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## State Visit to Singapore

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, AUGUST 23**

– 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 Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam arrived at the Republic of Singapore for a State Visit, which will be held on August 24 to 25.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; as well as other members of the royal family.



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; Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam upon arrival in Singapore.

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## 8<sup>th</sup> Young Leaders' Programme



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; Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman upon arrival at Changi Airport in Republic of Singapore.

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, August 2** - 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 Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman left for the Republic of Singapore to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> Young Leaders' Programme which will be held from August 3 to 5. Accompanying Their Royal Highnesses were Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak

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## ASEAN: Addressing Challenges Together

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 8**

– With only a few years before ASEAN achieves its Community Vision 2025, it is important that we continue to uphold ASEAN Centrality and unity so that all ASEAN moves forward harmoniously into the future together.

This can be realised through close cooperation and coordination where we are able to address challenges and take advantage of opportunities that may arise for our mutual benefit.

In this regard, Brunei Darussalam fully supports Cambodia and its work as ASEAN Chairman this year under the theme "ASEAN: Addressing Challenges Together".

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3. His Majesty receives audiences



4. 76 times khatam, symbol of loyalty



6. State visit to Singapore



13. 266 receive State Honorary medals



16. National Youth Day: Youth critical component of nation



19. UBD Convocation: Produce industry-ready graduates



21. 12<sup>th</sup> UNISSA Hafli Al-Takharuj: Dakwah training needed



23. 8<sup>th</sup> Young Leaders' Programme



29. Launch of UBD Convocation Festival 2022



30. HRH officiates UNISSA's 12<sup>th</sup> Mahrajan Hafli Takharuj



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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, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman:



His Excellency Admiral John C. Aquilino, Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (US INDO-PACOM) on August 8.



His Excellency Saleumxay Kommasith, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on August 10.



His Excellency Mark Garnier M.P., the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom's Trade Envoy to Brunei Darussalam, Myanmar and Thailand on August 10.



His Excellency General Chalermpophon Srisawasdi, the Chief of Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces on August 17.



His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed bin Hashil bin Rashid Al-Maskari, Outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam on August 17.

## 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 at Istana Nurul Iman:



Mrs. Budsakorn Srisawasdi, spouse of the Chief of Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces on August 17.

## HRH The Crown Prince receives audience

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, received in audience at Qashr Al-Meezan:



His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed bin Hashil bin Rashid Al-Maskari, outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam on August 20.

## HRH Prince 'Abdul Malik receives audience

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah received in audience at Istana Nurul Iman:



His Excellency Alok Amitabh Dimri, High Commissioner of the Republic of India to Brunei Darussalam on August 2.



## 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 to:

- Her Excellency Madam Halimah Jacob, President of the Republic of Singapore, and His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore as well as the government and people of the Republic of Singapore on the occasion of its 57<sup>th</sup> National Day on August 9.
- His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia, the government, and people of the Republic of Indonesia on the occasion of its 77<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on August 17.
- His Majesty Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah, the 16<sup>th</sup> Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, as well as the government and people of Malaysia on the occasion of its 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence Day on August 31.

## News

### 76 times khatam, symbol of loyalty

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 18**

- A total of 1,708 participants comprised Mukim and Kampung Consultative Council Members, primary and secondary schools along with students from higher educational institutions throughout the country participated in the 76 Times Khatam Al-Quran Ceremony in conjunction with 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's 76<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration 2022 at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam graced the ceremony.

Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran



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; Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman at the 76 Times Khatam Al-Quran Ceremony.

Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri

Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah.

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Participants at the ceremony.



## News



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and other members of the royal family grace the 76 Times Khatam Al-Quran Ceremony.

reading of Surah Al-Fatihah led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti, followed by Khatam Al-Quran led by Awang Muhammad Adrian Azani bin Haji Muhammad Masjuna, a Youth Tilawah Al-Quran Scheme student.

It continued with a reading of the Takhtim and Tahlil by religious officers and teachers from the Islamic Studies Department (JPI) and Mosque Affairs Department.

The *Doa khatam* was read by a khatam participant, Muhammad Hasif Hasbullah bin Mohamad Sahrul, a Youth Tilawah Al-Quran Scheme student.

From page 4

Also present were, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam as well as other members of the royal family.

The ceremony commenced with the



The event concluded with the *dikir marhaban* by mosque affairs officers, female officers, and religious teachers from JPI as well as the *doa selamat* read by the State Mufti.

The 76 Times Khatam Al-Quran Ceremony was a special *pesambah* (souvenir) for the Monarch and a symbol of love and undivided loyalty towards His Majesty.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah at the event.



Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam during the ceremony (above); Cabinet Ministers during the recitation of *doa selamat* led by the State Mufti (left).



## State Visit to Singapore (continued)

From front page

Upon arrival at the Changi International Airport, Their Majesties were welcomed by His Excellency Lawrence Wong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, and spouse, Mrs. Wong; His Excellency Edwin Tong, Minister of Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law, as Minister-in-Attendance and Madam Au Huey Ling as Lady-in-Attendance; and His Excellency Heng Aik Yeow, High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam and spouse.

Earlier, present at His Majesty the Sultan's Flight Hangar in Rimba to bid farewell to Their Majesties were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.



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 Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam being greeted by His Excellency Lawrence Wong, Singaporean Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance at Changi International Airport in Singapore.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha; 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 Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah at His Majesty the Sultan's Flight Hangar.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah bid farewell to Their Majesties.



Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; and other members of the royal family.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti reading the *doa selamat* prior to departure from Istana Nurul Iman.

## Audience Ceremony with Singaporean Minister of Finance



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 Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam with His Excellency Lawrence Wong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Republic of Singapore, and spouse during the Audience Ceremony.

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, August 24** – 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 Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received in audience His Excellency Lawrence Wong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of

Finance of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, Mrs. Wong.

During the Audience Ceremony, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency discussed on bilateral and regional issues of mutual importance to both countries. The Audience Ceremony was held at the St. Regis Hotel.

## Further strengthening unique and special relations

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, August 24** – 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 attended a Welcoming Ceremony on the occasion of the State Visit of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. The ceremonies were held at the Istana.

Upon arrival at the Istana, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was welcomed by Her Excellency Halimah Jacob, President of the Republic of Singapore. His Majesty and Her Excellency then received a Salute of Honour mounted by members of the Singapore Armed Forces. The delegation of Cabinet Ministers from Singapore was then introduced to His Majesty, and members of the Brunei Darussalam delegation were introduced to Her Excellency President of the Republic of Singapore.

Following the Welcoming Ceremony, His Majesty then attended a Courtesy Call with Her Excellency President of the Republic of Singapore. During the meeting, His Majesty and Her Excellency, among other things, discussed on the



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 signing a guestbook during the courtesy call.

excellent cooperation between both countries in currency interchangeability, defence, education and people-to-people exchanges.

Both leaders also welcomed the resumption of bilateral engagements with the reopening of borders, including the 8<sup>th</sup> Young Leaders Programme that was held on August 3 to 5, as well as the signing

of four Memoranda of Understanding between both countries.

After the Courtesy Call, His Majesty and Her Excellency the President of the Republic of Singapore attended a State Banquet hosted by Her Excellency.

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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 with Her Excellency Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik with the President of the Republic of Singapore during the ceremony.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness with Her Excellency President of Singapore during the courtesy call.

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At the State Banquet, His Majesty in a *titah* (royal speech), reaffirmed the close friendship between Brunei and Singapore and acknowledged the wide range of cooperation that has flourished between both countries.

His Majesty also reaffirmed the importance for Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore, as two small countries in Southeast Asia, to work together for continued prosperity and resilience. The signing of four Memoranda of Understanding during the State Visit was welcomed by His Majesty, in contributing

towards the future preparedness of both countries.

In this regard, His Majesty acknowledged and thanked the Republic of Singapore for

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His Majesty and His Royal Highness with Her Excellency President of Singapore and Singapore officials during the ceremony.



His Majesty delivering a *titah* (royal speech) during the State Banquet.

#### From page 8

the role it has played as a regional partner and friend, as well as its continuous support to Brunei Darussalam.

In concluding the *titah*, His Majesty looked forward to the further strengthening of the unique and special relations enjoyed by both countries.

His Majesty also wished the President, people and government of the Republic of Singapore for continued progress and prosperity, particularly on the occasion of the Republic of Singapore's 57<sup>th</sup> National Day, which was celebrated on August 9.

Prior to that, Her Excellency President of the Republic of Singapore delivered a speech, recalling His Majesty's first State Visit to the Republic of Singapore in 1990 and highlighted that this State Visit is a

highpoint of high-level exchanges between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore, especially following the re-opening of borders.

Her Excellency also recalled the recent visit of His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office for the 8<sup>th</sup> Young Leaders' Programme.

In this regard, these exchanges aim to deepen the strong bilateral relationship between both sides, as well as to forge new paths of cooperation.

Her Excellency affirmed that the relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore are underpinned by longstanding and defence and economic cooperation, including the Currency Interchangeability Agreement established

in 1967, which remains a symbol of mutual trust and interdependence.

Her Excellency extended appreciation to Brunei Darussalam for its Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2021 towards building a more resilient, people-centric, inclusive, and forwardlooking region, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, Her Excellency reiterated the special bond between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore, as demonstrated by the close cooperation in areas including vaccinations, supply chains and connectivity between both countries during the pandemic.

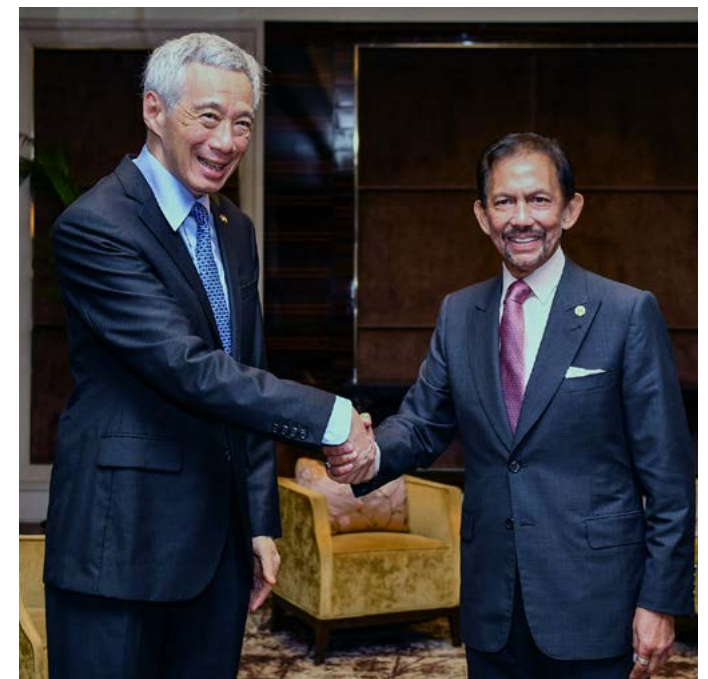
Prior to departure from the Istana, His Majesty was bade farewell by Her Excellency. Accompanying His Majesty to the ceremonies was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

## Meeting with Singapore's Prime Minister

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, August 25** – 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 held a Meeting with His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore.

During the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, among other matters, reaffirmed the long-standing bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore as well as cooperation between both countries through the signing of four Memoranda of Understanding in the fields of civil service, education, green economy and food security. Both leaders also discussed on the exploration of new opportunities for cooperation by both countries. The meeting was held at the St. Regis Hotel.

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 with His Excellency Prime Minister of Singapore.





## HM visits Singapore Air Force

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, August 25** - 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 visited the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) at Sembawang Air Base.

