



His Majesty attends State Funeral



LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, September 19 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, attended the State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, held at Westminster Abbey.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

The state funeral was also attended by members of royal families; heads of state; and guests from across the world.

Continue on page 10

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, attending the state funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, held at Westminster Abbey. Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen. (Image: PA Images and Reuters)

HRH awarded 'British Military Parachute Wings' badge

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, September 23 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Basic Parachute Course 1317 Closing Ceremony and the Presentation Ceremony of the Parachutist Badge 'British Military Parachute Wings' to His Royal Highness 920 Major (U) Prince 'Abdul Mateen, at the Royal Air Force (RAF) Brize Norton, Oxfordshire.

At the RAF Brize Norton, His Majesty, among other things, witnessed a parachute display performance by the RAF Falcons team; a briefing on the UK's parachute capability by Sergeant Lane Miller, Course Senior Non-Commissioned Officer/Lead Instructor; as well as a presentations on the equipment capability, including Low Altitude Parachute, High Altitude Parachute, Synthetic Training and Basic Parachute Course Video.

Continue on page 12

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Basic Parachute Course 1317 Closing Ceremony and the Presentation Ceremony of the Parachutist Badge 'British Military Parachute Wings' to His Royal Highness 920 Major (U) Prince 'Abdul Mateen, at the Royal Air Force (RAF) Brize Norton, Oxfordshire.





4. Make efforts for the Ukhrawi, treat Al-Quran as a companion



6. UTB's positive development to further continue



13. Teachers as pioneers of lifelong learning



15. His Royal Highness signs Book of Condolences



18. Brunei joins Tokyo GX Week



19. GJPMC committed in management, prevention of CVDs



22. Brunei's first retail rapid charging station launched



23. Commemorating Brunei-China relations



22. Signing of MoU for management, operation of Brunei Bay Southern Anchorage



31. National athletes celebrate wins at SUKMA XX



SEPTEMBER 2022 - VOLUME 37 ISSUE 9

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER is published monthly by the Department of Information. It reports on government, social and business events in the country. All money values are expressed in Brunei dollars \$, unless otherwise stated. Any information in this newsletter may be reproduced; a clipping of the publication would be appreciated.

EDITORIAL Advisory Board:

Siti Bismi Nuruliman Awang Emzah
(bismi.emzah@jpm.gov.bn)

Sastra Sarini Haji Julaini
(sarini.julaini@information.gov.bn)

Chief-Editors:

Hjh Hamsah Binti Datu Kerna Haji Jaya
(hamsah.jaya@information.gov.bn)

Muhd. Khairulhadi Bin Hj Muhtaddir
(khairul.muhtaddir@information.gov.bn)

Editor:

Saadiatul Nur Aqilah Haji Jaman
(aqilah.jaman@information.gov.bn)

Text & Translation:

Syakirah binti Matusin
(syakirah.matusin@information.gov.bn)

Layouter:

Khairul Shaharim Bin Haji Abdul Ghafor
(shaharim.ghafor@information.gov.bn)

Proofreader:

Norzuriana binti Haji Azman @ Malai
(norzuriana.azman@information.gov.bn)

Photographs:

Photography Unit of Department of Information

General inquiries:

Tel: (673) 2383 400
Fax: (673) 2382 012

Information Department

www.information.gov.bn

Information Gallery

www.infofoto.gov.bn

Follow us

Download **InfoDeptBN**

Instagram - @infodept.bn

Twitter - @Infodept_bn

Facebook - Jabatan Penerangan Brunei Darussalam

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 Istana Nurul Iman:



His Excellency Bui Thanh Son, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on September 7.



Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Hajiji bin Haji Noor, Chief Minister and State Minister of Finance of Sabah on September 29.



His Excellency General Dato Paduka Seri Andika Perkasa, Chief of Defence Force of Indonesia on September 7.



His Excellency General Vong Pisen, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces on September 29.

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, Datin Hetty Andika Perkasa, spouse of Chief of Defence Force of Indonesia on September 7.

His Royal Highness 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 Luke Lazarus Arnold, High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam on September 5.

His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

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

- His Excellency Nguyen Xuan Phuc, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; His Excellency Pham Minh Chinh, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; the government as well as the people of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on the occasion of its 77th National Day Anniversary on September 2;
- The Right Honourable Elizabeth Truss MP, following her appointment as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on September 7;

- His Majesty King Charles III following his proclamation as the new King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on September 10;
- His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the Custodian of Two Holy Mosques, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; the government as well as the people of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of its National Day Anniversary on September 23; and
- His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia following his appointment as the new Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia on September 28.

His Majesty sends message of condolences

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 a message of condolences to His Majesty King Charles III, King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and to The Right Honourable Elizabeth Truss MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, following the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on September 9.

News

Make efforts for the *Ukhrawi*, treat Al-Quran as a companion

BERAKAS, September 1 – Effort is one of the factors in attaining what is desired. Therefore, it is not enough for the efforts to be worldly in nature; but as an *ummah* of faith, we are also encouraged to balance them out with efforts for the *ukhrawi* (hereafter).

This was highlighted 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 in a *titah* (royal speech) at the Final of the 63rd National Al-Quran Reading Competition for Adults for 1443 Hijrah/2022 Masihi, held at the International Convention Centre (ICC).

“For centuries, we in this country have never disregarded the Al-Quran and religious teachings. In fact, we have always lived by the Al-Quran and religion, to the point where we were guided by Allah to uphold the Islamic faith as the nation’s official religion.

“This is proof that embracing the Al-Quran and Islamic teachings have become the Bruneians’ flesh and blood,” underlined His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

“This is because the Al-Quran and Islam are the light that can illuminate everything. Hence, it is truly fitting for the theme of this year’s finals to be named as such. Having a ‘Companionship with the Al-Quran’ is nothing other than to treat it as a ‘companion’ – to carry it everywhere, read and practice its teaching – so that insyaaAllah, we can await the blessings and syafaat (divine assistance) that come from it,” explained His Majesty.

“If this happens,” the Monarch added, “only then can it be considered that the purpose of having a companionship with the Al-Quran has been achieved. The creators of this theme should be able to elaborate and get this matter across to the public for them to comprehend; instead of simply expressing it on paper.”



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the National Al-Quran Reading Competition for Adults for 1443 Hijrah/2022 Masihi finals.

Accompanying His Majesty at the event were His Majesty’s sons and brother, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office; His Royal Highness Prince ‘Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah.

His Majesty also presented the prizes and souvenirs to the winners and participants of the competition; judges; as well as invited Al-Hafiz and Al-Hafizah.

Continue on page 5



His Majesty presenting the prizes and trophies to the qari and qariah champions (above); and to the first runners-up (below) at the Final of the 63rd National Al-Quran Reading Competition for Adults for 1443 Hijrah/2022 Masihi.



From page 4

The first-place titles for the qari and qariah went to Awang Mohammad Zul-Hafiz bin Awang Tengah and Dayangku Fauziah Nadhirah binti Pengiran Haji Jofri.

Meanwhile, the title for first runners-up went to Awang Mohammad bin Ali and Dayang Hajah Nurfaezah binti Haji Awang Emran; whereas the second runner-up was won by Awang Haji Nasrul Fakhri bin Haji Yahya and Dayang Siti Zahrina binti Haji Abdul Wahab.

The Opening of the Final of the 63rd National Al-Quran Reading Competition for Adults 1443 Hijrah/2022 Masihi held at the ICC on August 30 was officiated by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince.

Also in attendance was His Royal Highness Prince ‘Abdul Malik.

During the opening ceremony, His Royal Highness in his *sabda* (royal speech) stressed on the utmost importance of the assimilation of Al-Quranic values to be interpreted through life’s routines. His Royal Highness also emphasised that aside from the government’s continuous efforts in empowering Taranum Al-Quran skills, young qarīs and qariah’s should also strive to improve skills by diligently learning from masters.



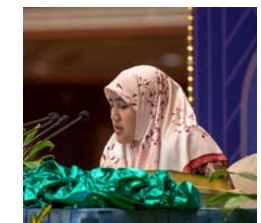
His Majesty and members of the royal family in a group photo with the invited Al-Hafiz and Al-Hafizah with different abilities, as well as their families (above).



Special performances from invited Al-Hafiz and Al-Hafizah with different abilities from the Republic of Indonesia.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Religious Affairs presenting his welcoming speech at the event (above); among the guests present at the event (left).



The recitations of Quranic verses from the qari and qariah champions of the qari and qariah champions of the Final of the 63rd National Al-Quran Reading Competition for Adults 1443 Hijrah/2022 Masihi.

UTB's positive development to further continue

BERAKAS, September 5 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah 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 Teknologi Brunei (UTB) congratulated the graduates for their success in completing their respective studies at the 10th UTB Convocation Ceremony.

"May this accomplishment become a catalyst for future greatness," said His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty in a *titah* (royal speech) noted that UTB has shown positive development in 2022 and hoped that the development will further continue.

Touching on the Coronavirus pandemic, the Monarch noted its positive impact on digital transformation in the country's higher education institutions – which have witnessed the full implementation of online learning and teaching.

The Monarch also noted that the university's learning and teaching is currently carried out through various means – including face-to-face, online and hybrid.

"This experience can serve as a backup so as to remain adaptable and resilient in facing similar challenges – where the concept of a 'Pandemic-Proof University of the Future' needs to be considered," His Majesty added.

The Monarch further acknowledged that UTB will be offering postgraduate micro-credentials for the 2020-2023 Academic Year, which will be targeted for working professionals and new graduates.

"These programmes are attributed as Personalised Learners' Journey – where the students, upon completing it, will have the opportunity to receive certificates, diploma or Master's degree within a flexible time period," the Monarch explained, highlighting his approval.

A total of 381 UTB graduates were celebrated at the convocation, which took place at the International Convention Centre (ICC).



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah 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 Teknologi Brunei (UTB) delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the 10th UTB Convocation Ceremony 2022.

The Monarch presented Doctor of Philosophy to two graduates; Master's Degree to 66 graduates; and Bachelor's Degree to 274 graduates.

