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Their Majesties grace 28th SEA Games opening ceremony



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD BIN AMPUAN TENGAH

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam at the opening ceremony of the 28th SEA Games at the National Stadium, the Republic of Singapore.



His Majesty signing the plaque of the Brunei House.

His Majesty launches new refurbished Brunei House in London

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, June 13 – The people of Brunei Darussalam, where ever they are, should not approach or be involved in matters that would degrade themselves and the country.

Those who are working should do their utmost in performing their duties and responsibilities while students should fully focus on their studies.

His Majesty Sultan Haji

Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stressed this in a *titah* (royal speech) at the launch of the refurbished Brunei House in Leicester Square, London.

Bruneians should avoid any elements that are doubtful and uncertain, stressed His Majesty.

People encounter numerous

PHOTO: PG AMIRUL NIZAM BIN PG HU MOHD ALI



5 Their Majesties graces 28th SEA Games opening ceremony



6 His Majesty launches new refurbished Brunei House in London



JUNE 2015 - VOLUME 30 ISSUE 6

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VISIT US ONLINE ➔ www.bdnewsletter.gov.bn

EMAIL US AT: bd.newsletter@information.gov.bn

EDITORIAL Advisory Board:
Mawardi Haji Mohammad
(mawardi.mohammad@information.gov.bn)

Editor:
Ameiliatun Assyakinah Haji Abdullah

Layouter:
Syahi Haji Ludin
(Syahi.Ludin@information.gov.bn)

Translator:
Hajah Apsah Haji Sahdan
(apsah.sahdan@information.gov.bn)

Photographs
Photography Unit of Department of Information

General inquiries
Tel: (673) 2383 400/ext English News
Fax: (673) 2382 012

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Brunei Darussalam



8 Brunei Darussalam wins two wushu bronze medals



10 His Royal Highness distributes His Majesty's Personal Gifts of Dates



12 UNISSA signs MoU with UIM



14 Department of Fisheries holds coral cleaning campaign



16 Brunei-Australia pay tribute to fallen heroes



18 Ministry of Health holds Family Blood Donor Day



18 Minister of Education presents diplomas and certificates to 256 graduates



19 Ministry of Home Affairs launches Electronic Labour Exchange System

His Majesty receives audiences



PHOTO: HAJI ARIFFIN BIN MOHD NOOR @ MORSHIDI

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 2 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience the delegation of the Government of the State of Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia.

The ceremony was held at the Istana Nurul Iman. His Majesty granted audience to The Honourable Dato' Dr Ahmad Yunus Hairi, the chairman of the Standing Committee of Islamic Affairs, Malay Customs and Heritage, Development of Rural and Traditional Village at the Council of Selangor Darul Ehsan and the Chief Syar'ie Judge of Selangor Yang Amat Arif Dr Hj Mohd Na'im Hj Mokhtar.

The Selangor delegation also included Tuan Razaly Hassan, the assistant executive council (EXCO), EXCO Office of Religious Affairs, Malay Customs and Heritage,

Development of Rural and Traditional Village, and Yang Berbahagia Dato' Hj Haris Kasim, the director of Selangor Islamic Religious Department.

The officials were on a two-day visit.

The Minister of Religious Affairs, The Honourable Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr Hj Mohammad Pengiran Hj Abdul Rahman; State Mufti, The Honourable Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Dr Ustaz Haji Awg Abdul Aziz bin Juned; and Acting Chief Syar'ie Judge, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Salim bin Haji Besar were also present.

The Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Juanda bin Haji Abd Rashid and the Permanent Secretary of Religious Affairs, Yang Mulia Dato Seri Setia Haji Abdul Aziz bin Orang Kaya Maharaja Lela Haji Yussof were also in attendance.



PHOTO: MASRI BIN OSMAN



PHOTO: MASRI BIN OSMAN

His Royal Highness The Crown Prince receives audiences

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 6 – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, consented to receive in separate audiences two newly-appointed ASEAN Ambassadors to Brunei Darussalam at Qashr Al-Meezaan on May 21. They were:

1. The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Philippines to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Meynarado L. Montealgre.
2. The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Cho Htun Aung.

HIS MAJESTY SENDS CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send congratulatory messages to:

- The Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea His Excellency Hwang Kyo-Ahn on the occasion of His Excellency's appointment as the Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea on June 18.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 7 – By the command of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Grand Chamberlain Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Penggawa Laila Bentara Istiadat Diraja Dalam Istana Pengiran Haji Alauddin bin Pengiran Paduka Tuan Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar announced that the Crown Princess, Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman with the consent of Allah safely delivered a prince on June 7, 2015 at 2.02 am.

In view of this, a 19-canon blast was fired at the compound of Istana Nurul Iman.

HIS MAJESTY SENDS MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send condolence messages to:

- The Prime Minister of Malaysia, His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Dato' Seri Mohd. Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak and the Chief Minister of Sabah, His Excellency Dato Seri Paduka Datuk Seri Panglima Musa Haji Aman, following the recent earthquake that struck Ranau in Sabah.
- The Prime Minister of Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, the government and the people of the Republic of Singapore on the death of a Singaporean national in the earthquake that struck Ranau in Sabah.

*From frontpage
(Their Majesties grace 28th SEA Games opening ceremony)

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, June 5 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam graced the opening ceremony of the 28th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games at the National Stadium, the Republic of Singapore.

