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Call for refined religious education, proactive zakat measures



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) during the unscheduled visit to the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA).

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 4 – 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 once again touched on the integration of religious subjects into the general education system for students of religious preschools to Primary 3 religious schools.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam explained that the intention is to adapt the system in a way that will not burden or stress the students. However, this does not mean closing the door to reviewing its propriety.

In the *titah* (royal speech) delivered during an unscheduled visit to the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA), the Monarch stressed the importance of religious school as a vital part of the Malay Islamic Monarchy and the country's identity. Hence, it is crucial for religious school's subjects, which are now part of the primary school subjects, to be professionally refined.

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Forging strong collaborations with Timor-Leste

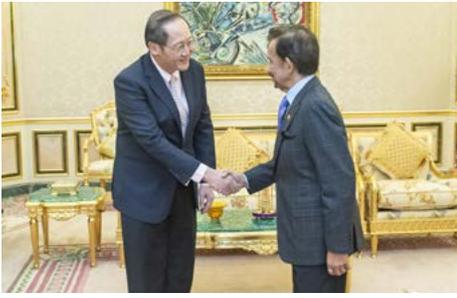
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 6 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience His Excellency Dr. José Ramos-Horta, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and his delegation, who are here on a four-day state visit.

Prior to that, 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 escorted His Excellency President of Timor-Leste from The Empire Brunei to Istana Nurul Iman.

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste during the Audience Ceremony.



3. His Majesty receives audiences



4. Call for refined religious education, proactive zakat measures



9. His Majesty welcomes Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Malacca



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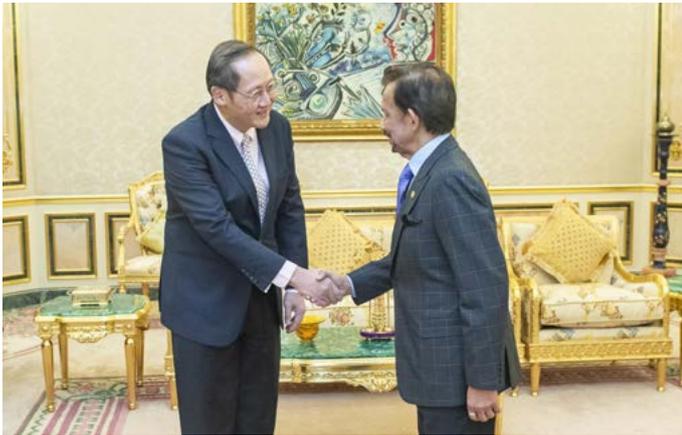
His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

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 Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of the Kingdom of Cambodia; His Excellency Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, Prime Minister of Cambodia; the government and people of the Kingdom of Cambodia on the occasion of its 70th Independence Day on November 11;
- His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Sultan of the Sultanate of Oman, the government and people of the Sultanate of Oman on the occasion of its National Day; and
- His Excellency The Right Honourable Christopher Luxon following his appointment as the new Prime Minister of New Zealand on November 27.

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 dan Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam received in audience at Istana Nurul Iman:



His Excellency Dr. Tan See Leng, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Trade and Industry of the Republic of Singapore on November 8.



Yang Terhormat Major General TNI Deddy Suryadi, Commanding General of the Special Forces of the Indonesian Army, Indonesia National Armed Forces on November 11.

Her Majesty receives audiences

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received in audience the delegation from the World Association of Girl Guides and Girls Scouts at Istana Nurul Iman on November 21.



Crown Prince receives audiences

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received in audience at Qashr Al-Meezan:



His Excellency Dr. Tan See Leng, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Trade and Industry of the Republic of Singapore on November 8.



Yang Terhormat Major General TNI Deddy Suryadi, Commanding General of the Special Forces of the Indonesian Army, Indonesia National Armed Forces on November 11.

His Royal Highness receives audience

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah received in audience His Excellency Dr. Tan See Leng, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Trade and Industry of the Republic of Singapore at Istana Nurul Izzah, Jerudong on November 8.



News

Call for refined religious education, proactive *zakat* measures (continued)

From front page

His Majesty has entrusted MoRA and the Ministry of Education to collaborate in monitoring and conducting equal assessment of the integration's impact.

The Monarch also raised concern on the efficiency of *zakat* collection and distribution, noting that the Zakat Collection and Distribution Division under the Brunei Islamic Religious Council, MoRA was upgraded into the Department of Zakat, Waqaf and Baitulmal Affairs on July 19. With this upgrade, His Majesty

said that the administration of *zakat* should be conducted more smoothly and efficiently, especially in its collection and distribution.

His Majesty also emphasised the importance of proactive measures to identify eligible recipients who may face obstacles in applying for *zakat*. His Majesty highlighted that village heads play a crucial role in assisting with *zakat* applications.

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the unscheduled visits to MORA and Pulaie Primary School (left and right).



His Majesty during the unscheduled visits to MORA and Pulaie Primary School. (above and below)



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However, instances have surfaced where some have failed to provide assistance. If *zakat* coordinators are aware of these situations occurring, then the relevant parties must proactively monitor and seek out those eligible to receive *zakat*, especially in remote areas. Accordingly, relevant parties including the Ministry of Home Affairs must also know the procedures of village heads and *penghulu* in carrying out their duties for the welfare of the village residents.