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

Continue on page 7



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) and His Royal Highness His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Pro-Chancellor of UTB in a group photo with members of the UTB Council and Senate; as well as members of the academic staff and UTB administration.

From page 6



His Majesty conferring degree certificates to the graduates at the 10th UTB Convocation Ceremony 2022.



His Majesty having a get-together session with the graduates of UTB along with their family members.



His Majesty 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 UTB, upon arrival at the International Convention Centre.



The Vice-Chancellor of UTB presenting her welcoming remarks.

The ceremony began with the recitation of Surah Al-Qasas, by Dayang Hajah Wafiqah binti Haji Daim, Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Food Science and Technology graduate. Meanwhile, the verses' main contents were read by Dayang Siti Nadia binti Saifullzan, Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Food Science and Technology graduate.

The welcoming remarks were presented by Datin Paduka Profesor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah binti Haji Sulaiman, Vice-Chancellor of UTB, who shared that UTB – a first for higher education institutions in the country – has been given short-

term scholarships from the Government of Canada, through the Canada-ASEAN Scholarship and Educational Exchanges for Development Programme (SEED).

She also expressed gratitude for His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's consent to the use of the title "Chancellor" for competitions between public and private higher education institutions in sports, cultural and artistic events, intellectual challenges, games, religion and leadership – where the Chancellor's Trophy took place on September 1.



The recitation of Surah Al-Qasas, verses 76 to 80 by Dayang Hajah Wafiqah binti Haji Daim, Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Food Science and Technology graduate; while the verses' main contents were read by Dayang Siti Nadia binti Saifullzan, Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Food Science and Technology graduate.

9 awarded YSHHB Sultan's Scholar scholarship

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 8 – A total of nine students were awarded the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) Sultan's Scholar 2022/2023 scholarship. The awards ceremony for the scholarship was held this evening at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Present to deliver the awards was His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); and His Royal Highness



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) Sultan's Scholar 2022/2023 scholarship to one of the recipients.



Prince 'Abdul Malik, Chairman of the YSHHB Committee of Governors.

Among the recipients, seven students received Bachelor's Degree scholarships. They are Awangku Muhammad 'Ashim 'Afif bin Pengiran Haji Md Zin; Awang 'Abdul Majid bin Haji Shazli; and Dayang Nur Iwana Athilah binti Haji Mahri from the Hassanal Bolkiah Boys Arabic Secondary School (SMALHB), who will be pursuing Usuluddin, Syariah Islamiyyah and Lughah Arabiyyah respectively at the Al-Azhar University, the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Patricia Sim Xiang Ru from Jerudong International School (JIS) will be furthering her studies in Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland.

Continue on page 9

His Majesty the 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 (PMO); and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, Chairman of the YSHHB Committee of Governors upon arrival at the event.



His Majesty and members of the royal family in a group photo with recipients of the scholarships.



His Majesty delivering the scholarships to recipients.

From page 8

Meanwhile, three other graduates will continue their studies in the United Kingdom (UK): Lim Jia Yi from Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Science College (MSPSBS), will be studying Mechanical Engineering at University College London; Awang Haji

Mohammad Wajdi bin Haji Mohammad Ja'afar from SMALHB, will be studying Civil Engineering at University of Edinburgh; whereas Dayang Elmeeza Bazillah binti Abdullah Mohammad Yasrinal Eddy Abdullah from JIS, will be studying Mechanical Engineering at University College London.

Continue on page 10

From page 9

Two other students received the YSHHB Sultan's Scholar scholarship for their Master's Degrees. One of them was Awang Muhammad Fikri bin Haji Ali, who graduated First Class with Honours in MORSE (Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Economics) at University of Southampton, UK; and will be pursuing Operational Research with Data Science. On the other hand, Dayang Nurhidayah binti Abdul Hamid, who graduated First Class with Honours in Sociology and Anthropology at Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD); will be pursuing Psychology of Mental Health. Both recipients will be furthering their studies at University of Edinburgh.

At the ceremony, His Majesty and members of the royal family had a get-together session and took a group photo with the recipients of the scholarship.

Afterwards, YSHHB also held a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony for the scholarship awards at Dewan An-Naura, YSHHB Complex.



His Majesty and members of the royal family having a get-together session with the recipients.

His Majesty attends State Funeral (continued)

From page 1

Prior to the State Funeral, the coffin of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was borne in a procession on the state gun carriage of the Royal Navy from the Palace of Westminster to Westminster Abbey, accompanied by His Majesty King Charles III as well as members of the British Royal Family and the King's Household. This was followed by the State Funeral Service.

At the end of the State Funeral, The Last Post was played followed by a two-minute silence in Westminster Abbey and throughout the United Kingdom (UK) realm.

The State Funeral ended with the country's national anthem. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was then laid to rest at St. George's Chapel in Windsor.

His Majesty had consented for the national flag to be flown at half-mast at government buildings (including offices of Brunei Darussalam's missions overseas) on Monday, September 19 from 8:00 am (local time) to 8:00 am the following day, Tuesday, September 20, as a mark of respect for the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Earlier, on September 18, His Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen also attended a Reception hosted by His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty Queen Consort Camilla at Buckingham Palace.

At the event, which saw the attendance of members of royal families; heads of states, and guests from across the world, His Majesty personally expressed his deep sorrow to His Majesty King Charles III over the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam also mourned the passing of an able and distinguished Queen, by virtue of her character.

His Majesty also had the opportunity to attend a joint session with His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty Queen Consort Camilla.

The session was also joined by His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein, King of Jordan; His Majesty Emperor Naruhito, Emperor of Japan; and His Excellency Joe Biden, President of



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam upon arrival at the State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, held at Westminster Abbey. Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen. (Image: Shutterstock)

the United States of America.

His Majesty had arrived in London, UK earlier that day, after departing from Brunei Darussalam on September 17.

His Majesty King Charles III was proclaimed as the new king of the UK of Great Britain and Northern Ireland after the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

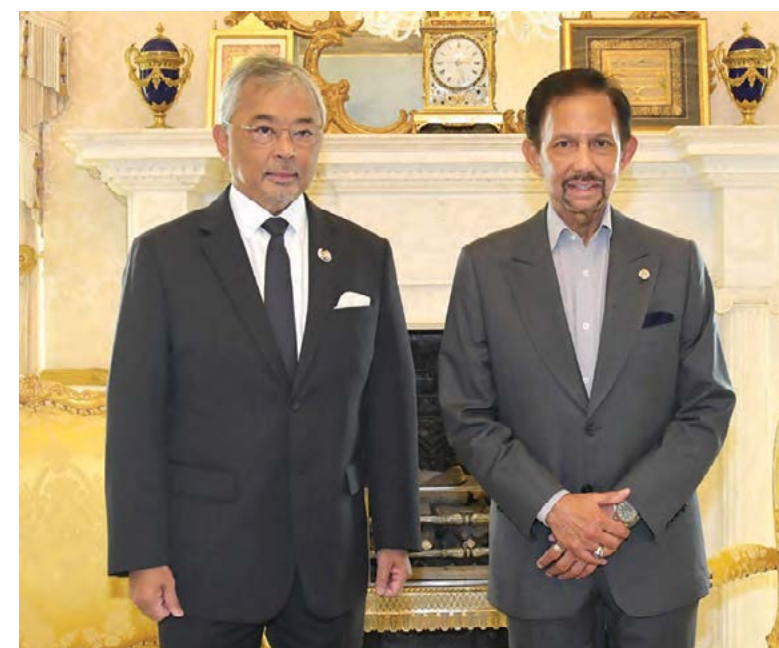
Continue on page 11

From page 10



His Majesty at the Reception hosted by His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty Queen Consort Camilla at Buckingham Palace. Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen (above and left). (Images: Buckingham Palace, London, United Kingdom).

His Majesty receives four-eye courtesy visit



LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, September 20 - 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 a four-eye courtesy visit from His Majesty the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah today.



HRH awarded 'British Military Parachute Wings' badge (continued)



His Majesty during the Closing Ceremony of the Basic Parachute Course 1317 (top); and the Presentation Ceremony of the Parachutist Badge 'British Military Parachute Wings' to His Royal Highness (bottom and bottom right).

From page 1

During the course, His Royal Highness, among other things, learned military parachuting techniques from several instructors of the RAF, leading to His Royal Highness' successful parachute jumps at a height of 1,000 feet.

Participants of the course had also undergone training at the Parachute Training Squadron Hangar. The course is based on written and practical assessments before any live parachuting takes place.



His Majesty signing the visitors' book at the ceremony.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness during a get-together session at the ceremony.



His Majesty being introduced to the Course Senior Non-Commissioned Officer/Lead Instructor (left); and during the presentation on Low Altitude Parachute, High Altitude Parachute and Synthetic Training (right).



Teachers as pioneers of lifelong learning

BERAKAS, September 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 in a *titah* (royal speech) during the 32nd Teachers' Day Celebration 2022 touched on the relevance of this year's Teachers' Day theme – "Quality Teachers Spur Educational Transformation" – especially with the global situation, which is currently undergoing significant changes, especially due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

"The world is facing challenging times in teaching and learning, which have never been experienced before – and all of this has significantly impacted the education system, including teachers worldwide," said His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

"In this regard, we should be grateful that education in the country can still continue despite the obstacles and constraints," added His Majesty.

The Monarch reminded that it is not impossible for a crisis similar to the pandemic to occur again in the future. Hence, it is crucial for us to always be ready by developing a more sustainable system to address any crisis.

His Majesty also emphasised the need to focus on the provision of a safe and healthy environment for all students. Teachers should also be given strong support from the ministries by ensuring that their professional development and well-being are continuously cared for.

His Majesty noted that several initiatives have been and will continue to be carried out to drive the nation's educational transformation.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the 32nd Teachers' Day Celebration 2022, held at the Plenary Hall, International Convention Centre (ICC).



His Majesty delivering the Meritorious Teacher Award.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering the Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien (SHOAS) Education Award.



His Majesty delivering the Excellent Teacher Award.



His Majesty; 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 Mohamed Bolkiah; as well as other members of the royal family. upon arrival at the event.

