



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

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His Majesty expresses need for peace and stability for ASEAN

BALI, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, October 10 - 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 attend the opening of the 7th Bali Democracy Forum at the Bali International Convention Centre, the Republic of Indonesia.

In a *titah* (royal speech), His Majesty stated that the region's accomplishments of the last 50 years have eluded a sizeable proportion of people in many parts of the world. Despite impressive growth figures and positive statistics, extreme poverty, inequality and social injustices still exist.

His Majesty said that although globalisation has brought notable progress and forged new partnerships, a great many still struggle with its negative impacts. Rapid growth and development in many regions have also had negative impacts on the natural environment.

In dealing with these challenges, ASEAN must consolidate and build upon its achievements over the past few decades. ASEAN needs to clarify what it hopes to achieve through people-centred development and reflect clarity in its strategies and programs for the future, His Majesty said.

"Politically, peace and stability should mean ensuring basic security of its citizens. Economically, rapid development is not merely about gaining material benefits but also about narrowing disparities in wealth and alleviating poverty," said His Majesty.

"Globalisation should nurture equitable growth, whilst also preserving human dignity," His Majesty added.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with the President of Republic of Indonesia.

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His Majesty attends 24th Teachers' Day and 100 Years of Formal Education celebration



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting the Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Education Award to Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 9 - 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 attend the 24th Teachers' Day and 100 Years of formal education in Brunei Darussalam celebration at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

His Majesty was accompanied by 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; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

At the celebration, His Majesty stated in a *titah* (royal speech) that the education in Brunei Darussalam has achieved maturity after a span of 100 years as the country's education system had gone through many changes depending on the progress and requirements over the course of time.

His Majesty also emphasised that besides being widely knowledgeable, it is crucial for teachers to possess effective leadership skills to prove their worthiness, so that they continue to be well-admired and respected by society.

"It is incumbent upon teachers to remind us not to be complacent, and

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Darussalam

>> 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 422,700 people (2012).

It is divided into four districts – Brunei-Muara, Tutong, 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.

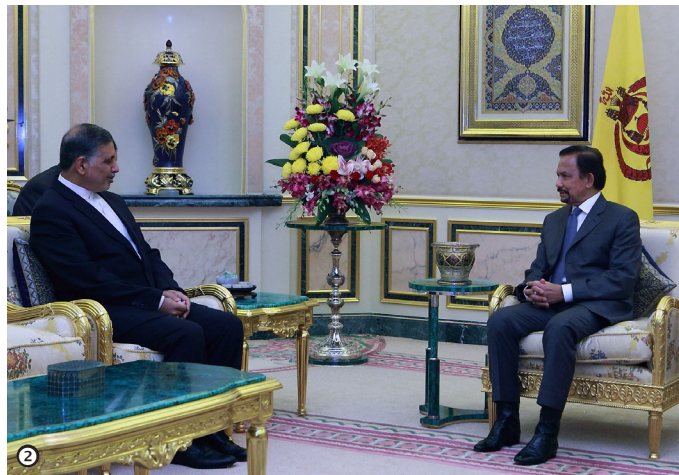
National carrier is Royal Brunei.

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.



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His Majesty receives audiences

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

- 1 Yang Amat Mulia Tunku Abdul Rahman ibni Sultan Ibrahim, Tunku Panglima of Johor on October 27.
- 2 His Excellency Mohammad Reza Havaseli Ashtiani, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Islamic Republic of Iran to Brunei Darussalam on October 30.
- 3 His Excellency Choi Byung Koo, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam on October 30.

Her Majesty The Raja Isteri receives audiences

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to receive in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from:

- 1 The spouses of Ambassadors and High Commissioners to Brunei Darussalam, who conveyed their greetings on the occasion of Her Majesty's birthday on October 7.
- 2 The spouse of out-going Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea, Madam Kim Kyung Soo on October 27.
- 3 The spouse of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam, Madam Hasanaa Hashil Mohamed Al Musiahi on October 27.



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4 The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam, Her Excellency Noriko Iki on October 28.



5 The spouse of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Lao People's Democratic Republic to Brunei Darussalam, Madam Phimpha Kindavong on October 28.



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince receives audiences

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, consented to receive in audience the out-going Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Choi Byung Koo at Qashr Al-Meezaan on October 7.

His Excellency Choi Byung Koo served as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam since October 2011.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, consented to receive in audience the Ministers and Heads of Delegation who attended the 3rd Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and the 2nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM). The audience took place at the Istana Nurul Iman on October 16.

His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

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

- Her Excellency Park Geun-hye, the President of the Republic of Korea, the Government and people of the Republic, on the occasion of the Republic of Korea's National Foundation Day on October 3.
- His Excellency Joachim Gauck, the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Government and people of the Federal Republic on the occasion of the Federal Republic of Germany's Day of Unity on October 3.

His Majesty: Brunei Darussalam flourishes with *takbir* and *zikir*

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 12 - 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 in a *titah* (royal speech) said that reciting *takbir* on Eid can evoke feelings of solemn and melancholy as the heart trembles remembering the Greatness of Allah SWT, especially during a mass *takbir* recital.

Takbir is the pronouncement of the Greatness of Allah SWT. It is a sacred pronouncement particularly for us Bruneians and all Muslims in general. It was with this pronouncement that Brunei Darussalam gained independence and continues to progress.

It is no doubt that Brunei Darussalam can be characterised as a truly unique country that grows and flourishes with *takbir* and *zikir*, making it an admired and respected country.

His Majesty believes that this is a blessing from exalting the Greatness of Allah SWT through *takbir* and *zikir*.

His Majesty delivered the *titah* in conjunction with Aidil Adha 1435 Hijrah/2014, which was broadcasted by Radio Television Brunei.

In the *titah*, His Majesty also called upon the Muslims in the country to follow the example of Prophet Ibrahim 'Alaihissalam who was known for his obedience to Allah SWT.

His Majesty said that Prophet Ibrahim was known not only for his faith and obedience to Allah SWT's orders to sacrifice his son Prophet Ismail 'Alaihissalam, but also for his contributions to the peace and prosperity of the *ummah* (Muslim community).

The deeds of Prophet Ibrahim are exceptional as none is comparable, as he prayed for Makkah to be a place of peace and for its people to be provided with fruits.

"To this day we can still witness the result of his prayer as not only residents of Makkah but also Muslim visitors to the holy land enjoy peace and tranquility," His Majesty said.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a *titah* in conjunction with Aidil Adha 1435 Hijrah/2014 at the Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty further called upon Muslims in the country to take after Prophet Ibrahim 'Alaihissalam to pray for our country, Brunei Darussalam, so that it may always be filled with peace, well-being and prosperity. May Allah accept our prayers for the Brunei Darussalam of today and in the time to come.

Concluding the *titah*, His Majesty conveyed the royal family's Aidil Adha greetings to the Muslims in the country, and also prayed for the blessings of peace and protection from Allah SWT.