From MOHA, His Majesty also visited Pulaie Primary School following his visit to MoRA, and toured several buildings at the school.

Forging strong collaborations with Timor-Leste (continued)

From front page

At Istana Nurul Iman, His Excellency was introduced to His Majesty's sons and brothers: His Royal Highness the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; as well as other members of the royal family and state dignitaries. Meanwhile, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was introduced to His Excellency's delegation.

The members of the royal family and delegation were also present at the Audience Ceremony held at Cheradi Laila Kenchana.

After the ceremony, His Majesty and His Excellency held a four-eye meeting at Cheradi Ratna Kenchana, where both leaders discussed strengthening bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and Timor-Leste, as well as issues of mutual interests.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency President of Timor-Leste receiving the Salute of Honour.



Also present to welcome the arrival of His Excellency was 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; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.



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



His Majesty and His Excellency being introduced to members of the delegation.



His Majesty and His Excellency prior to the Signing Ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on The Employment/Recruitment of Timor-Leste Workers to Brunei Darussalam.

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His Majesty then held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency at Baitul Mesyuarah, where the Monarch delivered a *titah* (royal speech) extending a warm welcome to the President on his first state visit to Brunei Darussalam, and highlighted that his last visit was over 20 years ago.

The Monarch further highlighted that bilateral cooperation has expanded in many areas since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2002, and looked forward to continuing the work in further enhancing the goodwill and friendship between both countries.

His Majesty's *titah* was followed by a speech by His Excellency. The two leaders then witnessed the Signing Ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on The Employment/Recruitment of Timor-Leste Workers to Brunei Darussalam.

Signing the MoU on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Home Affairs; while the Government of Timor-Leste was represented by His Excellency Francisco Kalbuadi Lay, Vice-Prime Minister and Minister Coordinator for Economic Affairs and Minister of Tourism and Environment of Timor-Leste.

Also present at the bilateral meeting and signing ceremony was His Royal Highness the Crown Prince.

The two leaders also attended a State Banquet at the palace, along with members of the royal family and His Excellency's delegation. The event commenced with a *doa selamat* recited by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, State Mufti.

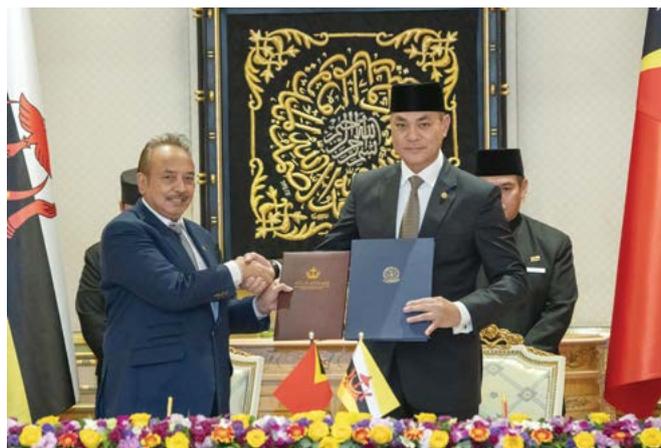
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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the Audience Ceremony prior to the four-eye meeting with His Excellency.



His Majesty delivering a *titah* (royal speech) during the bilateral meeting. Also present at the meeting was His Royal Highness the Crown Prince.



Signing the MoU on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Minister of Home Affairs; while the Government of Timor-Leste was represented by His Excellency Vice-Prime Minister and Minister Coordinator for Economic Affairs and Minister of Tourism and Environment of Timor-Leste.

Forging strong collaborations with Timor-Leste (continued)



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste during the Audience Ceremony. Also present were His Majesty's sons and brothers: 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 Bolkhiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkhiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkhiah.

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At the banquet, His Majesty delivered another *titah*, where the Monarch acknowledged the continued close cooperation in education and people-to-people exchanges between both countries, taking into account on the forging of strong collaborations through various technical exchanges and capacity-building programmes.

In this regard, His Majesty informed that Brunei will offer two fully funded scholarships every year in the next three years for Timorese students to pursue their education at local tertiary institutions. His Majesty further welcomed Timor-Leste's interest in furthering health cooperation, including through training for medical professionals; as well as cooperation in the energy sector.



His Majesty delivering a *titah* during the State Banquet.

To foster a deeper understanding of ASEAN, the Monarch also welcomed officials from Timor-Leste to participate in the ASEAN Junior Fellowship Programme starting this year. This will help build deeper trust and friendship among junior officials and help them work closely together to ensure the centrality and unity of ASEAN in the future.

His Majesty's *titah* was followed by a speech from the President.

His Excellency arrived in Brunei Darussalam on November 5.



His Majesty and other members of the royal family at the banquet with His Excellency and delegation.



Other members of the royal family and delegation at the banquet.

His Majesty welcomes Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Malacca

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 9 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received in audience His Excellency Tun Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Mohd. Ali bin Mohd. Rustam, Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Malacca and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Toh Puan Datuk Wira (Dr.) Hajah Asmah binti Haji Abdul Rahman, who are in the country for a three-day visit.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha with His Excellency Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Malacca and spouse joined a luncheon after the Audience Ceremony. Members of the royal family were also present at the ceremonies.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam with His Excellency Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Malacca and spouse, who are in the country for a three-day visit.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri during the Audience Ceremony with His Excellency Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Malacca and spouse.



