



## Charity Polo Tournament 2021



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of the royal family in a group photo with the players of the Charity Polo Tournament 2021.

**JERUDONG, June 6** – In collaboration with the Royal Brunei Polo Association and Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam, the Brunei Polo Team once again organised the 5<sup>th</sup> Charity Polo Tournament 2021 at the Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club.

The tournament was aimed at raising funds for the operating costs of Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam, a non-governmental and non-profit charitable organisation that provides quality education (including care and rehabilitation

services) for individuals with special needs in Brunei Darussalam.

Attending to witness the Charity Polo Tournament 2021 was His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, who also presented the winning prizes at the event.

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### Enlighten the country with the blessings of Al-Quran

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 10** – There are many ways to gain the blessings of the Al-Quran, including reading, memorising and understanding its contents.

Similarly, blessings can also be attained by reciting the holy verses of the Al-Quran for the purpose of protection and healing from various diseases and calamities, as indicated by the Al-Quran itself in Surah Al-Isra', verse 82.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam highlighted the matter in a *titah* (royal speech) during the Final of the National Al-Quran Reading Musabaqah for Adults 1442 Hijrah/2021 Masihi at the Plenary Hall, International Convention Centre, Berakas.

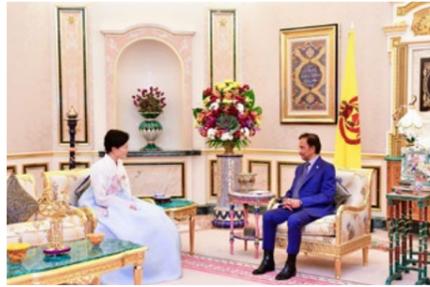
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### AMBD now known as Brunei Darussalam Central Bank

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 26** – By command of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, it is hereby announced that the Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD) is now renamed as the Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (BDCB). Following this change, the BDCB operations will remain at the existing premise, which is at the Ministry of Finance and Economy (MoFE) headquarters.

In addition His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also commanded the implementation of the BDCB Act, 2021 starting from June 27 in replacement of the existing AMBD Act.

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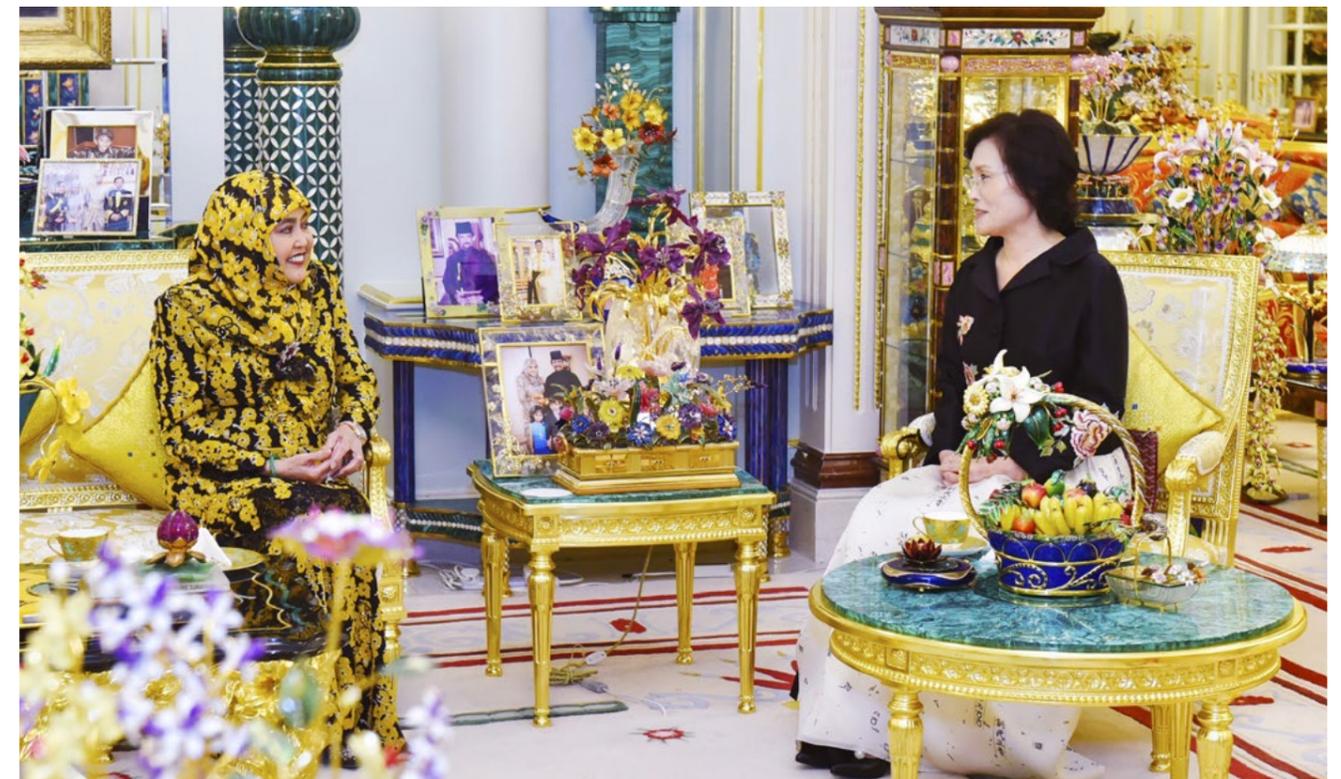
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## His Majesty receives audience



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 received in audience Her Excellency Yoon Hyun-bong, outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam at Istana Nurul Iman on June 9.

## Her Majesty receives audience



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received in audience Her Excellency Yoon Hyun-bong, outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam at Istana Nurul Iman on June 5.

## His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send congratulatory messages on June 12 to:

- Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland; His Excellency The Right Honourable Boris Johnson MP, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; as well as other members of the royal family, the government and the people of the United Kingdom on the occasion of Her Majesty the Queen's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- His Excellency Rodrigo Roa Duterte, the President of the Republic of the Philippines, the government and the people of the Republic of the Philippines on the occasion of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Philippine Independence Day.
- His Excellency Vladimir Putin, the President of the Russian Federation; His Excellency Mikhail Mishustin, the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation; the government and the people of the Russian Federation on the occasion of Russia Day.

## News

### Charity Polo Tournament 2021

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Also present were His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's sons and daughters, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; as well as other members of the royal family.

Three teams competed at the tournament: The Addams Family, led by Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; The Incredibles; and The Angry Birds, led by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah. Also joining the Angry Birds Team alongside His Royal Highness was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

The Angry Birds team emerged as champions, whereas The Addams Family and The Incredibles earned second and third place in the competition's two chukkas respectively.

This year's event consisted of a carnival and various



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attending the Charity Polo Tournament 2021.

fun game activities; performances from Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam and the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPf); a lucky draw; and a charity auction for limited edition items.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting the winning prize to His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah, leader of The Angry Birds team at the tournament.



His Majesty presenting a prize to Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah, leader of The Addams Family team.

## Enlighten the country with the blessings of Al-Quran (continued)



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) during the Final of National Al-Quran Reading Musabaqah for Adults 1442 Hijrah/2021 Masihi.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam continued that the people of Brunei are, therefore, complying to and following these guidelines in order to prevent or deter the coronavirus pandemic. We have put them into practise alongside the usual Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) as an 'integrated shield'.