In the *titah*, the Monarch hoped that the efforts will continue to produce future-proof citizens. As a way forward, it is timely for the Ministry of Education to formulate policies and strategic plans to achieve the goals of the Brunei Vision 2035.

Accompanying His Majesty at the Plenary Hall, International Convention Centre (ICC) 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 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; as well as other members of the royal family.

The ceremony proceeded with a recitation of Surah An-Nahl, verses 1 to 12 by Awang Haji Mohammad Hendra bin Haji Meraji, Specialist Inspector, Department of Islamic Studies.

Continue on page 14



His Majesty touring the exhibition held in conjunction with the 32nd Teachers' Day Celebration 2022 at the ICC hallway.



His Majesty and members of the royal family during the get-together and photo session with teachers, students, undergraduates from various educational levels and institutions; as well as participants of the performance.



From page 13

Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Setia Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Md. Salleh, Minister of Education as Co-Chairperson of the 32nd Teachers' Day Celebration Executive Committee then delivered a welcoming speech.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Education as Co-Chairperson of the 32nd Teachers' Day Celebration Executive Committee delivering a welcoming speech.

At the event, His Majesty also presented Teachers' Day Awards to the recipients of 2020, 2021, and 2022.

The Monarch delivered the Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin (SHOAS) Education Award to Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman.



Specialist Inspector from the Al-Quran Unit of the Inspectorate Division and Lecturer in translation at the Arabic Language Faculty and Director of the Strategic Planning and Development Office, Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) during the recitation of Surah An-Nahl, verse 1 to 12 and its translation.

Six others received the Meritorious Teacher Awards: Datin Paduka Hajah Azidah binti Panglima Asgar Dato Paduka Haji Abdullah; Associate Professor Dr. Haji Hashim bin Haji Abdul Hamid; Datin Paduka Dr. Hajah Masnon binti Haji Ibrahim; Awang Haji Md. Daud @ Mokti bin Taha; Dr. Haji Azaharaini bin Haji Mohd. Jamil; and Datin Paduka Hajah Zasia binti Sirin.

His Majesty then delivered the Excellent Teacher Awards to 23 recipients; and the Special Mention Teachers' Day Appreciation Awards to 79 recipients.



One of the performances which enlivened the 32nd Teachers' Day Celebration.

His Majesty and members of the royal family were then invited to tour the exhibition held in conjunction with the 32nd Teachers' Day Celebration 2022 at the ICC hallway.

His Royal Highness signs Book of Condolences



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office as representative of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam signing the Book of Condolences at the residence of the British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam in Bandar Seri Begawan (left); and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince in a photo with His Excellency John Virgoe (right).



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 13 – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office as representative of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam signed a Book of Condolences at the residence of the British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam in Bandar Seri Begawan earlier today, following the recent passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The arrival of His Royal Highness was welcomed by His Excellency John Virgoe, British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.

Also present at the signing was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd. Yusof, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II passed away on September 8 at the age of 96.

Raising awareness on educating children with special needs

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 6 – A talk on how to educate children with special needs was held by the Impian Project at Level 8, Baiduri Community Space, Baiduri Headquarters.



Among those who attended were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah; and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Muhammad Ruzaini bin Pengiran Dr. Haji Mohd. Yakub.

The event was held in collaboration with Sapphire Academy, a special needs learning centre in Malaysia, which brought along two of its experts at the sharing session.

The event was supported by Baiduri Bank and Miftah An-Nur Islamic International School. The talk focused on allied health professionals, teachers, as well as parents and families of special needs children.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah; and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Muhammad Ruzaini bin Pengiran Dr. Haji Mohd. Yakub at the talk held by Impian Project.

The talk, among others, also highlighted the importance of access to education and the right methods of educational delivery for special needs children.

State Funeral for late Prime Minister

TOKYO, JAPAN, September 27 – Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) as a representative of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the State Funeral of His Excellency Shinzo Abe, former Prime Minister of Japan at Nippon Budokan.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) as representative of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attending the state funeral of His Excellency former Prime Minister of Japan at Nippon Budokan, Tokyo, Japan (above); and the greeting occasion with His Excellency Prime Minister of Japan (below).

After the state funeral, Her Royal Highness attended the greeting occasion with His Excellency Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan; His Excellency Hirokazu Matsuno, Chief Cabinet Secretary of Japan; His Excellency Yoshimasa Hayashi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan; and Madame Akie Abe, spouse of former Prime Minister of Japan. The event took place at the Akasaka Palace.

At the event, Her Royal Highness conveyed her condolences on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to His Excellency Fumio Kishida and Madame Akie Abe on the passing of His Excellency Shinzo Abe on July 8.

His Excellency Fumio Kishida also expressed the Government of Japan's appreciation for Her Royal Highness' presence at the state funeral.

Her Royal Highness was accompanied by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar.



Collective efforts in advancing energy sector

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 15 – ASEAN's continued collective efforts in advancing the energy sector is crucial, including local-led initiatives during Brunei Darussalam's chairmanship of the 39th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) in 2021.

A significant deliverable achieved was the adoption of the Bandar Seri Begawan Joint Declaration on Energy Security and Energy Transition.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) explained the matter while delivering his address as the Outgoing Chairperson at the 40th AMEM and its associated meetings, which was held online.

Continue on page 17



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office as the Outgoing Chairperson during the 40th AMEM and its associated meetings, which was held online.

From page 18

According to the Minister at the PMO, the declaration reaffirmed the importance of ensuring energy security and accelerating energy transition; as well as the importance of cross-sectoral collaboration to further advance ASEAN's community-building efforts – particularly, the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

The meeting held from September 13 to 16 is attended by ASEAN Energy Ministers and Heads of Delegations from Dialogue Partners and international organisations.

The 40th AMEM and its associated meetings was officiated by His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia on September 15.

The meeting themed "Accelerating Energy Transition: Economy Recovery and Sustainable Growth" was chaired by His Excellency Suy Sem, Minister of Mines and Energy of Cambodia.

Among the matters discussed at the meeting were the progress of seven programme activities implemented under the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) Phase II (2021-2025), including the ASEAN Power Grid (APG); Trans-ASEAN

Gas Pipeline (TAGP); Coal and Clean Coal Technology, Energy Efficiency and Conservation; Renewable Energy, Regional Energy Policy and Planning; and Civilian Nuclear Energy.

The programme activities are hoped to contribute towards realising the objectives of AEC and the ASEAN Vision 2025.

The 40th AMEM side events also saw the launching of two published documents - the Seventh ASEAN Energy Outlook (AEOT); and the Second ASEAN Renewable Energy Outlook.

Also taking place are the adoption of the 40th AMEM joint ministerial statement; 19th AMEM Plus Three (19th AMEM+3) joint ministerial statement; and 16th East Asia Summit Energy Ministerial Meeting (EAS EMM) joint ministerial statement; the Sixth AMEM – International Renewable Energy Agency Dialogue (IRENA).

The associated ministerial meetings, which will be held from September 15 to 16, include the 19th AMEM+3; the 16th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting (EAS EMM); as well as Eighth AMEM – International Energy Agency Dialogue (IEA) Dialogue.

Other side-line events include the Fifth East Asia Energy Forum (EAFF) and the ASEAN Energy Business Forum (AEBF) 2022.

AMMTC: Addressing transnational criminal activities

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 21 – The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) will continue to use the Whole-of-Nation and Whole-of-Government Approach in addressing transnational criminal activities.

The matter was stated by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at PMO as Chairman of the National Security Committee at the Plenary Session of the 16th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), which took place virtually.

The Minister at PMO also highlighted Brunei Darussalam's efforts against transnational crime during the pandemic and touched on the country's significant achievement in combatting Trafficking in Persons (TIP) through the prosecution of two new cases in 2022.

The Minister highlighted that it is important for the AMMTC to further strengthen cooperation with ASEAN sectoral bodies and ASEAN dialogue partner countries to assist regional recovery efforts in the post-COVID-19 era – in line with the aspiration set out in the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Combatting Transnational Crime Post COVID-19 pandemic adopted during Brunei's chairmanship of the 15th AMMTC last year.

The 16th AMMTC and its related meetings are chaired by His Excellency Samdech Kralahom Sar Kheng, Deputy Prime



Yang Berhormat Minister at Prime Minister's Office as Chairman of the National Security Committee at the Plenary Session of the 16th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC).

Minister and Minister of the Interior of Cambodia; with the attendance of ASEAN ministers responsible for transnational crime issues.

During the plenary session, the ASEAN Ministers and Heads of Delegation adopted the Terms of Reference of the National Representatives for the implementation of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking In Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP).

The meeting also took note of the adoption of the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime Work Programme to Implement the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime 2022-2024 by the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting

on Transnational Crime (SOMTC); and discussed the status of the implementation of activities under SOMTC, Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) and the ASEAN Chiefs of National Police (ASEANAPOL).

The three-day 16th AMMTC and its related meetings are held from September 20 to 22, starting with the Preparatory SOMTC, which took place yesterday.

The meeting will continue tomorrow with Dialogue Partner Consultations with the Plus Three countries (People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea).

Strengthening relations through historical and cultural values

JERUDONG, September 22 – The Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Brunei Darussalam hosted a reception in conjunction with Saudi Arabia's 92nd National Day at the Royal Berkshire Hall, Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club.

Representing the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as the Guest of Honour at the event was Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

The highlight of the event was a cake-cutting ceremony by the Minister of PMO; along with His Excellency Jassim Ali Abdullah Al-Obaidli, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Qatar to Brunei Darussalam; Sultan bin Mohamed Al Azri, Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Brunei Darussalam; and Khaled MFNM Al-Farhan, Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of Kuwait in Brunei Darussalam.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office representing the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as the Guest of Honour at the reception held in conjunction with Saudi Arabia's 92nd National Day.

Brunei joins Tokyo GX Week

TOKYO, September 27 – The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan is hosting the Tokyo GX (Green Transformation) Week – where the ministers, leaders of industry and international organisations engage in energy and environment-related international meetings, conferences and forums towards realising global carbon neutrality with sustainable economic growth through green transformation – which is held starting from September 26 via hybrid format.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) represented Brunei Darussalam at the event – particularly during the Fifth Hydrogen Energy Ministerial (HEM) Meeting; Second Asia Green Growth Partnership Ministerial Meeting (AGGPM); 11th LNG Producer-Consumer Conference (LNGPCC); and the Second Asia CCUS Network (ACN) Forum.