Members of the royal family were also present at the ceremony (above and below).



His Majesty welcomes Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Malacca (continued)

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The luncheon began with the recitation of *doa selamat* by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, State Mufti.

The ceremonies were held at Istana Nurul Iman.



Their Majesties during the luncheon with His Excellency and spouse, along with members of the royal family.



Doa Selamat read by the State Mufti.



Other members of the royal family during the luncheon.

Horse riding event marks His Majesty's birthday

JERUDONG, November 12 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as Royal Patron of the Royal Brunei Polo Association, led a recreational horse riding event in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 77th Birthday Celebration.

The event, organised at the Jerudong Park Polo and Riding Club by the Royal Brunei Polo Association, marked its third iteration. Following His Majesty's arrival, the Monarch also received a *pesambah* (souvenir) and consented to group photos, before proceeding with the horse riding activity.

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as Royal Patron of the Royal Brunei Polo Association leading a recreational horse riding event in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 77th Birthday Celebration. Accompanying His Majesty were His Majesty's children and brothers: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkhiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkhiah as President of the Royal Brunei Polo Association, as well as other members of the royal family.



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Accompanying His Majesty at the event were His Majesty's children and brothers: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah as President of the Royal Brunei Polo Association, as well as other members of the royal family. Also joining the entourage were veteran players from Field No. 1 of the Jerudong Park Polo and Riding Club.

His Majesty and members of the royal family travelled along Jerudong Beach and passed by the Jerudong Fish Market.



His Majesty receiving a pesembah (souvenir).

The horse riding session concluded at premises of The Empire Brunei, where His Majesty and members of the royal family transferred onto ATVs. 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 also joined the royal entourage on ATVs.



His Majesty and members of the royal family during the luncheon at Pantai Restaurant, The Empire Hotel.

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His Majesty riding an ATV (right). 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 also joined the royal entourage on ATVs (left).



His Majesty and other members of the royal family in a group photo on the grounds of Pantai Restaurant.

Horse riding event marks His Majesty's birthday (continued)

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His Majesty and members of the royal family then rode ATVs to Pantai Restaurant, where a luncheon took place. There, His Majesty cut a birthday cake presented by the Royal Brunei Polo Association.



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 receiving a pesambah (souvenir) (left); and cutting a cake presented by the Royal Brunei Polo Association (right).

AELM: Promoting inclusive and resilient economies

SAN FRANCISCO, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, November 17 – 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 said that to build inclusive and resilient economies, APEC must continue advocating for a rules-based multilateral trading system that ensures equal opportunities and fair competition.

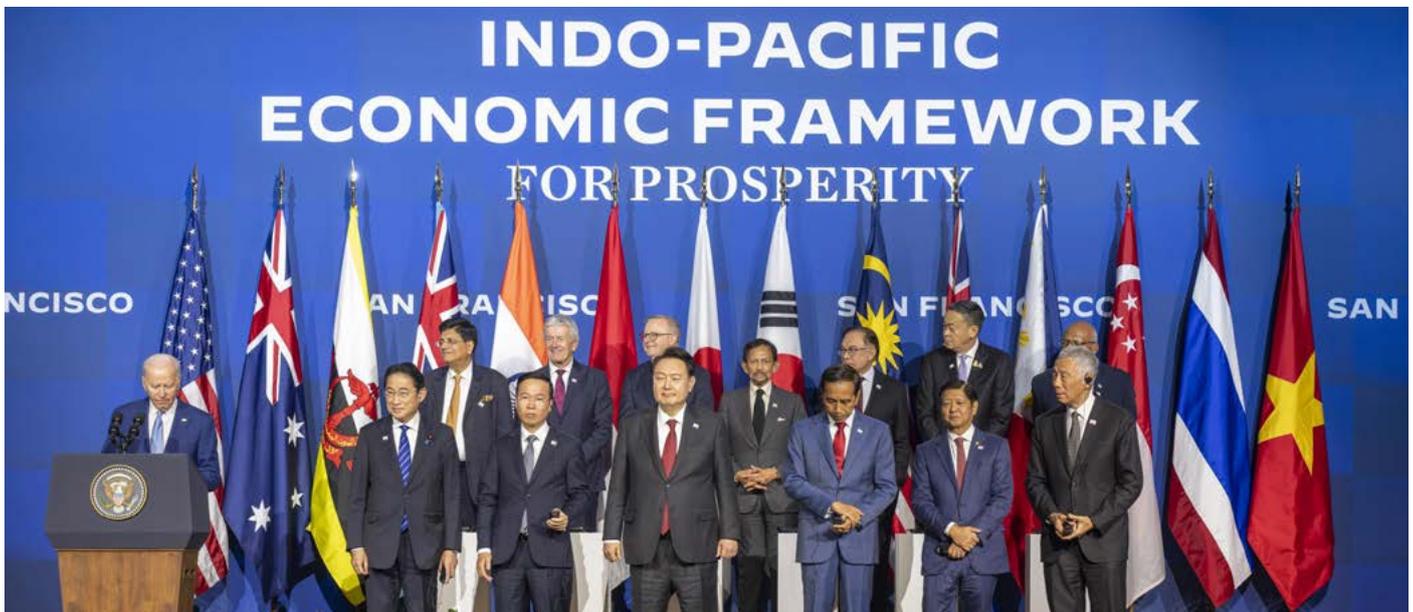
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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the APEC Economic Leaders' Retreat (Session II), which was held as part of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM).



