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National Youth Day 2008

Call for youth to enhance ability and skill

BERAKAS, August 2 – A call was made for the youth to continuously enhance their ability and skills so that they can become excellent youth.

The call was made by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at a ceremony to mark the 3rd National Youth Day held at the National Indoor Stadium of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

His Majesty further said that the youth would be able to make the best choices in facing the challenges when they are equipped with knowledge acquired from various educational institutions, locally or abroad.

He further hoped that the youth would continue to double their efforts towards lifting their spirits to develop and be responsible in the areas of life participated.

As 'tunas bangsa', the involvement of youth in the process of developing the nation is truly meaningful. His Majesty was also proud as many youth had obtained high qualifications both in the professional and vocational fields.

Speaking of the National Youth Day celebration, His Majesty said that the gathering is an avenue to evaluate the goals achieved towards the development of youth to become 'Brunei's Excellent Youth' (Belia Brunei Cemerlang) as stated in the Nation's Youth Policy.

The National Youth Day is purposely celebrated on August 1 as the date holds a significant meaning where His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam ascended to the throne in 1967. This would also be a medium to celebrate youth leaders who contributed immensely to the development of the youth of this nation-state.



PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH

Group photo of His Majesty, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah (front row left), His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik (front row right), Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports (back row left), Permanent Secretary of Culture, Youth and Sports (back row right), and the award recipients.

3 exemplary youth receive awards

BERAKAS, August 2 – Three youths received their award of being exemplars in their field and leading their generation towards shaping the nation's expanding infrastructure.

Khairulazman bin Haji Tamin, the Managing Director of Syarikat Marimin Sdn Bhd, was presented with the Entrepreneur Youth Award for his efforts, determination, perseverance and success in running a family business.

He has been running the business since 2000, which produces and distributes several kinds of local food and crackers.

Meanwhile, Noralizurainee bin Ali Yussop, received the ICT Youth Award for his achievements and skills in the field of ICT. Being the first vision-impaired graduate from Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), his proficiency in assistive technology has made him an officer at the Special Education Unit of the Ministry of

Education.

As a member of the National Vision-Impaired Association, he conducts computer classes with the use of screen readers for the other members. He also represented the country at the APEC IT Camp for Youths with Disability in Korea on August 2002.

Another recipient was Muhammad Fahmie bin Haji Metussin; a student at the Universiti Perguruan Ugama Seri Begawan College excelling in Quran reading. He had seen success in the field of sports, religious affairs and education, nationwide and regionally as well as internationally.

His determination and perseverance in studying and perfecting his Quran reading skills has heightened his capabilities earning him success in the Musaqabah Tilawatil Quran in the national and international arena. He received the Successful Youth Award.

PHOTO: ABDUL KADIR MOHDTAHR



iCentre is the first Info-Communication Technology incubator in Brunei Darussalam. Officially opened on March 26, 2008 by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade; iCentre is equipped with fully wired plug and play work spaces which can accommodate up to 16 full-time and five virtual small companies at one time. iCentre is a project spearheaded by the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB).

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Three outstanding students receive Sultan's scholar

PHOTO: PG-HAJI BAHAR PG-HAJI OMAR



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 30 – Three excellent students have been awarded with the 'Sultan's Scholar' of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation.

The scholarships were personally presented by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at a ceremony held at Istana Nurul Iman. Also present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and His royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

The three students are Awang Muhd Khairul Kamilin bin Haji Hamdan; Awang Muhammad Hazmi Rafie bin Hassan; and Awang Mohamad Adiazizi bin Haji Awang Mohd Mandi.

With the scholarships, the students will be pursuing further studies in the United Kingdom. The first student, Awang Muhd Khairul Kamilin was a former student of Shrewsbury School and will pursue Chemistry at Pembroke College, Oxford University. While Awang Muhammad Hazmi Rafie will further his studies at Imperial College University of London in the field of computing; and Awang Mohammad Adiazizi will further his duties in Chemical Engineering at University College London, University of London.

This is the third group of outstanding students to receive this prestigious scholarship as the first recipients were in 2006.

The award, dispensed through the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation is reflective of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's commitment on developing the potentials of young Bruneians who have excelled in their GCE 'A' level studies or its equivalent.

PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience at Istana Nurul Iman from His Excellency U Nyan Win, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar on August 12.

International Halal Product Expo receives positive response

PHOTO: HALIM HAJI SULAIMAN



The Third International Halal Product Expo receive His Majesty's visit.

BERAKAS, August, 17 – The third International Halal Product Expo (IHPE) which was held for four days at the International Convention Centre received good response from more than 60 international companies.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to officially open the expo which was organised for the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources with the collaboration from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Ministry of Health.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

This year saw the largest number of participants with 260 booths exhibiting 180 companies from 13 countries. Local companies occupied 113 booths while 67 were from other countries, including 42 from Malaysia, six from Indonesia, two from China and others were from Algeria, Dubai, India, Syria, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam.

The increase in participation from local companies involving medium-and-small entrepreneurs showed positive response and their confidence towards the expo.

Besides the product expo, an International Halal Market Conference (IHMC 2008) was also organised with the theme "The Emergence of the Halal Market Economy". The conference provided participants with another opportunity to increase their knowledge by listening to presentations and discussions on various issues, research findings and the latest developments in the *halal* industry.



His Majesty together with the Governor of Sarawak, His Excellency Datuk Patinggi Abang Haji Muhammad Salahuddin Abang Barieng and spouse and Chief Minister of Sarawak, The Right Honourable Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud and spouse prior to banquet at Undangan Negeri Hall in Petra Jaya.



PHOTOS: HAJI SAHRIN HAJI ASMAT

Viewing one of the exhibitions.



His Majesty with Sarawak top officials during the visit to the Borneo Highland Resort.

His Majesty visits Sarawak

KUCHING, Sarawak, August 4 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was on a two-day visit to Sarawak.

During the two-day visit, His Majesty attended luncheon hosted by the Governor of Sarawak, Tun Datuk Patinggi Abang Haji Muhammad Salahuddin at Astana Negeri Sarawak. His Majesty also visited Petrajaya Integration stadium in Kuching where His Majesty took a closer look at an exhibition on Sarawak's 45 years of entry into Malaysia; a visit to Borneo Highland Resort at the Padawan Range; and attended the Sarawak Regatta 2008 that took place at the Kuching Waterfront where His Majesty

Visiting the mausoleum of the late Sultan Tengah.



also presented prizes to the winners of the regatta competition.