The arrival of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was greeted by His Excellency Dr. Ng Eng Hen, Minister for Defence, Republic of Singapore; Lieutenant-General Melvyn Ong, Chief of Defence Force, Singapore Armed Forces; and Major-General Kelvin Khong, Chief of Air Force, RSAF. His Majesty and His Excellency then proceeded to inspect a Guard of Honour, mounted by members of the Republic of



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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 shares a light moment with His Excellency Minister for Defence, Republic of Singapore (above).

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam inspecting the Guard of Honour.



His Majesty in a group photo during the visit to Sembawang Air Base.



His Majesty onboard the H225M Medium Lift helicopter.



His Majesty receiving a *pesambah* (souvenir) from Chief of Air Force Major-General Kelvin Khong, RSAF.

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Singapore Air Force.

His Majesty was briefed on developments under RSAF as well as the modernisation of its assets such as the H225M Medium Lift Helicopter. His Majesty later boarded the H225M helicopter, a modern multi-role helicopter that meets operational demands of RSAF for operations such as Search and Rescue, aeromedical evacuation and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief operations.

At the end of the visit, His Majesty was briefed on the Aster 30 missile system, an air defence operation which has been integrated into RSAF's Island Air Defence System.



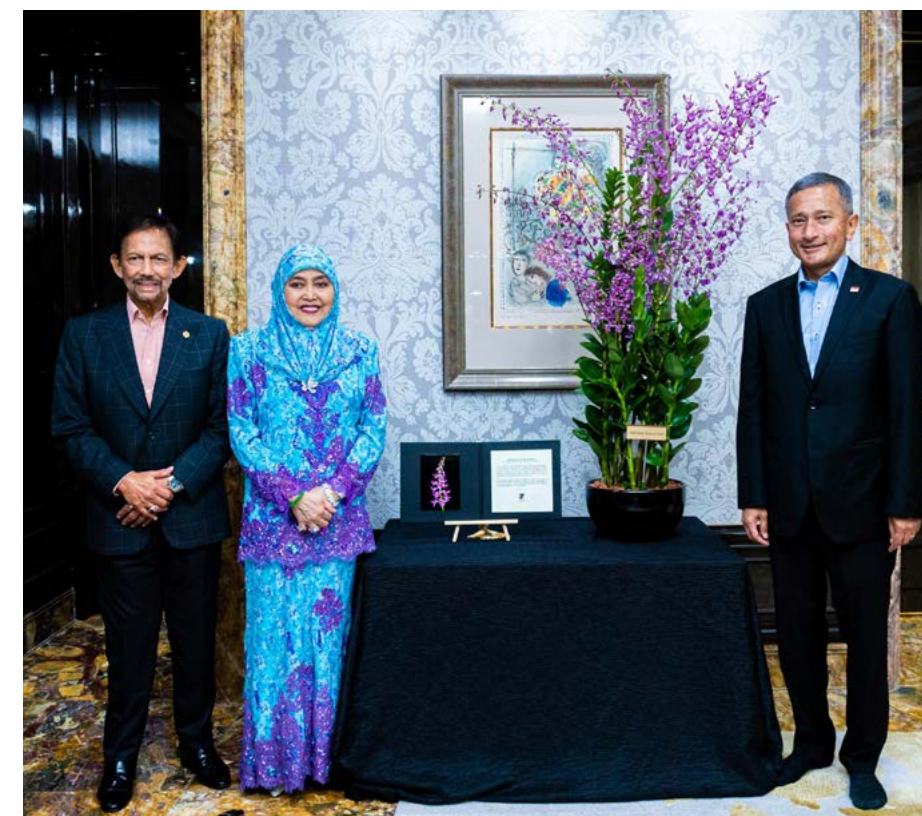
His Majesty was briefed on developments under the RSAF and the modernisation of its assets.

## Orchids named after Their Majesties

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, August 26** - 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 Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam were presented with a new Orchid hybrid on the occasion of Their Majesties' State Visit to the Republic of Singapore.

The Orchid was presented by His Excellency Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Republic of Singapore. The Orchid, registered as *Dendrobium 'Hassanal Saleha'*, is a hybrid of the *Dendrobiums* 'Singa Friendship' and 'Simon Tan'.

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 Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam with a new Orchid hybrid registered as *Dendrobium 'Hassanal Saleha'*.





## State visit ends



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 prior to leaving Republic of Singapore.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik reciting *doa selamat* prior to departure.



Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; and other members of the royal family.



**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, August 27** - 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 Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam; and other members of the royal family left the Republic of Singapore after concluding the State Visit, which began on August 23, 2022.

The last State Visit of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha to the Republic of Singapore was in July 2017 to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Currency Interchangeability Agreement and to attend the Official Launching of the Abode of Peace & the Lion City: A Brunei-Singapore Exhibition at the Singapore Philatelic Museum.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti reciting the *doa selamat* (left).

## 266 receive State Honorary medals



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; 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; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah upon arrival at the event.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 1** - 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 conferred Brunei Darussalam State Decorations to 266 recipients in conjunction with His Majesty's 76<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration.

Also present were 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; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

The ceremony took place at Balai Singgahsana Indera Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty first conferred The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei

Third Class (S.N.B.) to Pengiran Hajah Siti Nirmala binti Pengiran Haji Mohamad, Permanent Secretary at PMO.

This was followed by The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei Third Class (S.M.B.) to 50 recipients comprising government officers and from the private sector.

Meanwhile, six other recipients were conferred The Most Eminent Order of Islam Brunei Fourth Class (S.U.B.).

The Monarch also conferred The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei Fourth Class (P.S.B.) to 187 recipients, followed by The Most Eminent Order of Islam Brunei Fifth Class (P.U.B) conferred to 22 recipients.

A *Doa selamat* was read by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the event.

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His Majesty conferring Brunei Darussalam State Decorations in conjunction with His Majesty's 76<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration.







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 conferring Brunei Darussalam State Decorations in conjunction with His Majesty's 76<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration (above and below).



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam conferring Brunei Darussalam State Decorations in conjunction with His Majesty's 76<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration (above and below).



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His Majesty and members of the royal family at the ceremony.



Attendees of the ceremony.



Yang Berhormat the State Mufti reciting the doa selamat.



Attendees of the ceremony.



## ASEAN: Addressing Challenges Together

### From front page

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 said this in a *titah* (royal speech) to mark ASEAN Day.

"We will continue to work with all ASEAN Member States in strengthening ASEAN's community-building efforts in promoting lasting peace, security and stability, sustainable development, inclusive economic growth, as well as shared prosperity and social progress in the region," said His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Earlier in the *titah*, His Majesty said this year marks the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the establishment of ASEAN, and ASEAN Day marks the occasion to celebrate our achievements and contemplate the future of the association as we strive to realise a

people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN. Despite the challenges the region faced over the years, from the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to geopolitical competition, ASEAN will continue to work closely with its member states and external partners to advance the region's recovery and continued development for the peace and prosperity of all its people.

"Looking ahead," said His Majesty, "Brunei Darussalam is ready to work with other ASEAN Member States in setting the direction to chart the ASEAN Community's post-2025 vision, whereby the region will be characterised by strong neighbourly relations, closer friendship and cooperation that prioritises regional peace and security, including the well-being and livelihoods of its people."

The Monarch also extended his best wishes to the people of ASEAN and for continued efforts towards a bright future for the region and its people.



## National Youth Day: Youth critical component of nation



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 His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office upon arrival at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 9** - Youth are a critical component of a nation and they need to be moulded into future drivers of national development.

This was stated by 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 during the 17<sup>th</sup> National Youth Day Celebration at the International Convention Centre.

We can see the willingness of today's youth to venture into new fields, such as economy, digital, social innovation, agri-business and creative.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam expressed pride in the youth for their commitment to excellence at national, regional and international levels.



"For instance, in terms of economic development, youth entrepreneurs have produced goods that are present in overseas markets especially in communication technology, smart application and software development, agri-business, textile and creative industries," added His Majesty.

Following this, His Majesty welcomed more youth involvement in entrepreneurship to empower the Sultanate's economy.

In terms of leadership, the nation's youth have proven to be capable leaders, with some receiving recognition for the commitments in volunteerism, humanitarianism and sports.

Recently, youth athletes have recently made the nation proud by winning medals in prestigious sporting championships including the 31<sup>st</sup> South East Asian Games (SEA Games) in the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and the World Games 2022 in the United States.

"However," His Majesty reminded, "even without winning medals, Brunei Darussalam has always carried its name with distinction, and highlighted the importance of maintaining the good image of the country 'through our actions and activities.'"

His Majesty stressed that the youth are still obligated to not neglect noble behaviour and to not put aside the Bruneian mould, Malay Islamic Monarchy if they want to gain success, as it is the most suitable strategic platform to be used.

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A ledge recited by some 50 youths involved in volunteerism, who have excelled in their fields, led by Haji Abdul Mateen Bolchini bin Haji Ahmad, entrepreneur of Tambang.BN.

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His Majesty also urged government agencies, non-governmental organisations, the private sector and the society to continuously support the National Youth Policy and Strategy to meet its targets.

Accompanying His Majesty at the event were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah.

At the ceremony, a ledge was then recited by some 50 youths involved in volunteerism, who have excelled in their fields, led by Haji Abdul Mateen Bolchini bin Haji Ahmad, entrepreneur of Tambang.BN.

His Majesty then presented the National Youth Awards 2022 – the recipient of the Excellent Youth Award was Dr. Awang Mohd. Hilmy Baihaqy bin Haji Awang Yussof, Lecturer, Head of Strategic Planning Unit, Head of Professional Relations Unit, Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University.

The Youth Service Award was awarded to Pengiran Haji Ahmad Fadillah Akhbar bin Pengiran Haji Sellahhuddin, Acting Information Officer, Department of Information; whereas Awang Abdul Aziz bin Haji Hamdan, Village Head of Kampung Sengkarai

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His Majesty presenting the Excellent Youth Award to Dr. Awang Mohd. Hilmy Baihaqy bin Haji Awang Yussof, Lecturer, Head of Strategic Planning Unit, Head of Professional Relations Unit, Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University.



His Majesty presenting the Youth Service Award to Pengiran Haji Ahmad Fadillah Akhbar bin Pengiran Haji Sellahhuddin, Acting Information Officer, Department of Information.



His Majesty presenting the Young Youth Leader Award to Awang Abdul Aziz bin Haji Hamdan, Village Head of Kampung Sengkarai.



His Majesty presenting the Excellent Project Award for Youth to a representative of the BloodKad Project.



was awarded the Young Youth Leader Award; and the Excellent Project Award for Youth went to the BloodKad Project.

His Majesty and members of the royal family also toured the Youth Day Exhibition concourse area, which focussed on youths who have excelled in regional and international arenas in the

fields of entrepreneurship, technology and innovation.

The exhibition showcased four clusters - Lifestyle, Knowledge, Tech & Innovation and Sustainable Development.

This year's celebration still maintains the theme "Belia Siaga Masa Depan", which is inline with His Majesty's noble aspiration to see the country's youth always ready to face future challenges.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, viewing the Youth Day Exhibition (above and below).



His Majesty, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah in a group photo.

## UBD Convocation: Produce industry-ready graduates



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, the Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) in a *titah* (royal speech).

**TUNGKU LINK, August 22** - 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, Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) in a *titah* (royal speech) said that social and emotional intelligence must be inculcated from primary to tertiary level education.

Universities should continue to produce future proof and employable graduates. Therefore, UBD GenNEXT curriculum is producing graduates with both qualities. However, it should be reviewed in line with UBD's vision of 'National Relevance, Global Impact'.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered the *titah* at the 34<sup>th</sup> UBD Convocation Ceremony held at the Chancellor Hall, UBD.