Yesterday, the Fifth HEM Meeting was held physically for the first time since 2019. Among the matters discussed were the rapid changes in the energy environment; progress towards building a global hydrogen-powered society; and innovative efforts towards hydrogen utilisation in countries worldwide.

The Minister also delivered a video address during the Fifth HEM.

The Minister at PMO in his address underlined Brunei Darussalam's commitment to work with regional and international institutions to promote hydrogen energy. The country has explored hydrogen potential with Japan for a global hydrogen supply chain demonstration project from 2019 to 2022 – which has shown feasibility despite the cost and economies of scale.

The Second AGGPM also took place physically in the same place – where ministers reflected on the importance of accelerating energy transitions in Asia; and the importance of well-balanced energy transitions toward achieving carbon neutrality while ensuring energy security.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) during the bilateral meeting with His Excellency State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry's (METI) headquarters in Tokyo.

In his address, the Minister mentioned Brunei Darussalam's aspiration towards net zero by 2050, supported by specific energy transition initiatives as part of the Brunei Darussalam National Climate Change Policy (BNCCP) in diversifying the energy mix. The country has also introduced several initiatives while chairing the 39th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM).

The Minister also held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Nakatani Shinichi, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan at METI's headquarters in Tokyo.

GJPMC committed in management, prevention of CVDs



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health delivering a speech at the Cardiology Conference 2022.

JERUDONG, September 11 – Over 200 doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals physically attended the Cardiology Conference 2022 in conjunction with the 20th Anniversary of Gleneagles Jerudong Park Medical Centre (GJPMC) as well as the Ninth Cardiac Society Brunei Darussalam Annual Scientific

Meeting.

Present as the Guest of Honour was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health.

The event themed "Cardiology in Asia and 20 Years of GJPMC" commenced with a welcoming speech by Dr. Peter Tay, Chief Executive Officer of GJPMC; followed by a speech by the the Minister of Health.

In his speech, the Minister elaborated on the statistics for cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) in Brunei Darussalam. The Minister also highlighted GJPMC's commitment towards the management and prevention of CVDs, as outlined in the Brunei Darussalam Multisectoral Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (Bru-MAP NCD) 2021-2025.

The programme saw talks and presentations on cardiology by local and overseas specialists. The conference also touched on GJPMC's establishment, and achievements, as well as its therapies, treatments, and new products to be introduced for the treatment of patients with cardiovascular disease.

Dementia: 7th leading cause of death worldwide

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 21 – Dementia is a kind of disease affecting the cognitive function of the brain impacting memory, thinking, behaviour and emotion. Dementia is also the main cause of differently-abled and dependency among the elderly.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), new cases of dementia identified among the elderly occur every three seconds throughout the world and an estimated 55 million people worldwide are living with dementia. With the increasing rate of the elderly population in each country, the estimation is expected to increase to 78 million by 2030 and 139 million by 2050.

Dementia is currently the seventh leading cause of death worldwide.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health in his message in conjunction with World Alzheimer's Month also explained that according to findings from the Lancet's Global Burden of Disease study in 2019, Brunei Darussalam recorded 1,574 cases of dementia, with the figure expected to rise by 365 per cent to 7,317 by 2050.

There are different types of dementia whereby Alzheimer's disease is the most common contributing to 60 to 70 per cent of dementia cases. In Brunei Darussalam, due to the high rate of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), vascular dementia is also commonly found among the elderly.

"Dementia is not a result of the normal ageing process, it is a disease that affects memory, thinking, behaviour, and the individual's emotions. The symptoms of dementia include loss of memory and thought, difficulties finding the right words to say or understand what was being said, difficulties in performing daily tasks, or changes in personality and emotion. Lastly, those affected will not be able to take care of themselves and will need assistance in all aspects of their life.

"Dementia has physical, psychological, social, and economic

impacts not only on individuals with dementia but also on the carer, family as well as community. There is often a lack of awareness and understanding of dementia, resulting in stigma and barriers to diagnosis and care," reiterated the Minister.

According to the Minister, the COVID-19 pandemic has a significant impact on all walks of life, especially people with dementia who experience a higher risk of obtaining treatment at the hospital, experience more severe illness and the risk of dying from COVID-19 as compared to patients who do not have dementia. The COVID-19 outbreak is also associated with long-term cognitive impairment among the elderly.

This was further worsened by the restriction and isolation from people which is among the risks of suffering from dementia.

Every month of September, World Alzheimer's Month is remembered, and Brunei Darussalam is no exception. The theme for this year's World Alzheimer's Month is like last year's, which is "Know Dementia, Know Alzheimer's". The theme aimed to raise public knowledge, especially on the warning signs of dementia and the importance of accurate diagnosis because knowing the warning signs can empower the public to be more prepared to manage or care for someone with dementia.

MoH in collaboration with Dementia Brunei, a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) has planned activities to raise public awareness of dementia.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health.

From page 19

In Brunei Darussalam, there is a high rate of NCDs especially high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and kidney failure – risk factors for dementia. For those with uncontrolled NCDs, the risk of getting dementia is higher compared to those who can control it well.

The Minister added that among the efforts in addressing dementia are understanding the symptoms and the risk factor of dementia. Those with NCDs are advised to comply and attend scheduled appointments for a doctor's examination. They also can obtain appointments for health screening or examination at health centres in accordance with their catchment areas.

The public is advised to increase daily physical activities for at least 30 minutes for five days a week and perform stimulating mental health activities as well as improve social interaction with family members and friends. This can help reduce the risk of getting dementia and delay the progression of dementia.

Involve oneself, family members, and friends to learn about dementia by getting information and advice from trusted sources, disseminating about dementia disease and providing

support for those suffering from dementia or family members or acquaintances who have dementia.

In addressing the issue of dementia, MoH has prepared and will continue to assess the need for a health system and infrastructure that is easily accessible and fair as well as of high quality to all residents of Brunei Darussalam in ensuring that all will benefit from the services.

MoH is also working closely with various government agencies like the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Senior Citizen Activity Centres, and NGOs like Dementia Brunei to raise awareness of dementia and implement interventions as well as activities associated with dementia. At the same time, MoH will make sure that healthcare workers and volunteers will be adequately trained until they can provide advice and care services for individuals with dementia and their family members and guardians.

In concluding the message, the Minister underlined MoH's commitment to achieving Brunei Vision 2035 – especially in achieving high quality of life for all levels of citizens and residents in Brunei Darussalam; and added that together we can make a difference to address and publicise dementia.

Raising childhood cancer awareness

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 25 – In Brunei Darussalam, 335 children aged 0-19 years old were diagnosed with cancer between 2002 and 2021.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health stated the matter during the Childhood Cancer and Thalassaemia Awareness Day 2022 at Times Square Shopping Centre.

The Minister of Health explained that data from the Hospital Based Cancer Registry showed an increase in the number of children (0-12 years) diagnosed with cancer – from 61 cases from 2000-2009 to 117 cases from 2010-2022. However, the cancer mortality rate during the same period dropped from 31.25 per cent to 27 per cent.

There are currently 64 Thalassaemia patients requiring blood transfusion in Brunei Darussalam.

The event was held in conjunction with Childhood Cancer Awareness Month,



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health in a group photo during the Childhood Cancer and Thalassaemia Awareness Day 2022 at Times Square Shopping Centre.

which is recognised worldwide every September.

The Children's Cancer Foundation (YASKA) has organised several activities to raise awareness – such as an

exhibition, blood donation campaign, and various activities to encourage children to increase their movement.

This year, Baiduri Bank volunteered to help conduct the activities.

Address CVD, reduce global disease burden

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 28 – Cardiovascular disease (CVD), including heart disease and stroke, is the main cause of death worldwide. It is estimated that as many as 17.9 million deaths every year – that is, 31 per cent of deaths worldwide – are caused by cardiovascular disease.

The matter was shared by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health in his message in conjunction with World Heart Day 2022.

According to the Minister of Health, in Brunei Darussalam, CVD has overtaken cancer as the overall highest cause of death and premature death and contributed to 25 per cent of the causes of death in 2021.

"This issue," said the Minister, "may be common knowledge for many, but what is worrying is the increase in CVD among younger people."

Continue on page 21

From page 20

"In 2021, CVD caused around 25 per cent of premature deaths (death before 70 years old) in the country, from 20 per cent in 2013," the Minister explained.

In addition, some 1,263 angiogram procedures; 832 percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) procedures; 112 electrophysiology procedures (EP); and 88 coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) procedures were carried out in 2021 in Brunei Darussalam.

The Minister further stated that the trend for Angiograms and PCI procedures showed an increase of 15.4 per cent and 40.3 per cent compared to 2016.

"The risk factors that contribute to CVD include behavioural risk factors that can be prevented such as tobacco use, unhealthy food practices such as excessive fat and salt intake, and an inactive lifestyle.

"Meanwhile, related risk factors such as obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol levels, and diabetes can be prevented or treated, if detected early," the Minister said.

"In 2012, world leaders expressed commitment to reduce global deaths due to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by as much as 25 per cent by 2025.

"Thus, World Heart Day, which is celebrated every September 29, is a platform to unite communities around the world in addressing NCDs, especially CVD, and reducing the global disease burden.

"World Heart Day also aims to increase public knowledge and awareness on CVD, key actions to prevent and control it, as well as its global impact."

"This year's World Heart Day carries the theme 'Use Heart for Every Heart' and emphasises three main messages. First, to use the heart for humanity, whereby we raise awareness and knowledge about CVD and its prevention.

"We also encourage the public to carry out health screenings and to seek early treatment to control the disease and prevent complications.

COVID-19: Over 5,000 recovered cases in September

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 30 – A total number of 5,494 cases were reported to have recovered during the month of September – bringing the overall number of recovered COVID-19 cases in Brunei Darussalam up to date to 225,682. Two deaths were also recorded within the same month.

