asian-African society where the people live in stability, prosperity, dignity and free from the fear of violence, oppression and injustice.

The NAASP will also promote human resource development, enhanced capacity building and technical cooperation in order to create an enabling environment for the betterment of the regions.

The leaders are also determined

to prevent conflict and resolve disputes by peaceful means and endeavour to explore innovative mechanisms for confidence building and dispute resolution as well as for post-conflict peace-building.

While the declaration on Tsunami, Earthquakes and Other Natural Disasters witnessed the leaders pledging encourage the continued development of appropriate measures pertinent to disaster reduction, mitigation and management, which will be supportive of the outcome of the Special ASEAN Leaders Meeting on Aftermath of Earthquake and Tsunami held in Jakarta on January 6, 2005.

The leaders, among others, are determined to establish an integrated strategy for the development of a multi-nodal early warning system with mechanisms for preparedness, prevention, mitigation and response, with a view to minimizing casualties.

The declaration also encourage greater interaction among experts from Asia and Africa in finding practical ways and means, as well as sharing best practices and experiences, on preparing Asian-African countries for the direct impact of disasters and possible secondary effects such as on public health and environmental crises.



His Majesty with the President of the Republic of Indonesia



His Excellency Purnomo Yusgiantoro, the Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources welcomes His Majesty upon arrival in Jakarta



Left:  
His Majesty signs the Declaration of New Asian-African Strategic Partnership



His Majesty waters the plant at Tegalega Park to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the Asian-African Summit 1955-2005



His Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah at the Summit



## Sovereign tours Nursing College & Tutong District



His Majesty talks to a student at the college's library

Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah (PAPRSB) College of Nursing and various agencies in the Tutong district received a visit by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. The visit was made on April 6 and 13 respectively.

During the visit to Nursing College, the sovereign toured the vicinity around the college including lecture rooms, library and students' hostel.

PAPRSB College of Nursing was officially opened on September 4, 1986 by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah who is also the patron of the college.

The College which is located in Gadong currently accommodates 500 students with 60 lecturers. The college is accredited by Ministry of Education of Brunei and The Department of Nursing Studies of University of Wales College in United Kingdom.

One week later, His Majesty made a visit to Tutong District. His Majesty visited the Standard and Resources Centre of Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources in Kampong Sinaut, schools, *balai raya*, shops and workshop in Kampong Keriam, and also Meraburong Prison.

## Nursing College's 11<sup>th</sup> Convocation: Increase knowledge & skills to face changes

**N**urses and midwives should be more prepared, dynamic and proactive when facing changes and developments. They should also be equipped with knowledge and skills needed for carrying out their duties in both within and outside the hospital.

Hence, nurses and midwives must be prepared to participate in various programs which could increase their knowledge and skills. These programs could be through furthering their studies overseas or by participating in regional or international seminars, workshops or conferences.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah said at the 11<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony of the Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah College of Nursing on April 14 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Her Royal Highness also said she wished to see the graduates to not only accept work opportunities in the public sector but as well as private sectors in either domestic or abroad.

Meanwhile in his welcoming speech, the Acting Principal of the college, Haji Julaini Latip said that the 11<sup>th</sup> convocation witnessed 237 graduates from various Diploma programmes; where 156 graduates received their Diploma in Basic Nursing, 65 graduates receiving their Diploma in Speciality Nursing and 19 graduates receiving their Diploma in Midwifery.

Since its establishment in 1984, the College had produced 1057 graduates where a majority are now working for the Ministry of Health.



A graduate receives her certificate from Her Royal Highness

## Crown Prince – Working Visit

**H**is Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah was on a working visit to *Mukim Bukit Sawat* and *Mukim Kuala Belait* in Belait District, *Mukim Telisai* in Tutong District, *Mukim Labu* in Temburong District, *Mukim Seria* and *Mukim Kuala Balai* in Belait District and *Mukim Pengkalan Batu* in Brunei Muara

District on April 2, 6, 13, 19 and 28 respectively.

Various places were visited including schools, health clinics, industrial agencies and agencies of the public sector.

The Crown Prince's visits to the *Mukims* have shown His Royal Highness' concern in observing both socio-cultural and socio-economic

development of the country's citizens and residents whilst taking closer look at the various infrastructures offered by His Majesty's Government to enhance their livelihood.