His Majesty further emphasised that with the adoption of digital learning, social and emotional intelligence should not be neglected.

"This is because students should not only

excel in academics but also be equipped with perseverance, diligence, faithfulness, loyalty and courage," said His Majesty.

His Majesty added that in the busyness of the students with the agenda of academic studies and daily life, His Majesty was also glad that UBD has strengthened its Al-Quran guidance programme with the introduction of the Quranic Journey aimed at assisting Muslim students' understanding of the holy book and foster the love for Al-Quran in line with the university's motto 'Towards Human Excellence'.

His Majesty also welcomed innovation in introducing blended learning where graduates not only receive degrees but also professional certification.

In relation to this, the Monarch expressed happiness that the university has introduced a three-year Bachelor of Applied Artificial Intelligence Programme beginning academic session 2022/2023.

His Majesty noted that the programme is a collaboration with Coursera – one of the largest online course providers – with professional certification from renowned

companies such as Google and IBM.

"I hope that the graduates will be industry-ready with higher chances of employment locally and abroad as well as self-employment," said His Majesty.

Touching on careers, the Monarch said he is aware that UBD's Centre for Lifelong Learning is working on guidelines and regulations for micro-credentials such as micro-bachelor and micro-master to be introduced for the Brunei population to upgrade their capabilities and improve their career progression.

On ranking, His Majesty said UBD's Modern Languages was placed in the QS World University Rankings by Subject this year.

Meanwhile in research, the Monarch congratulated the university for its rise in citation impact noted by Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

Therefore, His Majesty welcomed the involvement of industries with higher education institutions in research to contribute to national development.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Pro-Chancellor of UBD upon arrival at UBD Chancellor Hall.



His Majesty presenting certificates to graduates.







His Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office viewing the exhibition featuring the use of technology to elevate Bruneian culture and art.



His Majesty speaking to a graduate at the ceremony.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince presenting certificates to recipients.



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A total of 1,028 graduates, comprising 18 in PhD, 296 in Master's Degree, 703 Bachelor's Degree and 11 in Diploma were feted during the convocation.

His Majesty conferred PhD and Bachelor's Degree certificates to graduates in the morning session, while Masters, Graduate Diploma and Diploma recipients received their certificates in the afternoon from His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, the Pro-Chancellor of UBD.

The reading of Surah Al-Anbiya was presented by Awang Ahmad Termizie bin Ahmad Baihakie, a fourth year Bachelor's degree in Health Sciences student.

This was followed by a welcoming address from Dr. Hazri bin Haji Kifle, UBD Vice-Chancellor.

His Majesty then delivered the *titah* of consent to confer the degrees to the 721 graduates. After the presentation of certificates, His Majesty and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince viewed a special exhibition featuring the use of technology to elevate Bruneian culture and art.



Proud graduates with their certificates.



## 12<sup>th</sup> UNISSA Hafli Al-Takharruj: *Dakwah* training needed

**BERAKAS, August 29** - *Dakwah* depends highly on knowledge and expertise, without these, the best outcomes may not be attainable.

"Thus, UNISSA should provide programmes or training for *Da'ie* (religious preachers)," said 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, Chancellor of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) in a *titah* (royal speech) at the 12<sup>th</sup> UNISSA Hafli Al-Takharruj, at the International Convention Centre (ICC).

The suggestion was related to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's unscheduled visit to the Islamic Da'wah Centre recently. There, the Monarch said *Dai'e* should be provided with *Dakwah* training or given the opportunity to undertake advanced studies in the field.

"Aside from *Dakwah*, other fields should also be strengthened and students are encouraged to obtain exemplary academic results," said His Majesty.

"I'm confident that UNISSA has the ability to achieve success in programmes it offers," added His Majesty.

His Majesty also emphasised that each success is an 'achievement', and with these achievements, the Faculty of Islamic Economics and Finance won the Global Islamic Finance Awards (GIFA) in the category of GIFA Market Leadership Award (Education in Islamic Banking and Finance) 2021.

UNISSA also reached the Top 201-300 in World's Universities with Real Impact (WURI) rankings headed by the Institute for Policy and Strategy on National Competitiveness (IPSNC).

Meanwhile, the Entrepreneurship Project course being offered by Faculty of Islamic Economics and Finance UNISSA has been placed in the Top 51-100 in the Entrepreneurial Spirit category.

The ranking system is supported by four international organisations – Hanseatic League of Universities (HLU); the Institute for Industrial Policy Studies (IPS); the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR); and Tailor Institute, Franklin University Switzerland (FUS).

"The university's achievements are *Syi'ar* and a symbol of excellence, said His Majesty.

His Majesty then congratulated UNISSA for its success.



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, the Chancellor of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) delivers a *titah* (royal speech).



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, the Pro-Chancellor of UNISSA at the 12<sup>th</sup> UNISSA Hafli Al-Takharruj.

"To have continuous success, UNISSA should have a system in place to stay relevant, especially in student affairs such as learning and teaching schedules, and co-curriculum activities with high standards," said the Monarch.

Students' achievements are landmarks of all higher learning institutions. It is therefore important that studies run smoothly and uninterrupted by too many non-academic activities.

"This must be taken seriously so that the objective of ensuring

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His Majesty presenting certificates to graduates.





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quality graduates are not derailed," said His Majesty.

Aside from producing quality graduates, UNISSA is making meaningful contributions to the community.

"An example is a *waqaf* of *Mushaf* UNISSA that is also available to foreign communities," said His Majesty.

The Monarch noted that UNISSA is offering programmes on halal science and agriculture, with both programmes being conducted in collaboration with other agencies to strengthen food security and halal products.

For agriculture and halal products, research is needed on specimens, be they fresh or preserved. The tests and analyses conducted in laboratory will involve equipment and chemicals requiring discipline and high standards. To help achieve this, His Majesty has consented to the establishment of UNISSA Ibnu Sina Scientific Laboratory Centre in Sinaut Campus.

The Monarch is optimistic that the laboratory will spur innovation through modern technology and serve as an investment in producing capable researchers among the graduates.

Also present at the ceremony was His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, the Pro-Chancellor of UNISSA.

A total of 431 students, comprising one PhD, 38 Master's Degree, 13 Postgraduate Diploma, 339 Bachelor's Degree and 40 Diploma, were feted during the ceremony.

Dr. Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, Rector of UNISSA in his welcoming remarks highlighted the university's achievements, including the graduation of the first batch of Bachelor of Halal Science Programme.



His Majesty, Chancellor of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) and His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, the Pro-Chancellor of UNISSA with the graduates.

The ceremony continued with the presentation of certificates by His Majesty to UNISSA graduates, including 22 international students, namely from the Kingdom of Thailand, Indonesia, the Republic of Maldives, the Republic of Singapore, Malaysia, the Arab Republic of Egypt, Gambia and the Republic of Uganda.

This year, some 74 students graduated in Bachelor of Halal Science and 13 for National Diploma in *Da'ie* and Leadership.

One of UNISSA's missions is to produce pious and excellent leaders who can contribute to the development of the *ummah* through academic excellence, research and community services.

It is hoped that the graduates will continue to serve the community with *taqwa* (pious), leadership, integrity, and excellence.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince mingling with graduates.



Graduates with their certificates.



## New Appointments

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN** – 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 has consented to:

- Appoint Her Excellency Hajah Johariah binti Haji Abd. Wahab, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of the Philippines as Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, effective from August 10.
- Promote and appoint Awang Ajman bin Haji Meludin, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Vision, Finance and Cabinet at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) as Permanent Secretary for Civil Service Governance at PMO, effective from August 17.
- Promote and appoint Dayang Hajah Nor Hashimah binti Haji Mohammed Taib, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Security, Enforcement and Law at the PMO as Permanent Secretary for Security and Law at PMO, effective from August 17.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Young Leaders' Programme (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 (PMO); and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman prior to departing for Singapore.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince; Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman; and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Faathimah Az-Zahraa' Raihaanul Bolkiah during the *doa selamat*.

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Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman; and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Faathimah Az-Zahraa' Raihaanul Bolkiah.

Upon arrival at the VIP Complex, Changi International Airport, Their Royal Highnesses were welcomed by His Excellency Dr. Mohamad Maliki Osman, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Education and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs as Minister-in-Attendance; and Madam Saadiah Shahal as Lady-in-Attendance.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince being greeted by Singapore's Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Education and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Mohamad Maliki Osman at Changi International Airport.



## HRH Crown Prince visits Victoria School

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, August 3** - 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 Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman visited the Victoria School at Siglap Link.

Upon arrival, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah were greeted by His Excellency Chan Chun Sing, Minister of Education.

Their Royal Highnesses were briefed by Mr. Chow Weisi, Principal of Victoria School, who explained on the history of the establishment, achievements and future outlook of the school.

Their Royal Highness then presented a collection of educational books to student representatives, which among others things, aims to be a source of reference to learn the Malay Language as well as an effort to share the historical background of the sultanate and culture of Brunei Darussalam.

At the school, Their Royal Highnesses also observed a biology class which incorporates the latest technology, and interacted with students on the 'respiration' exercise in the science lab. The lesson showcases how technology can support learning and provide the link to real life applications.



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 Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman visit the Victoria School at Siglap Link.

Their Royal Highnesses then visited the Eco Community Garden – which was designed to provide learning opportunities for environmental education – as well as other basic facilities including the Victoria Hostel.

Victoria School is the second oldest government secondary school in the Singapore. It originated as an English class established in 1876 in Kampong Glam Malay Branch School. In 2007, it pioneered having Physical Education as an 'O' Level subject and was also among four schools in Singapore to pioneer the Regional Studies Programme by the Ministry of Education.

At present, the school is one of the top schools in Singapore, known for its emphasis on character and leadership excellence.

## Luncheon hosted by Singapore President



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 Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman with Her Excellency Halimah Yacob, the President of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, Mr. Mohammed bin Abdullah Alhabshee during the Luncheon.

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, August 3** - 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) and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman attended a Luncheon which was hosted by Her Excellency Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, Mr. Mohammed bin Abdullah Alhabshee.

The Luncheon was held at the Istana.

Upon arrival at the East Drawing Room, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah were welcomed by Her Excellency the President of the Republic of Singapore and spouse.

At the Luncheon, His Royal Highness and Her Excellency, among other things, discussed ways to utilise the Young Leaders' Programme in further expanding existing bilateral relations of both countries and exchanged ideas to explore new opportunities to strengthen long-standing relations.

## Visit to Integrated Public Service Centre

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, August 3** - 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) made a visit to the Integrated Public Service Centre (IPSC) at Our Tampines Hub (OTH).

At Our Tampines Hub, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince was welcomed by His Excellency Masagos Zulkifli bin Masagos Mohamad, Minister for Social and Family Development, Second

Minister for Health and Minister-in-Charge of Muslim Affairs, Republic of Singapore.

His Royal Highness was then briefed on OTH and the Public Service Division, followed with a visit to the Eco Community Gardens and to take a closer look at the facilities at IPSC.



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 during the visit to the Integrated Public Service Centre (IPSC).

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IPSC is a one-stop centre that provides essential government public service to the community in Tampines and its surroundings areas such as bill payments, job applications and financial assistance as well as housing.

In addition, IPSC also promotes digital services including self-service kiosks, video consultation services as well as book loans and booking of sports facilities.

The objective of the centre is to assist the public in their dealings with different

agencies.

Meanwhile, OTH is Singapore's first and largest integrated community and lifestyle hub that uses smart nation initiatives to efficiently and effectively serve the communities, as well as a comprehensive management system that protects the environment.