The cases were announced by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health in a series of press conferences on the current situation of COVID-19 infections in Brunei Darussalam held throughout the month at the Al-'Afiah Hall, Ministry of Health (MoH); as well as in the daily infographics issued by MoH.

As for the reports of new cases, it was shared during the press conference on September 5 that the average number of daily new cases for the past week was 169 cases per day. In several other conferences, the average number of daily new cases for the past week was recorded at 179 cases per day on September 12; 215 cases per day on September 19; and 210 cases per day on September 26.

As of today, among the cases that are currently being treated, 1 case is currently reported under Category 4 – whereby the

"Second, to use heart for nature. Did you know that air pollution causes 25 per cent of all cardiovascular disease deaths? Therefore, people are advised to be more active by cycling or walking, and reduce the use of cars where appropriate, to keep the air clean and improve cardiovascular health.

"At the same time, we must be reminded that cigarette smoke also contributes to air pollution around us. Therefore, smokers are strongly encouraged to stop and prevent people around them from getting exposed to second-hand smoke.

"The third message is to use heart for you. Stress can double the risk of heart attacks. Therefore, the public is advised to consistently exercise, reflect, and meditate, practice a healthy and balanced diet, and get enough rest and quality sleep to reduce stress," the Minister elaborated.

In continuing the efforts to promote an active lifestyle and increasing physical activities among the community, the Minister stated that MoH has launched the 'BN on the Move' initiative last August.

Regular exercise such as walking every day can help improve heart health, provide quality sleep and good mental health, as well as reduce the risks of CVD, including heart disease.

"InsyaaAllah, public involvement – be it individually or as a group – in becoming more active every day will help our residents to achieve better heart health," the Minister highlighted.

"Therefore, in conjunction with this year's World Heart Day, let us altogether play our roles in contributing to positive change in our lives and those around us – especially our loved family members – towards healthier choices and habits.

"Participate in activities and take advantage of services promoting heart health organised by MoH and other health sectors.

"InsyaaAllah, with these changes taken together, the risk and burden of CVD and other NCDs will be reduced, and the quality of our lives and of future generations will be improved," the Minister concluded.

patients would require assistance from oxygen respirators and are placed under close observation. Meanwhile, there are no cases identified under Category 5 – whereby the patients require assistance from oxygen respirators and heart/lung machines (Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation) under the Intensive Care Unit.

Under the National Vaccination Programme, it was reported that 85.3 per cent of children between 5 to 11 years old have received their second dose, whereas 61.5 per cent of teenagers between 12 to 17 years old have completed three doses. On the other hand, 78.5 per cent of the country's people and residents have completed three doses, while 10.5 per cent have received their fourth dose.

On September 12, it was announced that as of September 15, a complete COVID-19 vaccination will no longer be an entry or exit requirement for the country. Citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam as well as foreigners entering the country are no longer required to complete the Arrival Declaration Form. However, those exiting the country as well as foreigners who are entering the country are still required to possess valid travel

Continue on page 22

From page 21

insurance that includes COVID-19 treatment coverage.

On September 26, the Minister of Health reported that the Brunei Darussalam Medicines Control Authority has approved the emergency use authorisation for the use of the Moderna

Spikevax Bivalent Original/Omicron for adults in the country.

The approval is based on clinical data for the bivalent vaccine and follows guidelines approved by drug control authorities in the United Kingdom, Australia, the European Union, Canada, and the Republic of Singapore.

Launch of Brunei's first retail rapid charging station

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 30 – 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 stated that the establishment of the Electric Vehicle (EV) Joint Taskforce last year showed the government's commitment to further understanding the needs of EV.

The Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy, as Guest of Honour, stated the matter in a speech delivered at the Launching Ceremony for the First Retail Rapid Charging Station in the country at the IBA Petrol Station in Lambak.

The launching was jointly officiated by the Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Muhammad Juanda bin Haji Abdul Rashid, Minister of Development; Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications; and Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Matsatejo bin Sokiaw, Deputy Minister of



The Launching Ceremony of the First Retail Rapid Charging Station in the country, officiated by Yang Berhormat Minister at Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy; Yang Berhormat Minister of Development; Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications; and Yang Mulia Deputy Minister of Energy.

Energy. The launching held by Brunei Shell Marketing (BSM) Company Sdn. Bhd. featured a Shell Recharge 175-kilowatt hour rapid charger, which can charge an EV from zero to 80 per cent in under 30 minutes.

Sharing of current disaster issues, global disaster management strategies



Yang Berhormat Minister of Home Affairs representing Brunei Darussalam's delegation at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference On Disaster Risk Reduction.

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA, September 21 – Brunei Darussalam, through the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) and the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) is attending the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

The conference is co-hosted by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the Government of Australia from September 19 to 22, with a focus on current disaster issues and global disaster management strategies.

This year's conference includes the Ministerial Forum, High-Level

Dialogue, Thematic Sessions, symposiums, and an exhibition.

Over 3,000 participants from 40 countries are taking part in the conference physically and virtually.

The conference commenced with the Ministerial Forum, chaired by Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, and His Excellency Murray Watt, Minister for Emergency Management of Australia.

Continue on page 23

From page 22

Representing Brunei Darussalam's delegation was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Home Affairs, who also paid a courtesy call to His Excellency Murray Watt.

In his report, the Minister of Home Affairs shared Brunei's

commitment to align its national disaster management policy with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030; the status of the Brunei Darussalam National Climate Change Policy; and the long-term adaptation strategies against climate change.

The theme for this year's conference is 'From Crisis to Resilience: Transforming the Asia-Pacific Region's Future Through Disaster Risk Reduction'.

Commemorating Brunei-China relations

GADONG, September 29 – A reception was held yesterday in conjunction with the 73rd Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China at the Songket Ballroom, Rizqun International Hotel.

Present as Guests of Honour at the event were Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Home Affairs, and spouse.

Her Excellency Yu Hong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China delivered welcoming remarks.

The event saw the launching of a memorial photo album entitled "30 Years of Friendship" to commemorate Brunei-China Relations. This was followed by a cake-cutting ceremony and a group photo.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Home Affairs and Her Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China during the reception held in conjunction with the 73rd Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China.

108 sign Joint Scholarship Programmes



Scholarship recipients in a group photo with Yang Berhormat Minister of Education and Her Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam.

JERUDONG, September 29 – Some 108 students were signed under the Hengyi Industries Sdn. Bhd.'s Joint Scholarship Programmes with Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD)-Zhejiang University (ZJU); and the Institute of Brunei Technical Education (IBTE)-Lanzhou Petrochemical University of Vocational Technology (LPUVT). The ceremony was held at Indera Samudera Hall, The Empire Brunei.

Present to witness the signing as the Guest of Honour was Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Setia Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Md. Salleh, Minister of Education. Also present was Her Excellency Yu Hong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam.

The event involved 34 students from UBD and 74 students from IBTE. The UBD-ZJU Joint Scholarship Programme is a four-year course in Chemical and Process Engineering, where the students will study for two years in UBD, followed by one and a

half years of studies at ZJU and a six-month internship at Hengyi Industries.

The students under the IBTE-LPUVT Joint Scholarship Programme will be undergoing a three-year Refinery Operator Programme, where they will complete one year of studies at IBTE Jefri Bolkih Campus, one year at LPUVT and another year of on-the-job-training with Hengyi Industries at Pulau Muara Besar.

All scholarship recipients will be expecting job opportunities at the company.

At the event, Xu Ye, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Hengyi Industries also donated \$50,000 on behalf of the company to Pengiran Datin Hajah Noraini binti Pengiran Dipa Negara Laila Diraja Pengiran Haji Abdul Momin, Executive Trustee of Pusat Ehsan, who received the donation on behalf of Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam.

Brunei Darussalam committed towards reducing carbon emissions

TUNGKU LINK, September 8 – Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications; and Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Khairuddin bin Haji Abdul Hamid, Acting Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Finance and Economy attended an Electric Vehicle (EV) Dialogue entitled "Driving Towards a Greener Nation", which was held at the Performance Theatre, Pro-Chancellor Arts Centre, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications; and Yang Mulia Acting Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Finance and Economy attending an Electric Vehicle (EV) Dialogue entitled 'Driving Towards a Greener Nation'.

The dialogue was co-organised by MTIC; the Department of Energy, PMO; and BSM Sdn. Bhd.

Three keynotes were delivered virtually by Fadiyah Achmadi, Associate Economic Affairs Officer from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP); Gautam Patel, UNESCAP Consultant; and Lieutenant Colonel Dr. Tongkam Kaewchalermtong from the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy, Kingdom of Thailand.

The event continued with a dialogue session moderated by Awang Ahmad Zaiemaddien bin Pehin Datu Lailaraja

Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi, Head of the Brunei Climate Change Secretariat – comprising Dayang Rasyiqah Azimah binti Muhammad Nuraiziz, Geologist at the Energy Transition Division representing EVTJF; Awang Mohd. Fadhillah bin Awang Sulaiman, Hyundai Sales Manager and Non-Tech Trainer at Setia Motors Sdn. Bhd. representing the Brunei Automobile Traders Association; Awang Haji Shahrildin bin Pehin Orang Kaya Lela

Utama Dato Paduka Haji Jaya, Managing Director, and Chief Executive Officer of Takaful Brunei Sdn. Bhd. as Chairman of the Brunei Insurance and Takaful Association; and Pengiran Zainul Asri bin Pengiran Abd. Razak, EV Business Developer at Brunei Shell Marketing.

The dialogue emphasised Brunei Darussalam's continuous commitment on reducing carbon emissions by adopting EVs.

Signing of MoU for management, operation of Brunei Bay Southern Anchorage

JERUDONG, September 29 – In conjunction with World Maritime Day 2022, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Signing Ceremony for the Management and Operation of the Brunei Bay Southern Anchorage was held between the Maritime and Port Authority of Brunei Darussalam (MPABD) and Amarco Services Sdn. Bhd. at Indera Kayangan Hall, The Empire Brunei.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications as Chairman of the Maritime and Port Authority of Brunei Darussalam (MPABD) Board of Directors at the MoU Signing Ceremony for the Management and Operation of the Brunei Bay Southern Anchorage held in conjunction with World Maritime Day 2022.