His Majesty added that as a result of this integrated shield, Brunei Darussalam has shown to be fortified with incredible blessings that have saved the country from the onslaught of the pandemic.

"This is an extraordinary situation, which we cannot take lightly," said the Monarch.

His Majesty also expressed his personal confidence in the matter: that any form of virus that creates an epidemic will not be able to bypass the holy verses of the Al-Quran.

Hence, His Majesty stressed that as Muslims, we should not distance ourselves from the Al-Quran. In other words, we should not deviate from reading it.

The Monarch further expressed his hope that the people of Brunei will make Al-Quran reading a culture for all time. This means that all our generations (be it the existing ones or those who will be born in the future) will be the generations of Al-Quran readers.

His Majesty said that Brunei Darussalam would be fortunate if this hope is achieved. If its people continue to read the Al-Quran, then the country will undoubtedly be blessed and enlightened.

The Monarch was then pleased to congratulate the participants from all levels of the competition, especially those who made it to this year's national final. His Majesty also hoped that the participants will work harder to achieve better recitation quality.

Earlier in the *titah*, His Majesty expressed his gratitude to Allah the Almighty, for it is with His will that the Final of the National Al-Quran Reading Musabaqah for Adults 1442 Hijrah/2021 Masihi could take place. His Majesty also prayed for Allah the

Almighty to continue blessing us with the help of the Al-Quran, as mentioned in Surah Al-An'am, verse 155.

Prior to His Majesty's *titah*, a welcoming speech was also presented by Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs as Chairman of the National Al-Quran Reading Musabaqah for Adults 1442 Hijrah/2021 Masihi Executive Committee.

Attending alongside His Majesty were His Majesty's sons, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; and other members of the royal family.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of the royal family at the Final of the National Al-Quran Reading Musabaqah for Adults 1442 Hijrah/2021 Masihi.

Enlighten the country with the blessings of Al-Quran (continued)



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of the royal family at the Final of the National Al-Quran Reading Musabaqah for Adults 1442 Hijrah/2021 Masihi.

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His Majesty also delivered prizes and souvenirs to the winners at the event, with Awang Mohammad Zul-Hafiz bin Haji Awang Tengah and Dayang Hajah Nurfaezah binti Haji Emran crowned as the champion qari and qariah of the competition.

Each of the first-place winners were awarded with \$7,000 cash prize along with a challenge trophy; an accompanying trophy; a certificate of participation; a 10-gramme gold piece sponsored by Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei (TAIB) and its subsidiary companies (Insurans Islam TAIB Holdings Sdn. Bhd. and Darussalam Holdings Sdn. Bhd.); and a piece of Brunei woven cloth (*kain tenunan Brunei*) sponsored by Syarikat Little Ummi. Awang Mohammad Zul-Hafiz also received a Haj travel package as the competition's first-time champion.

Meanwhile, the runner-up qari and qariah, Awang Mohammad bin Ali and Dayangku Fauziah Nadhirah binti Pengiran Haji Jofri, each received \$5,000 cash prize along with an accompanying trophy; a certificate of participation; as well as a 5-gramme gold piece courtesy of TAIB and its subsidiary companies.

Awang Haji Nasrul Fakhri bin Haji Yahya and Dayangku Siti Ummi Syazana binti Pengiran Haji Marjuki, who came in third, each received \$3,000 cash prize along with an accompanying trophy; a certificate of participation; and a 5-gramme gold piece courtesy of TAIB and its subsidiary companies.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen at the event on June 8.

Consolation prizes were also presented at the competition, consisting of \$1,500 cash prize; an accompanying trophy; and a certificate of participation.

Gracing the opening ceremony of the Final of the National

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His Royal Highness the Crown Prince delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) during the first day of the National Al-Quran Reading Musabaqah for Adults 1442 Hijrah/2021 Masihi.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik gracing the second night of the National Al-Quran Reading Musabaqah for Adults 1442 Hijrah/2021 Masihi on June 9.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting trophies to the champion qari and qariah of the competition: Awang Mohammad Zul-Hafiz bin Haji Awang Tengah (left) and Dayang Hajah Nurfaezah binti Haji Emran (right).

Al-Quran Reading Musabaqah which was held on June 8, was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at PMO. Also in attendance was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince emphasised in his *sabda* (royal speech) for young generations who will lead the nation's development in particular, as well as society in general – to delve into the lessons stated as well as the secrets implied in the Al-Quran. These lessons and secrets touch on all aspects of life; spirituality and materiality; mentality and physicality; as well as the relationship between the *Khaliq* (the Creator) and fellow humans.

With this, His Royal Highness added, interpretations of the Quranic teachings that have been inculcated in us from childhood, as patrons and rulers of the earth, need to be viewed more



objectively. This is to preserve the teaching methods, as well as to disseminate knowledge on the Al-Quran's *tafsir* (interpretation) and *tadabbur* (understandings) in all levels of society.

His Royal Highness said that through this, the pupils, students and the community will get along better with the Al-Quran. They will also be able to understand the meanings as well as appreciate the values from the *iktibar* (lessons) implied, in line with our desire to build a Zikir Nation.

Gracing the second night of the ceremony on June 9 was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik. This year's Musabaqah theme "Al-Quran as the foundation and catalyst for national development" (*Al-Quran asas dan pemangkin pembangunan negara*), stressed that Allah the Almighty is the giver of sustenance, commanding His servants to strive in obtaining sustenance using the right and blessed path so that what has been gained comes with blessings.

AMBD now known as Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (continued)

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In this regard, His Majesty further commanded the appointment of members under the BDCB Board of Directors as follows:

The new Chairman will be Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman, the Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy (Fiscal).

Whereas other members of the board will consist of: Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Japar bin Haji Mat Dain @ Maidin, the Deputy State

Mufti; Pengiran Hajah Siti Nirmala binti Pengiran Haji Mohammad, Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); Dr. Dayang Hajah May Fa'ezah binti Haji Ahmad Ariffin, Permanent Secretary (Economy) at MoFE; Pengiran Hajah Zety Sufina binti Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Sani, Permanent Secretary (Industry) at MoFE; Dayang Hajah Zuriani binti Haji Sharbawi, Solicitor General at the Attorney General's Chambers; and Dayang Hajah Rokiah binti Haji Badar, the Managing Director of BDCB.

Four senior government officials promoted

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 1** – The Public Service Department, Prime Minister's Office would hereby like to declare that His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented the promotion of four senior government officers.

Awang Haji Muhsin bin Haji Ahmad, the Senior Administrative Officer at the Royal Customs and Excise Department (RCED), Ministry of Finance and Economy (MoFE) has been appointed as Controller of Royal Customs and Excise at the department since November 3, 2020.

On the other hand, three other senior officials also received

promotions effective as of May 8. Awang Muhammad Saufi bin Awang Haji Ibrahim, the Senior Administrative Officer at the Department of Labour, Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) has been appointed as the department's Commissioner of Labour.

Awang Haji Abdullah bin Haji Mohamad, the Assistant Director of Haj Management at the Haj Management Department, Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA) has been appointed as the department's Director of Haj Management.