Facilities provided at OTH includes sports facilities, a regional library, an arts centre and business premises thus making it a citizen-centric hub.

In the meantime, Her Royal Highness



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman with Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman during the visit to the National Gallery (above); and MOE Kindergarten @ Punggol View (below).



Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman with Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman visited the MOE Kindergarten @ Punggol View.

Upon arrival at the school, Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah was welcomed by Dr. Vivien Ang Wek Cheng, Principal of Punggol Primary School.

Her Royal Highness was then briefed by Michelle Thomas, Centre Head, on the background of MOE Kindergarten @ Punggol View. Her Royal Highness also toured several facilities at the school and interacted with the kindergarten pupils.

MOE Kindergarten (MK) provides quality preschool education, which among other things focused on holistic development; developing confidence and social skills; and fostering bilingualism through learning activities in both English and Mother Tongue Languages (Chinese, Malay and Tamil language).

The purpose of the visit is to take a closer look at the country's initiative in kindergarten level under the Government of the Republic of Singapore, through the Ministry of Education.

Following the visit to the MOE Kindergarten @ Punggol View, Her Royal Highness then visited the National Gallery, where Her Royal Highness was welcomed by Chris Lee, Deputy Chief Executive Officer; Suenne Tan, Senior Director of Museum Planning and Audience Engagement; and Dee Chia, Director (Learning).

During the visit, Her Royal Highness visited exhibitions in the Children's Biennale Gallery such as 'Because It Makes Me Feel', 'My Ink-credible Adventure' and 'Conversations with an Octopus'. These interactive exhibitions, among other things, focused on awareness on the environment and climate change, creativity on digital platforms as well as the relationship between human and nature.

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## Official Dinner hosted by His Excellency Teo Chee Hean



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) at the official dinner hosted by His Excellency Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security and His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Republic of Singapore.

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, August 3** - 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 Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman this evening attended an Official Dinner hosted by His Excellency Teo Chee Hean, Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security; and His

Excellency Lawrence Wong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Republic of Singapore.

Upon arrival at the State Room, His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness were welcomed by His Excellency Teo Chee Hean; His Excellency Lawrence Wong and spouse, Mrs. Wong.

The dinner was held at Shangri-La Hotel Singapore.

## Morning outdoor activity at River Wonders

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, August 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 (PMO) and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman joined a Morning Outdoor Activity at River Wonders.



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 Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman; and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Faathimah Az-Zahraa' Raihaanul Bolkiah took in the sights and sounds of River Wonders.

Accompanying Their Royal Highnesses were Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman; and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Faathimah Az-Zahraa' Raihaanul Bolkiah.

Upon arrival at River Wonders, Their Royal Highnesses were greeted by His Excellency Teo Chee Hean, Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security; His Excellency Lawrence Wong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of

Finance and spouse, Mrs. Wong; His Excellency Masagos Zulkifli bin Masagos Mohamad, Minister for Social and Family

Development, Second Minister for Health and Minister-in-Charge of Muslim Affairs; and His Excellency Dr. Mohamad Maliki Osman, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Education and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore as Minister-in-Attendance.

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His Royal Highness the Crown Prince; Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman; and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Faathimah Az-Zahraa' Raihaanul Bolkiah at River Wonders.

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Their Royal Highnesses, among other things, visited several areas in River Wonders including the Amazon Flooded Forest, the Squirrel Monkey Forest and Panda Exhibit.

Prior to departure, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman; and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Faathimah Az-Zahraa' Raihaanul Bolkiah exchanged gifts with His Excellency Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security.

This visit, among other things, provided the opportunity for closer interactions between the younger generation of leaders from Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore, which clearly reflects the special and long-standing relations between both countries. In addition, the visit also aims to increase knowledge of animals, flora and fauna, awareness on the environment and nature, as well as the preservation of endangered animals.



Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Faathimah Az-Zahraa' Raihaanul Bolkiah exchanges gift with His Excellency Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security.

## Courtesy call and Luncheon



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 His Excellency Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore during the Courtesy Call.

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, August 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 held a Courtesy Call and attended a Luncheon which was hosted by His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore. The events were held at the Istana.

Upon arrival at the Istana, His Royal Highness was greeted by His Excellency

the Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore. During the Courtesy Call at the West Drawing Room, His Royal Highness and His Excellency, among other things, exchanged views to further expand bilateral cooperation between Brunei and Singapore including cooperation in the downstream industry, exploring strategies to protect the environment and sharing experiences on post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery.

Both sides have agreed to establish a training program for civil servants from Brunei towards increasing their capacity

and cooperation under relevant sectors, through work placements in government agencies of the Singapore. Touching on expanding education cooperation, a scholarship will be introduced to open up opportunities for Brunei Darussalam students with excellent performance to pursue their studies from secondary level until higher education in the Singapore.

After the Courtesy Call, His Royal Highness, together with His Excellency attended the Luncheon at the Banquet Hall.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and His Excellency Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore share a light moment during the Luncheon.

## Visit to Changi Naval Base

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, August 5** - 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 visited the Changi Naval Base, Republic of Singapore Navy.

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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 upon arrival at the Changi Naval Base, Republic of Singapore Navy.







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 being briefed on the 'Whole of Government Maritime Security Concept' and 'Singapore's Strategy for safeguarding Maritime Security'.

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The arrival of His Royal Highness at the Singapore Maritime Crisis Centre (SMCC) was greeted by His Excellency Zaqy Mohamad, Senior Minister of State for Defence and Manpower; Rear Admiral Aaron Beng, Chief of Navy; and Rear Admiral Yong Wei Hsiung, Commander Maritime Security Taskforce.

His Royal Highness was then briefed on the

'Whole of Government Maritime Security Concept' and 'Singapore's Strategy for safeguarding Maritime Security', which among other things highlighted the importance of identifying early threats, by emphasising information sharing and closer inter-agency coordination.

His Royal Highness then boarded the RSS Sovereignty Littoral Mission Vessel (LMV), in which His Royal Highness was greeted by Senior Lieutenant Colonel Ricky Low,



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince during his visit aboard the RSS Sovereignty Littoral Mission Vessel (LMV).

Commander of the Second Flotilla.

This vessel is an asset of the Republic of Singapore Navy that is specially designed to meet operational requirements and uses the latest technology to enable the overall operational system run more efficiently.

At the RSS Sovereignty LMV, His Royal Highness was briefed on the vessel's background and Singapore's Maritime Security (MARSEC) area of operations. This was followed with a visit to several parts on the vessel such as the Integrated Command Centre as well as witnessing deterrence operation demonstrations of the Whole of Government Approach involving the Police Coast Guard (PCG); the Singapore Civil Defense Force (SCDF); the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).

Before concluding the visit, His Royal Highness was introduced to three officers from security agencies of the Government of Brunei Darussalam who are currently deployed in Singapore. One of the officers is part of the team of 201 International Liaison Officers from 26 countries at the Information Fusion Centre. At this centre, the International Liaison Officers share information and best practices, contributing to overall Maritime Security. This visit also aims to further enhance defence cooperation as well as sharing of knowledge in the fields of maritime and regional security.



His Royal Highness during his visit (above and left).



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince during his visit aboard the RSS Sovereignty Littoral Mission Vessel (LMV).

Commander of the Second Flotilla.

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## HRH Crown Prince leaves Singapore

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, August 6** – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman, left the Republic of Singapore after concluding the 8<sup>th</sup> Young Leaders' Programme. Accompanying His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness were Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Faathimah Az-Zahraa' Raihaanul Bolkiah.

Present at the VIP Complex, Changi International Airport to bid farewell were His Excellency Dr. Mohamad Maliki Osman, Minister at the Prime Minister's



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 Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman reciting the *doa selamat* before the return flight to Brunei Darussalam.

Office and Second Minister for Education and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs as Minister-in-Attendance; and Madam Saadiah Shahal as Lady-in-Attendance. Also present were His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Sidek bin Ali, High

Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Singapore; His Excellency Heng Aik Yeow, High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam as well as their respective spouses.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Faathimah Az-Zahraa' Raihaanul Bolkiah prior to departure.



## Launch of UBD Convocation Festival 2022



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, and Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) during the launch of the UBD Convocation Festival 2022.

**TUNGKU LINK, August 11** - 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, and Pro-Chancellor of Universiti

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His Royal Highness the Crown Prince viewing one of the exhibits at the UBD Convocation Festival 2022.





His Royal Highness officiating the UBD Mini Gallery.



His Royal Highness being briefed on an exhibit at the UBD Convocation Festival 2022.

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Brunei Darussalam (UBD) launched the UBD Convocation Festival 2022 with the theme “Integrating Nature and Technology for a More Sustainable Future”.

At the festival, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince also officiated the Pro-Chancellor Arts Centre Building, followed by signing the inauguration plaques of the UBD Convocation Festival and the Pro-Chancellor Arts Centre Building.

His Royal Highness then watched a short video before proceeding to take a closer look at an exhibition that showcased research projects of UBD students and alumni - The Development of Building Models with Vertical Greenery Systems for Energy Efficient Buildings project; Ground and Surface Water Investigation for Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) in Brunei Darussalam; the Study on the Dynamic Characteristics of a Bridge Using a Remote Bridge Health Condition Monitoring System; and Power System Optimisation Considering ELD & NEM Project.

His Royal Highness also officiated the UBD Mini Gallery.

The festival was held to celebrate UBD graduates who successfully completed their respective studies.

Attendees during the launch of the festival (left).



His Royal Highness taking a closer look at one of the exhibits during the tour of the UBD Mini Gallery featured at the UBD Convocation Festival 2022.



## HRH officiates UNISSA's 12<sup>th</sup> Mahrajan Haflut Takharuj

**BERAKAS, August 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 as Pro-Chancellor of Sultan Sharif Ali

Islamic University (UNISSA), officiated UNISSA's 12<sup>th</sup> Mahrajan Hafl Takharuj (Convocation Festival) at the International Convention Centre.

The reading of Surah Al-Fatihah and *doa selamat* was led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato

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His Royal Highness the Crown Prince viewing the books published by the university.



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 and Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), launching UNISSA's 12<sup>th</sup> Mahrajan Hafl Al-Takharuj (Convocation Festival).



His Royal Highness at the Mahrajan Hafl Al-Takharuj.



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Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince delivered a *sabda* (royal speech) and signed the UNISSA 12<sup>th</sup> Mahrajan Hafl Al-Takharuj inauguration plaque before touring the university showcase exhibition themed “*Teknologi Islam Memacu Pembangunan Ummah*” at the ICC Concourse.

The theme highlights the university's efforts in digital services, learning, and teaching and its contributions to the community.

The exhibition showcases the technology for the implementation of *Ibadah* and *Dakwah* as well as Islamic education and finance.

Among those exhibited was the UNISSA Mushaf Application Project under the UNISSA Digital Mushaf Project.

His Royal Highness also officiated the launching of 28 new books and journals published by the university as well as its Open Journal System (OJS).

Twelve books were published in the Malay language, eight in English, and four in Arabic. Four of the books were published in collaboration with Malaysian publisher IUM Press; six with UUM Press and one with USIM Press. Meanwhile, one book was published in collaboration with Airlangga University Press in Indonesia.

The books covered a range of topics, including syariah, halal, education, and management.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Haflut Takharuj ITQSHHB: Expand access to hafazan

**BERAKAS, August 17** – Nowadays more people are interested in learning Al-Quran memorisation techniques, thus the efforts to teach it need to be broadened and developed based on the requests and profile of the society at all levels.

There are several private study centres pioneered by local entrepreneurs including those who have been accredited by the



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince at the Mahrajan Hafl Al-Takharuj (above and below).