Their Majesties were accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council, was also in attendance.

Their Majesties were also accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng.

Earlier, His Majesty was greeted upon arrival by the Republic of Singapore's Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, Mr Sam Tan Chin Siong.

His Majesty then proceeded to the Singapore Suite for a reception and was greeted by His Excellency Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, the President of the Republic of Singapore, and the First Lady.

Afterward, His Majesty proceeded to the Grand Stand to witness the opening ceremony of the 28th SEA Games.

The Brunei Darussalam contingent led the march past comprising more than 4,000 athletes from 11 countries of Southeast Asia into the stadium.

About 7,000 participants will compete for 402 gold medals across 36 sports in the event that will further strengthen the existing good relations between ASEAN countries.

Brunei Darussalam is represented by 73 athletes participating in 13 sports:



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah with the President of the Republic of Singapore and the First Lady.



The Brunei contingent at the opening ceremony of the 28th SEA Games.

athletics, cue sports, equestrian, fencing, golf, football, netball, pencak silat, petanque, sailing, sepak takraw, taekwondo and wushu. The contingent is led by chef-de-mission Haji Abdul Malik bin Haji Mohammad.

The host, the Republic of Singapore, held the Games in 1993 and staged the SEA Games this year as part of its 50th anniversary of its independence from Malaysia.

The theme, 'Celebrate the Extraordinary',

is about connecting individuals, communities and countries to their dreams and inspiring the champion in one's self.

* From frontpage
(His Majesty launches new refurbished Brunei House in London)

situations, which may or may not be beneficial. Therefore, they should always be careful or mindful on what they might be faced with.

His Majesty said Bruneians should be wise in managing and solving situations. They should decide on what or what not to be accepted. This way, they can prevent making mistakes.

Brunei Darussalam is a country that is always seen as being able to counteract criticisms. This is a blessing from Allah The Almighty, a reward to those who are always in His path.

Thus, His Majesty advised that Bruneians should continuously preserve this way of life, and not to turn away from Allah. In this case, the true meaning of preservation is the protection of Islam and self-righteousness, the people and the country.

Speaking on the newly refurbished Brunei House, His Majesty said its design signifies the Bruneian identity without being overshadowed by others.

The Brunei House also reflects everything about the sultanate: the beautiful, caring and religious Brunei Darussalam.

The initial objective of the guesthouse was to accommodate Bruneian students. However, after Brunei Darussalam acquired the Brunei Hall, which specifically accommodates Bruneian students, the Brunei House was then changed to a guesthouse for Brunei government officials.

His Majesty believes that the Brunei House would be able to give comfort to anyone who stays there.

The guesthouse includes 15 en-suite bedrooms, kitchen, dining area, laundry room, office, garden, surau (prayer hall) and ablution area for men and women.

The prayer hall can also be used for beneficial activities, such as religious talks, and for students and children of Brunei High Commission officials in London and elsewhere to learn Al-Quran and Islamic studies.



PHOTO: PG AMIRUL NIZAM BIN PG HJ MOHD ALI

His Majesty delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the launch of the refurbished Brunei House in Leicester Square, London.



PHOTO: PG AMIRUL NIZAM BIN PG HJ MOHD ALI

His Majesty signs a parchment for the officiating ceremony of the launching of the Brunei House.



PHOTO: PG AMIRUL NIZAM BIN PG HJ MOHD ALI

His Majesty with the government officials and Bruneian students.



PHOTO: PG AMIRUL NIZAM BIN PG HJ MOHD ALI

His Majesty receives a *pesambah* (gift).



PHOTO: PG AMIRUL NIZAM BIN PG HJ MOHD ALI

His Majesty touring an en-suite bedroom.



PHOTO: PG AMIRUL NIZAM BIN PG HJ MOHD ALI

His Majesty with the committee members of the launching ceremony of the refurbished Brunei House.



PHOTO: PG AMIRUL NIZAM BIN PG HJ MOHD ALI

The guesthouse includes 15 en-suite bedrooms, kitchen, dining area, laundry room, office, garden, prayer hall and ablution area for men and women.

Brunei Darussalam wins two wushu bronze medals

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, June 6 – Brunei Darussalam won its first two bronze medals at the 28th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in both the Men’s Duel Event and Women’s Duel Event-Weapons Duilian held at the Singapore Expo Hall.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar ‘Ali Saifuddien Sa’adul Khairi Waddien, the President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council, was present to observe the tournament and present medals to the winners.

Siblings Muhammad Sufi Syariyan bin Roslan and Muhammad Adi Sya’rani bin Roslan secured bronze in the men’s event with a score of 9.68 and with only 0.6 points short of winning gold.

The Republic of Singapore dominated the men’s event with a score of 9.72 while the Republic of Philippines took silver with 9.70.

In the women’s event, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar secured gold with a score of 9.69, 0.1 points ahead of the Republic of Singapore.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah presents a medal to one of the winners at the Singapore Expo Hall.

PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD BIN AMPUAN TENGAH

His Royal Highness attends 28th SEA Games closing ceremony

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, June 16 – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar ‘Ali Saifuddien Sa’adul Khairi Waddien, the President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council, attended the closing ceremony of the 28th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games at the National Stadium, the Republic of Singapore.