His Majesty's also paid homage to the late Sultan Tengah. According to history, Sultan Tengah's real name was Pengiran Muda Tengah Ibrahim Ali Omar Shah or known as Raja Tengah. He was the first and the last Sultan to

reign Sarawak as he passed away during his journey back to Sarawak in 1958. He was laid to rest at Santubong Sarawak.

The visit by His Majesty to Sarawak reflected the strong and harmonious relationship between Brunei Darussalam and Sarawak.



PHOTOS: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

His Majesty and the President of Republic of China, His Excellency Hu Jintao and spouse.



Among the foreign dignitaries attending the opening of Olympic Games 2008.

His Majesty attends opening of Olympic Games 2008

BEIJING, China, August 8 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam along with other foreign dignitaries attended the opening of the Olympic Games 2008.

His Majesty also attended a reception and banquet together with other foreign dignitaries hosted by the President of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Hu Jintao at the great Hall of the People in Beijing.

China with the population of an estimated 1.5 billion people was selected to host the Olympic Games 2008.

The Games will be held from August 8 to 24, 2009.

His Majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.



His Majesty meeting with other foreign dignitaries attending the opening of Olympic Games 2008.

Congratulatory Messages

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

- The President of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency SR Nathan, and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, in conjunction with the republic's 43rd National Day celebration on August 9.
- The President of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Dr. Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, in conjunction with the republic's 63rd Independence Day anniversary on August 17.
- His Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Al-Wathiqu Billah Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin, Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, and his Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi in conjunction with Malaysia's 51st Independence Day anniversary on August 31.

His Majesty officiates new building of Ministry of Defence

BERAKAS, August 13 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) officiated the new Ministry of Defence's building at Bolkiah Garrison.

At the new building, His Majesty visited His Majesty's office and the offices within the premises of the Tower Block as well as the units located at the outer block of the Ministry of Defence.

His Majesty also visited the *surau*, Bolkiah Garrison Gymnasium and the Defence Information Technology Unit.

His Majesty ended his visit at the Officer Cadet School (OCS) of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces at Jalan Sungai Akar.

Officer Cadet School is the first phase in the development of the Defence Academy in line with the aspiration of the Defence White Paper.

The first intake for OCS is scheduled for August 25, 2008 comprising 41 young male and female officer cadets.

The training will be conducted for 10 months and divided into three phases; focus on general training; specialist training and training with armed forces.



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

His Majesty Touring the new Ministry of Defence building.



His Majesty trying one of the systems installed at the Ministry.

RIMBA, August 16 – A total of 117 people received keys to their new homes from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam under the National Housing Development Scheme (Rancangan Perumahan Negara - RKN) and the Landless Indigenous Citizens Housing Scheme (Skim Tanah Kurnia Rakyat Jati – STKRJ).

The ceremony was held at Rimba Secondary School.

From 117 recipients, two were granted plots of land at RPN Lambak Kanan and Mentiri. Meanwhile 113 people were awarded Class 'D' houses in STKRJ Kampong Mata-Mata (Katok B), while another two received Class 'E' accommodations in STKRJ Kampong Tungku (Katok A).

His Majesty also toured the Rimba Secondary School and Sekolah Kesuma Mekar at STKRJ Kampong Rimba.

The sovereign also went to the residence of Village Head of STKRJ Kg. Rimba; the Village Head of Kampong Tungku and Katok; homes of several recipients; and several business establishments.

117 receive keys to new homes



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

One of the recipients received a visit from His Majesty.

Brunei – Malaysia 12th Annual Meeting

JOHOR DARUL TAKZIM, Malaysia, August 26 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and The Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Right Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi have outlined 13 matters in the joint statement during the eye-to-eye meeting in Pulau Springs Resort Johor.

The two leaders highlighted the need for both countries to continue working together in facilitating and creating a more conducive business environment, especially for the business communities of Brunei, Sabah and Sarawak.

In this regard, Malaysia welcomes investment from Brunei especially in Iskandar Malaysia, the Sarawak Corridor for Renewable Energy (SCORE) and Sabah Development Corridor (SDC).

The leaders expressed their further commitment to foster closer collaboration in friendship and cooperation between Brunei and Malaysia, based on mutual respect, understanding, benefit and effective cooperation.

Both leaders were satisfied with the good and positive progress made on the longstanding issue of maritime boundary, and other related issues and were optimistic of reaching a successful resolution soon that would benefit both countries.

They also welcomed the signing of the Asian Charter by the 10 Asian member countries during the 13th Asian Summit in Singapore last year. The leaders further viewed the ratification of the Charter by both Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia in February 2008 as a demonstration of both countries' commitment towards strengthening Asian.

The leaders expressed the hope that the Charter would be ratified by all members at the next Asian Summit in Thailand.

The two leaders exchanged views



His Majesty and the Prime Minister of Malaysia at the Brunei-Malaysia 12th Annual Meeting.

on regional and international matters of mutual concern. The leaders agreed to hold the 13th Annual Leaders' Consultation in Brunei Darussalam in 2009.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar were in Johor Darul Takzim, Malaysia for the 12th Annual Leaders' Consultation between His Majesty and Prime Minister of Malaysia.

Accompanying Their Majesties were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bulqiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bulqiah, Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah.

The annual meeting which was commenced in 1997 is held every year between the leaders of the two countries to enhance the bilateral cooperation and discussed mutual interests.

His Majesty attends banquet

JOHOR DARUL TAKZIM, MALAYSIA, August 26 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the banquet hosted by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Right Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi held at Ramayana Hall Pulau Pavillion.

Also present were Duli Yang Maha Mulia Sultan Iskandar Al-Haj ibni Almarhum Sultan Ismail, Sultan Johor Darul Takzim and Duli Yang Maha Mulia Seri Paduka Baginda Sultanah Zanariah; Duli Yang Amat Mulia Tunku Ibrahim Ismail, Tunku Mahkota Johor and Yang Amat Mulia Raja Zarith Sofia. Also present was the spouse of Prime Minister of Malaysia, Datin Seri Jeanne Abdullah.

The banquet was highlighted by the cultural performance from Orkestra Melayu and Yayasan Warisan.

92 products granted permit to use Brunei Halal Brand

BERAKAS, August 14 - The Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources released a list of companies and its product which have been granted the permit to use Brunei *Halal* Brand.

The list was revealed during the Third International *Halal* Product Expo (IHPE) 2008 at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas.

Nine local companies related to food manufacturing listed in the list; which also includes names of 92 food products produced by the respective

companies.