Lastly, Dayang Noralinda binti Haji Ibrahim, Deputy Director of Forestry at the Forestry Department, Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) has been appointed as the department's Director of Forestry.

## CIPTA: Platform for technological innovation



His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) 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 Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB), at the Crown Prince Creative, Innovative Product and Technological Advancement (CIPTA) Award 2021 Ceremony.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 16** – His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) 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 (PMO), as Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB), graced the Crown Prince Creative, Innovative Product and Technological Advancement (CIPTA) Award 2021 Ceremony at the Plenary Hall of the International Convention Centre (ICC), Berakas.

Present to deliver a welcoming speech at the event was the Vice-Chancellor of UTB, Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah binti Haji Sulaiman, which was then followed by a multimedia presentation and the activation of the CIPTA trophy mechanism.

After, local judge and CIPTA 2021 Technical Committee representative, Pengiran Dr. Rafidah binti Pengiran Haji Petra presented a summary of the Chief Adjudicator's overall appraisal of this year's entries, followed by the announcement of the winning projects.

This year's competition received a total of 67 entries: 51 of which were from Brunei Darussalam; whereas the other 16 were from other ASEAN countries.

As the Patron of the Crown Prince CIPTA Award 2021, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince consented to present prizes and certificates to the competition's winners and participants at the event.

Dayang Roshartiney binti Haji Damit and Awang Haji Ismit bin Haji Mohammad with Dr. Dayang Wida Susanty binti Haji Suhaili as their supervisor from UTB, emerged as champions of the 'Modifying Existing Product, Process or Technology' Category. With their project entitled 'Smart Fish System – Water Quality Management System for Red Tilapia Rear in Poly Tank', the team received \$6,000 cash, certificates and a trophy.

While there were no first-place winners under the 'Creating New or Modifying Existing Product, Process or Technology by Young Inventors' Category; the second place was awarded to Awang Wesley Onn Wei Rong, with Awang Johary bin Haji Mohammad as the supervisor. The team received \$2,000 cash, certificates and a trophy for their project entitled 'Poseidon'.

The winning project for the 'Smart Junior Competition' was 'Rubbish Rewards'. Consisting of Awang Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Yazid, Awang Muhammad Hashim Dzulkarnain bin Muhammad Redzuan Sani, Dayang Nuraqilah binti Ariffin, and Awang Muhd. Fauzan bin Awang Damit as their supervisor from Berakas Secondary School, the team behind the project earned \$1,000 cash, certificates and a trophy.

His Royal Highness then received a *pasambah* (souvenir) from the Organising Committee of the Crown Prince CIPTA Award 2021 presented by the Vice-Chancellor of UTB, before touring the event's exhibition and interacting with the winners of the competition.

Organised by UTB and Brunei LNG Sdn. Bhd., the 9<sup>th</sup> Crown Prince CIPTA Award competition was, for the first time, held as part of the Digital Technology Week, which is one of the themes under the Brunei Mid-Year Conference and Exhibition (MYCE).

In conjunction with the event, the CIPTA 2021 Seminar Series will also be taking place from Friday to Sunday, June 18-20 at ICC.

The three-day series will include the CIPTA 2021 Executive Seminar with the theme "Innovations for Society 5.0"; a sharing session with the winners with the theme "Spreading the Winning Vibes"; and the CIPTA 2021 Forum with the theme "Driving the Innovation Ecosystem".

The winning projects will be showcased at the UTB Gallery starting from June 21, where they will be available for public viewing.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince awarding prizes to one of the winning teams of the Crown Prince CIPTA Award 2021.

## AMBD shows appreciation to employees



**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 10** – 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 (PMO), as Chairman of the Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD) Board of Directors, attended the AMBD Aidilfitri Get-Together Ceremony.

Upon arrival at the Banquet Hall, PMO, His Royal Highness was greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji

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 Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD) Board of Directors in a group photo with the officers and staff members of AMBD.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince at the AMBD Aidilfitri Get-Together Ceremony.

Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Home Affairs as the Deputy Chairman of the AMBD Board of Directors; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd. Daud, Minister at PMO; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy; other members of the AMBD Board of Directors; Senior Management of AMBD; as well as officers and staff members of AMBD.

The ceremony served as a platform for the AMBD Board of Directors, as well as their management to celebrate the month of Syawal with the officers and staff members of AMBD. It also demonstrated AMBD's appreciation for the dedication and commitment of its employees in contributing towards the organisation's objective since its establishment on January 1, 2011.

## DPMM FC Football Fanfare 2021

**JERUDONG, June 20** – 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 Duli Pengiran Muda Mahkota Football Club (DPMM FC), presented prizes to the winners of the Under-15 Football Tournament.

The mini tournament was held as part of the DPMM FC Football Fanfare 2021, which was conducted at the Jerudong Park Mini Stadium.

A total of nine teams competed at the tournament, namely DPMM FC 'A'; DPMM FC 'B'; Warriors; IKLS-MB5 FC; Jerudong International School (JIS); Bang Dalam FC; Striking Stars; Wijaya FC; and DASH Football Academy.

Joining the tournament were the grandchildren of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam: Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince, who played for the Warriors; and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak 'Abdul Haseeb bin Pengiran Maharaja Setia Laila Diraja Sahibul Irshad Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim, who played for DPMM FC 'A'.

DPMM FC 'A' emerged as the champion of the competition, after defeating DPMM FC 'B' with a 3-1 score at the finale – securing their places as the first-place and second-place winners respectively. On the other hand, JIS snatched third-place with their 2-1 score against IKLS-MB5 FC.



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 Duli Pengiran Muda Mahkota Football Club (DPMM FC), delivering a trophy to one of the players representing DPMM FC 'A', the winning team of the Under-15 Football Tournament at the DPMM FC Football Fanfare 2021.

## DPMM FC Football Fanfare 2021 (continued)



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 in a group photo with the players at the tournament.

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The Best Player Award was presented to Awangku Mohammad Syafiq Hilmi bin Pengiran Mohammad Shahrom from DPMM FC 'A'; whereas his teammate, Awang Safwan Zawawi bin Sazalee scooped the 'Top Scorer Award' with five goals.

The event served as one of the annual activities organised by DPMM FC, which was also conducted to introduce the DPMM FC first-team players who will be playing at the Brunei Super League 2021 season.

## DPMM FC celebrates victory

**JERUDONG, June 27** – DPMM FC defeated BAKES FC with a 16-1 score during one of the series of matches under the Brunei Super League 2021 held at the Jerudong Park Mini Stadium.

Attending the match were 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 and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman.

Also present was His Royal Prince 'Abdul Mateen; along with His Royal Highness the Crown Prince's sons and daughter: Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim, and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah; as well as other members of the royal family.

Following the match, DPMM FC will be playing against Rimba Star FC on July 4.



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 and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; and His Royal Prince 'Abdul Mateen at the Brunei Super League 2021.

## Discussing employment sector's road to recovery

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 8** – The Government of Brunei Darussalam is endeavouring to build partnerships and collaboration between industry players, regulators and training institutions to formulate new upskilling and reskilling programmes for locals.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Home Affairs in his plenary address at the 109<sup>th</sup> International Labour Conference (ILC) – which was held virtually, highlighted that the government is motivating human resource development through the provision of online as well as hands-on training for Industry 4.0 and technical skills.