His Royal Highness then proceeded to mingle with the graduates and the university's academic staff. (U-ROV) as a *pesambah* (souvenir) from the university.

His Royal Highness also received an underwater remote-controlled vehicle (U-ROV) as a *pesambah* (souvenir) from the university.

The festival aims at enlivening the university's Hafl Al-Takharuj (Convocation Ceremony).

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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 delivers a *sabda* (royal speech).

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the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office made the *sabda* (royal speech) at the 10<sup>th</sup> Haflut Takharuj of Institut Tahfiz Al-Quran Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (ITQSHHB) at the International Convention Centre.

His Royal Highness hoped that the interest could become an inspiration for related parties to further expand the access to *hafazan* (memorisation) programmes towards the effort to complete the education system and *Tadabbur* Al-Quran in achieving the Zikir Nation aspiration.

With the growing number of 'Aliyah Qira'at Diploma alumni, His Royal Highness hoped that *Tahfiz* and *Qira'at* Al-Quran studies will be able to be expanded to all levels of society, indirectly helping to meet the goal of ITQSHHB, particularly in producing *huffaz* who are professional, viable as well as versatile and have the potential to shoulder the role as entrepreneurs, Islamic preachers, and community leaders, strongly holding on to the blessings of life while attaining reward as well as *syafa'at* from the Al-Quran.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince with His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik at the ceremony.

His Royal Highness also noted that from the number of students entering ITQSHHB, only a handful have obtained the Diploma.

However, even with a limited number of graduates, His Royal Highness expressed confidence that the quality of education and the blessings of the Al-Quran will guarantee their future as well as safety, while the country will be safeguarded from calamities.

"*Tahfiz* Al-Quran studies and *Qira'at* mastery inherited from the time of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and his companions, are still relevant until today," said His Royal Highness.

Accompanying His Royal Highness at the ceremony was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

The ceremony commenced with the reading of Surah A'basa verses 17 to 42 by Ahmad Ridhwan Azzawani bin Haji Zainul Arifin, followed by the interpretation of the verses read by Mohd. Afif Fikri bin Haji Abu Bakar.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib

Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs in his welcoming speech said that in the 13 years since the 'Aliyah Qira'at Diploma study programme was introduced, the country has produced 193 graduates with most pursuing studies at the degree level at local and foreign higher learning institutions.

"Alhamdulillah, they have not only blessed the country with their Al-Quran memorisation, but have also contributed their services in the government and private sectors," added the Minister of Religious Affairs.

"With their current level of education," said the Minister, "they will have the opportunity to be experts in various fields including religious education, therefore, they are part of the citizens helping to achieve the Brunei Vision 2035, who are highly educated and skilled. The education that they have attained is in line with the country's vision."

The ceremony was also saw a special religious talk; '*Keagungan Peranan Al-Quran*' delivered by Pengiran Haji Ahmad

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His Royal Highness presents certificates.



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Faris Ramadhani bin Pengiran Haji Sellahuddin.

His Royal Highness then presented the 'Aliyah Qira'at Diploma certificates to 19 graduates comprising 16 males and three females. Of the total, 12 received the *mumtaz* (excellent), five

received *jayyid jiddan* (very good), and two others received *jayyid* (good).

The awarding of 'Aliyah Qira'at Diploma to ITQSHHB graduates served to acknowledge their achievements and success, particularly in the fields of Al-Quran memorisation and *Qira'at* knowledge.

## 7<sup>th</sup> UTB Convocation Festival showcases contributions to society



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, the Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) officiating 7<sup>th</sup> UTB Convocation Festival.

**TUNGKU LINK, August 23** - 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, the Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) officiated the 7<sup>th</sup> UTB Convocation Festival.

After officiating the festival, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince toured the festival's exhibition held at Teratak Putih, Phase 2 UTB with the theme 'Science, Technology and Innovation'. The exhibition highlighted the UTB undergraduates' initiatives, projects and activities, which contributed significant impacts to society.

The Science Cluster showcased projects such as: the mediating role of religiosity



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince receives a *pesambah* (souvenir) from UTB students.

on the influence of resilience perceived stress, and self-efficacy on life satisfaction among Brunei university students in the pandemic era; Rama-Rama: an interactive 3D animation about Body Dysmorphic Disorder (BDD); and Nutritional compositions of 'zingiber officinale pasta' with the incorporation of herbal plants.

The Technology Cluster exhibited projects such as: IoT based water quality monitoring system in relation to flood and drought in Brunei; Eco Campus/ Capstone: Considering wheelchair users to poor housing accessibility with the help of collapse ramp; and Detection of early stages hand tremors using hand movement signal.

The Innovation Cluster showcased non-newtonian fluid models for blood

flow analysis under abnormal rheological states; and flexible pavement improvement through chemical soil stabilisation and rubberised asphalt modification.

Performances by students from the silat, tausyeh, traditional music and Japanese culture clubs also gained His Royal Highness' attention.

His Royal Highness received a *pesambah* (souvenir) in the form of a miniature Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha Bridge.

The annual festival celebrates students who have completed their studies and will receive their degrees at the UTB Convocation Ceremony on September 5.

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His Royal Highness touring the 7<sup>th</sup> UTB Convocation Festival Exhibition.







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, the Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) with UTB students.

## Step-Up for Breastfeeding

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 3** – Protecting, promoting and supporting breastfeeding practices is an important action. It is a smart and cost-effective practice that has led to healthy generations, stronger families and sustainable development.

In a message in conjunction with World Breastfeeding Week 2022, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health shared that the theme for this year's celebration is 'Step-Up for Breastfeeding'.

The theme draws attention in relation to breastfeeding as well as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Breastfeeding is key to post-pandemic sustainable development strategies as the practice improves nutritional status, ensure food security and reduces inequality among population.

"Therefore," said the Minister of Health, "the breastfeeding support system that has been affected due to the pandemic needs to be restored to pre-pandemic levels as to achieve global nutrition target by the year 2025."

The World Breastfeeding Week 2022

focuses on strengthening the capacity of individuals and stakeholders in protecting, promoting and supporting the practice of breastfeeding to various levels of society.

In conjunction with World Breastfeeding Week this year, the Sultanate will focus on promoting breastfeeding practices in the media alongside continuous learning activities.

Based on monitoring, the rate of infants exclusively breast-fed during the first six-month in Brunei Darussalam is short of the targeted goal of 50 per cent due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The rate of infants exclusively breast-fed in 2021 was 45 per cent and 43 per cent in 2020.

"Factors that hindered the progress was likely due to less health activities and breastfeeding talks being conducted as health facilities were battling to curb COVID-19 infections," said the Minister.

In the meantime, 10 breastfeeding workshops will also be carried out for expecting parents, with the hopes of identifying actions that could increase the rate of exclusive breastfeeding for infants.

"Currently," the Minister said, "not all workplaces and public places provide breastfeeding rooms or facilities to support working mothers to continue breastfeeding their children."

To support exclusive breastfeeding, it is recommended that employers and owners of public places provide facilities for private, comfortable, safe and clean breastfeeding.

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Yang Berhormat Minister of Health.

Brunei Darussalam aims to become a country that cultivates the practice of breastfeeding as a practice that is encouraged, supported, protected and

appreciated by every layer of society.

"In conjunction with World Breastfeeding Week 2022, let us unite, move together

and prove how we can achieve the SDGs 2030 by protecting, promoting and supporting the practice of breastfeeding," concluded the Minister.

## Reform global health security

**KINGDOM OF THAILAND, August 27** - Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health led the Brunei delegation at the 12<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) on Health and the Economy, held from August 25 to 26.

The meeting, themed 'Open to Partnership. Connect with the World. Balance Health and the Economy', focussed on the balance between health and the economy in implementing Putrajaya Vision 2040 while dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting also discussed investment in global health security to increase preparedness for the emergence of future pandemics.

During the meeting, the Minister of Health underscored the importance of developing and maintaining effective capacity and systems in preventing, detecting and responding to public health emergencies.

The Minister also stressed on the need to assess, update and reform the global health security system as well as continuous surveillance, based on transparency leveraging digital technology to connect information around the world.

The Minister also called for the sharing of information and data as well as ensuring transparency to build mutual trust and encourage unity among member nations' economies.

The meeting concluded with the issue of 'Chair's Statement on



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health and officers from the Ministry of Health at the 12<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) on Health and the Economy.

the 12<sup>th</sup> APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy' which agreed to strengthen the health security system through investment and use of digital technology, while continuing efforts to address health issues according to the interests of members' economies towards improving the sustainability of health systems and promote health of the Asia-Pacific people.

The 12<sup>th</sup> APEC on Health and the Economy was preceded by the APEC Health Working Group Meeting, which examined the mechanisms to strengthen effective health security systems in preventing, detecting and responding to public health emergencies.

## Four MoU inked

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, AUGUST 26** – At the sideline of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's State Visit to the Republic of Singapore, the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam signed four Memoranda of Understanding with the Government of the Republic of Singapore.

Signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in Public Service Capacity Development Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Finance and Economy; while the Government of the Republic of Singapore was represented by His Excellency Chan Chun Sing, Minister of Education and Minister-in-Charge of Public Service.

The objective of this MoU is to establish cooperation between Brunei Darussalam's PMO and Singapore's Public Services Division where Singapore will host the Secondment of Brunei's civil servants in its ministries and government-linked agencies, and provide training opportunities for them within Singapore's public service.

Signing the MoU on the Brunei Darussalam-Singapore Youth Education Scholarship on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Setia Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Mohd. Salleh, Minister of Education; while the Government

of the Republic of Singapore was represented by His Excellency Chan Chun Sing, Minister of Education and Minister-in-Charge of Public Service.

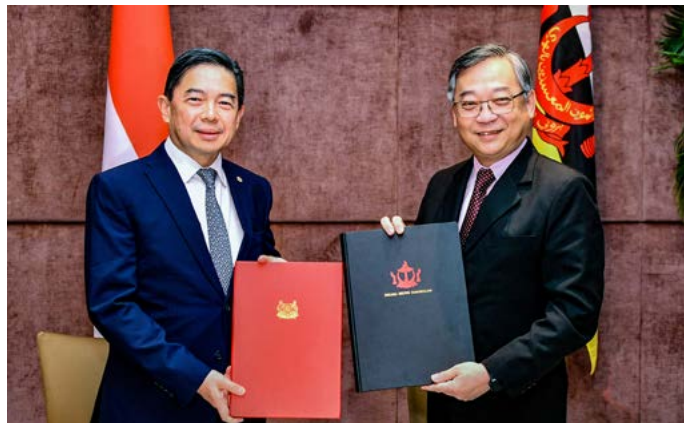
Under the MoU, the Brunei - Singapore Youth Education Scholarship aims to strengthen exchanges between youth and the future leaders of Brunei and the Singapore, as well as improve the affinity and understanding between both countries. The scholarship will be offered to selected Bruneian students at pre-tertiary level, starting from secondary school.

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Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy and His Excellency Minister of Education and Minister-in-Charge of Public Service exchanging documents.





Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy and His Excellency Minister for Trade and Industry exchanging documents.



Yang Berhormat Minister Education and His Excellency Minister of Education and Minister-in-charge of Public Service exchanging documents.

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Signing the MoU on Strengthening Trade and Investment Cooperation in Food and Medical Products and Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Energy and Green Economy on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Minister at the PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy; while the Government of the Republic of Singapore was represented by His Excellency Gan Kim Yong, Minister for Trade and Industry.

Under the MoU on Strengthening Trade and Investment Cooperation in Food and Medical Products, Brunei and Singapore will work together to facilitate, promote and strengthen food and medical products supply resilience and their efficient movement between the two countries.