The companies and the numbers of products which granted the permit to use the Brunei Halal label are Sabli Food Industries (B) Sdn Bhd with one product, Syarikat Haji Mat Jali & Anak-Anal with 13 products, TMM Processing Sdn Bhd with one product, SAHAMADA Corporation Sdn Bhd with six products.

While Seri Pekatan Sdn Bhd with 20 products, Marimin Sdn Bhd with 14 products, BMC Food Industries Sdn

Bhd with 22 products, Noraini Bakery with six products and Usaha OSRA with nine products.

Among the products are canned chicken curry, breaded prawn, biscuits, chili sauce, prawn and fish crackers, frozen food like nugget, frankfurter and minced meat and also local delicacies, *Kelupis* and *Kuih Gatas*.

The Brunei *Halal* Brand was introduced in August last year during the Second IHPE.

Royal call to protect Brunei's natural beauty



PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

Her Majesty The Raja Isteri officiates the Landscape and Flowers Exhibition.

GADONG, August 14 – The importance of the roles of plants and how they influence our natural surroundings and everyday life was highlighted by Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha at the Landscape and Flowers Exhibition held at the Centrepoint in Gadong.

The ceremony was held as a part of His Majesty's 62nd birthday celebrations.

Her Majesty The Raja Isteri said that we need to continue holding 'green' activities and raise awareness to protect Brunei Darussalam's natural beauty, whether at home gardens, villages, districts, or the country in general.

This year's theme of "Going Green Together to Manage Climate Change" represents one initiative that would raise awareness towards the importance of taking care of our natural environment, said Her Majesty The Raja Isteri.

To support this initiative, Her Majesty encouraged people from all walks of the community to work earnestly and be active in protecting the environment.

At the ceremony, Her Majesty presented the prizes to the winner of the competition in various categories.

Also present at the ceremony was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bulqiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna.



PHOTOS: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince inspecting the guard-of-honour.



Their Royal Highnesses at a banquet hosted by the Malaysian Prime Minister.



Visit to one of the classes at Royal Military College, Sungai Besi.



One of the activities performed by the college trainee of Bukit Jalil Sports School.

Their Royal Highnesses on official visit to Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, August 3 – His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah

were on an official four-day visit to Kuala Lumpur starting July 3.

Accompanying Their Royal Highnesses were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Muntaqim and Yang Amat

Mulia Prince Abdul Qawi.

Their Royal Highnesses' itinerary began on August 1 with the visit to Dataran Perdana, Putrajaya. After

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the official welcoming ceremony, Their Highnesses went for a separate programme.

From Dataran Perdana, His Royal Highness was accompanied by Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Right Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi went to Prime Minister's Office at the Perdana Putra Building, Putrajaya.

Discussions on various issues were held between His Royal Highness and the Right Honourable at the Office.

His Royal Highness, also went for a Friday Mass Prayer at the Masjid Negara.

On a separate programme, Her Royal Highness went on a boat cruise along the Tasik Putra, Putrajaya.

Accompanying Her Royal Highness was Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Seri Jeanne Abdullah, wife of the Prime Minister.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince General Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah's itinerary continued in the afternoon with a visit to Royal Military College (Maktab Tentera Diraja - MTD) at Sungai Besi.

At the College, His Royal Highness presented with a corporate video and a presentation on the mission, structure and facilities of the college.

His Royal Highness also viewed the facilities available at the college and watched an exercise performed by the college trainees.

Later in the evening, Their Highnesses attended a banquet hosted by the Malaysian Prime Minister at J.W. Marriot Hotel.

On August 2, Their Highnesses visited Bukit Jalil Sports School.

Their Highnesses ended their official visit to Kuala Lumpur on August 3.

Royalty graces *khatam* Al-Quran ceremony

BERIBI, August 7 - Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar attended a Khatam Al-Quran ceremony held at the residence of Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sura Negara Pengiran Anak Haji Muhammad Bey Muntassir. Also

present were other members of the royal family.

Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Hajah Nurul Amal Ni'matullah Athirah, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Hajah Nurul Amal Munjiyyatul Athirah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muhammad Abdul Haffiz were among

the 18 members who took part in the Khatam Al-Quran ceremony.

The highlight of the ceremony was the sprinkling of the '*Bunga Rampai*' (scented flower) and the pouring of scented water to mark the completion of the Khatam Al-Quran.

Royal visit to eco-tourism fishery and maritime eco-tourism site

KOTA BATU, August 21 - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office conducted a working visit to the fishing and maritime eco-tourism project sites under the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR).

His Royal Highness' visit began with a tour at HT Enterprise, which handles the fisheries eco-tourism project. HT Enterprise is one of the companies which gained financial support from the Government of His Majesty through the Enterprise Facilitation Scheme (EFS).

The company's project site, located along Brunei Bay's mangrove forest swamp, is around 2.25 hectares in size will include the construction of 15 chalets, a restaurant and a conference room. The construction which began in June 2007 is expected to be complete at the end of this year.

The visit then continued to the Fish Landing Centre in Muara where His Royal Highness continued the tour to the fishing and maritime eco-tourism sites located two nautical miles off the coast in surrounding of Pilong-Pilongan Island.

His Royal Highness was presented with a demonstration of enforcement operations by the Marine Police and Internal Security Division which secure and patrol the safety zone within 500 metres of restricted areas along oil and gas platforms and within Brunei

His Royal Highness Crown Prince observing one of the project sites.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

waters.

These maritime areas are among the locations which are rich with diverse marine life and has the potential to contribute about \$27 million through activities like scuba diving, snorkeling, sport fishing and wildlife preservation.

Coral reefs within the area are also among the exquisite; besides the west side of the area are also identified as one of the sites for the development of offshore cages for fish breeding with an estimated area of over 200 hectares.

His Royal Highness also took the opportunity to view the coral reefs through an undersea remote operating

vehicle (ROV). Also presented was a scuba diving demonstration that showed monitoring and assessment procedures carried out to inspect the coral reefs.

His Royal Highness was also shown the demonstration of 'Menangin Operation', a maritime joint enforcement operation by Fishery Department and Internal Security Department.

The visit was aimed at monitoring the progress and development of businesses and institutions, including the economic activities which are aligned with MIPR's efforts in promoting economic diversification.

Brunei Open 2008

JERUDONG, August 24 – Rick Kulacz from Australia won the Golf Tournament Brunei Open 2008 and bagged a trophy and cash prize of US\$47,550.