His Majesty performs sunat Aidil Adha prayer and leads qurban ceremony



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting a portion of the sacrificial meat to a recipient.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 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 consented to join His Majesty's subjects in performing the sunat Aidil Adha Prayer before leading a *qurban* (sacrificial) ceremony at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah in Kampung Kiarong.

His Majesty was accompanied by 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; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

Following the mass sunat Aidil Adha prayer, His Majesty and members of the royal family attended the *qurban* ceremony.

This year, 14 goats and 66 cows were slaughtered. Meanwhile, the sacrifice of the remaining animals presented by His Majesty and His Majesty's family members was carried out at the Mulaut Slaughtering Centre.

His Majesty then consented to present portions of the sacrificial meat to selected recipients from the Brunei-Muara District.

Out of the 6,145 recipients who received the meat of sacrificial animals, 4,541 were from Brunei-Muara District, 527 were from Tutong District, 808 were from Belait District and 2,678 were from Temburong District.

Earlier, His Majesty was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Religious Affairs, The Honourable Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman, as the chairman of the Major Islamic Events Celebration Executive Committee as well as other members of the committee.

To bless the ceremony, *doa selamat* was read by the State Mufti, The Honourable Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Dr Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned.

*From frontpage
(HM expresses need for peace and stability for ASEAN)



His Majesty in a group photo with the leaders and heads of the delegation at the 7th Bali Democracy Forum.

His Majesty graces 7th Bali Democracy Forum's opening ceremony



His Majesty with the leaders and heads of the delegation during a luncheon at the Nusantara Room, Bali International Conference Centre.

BALI, THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, October 10 - 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 grace the opening of the 7th Bali Democracy Forum at the Bali International Convention Centre, the Republic of Indonesia.

In the afternoon, His Majesty attended a luncheon, hosted by the President of the Republic of Indonesia His Excellency Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, with the other leaders and heads of delegations at the Nusantara Room.

Earlier, His Majesty was greeted upon arrival by the President of the Republic of

Indonesia.

The opening session began with a report representation by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Dr. R. M. Marty Natalegawa.

Then, the Indonesian President delivered his opening statement and then followed by an opening speech by the President of the Republic of Philippines, His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino III as co-chairs of the forum.

Afterward, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) during the speech session of the heads of states and governments and then join other leaders and heads of delegation for a group photo session.

More than 50 other representatives ranging from heads of governments of Asia, Europe, Africa and another 68 observer countries attended the forum, which was themed 'Evolving Regional Democratic Architecture: The challenges of Political Development, Public Participation, and Socio- Economic Progress in the 21st century'.

On October 11, His Majesty left St Regis Bali Hotel where His Majesty stayed throughout the forum for Brunei Darussalam.

The forum, initiated in 2008, is an annual inter-governmental forum that aims to promote cooperation in the field of peace and democracy.

His Majesty attends inauguration ceremony of new President of Republic of Indonesia

JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, October 20 – 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 attended the inauguration ceremony of the new President of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Joko Widodo.

After winning the July presidential elections, His Excellency was sworn in as the 7th President of the Republic of Indonesia, and His Excellency Muhammad Jusuf Kalla as the Vice President at a ceremony held at Sidang Paripurna at the Gedung Nusantara 1, Parliament Complex.

His Majesty was accompanied by Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng.

World leaders including Prime Minister of Malaysia, His Excellency Najib Razak; President of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong; President of Commonwealth of Australia, His Excellency Tony Abbott; President of Papua New Guinea, His Excellency Peter O'Neill; and the Secretary of State of the United States of America, His Excellency John Kerry were also present to witness the swear-in ceremony.

Afterward, His Majesty, along with the other world leaders, proceeded to a reception ceremony with the new president and vice president.

His Majesty then left Halim Perdanakusuma International Airport at the end of the ceremony to depart for Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty with the new 7th President of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Joko Widodo.



His Majesty with other world leaders attending the official inauguration ceremony of the new President of Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo.

His Majesty holds bilateral meeting with US Secretary of State

JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, October 20 - 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 held a bilateral meeting with the Secretary of State of the United States of America, His Excellency John F. Kerry at the Gedung Nusantara I, Parliament Complex.

The meeting was held during a reception following the inauguration ceremony of the new President of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Joko Widodo.

His Majesty and His Excellency discussed issues concerning bilateral matters and cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the United States, and exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual concern.

The Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng were also present during the meeting.

Brunei Darussalam has established diplomatic ties with the United States since March 10, 1984, and has expanded cooperation in trade, education, defence and other fields for the common interest of both countries as well as the international community.

Both countries have also signed a number of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and agreements including the 'Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)' on July 30, 2010, and have exchanged visits to further strengthen their diplomatic ties.



His Majesty and the United States Secretary of States, His Excellency John F. Kerry during the bilateral meeting.

Royalties grace ISB Gala Dinner



Their Majesties in a group photo with the ISB Board Of Directors and teaching staffs.

JERUDONG, October 22 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih 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 consented to attend the 50th anniversary of the International School Brunei's (ISB) Gala Dinner at the Empire Hotel and Country Club in Jerudong.

Their Majesties were accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkih ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik

ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah was among the students participating in singing a choir and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkih binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah also graced the stage with a piano performance.

Apart from the performances, exhibitions were additionally organised to showcase ISB's history and background since the school's establishment in 1964.

His Majesty also bestowed gifts upon the long-serving ISB board directors and teaching staffs for their devotion to the school.

To conclude the night, Their Majesties joined all the awardees for a group photo session.

Earlier, Their Majesties were greeted upon arrival by the ISB Board Chairman, Awang Haji Ahmad bin Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa.

His Majesty awards Bachelor's Degree and HND to 416 ITB graduates

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 23 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih 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 Chancellor of Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB), consented to award 416 ITB graduates with Bachelor's Degree and Higher National Diploma (HND) at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, as Pro-Chancellor of ITB, was also present.

His Majesty presented Bachelor's Degrees to 66 graduates from the second intake of ITB's four undergraduate degree programmes: Bachelor of Business (Hons) in Business Information Technology, Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Internet Computing, Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Electrical and Communication Engineering and Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering.

Meanwhile, a total of 350 graduates of intake 27 from 13 BDTVEC (Brunei Darussalam Technical and Vocational Education Council) HND Programmes in Engineering, Business and Computing received their HND.

In a *titah* (royal speech), His Majesty urged the graduates to contribute to national development as increasing human resource capacity in engineering and technology can help in pushing the country's agenda in Science, Technology, Economics and Mathematics (STEM).

His Majesty also called upon ITB to infuse the teachings of the Malay Islamic Monarchy concept and to consider providing exposure to its students to other higher education institutions.



His Majesty presenting a certificate to one of the 350 ITB graduates.

Additionally, His Majesty reminded ITB to improve the quality of its academic staff in order to achieve the institution's vision to be among the best ten universities for Engineering and Technology in Southeast Asia by 2018.

Earlier, the ceremony commenced with a recital of the verses 78 to 84 of Surah Al-Anbiya' by Awangku Muhammad Hafizul 'Ilmi bin Pengiran Haji Marjuki, an undergraduate from the Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Electrical and Communication Engineering programme.