"According to the Labour Force Survey in 2019, Brunei Darussalam's unemployment rate was 6.8 per cent. Since its establishment in 2020, the Manpower Planning and Employment Council (MPEC) has managed to increase local employment to almost four times compared to previous years, with an achievement of 103 per cent or 12,763 individuals employed," the Minister of Home Affairs explained.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Home Affairs attending the 109<sup>th</sup> International Labour Conference (ILC) via online.

The Minister further continued by saying that the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam remains cautiously optimistic as they trek the gradual road towards recovery. Nevertheless, the government is positively reaffirming its investment into lifelong learning opportunities; supportive curriculums that support the needs of the industry; and sustaining the protection of fair working conditions as well as occupational safety and health.

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Earlier in the address, the Minister shared the Director-General's report: "Work in a time of COVID", which outlines the adoption of the Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work in the 2019 conference.

The plenary session of the 109<sup>th</sup> ILC started on June 7 and will be conducted until June 19.

The four-week conference was launched on May 20 by His Excellency Omar Zniber, President of ILC and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations (UN); and Guy Ryder, Director-General of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The 109<sup>th</sup> ILC will be carried out throughout the month of June, and will resume via committee meetings later in November and December this year.

The conference brings together over 4,000 delegates (representing workers, employers and governments) from 187

ILO member states across the globe to exchange views and discuss the road to recovery in the employment sector following the global pandemic.

Also included as part of the agenda are the recurrent discussions on social security; as well as the formulation of an outcome document entitled "A global call to action for a human-centred recovery from the COVID-19 crisis that is inclusive, sustainable and resilient".

Joining Brunei Darussalam's delegation via online at the conference were Awang Mohd. Amir Hairil bin Haji Mahmud, Permanent Secretary (State, Welfare and Law) at the Ministry of Home Affairs; Awang Muhd. Saufi bin Haji Ibrahim, Commissioner of Labour; as well as senior government officials from the Permanent Mission of Brunei Darussalam to UN in Geneva and the Labour Department.

## Brunei - potential hub for international Islamic Finance

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 2** – In collaboration with the International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF), Malaysia; and with the support of the Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD), the Brunei Institute of Leadership and Islamic Finance (BILIF) is organising the Brunei Darussalam Islamic Capital Market (BICAM) Conference 2021 starting on June 2-3.

The event serves to provide an opportunity for participants to exchange their views on the issues and challenges related to the Islamic Capital Market; as well as to discuss strategies towards improving the Islamic capital market ecosystem's resilience, sustainability and inclusiveness.

Present as guest of honour to officiate the launching of the conference was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs as the Deputy Chairman of the AMBD Board of Directors.

Also in attendance were other members of the AMBD Board of Directors; members of the BILIF Board of Directors; as well as senior officials from government agencies, AMBD, banks and the private sector.

At the launching, the Minister of Home Affairs presented a key note address, where he highlighted the potentials of Islamic finance in driving the country's socio-economic development, as the financial returns generated also resulted in positive social and environmental impact.

"The risk-sharing feature in Islamic finance and its alignment to the objective of Syariah or Maqasid Al-Syariah makes it a natural vehicle towards the creation of a sustainable economy," the Minister continued, "Nevertheless, the potential for more innovative solutions and opportunities in Islamic finance lies largely untapped, especially in the Islamic capital market sector."

"In this regard, the use of a more diverse set of financial instruments such as Islamic social finance tools (*zakaat*, *waqaf* and *sedekah*), *sukuk* and Islamic FinTech can further be explored to help Islamic finance deliver even greater impact in stimulating a more vibrant Islamic finance industry," he added.

The Minister further emphasised the importance of continuous collaboration among key players in realising the vision of a resilient, sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

The Minister also shared that Brunei Darussalam has reached a



Yang Berhormat Minister of Home Affairs as Deputy Chairman of the Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam Board of Directors presenting his key note address at the Brunei Darussalam Islamic Capital Market (BICAM) Conference 2021.

new milestone this year, with the establishment of the first Islamic Window in Capital Market. This will help to further expand the range of Islamic investment products and services, as well as enhance the competitiveness among financial institutions.

Following the address, two keynote presentations took place virtually. The first one was entitled "Fueling an Inclusive and Sustainable Future through Islamic Capital Market" by Yang Berbahagia Professor Dato' Dr. Mohd. Azmi bin Omar, the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF), Malaysia; followed by "Stimulating the Development of Islamic Capital Market Sector: A Story from Indonesia", which was presented by Yang Berhormat Sri Mulyani Indrawati, the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia.

Other topics discussed during the first day of the conference include "Building an Innovative and Sustainable Islamic Capital Market"; "Creating a Vibrant and Resilient Capital Market"; and "Intersections between Islamic, Green and Sustainable Finance: Issues and Challenges".

To support the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism's (MPRT) initiative, this year's conference is held on the first week of the Brunei Mid-Year Conference and Exhibition (MYCE), which is themed "Islamic Week".

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## Brunei - potential hub for international Islamic Finance (continued)

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A group photo session at the Brunei Darussalam Islamic Capital Market (BICAM) Conference.

## Brunei-Philippine relations continue to strengthen



Yang Berhormat Minister of Home Affairs and spouse at the Reception Ceremony held in conjunction with the 123<sup>rd</sup> Philippine Independence Day.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 15** – The Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines to Brunei Darussalam organised a Reception Ceremony in conjunction with the 123<sup>rd</sup> Philippine Independence Day at the Songket Ballroom, Rizqun International Hotel.

Representing the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam were Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Home Affairs, and spouse, Datin Paduka Hajah Jahrah binti Haji Mohamad.

At the event, His Excellency Christopher B. Montero, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to Brunei Darussalam delivered a welcoming speech, where he expressed his gratitude to 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 for the unwavering commitment of His Majesty's government in further strengthening their bilateral relations and in pursuing the objectives of a caring, resilient and prosperous ASEAN community.

The capstone of the event consisted of a cake-cutting session to celebrate the Philippine Independence Day, which was followed by a souvenir presentation from His Excellency the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to Brunei Darussalam and Attorney Maria Lourdes Montero to the Minister of Home Affairs.

The Reception Ceremony included a photo exhibition entitled "Abode of Peace: Through the Eyes of Filipinos in Brunei", which showcased a total of 42 photos taken by the Pinoy Shutter Club. Cultural performances by The Manila Strings; Elite Dancing Coach; and Del Mar Virtuoso Music School also took place at the event.

## Expo showcases variety of items



Yang Berhormat Minister of Home Affairs officiating the launching of the Seasons Fair : Family Fun Expo.

**SALAMBIGAR, June 18** – For the first time ever, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Bandar Seri Begawan (CCC BSB) is holding the Seasons Fair : Family Fun Expo, which will run for six days, from June 15 to 20 at One City Shopping Complex.

The launching ceremony was officiated by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs as the guest of honour.

At the launching ceremony, Awang Malcolm Lim, the President of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce shared in his welcoming speech that the Seasons Fair will be held four times a year in accordance with the seasons: spring, summer, autumn and winter.

The expo is also hoped to serve as a platform for vendors to promote and showcase their products and services; while introducing them to families throughout the event.