The prizes were presented by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

First-runner up went to Lu Wen-teh from Chinese Taipei, who received US\$32,550.

Meanwhile local golfer, Seruji bin Haji Setia was honoured with the trophy of Best Brunei Amateur.

This is the fourth time for the tournament to be held. The tournament is sponsored by Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP) since 2007.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

Rick Kulacz receives his trophy from His Royal Highness Crown Prince.

Officer Cadet School to pursue military service and careers

SUNGAI AKAR, August 26 – The establishment of Officer Cadet School plays an important role in realising the nation's aspiration to develop the educational sector and to make Brunei Darussalam as the educational centre in this region.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince General Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Deputy Sultan said that the establishment of the Officer Cadet School is in line with the aspiration of the Ministry of Defence and Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) to upgrade the level of professionalism of its personnel and subsequently the provision of education, training and courses conducted locally and continuously for all levels in RBAF.

"In my opinion, with the provision of the latest and most sophisticated and latest facilities, as well as comprehensively systematic programmed, this school will enhance the appeal and opportunities for youths to pursue the military service and careers," said the His Royal Highness

at the official opening ceremony of the RBAF Officer Cadet School.

His Royal Highness made the *sabda* (royal speech) at the opening ceremony for the Officer Cadet School at the Sungai Akar Camp.

In other words, His Royal Highness added, the establishment of this school will be able to fulfil the overall manpower requirements of the Ministry of Defence and RBAF in terms of quality and quantity.

This represents an achievement to be proud of, which will not only raise the quality of the trainees involved but most importantly it will also contribute to the development of the nation in the near future and in time to come.

His Royal Highness, in conclusion, called on the teaching staff and officers involved to provide the highest level of service and quality of education based upon professionalism and an excellent level of discipline.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness Crown Prince General Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah delivers his *sabda* at the opening ceremony of Officer Cadet School.

Fully utilise education opportunities

BERAKAS, August 24 – The importance of the role of parents in education and free education provided by the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam were highlighted by Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah in her *sabda* (royal speech) during the launching of the Domestic Science Exhibition 2008 at the International Convention Centre.



PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN

Her Royal Highness at one of the exhibition at the Domestic Science Exhibition.

Her Royal Highness said, "With the blessing of Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala, the Government of His Majesty has provided numerous facility as well as education needs to raise the standard of living, welfare and security of the people of the country.

"His Majesty's government has provided learning facilities and free education that should be fully utilised. In my opinion, the opportunities offered in academic education not only represent the path towards excellence for youths but also play a main role in developing the community and

the country," said Her Royal Highness.

Her Royal Highness also reiterated the important roles and responsibilities of parents in educating their children in achieving academic excellence, saying that early and informal education starts from home.

Her Royal Highness said that we need to provide support to our children and to continue the quest of finding and obtaining knowledge at a higher level through the attitude of learning throughout our lifetime.

At the ceremony, Her Royal Highness also presented the prizes to the winners of the exhibition.

This year's Domestic Science Exhibition was organised by the Executive Committee for His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 62nd birthday celebration and hosted by Pertiwi Associations of Brunei Darussalam.

Distribution of Mabroom dates

One of the Penghulu (head of mukim) receives dates from His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.



PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN

BERAKAS, August 13 – Upon the arrival of the Islamic month of Ramadhan, a total of 300 grams of Mabroom dates, a personal gift from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam will be received by every Muslim citizen, including Muslim foreigners residing in Brunei Darussalam.

A total of 128.5 metric tonnes of Mabroom dates have been allocated for this year's distribution.

According to Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar, the Minister of Communications who is also the chairman of the board of directors for the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah

Foundation, the distribution of dates has entered its 17th year where the distributions have been implemented systematically as a result of close cooperation from the district offices through the penghulu (head of mukim), village heads, Royal Brunei Armed Forces and the Royal Brunei Police Force.

Present at the ceremony to mark the distribution was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik who handed over the dates to the commandants of Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Royal Brunei Police Force, penghulu and head of villages.

Brunei's Qariah third in International Tilawah Al-Qur'an

KUALA LUMPUR, August 25 – Brunei's Qariah, Dayang Nurfaezah binti Haji Emran won third place in the 50th International Tilawah Al-Quran competition. Meanwhile Brunei's Qari, Ak. Mohd. Adibul Amin bin Pengiran Haji Marjuki earned fifth place.

The Al-Quran Reading competition was held at Taman Tamadun Islam Convention Centre, Pulau Wan Man Terengganu, Malaysia from August 18-25.

Prizes for Qari and Qariah were presented by His Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin and Her Majesty Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Nur Zahirah respectively.

A total of 64 participants (40 Qari and 24 Qariah) from 42 countries took part in the competition, which was held in conjunction with the golden jubilee of the International Tilawah Al-Quran.



PHOTO: DKSITI REDZAIMI PG-HAJAHMAD

One of the healthy baby competition winner receive prize from Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah.

Stop energy waste and environmental pollution

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 31 –Daily activities which led to energy waste and environmental pollution must be minimize or totally stopped.

The matter was stressed by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah at launching ceremony and prize presentation for healthy baby competition, Brunei Muara zone at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Her Royal Highness in her speech encouraged the public to practice activities which concerned with environment and conservation of energy likes recycling.

Prior to that, Her Royal Highness also touched on this year World Health Day theme which focused people attention on the issue of change of climate in which our country was also not exempted.

Further Her Royal Highness also hoped that such competition will increased the public awareness on change of climate and its bad effect to our health and environment.

Her Royal Highness also presented the prizes to the winners of the competition.

Princess graces opening of IACB, RAIF



PHOTO: HAJI SAHRIN HAJI ASMAT

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Muta-Wakkilah graced the opening of the IACB and the 2nd RAIF Conference 2008.

JERUDONG, August 16 - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Muta-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah graced the opening of the International Arbitration Conference Brunei (IACB) and 2nd Regional Arbitration Institution Forum (RAIF) Conference 2008 at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

The two-day conference brought together leading experts in the field of arbitration from different jurisdictions and disciplines to share and exchange ideas on a range of highly important topics.

RAIF comprising of five countries as Indonesia, Hong Kong, Australia, Malaysia and Singapore where as these countries intend to enhance cooperation including the development of arbitration institutions which was combined by this six countries.

About 100 participants from abroad including 20 people were arbitration experts in the world whom attend as a lecturer in the IACB.

The conference themed was the importance of arbitration in the system arbitration to attract the foreign investment directly.