During the visits to the *Mukims*, His Royal Highness also consented to receive donations for the Pengiran Muda Mahkota Al-Muhtadee Billah Fund for The Orphans.



## Better health status for women and children

**M**embers of the community should give attention to troubled single mothers and children. When not given any care, it would give an effect towards their mental development as well as their welfare.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah said on April 27 at the launching of the World Health Day 2005 at Centrepont Hotel in Gadong.

At the launching, Her Royal Highness presented prizes to Exemplary Mother, Dayang Hajah Jamaliyah Mohamad.

Meanwhile, on April 7, the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abu Bakar said that women and children's health status in Brunei has improved through comprehensive health care to mothers and children. This is proven through health indicators such as Maternal and Infant Mortality rates.

In 2003, only two maternal deaths were reported due to complications during pregnancy. This represented 0.3 maternal mortality rate for every 1,000 live birth. In the same year, a total of 67 infant deaths were reported. This infant mortality rate represented 9.5 for every 1,000 live birth.



**Her Royal Highness takes a closer look at the exhibition celebrating World Health Day**

Brunei celebrates World Health Day on April 27. The theme for this year is "Healthy Mothers and Healthy Children" with the slogan of "Make Every Mother and Child Count".



**His Royal Highness with Brunei's contingent at the 1st Islamic Solidarity Games**

## Brunei contingent to 1<sup>st</sup> Islamic Solidarity Games

**H**is Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council along with 48 Brunei athletes and officials were in Mecca to attend the 1st Islamic Solidarity Games.

Over 50 Islamic countries took place in the first ever largest sporting event among Islamic countries that was held from April 8 to 20.

Brunei Darussalam's contingent led by chef-de-mission Awang Japar bin Bangkol competed in five events including tennis, taekwondo, karatedo, fencing and athletics during the 13-day meet organised by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

The contingent left Brunei on April 6.

## International recognition for RBA's Engineering Department

**N**ational carrier of Brunei Darussalam, Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA) achieved another significant moment in its history when its Engineering Department was accorded with the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) Part-147 certificate and the Brunei's Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) Part-66 license.

EASA was established in July 2002 as a centre for aviation regulatory system in Europe. It promotes the highest common standards of safety and environmental protection in civil aviation. It has the legal powers to approve, authorise and license, and has set a number of standards in specific areas, amongst which are EASA Part 145, Part 147 and Part 66 approval and licenses.

The Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Zakaria

presented the DCA Part-66 license to Kamal Ariffin Dato Haji Abdul Rahman, RBA's interim Executive Director of Engineering on April 28 at the Jerudong Park and Country Club.

British Deputy High Commissioner to Brunei, Mr Martin Walley presented the EASA Part-147 certificate to the Chairman of RBA, Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah.

RBA became the first non-bilateral organisation in Southeast Asia and the 13<sup>th</sup> outside Europe to be accorded with the EASA-Part 147 certification as it successfully fulfilled all necessary requirements.

"This international recognition allows RBA to conduct type-rating B1-Mechanical and B2-Avionics courses on Boeing 757/RB211, Boeing 767/PW4000/GE CF6 and Airbus 320/V2500 type of aircraft at a level that is at par to those offered by other aircraft



**Minister of Communications presents the certificate to Kamal Ariffin, RBA's interim Executive of Engineering**

maintenance organisations in the world,

"With these approvals, RBA is now in a position to conduct the appropriate training and maintenance of foreign aircrafts including those registered in Europe. This allows us to diversify our products and services and to compete globally for third party aircraft maintenance work and training programmes," said the Chairman of RBA.



## UBD signs agreement with UK's medical school

University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with St George's Hospital Medical School (SGHMS), University of London in the United Kingdom.

Representing UBD was Dr Haji Ismail bin Haji Duraman, Vice Chancellor of UBD while Professor Michael Farthing signed on behalf of SGHMS at the event that was held at UBD's Chancellor Hall on April 2.

The introduction of Bachelor of Health Science (BHSc) and Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBBS) to UBD is part of the university's broader vision to expand its education scope in the field of health science while ensuring they receive consultancy services from the UK institute.