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the APEC Economic Leaders' Informal Dialogue and Working Lunch with Guest Economies.



His Majesty at the Second Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity Leaders' Meeting.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also highlighted the importance of regional economic integration initiatives in unlocking the full potential of APEC economies for greater prosperity. In this regard, the Monarch emphasised continued commitment to establishing the Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific as a priority within APEC.

His Majesty touched on the matters in a *titah* (royal speech) delivered during the APEC Economic Leaders' Retreat (Session II) at the Moscone Center, San Francisco, the United States of America (US). The session was held as part of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM).

His Majesty further underscored the importance of the responsible use of technologies, and promoting research and development to ensure APEC's continuity as an innovative and forward-looking region in the digital era. In addition, His Majesty called for engagement with all stakeholders with a focus on youth and micro, small and medium enterprises, and to promote their digital skills development to nurture innovation while adopting policies that facilitate international market access which will empower them to compete globally. In this pursuit, His Majesty highlighted the vitality of APEC's role through ECOTECH as an incubator of ideas.

The session commenced with opening remarks from His Excellency Joseph R. Biden Jr., President of the US as Chairman



His Majesty in a meeting with the Senior Vice President of Boeing Company and President of Boeing Global.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen attending the APEC Economic Leaders' Dinner.

of APEC for 2023; followed by remarks from Her Excellency Dina Boluarte, President of the Republic of Peru as incoming Chair of AELM.

The APEC Leaders' 2023 Golden Gate Declaration 'Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Future for All' was also issued, along with a joint statement of Brunei Darussalam, the Republic of Indonesia, and Malaysia on the occasion of the 30th AELM.

Earlier, on November 16, His Majesty attended the APEC Economic Leaders' Informal Dialogue and Working Lunch with Guest Economies; and the Second Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Leaders' Meeting held at the same venue.

The APEC Economic Leaders' Informal Dialogue and Working Lunch with Guest Economies (Session I), which was focused on sustainability, climate and just energy transitions.

His Majesty's *titah* at the session highlighted the participation of APEC Economies in various multilateral frameworks such as ASEAN; G20; Pacific Islands Forum; and the Pacific Alliance, which are all grounded in promoting cooperation and advancing an inclusive, resilient, peaceful, and sustainable future for these economies and regions.

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AELM: Promoting inclusive and resilient economies (continued)



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the bilateral meetings with His Excellency President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (above); and His Excellency President of the People's Republic of China (left).

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As such, the Monarch added that APEC should continue strengthening partnerships with frameworks that share similar visions and goals, and pursue cooperation in addressing challenges.

His Majesty also urged the need to address extreme weather events and their impacts by adopting more sustainable practices and investing in climate-resilient technologies.

The Monarch further stressed that APEC's collective efforts to implement the Bangkok Goals on Bio-Circular Green Economy are crucial in achieving long-term economic growth. His Majesty, hence, welcomed collaboration through regional climate institutions for the development of experts, as well as enhancement of capacity in addressing regional climate-related issues.

During the Second IPEF Leaders' Meeting, the leaders took note of the signing of the first-of-its-kind agreement on the Supply Chain Agreement and substantially concluded the negotiations on the Clean Economy Agreement and Fair Economy Agreement in San Francisco, California, the US.

The IPEF Leaders also launched the IPEF Critical Minerals Dialogue to foster closer collaboration among the partners. In



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen at the APEC Welcome Reception.

addition, IPEF partners will continue to deepen shared interests in addressing critical economic issues and advance economic integration through the establishment of a Ministerial-level IPEF Council.

In the evening, His Majesty attended the APEC Economic Leaders' Dinner held at Legion of Honor in San Francisco.

A meeting with Dr. Brendan Nelson, Senior Vice President of Boeing Company and President of Boeing Global was also held on the same day at Four Seasons; alongside bilateral meetings with His Excellency Vo Van Thuong, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam at Moscone Center; and His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China at St. Regis.

At the bilateral meeting with His Excellency President of Viet Nam, both leaders discussed matters of mutual interests to strengthen the close cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Viet Nam, and strengthening cooperation to ensure a stable, safe and peaceful South China Sea.

His Majesty also delivered a *titah* during the meeting with His Excellency President of the People's Republic of China, stating that this year marks the 5th Anniversary of the Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Brunei and China. The Monarch looks forward to continuing the work together to further enhance the goodwill and friendship that has long existed between the two countries.

His Majesty also noted that their cooperation has expanded big data and Artificial Intelligence; and announced the completion of Phase 1 of the Hengyi project, as well as the commencement of Phase 2, which is hoped to be completed by the end of the year.

His Majesty expressed his appreciation for the scholarships and trainings offered by Hengyi Industries Sdn. Bhd., which has helped the country build its technical capacity and human capital. The country is also interested to tap into China's expertise in renewable energy and green initiatives that will complement its national and regional efforts; in addition to exploring and expanding the export of agriculture and fisheries products to China.