Arbitration is made into a trend in progressive development country to settle conflict by various sectors related to foreign investment.

Did you know that...

Ministry of Home Affairs

The Ministry of Home Affairs was established on January 1, 1984 on the resumption of full independence and sovereignty of Brunei Darussalam.

There are six departments under the ministry; Department of Immigration and National Registration, Fire and Rescue Services Department, Labour Department, Prisons Department, Department of District Office and Municipal Board.

All the departments are lead by a director excluding for District Office which is led by a District Officer.

More information on the ministry is available at www.khedn.gov.bn.

>> BRUNEI IN BRIEF

- Official name is Negara Brunei Darussalam.
 - Capital is Bandar Seri Begawan.
 - It is located on the north-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia.
 - Land size is 5765 sq. km
 - Population is estimated at 398,000 people (2008)
 - It is divided into four districts – Brunei Muara, Tutong, Kuala Belait and Temburong.
 - Malay is the official language but English is widely spoken.
 - Islam is the official religion and it allows other religions to be practiced.
 - National carrier is Royal Brunei Airlines.
 - It has an equatorial climate, a uniform temperature, high humidity and heavy rainfall.
- Public Warning:** The trafficking of controlled drugs carries the death penalty in Brunei Darussalam.

>> HOW TO GET TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM?

There are a number of ways to reach Brunei.

- By air - Brunei's national carrier, Royal Brunei Airlines travels to more than 20 destinations around the world. The airline also has worldwide office for you to book a return flight to Brunei (to know the nearest RBA's office at your place, please log to: www.bruneiair.com)

International airlines such as Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and Thai Airways also fly frequently to Brunei. Beginning July 2006, Air Asia, the Malaysia's lowest airfare carrier also has direct flight from Kuala Lumpur to Brunei.

Arrival by plane would land you to Brunei International Airport (BWN), the sole airport in the nation.

- For those who enjoy journey by sea, you can reach Brunei by boat or ferry. The main ferry terminal in Brunei is the Serasa Ferry Terminal at Muara. You can catch a ferry from Labuan, Sabah or Lawas and Sundar, both in Sarawak, a state of the neighbouring country, Malaysia. Another option is via a boat from Limbang, Sarawak which will arrive at the jetty around Jalan Residency area in the Capital.
- You would have two options of entry point to Brunei by land transport. You can enter through the Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post in Belait District or the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post in Brunei Muara District. The Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post in Belait is the entry point for those from Miri, Sarawak. While the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post is the entrance for those coming from Limbang, Sarawak; Kota Kinabalu; and Kalimantan.

BRUNEI HALAL BRAND

A Flagship In The Diversification Of Economy

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam have been making great efforts to lessen its dependence on its oil and gas industry by giving strong emphasis on the diversification of its economy such as exploring the field of fisheries, agriculture, textiles, Islamic banking and the *halal* industry.

Venturing into the *halal* industry is seen as a wise move as it currently is estimated to be worth US\$560 billion worldwide with US\$160 in the *halal* food sector alone. Hence, there are vast opportunities to explore this industry where Brunei Darussalam has taken several measures to make itself as a major player in this industry.

But what is *halal*? *Halal* are things or actions permitted by Hukum Syara' without punishment imposed on the doer. Some of the samples of *halal* items or foodstuffs are such as non-alcoholic beverages, or proper slaughtering of an animal according to Islamic rites.

With that, the Brunei Halal Brand was officially endorsed in August 2007 by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Second International Halal Product Expo held in Bandar Seri Begawan.

The Brunei Halal Brand is the initiative of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources along with the cooperation of the Majlis Ugama Islam, Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Health.

Its establishment is in line with Brunei Darussalam's move towards developing a diversified, competitive and sustainable economy and to fulfil the religious duty of *Fardhu Kifayah* by increasing the amount of *Halal* Certified food for the Muslim population.

There are conditions imposed to use the Brunei Halal Brand such as;

- i. No product shall be licensed to use the Brunei Halal Brand unless it has been issued a permit to use the Halal Label in accordance with Halal Label Certificate and Halal Label Order, 2005, Brunei Darussalam Standard for Halal Food PBD 24; 2007 and Brunei Darussalam Certification Guideline for Halal Certificate and Halal Label: BCG Halal 1.
- ii. A company may apply for permission to use the Brunei Halal Brand on a product while that product is in the process of being audited for use of Halal Label, but will not be licensed to use the Brunei Halal Brand until a permit authorising to use the Halal Label has been issued by the Majlis.
- iii. Other criteria for use of the Brunei Halal Brand include:
 - a. The manufacturing company must possess a Brunei Business License, or the equivalent in the country of operation.

- b. The manufacturing company must operate from a processing premise or factory appropriately licensed in the country of operation.
- c. The manufacturing company must have acceptable manufacturing practices in place. It is expected companies will have adopted Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point system.
- d. The manufacturing company has been in operation for at least three years and will be in sound financial position with a business plan.
- e. The manufacturing company's food product(s) proposed for use in the Brunei Halal Brand must already be in marketplace.
- f. The food products must have appropriate packaging with proper labelling and presentation for quality products.
- g. The manufacturing company must have quality control and quality assurance procedures in place to maintain consistent quality of the food products.

While below is the listing of food products for inclusion in the Brunei Halal Brand (not exhaustive);

Meat-based Products

- Processed meat products included canned, frozen, chilled and ready-to-eat meals
- Sausages (Chicken beef, goat)
- Chicken and poultry products included frozen pieces, nuggets.

Cereal-based Products

- Breakfast cereals
- Biscuits
- Rice crackers
- Snack foods
- Bakery products
- Frozen desserts

Jams, Conserves, Spreads

- Fruit-based jams and preserves
- Marmalades
- Vegetable and fruit spreads
- Seafood spreads

Dairy Products

- Cheese and cheese products (natural and processed cheeses)
- Cheese spreads
- Yoghurts
- Flavoured Milk

Confectionery

- Chocolate and cocoa-based products
- Sugar-based confectionery

- Fruit gums
- Muesli and health bars
- Nut-based confectionary

Beverages

- Fruit-based drinks (juices and juice based, temperate and tropical fruit mixes)
- Milk-based drinks
- Soy-based drinks
- Health drinks
- Energy drinks
- Cordials
- Powdered drinks

Brunei Darussalam is known as a nation that has strongly practiced the Islamic faith since Islam arrived in the 14th century. It has since become the official religion of Brunei Darussalam. With a strong background, the global market can be assured that Brunei Halal Certification will be very strict, rigorous and stringent. The highest level of approval required for Brunei Halal Certification comes from the Islamic Religious Council of Brunei Darussalam whose members are made up of qualified, experienced and prominent level of clerics.