The guest of honour also toured the exhibition booths located at the building's first floor, which included various products



Yang Berhormat Minister of Home Affairs taking a closer look at the products showcased at the expo.

and services such as telecommunications; health check-ups; handmade items and accessories; colouring and calligraphy writing activities; family promotions; and many others.

## G20: Social security, school-to-work transitions

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 23** – As the Chair of ASEAN 2021, Brunei Darussalam was invited to attend the 1<sup>st</sup> G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Meeting; and the G20 Joint Education and Labour and Employment Ministers Meeting.

Representing Brunei Darussalam at the G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Meeting was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs, who virtually joined the online meeting at the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA).

At the meeting, the Minister of Home Affairs shared ASEAN's goals to integrate gender equality and gender-responsive employment in the region.

According to the Minister, the ASEAN Labour Ministers and Senior Labour Officials have continuously emphasised the need for inclusive social security mechanisms which take into account potentially marginalised populations, especially in the context of future employment. He also stated that ASEAN member states

aim to mainstream the principles of gender equality in labour and employment policies and practices, in line with international standards as a measure towards gender equality and decent work for all.

The Minister further mentioned that the Senior Labour Officials Meeting Working Group on Progressive Labour Practices to Enhance the Competitiveness of ASEAN (SLOM-WG) aims to conduct a follow-up study on the extension of social security to workers under informal employment in the region, through the support of the ASEAN Secretariat and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

On the same day, the Minister also joined Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Education at the G20 Joint Education and Labour and Employment Ministers Meeting – which was also held online following the G20 Education Ministers Meeting.

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## G20: Social security, school-to-work transitions (continued)



Yang Berhormat Minister of Home Affairs attending the 1<sup>st</sup> G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Meeting (left); and the G20 Joint Education and Labour and Employment Ministers Meeting (right).

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The meeting also involved Singapore, Spain and Netherlands as special guests; along with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO); the International Labour Organisation (ILO); the World Bank; and the African Union (AU).

As part of the event's agenda, the Minister of Education had the



opportunity to share several initiatives carried out by ASEAN and Brunei Darussalam's Ministry of Education (MoE) on the issue of transitioning from school to workplace. The Minister also congratulated Italy (the country assuming the G20 Presidency for the year 2021) on the country's successful leadership throughout the meetings; and expressed his support towards the G20 Joint Declaration on Transitions from School to Work.

## Kick-start of Brunei MYCE 2021

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 1** – The Brunei Mid-Year Conference and Exhibition (MYCE) 2021 kicked off with the launching of the Forum on “Empowering Waqaf Towards the Country's Prosperity”. Conducted at the International Convention Centre (ICC), Berakas, the forum was held by the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA), as the co-organiser of Brunei MYCE 2021.

Present as joint guests of honour were Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs; and Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism.

Also in attendance were Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar, the Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs; alongside Permanent Secretaries; Deputy Permanent Secretaries; Directors and Senior officers of MoRA and Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT); as well as the Vice-President of Digital Business, Datastream Digital (DST) Sdn. Bhd. as the Telco Partner for the MYCE 2021.

The forum, which consisted of 150 participants, featured three panelists: Awang Haji Abdul Aziz bin Haji Akop, Acting Secretary of the Brunei Islamic Religious Council; Yang Berbahagia Dr. Mohd. Faisal Mustafa, Chief Operating Officer of Kedah Zakat School Management in Malaysia; and Associate Professor



The Minister of Religious Affairs and the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism officiating the Heart of Islam Exhibition Launching Ceremony.

Dr. Syamsu Madyan, from the Postgraduate Programme of Universitas Islam Malang (UNISMA), Indonesia.

Meanwhile, the session was chaired by Dr. Haji Noralizam bin Haji Akhbar, Dean of Faculty of Syariah, Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPU SB).

The ministers also officiated the launching ceremony for the Heart of Islam Exhibition on the same day at ICC; followed by the launching of the 4<sup>th</sup> Series of the Brunei Unified Campaign (Vol. 4): MCYE 2021, which will be conducted throughout the month of June by Qudoz Event Management.

Organised by Cityneon Displays and Construction Sdn. Bhd., the exhibition will be held until June 6 in conjunction with MYCE's Islamic theme for the first week. Several agencies are involved in the exhibition, including those from the government and private sector, banks, as well as DST Sdn. Bhd. as Telco Partner.

A number of activities are also being held, including Edupoli Islam; Quran in Braille; Treasure Treat; Demo Teaching Iqra; Half of Deen; Islamic FinTech; Azan Subuh (Call for Dawn Prayer) Competition; Al-Fatihah Clinic; and many others.

Brunei MYCE 2021 is an initiative of the MPRT to attract the meetings, incentives, conferences and events (MICE) market, especially business travelers to Brunei Darussalam.



The Ministers touring the Heart of Islam Exhibition.

## Launching of Muallafpreneuers' official logo

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 12** – With the support of Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD), the Muallafpreneuers Consortium organised a Hari Raya Aidilfitri Dinner Reception in collaboration with the Islamic Propagation Centre (through the Muallaf Development Division), Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA) at the Persekutuan Guru-Guru Melayu Brunei (PGGMB) building.

Present as the guest of honour was Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, the Minister of Religious Affairs.

Also in attendance were Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs; Awang Haji Mohammad Rosli bin Haji Ibrahim, Permanent Secretary at MoRA; Awang Haji Serudin bin Haji Timbang, Deputy Permanent Secretary at MoRA; and Awang Haji Mohd. Yusri bin Haji Wahsalfelah, BIBD's Head of Government Relations and Special Projects.

The ceremony saw the launching of the Muallafpreneuers Consortium's official logo by the guest of honour. The Minister of Religious Affairs also toured the event's exhibition, which



Yang Berhormat Minister of Religious Affairs observing the Muallafpreneuers Consortium Exhibition.

consisted of 14 handicraft and food vendors under the consortium.

Among the event's objectives was to promote the collaborative successes between the Islamic Propagation Centre and BIBD; particularly in empowering the Asnaf Muallaf entrepreneurship through the consortium project.

## Digital Technology Week: Supporting digital transformation



Yang Berhormat Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism and Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Info-communications launching the Digital Technology Week Exhibition.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 17** – Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism; and Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof launched the Digital Technology Week Exhibition at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

Showcasing the initiatives and products supporting digital transformation in conjunction with the third week of the Brunei Mid-Year Conference and Exhibition (MYCE) 2021, the event is co-organised by the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications (MTIC), Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB), and InfoCom Federation Brunei (IFB); with the support of the E-Government National Centre (EGNC), the Authority for Info-communications Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam (AITI), Cyber Security Brunei (CSB), IT Protective Security Services Sdn. Bhd. (ITPSS) and Dynamik Technologies Sdn. Bhd.

The Digital Technology Week will run from today until June 20, featuring various events including an exhibition, conference, dialogues and competitions which are focused on the trends and



Yang Berhormat Ministers observing one of the booths at the exhibition.

potentials of digital technologies.

The exhibition, which incorporates the theme “Smart Nation through Digital Transformation”, consists of 13 agencies from the government and private sector: namely MTIC, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), EGNC, Civil Service Institute, AITI, CSB, digital service companies (DST Digital, Imagine Sdn. Bhd. and Progresif Sdn. Bhd.), ITPSS, Aegis Secure Data Solutions (ASDS) Sdn. Bhd., and eSports Association.