Touching on people-to-people ties, His Majesty believes that the resumption of travel between Brunei and China will further promote the respective tourism sectors.

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His Majesty also looks forward to working closely with China in negotiating a Code of Conduct that will be meaningful to both sides and to be an example to the international community of the collective intentions towards peace and security in the region.

On November 15, His Majesty attended the APEC Welcome Reception held at the Exploratorium Museum, Pier 15 in San Francisco. The reception began with short speeches from London Breed, Mayor of San Francisco; Gavin Newsom, Governor of California; Her Excellency Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the US; and His Excellency President of the US.

The reception was hosted by the City of San Francisco and the San Francisco APEC Host Committee to welcome the APEC Economic Leaders, as well as delegations attending AELM.

Accompanying His Majesty throughout AELM was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness attending the APEC Welcome Reception.

Knowledge Convention 2023: Munajat, road towards repentance



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 opening of the Knowledge Convention 2023 held in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 77th Birthday Celebration (left) and His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam at the opening of the Knowledge Convention 2023 (right).



Also present at the event were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam (above and below).



BERAKAS, November 23 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam graced the opening of the Knowledge Convention 2023, held in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 77th Birthday Celebration.

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Knowledge Convention 2023: Munajat, road towards repentance (continued)



Their Majesties receiving a *pesambah* (souvenir).



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The event took place at the International Convention Centre.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha were His Majesty's children and siblings, as well as other members of the royal family: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.

The ceremony began with recitation of verses from the Al-Quran and its interpretation; followed by the recitation of *doa selamat* by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, State Mufti as Advisor to the Knowledge Convention 2023 Steering Committee.



Their Majesties and other members of the royal family touring the exhibition at the event.

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 and Second Minister of Defence as Co-Chairperson of the Knowledge Convention 2023 Steering Committee then delivered his welcoming remarks, touching on the theme of the event: '*Munajat Senegara Dengan Taubat* (Nationwide Munajat With Repentance)'.

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, as well as other members of the royal family in a group photo at the event.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha receiving a *junjung ziarah* at the event.

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Afterwards, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech), highlighting that repentance goes beyond regretting past

sins, seeking forgiveness and vowing to not do it again. It is through repentance that catastrophes can be avoided, along with other benefits, as stated in the Al-Quran.

The Monarch stated that the Knowledge Convention remains a relevant source of knowledge and information for all levels of society. His Majesty also said that this year's theme, '*Munajat Senegara Dengan Taubat* (Nationwide Munajat With Repentance)', is really significant, as knowledge has no boundaries.

His Majesty stressed that it is the obligation of every ummah who has committed sins to repent to Allah the Almighty immediately.

The Monarch then delivered a *titah* launching the Knowledge Convention 2023, as well as a book titled '*Majlis Ilmu: Mercu Tanda Intelektualisme Raja – Suluh Negara*'. This was followed by a video presentation on the contents of the book.

The event continued with a lecture by Yang Berhormat State Mufti titled '*Munajat Senegara Dengan Taubat*'.

Their Majesties then toured an exhibition highlighting prayer, supplication and healthy lifestyle in Islam. Prior to departure, Their Majesties were invited for a group photo session and a luncheon.

The convention will continue with a forum on November 25 and a lecture on November 27.



Other members of the royal family touring the exhibition (above and below).



Leadership and morals important in oil and gas industry



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) during the unscheduled visit to the Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP) Company Sdn. Bhd. Headquarters in Panaga.

SERIA, November 28 – 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 made an unscheduled visit to the Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP) Company Sdn. Bhd. Headquarters in Panaga.

During the visit, His Majesty took a closer look and was briefed on the various departments and divisions under the company.

The Monarch also delivered a *titah* (royal speech), stating the importance of leadership and morals in the oil and gas industry – including those of the Board of Directors and shareholders of BSP; the Ministry of Finance and Economy; and the Energy Department – in ensuring national economic security, as well as the resilience of BSP.

His Majesty stressed the need to actively continue making sustainable preparations in facing various global crises under challenging economic circumstances.

In this regard, His Majesty urged BSP to continue working with enforcement agencies, such as the Anti-Corruption Bureau, to eradicate activities that are against the law.

In ensuring revenue and national economic security, His Majesty hopes to see strategic cooperation in increasing oil productivity and reserve. The exploration of oil and gas comes with risks and requires a large-scale budget. As such, the Monarch stressed that the procedures and researches needed for new reservoir discoveries should be conducted carefully, with the uses of specialised skills and cutting edge technologies, in order to attain the best outcome.

The Monarch further underlined that BSP's leadership and morals do not neglect the existing facilities, and making sure that the said facilities are at the optimum standard in ensuring maximum possible production rate.

Earlier in the *titah*, the Monarch asserted that aside from oil productivity, BSP and those relevant in the nation's Oil and Gas Industry should also take Health, Safety and Environment seriously.

On the other hand, the Monarch applauded and encouraged the continuation of BSP's Bruneianisation efforts, which is estimated to have almost reached 90 per cent local staff. His Majesty hoped for the local staff to be fully trained with programmes that are equipped with observable indicators to ensure effective knowledge transfer from the experts.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving junjung ziarah during the unscheduled visit.



His Majesty taking a group photo and interacting with the officers and staff members of BSP.