The closing ceremony commenced with the procession of athletes from the 11 participating countries.

About 50,000 spectators filled the stadium to celebrate the performances of more than 4,000 athletes and the success of the Republic of Singapore in

hosting the Games. It was then followed by the presentation of the International Olympic Council (IOC) Trophy by IOC Finance Commission Chairman Ng Ser Miang to the Minister of Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Communications and Information Mr Lawrence Wong and Singapore National Olympic Council (SNOC) President Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, who is also the



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah at the closing ceremony of the 28th SEA Games at the Republic of Singapore.

PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD BIN AMPUAN TENGAH

President of the SEA Games Federation (SEAGF).

The Singapore National Olympics President, in his address, congratulated the winners and expressed hope that all athletes would continue to improve their performance for future tournaments.

Afterward, the President of the Republic of Singapore His Excellency Dr. Tony Tan Keng Yan declared the Games closed. The SEA Games Federation and SEA Games flags were subsequently lowered as the Games concluded.

Then, the Singapore National Olympic President handed the SEA Games federation flag to the Malaysia National Olympic President Tunku Imran bin Tunku Ja’afar and the Chairman of the 29th SEA Games Organising Committee and the Minister of Youth and Sport of Malaysia, His Excellency Khairy Jamaluddin.

Malaysia is ranked fourth at the Games this year and will host the next edition of the SEA Games in 2017.



The Brunei contingent at the closing ceremony of the 28th SEA Games.

PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD BIN AMPUAN TENGAH

BDNOC President attends 15th ASEAN Football Federation Meeting



PHOTO: SAMLE BIN HAJI JAHT @ JAIT

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah (right) and the NFABD Secretary-General at the Committee Meeting of the 15th ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) for the 2011/2015 session.

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, June 15
 – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council attended the Committee Meeting of the 15th ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) for the 2011/2015 session.

The annual meeting commenced with a speech by the President of the Football Association of Malaysia His Royal Highness Tengku Abdullah Al-Haj.

The President of Football Association of Singapore Zainuddin Nordin, as the chairman of the meeting, in his speech, also welcomed the delegations and AFF members and expressed hope that this meeting would focus on further progress in the federation.

The meeting would also confirm the minutes of the 14th AFF Meeting, which was held in Kuala Lumpur on February, as well as the 22th AFF Congress.

It would also discuss the position of the Football Association of Indonesia and

the update of the preparation for the AFF Suzuki Cup championship 2016.

The 16th AFF Football Championship will be held in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of the Philippines as co-hosts of the tournament next year.

The NFABD Secretary-General Awang Haji Mohd. Zamri bin Dato Paduka Haji Hamdani was also present at the meeting.



PHOTO: SAMLE BIN HAJI JAHT @ JAIT

The 15th AFF Meeting discusses the progress of the preparation for the AFF Suzuki Cup championship 2016.

His Royal Highness distributes His Majesty's Personal Gifts of Dates



PHOTO: MOHAMMAD SAHRIZAL BIN HAJI SAID

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik at the official distribution of the dates' ceremony.

TUNGKU, June 2 – His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah urged parties responsible for distributing His Majesty's personal gift of dates to perform their task properly to realise His Majesty's intention for every Muslim in the country to break fast with dates.

His Royal Highness, the Chairman of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Committee of Governors, in a *sabda* (royal speech) at the official distribution of the dates' ceremony, said that special attention should also be given to the less capable and the poor including the elderly.

"I hope the village heads would be more concerned with these groups and I do not want to see a situation where these people did not receive enough dates and have to go to the village heads' house to get them," said His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness believes that many benefits could be obtained if the village heads regularly visit the village residence, not only to distribute the dates but also to monitor their welfare and well-being.

His Royal Highness also expressed hope that the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation would also monitor the process and take appropriate action to ensure perfect distribution.

In the *sabda*, His Royal Highness stressed the significance of Ramadhan and Sya'ban and called for Muslims to intensify the highly-recommended Sunat prayers especially at night during Sya'ban.

His Royal Highness said that Muslims are encouraged to carry out more Sunnat fasting.

Ramadhan, His Royal Highness said, is a month that tests the patience of the Ummah and for them to increase goods deeds especially towards those in need.

Prophet Muhammad also encouraged the *Ummah* (muslim community) to intensify 'There is no God but Allah the Almighty' praises and '*Istighfar*' to get away from difficulties and sadness.

The month of Ramadan in which was revealed the Al-Qur'an, a

guidance for mankind and clear proofs for the guidance and the criterion (between right and wrong).

Therefore, it would be a great loss if Ramadhan came and passed without significance, without any effort by the Muslims to increase acts of devotion as well as performing the obligatory rites, said His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness also expressed appreciation to the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation, district officials, Penghulu Mukim, village heads, the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, the Royal Brunei Police Force and those involved in distributing His Majesty's personal gift of dates.



PHOTO: MOHAMMAD SAHRIZAL BIN HAJI SAID

His Royal Highness distributing His Majesty's Personal Gifts of Dates.

Educators attend National Education Forum: Leadership for Learning 2015



PHOTO: MASRI BIN OSMAN

The Ministry of Education at the National Education Forum: Leadership for Learning at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 27 – A total of 418 teachers and school leaders across the country gathered for the National Education Forum: Leadership for Learning 2015 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

The Minister of Education, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haj Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong was also in attendance as the guest of honour.