During the exhibition, the Minister of Transport and Infocommunications further launched the AITI Strategic Plan 2020-2025; as well as three services under the EGNC through the 11<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan (RKN 11): One Government Private Cloud 3 (OGPC3), National Centralised Database (NCDB), and Nation Information Hub (NIH).

EGNC also showcased their revamped ‘www.gov.bn’ website, which comprises new features including an e-Participation link that allows the public to voice their opinions through surveys, polls and digital collaboration.

## Highlighting security issues and challenges in Asia-Pacific

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 28** – The 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-Russia Consultations of the High Representatives for Security Issues meeting was held via online.

The meeting was hosted by His Excellency Nikolai Patrushev, Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation. On the other hand, the Republic of Indonesia, as the Country Coordinator for the ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Partnership was represented by His Excellency Dr. Pribadi Sutiono, Acting Deputy for Foreign Policy Coordination, Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal and Security Affairs.

Representing Brunei Darussalam's delegation was Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence as the Chairman of the National Security Committee (NSC).

The event was also attended by senior delegates and heads of delegations from ASEAN countries.

At the meeting, the Russian Federation and ASEAN member states discussed matters of security cooperation; and exchanged views on issues of security,



Yang Berhormat Second Minister of Defence as the Chairman of the National Security Committee (NSC) attending the 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-Russia Consultations of the High Representatives for Security Issues meeting via online.

as well as the challenges faced by the Asia-Pacific region.

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Partnership, which also coincides with Brunei Darussalam's ASEAN Chairmanship.

Also joining Brunei Darussalam's

delegation at the meeting were Awang Haji Sufian bin Haji Sabtu, Acting Permanent Secretary (Security, Enforcement and Law) at the Prime Minister's Office and Director of Internal Security Department; and Awang Haji Asmawee bin Haji Muhammad, Director of Brunei Research Department; along with several members from the Attorney General's Chambers.

## 8<sup>th</sup> ADMM-Plus shows progress

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 16** – The 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) concluded with an agreement to adopt the "Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration by the ADMM-Plus in Commemoration of the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADMM on Promoting a Future-Ready, Peaceful and Prosperous ASEAN".

The virtual meeting, which was broadcasted at the International Convention Centre, Berakas, was chaired by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence as Brunei Darussalam's ADMM-Plus Leader.

Also present at the meeting were Brigadier General (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Shahril Anwar bin Haji Ma'awiah, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence (MinDef) as Brunei Darussalam's ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting Plus (ADSOM-Plus) Leader; and Haji Adi Ihram bin Dato Paduka Haji Mahmud, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Policy and Strategy) at MinDef as Brunei Darussalam's ADSOM-Plus Working Group Leader.

In his opening remarks, the Second



Yang Berhormat Second Minister of Defence as Brunei Darussalam's ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus Leader at the 8<sup>th</sup> ADMM-Plus taking place virtually.

Minister of Defence expressed his appreciation for the ASEAN Member States and Plus Countries' continuous support towards Brunei Darussalam's chairmanship of ADMM and related meetings.

The meeting observed the progress of seven ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Groups (ADMM-Plus EWGs); and included a report presentation on ADSOM-Plus by Brunei Darussalam's ADSOM-Plus

Leader.

The meeting was also attended by His Excellency Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi, ASEAN Secretary-General.

Following the 8<sup>th</sup> ADMM-Plus, Brunei Darussalam will be hosting the ADMM Retreat in November, which will also include the Handover Ceremony to Cambodia as the next Chair for ADMM and its related meetings in 2022.

## Impact of COVID-19 on working lives



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health touring the mini exhibition in conjunction with the World Day for Safety and Health at Work.

**JERUDONG, June 4** – In conjunction with the World Day for Safety and Health at Work (celebrated every April 28), the Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC) in collaboration with the Safety, Health and Environment National Authority (SHENA) and the Ministry of Health (MoH) conducted a talk on Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) held at JPMC.

Present as the guest of honour at the event was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Md. Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health as the Chairman and Executive Director of JPMC.

In his speech, the Minister of Health



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health attending the talk held in conjunction with the World Day for Safety and Health at Work as the guest of honour.

stated that this year's theme – "Anticipate, prepare and respond to crises: Invest now in resilient OHS system" – acknowledges the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our working lives, as well as the importance of building an effective, resilient and adaptable OHS framework.

The COVID-19 pandemic is quite massive – bringing to light, now more than ever, the need for OHS services, the Minister added. OHS has played a key role in

helping employers and employees with risk reduction and assessment.

The event consisted of talks delivered by SHENA and MoH. The speakers included Jamie Rebelo, Chief Inspector, Industry and Non-Industry Sector; Awang Haji Noryasmin bin Haji Mohd. Noor, Chief Inspector (Industry) at SHENA; and Dr. Kyaw Naing Win, Occupational Health Physician at the Occupational Health Division, MoH.

## COVID-19: 18 new import cases in June

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 30** – In June, Brunei Darussalam recorded 18 new imported COVID-19 cases, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to 260.

Case 244 was announced on June 1. The case is a 33-year old man who arrived in the country from Manila on May 19. The patient showed no signs of infection and he had no close contact upon arrival.

Case 245 and 246 were announced on June 8. Case 245 is a 44-year old; whereas case 246 is a 52-year old – both were men who arrived in the country from Manila on May 26. They did not show any signs of infection and had no close contact upon arrival.

Case 247 and 248 were announced on June 10. Case 247 is a 33 year-old man who came from Indonesia; whereas case 248 is a 38-year old man who landed from Kuala Lumpur. Both cases arrived in the country on May 28. They did not show any signs of infection and had no close contacts upon arrival.

Case 249 was announced on June 12. The case is a 33 year-old woman who arrived in the country from Indonesia on May 30. The patient experienced coughing on June 11, and she had no close contact following her arrival.

Case 250 was announced on June 13. The case is a 42 year-old woman who came from Indonesia on May 30. The patient did not show any signs of infection. However, contact tracing discovered a close contact who arrived in the country with the patient and also underwent quarantine upon arrival.

Case 251 was announced on June 17. The case is a 52 year-old man who arrived in the country from Indonesia through Singapore on June 4. The patient showed no signs of infection and had no close contact upon arrival.

Case 252 was announced on June 18. The case is a 29 year-old man who landed from Indonesia through Singapore on June 15. The patient showed no signs of infection – but 12 other close contacts were identified: all of whom arrived in the country with the patient and they were all quarantined following their arrival.

Case 253 was announced on June 19. The case is a 22 year-old man who arrived from Indonesia on June 6. The patient experienced symptoms of flu and sore throat starting from June 18 and had no close contact upon arrival.

Case 254 and 255 were announced on June 20. Case 254 is a 36 year-old man; whereas case 255 was a 45 year-old man – both came from Indonesia on June 6 and did not show any signs of infection. They did not have any close contact upon arriving in the country.

Case 256 was announced on June 22. The case is a 44 year-old man who came from Manila on June 9. The patient did not experience any signs of infection and had no close contact upon his arrival.