These will include provision of expertise in curriculum development; provision of faculty development workshops to train UBD staff in course design, teaching, learning, assessment and evaluation; staff exchange programme; provision of and assistance in, designing teaching, learning and assessment materials; and facilitation of international accreditation of BHSc and MBBS programmes.

UBD's vice chancellor at the event highlighted that establishments of medical programmes in the country has left a remarkable effect on the quality of education and the new programme will also be expected to improve the quality of training for young doctors.

Meanwhile, Professor Michael Farthing said that new doctors graduating from Brunei will understand the wider context in which they will practice medicine in the future.

He also added that this will ensure they have the interpersonal and professional skills to cope with the challenges of the clinical practice in the 21st century.

## Brunei partakes in Japan's Aichi Expo

Brunei Darussalam in its bid to promote the nation-state and seek business opportunities in the global arena had participated alongside 200 other countries at the Aichi Expo 2005 in Japan.

The showcase presented by the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) and Brunei-Japan Friendship Association (BJFA) offers the chance for locals to visit Japan and gain first-hand experience about the friendly nation, which will further cement the good bilateral ties between Brunei and Japan.

The key world event of the year held at Nagoya, Japan that aims to bring together unique cultures, resources, technology, knowledge, products and services will be held from March 25 to September 25 this year.

According to BJFA, the expo which highlights the theme 'Nature Wisdom' is a great platform for global networking giving the opportunity for Brunei-based agencies to seek new global partners and be part of the e-global citizen.

As part of BJFA's aggressive marketing strategy, 10,000 copies of multimedia CD ROM entitled "Global Partners" were distributed at the Brunei pavilion during the expo as well as at the Aichi International Trade Bureau.

The proposed Global Partners CD ROM profiles Brunei Darussalam, covering general facts and figures, its rich culture and heritage, and the country's industry highlighting various potential investments.

## Intellectual Property Rights to protect creativity and intellectuals

Brunei Darussalam currently employs four components of regulations concerning Intellectual Property Rights. The four components are Trademark, Copyright, Industrial Design and Layout Design. Patent Order would also be enforced soon. The rules and regulations are aligned with the international standards required by World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS).

Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office said at the opening of the UBD Information Week 2005 on April 25.

The Permanent Secretary also said that without these regulations, the industry and individuals which depended on creativity and intellectual would be threatened.

UBD Information Week 2005 was held in conjunction with the World Intellectual Property Day. A four-day seminar was held which focused on the importance of protecting intellectual creativity.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair at the launching of UBD Information Week 2005

## Increase of CPI for February 2005

Month of February experienced an increase of 0.4 per cent in its Consumer Price Index (CPI) compared with the previous month.

The increase, as stated by Department of Economic Planning and Development, was partly due to prices reverted to its original level after Year End, Back to School and Chinese New Year sales that was held from December 19, 2004 to January 31, 2005. The sales were extended until February 10, 2005.

Prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages contracted by 0.3 per cent which resulted from lower prices of fresh and frozen chicken, fresh fish and prawns, fresh leafy vegetable and selected takeaway food.

Prices of clothing and footwear had increased by 6.1 per cent due to expensive prices or ready-made clothing and accessories.

Cost of housing, water, electricity and maintenance cost has slightly increased by 0.2 per cent due to higher cost of cement.

There was also an increase of 1.8 per cent for the prices of furniture; floor covering; household furnishings; household equipment and electrical appliances; crockery and cutlery; and household operations.

Higher prices of mobile phones and accessories had also led to the increase in the cost of communication by 0.1 per cent.

Dearer prices of school accessories and magazines led to higher cost of education by 0.3 per cent.

Higher prices of selected medicines had also led to the increase on cost of medical and healthy by 0.6 per cent.

Cost of miscellaneous goods and services went up by 1.0 per cent due to higher prices of personal care products and personal effects and other personal goods.

While transportation cost fell slightly by 0.3 per cent due to lower air fares.

Cost of recreation and entertainment remained the same from the previous month.