The objective of the forum is to strengthen and hone the skills of school leaders on their strategic leadership skills for effective teaching and school planning.

The forum also aims to gather ideas from the participants on the understanding of quality teaching and instructional leadership.

One of the main benefits of effective instructional leadership is that it serves as a bridge between prospective and experienced educators to start new challenges of guiding all teachers in achieving higher standards of teaching and better learning processes.

The role of pedagogical leaders should be to empower teachers to exercise professional responsibility and discretion, as well as demonstrating

credible knowledge of teaching and the learning process.

The forum also heard a keynote speech delivered by Chief Inspectorate from the Independent Schools Inspectorate of the United Kingdom, Christine Ryan on 'Leadership on Learning'.

The Deputy Minister of Education, Yang Mulia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yusoff bin Haji Ismail, permanent secretaries, acting permanent secretaries, heads of department, assistant directors, school leaders and officers at the Ministry of Education were also present at the forum.



PHOTO: MASRI BIN OSMAN

Chief Inspectorate from the Independent Schools Inspectorate of the United Kingdom, Christine Ryan delivering a keynote speech.

UNISSA signs MoU with UIM

PHOTO: HAMZAH BIN MOHIDIN



UNISSA rector exchanges the signed memorandum with UIM president as the Deputy Minister of Education looks on.

According to the memorandum, both universities agreed to foster cooperation in academic areas, student and staff mobility as well as research in the field of Islamic studies.

Formerly known as Kolej Islam Beraja on April 8, 1955, UIM was the first postgraduate university founded in Malaysia that aimed to increase understanding of Islam in the Malay Peninsula. It was officially opened by the Sultan of Selangor, His Royal Highness Al-Marhum Tuanku Sultan Hishamuddin Alam Shah.

Its first 55 students comprised individuals from the Malay Peninsula, the

Republic of Singapore, Brunei Darussalam and the Kingdom of Thailand.

It was officially rebranded as UIM in November 2013 and registered under the Ministry of Education as a private university in July 2014.

Currently located in Cyberjaya, UIM will conduct its first study sessions for masters and doctoral programmes in November 2015.

The memorandum enables both universities to promote and broaden opportunities for collaboration in both academic and non-academic fields.

It will facilitate the expansion of strategic cooperation in the academic

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 27 – Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Universiti Islam Malaysia (UIM) to further strengthen the bilateral relations between both universities at UNISSA's Banquet Hall.

The memorandum was signed by UNISSA's rector Dr. Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, while UIM was represented by its president Tan Sri Professor Dr. Mohd Yusof Nor.

In his welcoming speech, the UNISSA rector said that UNISSA is committed to learn from the best practices of other reputable and successful higher education institutions, as it seeks to climb up the ranking of higher education institutions regionally and internationally.

The aspiration and commitment of UNISSA as a genuine Islamic university will be maintained, and its quality and role will be enhanced from time to time, he added.

Continuous efforts to promote Islamic studies nationally and regionally will be given priority in view of the current global challenges that require institutions of higher learning to reinforce and defend religious sovereignty in line with Ahli Sunnah wal Jama'ah.

field through the exchange of experience coupled with the sharing of knowledge and information to empower Islamic education.

One of its objectives is to further improve the quality of programmes and governance similar to Islamic institutions of higher learning and renowned universities abroad.

Since its establishment on January 1, 2007, UNISSA has continued to actively build cooperation with strategic partners through agreements signed with various institutions of higher education institutions regionally and internationally.

Fifth International Cardiology Conference launched

JERUDONG, June 6 – The opening ceremony of the 5th International Cardiology Conference was held at Royal Berkshire Hall, Jerudong Park and Polo Country Club.

It was launched by the Minister of Education, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apang, as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Brunei Investment Agency.

The main objective of the two-day conference is to inform the public on the latest developments in the field of interventional cardiology, cardiac surgery, heart diseases and arrhythmias.

In his speech, the minister expressed pleasure that the cardiac centre has been successfully engaging local doctors who have been

trained overseas for cardiac surgeries or interventions.

Their expertise and clinical skills obtained after years of training, he explained, enable them to practice and perform surgeries alongside international colleagues from Gleneagle's Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC), as well as enabling knowledge transfer.

The minister also highlighted the successful implantations of left ventricular assist devices in three patients with severe heart failure since November last year.

"I am very proud that these operations were performed by Bruneian doctors. Our local doctors have also been accepted as fellows by the American College

of Cardiology and European Cardiac Society," he said.

This is a remarkable recognition and testament of their expertise in the field of cardiology, he added.

The presence of local doctors at JPMC, he said, is a significant milestone in the country's capacity building.

Prominent cardiologists and cardiothoracic surgeons from the United States of America, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Singapore and Malaysia will join the Brunei Medical Community for the conference, which is themed 'Recent Advances in Cardiology'.

Established in August 2002, Gleneagles JPMC has performed

more than 10,000 angiograms; 4,000 angioplasties; 1,800 open-heart surgeries, over 2,000 arrhythmia procedures and over 60 device closures for congenital heart defects.