Case 257 was announced on June 25. The case is a 23 year-old man who arrived in the country from United Kingdom through Singapore. The patient showed no signs of infection and did not have any close contact upon arrival.

Case 258 and 259 were announced on June 26. Case 258 is a 38 year-old man who arrived from Indonesia through Singapore on June 13. He experienced sore throat for five days, as well as coughing and loss of taste since June 20. Case 259 is a

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## COVID-19: 18 new import cases in June (continued)

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39 year-old woman who also came from Indonesia on the same date. She did not experience any signs of infection. Both cases did not have any close contact upon their arrival in the country.

Case 260 was announced on June 29. The case is a 42 year-old who landed from Manila on June 16. The patient experienced no signs of infection and did not have any close contact upon arrival.

A recorded number of 15 cured COVID-19 patients were also confirmed throughout the month, bringing the total number of cured cases to 248. Two of the cases were announced on June 3; one case was announced on June 7; three cases were announced on June 10; one case was announced on June 16; one case was announced on June 17; two cases were announced on June 18; one case was announced on June 20; one case was

announced on June 22; one case was announced on June 27; and two cases were announced on June 29.

At present, a total of 119 import cases have been confirmed since the last local infection case was reported – which was on May 6, 2020, where Brunei Darussalam has recorded 420 days without a local COVID-19 infection case.

Eight hundred and sixty-two individuals are currently undergoing mandatory self-isolation; whereas a total of 20,714 have completed their mandatory self-isolation since March 2020.

Over the last 24-hours, 483 samples have been tested for the SARS Co-V-Two virus, bringing the total number of lab tests to 140,882 since January 2020.

## Strengthening bilateral relations through cooperation



Yang Berhormat Minister at Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy attending the Reception Ceremony in conjunction with Russia Day as the guest of honour.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy and His Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Brunei Darussalam during the cake cutting session.

**GADONG, June 8** – The Embassy of the Russian Federation in Brunei Darussalam organised a Reception Ceremony in conjunction with Russia Day at the Songket Ballroom, Rizqun International Hotel.

At the event, His Excellency Vladimir Goncharenko, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Brunei Darussalam presented a speech.

Representing the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the event was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy and spouse.

The highlight of the ceremony featured a cake cutting session in conjunction with Russia Day, which was conducted by the Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy; and His Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Brunei Darussalam.

## Thailand Bazaar showcases variety of products

**SALAMBIGAR, June 25** – A total of 30 Thai vendors are involved in the third edition Thailand Bazaar, at the Onecity Shopping Centre.

Present to launch the bazaar as the guest of honour was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy.

In her speech during the launching ceremony, Her Excellency Wanthanee Viputwongsakul, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam explained that the bazaar is held as a means to move forward and overcome the challenges of the new norm – as members of the public are welcomed to the event while waiting for Thailand to reopen its borders.

Aside from Thai food vendors, this year's bazaar also includes vendors who sell Thai imported products, as well as products from Thai franchises and Thai companies that are involved in the



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy touring the Thailand Bazaar with Her Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam.

agricultural and energy industry in Brunei. The Thailand Bazaar will be held for three days: starting from June 25 until 27, from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm.

## Developing digital and innovation agendas

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 17** – In addition to the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the biotechnological field is also essential in assisting post-COVID-19 economic recovery – where Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) is the main key in ensuring the long-term success of COVID-19 vaccination and recovery strategies.

The matter was mentioned by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications during the 11<sup>th</sup> Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation (IAMMSTI-11) via video conference.

The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Dr. Anek Laothamatas, Minister of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, Thailand.

At the meeting, the Minister of Transport and Infocommunications shared that the impact of COVID-19 has given Brunei Darussalam the opportunity to develop their digital and innovation agendas.

The Minister also expressed his support for the projects proposed by ASEAN member states, which constitute areas that can contribute to strengthening regional resilience and preparedness in the face of COVID-19.

Prior to the event, the 79<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI-79) convened

from June 15 to 16. The meeting chaired by Professor Sirirug Songsivilai, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, Thailand was attended by Awang Haji Mohammad Nazri bin Haji Mohammad Yusof, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications (MTIC) as the Chairman of ASEAN COSTI for Brunei Darussalam.

The Permanent Secretary also attended the IAMMSTI-11, along with Awang Haji Hairul Mohd Daud bin Haji Abdul Karim, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Infocommunications) at MTIC; Chair of the Board of Advisors to COSTI (BAC); Sub-committees to COSTI; and senior officials at the MTIC.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications attending the 11<sup>th</sup> Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation (IAMMSTI-11) via video conference.

## 51<sup>st</sup> STOM includes discussion on KLTSP

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 9** - The 51<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) was held from June 8 to 9 via video conference. Representing Brunei Darussalam at the meeting was Awang Haji Mohammad Nazri bin Haji Mohammad Yusof, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications (MTIC).

The event was chaired by Chheing Pich, Director-General at the General Department of Logistics, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Cambodia as the Chairman of STOM 2021.

The 51<sup>st</sup> STOM included discussions on the status of programmes, activities and projects under the Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Plan (KLTSP) 2016-2025, which are carried out by the ASEAN Transport Working Groups.

The meeting touched on the conclusion of the ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement (ASEAN-EU CATA), which was approved during the Extraordinary ASEAN-EU STOM on ASEAN-EU CATA on June 2.

The event further looked into the progress made under the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) transport-related initiatives, as well as the status of cooperation with STOM dialogue partners.

The outcomes of 51<sup>st</sup> STOM will be followed up during the 52<sup>nd</sup> STOM: which will focus on finalising the Annual Priorities/Key Deliverables for Transport in 2021 for consideration of the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Transport Ministers (ATM) Meeting that will take place on November.



The 51<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) held via video conference.

## Enhancing cooperation in economic, sustainable development



The 39<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting on Energy (SOME) taking place via video conference at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 14** – The 39<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting on Energy (SOME) draws its curtains starting today to June 17 via video conference at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

Hosted by Brunei Darussalam as the Chair of ASEAN 2021, the meeting was chaired by Pengiran Haji Jamra Weira bin Pengiran Haji Petra, Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Energy (ME) as the Senior Official on Energy Leader for Brunei Darussalam. Meanwhile, Vice-Chair was His Excellency Victor Jona, Senior Official on Energy Leader for Cambodia. The meeting comprised ASEAN Member States (AMS), dialogue partners and international organisations.

During the proceedings, the AMS Senior Officials on Energy (SOE) provided updates on the activities under the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) as it embarks onto Phase II for 2021-2025.

Phase II aspires for higher targets and new initiatives, which serve to enhance energy transition and resilience for a sustainable energy future – taking into account the impact of COVID-19 and its recovery plans; trends in global economy; cross-cutting issues (such as climate change and low-carbon emission); inclusion of private sectors through business forum activities; as well as new and emerging forms of technologies and digitalisation in the energy sector.

The meeting also introduced the five Brunei-led initiatives: the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Energy Security and Energy Transition (as part of the priority economic deliverables under Brunei Darussalam's ASEAN Chairmanship); as well as the Concept Papers on ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) – Wide Education and Training Exchanges on the Role of Natural Gas in Advancing a Low Carbon Energy Transition; Energy Establishments and Climate Change Organisation Cooperation on Energy Issues; and Establishing ASEAN Energy Interaction Programmes; in addition to workshops on hydrogen economy and carbon capture utilisation and storage.