The country has also developed Brunei Halal Standards as the guidelines for Brunei Halal Certification. The certification is covered under the Halal Meat Act: Public Health (food) Act and Regulations, 2000; Halal Certificate and Halal Label Order, 2005.

In ensuring consistent compliance of Brunei Halal Brand, a few branding process will be carried out such as promoting and marketing the new commercial image of the logo; to avoid logo from misused or copied, the logo's Intellectual Property Rights will be registered to the target countries where the products will be marketed.

Other than that, proper auditing systems and competent auditing will be introduced and enforcement members will be provided. Products will also be analysed where and when necessary.

With these various measures and actions taken, it has proven that Brunei Darussalam is serious in its effort to become a major player in the *halal* industry. The success of venturing into this industry will be one of the ways to lessen our dependence on the oil and gas industry.

The sovereign visiting one of the food exhibits at the International Halal Products Expo (IHPE).



PHOTO: HALIM HAJI SULAIMAN

ASEAN Community fulfill the needs of 500 million people



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Home Affairs and Trade attend the celebration of 41st ASEAN Day 2008.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 8 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade in his statement said that 'One ASEAN Identity; One ASEAN Community reflects the bright and far-reaching vision for Southeast Asia.

His Royal Highness said that it is not just an idealistic vision but also offers the 500,000,000 people in our 10 nations a compelling practical invitation. It invites us to enter a process that will shape our future region and bring us together in "one community", offering each other steadfast hope and constant reassurance.

His Royal Highness stated the matters in a statement commemorating the 41st ASEAN Day 2008 which was celebrates every August 8.

His Royal Highness added that such a community will be one in which we work together in peace and security. We appreciate one another's culture, tradition, background, faith and aspirations. We help and protect each other against any threat, whether man-made or natural.

ASEAN Community said His Royal Highness open up new social and economic opportunities for each other, as warm friends, close neighbours and professional partners.

For the invitation said His Royal Highness, Brunei Darussalam is happy to accept and wishes the people of ASEAN member nations for peace, happiness and prosperity.

Call to encourage breastfeeding

GADONG, August 8 – Steps to encourage breastfeeding should be further enhanced as statistics revealed that in 2003, only 54 per cent of infants aged one-month old received full breastfeeding duration. This percentage decreased to 35 per cent for infants aged two-months and only one per cent for infants aged six-months to receive full breastfeeding duration.

These were among the matters highlighted by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi at a ceremony to mark the Breastfeeding Week held at the The Rizqun International Hotel.

The Minister also said that the Ministry of Health should study why many mothers stopped breastfeeding at such an early stage; and how the community can assist and encourage mothers to breastfeed exclusively for their infants from aged six months to two-years old.

The objective of Breastfeeding Week is to provide awareness on the needs and importance of giving support to mothers who practice breastfeeding besides disseminating latest information on the supports needed for every mother.

Eight receive The Salute to Brunei Women Achievers Award

JERUDONG, August 19 – Eight Bruneian women who became 'First Woman' in the respective areas received "The Salute to Brunei Women Achievers Award" in ceremony held at the Empire Theatre, Empire Hotel and Country Club.

They were The Honourable Justice Datin Paduka Hajah Hayati, the First Woman Brunei Judge; Datin Paduka Hajah Misli and Datin Paduka Hajah Azizah the First Women Permanent Secretaries; Datin Paduka Dr. Hajah Intan, the First Brunei Female Doctor.

Also receiving the awards were; Lieutenant Colonel Hajah Hasimah binti Haji Abu Bakar, the First Female High Ranking Officer in the Military; Hajah Rosmawatty binti Haji Abdul Mumin, the First Female to Hold Director Position at Brunei Shell Petroleum; Sariana binti Nordin, the First Brunei Female Pilot and Norhayati



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna presents an award to one of the Salute to Brunei Women Achievers Award recipients.

binti Abu Bakar, the First Woman Explorer.

In attendance to present the awards were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna.

These awards are the first to be organised by Asia Inc Forum in cooperation with Baiduri Bank and the Brunei Economic Development Board and supported by the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources and the Young Entrepreneur Association of Brunei.

Charity bazaar launched

BENGKURONG, August 3 - In a bid to raise funds to offset the expenses incurred in taking care of the special needs, a Charity Bazaar was held at Pusat Ehsan in Bengkurong.

Her Royal Highness Princess Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah, the patron of the centre launched the charity event.

The charity bazaar featured many exciting games and activities such as the flying fox, bouncers, garage sale, lucky draws as well as performances by local artists. About 50 camps were set up by the organising committee to accommodate the garage sale as well as food and drinks.

This year's charity bazaar drew in the participation of more than 70 booths comprising the private sector, financial institutions, various associations and government bodies as well as individuals, all striving to raise funds for the centre.

BMCCI - SMCCI sign cooperation agreement

MUARA, August 14 –The Brunei Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BMCCI) and the Singapore Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SMCCI) signed a Cooperation Agreement to enhance the trade, development and economic relations between Brunei Darussalam and Singapore.

Signing on behalf BMCCI was Awang Haji Mohd. Razali bin Haji Johari, President of BMCCI and Dato Mohd Zain bin Abdullah, President of SMCCI and head of delegation from Singapore.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by Pg Hajah Mariana, Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources; and Yatiman bin Yusof, the Mission Leader of SMCCI.

PHOTO: AMPLIAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPLIAN HAJI TENGAH



President of BMCCI, Awang Haji Mohd. Razali bin Haji Johari (left) and President of SMCCI, Dato Mohd Zain bin Abdullah (right) after the signing of the cooperation agreement.



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

Brunei Darussalam hold ASEAN Ports Association (APA) Chairman and APA Secretary General posts for two consecutive years, 2008 and 2009.

APA's meetings identify new matter

GADONG, August 5 – The port management and operations, ASEAN Ports Association (APA) five-year work programme, implementation of International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Codes in the Ports, handling of dangerous goods in compliance with International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code were among other things discussed at the 29th ASEAN Ports Association (APA) Working Committee Meeting. The meeting was held on August 5 to 6 at the Rizqun International Hotel.

The meeting was officiated by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications, Awang Haji Alaihuddin bin Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Utama Haji Awang Mohd Taha.