His Majesty taking a group photo with the officers and staff members of BSP.



His Majesty in a group photo with the management and staff members of BSP.
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His Majesty acknowledged that BSP has been identifying and reviewing locals with the potential to assume higher leadership roles. In this regard, the Monarch highlighted that experience, knowledge and training need to be given continuously and consistently in ensuring a proper succession planning.

His Majesty also noted that numerous vacancies in the local Oil and Gas Industry that require technical qualifications. Hence, His Majesty encouraged the Energy Department and BSP to increase collaboration with the Ministry of Education to make sure that the future generations will be able to fill in these positions with the

required qualifications.

His Majesty further expressed appreciation to the expatriate employees of BSP, who have made contributions in developing the country's Oil and Gas Industry; and hoped that they will continue to share their experience and expertise to bridge the knowledge and technological gap in improving the nation's oil production.

The *titah* was followed by a question and answer session, as well as a sharing session by the management and staff of BSP. Prior to leaving the headquarters, His Majesty consented to take group photos and received a *junjung ziarah*.

The Chairman's Awards 2023: Recognising excellence

JERUDONG, November 1 – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, as Chairman of Brunei Shell Marketing Company Sdn. Bhd. (BSM) Board of Directors, graced The Chairman's Awards 2023 event at the Indera Samudra Grand Hall, The Empire Brunei.

At the event, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince presented 11 awards to 16 recipients.

The ceremony also saw an opening address delivered by Awang Muhammad Norshafie bin Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Jalil, Managing Director of BSM.

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His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, as Chairman of Brunei Shell Marketing Company Sdn. Bhd. (BSM) Board of Directors at The Chairman's Awards 2023 event.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince delivering awards to some of the recipients at the event.

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The presentation of awards commenced with five recipients of the Retail Awards Category: the Most Improved Retail Operational Performance was awarded to the Mabohai Service Station; the Best Retail Operational Excellence to IBA Petrol Station Sdn. Bhd.; the Best Retail Service Champion to Awang Mohammad Khairul Ridzuan bin Sahari from Mar'azmala Petrol Station and Trading; the Best Road Tanker Carrier to Awang Muhd. Aiman bin Abd. Rahman Suge; and the Best LPG Operational Excellence to Overseas Agency Company Sdn. Bhd.

The winners of the Shell Master Mechanics Programme Awards were Awang Muhammad Hadif Hamizan bin Saini for the Institute of Brunei Technical Education (IBTE) Mechanical Campus Students category; and Denson Alvarez Panopio for the General Mechanics category.

The event also consisted of a presentation of a token of appreciation to NBT (Brunei) Sdn. Bhd. as a partner in the evaluation programme.



His Royal Highness receiving a *pesambah* (souvenir) at the event.

The Best Sales Performance Awards went to NBT (Brunei) Sdn. Bhd.; Setia Motors Sdn. Bhd.; and Grand Auto Sdn. Bhd.

NBT (Brunei) Sdn. Bhd. also won the Best Corporate Social Responsibility and the Best Digital Marketing (Best Digital Excellence Marketing) Awards; while QAF Brunei received Special Mention.

Meanwhile, Boustead Sdn. Bhd. was presented with the Best Commercial Operational Excellence and the Best Marketing (Best Customer Excellence Marketing) Awards.

Prior to leaving the ceremony, His Royal Highness received a *pesambah* (souvenir) and took group photos with the recipients of the awards.



His Royal Highness in a group photo with the recipients at the event.

Promotion, appointment of Manteri Hulubalang

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 22 – A ceremony held for the bestowal of Manteri Hulubalang titles to five recipients took place at the Surau of Istana Nurul Iman.

Present to conduct the ceremony was the His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's son, His Royal Highness 'Abdul Mateen, as a personal representative of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The ceremony commenced with the bestowal of the title to Lance Corporal 3311 Awang Sahiran bin Pengarah Haji Abdullah, who became Damong – with the responsibility as an assistant to Pateh in leading the *Sinipit* team, as well as overseeing the dissemination of information and the installation of the Royal Regalia in ceremonies.

The event then continued with the bestowal of Manteri Hulubalang titles to Awang Mohammad Zul-Azfar bin Abbas; followed by Awang Haji Mohammad Fadzirol Azrisah bin Pengarah Haji Mokti; and Awang Mohamed Hazreen bin Pateh Dato Paduka Haji Masri. They were each presented with the credentials to become Pengarah – responsible for conveying *titah* (royal speech) and *sabda* (royal speech) pertaining to ceremonial matters to the manteri; supervising the installation of the Royal Regalia in royal festivities; as well as taking note of public voices on national matters and related issues to be presented as an advisory to His Majesty.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's sons: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness 'Abdul Mateen, as personal representatives of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam gracing the ceremonies (above and below).



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The Manteri Hulubalang title was also presented to Awang Haji Saidin bin Haji Pudin, who became Juru Laki – an assistant to Ketua Juru Laki and responsible for the smooth coordination of Naubat and Gendang Jaga-Jaga Diraja.

Earlier, on November 20, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, as a personal representative of His Majesty, graced a similar ceremony held at the same venue, which also saw the promotion of a Manteri Hulubalang.



The ceremony on November 22 commenced with the bestowal of the title to Lance Corporal 3311 Awang Sahiran bin Pengarah Haji Abdullah, who became Damong.