## Base Science And Technology Week 2005 concludes

**T**he Base Science and Technology Week 2005 reached its culmination with a prize presentation ceremony on April 5.

This competition was organised by the Brunei Association for Science Education (BASE) with cooperation from the Ministry of Education. It was earlier opened for public from April 2 to 5 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Participants of the competition comprised of primary students in Brunei Darussalam. This year's competition carried the theme "Harnessing Science And Info-Communication For All" which aimed to encourage creativity and strong interest in the science subject among students.

There were various categories in the competition namely; Best 'RekaCipta' Science BASE for Primary 3 category,

Best Presenter in RekaCipta Science BASE for Primary 3, 'Secondary Science Teachers' Seminar 2005, 13th BASE National Science Camp 2004, BASE Science Essay Writing Competition 2005, Young Scientists (Entomologist) Badge Awards 2005, Most Participated School, Best Booth Award, Best Ant Farm Award Level 6, Best Young Entomologists for Level 4, 5 & 6 and RekaCipta Science BASE 2005.

## BRUNEI joins UNESCO



**B**runei Darussalam has become the 191<sup>st</sup> member state of the Paris-based United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

The announcement came when Brunei recently signed to full-membership with the UNESCO constitution on March 17.

Signing on behalf of the Government of Brunei Darussalam was the High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the United Kingdom, His Excellency

Pengiran Haji Yunus bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud.

The new member of UNESCO has been greeted with enthusiasm by its members and programme partners worldwide said the UNESCO Director, General Koichiro Matsuura.

In his remarks, he also looked forward to cooperating with Brunei Darussalam in areas of Science and technology policy development, education and environmental as well as cultural heritage.

UNESCO which is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation was established on November 16, 1945. Today, it functions as laboratory of ideas and a standard-setter to form universal agreements on emerging ethical issues. She also serves as a "clearinghouse" for the dissemination and sharing of information and knowledge and at the same time assist member states to build their human and institutional capacities in various fields. She promotes international co-operation in various fields particularly education, science, culture and communication.

## New policy for importation of vegetables

**I**mportations of vegetables from the neighbouring state of Malaysia, Sabah to Brunei through land and river control posts are required to pack and label the goods according to the new rules and regulations agreed by the Department of Agriculture of Brunei Darussalam and Sabah as well as the Federal Agriculture Marketing Agency (FAMA) of Malaysia.

The new policy is to increase the level of effectiveness in regulating imports at all points of entry in the country. It is also to harmonise the requirements for packaging and labelling of vegetables destined to the nation-state.

Under the new rules and regulations, specific type of plastic crates for importations via the land and sea routes is required. While air cargoes require the use of new paper boxes. Relevant information is also

required for each package such as the types of vegetables, exporter, producer's code of identification and the net weight of the content.

FAMA has also renewed the registration of producers and exporters in Sabah. Registered exporters are required to have partners as importers from Brunei Darussalam that are approved by the Department of Agriculture.

With the safety of consumers in mind, this would facilitate the authorities concerned to monitor the imports for possible contamination of agro-chemical residues and ensure that the registered farms would adhere to Good Agricultural Practice.

Agriculture is an important sector in the bid to ensure a sufficient supply of food to the citizens. Under the 8<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan (NDP) which runs from 2001 until 2005, a budget of \$90.5 million had been allocated for the agricultural quarter.

## \$950 million for e-Government initiatives

**A**bout \$950 million had been allocated for e-Government initiatives under the 8<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan. As of March 2005, about 199 e-Government projects had been approved for implementation by the e-Government Executive Committee amounting to \$742 million which represented 80 per cent of the total budget.

Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah said on April 27 at the launching of the Technology Update Seminar at the Ministry of Finance.

As of March 2005, 45 e-Government projects were approved by the State Tender Board for implementation. More projects are expected to be approved by the State Tender Board this year.

The Permanent Secretary also said that the government had identified the need for 1,500 skilled workers in ICT for the implementation and maintaining the e-government systems.

According to statistics by the Attorneys General Chamber, there is an increase of development of local ICT companies in the past five years. From 2001 to 2005, 80 companies specialising in ICT had been registered in this country which include joint ventures with foreign ICT companies.

He also said that this development had opened job opportunities for 600 to 700 locals until early 2005.