Meanwhile, Muhammad Hazwan bin Haji Abdul Latif, an undergraduate from the Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering programme read the lessons that can be learned from the verses.

His Majesty graces new Islamic year of 1436 Hijrah



His Majesty delivers a *titah* in conjunction with the New Year of Hijrah 1436 at the Istana Nurul Iman.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 24 - Muslims today have become afraid to show the goodness of Islam and its teaching. This is why it is important for Muslims to learn valuable lessons and examples taught in *hijrah* – the migration

of Prophet Muhammad SAW from Makkah to Medinah.

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 stated this matter in a *titah* (royal speech) delivered in conjunction with the New Year of Hijrah 1436 at the Istana Nurul Iman.

The migration from Makkah to Medinah took place in a manner that was most extraordinary - where the journey was beset by a multitude of obstacles and hardships. Without Allah SWT's protection, the *hijrah* would have met with failure along the way, His Majesty said.

If we do not have attitude of such great figures in the history of *hijrah*, it is feared that Muslims of today would continue to become weak and

marginalised, despite the fact that Allah SWT has recognised Muslim as the best *ummah* (community) because of our habits in inviting others to do good and advising against doing bad deeds, His Majesty added.

His Majesty also consented to attend the Islamic New Year 1436 Hijrah celebration at the Jame' 'Asr Hassaniil Bolkiah in Kampong Kiarong.

The ceremony commenced with the recital of the End of *Hijrah* year *doa* (prayer) by The Honourable Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Doktor Ustaz Haji Awang Yahya bin Haji Ibrahim before 21 shots of cannon were fired signifying the arrival of the new Islamic year.

It was then followed by a mass Maghrib prayer and the recital of the *Hijrah* New Year *doa* led by the Deputy State Mufti, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Setia Raja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Suhaili bin Haji Mohiddin.

This year's celebration was themed 'Be Unified in Support of Allah SWT's Law'.

His Majesty attends Knowledge Convention

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 28 October – 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 launch the Knowledge Convention 2014 held in conjunction with His Majesty's 68th birthday celebration at the International Convention Centre in Berakas

His Majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

This year's knowledge convention was themed 'Science and Technology: Catalyst of Development and Enhancing the Ummah's Quality of Life'.

The launching ceremony saw the recital of Al-Qur'an verses by Awang Muhammad bin Ali, the winner of the 15th International Tilawah Al-Qur'an competition in Moscow and a special talk by the State Mufti, The Honourable Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned.

Before signing the Knowledge Convention 2014 Plaque, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) at the launch of the convention and tour the exhibition.

The exhibition focused on the application of science and technology in developing national infrastructure facilities and care for the environment, including the green house initiative.

Afterward, His Majesty visited the Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien Memorial Gallery that carried the theme 'The Monarch's Leadership in Nation Building Encompasses Science and Technology'.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel observing a science demonstration at the Knowledge Convention.

The gallery focused on the excellent leadership of His Majesty and Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien in developing Brunei Darussalam.

It highlighted His Majesty as a visionary ruler who wishes to see peace, prosperity and security to continue until the Brunei Vision 2035 is realised. It also showcased His Majesty's commitment that the development plans are carried out with the utmost expertise and professionalism in line with the Malay Islamic Monarchy concept and the aspiration of a Zikir Nation.

Various activities including talk and forums by local and foreign speakers as well as symposium have been organised to discuss topics relating to this year's theme.

* From frontpage (His Majesty attends 24th Teachers' Day and 100 Years of Formal Education in Brunei Darussalam)

they also need to work hard to reinforce and improve teaching and learning for the acquisition of 21st century competencies," said His Majesty.

His Majesty was also pleased to hear that the literacy rates for male and female between 15 to 24 were both approximately 99 per cent and that Bruneians had been sent to the neighbouring countries to teach English Language.

Furthermore, His Majesty urged to remember and appreciate the groundwork

of Brunei's education - the Islamic religious education.

Afterward, His Majesty presented awards such as the Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Education Award, the Most Valuable Teacher Award and the Excellent Teacher Award.

The Most Valuable Teacher Awards were given to Awang Haji Kassim bin Haji Adis, Awang Haji Othman bin Durani, Dayang Hajah Siti Nafsiah binti Orang Kaya Maharaja Dinda Haji

Saman and Dayang Hajah Hafsah binti Haji Naweh.

Meanwhile, the Excellent Teacher Awards were presented to Dayang Hajah Aminah binti Haji Abd Wahab, Dayang Dr. Hajah Zurina binti Haji Harun, Dayang Sharifah Khadijah binti Musian Alkaff and Ustazah Hajah Norhayati binti Haji Siwal.

Additionally, His Majesty also toured exhibitions and launch a book titled 'Evolution and Transformation: 100 years of Excellent Education Brunei Darussalam'.

Her Majesty graces reception held in honour of HM's 68th

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 12 – Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to attend a reception hosted by the wives of high-ranking officials in honour of Her Majesty's 68th birthday at the Jerudong Park Polo Club's Royal Berkshire Hall.

Her Majesty was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien were also present.

Prior to the celebration, Her Majesty was introduced to the new members of the Association of Wives of Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and Deputy Permanent Secretaries: Dayang Hajah Razinah binti Haji Kassim, Dayang Anisamawati binti Osman, Pengiran Salina binti Pengiran Haji Ali and Dayang Hajah Hajizah binti Awang Metayer.

Her Majesty also cut a birthday cake and received a



Her Majesty The Raja Isteri cutting a birthday cake presented by the organising committee to commemorate Her Majesty's 68th birthday.

pesambah (gift) from the committee members.

Earlier, Her Majesty and members of royal family were greeted upon arrival by the president of the organising committee, Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Jahrah binti Haji Mohammad as well as the wives of cabinet ministers.

The ceremony commenced with the singing of the national anthem and followed by a welcoming speech by the organising committee president who touched upon the development that has been achieved by the group of wives of cabinet ministers, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, deputy permanent secretaries and associate members.

Prior to leaving, Her Majesty and members of the royal family met and greeted those who were present.

Her Majesty attends Girl Guides Day 2014

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 19 – Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to grace the Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association's Girl Guides Day 2014 celebration at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

The celebration was held in conjunction with Her Majesty's 68th birthday.

Her Majesty, who is the association's royal patron, was accompanied by the association's president Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien.

At the celebration, Her Majesty awarded badges to the members of the association for their long years of service, observe an aerobics performance by girl guides across the country and cut a cake to commemorate Her Majesty's birthday.

Earlier, Her Majesty was greeted upon arrival by the association's Chief Commissioner, Hajah Siti Hafsa binti Haji Abdul Halim.

The ceremony commenced with the singing of the national anthem by the younger girl guides, then followed by a recital of the Surah Al-Fatihah and a thanksgiving prayer by the association's Spiritual Commissioner, Dayang Hajah Fatimah binti Haji Abd Ghani.

In her welcoming speech, the Chief Commissioner highlighted a number of developments achieved by the association.