Earlier, the opening session of the conference included presentations of two lectures: 'Gleneagles JPMC Cardiac Centre – Distance Travelled and Milestones Achieved' by the Chief of Clinical Services and Cardiac Surgery at Gleneagles JPMC, Professor Eugene Sim and 'Brugada Syndrome' by the Director of Pacific Rim EP Research Institute Los Angeles, United States, Dr Koonlawee Nademanee.

PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH BIN HAJI MOHD ALI



The Ministry of Education at the 5th International Cardiology Conference at the International Convention

Youth Development Centre provides support for youth



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD BIN AMPUAN TEWNGAH

The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports delivering a speech at the certification presentation ceremony of the 4th scaffolding short course.

TANAH JAMBU, June 23 – The Youth Development Centre supports the Government of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with other agencies to provide skills, job opportunities and business startups not only to school leavers but also to recipients of monthly welfare assistance and former residents from Al-Islah Drug Rehabilitation Centre.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah stated this at the certification presentation ceremony of the 4th scaffolding short course held at the centre's Binadiri Hall.

Between 2010 and 2015, out of the 1,067 trainees who have been trained and completed courses at the centre, 318 were recipients of monthly welfare assistance and the Islamic Religious Council as well as Al-Islah Drug Rehabilitation Centre through the community empowerment programme and As-Syifa.

He added that 74 per cent of the trainees have acquired employment, set up a business or have continued to further their studies, with the remaining 24 per cent still searching for work.

The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports through the Youth Development Centre will continue to explore and cooperate with private companies by identifying sought-after employment in the market, as they have succeeded in providing jobs by introducing skill courses.

The minister also announced that starting in August, the centre will implement two more courses, Cable Jointing and Fibre-To-The-Home as well as Bakery, at the centre's branch in Belait District.

Since the scaffolding course was first introduced in 2013, a total of 500 youths have completed the course and all have succeeded in gaining employment.

Scaffolding course, he said, is one of the courses that is in high demand and offers many opportunities in the oil and gas sector and the construction industry.

The Youth Development Centre has received numerous requests from companies in the country that are interested in and willing to hire candidates from the centre.

As youths are showing interest in the course, the centre will continue to hold scaffolding courses through a public-private partnership. So far, 42 youths have registered for the next intake.

The minister said he was informed that a scaffolding firm has stated that it would be ready to offer employment to the latest batch when they complete the course in December.

The support and commitment from such companies guarantee employment for these individuals, he added.

Youths and trainees wishing to enroll in this field, he said, have a bright career path, and it is important for them to show their commitment and good work discipline as the nature of the work is challenging.

Ministry of Development launches recycling handbook



PHOTO: HAJI ARIFFIN BIN MOHD NOORMORSHIDI

The Minister of Development hands over a recycling guide.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 6 – The Ministry of Development, through the Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation, launched a handbook on recycling as part of the efforts to raise public awareness on preserving the environment.

It was launched by the Minister of Development, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman.

The handbook contains the latest information regarding materials that could be recycled and the steps for recycling items in the country.

At the ceremony, the minister handed the handbooks over to the heads of departments and toured an exhibition showcasing the efforts made by several higher education institutions and school clubs as well as recycling companies.

The Permanent Secretary (Administration and Finance) at the Ministry of Development, Yang Mulia Haji Muhammad Lutfi bin Haji Abdullah; Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Development, Yang Mulia Awang Shahrom bin Haji Suhaimi; Acting Director-General of Public Works, Chua Pheng Keong; heads of departments, heads of divisions and officers at the ministry were also present at the ceremony.

Over half a billion dollars spent on ICT projects

PHOTO: DAYANGKU NUR HAFILAH BINTI PENGIRAN OSMAN



The Minister of Energy with the participants of the 4th ASEAN Chief Information Officer Forum at the Rizqun International Hotel, Gadong.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 8 – The Government of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has implemented key programmes and begun spending in the ICT sector since the introduction of the e-Government programme in 2001.

Brunei Darussalam has spent more than half-a-billion dollars on various ICT projects, much of which was spent over the last five years.

The Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, The Honourable Pehin Dato Singamenteri Kolonel (Rtd) Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar stated this at the opening ceremony of the 4th ASEAN Chief Information Officer Forum at the Rizqun International Hotel, Gadong.

He said that the key programmes included the investment in IT infrastructure and systems that have seen tremendous progress such as creating a secure government-wide network, establishment of world-class data centres and facilities, standardised shared services and various government enterprise systems.

The government is committed to continuing investment in this area in order to realise the Brunei Vision 2035, which is for the country to be recognised for the accomplishment of its well-educated and highly-skilled people, the quality of life, and the dynamic, sustainable economy, he added.

It is also investing in local human resources and aims to develop sustainable local businesses in the ICT sector.

The focus is to develop the local

technical competencies in line with industry needs. It would in turn provide a more sustainable environment for local ICT companies to flourish.

More than 250 participants from ASEAN member countries, government and private sector officers attended the two-day forum, which carried the theme 'Global Competitiveness - Optimising Technological Advances' in Brunei Darussalam.

The forum is an annual event held to promote innovative collaborations among government, businesses, institutions and citizens.

Its objective is to promote sharing of best practices by holding a highly interactive and engaging forum for chief information officers in the region.

Department of Fisheries holds coral cleaning campaign

MUARA, June 8 – The Department of Fisheries, the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, organised a coral cleaning campaign at Blunt Rock in conjunction with World Oceans Day 2015.