This is a positive indication on the awareness of the local companies to support the intention of the Government as well as providing an indication that there are work opportunities for locals skilled in ICT especially through the implementation of e-Government programmes.

"It is also hope that the e-Government projects would encourage the growth of downstream industries which would indirectly assist the development of small- and medium- sized (SME) of this country," said the Permanent Secretary.



## CEO: Industrial diversification on track

**B**runei should seize its business potential by exploiting its gas reserves from home-based industrial use if it is to lock in investors' commitment to the Sungai Liang Industrial Park.

Four projects that hold the promise of 2,555 permanent jobs for locals, plus another 8,400 sparked by spin-offs are at stake: ammonia/urea; methanol; aluminium smelting; and elastomers. The first two are planned for Sungai Liang and now await final investment decision.

John Perry, chief executive officer of the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) remarked on April 27 at the National Business Conference.

At its heart were the issues of long term supply and pricing for the 2.5 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of gas needed for the whole lifespan of industries earmarked in BEDB's two-prong strategies. One TCF of gas is already allocated for Brunei's downstream industry. Another 1.5 TCF is required to complete the negotiation process in particular for the 300,000-tonne aluminium smelter proposed by ALCOA for Brunei.

"It will take some time to finalise," said Mr Perry. Final investment decisions for the first two projects are set for the end of the first quarter of 2006 and all four projects are market-driven and subject to product cycle. It is therefore essential that project timelines are met.

According to Mr Perry time is a

crucial factor. Meet the deadline and the industry could begin its business; miss it and investors will plonk their money elsewhere. "The investors will simply go away," said Mr Perry.

Competition for hosting industrial sites is brisk; several economies in the region are jostling for attention to win foreign investment in petrochemical-related industries.

Brunei's gas reserves have both short- and long-term potentials: either save them for future sales or utilise some of these reserves immediately for industrial diversification. The latter brings a US\$4.5 billion investment into Brunei and absorbs some of the growing number of local job-seekers quickly.

BEDB, formerly part of the finance ministry, was restructured on November 26, 2001. It is now a statutory body that runs on

commercial logic. It functions as a first-stop agency to attract both local and foreign investments to further diversify Brunei's economy and create employment opportunities for its citizens.

BEDB had disclosed its two-pronged strategy to reinvigorate Brunei's economic diversification on January 15, 2003. The first prong engages foreign investors to develop downstream and manufacturing industries in the Sungai Liang area in the Belait district, and a megaport at the Pulau Muara Besar in the Brunei-Muara district.

The second prong opens four industry clusters to foreign investment: hospitality and tourism; transportation and logistics; business services; and financial services.

ALCOA is the world's leading company in the aluminium industry and operates in over 350 locations in 40 nation-states.



Zarina (far left) at the National Business Conference

## Valuation chief: Brunei's property market promising

**P**roperty developers should produce plans that harness opportunities if they are to attract foreign investment into the Brunei market.

The state had done its part to induce business in the property sector: no property tax and low stamp duty; and soon, the enforcement of the Land Code (Strata) Act, 1999.

It had already released 1,485 hectares to the BEDB earmarked as industrial development zone; and another chunk to the Brunei Industrial Development Authority (BINA) for hosting local business operations. Plans are afoot to open more tracts of state land for business activities.

Zarina Abu Adenan, head of

valuation at the Land Office of the Ministry of Development said on May 2 as a follow up to her discussion during the National Business Conference.

Brunei levies a stamp duty of 0.06 per cent per B\$1,000; and charges 0.02 per cent per B\$1,000 for land sales. "Brunei has no tiers for pricing stamp duty," she said.

According to Zarina, Brunei's amended land code, the Land Code (Strata) Act, 1999 is set to reinforce the property market and open businesses for its related professions. It enables owners of units in a building to hold titles and applies to lands or buildings that hold more than two units for occupancy.

Such feature broadens the base of property buyers for the Brunei market whereas strata title laws of other nation-states are confined to multi-storey buildings only.

Brunei's forthcoming amended land code also compels each building to form a management corporation responsible for the upkeep of amenities, and streamlining contact with the authorities. The requirement holds the promise of opening job opportunities in the property profession.

The amended land code now awaits government clearance in the form of approved rules and regulations for its enforcement.