She announced that the association plans to carry out a special programme for senior adult citizens that encourages broader thinking and strengthens leadership skills in order to produce constructive ideas, and organise activities and informal educational programmes that are open to the public as well.

She stated that the education programmes of the Brownies, Girl Guides and Rangers as well as Young and Adult Leaders would be updated, which would be relevant to the current times in order to enhance the quality of exercises, instill authentic leadership skills



Her Majesty The Raja Isteri presents a badge to a member of the Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association.

and produce high caliber members.

This can be achieved through the education and training programmes provided through the Patrol System, which is practiced by girl guides movement worldwide, she added.

Prior to leaving, Her Majesty and members of the royal family joined the association's executive committee members, and meet and greet the girl guides as well as the guests present for a photo session.



Her Majesty The Raja Isteri graces the Knowledge Convention at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Her Majesty attends Knowledge Convention

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 29 - Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to grace the second day of the Knowledge Convention 2014 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Her Majesty was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien.

Earlier, Her Majesty and members of the royal family were greeted upon arrival by 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 as the co-chairperson of the steering committee; the Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Wahab bin Juned and the Ra'es of the Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College, Dr. Dayang Hajah Masnon binti Haji Ibrahim.

In his welcoming speech, the deputy minister expressed gratitude to Her Majesty for visiting the convention.

Afterward, Her Majesty and members of the royal family viewed the Knowledge Convention 2014 exhibition, which focused on the role of science and technology that is in line with the Brunei Vision 2035 and the aspiration of a *Zikir* Nation.

Then, Her Majesty toured the Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien Memorial Gallery that emphasised on the role and leadership of His Majesty and Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien in developing Brunei Darussalam.



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince chairing the first meeting of the Brunei Vision 2035 Executive Council.

HRH The Crown Prince chairs first meeting of Brunei Vision 2035 Executive Council

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 8 – 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, as Chairman of the Brunei Vision 2035 Executive Council, consented to attend the council's first meeting at the West Wing Conference Room, the Prime Minister's Office.

In a *sabda* (royal speech), His Royal Highness said that His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam had consented to the formation of the council, which plays a role in intensively and systematically assisting the efforts of various government agencies in realising the success of the national vision's goals.

His Royal Highness also congratulated all council members, comprising of several cabinet ministers and deputy ministers, and expressed hope that they will concertedly collaborate in contributing ideas as well as share experiences and unified resolutions towards the holistic achievement of the national vision's goals as desired by His Majesty.

The meeting touched upon the briefing on the initial review of the national vision as well as governance structure and terms of reference of the council.

One of the council's roles is to ensure that strategies and policies relating to the national development agenda are coordinated at the highest level in a more systematic manner.

Earlier, His Royal Highness was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim and the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, The Honourable Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Rtd) Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar as the Co-Deputy Chairman of the Brunei Vision 2035 Executive Council.

The meeting commenced with the recital of the Surah Al-Fatihah and *doa selamat*.

Prior to the meeting, His Royal Highness joined the cabinet ministers and deputy ministers for a group photo session.

HRH awards winners of the 5th Audi Quattro Cup Brunei Charity Gold Tournament

JERUDONG, October 20 - Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman presented prizes to the winners of the 5th Audi Quattro Cup Brunei 2014 Charity Golf Tournament at the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

The duo of Dora Madai and Mary Hiew Koi Mui won first place with 45 points. Haji Momin bin Haji Shawal and Haji Azman bin Haji Mohd. Daud were the runner-ups with 43 points on count back while the third place went to Haji Amir bin Haji Osman and Abdul Mana Kamis with 43 points.

arrival by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah.

This year, 84 teams of 169 golfers participated in the two-day tournament, which started on October 18, making it the biggest turnout to date.

The Audi Quattro Cup is a team format amateur tournament utilizing the Greensome Stableford or 'best ball' rule of play, which ultimately increases the whole golfing experience as regular tournaments are played by an individual golfer.

Last year's champion, the duo of Pengiran Mohd Joanda bin Pengiran Haji Hidop and Haji Amir bin Haji Osman represented Brunei Darussalam in the Audi Quattro Cup World Final in Los Angeles, the United States of America.



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman receiving a cheque from the Chairman of the Committee Council and the Managing Director of T.C.Y. Motors Sdn. Bhd., Teng Chee Kiong.

A total of BND21,000 was collected from the golfers' entry fees, which was then donated to the Brunei Ladies Golf Association (BLGA) Charity Fund.

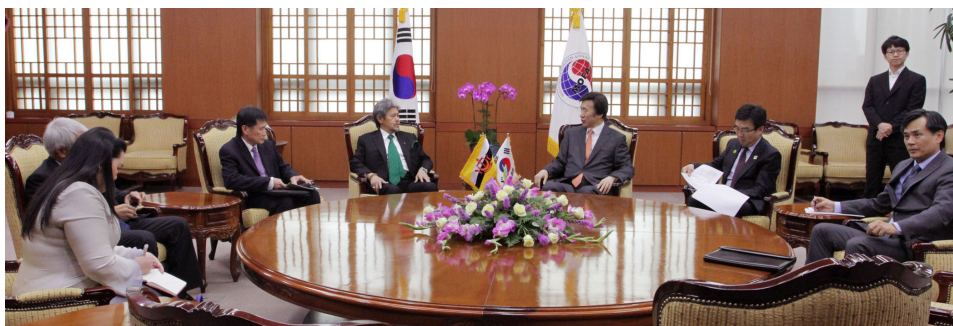
As the royal patron of BGLA, Her Royal Highness received the mock cheque from the Organising Committee Chairman, Teng Chee Khiong, who is also the Managing Director of T. C. Y. Motor, a leading distributor and importer of the Audi brand in Brunei Darussalam.

Earlier, Her Royal Highness was greeted upon

HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah pays five-day visit to Republic of Korea



His Royal Highness, Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, His Excellency Yun Byung-Se.



His Royal Highness in a discussion during a bilateral meeting held with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea.

SEOUL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, September 29 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam left for Seoul for a five day-official visit to the Republic of Korea.

Earlier, Their Royal Highnesses were welcomed upon arrival at the Incheon International Airport by the Senior Assistant Secretary to the President for Foreign Affairs, Office of the President, His Excellency Cho Won Myung and the Deputy Director General, South Asia and Pacific Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Jeong Byung Ho.

During the visit, His Royal Highness held a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, His Excellency Yun Byung-Se and attend a dinner hosted by His Excellency.

His Royal Highness hailed the

bilateral cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Korea in both public and private sectors from oil and gas agreements, to ship building, bridge building, agriculture, fisheries and rice production.

This was said in a statement as His Royal Highness met His Excellency at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea to discuss issues on ways to enhance bilateral relations between the two countries.

In addition, His Royal Highness thanked the Government of the Republic of Korea for the warm welcome Their Royal Highnesses had received in Seoul and expressed great appreciation for the close relations shared by the Republic of Korea and Brunei Darussalam in many areas of cooperation.