The signing was witnessed by Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications as Chairman of MPABD Board of Directors.

Signing on behalf of MPABD was Captain Abdul Mateen Abdurrahman Liew@Martin, Acting Chief Executive of MPABD; while Amarco Services Sdn. Bhd. was represented by Awang Ariffin bin Haji Masrah, Director of the company.

Enhancing youth and sports development

JEDDAH, SAUDI ARABIA, September 9 – The Ministry of Sports, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in collaboration with the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) hosted the Fifth Session of Islamic Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers from September 7 to 9, with the theme "Development of Youth and Sports for a Solidarity-based Ummah".

Nazmi bin Haji Mohamad, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports shared Brunei Darussalam's strategies for youth and sports development – where he highlighted the country's initiatives in engaging the youth; the significance of the Fourth Industrial Revolution for future-ready youth and developing industry-related skills; as well as Brunei's efforts in promoting inclusivity through sports.

At the conference, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji

Continue on page 25

From Page 24

The Ministers and representatives of OIC Member States responsible for Youth and Sports also adopted The Omnibus Resolution on Youth and Sports and Declaration of the Fifth Session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports.

The Minister also joined other ministers and representatives at a banquet session hosted by His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Azeez bin Turki Al-Faisal, the Minister of Sports of Saudi Arabia.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports at the Fifth Session of Islamic Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Celebrating Indonesia's Independence Day

GADONG, September 13 – Over 300 guests attended the Diplomatic Reception held in conjunction with the 77th Anniversary of Indonesia's Independence Day at the Songket Hall, The Rizqun International Hotel.

Present as the event's Guest of Honour were Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Nazmi bin Haji Mohamad, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports and spouse.

The event saw His Excellency Dr. Sujatmiko, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary delivering his welcoming remarks.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports as the Guest of Honour during the cake-cutting ceremony at the Diplomatic Reception held in conjunction with the 77th Anniversary of Indonesia's Independence Day.

The Diplomatic Reception was the highlight of a series of activities held by the Indonesian Embassy in Brunei Darussalam to commemorate the 77th Anniversary of Indonesia's Independence Day; and it was held for the first time in two years since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Promote gender equality, women empowerment

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 29 – Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Nazmi bin Haji Mohamad, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports virtually attended the ASEAN-US Ministerial Dialogue on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

The meeting was co-chaired by Her Excellency Gusti Ayu Bintang Darmawati, Minister of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, Republic of Indonesia as Chair of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women; and Her Excellency Samantha Power, Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports highlighted the role of women in Brunei Darussalam's national development and the equal opportunities given to them for social and economic benefit; as well as the country's initiatives towards women empowerment and gender equality, including the National Plan of Action on Women under the National Council on Social Issues.

The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) also started its research on women's development in Brunei Darussalam in April, with the expected completion in March 2023. The research

findings will be used to review and strengthen the National Plan of Action on Women, as well as to identify the strategic issues related to women in Brunei in ensuring the solidity of the institution.

The Minister also expressed appreciation towards the United States' support in women empowerment initiatives, such as the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) in collaboration with Darussalam Enterprise (DARE) earlier in June. Women entrepreneurs in the country are also given access to programmes, including the Industry Business Academy (IBA).

The ministerial dialogue concluded with the adoption of the ASEAN-US Joint Ministerial Statement on gender equality and women empowerment.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports virtually attending the ASEAN-US Ministerial Dialogue on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

Introductory visit, courtesy call to Minister of Defence, Singapore

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, September 5 – Yang Mulia Brigedier General (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Abdul Razak bin Haji Abd. Kadir, Deputy Minister of Defence went for an introductory visit to the Republic of Singapore from August 31 to September 4.

This was followed by a courtesy call to His Excellency Dr. Ng Eng Hen, Minister of Defence of Singapore.

During the visit, the Deputy Minister of Defence was conferred the Pingat Jasa Gemilang (Tentera), Singapore's prestigious military award in recognition of his contributions in enhancing the relations between the Royal Brunei Land Forces (RBLF) and the Singapore Army during his tenure as the Commander of RBLF.

As part of the visit, the Deputy Minister visited the Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA); Maritime Security and Response Vessels at Changi Naval Base; ST Engineering Hub; and the Cybersecurity Operations, Sensing, Monitoring, and Investigation Centre (COSMIC).



Yang Mulia Brigedier General (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Abdul Razak bin Haji Abd. Kadir, Deputy Minister of Defence with His Excellency Dr. Ng Eng Hen, Minister of Defence of Singapore.

Brunei-Indonesia strengthen defence cooperation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 7 – The Ministry of Defence received an official visit from His Excellency General Dato Paduka Seri Andika Perkasa, Chief of Defence Force of Indonesia (TNI), who is in the country from September 6 to 8.

His Excellency Chief of TNI also paid a courtesy call to Yang Mulia Brigadier General (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Abdul Razak bin Haji Abd. Kadir, Deputy Minister of Defence, as well as the Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).

During His Excellency's visit to the country, His Excellency and Commander of RBAF co-chaired the Fourth Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia High Level Committee (BRUNESIA HLC) meeting between RBAF and TNI at the Defence Academy RBAF.

As part of the visit, His Excellency held a session with participants of the 12th RBAF Command and Staff Course and visited the Third Battalion, Royal Brunei Land Forces in Lumut Camp.

An official dinner for His Excellency and delegation was also hosted by the Commander of RBAF, with the attendance of senior officers of RBAF.



His Excellency Chief of Defence Force of Indonesia during the courtesy call to Yang Mulia Deputy Minister of Defence.

Prepare MSMEs for a post-pandemic world

PHUKET, KINGDOM OF THAILAND, September 12 – The 28th APEC Small and Medium Enterprises Ministerial Meeting (SMEEM) was held from September 9 to 10.

The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Supattanapong Punmeechaow, Deputy Prime Minister and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion of Thailand.

Brunei Darussalam was represented by Pengiran Datin Seri Paduka Hajah Zety Sufina binti Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Sani, Deputy Minister (Fiscal) of Finance and Economy, who delivered her remarks at the meeting.

Under the theme "Inclusive Recovery of APEC Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through Bio-CircularGreen (BCG) and High Impact Ecosystem", APEC economies recognised the need for MSMEs to prepare for a post-pandemic world.

Continue on page 27



Yang Mulia Deputy Minister (Fiscal) of Finance and Economy at the 28th APEC Small and Medium Enterprises Ministerial Meeting.

From Page 26

Market Landscape: High Impact Policy".

Participants also shared the best practices and presented their views on four sub-themes: "Accelerating BCG Adoption"; "Inclusive Digital Transformation"; "The Next Normal MSME Financing and Debt Restructuring" and "Coping with Evolving

Dayang Norlela binti Suhailee, Head of Business Development and Support of Darussalam Enterprise (DARE) as Chairperson of the APEC SME Working Group (SMEWG) for 2021-2022 presented the SMEWG Meeting 2022 report.

Permanent Secretary pays courtesy visit

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, September 30 – Dr. Haji Azman bin Ahmad, Permanent Secretary (Higher Education) at the Ministry of Education (MoE) paid a courtesy visit to Lai Chung Han, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Singapore.

The visit ended with an exchange of souvenirs from both parties.

The courtesy call is one of the agendas during the working visit outlined by the MoE delegation to Singapore from September 28 until October 2, led by Permanent Secretary (Higher Education) at the MoE.

Permanent Secretary (Higher Education) at the Ministry of Education with the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Singapore.



BDMCA-TGA sign MoU



Nicole Giffard

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health (MoH) attending to witness the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Signing Ceremony between the Brunei Darussalam Medicines Control Authority (BDMCA), MoH and the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), Department of Health and Aged Care, Australia, held virtually.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 26 – Towards further strengthening cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Australia – especially in the field of health – the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Signing Ceremony between the Brunei Darussalam Medicines Control Authority (BDMCA), Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), Department of Health and Aged Care, Australia was held virtually.

Present to witness the signing was Awang Haji Maswadi bin Haji Mohsin, Permanent Secretary at MoH.

The MoU focused on collaborative efforts on therapeutic products in both countries, as part of MoH's initiative in supporting the diversity and quality of medical services for the people and residents of Brunei Darussalam, in addition to capacity building for health professionals between BDMCA and TGA.

RoK-ASEAN discuss defence cooperation, security issues

SEOUL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, September 9 – The Ministry of Defence (MinDef) participated in the 2022 Republic of Korea (ROK)-ASEAN Defense Vice-Ministerial Meeting and the Seoul Defense Dialogue (SDD) 2022, held from September 6 to 8.

MinDef was represented by Haji Adi Ithram bin Dato Paduka Haji Mahmud, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Policy and Strategy) at MinDef.

This year, the ROK-ASEAN Defense Vice-Ministerial Meeting discussed measures for the development and implementation plans for ROK-ASEAN defence cooperation.

Meanwhile, the 11th SDD – themed ‘How to Address Complex Security Challenges: Fostering International Solidarity’ –



Deputy Permanent Secretary (Policy and Strategy) at the Ministry of Defence (MinDef) and other head of delegation at the 2022 Republic of Korea (ROK)-ASEAN Defense Vice-Ministerial Meeting.

discussed a variety of security issues focussing on Korean Peninsula issues, Asia-Pacific security, the role of military in hybrid warfare and international cooperation as well as technological-related issues. The dialogue also held the first SDD Space Security Working Group

to continue last year’s discussion on space security.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary also had bilateral meetings with counterparts from the Republic of the Philippines and ROK.

Total trade records increase of 48.7 per cent in 2022

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 8 – Brunei Darussalam recorded a total trade of \$2,846.3 million, an increase by 48.7 per cent from \$1,913.9 million during the same month in 2021.

Meanwhile, for month-to-month changes, total trade for May decreased by 5.7 per cent compared to April.

Total exports increased by 51.9 per cent to \$1,749.4 million in May compared to \$1,151.8 million in May 2021. This was mainly due to the increase in mineral fuels exports to \$1,362.5 million (May 2022) from \$840.8 million (May 2021). In addition, chemicals exports increased to \$360.1 million in May from \$227.2 million in the same month of 2021.