Other related meetings taking place alongside the 39<sup>th</sup> SOME include the 20<sup>th</sup> SOME Plus Three (SOME+3); the SOME Dialogues with International Renewable Energy Agency (SOME-IRENA Dialogue); the SOME Dialogue with International Energy Agency (SOME-IEA Dialogue); the 12<sup>th</sup> SOME-US; Special ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) Governing Council (AGC) Meeting; the 22<sup>nd</sup> SOME with Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan (SOME-METI); the 26<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit Energy Cooperation Task Force (EAS ECTF); and the 12<sup>th</sup> SOME-Russia.

The outcomes of 39<sup>th</sup> SOME and its associated meetings will be reported for consideration at the upcoming 39<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) and its Associated Meetings, which are scheduled to be held in September.

## Exchanging views on ASEAN-EU relations

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 22** – The State Legislative Council (LegCo) attended the Inter-Regional Dialogue between the European Parliament (EP) and the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA).

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Yang Berhormat members of the State Legislative Council at the Inter-Regional Dialogue between the European Parliament (EP) and the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA). Also present was the Secretary to the Cabinet Ministers' Council and Clerk to Councils.



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The dialogue session was attended by delegations from the Parliaments of ASEAN countries and delegations from the Parliaments of European countries.

Representing LegCo were Yang Berhormat Dayang Nik Hafimi binti Abdul Haadii and Yang Berhormat Awang Iswandy bin Ahmad. Also in attendance at the dialogue was Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Jaya Dato Paduka Awang Haji Judin bin Haji Asar, Secretary to the Cabinet Ministers' Council and Clerk to Councils.

## Strengthening bilateral relations through cooperation

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 8** – The State Legislative Council (LegCo) hosted the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Working Group Meeting on Transformation of the AIPA Secretariat. The meeting was chaired by Yang Berhormat Awang Haji Abdul Hamid @ Sabil bin Haji Arsad, LegCo member.

The online meeting, which was held at the International Convention Centre, Berakas was attended by delegations from ASEAN Parliaments and the AIPA Secretariat.

Representing Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Putera Maharaja Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Ghani bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Dewa Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Rahim, LegCo member, as the Head of Delegation; along with other



The ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Working Group Meeting on Transformation of the AIPA Secretariat, chaired by Yang Berhormat Awang Haji Abdul Hamid @ Sabil bin Haji Arsad, Legislative Council member.

members of LegCo.

Council and Clerk to LegCo.

Also in attendance was Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Jaya Dato Paduka Awang Haji Judin bin Haji Asar, Secretary to the Cabinet Ministers'

The meeting discussed matters of enhancing human resources in the AIPA organisation, in allowing AIPA to meet the objectives of its establishment.

## Strengthening supply chain and trade connectivity

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 16** – The Legislative Council (LegCo) attended the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Caucus, hosted by the Singapore Parliament via video conference. The event was broadcasted at the Dewan Majlis Building, Jalan Dewan Majlis.

The meeting was attended by nine AIPA member countries. Leading Brunei Darussalam's delegation was Yang Berhormat Dayang Nik Hafimi binti Abdul Haadii, LegCo member, along with several other members of LegCo.

The meeting included discussions on the status of the implementation of the 41<sup>st</sup> AIPA resolutions; as well as the issue of "Strengthening Supply Chain Resilience and Enhancing Trade Connectivity".



The 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Caucus attended by members of the Legislative Council (LegCo).

The event also saw the unanimous approval during the 42<sup>nd</sup> AIPA General Assembly, which will be hosted online by AIPA Caucus Assembly Official Report. Brunei Darussalam's LegCo in August. The report will be discussed for further

## UBD attains top 250 in QSWUR

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 9** - Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) continues its remarkable progress in the latest Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings (QSWUR) by moving up to the world's top 250. Entering QSWUR at the 349<sup>th</sup> position in 2017, UBD has risen up to be in the top 1 per cent of over 26,000 universities globally since last year.

The recent announcement shows that UBD has performed particularly well: improving in all six indicators – particularly under International Faculty, whereby the university is placed among the top 50 in the world. UBD has also performed better than the global average under Faculty-Student Ratio and International Students. Significant improvements are also seen under Academic Reputation and Employer Reputation.

Universiti Brunei Darussalam has shown remarkable progress with its latest Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings (QSWUR) – moving up to the world's top 250.



## BIBD snatches 9<sup>th</sup> Best Retail Bank award

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 4** – For the ninth consecutive year, the largest Islamic financial institution in the sultanate, Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD), once again won the Best Retail Bank in Brunei.

The title was awarded by The Asian Banker (TAB) – the region's leading provider of financial, research, benchmarking and intelligence consulting services – following the bank's recognition as the Strongest Bank in Brunei by Balance Sheet (also by TAB).

According to TAB, BIBD has managed to maintain its leading

position in the country by dominating the market share in deposits, assets and customer policy.

With its intuitive digital capabilities, the bank has been able to provide its products and services online and grow its core retail businesses.

The value and volume of retail transactions have grown in the past year amid the COVID-19 pandemic and a shift in customer behaviour. BIBD continues to show prudence – decreasing its Non-Performing Loans (NPL) from 0.93 per cent to 0.73 per cent.

## JMSDF-RBN: Sharing knowledge and vision

**MUARA, June 10** – The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), JS Kashima and JS Setoyuki made port calls at Muara Port from June 6 to 8. Under the command of Rear Admiral Ishimaki Yoshiyasu, Japan Training Squadron (JTS) Commander, a total of 510 Japanese naval personnel, including 160 newly commissioned officers, joined the cruise.

Given the COVID-19 situation, the crew did not disembark. Instead, various events were held virtually.

On June 7, an information sharing session was held via video teleconferencing by the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) and JMSDF. Rear Admiral Ishimaki, along with senior and newly commissioned officers under JMSDF; as well as Commander Willie Mathias bin Pandan, Commandant of Naval Training Centre, RBN, and other officers representing RBN took part in the session.

Following a welcoming speech by Commander Willie Mathias, Lieutenant Commander Abu Qusyairi bin Haji Yacob delivered a presentation on the organisational structure of Brunei Darussalam's maritime security agencies; as well as RBN's vision, mission, and international relations with other navies.

On the other hand, Rear Admiral Ishimaki presented on the Free and Open Indo-Pacific Vision, Japan's basic defence policy, as well as the efforts under JMSDF.

After the presentations, Lieutenant Sugimoto Kentaro, Second Secretary at the Embassy of Japan in Brunei Darussalam conducted a gift exchange with Commander Willie on behalf of Rear Admiral Ishimaki.

Later in the evening, Kakuta Hiromi, Chargé d'Affaires at the Japanese Embassy provided a lecture on the situation in Brunei



The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), JS Kashima and JS Setoyuki at the Muara Port.

Darussalam to the newly commissioned officers.

On June 8, JS Kashima and JS Setoyuki of JTS; along with RBN's patrol vessels: KDB Daruttaqwa and KDB Afiat conducted a passage exercise (PASSEX) off the coast of Brunei, South China Sea. The exercise involving real manoeuvres confirmed each nation's tactical expertise and operational interoperability.