His Royal Highness also expressed appreciation to the Republic of Korea for their contributions to the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) and their leadership in Information Communication Technology, particularly with the cyber-secretariat in

the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation.

Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Korea are set to ink several agreements to enhance bilateral ties at the 30th anniversary of their diplomatic relations later this year, and both countries are looking forward to the celebration, where they will finalise the Education Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), Double Taxation Agreement and Joint Venture Agreement on Agriculture.

HRH attends 4th High-Level Public-Private Counter-Piracy Conference



DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, October 29 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-

Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, attended the 4th High-Level Public-Private Counter-Piracy Conference at the JW Marriott Marquis in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates.

His Royal Highness was accompanied by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Mansurah Izzul Bolkiah binti His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah.

The conference, themed 'Securing State Recovery: Sustaining Momentum at Sea, Confronting Instability on Land', focused on the international community to develop the Federal Republic of Somalia's economy and infrastructure in preparing long-term solutions.

It also discussed issues concerning maritime piracy including the evaluation of international, regional and local efforts in reducing piracy in Africa as well as the causes and prevention of piracy.

Earlier, the conference's opening ceremony commenced with a welcoming speech from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan and followed by a speech from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Federal Republic of Somalia, His Excellency Dr. Abdirahman Duale Beyl and the Chairman of the DP World, His Excellency Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem.

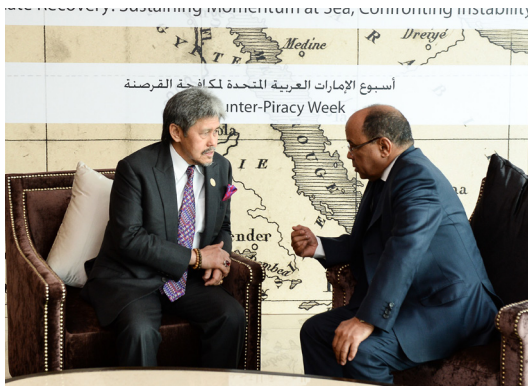
During the event, His Royal Highness also held two separate bilateral meetings with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Federal Republic of Somalia and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of



His Royal Highness delivering a speech during the 4th High-Level Public-Private Counter-Piracy Conference.

Mauritania, His Excellency Ahmad Ould Teguedi.

The conference was attended by ministers and senior officers as well industry representatives from around the world.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah in a discussion with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Mauritania His Excellency Ahmad Ould Teguedi during a bilateral meeting.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah in a discussion with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Federal Republic of Somalia, His Excellency Dr. Abdirahman Duale Beyl during a bilateral meeting.

HRH reviews progress of National Service Programme (PKBN) trainees



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik inspects the guard of honour at the National Service Programme training camp.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 30 – His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah consented to visit the National Service Programme (PKBN) training camp to review the training progress of the 3rd PKBN trainees.

During the visit, His Royal Highness witnessed demonstrations and observe training activities performed by the trainees, such as Command Task, rock climbing and abseiling, which aim to nurture teamwork and maintain physical fitness.

Earlier, His Royal Highness was welcomed upon arrival by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah; the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd Hamid bin Haji Mohd Jaafar; and the Director of PKBN, Colonel (Rtd) Pengiran Zulkifli bin Pengiran Haji Ismail.

In his welcoming speech, the minister said that His Royal Highness's presence demonstrated His Royal Highness's concern and support in the efforts to nurture youth who are not only disciplined physically and spiritually.

The PKBN modules, syllabus and training programmes are based on a holistic concept, said the minister.

The programme provides advantages and benefits to raise youth capability in the aspects of leadership, experience, spiritually and entrepreneurship so that they can positively contribute to the development of the nation.

HRH awards winners of 54th South East Asia Amateur Golf Team Championship

JERUDONG, October 16 - His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah awarded the winners of the 54th South East Asia Amateur Golf Team Championship 2014 at the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

The Kingdom of Thailand won three out of four trophies at the annual golf competition with the last trophy being won by the Republic of Philippines.

In the 54th Putra Cup Individual event, Thai players Danthai Boonma, Natipong Srithong and Kasidit Lepkurte took the top three positions.

The Kingdom of Thailand was also victorious in the 8th Lion City Cup scoring a total of 556 points with Suradit Yongcharoenchai topping the individual score chart with 279 strokes. Malaysia won second place while the Republic of Indonesia came in third.

Thai players continued to dominate the championship by winning the 2nd Kartini Cup with a score of 553 points with Kanyalak Preedasutthijit topping the individual ranks with 277 strokes. The Republic of Indonesia won second place while Malaysia settled for third.

Meanwhile, the Republic of Philippines won first place in the 6th Santi Cup scoring 554 points after Clare Amelia Legaspi topped the individual chart with 272 strokes and Pauline DeGuzman DelRosario secured third place with 278 points.

Earlier, His Royal Highness was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik presenting a trophy to the winner of Putra Cup, the Kingdom of Thailand.

Haji Abdullah.

Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Abdul Hakeem ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah as well as the Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Mulia Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Adina binti Othman were also present at the ceremony.

Brunei Darussalam celebrates ASEAN Day for Disaster Management

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 12 – 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 consented to attend the ASEAN Day for Disaster Management celebration.

At the event, His Royal Highness presented prizes to the winners of a number of competitions and also launch an exhibition gallery.

The winners of the 'Search for ASEAN Champions for Community Resilience' competition were Paul Chiew Yun Choi from Brunei Darussalam, Muhamad Jawad from the Republic of Indonesia, Erwin Dela Rama from the Republic of Philippines and Boonpeng In-Kaew from the Kingdom of Thailand.

Meanwhile, in the colouring competition, Awang Mohammad Ziman Hayat bin Haji Abdul won first place with Awang Mohd Rahiman bin Affendi as the runner-up and Dayang Miza Hamizah Qistina Mazlan settled for third place.

In the ASEAN letter writing competition, Dayang Siti Adriana Syazwina binti Hazli won the 'Under-12 years' Category and Dayang Mujayannah Hurolain binti Ahmad Arawi won the '13 to 18 years' category.

Afterward, Their Royal Highnesses toured the exhibition featuring the work of the recipients of the 'ASEAN Champion for Community Resilience'; artworks from the poster drawing and colouring competitions; letters received for the ASEAN letter writing competition as well as an exhibition arranged by the NDMC, Fire and Rescue Department, ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA)

Centre and the Humanitarian Emergency Aid Response team (HEART).

Earlier, Their Royal Highnesses were greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Home Affairs, The Honourable Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman and the Deputy Minister, Yang Dimuliahkan Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof as well as permanent secretaries, deputy permanent secretaries and directors of the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC).

The ceremony commenced with a recital of Surah Al-Fatihah and *doa selamat* by Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Setia Raja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Suhaili bin Haji Mohiddin and followed by a welcoming speech by the Director of the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC), Colonel (Rtd) Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Rosli bin Pengiran Haji Chuchu.

Prior to departing, Their Royal Highness also received a *pesambah* (gift) from the Minister of Home Affairs.

The ASEAN Day for Disaster Management aims to increase public awareness on the importance of taking necessary measures to reduce the risks and impacts of natural disasters disaster on the community.