The increase in mineral fuels exports was mainly due to the higher export value of crude oil, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and petroleum products. In May 2022, the average price of crude oil increased by 69.5 per cent to US\$118.56 per barrel from US\$69.96 per barrel in May 2021.

Meanwhile, LNG export value increased by 58.6 per cent to US\$12.70 per MMBtu in May 2022 from US\$8.01 per MMBtu in May 2021. For the petroleum products export, it recorded an increase to \$707.4 million from \$400.1 million in May 2021, where the main commodity was automotive diesel fuels.

In terms of export commodity, mineral fuels represent the major contributor to the Sultanate’s exports at 77.9 per cent; followed by chemicals (20.6 per cent); and machinery and transport equipment (0.4

per cent).

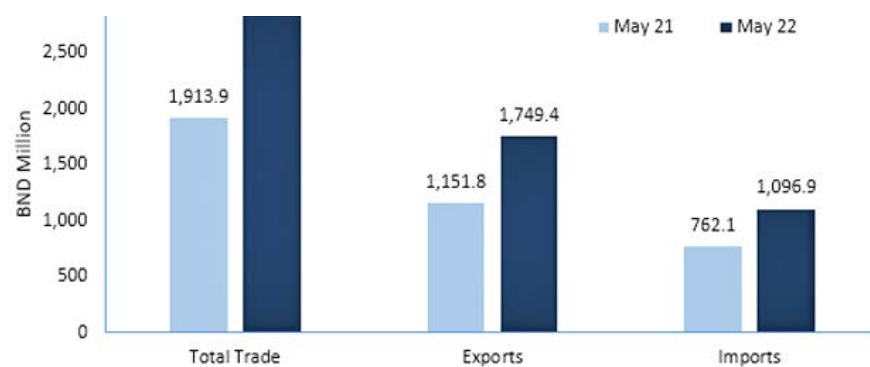
The main exports market in May was Australia at 19.8 per cent, followed by People’s Republic of China (19.1 per cent) and the Republic of Singapore (15 per cent). The largest export commodity to Australia and Singapore was mineral fuels; meanwhile, to China was chemicals.

For imports, the total value increased to \$1,096.9 million (May 2022) from \$762.1 million (May 2021), mainly due to a significant increase in imports of mineral fuels.

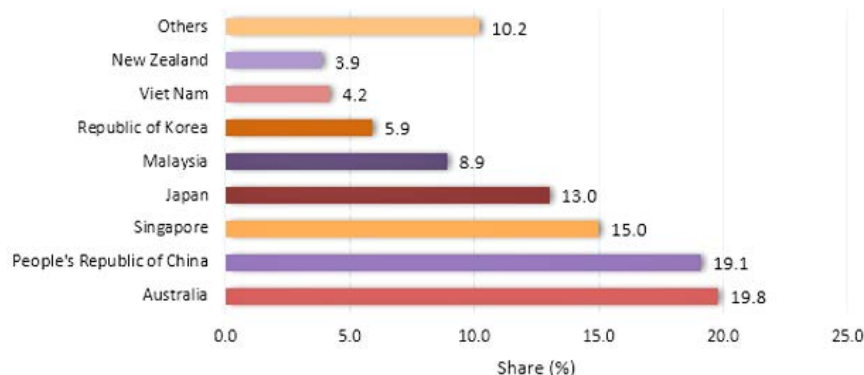
million (May 2021), mainly due to a significant increase in imports of mineral fuels.

The five main imports by commodity were mineral fuels with 62.5 per cent; followed by machinery and transport equipment at (10.2 per cent); chemicals at (8.2 per cent); inedible crude materials (6 per cent); and food (5.7 per cent).

Continue on page 29



Share of Exports by Trading Partners



From Page 28

Most of the country’s imports, which was about 59.2 per cent, are used as intermediate goods for processing; followed by capital goods (37.4 per cent) for business operations; and consumption goods (3.4 per cent) for household use.

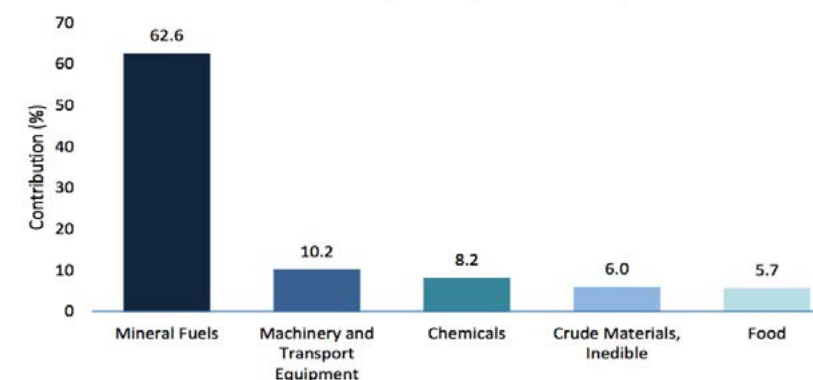
For imports by trading partners, the highest share was from Malaysia at 30.4 per cent; followed by Republic of Kazakhstan (14.7 per cent); and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (13.3 per cent) – with mineral fuels as the largest import commodity.

According to the mode of transport, in May, the highest share for both exports and imports was transport by sea, which amounted to \$2,719.3 million or 95.5 per cent.

This was followed by air transport (\$98.7 million or 3.5 per cent); and via land (\$28.3 million or 1 per cent).

	Price (USD)		Changes May 2022 / May 2021 (%)
	May 2021	May 2022	
Crude Oil (per barrel)	69.96	118.56	69.5
Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) (per MMBtu)	8.01	12.70	58.6

Five Main Imports by Commodity



CPI for June increases by 0.8 per cent

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 14 – The Consumer Prince Index (CPI) for June increased by 0.8 per cent month-on-month, compared to May. This is due to the increase in the food and non-alcoholic beverages index; and the non-food index by 0.5 per cent and 0.8 per cent respectively.

According to the press release from the Department of Economic Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Finance and Economy, compared to June 2021, the overall CPI has increased by 3.9 per cent – in line with the increase in food and non-alcoholic beverages; and non-food indices by 5.8 per cent and 3.5 per cent respectively.

The increase in food and non-alcoholic beverages index was caused by the increase in prices of oil and fats by 23.7 per cent (mainly caused by the increase in cooking oil prices in producing countries); meat by 12.4 per cent (mainly caused by the increase in chicken prices as a result of the increase in chicken feed



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Year-On-Year Changes
JUNE 2022 : 3.9%



<https://www.deps.mofe.gov.bn> | info.statistics@pes.gov.bn | @statistics_pes

prices); and fish and seafood by 7.3 per cent (as a result of the rise in operational costs and delivery service charge).

The increase in non-food index was driven by the increases in miscellaneous goods and services by 14.0 per cent (mainly caused by the rise in transport insurance prices); transport by 5.3 per cent (mainly cause by the increase in the prices of motor vehicles and airline tickets); as well as housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels by 2.3 per cent (led by the rise in maintenance and repair costs; as well as rental rates).

Retail sales performance shows y-o-y decrease in Q2

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 15 – In the second quarter (Q2) 2022, the performance of the retail sales showed a year-on-year (y-o-y) decrease of 4.1 per cent, with an estimated value decrease from \$488.2 million to \$468.3 million.

In terms of volume, the retail sales also recorded a negative growth of 6.8 per cent y-o-y.

The decline in retail sales was mainly caused by a drop in sales of textiles, wearing apparel and footwear by 12.6 per cent; followed by sales of electrical household appliances and lighting equipment in specialised stores by 9.4 per cent; sales at petrol station by 8.1 per cent; and sales in department store by 6.8 per cent.

It was due to the lack of domestic demand, in line with the easing of cross-border travel restrictions and online learning and teaching continued and conducted until mid May. The sales volume of these retail activities also registered a decrease.

The food and beverages services had increased by 0.2 per cent compared to Q2 2021, with estimated sales revenue increased from \$98.5 million to \$98.7 million.

In terms of volume, food and beverages activity recorded a negative growth of 1.1 per cent y-o-y.



The increase in sales revenue of food and beverages was mainly attributed by the increase in the sales revenue of other food service activities by 2.3 per cent; and

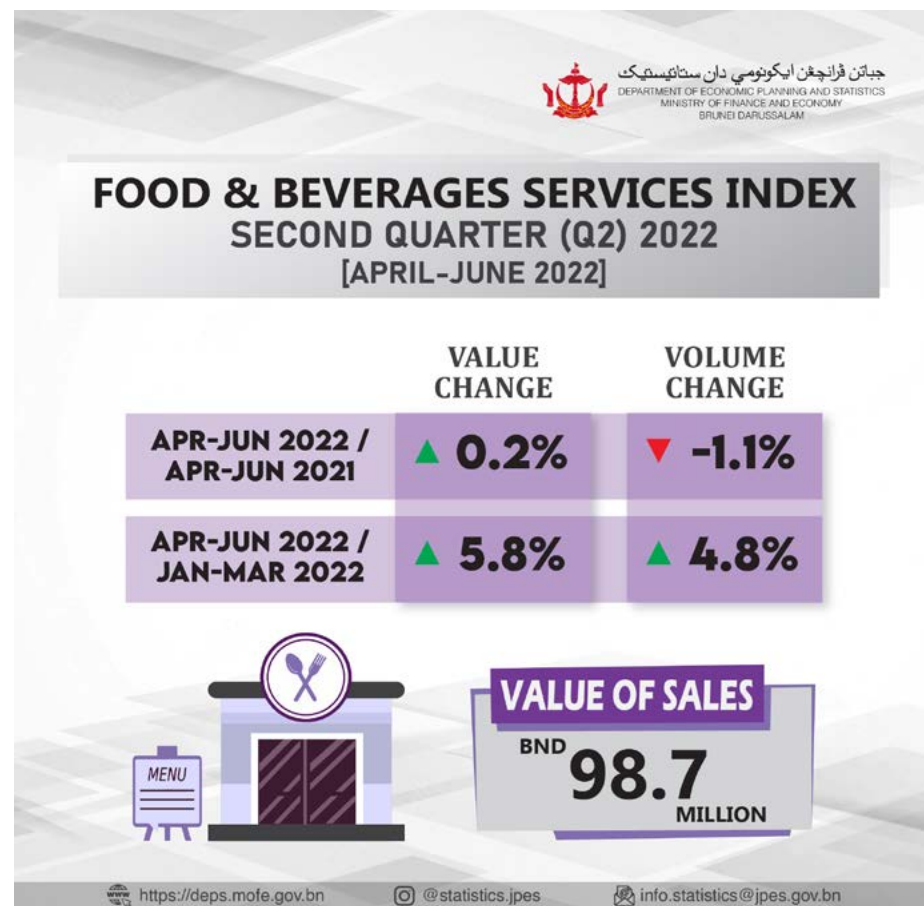
sales revenue of restaurants by 0.8 per cent.