The meeting was attended by 33 delegates consisting of government officials and representatives of ASEAN port officials. Brunei Darussalam's head of delegation to the meeting

was Awang Mahadi bin Mohd. Yusoff, Assistant Director of Ports.

Also in attendance were heads of department under the Ministry of Communications, APA Chairman, APA Secretary General, APA Permanent Secretariat's representative, APA delegations, German consultant and senior officers and staff of Ports Department.

APA was convened in Manila, Philippines in September 1975 and consisted of five ASEAN member countries, namely, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Brunei Darussalam joined in 1984, Vietnam in 1996, Cambodia in 2003 and Myanmar in 2005. An invitation for Laos to join APA has been extended.

Brunei Darussalam is holding the APA Chairman and APA Secretary General posts for two years, 2008 and 2009.

Brunei Darussalam hosts 29th ASOD Meeting

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 25 – Although Brunei do not produce substances like drugs and its related equipments, increased measures have been taken to impose control on most substances in the country's domestic legislation.

As a signatory of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Brunei Darussalam through its relevant agencies have already placed measures to monitor the movement of listed essential and precursor chemicals.

The matters were stated by Dato Seri Paduka Eusoff Agaki, the Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office in his remarks at the official opening of the 29th Meeting of ASEAN Senior Officials on Drugs Matters (ASOD).

The two-day meeting was held at the Rizqun International Hotel in Gadong. This was the third time, Brunei Darussalam became the host country.

Dato Seri Paduka Eusoff Agaki hoped that the ASEAN delegations would continuously enhanced cooperation in providing necessary information for the ASEAN community to fight the drug abuse.

ASOD was officially established in 1984 and initiatives on drugs are based on the ASEAN Plan of Action on Drug Abuse Control adopted at the 17th ASOD Meeting in October 1994. The Action Plan covers four priority areas namely preventive drug education, treatment and rehabilitation, enforcement and research.



PHOTO: AMPLIAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPLIAN HAJI TENGAH

Deputy Minister at Prime Minister's Office, Dato Seri Paduka Eusoff Agaki opens the 29th Meeting of ASOD.

Among the aims of the meeting was to exchange information on current drug trends in South East Asia, to identify the level of drugs abuse and drugs trafficking in the region as well as to produce current policies in the effort to control and prevent of drugs through laws enforcement.

Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) launches new website

BANDAR SERI BEGWAN, August 28 – Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) launched its newly developed website to better cater to the informational needs of its stakeholders. The website can be browse at www.bedb.com.bn.

The newly developed website was launched by Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Ismail bin Pengiran Haji Mohamed, Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, at the iCentre building in Anggrerek Desa.

In his speech, Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Ismail highlighted the importance of leveraging on the advances in technology in order to increase productivity and enhance competitiveness, particularly in today's ever challenging economy.

He also reminded all parties particularly internet users not to abuse the media internet and to be responsible towards all internet users.

Prior to that, Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Ismail spoke on the sum of budget allocated for Info-Communication Technology (ICT) development including e-Government initiatives by the government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam under the National Development Plan 2007-2012 that amounted to \$1.146 billion.

He hoped that the development and launching of the new BEDB website would be an invaluable reference source and working tool for greater efficiency and effectiveness.

He further added the web would also be extending BEDB's reach to further introduce Brunei Darussalam's rich and diverse opportunities to those who are generally on the lookout for translating every opportunity to economic growth.

The BEDB was established by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang



Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Ismail, Permanent Secretary at Prime Minister's Office launched the new website.

Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in November 2001 to be the leading economic agency for Brunei Darussalam.



Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi, presents an award to Pehin Orang Kaya Kapitan China Koria Diaja Dato Paduka Awang Lau Ah Kok.

Local entrepreneurs receive APEA 2008

GADONG, August 29 – Twenty-seven awards were presented to nation's most successful and committed entrepreneurs and companies at the Asia Pacific Entrepreneurship Awards (APEA) 2008 at the Rizqun International Hotel in Gadong.

Awards were presented by Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi bin Haji Osman, Minister of Health.

Sixteen individuals from different industries received excellent entrepreneur awards. Among the recipients were Pehin Orang Kaya Kapitan China Koria Diaja Dato Paduka Awang Lau Ah Kok, the

founder of Hua Ho Department Stores (Lifetime Achievement Award) and Pehin Kapitan Lela Diraja Dato Paduka Awang Goh King Chin who received Special Achievement Award on outstanding achievement in building an extremely successful motor empire in a journey spanning 38 years.

The prestigious award was jointly organised by Enterprise Asia, a non-governmental organisation in pursuit of entrepreneurship development; and MediaPro, local publishing company.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX AUGUST 2008

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for August 2008 rose by 0.9 per cent over July 2008.

The cost of food and non-alcoholic beverages in August rose by 1.2 per cent over the previous month due to higher prices of flour, noodles, biscuits, fresh and frozen buffalo meat, fresh fish, prawn, milk, fresh and frozen vegetables, fresh tropical fruits, coffee and tea, cocoa-based beverages, carbonated drinks and sauces and soup.

Some food items which recorded notable price increase in August 2008 compared with the previous month were instant noodle, sawi hijau, squids, spinach, rice flour and barah-barahan. Meanwhile some food items that showed notable price decrease were such as prawn (small), kangkong, long bean and

brinjal.

Higher prices of ready-made clothing, material for male and female, the footwear after the mid-year sales led to a 4.7 per cent increase in the clothing and footwear cost.

The cost of housing, water, electricity and maintenance went up by 0.2 per cent as the result of higher price of maintenance and minor repair.

The cost of household goods, services and operation went up by 1.7 per cent as a result of higher prices of floor covering, household furnishings, kitchen appliances and utensils, crockery and cutlery, household operation and other household services.

The transport cost rose by 0.3 per cent due to higher prices of motor vehicles maintenance and air fares.

Cheaper prices of medical

treatment lowered the cost medical and health by 0.4 per cent.

The communications cost dropped by 0.1 per cent due to cheaper price of instrument including accessories.

Lower prices of textbook, stationery and magazines led to fall in the education cost 0.2 per cent.

The cost of miscellaneous goods and services rose by 0.4 per cent due to higher prices of personal care and miscellaneous expenses.

The recreation and entertainment cost remained the same.

The CPI in August 2008 was 3.3 per cent higher than that of the same month in 2007.

For the first eight months (January to August, 2008) of this year, the CPI rose by 2.5 per cent compared to the same period last year.