This year's celebration was themed 'People of ASEAN, Step-Up and Be Counted for Community Disaster Resilience! Resilience is for Life!'.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel cutting a ribbon to officiate the event.

HRH Prince 'Abdul Malik graces Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation's thanksgiving prayer ceremony

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 8 – His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah consented to attend a thanksgiving prayer to commemorate the 22nd anniversary of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation (YSHHB)'s establishment.

It was held at the YSHHB's Multipurpose Hall in conjunction with the Silver Jubilee 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 ascension to the throne on October 5, 1992.

Earlier, His Royal Highness was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Development, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, the Chairman of the YSHHB Board of Directors.

The ceremony commenced with a mass Maghrib Prayer followed by a recital of the Surah Yassin led by Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Salim bin Haji Besar.

It was then followed by the commemorative thanksgiving prayer along with a mass Isya' prayer.

The Deputy Chairman II of the YSHHB Board of Governors, The Honourable Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd. Zain bin Haji Serudin; members of the board of governors and board of trustees of Dana Pengiran Muda Mahkota Al-Muhtadee Billah Fund for Orphans, staff members and teachers of YSHHB School were present to attend the event.

Within its first decade of establishment, YSHHB implemented various projects and activities in line with its principles and mission that cover the areas of religion, welfare, education, development and finance.

Upon entering its second decade, YSHHB has intensified its efforts and has taken new initiatives in facing the constantly changing and challenging demographic and socio-economic landscape.

As it prepares to enter its third decade of operations, YSHHB will continuously plan and take necessary proactive and innovative steps in increasing the success of its planning, projects and activities.

In addition, YSHHB will also continue to provide assistance to the people of Brunei Darussalam, in line with its vision of improving the quality of life and achieving excellence in socio-cultural and socio-economic aspects.

YSHHB will also ensure that its assistance and services are more organised, focused and accurately targeting its beneficiaries in enhancing the welfare of the people.

HRH Princess Hajah Masna graces 10th One Asia Breastfeeding Forum

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 27 – Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Ambassador-at-large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, consented to grace the 10th One Asia Breastfeeding Forum held at the Ministry of Health's Al-Afiah Hall.

In a speech, Her Royal Highness said, "I am glad to hear that our country had adopted the International marketing code according to the recommendations of World Health Organisation (WHO) relating to breast-milk substitutes in order to protect and promote breastfeeding."

"It is a proven fact that breastfeeding can save millions of children in the world while strengthening their immune systems to decrease their chances of getting infectious diseases, obesity or diabetes later on life. With that in mind, it is hoped that breastfeeding will be more supported in the country and raise awareness among mothers of

new-borns and children," Her Royal Highness added.

Her Royal Highness also praised the Ministry of Health for its endless support in cooperating with other institutes and non-governmental organisations in light of increasing the rate of breastfeeding in Brunei Darussalam from less than 15 per cent to the current 26 per cent through various initiatives like the Child-Friendly Initiative.

After the opening ceremony, Her Royal Highness officially launched three books: 'National Strategy of Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition in Brunei Darussalam 2014-2020'; 'Brunei Darussalam: Journey Towards Comprehensive Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition'; and 'Best Food-Wholesome baby', issued by the International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN).

Her Royal Highness then visited the 'Towards the welfare of mother and child' exhibition, accompanied by others from the 10th One Asia Breastfeeding Forum.

The forum also saw a presentation on the topic 'Feeding the future-Challenge and Opportunities' by an invited speaker from Malaysia, Dato Anwar Fazal.

To conclude the forum, Her Royal Highness joined the other delegates, forum speakers as well as the forum's committee chairperson for a group photo, and sign a commemorative sheet slip.

The goal of the forum was to strengthen the breastfeeding movement among the government and also PBB agencies in order to realise the commitment of Brunei Darussalam in continuing the 'Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN)' project while creating an opportunity for MIYCN experts all over the world to interact and deepen friendship among themselves.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna attends the opening ceremony of the 10th One Asia Breastfeeding Forum.

RBAF joins Kuala Lumpur International Tattoo 2014



The RBAF Commander handing over the national flag to the Acting Director of the RBAF Band.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 1 – Seventy-four members from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) band will participate in the Kuala Lumpur International Tattoo (KLIT) that will take

place from October 10 to 12 at the Merdeka Stadium, Malaysia.

The Royal Brunei Navy band, Serunai Team as well as the Royal Brunei Land Force Second and Third Battalion Tamburs will also represent Brunei Darussalam in the KLIT, which is held in conjunction with Malaysia's 57th Independence Day and Visit Malaysia Year 2014.

The head of the delegation, the Acting Director of the RBAF Band, Lieutenant Mohd. Idrus bin Haji Awang is expected to leave for Kuala Lumpur on October 6 and return on October 14.

A flag handover ceremony was also held at the mini stadium in Bolkiah Garrison. It was officiated by the RBAF Commander, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Awang Mohd. Tawih bin Abdullah. The flag was entrusted to the Acting Director of the RBAF Band.

Prior to the ceremony, the commander observed the band's preview performance.

This is the second time Brunei Darussalam will be participating since its invitation in 2007 in conjunction with the Malaysian Independence Day and Visit Malaysia Year.

The KLIT 2014 is jointly organised by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture Malaysia and the Malaysia Military Headquarters.

Better SME policies needed to fully benefit from the sector, says minister

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 1 – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam remains committed to continuing to develop small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which would in turn contribute to sustainable economic diversification.

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 stated the matter in his speech at the Local Business Development Forum (LBD), which took place at the Mutiara Ballroom, Radisson Hotel in the capital.

SMEs are important to almost all economies in the world, as they stimulate economic activities as well as creation of employment, the minister said.

In Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economy, SMEs account for 98 per cent of total businesses, contributing

41 per cent of the total APEC economies' GDP, creating 64 per cent of employment and contributing 30 per cent of total exports.

Touching upon ASEAN economy, he said that SMEs play an important role in ASEAN integration. Between 95 and 99 per cent are SMEs, creating between 43 and 97 per cent of employment, and contributing between 23 and 58 per cent to GDP and 10 and 30 per cent in the total export.

With regards to Brunei Darussalam, according to the minister, SMEs account for 97.5 per cent of the total number of active enterprises in 2010. Local SMEs employ about 60 per cent of the total private workforce. Additionally, out of the total operating revenue of BND29.2 billion generated by private sector businesses, the revenue of SMEs combined constitutes 26.8 per cent.

He said that historically, SME development has been in the national

agenda for years and it can be seen that they have the potential to play a better role in driving and developing the economy.

However, he pointed out that in order to fully benefit from this sector, better support systems – better SME policies, new innovative support programmes, efficient procedures with key performance indicators that will reflect the actual contributions to the economy – would be required.

The implication is that stakeholders either governmental or non-governmental agencies that are involved in SMEs development have to be competent. Otherwise, this sector would unlikely perform to its potential, the minister said.