## Snippets...

### Brunei-UAE: Bilateral agreement on air services

**B**runei Darussalam and the United Arab Emirates had signed bilateral agreement on the full liberalisation of air services between the two countries.

Present as signatories were the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar and his counterpart, His Excellency Saeed Al Mansoori, the Minister of Communications of UAE.

The agreement now enable designated airlines from both countries to provide air services in both directions from points in the territory of a country granting the right via any intermediate point in other country or beyond.

It would also promote and encourage all cargo airlines to operate in both countries. At the same time, it enables the national carrier to develop and expand their air services particularly in the Middle East.

Currently, Brunei Darussalam had signed open-sky agreements with the Republic of Singapore, United States of America and New Zealand.

### Her Majesty to Prophet Muhammad birthday anniversary celebration

**H**er Majesty The Raja Isteri attended a special gathering for women to mark the birthday of Prophet Muhammad.

The ceremony was held on April 26 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Her Majesty also presented the *Hijrah* 1426 Meritrious Award for Women to two recipients.

### Brunei to host 10<sup>th</sup> English in South-East Asia Conference

**B**runei Darussalam would be hosting the 10<sup>th</sup> English in South-East Asia Conference at University of Brunei Darussalam this year.

The conference which is scheduled to take place on December 12 to 14 carries the theme "A Decade of Growth". It seeks to explore issues surrounding the roles and functions of English within the region of South-East Asia.

For further inquiries, information is available at <http://www.ubd.edu.bn>

### Conference highlights issues on Anaesthesia, critical care and pain medicine

**M**inistry of Health of Brunei Darussalam would be conducting the 1<sup>st</sup> Anaesthesia, Critical Care and Pain Conference on July 30 to 31.

The conference theme is evidence-based practices in Anaesthesia, critical care and pain medicine. Evidence-based medicine is a well established method of applying and linking a good clinical care and pain. It is hope that this conference would be able to unleash many of the evidences from which are based on practices. The outcome is expected to provide high quality care and services to patients.

The conference would take place at University of Brunei Darussalam.

For further inquiries, information and registration forms are available at <http://www.moh.gov.bn>

### What was that?

**T**he National Business Conference on April 27 had disclosed key developments and issues that impact Brunei's economy and business potentials.

Timothy Ong, chairman of Asia Inc Forum, a business outfit that organised the event, had promised free exchange of views and opinions among its speakers. "The Conference is about people: learning, forming new friendships, disagreeing, exploring opportunities, and expanding networks," he said.

The few quotes below showcased the relevance of this year's business dialogue theme, '*Finding opportunities and managing risks in a changing market*'.

"Brunei's critical success factors are dependent on its management capacity; conviction as in vision, want and drive; and courage," John Perry, BEDB's chief executive officer, said on Brunei's business potential.

"Whenever there is consensus that says times are certain, better start running for the hills. Uncertainty is a reality and I would encourage entrepreneurs take calculated risks," Peter Foster, chief executive officer of Royal Brunei Airlines, said on how to ride out of a business downturn.

"How can anyone say Brunei is experiencing a falling property market when only 5 per cent of its national territory is privately-owned land in which only 10 per cent of that amount is open to business transactions while the remainder changed hands through family transfers?" Zarina Abu Adenan, head of valuation at the Land Office of the Ministry of Development, said in response to opinions of a property slump in Brunei.

## Brunei In Brief

**Official name:** Negara Brunei Darussalam

**Capital:** Bandar Seri Begawan

**Land size:** 5765 sq. km

**Geographical Position:** North-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia

**Population:** 349,600 (2003 estimate)


**National Carrier:** Royal Brunei Airlines

**Official Language:** Malay

**Official Religion:** Islam

**Official Website:** [www.brunei.gov.bn](http://www.brunei.gov.bn)





**Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Complex** based in the heart of Bandar Seri Begawan is a multi-storey building which accommodates commercial centres and office spaces.

It is a one-stop shopping complex as there are various ranges of boutiques to food joints.

Opened in July 1996, the building is an amalgamation of traditional modern architectural features. It is paved with cooling, polished marble and a soothing water fountain. The colonnade walkway is famous for its setting as it shows the Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque and the famous water village, Kampung Ayer.