The bestowal of Manteri Hulubalang titles to Awang Mohammad Zul-Azfar bin Abbas (left); followed by Awang Haji Mohammad Fadzirol Azrisah bin Pengarah Haji Mokti (middle); and Awang Mohamed Hazreen bin Pateh Dato Paduka Haji Masri (right) – each presented with the credentials to become Pengarah.

The ceremony began with the promotion of Juru Laki Awang Haji Johan Areffen bin Haji Hassan as Ketua Juru Laki – responsible for ensuring the proper assembly of the royal orchestra and its compositions, as well overseeing matters related to the orchestra and Gendang Jaga-Jaga Diraja.

This was followed by the bestowal of Manteri Hulubalang title to Awang Haji Roslan bin Haji Asmat, who became Pateh – responsible for superintending



The Manteri Hulubalang title was also presented to Awang Haji Saidin bin Haji Pudin, who became Juru Laki.

The bestowal of Manteri Hulubalang title to Awang Haji Roslan bin Haji Asmat, who became Pateh.



The ceremony on November 20 began with the promotion of Juru Laki Awang Haji Johan Areffen bin Haji Hassan as Ketua Juru Laki.



The title was also bestowed to Awang Murni bin Majid (left); and Awang Halidin bin Bujeh (right) – whom became Pengarah.



The title was also bestowed to Awang Nor'Ariffin bin Haji Tunjang whom became Pengarah.



Meanwhile, Awang Haji Jaini bin Metarsad received the title, with the credentials to become Juru Laki.

and leading the *Sinipit* team, and carrying the *Cangkah* in a ceremony or when disseminating information.

The title was also bestowed to Awang Murni bin Majid; Awang Halidin bin Bujeh; and Awang Nor'Ariffin bin Haji Tunjang – all of whom became Pengarah.

Meanwhile, Awang Haji Jaini bin Metarsad received the title, with the credentials to become Juru Laki.

'Share, Learn, Grow' International Programme 2023 launched



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) at the Opening Ceremony for the Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam's (PPPBD) 'Share, Learn, Grow' International Programme 2023.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah gracing the ceremony.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 24 – A total of 210 participants from nine nations including Brunei Darussalam as the host, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of India, Malaysia, the Republic of Maldives, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of Singapore are participating in the Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam's (PPPBD) 'Share, Learn, Grow' International Programme 2023.

The opening ceremony took place at the Multi-Purpose Hall, Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Complex, officiated by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

At the event, Her Royal Highness delivered a *sabda* (royal speech), stating that the participants' presence in the programme signifies their capacity to bring girls and young women together in nurturing the ambience of Brunei Darussalam. Her Royal Highness also hoped that the programme will bring opportunities to broaden their horizon, learn about different cultures and build strong and lifelong friendship.

Earlier, Dayang Hajah Viviyanti binti Haji Md. Ali, Deputy Chief Commissioner of PPPBD as Chair of the 'Share, Learn, Grow' International Programme 2023 also presented her welcoming remarks. The event also saw a speech delivered by Dr. Sharrada Segeran, member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). The ceremony continued with a video presentation titled 'Share, Learn, Grow'.

The programme is held from November 22 to 27 at the Mulia Hotel, Anggerek Desa in Berakas. Consisting of workshops, presentations and activities, the programme aims to promote cooperation and collaboration, support the Sustainable Development Goals, stimulating cooperation and leadership among generations and getting to know the country better.

Among those present at the ceremony were Datin Paduka Hajah Zaharah binti Haji Idris and Datin Hajah Masni binti Haji Mohd Ali, Lifetime Vice Presidents of PPPBD; Chempaka Emalin Pahamin, Chair of the WAGGGS Asia Pacific Regional Committee; and Dato Jeyadhevi Subramaniam, volunteer under WAGGGS.

Commissioner of RBPF receives award

MALAYSIA, November 2 – His Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda the Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah conferred the Honorary First Class Panglima Gagah Pasukan Polis (PGPP) award from the Royal Malaysia Police to Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Mohammad Irwan bin Haji Hambali, Commissioner of the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) on October 31 in Kuala Lumpur.

The conferment, in recognition and appreciation on RBPF's contributions in strengthening ties and cooperation between police forces in both countries, was held at an investiture ceremony of the police gallantry awards and medals for the at Balairong Seri, Istana Negara in Kuala Lumpur.



His Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda the Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah conferring the Honorary First Class Panglima Gagah Pasukan Polis (PGPP) award from the Royal Malaysia Police to the Commissioner of the Royal Brunei Police Force.

Courtesy call focuses on mutual interests, concerns



Yang Berhormat Speaker of the State Legislative Council during the courtesy call from His Excellency non-resident Ambassador of Republic of Azerbaijan to Brunei Darussalam.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 22 – Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Speaker of the State Legislative Council (LegCo) received a courtesy call from His Excellency Irfan Shakir Oglu Davudov, non-resident Ambassador of Republic of Azerbaijan to Brunei Darussalam for the first time.

The meeting focused on issues of mutual interests and concerns. His Excellency non-resident Ambassador of Republic of Azerbaijan to Brunei Darussalam said that Azerbaijan appreciates the support from LegCo for agreeing to the Milli Council (House of Parliament of Azerbaijan) as a dialogue country to the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, and hopes for the possibility of further expanding areas of international and regional cooperation.