The campaign was led by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar.

A total of 60 representatives under the department participated in the campaign, including the Acting Director of Department of Fisheries, Awang Halidi bin Mohd. Salleh as well as volunteers from Poni Divers, Lantaran Divers and students.

The event at the Fish Landing Complex Jetty in Muara was also attended by Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources Hajah Normah Suria Hayati binti Pehin



PHOTO: PONI DIVERS

A diver removes some of the discarded nets at the Blunt Rock site.

* Continue on page 15

* From page 14

PHOTO: MUHAMMAD ASRI BIN HAJJAWANG ABAS



The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources with the volunteers.

Jawatan Dalam Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama (Dr) Haji Awang Mohd Jamil Al-Sufri.

It commenced with a health, safety and environment briefing by representatives from the Department of Fisheries, followed by the recital of Doa Selamat before heading to the Blunt Rock site.

The minister was delighted with the cooperation and support from the participants and expressed hope that the campaign would raise public awareness that the ocean is not a dumping ground.

All individuals play a role in ensuring that the ocean is always in pristine condition by making it free from fishing nets, lines, traps and garbage as they not only pose danger to marine life but also damage the coral.

World Oceans Day is celebrated globally every June 8 as designated by the United Nations in 2008.

It aims to raise global awareness of the current challenges faced by the international community in connection with the oceans.

Ministry of Religious Affairs signs MoU with BIBD

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 8 – The Ministry of Religious Affairs signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD) to support the bank's Advocating Life-Long Learning For An Aspiring Future (ALAF) Programme that provides comprehensive and inclusive assistance to the unprivileged in the country.

Through the programme, BIBD hopes to support the country's vision to become a nation that is recognised for its well-educated and highly-skilled human resources.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Yang Mulia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Aziz bin Orang Kaya Maharaja Lela Haji Mohd. Yusof signed on behalf of the ministry while BIBD was represented by its Managing Director, Javed Ahmad.

The signing ceremony, held at the ministry's new extension building, was witnessed by the Minister of Religious Affairs, The Honourable Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman.

The Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar, deputy permanent secretaries, directors and heads of departments of at the ministry, members of the BIBD Board of Directors, Syariah Advisory Body and BIBD management were also present at the ceremony.



PHOTO: MASRI BIN OSMAN

The Minister of Religious Affairs witnessing the signing of the MoU between the Ministry of Religious Affairs and BIBD.

The ALAF programme was launched on May 11, 2013 and has awarded 100 students across the country with its assistance.

Since 2014, it has funded 21 students from the Arabic Preparatory School and the Arabic Secondary School as well as a student of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Tahfiz Al-Quran Institute.

The programme focuses on the education development of the underprivileged and orphans through quality teaching and monitors their academic performance to ensure their success.

In addition, it will continue to provide support and assistance to these students until the end of their respective educational requirement needs.

BIBD will continue to develop the ALAF programme with the Islamic Studies Department, the Ministry of Religious Affairs, to ensure the successful implementation and provision of assistance to the programme.

Brunei-Australia pay tribute to fallen heroes

MUARA, June 10 – The Brunei-Australia memorial tribute ceremony was held at Muara Beach to honour the memory of Australian soldiers who lost their lives in combat during World War II in Brunei Darussalam.

The Australian Minister for Veterans' Affairs, The Honorable Senator Michael Ronaldson; the Deputy Minister of Defence, Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat; and the Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Mejar General Dato Paduka Seri Awang Mohd. Tawih bin Abdullah were present as the guests of honour.

High commissioners, ambassadors to Brunei Darussalam and permanent secretaries also joined the Australian veterans at the commemorative event.

The Australian Minister for Veterans' Affairs, in his speech, said that the Brunei-Australia memorial ceremony marked the 70th year since the Australian military landed at Brunei Bay to end World War II. One of the soldiers is the troop commander posted to the 2/8th Field Regiment, Jack Olsson, who was present at the ceremony.

"In June 1946, the Australian troops disembarked at Muara Beach to advance to Brooketon and Labuan amidst heavy naval and aerial bombardment. When they arrived at the small island, they were relieved to find that the Japanese defenders had withdrawn from the beach," he said.

The landings on the mainland were largely unopposed and it took three days to liberate Brunei Town. Afterward, they advanced to Miri and Seria, where they found the oil wells ablaze having deliberately lit by the Japanese.

Six days after landing on Labuan, the Australian troops advanced to Weston Beach and proceeded to rural areas where they launched their assault at the Japanese defenders.

It was during this course of action that Private Leslie Thomas Starceвич was awarded the Victoria Cross for his deeds. The former gold miner is the 7th member of the 9th Division and the only survivor of the aforementioned campaign.



Australian veterans attending the commemorative ceremony at Muara Beach.



Wreaths are laid down for the fallen heroes.

A monument was also built by the people of Beaufort in honour of Starceвич.

At the end of the war, the Australian troops began to task of rebuilding the infrastructure.

More than 110 Australians lost their lives in the conflict at North Borneo as stated by the Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam His Excellency Todd Mercer.

15th SOMTC: Combat eight cross-border crimes

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 11 - A delegation of senior officer from Brunei Darussalam led by the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamdan bin Haji Abu Bakar attended the 15th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting in Transnational Crime (SOMTC) and Its Related Meetings in Siem Reap, the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The meeting commenced with the handing over of the chairmanship by the permanent secretary to the Kingdom of Cambodia, the host country of the 15th SOMTC.