The Local Business Development Forum (LBD) was organised by Asia Inc Forum. Panelists from Butra Heidelberg Cement Limited and Origin Films Private Limited were also invited to engage in the discussions during the event.

Twenty-six RBAF peacekeepers return home after serving on the UNIFIL

RIMBA, October 3 – Twenty-six Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) personnel who were embedded under the command of Malaysian Battalion 850-1 (MALBATT 850-1) safely returned home after serving on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Upon their arrival at the Air Movement Centre, Royal Brunei Air Force Base, they were greeted by the RBAF Commander Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Awang Mohd Tawih bin Abdullah.

Members of Defence Executive Committee, the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam, directors and officers of Ministry of Defence and RBAF as well as family members were also present to welcome the peacekeepers.

At the welcoming ceremony, berets were bestowed upon the officers by the commander.

In an interview with *Pelita Brunei*, Major Saifulizan bin Mohd Tuah shared his experience and the challenges he had gone through as the head contingent. The main challenge was

to achieve the mandates set by the UN for the peacekeeping mission, he said.

The major, who left the country on July 5, 2013, said that the contingent was a combination of two groups of ten personnel from the Malaysian Company 9 (MALCOY 9) and six personnel from the Malaysian Battalion 6.

Based on his experience during the mission, Awang Mohammad Alimin bin Haji Subohi encouraged the younger generation to maintain the country's peace, fully support the national philosophy Malay Islamic Monarchy and play a role in helping the security agencies to preserve the country's peace and safety.

The Brunei Darussalam contingent's deployment to Lebanon is line with the UN mandate and the country has been sending peacekeepers to Lebanon since 2008.

In addition, it provides an opportunity for RBAF to show Brunei Darussalam's participation in the UN peacekeeping mission.

Minister attends reception for the Republic of Korea's National Foundation Day



The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources and the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam at the reception held to commemorate the National Foundation Day of the Republic of Korea at Rizqun International Hotel.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 3 - 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 Hj Bakar, on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, attended a reception to celebrate the National Foundation Day of the Republic of Korea.

The reception, which was hosted by the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Choi Byung Koo, was held at Rizqun International Hotel, Gadong.

Brunei Darussalam established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Korea on June 1, 1984.

Since the establishment of their bilateral relationship, Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Korea have continued to embark on cooperation in economy and trade, agriculture, education, culture and youth, information technology and tourism.

Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany to Brunei Darussalam celebrates 23rd anniversary of the Day of German Unity

JERUDONG, October 8 – Brunei Darussalam and the Federal Republic of Germany have been partners in many global commitments for 30 years.

The partnership could be seen during the recent United Nations (UN) Climate Summit in New York and 69th UN General Assembly where both countries shared identical views on a broad range of global issues including the eradication of poverty, sustainable development, addressing the impact of climate change and ensuring a dynamic and transformative post-2015 development agenda.

His Excellency Roland Christian Grafe, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Brunei Darussalam stated the matter at the reception held to celebrate the 23rd anniversary of the Day of German Unity at the Indera Samudera Hall, the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

His Excellency hoped that the partnership will add the necessary political dimension to the cooperation and in this regard, both countries share the conviction that a genuine political perspective can strengthen Asean internally and to ensure the Asean community retains its centrality.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah attended the reception on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam along with his spouse, Datin Hajah Rosnah.

Earlier, the ceremony commenced with the singing of the national anthem before a cake cutting ceremony and followed by a presentation of souvenirs to the guest of honor.



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany to Brunei Darussalam cutting a cake to commemorate the 23rd anniversary of the Day of German Unity.

RBN Commander pays three-day visit to Republic of Singapore

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, October 2 – The Commander of the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN), Yang Mulia First Admiral Dato Seri Pahlawan Abdul Aziz bin Haji Mohd Tamit and his spouse, Datin Sakdiah binti Haji Mohammad Noor along with a delegation paid a three-day introductory visit to the Republic of Singapore from September 30 until October 2.

During the visit, the RBN Commander made separate courtesy calls to Singapore's Minister for Defence, His Excellency Dr Ng Eng Hen and Navy Chief of the Republic of Singapore, Rear Admiral Lai Chung Han.

Upon arrival at the Ministry of Defence, the Commander of RBN inspected the guard of honour.

The commander then visited the Command and Control (C2) Centre in Changi, where he toured the Multi-National Operations

and Exercise Centre (MOEC) and the Information Fusion Centre (IFC). He also visited the newly established Regional HADR Coordination Centre in the C2 Centre.

The visit concluded with further tours to Singapore Navy's Maritime Training and Doctrine Command and the Naval Warfare Simulation Centre.

In the evening, the commander and his wife attended a dinner hosted by the Singapore Chief of Navy.

The visit aimed to further strengthen the long-standing friendship and bilateral ties between the two navies, and countries in general. RBN and the Singapore Navy enjoy strong defence cooperation through a wide range of interactions and activities such as bilateral exercises, regular visits and professional exchanges.

Minister presents ASEAN Youth Awards and TAYO ASEAN Awards

JERUDONG, October 9 – Youth development is crucial for ASEAN, and the success in developing its younger generation will determine the future of the region.

Eventhough education and expertise are important, youths are also urged to be resilient, determined and responsible not only to themselves, but also to the broader society, both within and beyond national borders.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah stressed this matter in his speech at the ASEAN Youth Award and Ten Accomplished Youth Organisation (TAYO) ASEAN Award presentation ceremony, which was themed 'Young as an Agent of Change Towards Development of Community and World Peace'.

After his speech, the minister presented the ASEAN Youth Awards and TAYO ASEAN Awards at a ceremony held at the Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club.

The awardees for ASEAN Youth Awards were Dayang Khairunnisa binti Haji Ash'ari from Brunei Darussalam, Oknha Piseth Sok from Cambodia, Ms Walmah Nimaturrohman from the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Vannaseng Ounalom from Lao People's Democratic Republic, Jufitri Joha from Malaysia, Mr Luis Gabriel Moreno from the Republic of the Philippines, Dr. Kumaran Rasappan from the Republic of Singapore, Mr. Vittaya Punlertamorn from the Kingdom of Thailand and Associate Professor Le Anh Vinh from the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

Meanwhile, the ASEAN TAYO 2014 Awards were presented to Kumpulan Putra Seni from Brunei Darussalam, MeglyJandy Quach Education from Cambodia, Student Association of Muhammadiyah from the Republic of Indonesia, Persatuan Belia (MBFM) Felda Tenggara 2 from Malaysia, Gualandi Volunteer Service Programme from the Republic of the Phillipines, YMCA Singapore from the Republic of Singapore, SME Young Entrepreneurs Association from the Kingdom of Thailand and Quang Nimb Provincial Youth Union from the Socialist Republic



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports presenting the ASEAN TAYO 2014 Award to a representative for Kumpulan Putra Seni from Brunei Darussalam.

of Viet Nam.

The awards ceremony was organised as part of the 20th ASEAN Youth Day Meeting (AYDM).

The AYDM was implemented as a result of the first ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth held in Jakarta, the Republic of Indonesia in 1992.