There are three focus areas identified in the MoU; food supply, medical products and transportation solutions. The signing of this MoU also establishes a Brunei-Singapore Joint Committee, aimed to enhance the collaboration between the two

countries and facilitate the implementation of joint projects.

Meanwhile, the MoU on Cooperation in Energy and Green Economy sees the commitment of Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore to establish a framework for cooperation in the fields of energy and green economy through its four focus areas namely energy and green economy including energy transition, emerging low-carbon technologies; carbon capture and storage; and carbon market.

## Foster closer cooperation in dealing with regional issues

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 24** - Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism attended the Fifth Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry (MMRF5) virtually.

The MMRF5 Meeting was held in Chiang Mai, Kingdom of Thailand and was chaired by His Excellency Varawut Silpa-archa, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The MMRF5 was held to foster closer cooperation in dealing with regional issues, including increasing forest coverage, combatting the trade in timber products from illegal logging, and reducing the effects of climate change – especially in the post-COVID-19 era.

The meeting took note of the APEC 2022 theme “Open. Connect. Balance” and the “Bio-Circular-Green” economic model, which is applied and integrated from three economic approaches – including technology and innovation which produce value, reduce waste and promote sustainable business models.

The core priorities of APEC this year include the APEC Economic Ministers Responsible for Forestry (MMRF) emphasising global efforts to deal with the effects of climate change through increasing carbon sink and speeding up efforts in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). During the meeting, the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism said that sustainable forest management plays a crucial role in balancing the importance of the forest against the economic, social and environmental aspects.

The Minister also shared Brunei Darussalam's action plans to ensure its forests remain intact and sustainable – through forest

gazetting plans, national forest reserves and other programmes, such as the Forestry Department's annual programmes to mark the International Day of Forests every March 21, and mass tree planting programme.

Brunei Darussalam will continue to improve APEC's close regional cooperation to jointly discuss and resolve issues that arise to ensure forests remain sustainably managed in the region.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of legislation that regulates logging activities and timber trade from legal sources that meet forest certification standards for each APEC economy, which aligns with the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism's (MPRT) move forward.

APEC economic ministers agreed to issue a joint statement,

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Yang Berhormat Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism during the virtual meeting.

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known as the ‘Chiang Mai Statement,’ which – among others – emphasises the implementation of the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 through the Aotearoa Action Plan.

They also took note of the achievements of the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal stated in the ‘2007 Sydney APEC Leaders’ Declaration on Climate Change, Energy Security and Clean

## Ensure sustainable food security

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 26** – Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism represented Brunei Darussalam at the 7<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Food Security Ministerial Meeting (FSMM) via video conference hosted by Kingdom of Thailand.

The meeting theme “Open. Connect. Balance” by recognising the three priorities of being open to all opportunities, connected in all dimensions and balanced in all aspects.

The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Dr. Chalermchai Sri-on, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kingdom of Thailand.

The 7<sup>th</sup> APEC FSMM was held to improve the open, fair, transparent, productive, sustainable and resilient APEC food system to ensure access to sufficient, safe, affordable and nutritious food to meet dietary requirements and food preferences for a healthy life.

This meeting endorsed the implementation plan of the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 which identifies specific actions or initiatives that APEC economies may choose to implement to deliver the Roadmap 2030 in the six main areas, namely digitisation and innovation, productivity, inclusiveness, sustainability, public private partnership and

Development’, whereby forest coverage in the region increased by 27.9 million hectares between 2007 and 2020, exceeding the initial target of 20 million hectares by 2020.

The Ministers and senior officials responsible for forestry expressed appreciation and support for the efforts and involvement of all APEC economies and agencies interested in sustainable forest management and restoration and in dealing with forest-related issues.

SMART goals.

It is to ensure sustainable food security in the APEC region through the promotion of food and agriculture trade, as well as economic recovery following global challenges affecting food security, among others, due to the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, trade barriers, and increased input costs.

In the meeting, the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism stated that uncertainties and major challenges have put much burden on the global and regional food systems.

The Minister continued to state that food security alone cannot be achieved without the participation of all relevant stakeholders as there is a need for collective actions to ensure lasting food security and to boost long-term sufficient food reserves.

The Minister shared that Brunei Darussalam continues to explore and implement various efforts to maintain food security and long term food reserves within the country.

Ministers and representatives of APEC expressed their appreciation and support for the important efforts and engagement in individual and collective economic action towards achieving food security in the APEC region, along with progress towards the goals of the roadmap.

## Together in advancing regional environment



Yang Berhormat Minister of Development with Her Excellency Minister of Sustainability and Environment of Singapore.

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, August 4** – The 15<sup>th</sup> Brunei-Singapore Annual Exchange of Visits on the Environment is an activity under the Bilateral Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Affairs Year 2015, held in Republic of Singapore.

Her Excellency Ms. Grace Fu, Minister of Sustainability and Environment of Singapore led the Singapore delegation.

The Brunei delegation was led by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri

Setia Awang Haji Muhammad Juanda bin Haji Abdul Rashid, Minister of Development.

The Ministers noted the steady progress of existing projects and programmes by both sides in the areas of solid waste management, air quality management, water resources management, environmental youth programmes and climate change.

They endorsed the continued efforts in solid waste management, notably Brunei Darussalam's latest initiative of installing a surveillance camera system to monitor illegal dumping hotspots, improvements to the Brunei River clean-up initiative and the nationwide beach clean-up initiative to establish baseline data on marine debris washed onto the coastal areas; and the Singapore Green Plan 2030, its upcoming TuasOne Waste-to-Energy Plant and Integrated Waste Management Facility.

On the air quality management front, the pair exchanged information on monitoring and management measures including Brunei's recently launched electric vehicle pilot project.

The Ministers noted efforts in youth environmental programmes and activities – such as the Sultanate's World Environment

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Day campaign and Singapore's Youth for Environmental Sustainability (YES) programme.

On water resources management, the two sides exchanged updates on new measures such as the implementation of SMART projects for flood management in Brunei, and the deployment of one of the world's largest inland floating solar photovoltaic (PV) system at Tengoh Reservoir in Singapore.

On climate change, Singapore reaffirmed support for Brunei Darussalam's ASEAN initiatives, particularly the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change and the ASEAN Youth on Climate Action (ASEANyouCAN).

The inaugural ASEANyouCAN dialogue involving all ASEAN Member States was conducted in conjunction with the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in October 2021, with ASEANyouCAN youth delegates issuing the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Youth for Climate Action, which highlighted ASEAN youths' concerns and recommendations to strengthen regional climate action.

The two Ministers reiterated the importance of combatting

climate change, and agreed that both sides should enhance collaboration through technical exchanges on climate change related topics such as climate science, climate adaptation and coastal protection.

The ministers also agreed to enhance collaboration in water resources management, such as integrated water quality management and alert system.

This entails water quality policy framework as well as flood control management, including drainage policy and enforcement strategy for climate change adaptation.

The two countries reiterated their commitment to cooperate with other ASEAN Member States to advance regional environmental interests to achieve sustainable development and provide a healthy and clean-living environment for the people despite the unprecedented situation of COVID-19.

The MoU underscores the commitment by both sides to expand cooperation to include climate change as part of efforts to further progress and deepen cooperation on sustainability and environmental protection.

Brunei Darussalam will host the 16<sup>th</sup> BSAEV next year.

## Promote business digital economy for businesses

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 31** - The ASEAN and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Councils of Brunei Darussalam hosted the Digital Economy Forum in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Economy in partnership with Baiduri Bank.

The aim of the virtual forum was to highlight the opportunities of the digital economy for Brunei businesses and discuss how Brunei can achieve its digital transformation goals.

In her welcome remarks, Nik Hafimi binti Abdul Haadi, Chair of APEC Business Advisory Council Brunei; Executive Director of LVK Group of Companies and Member of the Brunei Digital Economy Council said, "Transformation to a Digital Economy being one of the catalysts in our pursuit of a strong, vibrant and prosperous economy, there is an urgent need for Brunei Darussalam to be prepared for the global paradigm shift in technology."

The forum featured a keynote address by Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications.

In his address, the Minister of Transport and Infocommunications shared that in recognition of the fast pace of technology and the need to be adaptive on July 15, 2019, 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 consented to the establishment of the Digital Economy Council. This was subsequently followed up with the release of the Digital Economy Masterplan 2025.

In the keynote address the Minister stressed the importance of partnership and collaboration stressing a Whole of Nation Approach and said, "only through the implementation and delivery of Brunei Darussalam's digital transformation can the vision of the Digital Economy be fully realised for economic progress, sustainability and social well-being."

After the keynote address, Joanne Bala from Google, Government Affairs and Public Policy Lead - Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei, gave a presentation on the 'Future of Digital Transformation'.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications during the Digital Economy Forum.

The presentation centred on Google's report on 'e-Conomy SEA', which tracks the most exciting digital developments in Southeast Asia, as the region's digital economy gathers speed towards \$1 Trillion Gross Merchandise Value by 2030.

The forum also featured a panel discussion with experts that included Ir. Awang Haji Mohammad Nazri Bin Haji Mohammad Yusof, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications; Haslina Taib, Chair, ASEAN Business Advisory Council Brunei and CEO of Dynamik Technologies; Suzanna Suharju, APEC Business Advisory Council Brunei Member and CEO of Imagine Sdn. Bhd.; Isa Liew, Head of Business Banking, Baiduri Bank; and William Chang, VP of Cross Border Payments, NETS (Singapore) Pte Ltd.

The panel discussed what needs to be done for businesses to implement a successful digital transformation strategy and the digital threats to be aware of.

Ir. Awang Haji Mohammad Nazri Bin Haji Mohammad Yusof, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications highlighted that in order for Brunei to achieve

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the ambition of being a Smart Nation, it needs to be done through digital transformation.

Meanwhile, Haslina Taib, Chair of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council Brunei made the point that in today's fast-changing digital-first world, we need to be dynamic and agile and implement a 'digital first' culture as we undergo a digital transformation journey. She also stressed that there needs to be inclusivity in supporting MSMEs with untapped economic potential to be more involved in digital development.

Isa Liew, Head of Business Banking at Baiduri Bank encouraged MSMEs to not be daunted by digital transformation but to take concrete steps to identify priority areas for their business to go digital.

William Chang, Singapore's NETS Vice President of Cross Border Payments shared how QR codes are changing the digital payment landscape. The future goal is that consumers will be able to purchase items in another ASEAN country by using a

digital wallet and a QR code.

Suzanna Suharju, CEO of Imagine and APEC Business Advisory Council Member for Brunei stressed the importance of truly understanding the nature of your business and which part of your organisation improve by digital means.

The panel agreed that digital transformation is a long journey but one that Brunei needs to be part of to ensure that the Brunei business community keeps up with the changes that the region is facing as highlighted by Google's report. Partnership and collaboration between the public and private sectors were often stressed to enable a successful digital transition journey.

The forum is part of the Brunei Economy Programme, an initiative by the ASEAN and APEC Business Advisory Councils of Brunei in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Economy and Baiduri Bank to connect global issues with the Brunei economy.

Darussalam Enterprise, UBD, CSPS, Royal Brunei, Radio Televisyen Brunei and Borneo Bulletin and Media Permata are also partners in the programme.

## Forum highlights importance of green finance

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 11** - The ASEAN and APEC Business Councils of Brunei Darussalam hosted 'A Conversation on Accelerating FinTech and Green Finance in Brunei' in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Economy and the British High Commission in partnership with Baiduri Bank.