The senior officers discussed issues concerning eight cross-border crimes such as terrorism, human trafficking, cyber crime, illicit drug trafficking, money laundering, arms smuggling, piracy and economic crimes as well as the measure that need to be taken to tackle them.

They also discussed the endorsement of the draft ASEAN Convention on Trafficking of Persons Especially Women and Children and the ASEAN Plan of Action to combat Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children to be carried forward to the 10th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC).

In addition, the SOMTC Working Group's meeting reported the development of significant activities that have been carried out under the SOMTC programme work as well as the new proposals for the direction of ASEAN in combating transnational crime post-2015 based on the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint.

A meeting with 12 dialogue partners was also held to establish continuous international cooperation against transnational crime.

Aside from that, the SOMTC leaders discussed and exchanged views concerning new issues regarding transnational crimes in order to tackle them effectively and efficiently.

The leaders were also informed that a Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism will be held back-to-back with the 10th AMMTC in September 2015 and the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Illegal Movement of Persons in July 2015 in Malaysia.

The next SOMTC will be held in the Republic of Indonesia next year.

UBD fastest rising university in Asia

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 13 – Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) has jumped 57 steps from 171-180 in 2014 to 118th this year in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Asian University Rankings.

UBD is ranked 25th in five categories in the QS ranking and in the top 10 in three categories. It is ranked first in outbound student exchange, second in inbound student exchange, sixth in international faculty, 14th in international students and 23rd in faculty student ratio.

The Minister of Education, The Honourable Pehin Orang Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong expressed his delight at UBD's achievement, "Alhamdulillah, we all share the pride of UBD for its remarkable achievements in being ranked 118th position in the QS Asia University Ranking."

"This international recognition is another milestone and a strong testament to UBD's unwavering and relentless determination in providing quality education towards the realisation of the Brunei Vision 2035. I strongly believe UBD will continue to strive for excellence for many more years to come, Insyaa Allah."

Permanent Secretary (High Education) Ministry of Education, as Vice Chancellor of UBD, Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Zulkarnain bin Haji Hanafi said, the university will continue its effort to provide world-class education in Brunei Darussalam.

These efforts are driven by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's titah (royal speech) delivered at UBD's convocation ceremony.

His Majesty reminded universities that learning and education is a journey that is dynamic and ever-changing.

"It is time for us to be competitive, not only watch others compete," His Majesty said, encouraging UBD to continue its efforts to be recognised as a world class university on a global scale.

UBD's success can be associated to its innovative curriculum framework that includes the Discovery Year programme; its rapid growth in research; active recruitment measures and focused development of Bruneian academics and administrators.

The introduction of the new Academic Staff Service Scheme (SPTA), Eminent Visiting Professor (EVP) and Graduate Research Scholarship (GRS) schemes have attracted numerous high quality academics and students to UBD.

Research productivity at UBD have soared over the last five years, with increased funding from both the public and private sectors that are the key to research excellence.

This has resulted to its rise in the rankings for international academic reputation from unranked in 2014 to 129. UBD's score increased 30.2 from last year's 8.

The QS survey recorded approximately 64,000 responses in 2015 to achieve this score, and declared that "the importance of research as a mission for universities means that it is stressed in almost all rankings systems."

UBD has leveraged on its strengths, collaborating with some of the most prestigious institutions in the world. These include partnerships with Oxford University and Georgetown University in Islamic Studies, with Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) on e-Government, with Kyoto University and the National University of Singapore in Energy Studies, and with the Smithsonian Institute and the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University in biodiversity research.

The Arts and Humanities discipline, which was previously unranked, is now 127th in Asia. The Natural Sciences have moved from unranked to 149, the Social Sciences from 187 to 162, the Life Sciences and Medicine from 201-300 to 170, and Engineering and Technology in the 201-300 range.

"UBD's progress has been made possible by the joint efforts of all our academic and administrative staff, students and stakeholders," the Vice Chancellor said.

"Most importantly, the sustained support and funding from the His Majesty's Government and its agencies, in particular the Brunei Research Council and Department of Economic Planning and Development (JPKE), has enabled us to develop research strengths to be among the best in the region."

Teaching remains the core value at UBD, which focuses on nurturing innovative and entrepreneurial graduates who will contribute to the development of the economy and nation.

The university actively develops the learning environment for its students through partnerships with local and international industry players as well as upgrading its teaching and research infrastructure.

Secretary-General of the Association of University Pacific Rim, Christopher Tremewan, said, "We all know that every country need requires a strong peak institution in education and research to ensure the international viability of its national system. I convey not only my congratulations but my very best wishes for continuing success in subsequent years."

The QS University Ranking is the most widely read university comparison that explores the ranking of universities in specific regions, drawing millions of readers weekly.

Criteria for the ranking include a comprehensive range of factors including subject area, academic reputation, student mobility, employer feedback, international faculty and students and research citations.

Ministry of Health holds Family Blood Donor Day



The Minister of Health delivering a speech in conjunction with Family Blood Donor Day.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 14 – The Ministry of Health, through the Blood Donation Centre, Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saliha Hospital (RIPAS), held Family Blood Donor Day at the ministry's Al-'Afiyah hall in conjunction with World Blood Donor Day 2015.