Campur is synonym or similar to a door gift given during a function or a ceremony. In Brunei, the handing out of campur has long been practiced. The act of giving out campur during a ceremony is a gesture by the host who is expressing his appreciation for the guests who had attended his or her function.

However, as time changes, the type of campur had also changed. Previously, campur was referred to bunga telur (a boiled egg which was wrapped to a piece of cloth and attached to an artificial flower) or packed food items such as traditional delicacies packed in a box or container.

Among the famous traditional delicacies chosen were Kuih Sapit, Buah Ulu, and Kuih cincin as these food items are dry and could be kept for a long time. Other traditional delicacies that were commonly given as a campur were Kelupis, Wajid, Ardam and Penyaram.

These days, the types of campur comes in a variety - from porcelain cups and saucers, to beautiful ceramic plates, to packed biscuits or soft drinks and many more.

However, the practice of handing out traditional delicacies particularly the dry foods are still highly popular.

These door gifts are normally given out during ceremonies, particularly weddings or during an official launching of an event.

PHOTOS: HAJAH NORPISAH HJ. MD SALLEH



Other types of campur which includes food and non-food items.



TAPAI

Ingredient

1.8 kg rice
1 yeast
1.8kg sugar
Palm leaves
Palm fronds

Yeasts:

907 g rice
100 chillis
50 mm pepper
50 mm cinnamon
38g greater galangate
1 teaspoon sugar
5 yeast

Method (yeast):

Wash rice, soak for two hours and drip away. Then dry in the sun for about 20 minutes.

Wash chilli, slice ginger, pound cinnamon and pepper separately. Then grind together with rice.

Pound greater galangai, mix with a cup of water, sugar and stir until dissolve. Then sieve.

Then mix dough thoroughly with greater galangal mixed with sugar until moderately solid and non-sticking.

Then take a spoon of dough, shape into round pieces, make even and hole at the centre with upper part of candas (local Malay chopstick), then arrange in the rattan tray laid with simpur leaves.

Crush the five pieces of yeast with spoon and scatter on the newly prepared yeast.

The yeast must be stored for two nights. Then dry in the sun for four days.

Method (fermented rice):

Wash rice and cook until done. Then remove and let to cool down in the rattan tray.

Stir sugar with water until dissolve and crush yeast with spoon.

Take spoon and dip into the sugar liquid, remove and place on the yeast powder and spread on the rice evenly. then put into the palm leaf casings and pin with palm fronds. Next, ut into a basket, cover with cloth and keep overnight until done.



PHOTOS: HAJAH ZANANIT HAJI NOORKHAN



Local scouts join discussion in online jamboree

GADONG, August 3 - More than 100 members of Brunei Darussalam Scout Association took part in the online discussion session known as the Asian Pacific Regional (APR) Jamboree On The Internet (JOTI).

This year's online jamboree, the fourth since it was first introduced in 2004, was hosted by Bangladesh.

Topics discussed during the two-day conference, which was held at the Scouts Training and Activities Centre in Gadong, were varied which among others included issues on environment and youth and the impacts the scouting world might have on these two subjects through their participation in the social, cultural and community developments in their respective countries.

Among the countries that took part in the open forum included Malaysia, Indonesia, New Zealand and Australia.

APR JOTI is an extension of the World Organisation of Scouting Movement (WOSM) International Scout Meeting on the Internet which takes places every year on the third weekend of October.

ASEAN celebrates its 41st years anniversary

INDONESIA, August 8 - ASEAN celebrated 41 years of its existence with a flag hoisting ceremony held at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta.

August 8 is observed as ASEAN Day where as 41 years ago ASEAN's founding fathers signed the ASEAN Declaration in Bangkok, setting up the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

It was established by the five original member countries, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. On January 8, 1984, Brunei Darussalam became a member of ASEAN, followed by Vietnam on July 28, 1995, Lao People's Democratic Republic on July 23, 1997 and lastly Myanmar on April 30, 1999.

New vice chancellor for UBD

TUNGKU, August 9 - Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) now has a new Vice Chancellor, Dr. Zulkamain bin Haji Hanafi. The new vice chancellor is an Otorhinolaryngologist Head and Neck Surgeon and former Inaugural Dean of UBD's Institute of Medicine.

Brunei and Kenya establish diplomatic relations

MALAYSIA, August 11 - The government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Republic of Kenya have formally established diplomatic relations with effect on August 11, 2008.

The signing of the joint communiqué took place at the office of Brunei Darussalam High Commission in Malaysia.

Brunei Darussalam was represented by His Excellency Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohd Amin, the High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Malaysia, while his counterpart was His Excellency David Gachoki Njoka, Kenya's High Commissioner to Malaysia.

Reception ceremony

JERUDONG, August 11 - The Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan and the Singapore High Commission, His Excellency Joseph KH Koh at a reception in conjunction with the 43rd National Day of the Republic of Singapore held at the Empire Hotel.

World Heart Day Celebration

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 18 - World Heart Day this year will be held on September 28.

Brunei Darussalam through the Ministry of Health and Gleneagles Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC) Sendirian Berhad will organised the World Heart Day on August 21.

The launching ceremony will be held at The Mall, Gadong by the Minister of Health Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi.

The highlight of the celebration will be held on August 24 at the Jerudong Park Amphitheatre, featuring activities like walkathon, healthy food preparation, aerobic and children colouring competition.

Three ministers transferred

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 21 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented for the transfer of three Cabinet Ministers:

1. Pehin Dato Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad bin Haji Jumat, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources is now the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.
2. The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Major General (Rtd) Dato Awang Haji Mohammad bin Haji Daud is now the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office.
3. Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya, Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, is now the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources.

The transfer of ministers takes into effect on August 22, 2008.

Girl Guides celebrate Peace Day

BERAKAS, August 22 - The Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam celebrates Peace Day 2008 with a 'Peace Fair'.

A total of 16 stalls were set up where items for sell ranged from food to toys. Thirty per cent of the sales revenue will be given to the orphans' fund.

Present to grace the opening of the celebration was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, the President of the association.

The association now has more than 2,000 members comprising from girl guides of secondary schools, and brownies for the primary schools throughout the nation.

PHOTO: ABDUL KADIR MOHD.TAHIR



Colourful fireworks display lightened up the night during His Majesty's birthday celebration.

PHOTO: PG. RAFAE PDP HAJI MATASSIM



Brunei Darussalam has about 260 schools (government and private) all over the nation with 110,182 students. The highest numbers of students goes to primary school that is 45,125 students. (Statistics taken from Brunei Darussalam Key Indicators 2008)