The increase was as a result of no dine-in capacity limitations starting early June 2022.

Compared to the first quarter (Q1) 2022, the retail sales in Q2 2022 recorded an increase of 4.0 per cent due to an increase in the sales of textiles, wearing apparel and footwear by 29.9 per cent; sales at petrol station by 19.5 per cent; sales of furniture and household equipment by 14.4 per cent; and sales in department store by 7.2 per cent.

The food and beverage services also recorded an increase of 5.8 per cent in Q2 2022 compared to Q1 2022, mainly due to the increase in sales revenue of catering service activities by 19.4 per cent; beverage serving activities by 14.7 per cent; restaurants by 7.1 per cent; and fast-food outlets by 4.1 per cent.

Compared to Q1 2022, the increase in retail sales and food and beverage services' activities was in line with the rise in domestic demand, as most control measures were reduced, such as increasing the capacity for the entry of customers into business premises from 75 per cent to full capacity following the cessation of the COVID-19 Early Endemic Phase.



Exports increased by 55.3 per cent

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 15 – In the first quarter of 2022, Brunei's total exports increased by 55.3 per cent compared to the first quarter of the previous year, which was from \$2,825.9 million in the first quarter of 2021 to \$4,388.2 million in the first quarter of this year. The increase is due to a rise in the export unit value index by 59.7 per cent, which was contributed from the growth in the index of beverages (+82.1 per cent), crude materials inedible (+68.9 per cent) and mineral fuels index (+61.8 per cent). Rising prices of these commodities in the world market are among the main factors contributing to the increase in exports unit value index in the first quarter of this year.

Meanwhile, the export volume index fell by 5.8 per cent compared to the first quarter of 2021, contributed by the decline in the exports volume index of crude materials inedible such as crude fertiliser (-24.0 per cent), beverages (-12.8 per cent), and mineral fuels (-6.3 per cent). The decline in the export volume index indicated a decline in terms of the quantity of goods exported abroad.

The total imports in the first quarter of 2022 also increased by 29.5 per cent compared to the first quarter of 2021, due to the rise in imports unit value index by 3.2 per cent. The rise in the imports units value index was mainly contributed by mineral fuels (+51.6 per cent), animal and vegetables oils and fats (+28.1 per cent) and chemicals (+20.8 per cent), which reflected the increase in prices for those goods from the producing countries.

The imports volume index decreased by 7.8 per cent in first quarter this year. The decline was mainly attributed by lower volume imported in the index of manufactured goods (-33.8 per cent); animal and vegetables oils and fats (-15.4 per cent); and miscellaneous manufactured articles (-6.5 per cent).

The terms of trade registered an increase of 54.8 per cent in first quarter this year compared to first quarter of last year, which mainly contributed by the growth of beverages index at 99.4 per cent. The growth in the term of trade reflected that the unit value of exported goods was higher compared to the unit of imported goods.

National athletes celebrate wins at SUKMA XX

MALAYSIA, September 23 – Awang Md. Izzamuddin bin Muhammad Taha from the Brunei Darussalam contingent secured a bronze medal for the country for the Pencak Silat, Men's Tandeng Class 'A' Category event at the Malaysian Games (SUKMA) XX MSN 2022.

Previously, on September 20, Joel Ling Thai Yu won silver and set a new personal best during the game's Swimming, Men's 200m Backstroke event held at the Bukit Jalil National Aquatic Centre.

Another silver medal was won earlier on September 17 by Dayang Farah Syahirah binti Mohd. Shamrin under the Karate, Women's Individual Kata event at the at the Universiti Teknologi MARA Sports Complex.

The country saw its first victory in the games on September 16 at the same venue, with a bronze medal win in the Karate Men's Team Kata event – involving



Brunei Darussalam contingent, Joel Ling Thai Yu wins the silver medal for the country for the Swimming, Men's 200m Backstroke event at the Malaysian Games (SUKMA) XX MSN 2022.

athletes Awang Khairul Syafiq bin Khairul Ariffin; Awang Muhammad Nazirul bin Haji Johar; and Awangku Ahmad Munib Aiman bin Pengiran Haji Mohd. Hasimudin.



Brunei Darussalam is taking part in the games from September 16 to 24, held at Klang Valley and Langkawi. The country's contingent comprises 13 athletes participating in five sports events: Swimming; Karate; Petanque; Pencak Silat; and Wushu.

Brunei Darussalam contingent, Md Izzamuddin bin Muhammad Taha with the bronze medal for the country for the Pencak Silat, Men's Tandeng Class 'A' Category event at the Malaysian Games (SUKMA) XX MSN 2022.

EducationUSA: Catching up with trends in US higher education

GADONG, September 17 – The United States (US) Embassy in Brunei Darussalam hosted the Fifth EducationUSA Interactive Session, with the attendance of over 40 higher education counsellors. The session took place at the Rizqun International Hotel.

It was held to provide updates on trends in higher education in the US, and to help school counsellors to effectively guide students intending to study in the US.

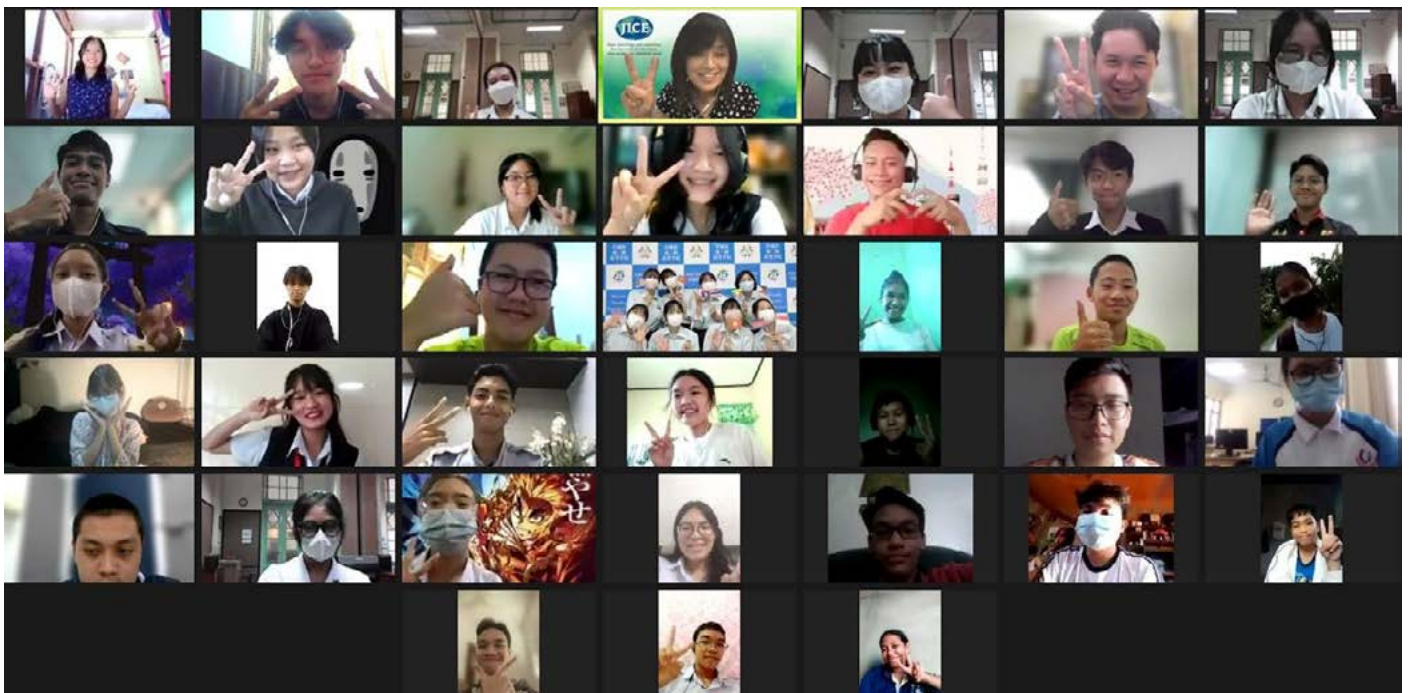
Jeffrey Barrus, Public Affairs Officer at the US Embassy delivered his opening speech at the event.

The session also comprised a discussion with Dayang Norlela Puasa, Study in the US Institute (SUSI) Scholar, who is also the Head of Pre-University and Career Department at the Belait Sixth Form Centre. Interactive and sharing sessions were also held with Dayang Shasha Nurqamarina and Aaelex Selavisi, Global Undergraduate Exchange Programme semester exchange alumni; as well as Dayang Aisyah Zulkarnain dan Melissa Lim, recent US university graduates.



The Fifth Education USA Interactive Session attended by over 40 higher education counsellors.

JENESYS 2022: An online exchange experience



Participants during the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) 2022 online exchange programme.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 21 – The Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) 2022 online exchange programme is held from September 12 to 22.

Two Year 9 students and three Year 10 students from Sultan Sharif Ali Secondary School; as well as one Year 9 student and

four Year 10 students from Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Secondary School participated in the programme via Zoom.

The programme included an orientation, lectures and workshops, sharing and discussion sessions, school exchanges, homestay experiences, tours as well as learning the Japanese culture through virtual experience.