The aim of the forum was to explore how Brunei can increase the use of financial digital tools and raise greater awareness of sustainable finance.

The forum featured a keynote address by Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Khairuddin bin Haji Abdul Hamid, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy (Economy) who was the Guest of Honour.

The Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy in his keynote addressed highlighted the importance of green finance and its links with Islamic Finance.

The forum also heard from His Excellency Mark Garnier M.P., the British Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Brunei who shared the United Kingdom's approach to FinTech, the regulatory practices put in place, and how universities have worked towards supporting fintech. His Excellency also underlined the importance of green finance driving climate action and provided examples of the commitments made during COP26.

Dayang Haslina binti Taib, Chair of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council Brunei and CEO of Dynamik Technologies Sdn. Bhd. in her welcoming remarks noted that it is imperative to ride on the digital transformation momentum accelerated by the pandemic and encourage the use of FinTech to strengthen Brunei's digital



Brunei Darussalam Central Bank Managing Director; His Excellency British Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Brunei Darussalam, Myanmar and Thailand; CEO of Dynamik Technologies Sdn. Bhd.; and CEO of Baiduri Bank on a panel moderated by Director of the ASEAN and Corporate Affairs at the UK-ASEAN Business Council.

economy.

To do this, one of the important tasks is to build the right FinTech capabilities. In the panel discussion, she also stated that the Brunei Legacy Digital Gateway project is an industry-led digital transformation initiative that will contribute towards achieving the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025 and the Bandar Seri Begawan Roadmap.

The first milestone would be the launch of a credential wallet during Cambodia's Chairmanship of ASEAN.

The panel discussion that followed included Hajah Rokiah binti Haji Badar, Managing Director, Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (BDCB); His Excellency Mark Garnier M.P., Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Brunei, Myanmar and Kingdom of Thailand; Dayang Haslina binti Taib, CEO of Dynamik Technologies; and Mr. Ti Eng Hui, CEO of Baiduri Bank.

The panel explored the regulatory framework and practical steps of growing

the FinTech sector in Brunei as well as what to expect with regard to green finance.

The CEO of Baiduri Bank, made the point that 'Brunei has the potential to be an excellent financial centre as it has the right building blocks, regulatory framework and is focussing on capacity building.'

The audience also heard from the Managing Director of the Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (BDCB) who provided an overview of the regulatory framework and the many initiatives underway such as the establishment of the FinTech Association and the education programmes available through the Brunei Institute of Leadership & Islamic Finance.

The forum is part of the Brunei Economy Programme, an initiative by the ASEAN and APEC Business Advisory Councils of Brunei to connect global issues with the Brunei economy. Darussalam Enterprise (DARe), Radio Television Brunei (RTB), and Brunei Press Sdn. Bhd. were also partners in the programme.



## Official visit from US INDO-PACOM to Brunei

**BERAKAS, August 8** – The Ministry of Defence (MinDef) received an official visit from His Excellency Admiral John C. Aquilino, Commander of United States Indo-Pacific Command (US INDO-PACOM), from August 7 to 9.

Upon arrival at Bolkiah Garrison, His Excellency Commander US INDO-PACOM was greeted by Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Muhammad Haszaimi bin Bol Hassan, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF). This was followed by the inspection of the Guard of Honour comprising Royal Brunei Land Force personnel.

His Excellency paid separate calls to Brigadier General (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Abdul Razak bin Haji Abdul Kadir, Deputy Minister of Defence; and Commander RBAF.

During the visit, both sides affirmed the long-standing and close



Deputy Minister of Defence, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, and Commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command (US INDO-PACOM) during the courtesy call.

defence relationship, which continues to grow and strengthen over the years through extensive bilateral engagements.

## MinDef receives Chief of Defence Forces of RTARF

**BOLKIAH GARISON, August 17** - The Ministry of Defence (MinDef) received an official visit from His Excellency General Chalermphon Srisawasdi, Chief of Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces (RTARF).

Upon arrival at Bolkiah Garrison, His Excellency Chief of Defence Forces of RTARF was greeted by Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Muhammad Haszaimi bin Bol Hassan, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

His Excellency then inspected the Guard of Honour mounted by personnel from the Royal Brunei Land Force.



His Excellency Chief of Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces at the Bolkiah Garrison, Ministry of Defence.

exercises, training, professional exchanges, and courses.

This is His Excellency's first visit to Brunei Darussalam since his appointment on October 1, 2020.

## 39 vendors showcase Thai products

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 26** – Thirty-nine Thai vendors are taking part in bazaar, showcasing various Thai products, held at OneCity Shopping Centre. The bazaar was launched by Mohammad Harris bin Brigadier General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Haji Ibrahim, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Trade and Industry at the Ministry of Finance and Economy.

Her Excellency Boosara Kanchanalai, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand (Designate) to Brunei Darussalam highlighted that sustainable economic development is also top of Brunei's priority as one of the objectives of Brunei Vision 2035.

"Aspirations of the Sultanate are to ensure the economy is open and globally connected and to ensure the preservation of the environment aligned with Thailand's 'Bio-Circular-Green' economic model in advocating for environmental friendly and sustainable practices in businesses while investing in green technology," added Her Excellency.

The pandemic crisis gives us opportunity to rethink how to do business with consideration for the environment, especially in restoring the tourism industry.

Tourism is one of the five priority sectors identified in the Brunei's economic blueprint and constitute 20 per cent of Thailand's gross domestic product.



Her Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand (Designate) to Brunei Darussalam and Deputy Permanent Secretary for Trade and Industry at the Ministry of Finance and Economy launch the Thailand Bazaar.

Her Excellency said, "we have to look beyond recovery where we envisioned tourism that is regenerative in nature."

The four-day bazaar showcases Thai delicacies, hydroponics vegetables, fruits, clothing, handicrafts, accessories, as well as halal products, a halal E-commerce platform, halal logistics and services.

## BRI boosts economic, trade and investment between Brunei-China

**GADONG, August 24** - The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Brunei Darussalam held a Media Briefing at the Rizqun International Hotel.

At the briefing, Her Excellency Yu Hong, Chinese Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam among others highlights the relationship between the two countries in the fields of economy, trade, sports and education.

According to Her Excellency Chinese Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, bilateral economic and trade cooperation has been growing despite headwinds,

with fruitful results from the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation which boosted economic, trade and investment between the two countries.

"Last year," Her Excellency explained, "the trade between Brunei Darussalam and China reached a growth of 46.6 per cent from year to year reaching USD2.85 billion, an increase up to 200 times since the establishment of diplomatic relations."

"In the first seven months of this year," added Her Excellency, "the bilateral trade volume has reached USD1.83 billion, up by 50 per cent year-on-year,



Her Excellency Chinese Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam delivering her remarks.

and is expected to hit a new high this year."

## Brunei as Asia's Centre of Educational Excellence

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 5** – Nisai Brunei recently celebrated its third anniversary since establishment and further to commemorate the opening of the Nisai Brunei office.

Present as Guest of Honour was Ms. Catherine Pochkhanavala-Cleeves, the British Deputy High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam. Also present were Her Excellency Ms. Nahida Rahman Shumona, The High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh;

Dr. Dhruv Patel, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Nisai; and senior officers and executives from the government and local organisations alike.

Nisai Brunei is manned by an all-Bruneian team mainly comprising of an established group of Bruneian youths whom we have successfully recruited and trained to the high exacting standards of Nisai Group.

The Nisai Group Limited ("Nisai") is pleased to announce that its regional teaching hub situated in Brunei Darussalam will be further enhanced and developed as Asia's Centre of Educational Excellence. The move comes following the exemplary performance of Nisai Brunei in delivering quality education and training throughout the Asian region and beyond.

Dr. Patel, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Nisai, relates the strong performance by the Brunei teachers in their teaching delivery towards gaining Nisai's foothold in the Asia market.

"When planning for our Asia expansion, the notable points about Brunei Darussalam were the quality of graduates and teachers along with the advantage of impressive levels in English Language.

"We have taken talented Bruneian graduates and trained them in teaching preparation and delivery, following the British and world class standards. These teachers are now sharing knowledge and



Among the guests at Nisai Brunei's Event. culture with learners from around the world," said Dr. Patel.

"Creating a localised new sector, of online education, in a country needs to be well planned. The investment and success to date with the recruitment of Bruneian nationals and support of students locally as well as the wider Asia region now means that we are expanding further our teaching presence requiring greater investment in staff, premises and IT infrastructure, all sourced locally," explained Dr. Patel.

Brunei teachers have built and established a good rapport with clients, parents and students in this region, through virtual means, from Nisai's base in Brunei Darussalam to the schools and homes of the students internationally.

The success of their teaching is proven based from the feedback and testimonials received, as well as students' examination results in IGCSE and A Levels.

Nisai Brunei will support the delivery of education and training in Nisai Local Learning centres in the Asian countries that are being established in the near future such as the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Indonesia and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

## COVID-19: 189 recovered

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 31** – A total of 189 cases were declared recovered, bringing the total number of recoveries to 219,954. One COVID-19 case is in Category 5 requiring treatment at the intensive care unit (ICU), while four cases in Category 4 need respiratory assistance and close monitoring.

As of today, the inoculation statistics for children aged 5 to 11

with two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine is 83.4 per cent. 57.9 per cent of adolescents aged 12 to 17 have been administered the third dose.

Meanwhile, 77.3 per cent of the country's population have received their third dose of the vaccine and 9.5 per cent of the populace received their fourth dose.



## MoU enhances UNISSA reputation



Yang Berhormat Minister of Education witnessing the MoU signing.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 30** - As part of the university's efforts to take steps in achieving excellence in academics and research while making a significant contribution to the society locally and internationally, UNISSA inked four Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) following the presentation of Medals and Book Prizes ceremony in conjunction with 12<sup>th</sup> Hafl Takharuj UNISSA at Tarindak D'Seni.

UNISSA signed MoUs with Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia;

Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto (UMP), Indonesia; Jami'ah Al-Quran al-Karem wal'ulum al-Islamiah Yemen; and Mitsubishi Corporation.

Signing on behalf of UNISSA was Dr. Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, Rector of UNISSA, witnessed by Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Setia Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Md. Salleh, Minister of Education. While universities and other institutions are represented by their respective leaders.

This year, UNISSA was honoured

with the signing of an MoU with Mitsubishi Corporation that will provide scholarships to five outstanding UNISSA undergraduates. The \$10,000 scholarship will be awarded to the students to cover the fees.

The signing was in line with UNISSA's efforts to develop strategic networks with foreign institutions and enhance the university's reputation in the field of Islamic studies, research, entrepreneurship and management while strengthening its position in the global education arena.

## MoA UNISSA – PSU further develop expertise

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 24** - Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) through the Halalan Thayyiban Research Centre (PPHT) has intensified efforts to establish a network of collaboration with the Halal Institute, Prince of Songkla University (PSU), Kingdom of Thailand following a memorandum of agreement (MoA) signing held virtually.

Signing on behalf UNISSA was Pengiran Dr. Hajah Norkhairiah binti Pengiran Haji Hashim, Director PPHT, meanwhile, signing on behalf of PSU was Assistant Professor Dr. Asman Taeali, Director of the Halal Institute.

The MoA signing allows both sides to further develop and disseminate knowledge and expertise during training courses for academic staff.

Industrial training can also be employed to produce innovative and professional graduates.

## Local youth receive award

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 26** – Two local youth were awarded 2022 ASEAN Volunteer Award at Quang Binh, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam during the ASEAN Plus Youth Volunteer Forum and ASEAN Plus Youth Volunteer Award.