The event was officiated by the guest of honour, the Minister of Health, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adnan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mohd. Yusof.

Earlier, the Acting Director of

Laboratory Services Department, Dr. Haji Osmali bin Haji Osman, in his speech, said that the event was held to honour and to show appreciation to blood donors for their contribution in helping to save many lives through blood donation.

The ministry will also be holding blood donation campaigns in each district respectively, he said and expressed hope that people who are eligible to give blood, especially youths, would donate.

The event continued with the presentation of certificates of appreciation to sponsors and representatives of volunteers who participated in the activities by the minister, which was then

followed by zumba and walkathon.

Stalls and activities, such as Reptile Show, Haunted House, Flying Fox, Pony Ride, face-painting, henna, colouring competition and spelling bee, were also set up to entertain the participants.

The theme for this year's celebration was 'Thank You for Saving My Life'.

Senior special duties officers, deputy permanent secretaries, heads of directors, directors as well as officers and staff at the ministry were also present at the event.

Minister of Education presents diplomas and certificates to 256 graduates

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 16 – A total of 256 graduates received diplomas and certificates in various training programmes at the Institute of Brunei Technical Education (IBTE)'s 22nd convocation ceremony at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

The Minister of Education, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong was in attendance as the guest of honour.

IBTE Chief Executive Officer and Director of Technical Education, Dr Chin Wei Keh, said in his welcoming speech, that the skills and competency of human resources depend on the quality of the education system.

Technical and vocational education is an important element in improving economic productivity, he added.

Thus, IBTE has reviewed and restructured its curriculum and have replaced it with courses that are demand-driven and competency-based.

Twenty-seven new programmes will be launched in July, which will focus on education and training in line with industry needs to ensure the graduates meet industry standards.

At the convocation ceremony, 13 graduates received National Diploma and 25 graduates received Diploma. A total of 10 graduates received Skills Certificate while 208 others received the Industrial Skills Certificate.

The ceremony also saw the presentation of awards to graduates who won the Best Student Award and



The Minister of Education delivering a speech at IBTE's 22nd convocation ceremony at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Best Performance Award.

The graduates comprised students from five technical and vocational institutes.

The Deputy Minister of Education, Yang Mulia Dato Seri Setia Awan Haji Yusof bin Haji Ismail, permanent secretaries, deputy permanent secretaries, senior officers, trainers and IBTE staff as well as parents and guardians were also present.

* Continue on page 19

* From page 18



PHOTO: MOHAMMAD SAHRIZAL BIN HAJI SAID

The minister presenting a certificate to one of the graduates.



PHOTO: MOHAMMAD SAHRIZAL BIN HAJI SAID

A total of 256 technical and vocational students graduated this year.



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH BIN HAJI MOHD ALI

The Minister of Home Affairs at the launch of the Electronic Labour Exchange System.

Ministry of Home Affairs launches Electronic Labour Exchange System

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 20 – The Government of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's efforts to create a job market atmosphere for the citizens and permanent residents in the country can be expanded by developing good relationship between employers and job-seekers as well as the government.

The Minister of Home Affairs, The Honourable Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman said this at the launch of the Electronic Labour Exchange (ELX) system held at the Ruang Legar, the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The ELX System, the minister said, will speed up the recruitment process as it is currently done manually on-site during working hours.

He expressed hope that employers with job vacancies would immediately register in the system. Jobseekers as well as students who are looking for part-time or permanent work are also urged to sign up in order to easily find their preferred employment.

"Do not be surprised if the number

of jobseekers registered in the system reaches up to 20,000. Perhaps 10,000 are unemployed while the rest are individuals who wish to change jobs or students who are looking for temporary employment," he said.

He added that the ministry actually encourages part-timers or temporary workers.

Earlier, the Acting Head of the Local Employment and Workforce Development Agency Awang Haji Shahrul Jeffri bin Dato Paduka Haji Ibrahim, in his welcoming speech, said that the ELX system helps private companies proactively search for local employees.

It also aims to accelerate local recruitment without affecting the company's operation and at the same time reducing recruitment expenses compared to cost of recruiting foreign workers.

He explained that employers can access the website www.jobcentrebrunei.gov.bn anytime and obtain the list of candidates who meet their requirements.

Job seekers can register online and update their personal profile and curriculum vitae (CV) anytime on the ELX system, which can be accessed by private companies using 'Job Matching'.

They can also view and apply any

available posts of their interest as well as training courses offered by the agency and will be notified via SMS and e-mail.

The system will be implemented in four phases. Phase one (Populate Data) involves company's registration into the system to match vacancies according to international standards.

In phase two (ELX Go Live), the 'Help Desk ELX' will be operational in all four districts. Phase three will be the 'Kickstart Road Show' which will be launched at the end of this year and phase four (ELX Upgrade) will focus on updating and improving the ELX system.

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Lailaraja Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohamad Yussof, permanent secretaries, deputy permanent secretaries, heads of departments and senior officers were also present at the launching ceremony.

The Local Employment and Workforce Development Agency also provides equipment at the ministry for individuals who do not have the means to access the system.

For questions or further information, please contact the Helpdesk ELX 2382676 or e-mail to aptk@home-affairs.gov.bn.



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