The annual meeting aims to increase ASEAN awareness, exchange views, ideas and experience among ASEAN youths as well as strengthen the regional unity and stability among youths in order to achieve continuous peace and prosperity in ASEAN regions.

Minister encourages architects to expand knowledge on built environment

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 11 – Architects are encouraged to continue their efforts to expand their knowledge on current global issues relating to the built environment.

In addition, they need to be aware of the many concerns that have been expressed about the effects of climate change on the built environment as well as the impact of the construction industry on climate change, allowing better judgment of actions to be taken.

The Minister of Development, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman emphasised this matter in a speech during a conference on World Architecture Day 2014 held at the Rizqun International Hotel.



The Minister of Development delivering a speech at the launch of the World Architect Day 2014.

"It is important that our built environment provides users and occupants with buildings where they can lead a quality life and work in harmony," said the minister.

Additionally, the construction design needs to take into account the global environmental issues and the issue of sustainability, which are in line with the Ministry of Development's vision, 'Quality Living Sustainable Development Prosperous Nation'.

As the main agency in overseeing the country's environmental development, the ministry is responsible to lead by example and become a good leader in this field, he further stated.

Touching upon environmental context, he said that the Malay Islamic Monarchy (MIB) concept should be continuously applied in the construction of every government building as a reflection of the country's national identity.

Thus, the architects who play in a role in environmental development are required to understand the meanings of the MIB principles and subsequently apply them into architectural designs.

In addition, they should also take up the challenge of thinking how their design could push forward the MIB concept, not only as part of nation building but also as a way of life and work.

As Islam teaches us not to waste, it is only pertinent that our designs do not promote wastage of energy and resources either during or after construction, the minister said.

The World Architecture Day is created by the International Union of Architects (UIA) to show appreciation for the work architects do and to celebrate some of the great global architectural works and this year's theme was 'Healthy Cities, Happy Cities'.

Brunei Darussalam celebrates World Post Day

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 16 – The Ministry of Communications celebrated the World Post Day at the ministry's building in Jalan Menteri Besar in Berakas

The World Post Day is celebrated annually every October 9 to commemorate the anniversary of the establishment of Universal Postal Union (UOU) in 1874.

In a message from the Director-General of UOU Mr. Bishar Hussein, he said that the global postal network is a tremendous asset for extending digital reach – not only for the benefit of citizens and businesses, but also for governments, development agencies and other stakeholders looking for solutions to many of the challenges our world is grappling with.

He stated that by increasing post offices' electrical and Internet connectivity, governments can ensure that post offices make a major contribution to efforts to bring communication, financial, social and economic services to rural populations.

The theme for this year's celebration, 'Communication Tools', reflected the vast use of modern hi-tech gadgets such as computer, e-mail and telephone that help the postal services to develop.

The guest of the honour was the Minister of Communications, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdullah bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar.

The minister presented prizes to the winner of the letter-writing competition as well as the recipients of the *Jasamu*



The Minister of Communications cutting a local delicacy 'pulut kuning' at the World Post Day celebration.

Dikenang Award, the Best Post Office Counter Award, the Best Postal Delivery Award and the Best Staff for Division III, IV and V Awards.

The World Postal Day celebration commenced with a Khatam Al-Quran and mass sunat *Hajat* Prayer. An exhibition was also organised at the ministry's foyer.

The event concluded with the presentation of the department's corporate song and the cutting of a local delicacy '*Pulut Kuning*'.

Brunei Darussalam hosts 2nd AMMDM and 3rd COP to AADMER

JERUDONG, October 16 – Brunei Darussalam hosted the 2nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting On Disaster Management (AMMDM) and the 3rd Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Resources (AADMER) at the Empire Hotel and Country Club, Jerudong.

The ASEAN region is well prone to natural disasters, and the aftermath still affected and caused enormous suffering among the ASEAN communities.

This matter was said by 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 in his speech after receiving the chairmanship from previous chair, His Excellency Dr. Hoang Van Thang, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

The minister explained that the wide destruction of Tacloban in the Republic of the Phillipines due to the Hainan Typhoon resulted in a large downfall in economy as well as a huge loss of lives.

"Therefore, to minimise the impact of natural disasters steps such as, in terms of structure, economy and social of each country are required to be thoughtfully carried out," he added.

The 2nd AMMDM focused on issues in terms of synergy and coordination within government sectors in order to ensure uniform and efficient responses to natural disaster among the ASEAN community.

Meanwhile, the 3rd Meeting of COP checked on the AADMER agreement, which was signed by the representatives of ASEAN countries on July 26, 2005, and also on the stage and development of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) whose operation started in November 2011.

Brunei Darussalam was represented by the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd.) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yusof.

As said by the minister, the presence of ministerial representative of every ASEAN country reflected the unity and commitment in bringing forth the ASEAN declaration on Enhancing Cooperation in Disaster Management as well as protecting the ASEAN community.

Prior to the conferences, a welcoming dinner, hosted by the Minister of Home Affairs, was also held on October 15 at the Member's Grill and Lounge, the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

Established in early 2003, the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) is responsible for disaster management of ASEAN member countries.



The ASEAN Ministers at the 2nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting On Disaster Management (AMMDM) and the 3rd Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Resources (AADMER) at the Empire Hotel and Country Club, Jerudong.

His Majesty attends 10th ASEM Summit in Milan, Italy



MILAN, ITALY, October 15 – 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 left for Milan to attend the 10th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) that will take place on October 16 and 17.

His Majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin.

Earlier, a *doa selamat* was recited by the State Mufti, The Honourable Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Dr. Ustaz Awg Haji Abdul Aziz bin Juned at the Istana Nurul Iman before His Majesty's departure.

The 10th ASEM Summit, hosted by the Italian Prime Minister His Excellency Matteo Renzi, provides an opportunity for informal discussion between the leaders of the respective 53 member countries, including two new members: Croatia and Kazakhstan.

The meeting, themed 'Responsible Partnership for Sustainable Growth and Security', will address political, economic and cultural issues with the objective of strengthening the relationship between Asia and Europe in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership.

This year, the President of the European Council, His Excellency Herman Van Rompuy will chair the meeting and the European Union will equally be represented by the President of the European Commission, His Excellency José Manuel Barroso.

ASEM acts as a dialogue facilitator, covering issues of common interests to Asia and Europe, and addressing international matters such as United Nations reforms, weapons of mass destruction (WMD) issues, terrorism, migration flows or World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations.

It is also a policy-making laboratory and enhances synergies in the Asia-Europe relations.

However, it is not a substitute for other bilateral or multilateral fora between Asia and Europe.



His Majesty at the 10th ASEM Summit in Milan and holding a bilateral meeting with the President of the European Council (top and middle).



His Majesty with the President of the Republic of Cyprus (right).



His Majesty in a bilateral meeting with the Italian Prime Minister. (further left)

His Majesty in a discussion with the Prime Minister of Netherlands (left).

His Majesty with the leaders of nations and governments at the Milano Congress after the launch of the 10th ASEM (bottom).