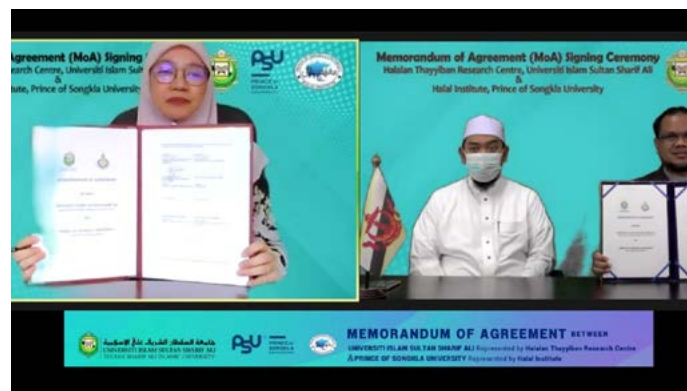
Haji Abdul Mateen Bolkini bin Haji Ahmad, the founder of Tambang.bn and a member of the IMPAK Association, Tutong received the ASEAN Youth Volunteer Award for the 'Individual' category.

Meanwhile, Big BWN Project received the Youth Volunteer Award for the Organisation category.

The ASEAN Youth Volunteer Award was held for the first time under the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Youth, ASEAN Secretariat and is a prestigious award for ASEAN volunteers.



UNISSA looks forward to PSU's support to develop cooperation, particularly in the field of Halal Science.



PPHT Director and Director of the Halal Institute during the signing ceremony

UNISSA looks forward to PSU's support to develop cooperation, particularly in the field of Halal Science.



Haji Abdul Mateen Bolkini bin Haji Ahmad and Founder of Big BWN Project.

## UNISSA ranked in WURI

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 11** - Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) continues to steer towards refined excellence, appearing for the first time in the World's Universities with Real Impact (WURI) ranking led by the Institute for Policy and Strategy on National Competitiveness (IPSN).

This ranking system is supported by four international organisations: the Hanseatic League of Universities (HLU), the Institute for Industrial Policy Studies (IPS), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and Tailor Institute, Franklin University Switzerland (FUS). Overall, UNISSA secured a spot in the Top 201-300 position in the ranking system.

Meanwhile, the entrepreneurship project course offered by its Faculty of Islamic Economics and Finance (FEKIm) ranked in the Top 51-100 of the entrepreneurial spirit categories.

This WURI edition is the third of its kind since 2020.

Three hundred universities across the world have achieved a position in the system, under six categories: industrial application; entrepreneurial spirit; ethical value; student mobility and openness; crisis management; and the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Each entry is judged based on three main criterias – innovation, feasibility, and impact.

The recognition implies that as an Islamic higher institution, UNISSA is able to provide competitive, high-quality programmes and courses, particularly at the international level. This is because the ranking system is also joined by leading universities globally.

According to Dr. Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, Rector of UNISSA, the UNISSA workforce is grateful for the recognition. UNISSA's



position in the WURI 2022 ranking has injected into them the spirit to continue striving for excellence and international recognition.

This development also proves that UNISSA's academic programmes are on par with those offered by prestigious universities internationally.

## Total trade increases 70.9 per cent in April

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 8** - In April, Brunei Darussalam's total trade was valued at \$3,042.6 million, an increase by 70.9 per cent from \$1,780.1 million during the same month last year. Meanwhile, for month-to-month changes, total trade for April increased by 21.6 per cent compared to March.

Total exports increased by 71.2 per cent year-on-year to \$1,726.0 million compared to \$1,008.3 million in April 2021. This was mainly due to the increase in mineral fuels exports to \$1,316.9 million (April 2022) from \$769.5 million (April 2021). In addition, chemicals exports increased to \$336.9 million in April from \$201.2 million in the same month in 2021.

The increase in mineral fuels exports was mainly due to the higher export value of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and petroleum products from downstream activities. LNG export value increased as a result of higher LNG prices, which rose to USD12.01 per MMBtu in April 2022 from USD7.50 per MMBtu in April 2021. Furthermore, the export value from petroleum products from downstream activities increased to \$774.0 million, of which the main commodity was automotive diesel fuels.

In terms of commodity by section, mineral fuels represents the major contributor to Brunei Darussalam's exports at 76.3 per cent, followed by chemicals (19.5 per cent), and machinery and transport equipment (2.4 per cent).

The main exports market in April was Australia at 20.1 per cent, followed by People's Republic of China (15.6 per cent), and Republic of Singapore (14.1 per cent). The largest export commodity to Australia and Republic of Singapore was mineral

fuels, meanwhile, to People's Republic of China was chemicals.

For imports, the total value increased to \$1,316.6 million (April 2022) from \$771.8 million (April 2021) mainly due to a significant increase in imports of mineral fuels.

The five main imports by commodity were mineral fuels with 72.5 per cent, followed by machinery and transport equipment at (7.4 per cent), chemicals at (6.7 per cent), food (5.7 per cent) and manufactured goods (3.3 per cent).

By end use category, imports of intermediate goods accounted for 57.8 per cent of the total imports, followed by capital goods (38.2 per cent) and consumption goods (4.0 per cent).

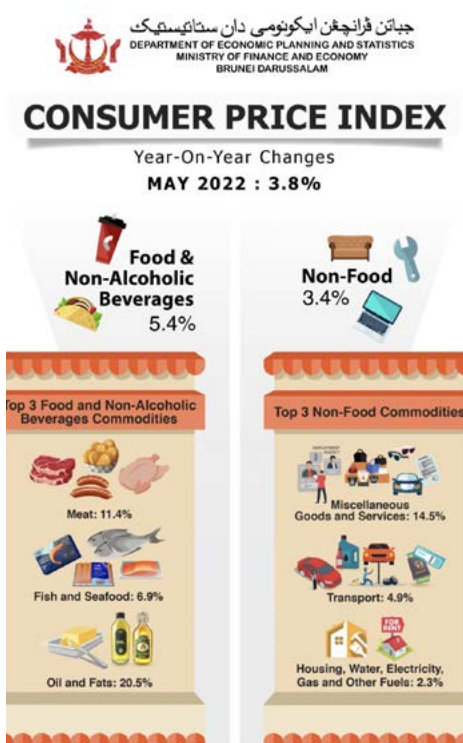
For imports by trading partners, the highest share was from Malaysia at 21.2 per cent, respectively followed by United Arab Emirates (12.8 per cent) and State of Qatar (12.6 per cent), with mineral fuels as the largest import commodity.

According to the mode of transport, in April, the highest share for both exports and imports was transport by sea, which amounted to \$2,928.4 million or 96.2 per cent. This was followed by air transport (\$81.4 million or 2.7 per cent) and via land (\$32.8 million or 1.1 per cent).

The International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) for Brunei Darussalam adopts the general system for recording trade statistics, which covers imports, domestic exports, and re-exports. The IMTS full report for April is available from the DEPS's website at <https://deps.mof.gov.bn>.



## CPI decreases 0.3 per cent in May



**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 10** – In May, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) decreased by 0.3 per cent compared to April. This was driven by the decrease in non-food index by 0.4 per cent. However, the decline in the index was offset by an increase in the food and non-alcoholic beverages index by 0.3 per cent.

For year-on-year changes, the CPI increased by 3.8 per cent compared to May 2021. The rise in the CPI was in line with the increase in food and non-alcoholic beverages and non food prices by 5.4 per cent and 3.4 per cent respectively.

The increase in food and non-alcoholic beverages was due to the rise in prices of food such as oil and fats 20.5 per cent; meat 11.4 per cent; and fish and seafood 6.9 per cent. The rise in the price of oil and fats is primarily due to an increase in the price of cooking oil, which corresponds to an increase in import prices due to an increase in the price of vegetable oil and palm oil input materials. Chicken meat is the main contributor to the increase in meat prices, due to the increase in the cost

of chicken feed. Meanwhile, the rise in fish and seafood prices is due to unfavourable weather and labour shortage.

The increase in the non-food component was driven by miscellaneous goods and services 14.5 per cent; transport 4.9 per cent; and housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels 2.3 per cent.

Miscellaneous goods and services prices rose mainly due to the increase in the price of vehicle insurance. Meanwhile, the increase in transport was mainly due to the increase in motor cars and air fares. Rising cost of maintenance and repair of the dwelling as well as prices of rental for housing drove up housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels prices.

The CPI is a measure of price changes of goods and services paid by the consumer in a specified period and compiled on a monthly basis. The list of goods and services in the CPI is based on the average expenditure per household from the Household Expenditure Survey (HES).

## Non-oil and Gas sector show encouraging performance in Q1 2022

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 17** - In the first quarter (Q1) of 2022, the non-oil and gas sector recorded an increase of 1.0 per cent growth, meanwhile the oil and gas sector decreased by 9.0 per cent. The decline of the oil and gas sector has resulted in the negative growth of Brunei Darussalam's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Q1 2022 by 4.2 per cent compared to the previous year.

Brunei Darussalam's GDP at current prices in Q1 2022 was valued at \$5.0 billion compared to \$4.2 billion in Q1 2021. The oil and gas sector, comprising oil and gas mining and the manufacture of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), accounted for 51.5 per cent of the total Gross Value Added (GVA). Meanwhile, the non-oil and gas sector, which includes downstream activities such as the manufacture of petroleum and chemical products, contributed 48.5 per cent of GDP.

The decline in the oil and gas sector was due to a decrease in the production of crude oil from 114.9 thousand barrels per day in Q1 2021 to 101.6 thousand barrels per day in Q1 2022. Natural gas production also recorded a decrease from 32.6 million cubic metres per day in Q1 2021 to 29.8 million cubic metres per day in Q1 2022. The reduction in crude oil and natural gas production was due to maintenance and rejuvenation activities. Correspondingly, LNG production declined from 891,347 MMBtu per day to 732,357 MMBtu per day during the same period with a decrease in gas production.

However, the non-oil and gas sector remained positive as downstream activities picked up with increased production of petroleum products including Diesel and RON92, as well as the new production of chemical products specifically urea fertiliser.

The wholesale and retail trade subsector continued to show growth, primarily driven by an increase in wholesale activities including medical equipment items, food, and beverages. This encouraging performance was supported by an increase in domestic demand, backed in part by the relaxation of domestic

and border restrictions.

The growth in the transport subsector was primarily driven by the expansion of water transport and air transport. The rise in air transport activities during Q1 2022 was in line with an increase in the number of arrivals and departures of air passengers as entry and exit from the country have been permitted according to the travel guideline issued by the Prime Minister's Office.

The easing of COVID-19 preventive measures and border restrictions has led to an increase in travel activities, hence contributing to the growth of the hotel sector in Q1 2022.

In addition, the agriculture, forestry, and fishery sector has also continued to show encouraging performance. In Q1 2022, this sector has increased by 0.8 per cent due to fishery, agriculture, and forestry production activities. An increase in the fishery subsector was mainly due to the rise in the capture industry for small-scale fisherman activities. Meanwhile, the rise in the agriculture subsector was attributed by the growth in paddy, vegetable, and fruit production. Meanwhile, an increase in the production of round and sawn timber was the most significant contributor to the expansion of the forestry sector.

By expenditure approach, a decline in GDP growth in Q1 2022 was mainly due to a decrease in the net export by 28.0 per cent year-on-year. This was followed by a reduction in the gross capital formation, primarily the private investment in machinery and equipment. However, this growth was moderated by an increase in the Government Final Consumption Expenditure and the Household Final Consumption Expenditure by 3.8 per cent and 5.5 per cent, respectively.

Gross domestic product (GDP) is a measure of the total value of goods and services produced in a particular period after deducting the cost of goods and services used up in the process of production. The GDP full report for the Q1 of 2022 is available from DEPS's website: <https://deps.mofe.gov.bn>