Also present during the courtesy call were Dr. Dayang Hajah Huraiani binti Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Jaya Dato Paduka Awang Haji Huraerah, Acting Secretary to the Cabinet Ministers' Council and Acting Clerk to Councils.

Malaysian Mufti pays courtesy calls

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 23 – Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs received a courtesy call from Yang Berbahagia Sahibus Samahah Associate Professor Datuk Dr. Luqman bin Haji Abdullah, Mufti of the Federal Territories of Malaysia, who is in the country as an invited panelist for the Knowledge Convention 2023 Premier Forum.

Yang Berbahagia Sahibus Samahah, Mufti of the Federal Territories of Malaysia also paid a courtesy call to Yang Berhormat



Yang Berhormat Minister of Religious Affairs during the separate courtesy calls from Yang Berbahagia Sahibus Samahah, Mufti of the Federal Territories of Malaysia.



Yang Berhormat State Mufti during the separate courtesy calls from Yang Berbahagia Sahibus Samahah Mufti of the Federal Territories of Malaysia.

Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, State Mufti on the same day, along with Sahibus Samahah Haji Jamali Mohd. Adnan, Deputy Mufti; and Ahmad Syaiful Azmi Mohd. Noor, Assistant Mufti (Support Services) at the Mufti of Federal Territory's Office, Malaysia.

The courtesy calls took place at the Dhiyafah Room, extension building of the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Jalan Dewan Majlis; and Darulifta Brunei Darussalam, State Mufti's Office respectively.

Celebrating Indonesia's Independence Day



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence as the Guest of Honour officiating the cake-cutting session with His Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam.

GADONG, November 7 – A diplomatic reception to commemorate the 78th Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia took place at the Songket Hall of the Rizqun International Hotel.

Representing the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as the Guest of Honour 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 and Second Minister of Defence, and spouse.

The event saw a speech delivered by His Excellency Dr. Achmad Ubaedillah, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam; followed by a cake-cutting session.

Aside from cultural dance performances, the event also featured Indonesian culinary, tourism and handicrafts.

Implementation Agreement, MoU shows commitment in petrochemical sector

JERUDONG, November 8 – The Petroleum Authority of Brunei Darussalam and the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) signed an Implementation Agreement for the Pulau Muara Besar (PMB) Phase 2 Development Project with Hengyi Industries Sdn. Bhd.

The signing took place at The Empire Brunei.

Present as Guests of Honour were 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) and Second Minister of Defence as Co-Chair of the PMB Development Steering Committee; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy as Chairman of the Foreign Direct Investment and Downstream Industry Steering Committee; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Muhammad Juanda bin Haji Abdul Rashid, Minister of Development as Co-Chair of the PMB Development Steering Committee; and Qiu Jianlin, Chairman of Zhejiang Hengyi Group Co. Ltd. and Chairman of Hengyi Industries Sdn. Bhd.

The agreement will further increase the capacity of the oil and petrochemical refinery in PMB by an additional of two million tonnes per annum – totalling up to 11 million tonnes per annum – through the construction of new additional facilities at the PMB Industrial Park. The Phase 2 project will also introduce new resources of feedstock such as liquefied natural gas (LNG) and Ethane.

Yang Berhormat Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Defence, in his welcoming speech, shared that the Phase 2 project will enable the production of the



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence as Co-Chair of the Pulau Muara Besar (PMB) Development Steering Committee; Yang Berhormat Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy as Chairman of the Foreign Direct Investment and Downstream Industry Steering Committee; Yang Berhormat Minister of Development as Co-Chair of the Pulau Muara Besar Development Steering Committee; and Chairman of Zhejiang Hengyi Group Co. Ltd. and Chairman of Hengyi Industries Sdn. Bhd. during the signing ceremony.

first high value derivate petrochemicals in Brunei Darussalam. This will establish PMB as the foundation for oil-based downstream development and foreign investments, elevating the country presence as a competitive player in the regional petrochemical sector.

The project is anticipated to generate over 2,000 employment opportunities, with 50 per cent of the figure allocated for locals from the start of operations in 2029.

Representing the Petroleum Authority of Brunei Darussalam at the signing was Dayang Hajah Farida binti Dato Seri Paduka Haji Talib, Permanent Secretary (Energy) at PMO; and Ir. Awang Haji Amer Hishamuddin bin Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Zakaria, Permanent Secretary (Infrastructure, Housing and Professional) at the Ministry of Development.

Meanwhile, BEDB and Hengyi Industries were represented by Awang Daniel Leong, Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of BEDB; and Chen Lian Cai, CEO of Hengyi Industries.

The agreement signing was also witnessed by Awang Haji Kula bin Haji Metasan, Acting Managing Director of the Petroleum Authority of Brunei Darussalam; Awang Abdurrahman bin Abdul Aziz, Assistant CEO of BEDB; and Li Peng, Director of General Affairs of Hengyi Industries.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed between Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and Zhejiang University (ZJU). Dr. Juliana binti Haji Zaini, Dean of the Faculty of Integrated Technologies of UBD; and Professor Youqing Shen, Dean of the College of Chemical and Biological Engineering of ZJU each represented their respective institutions at signing.

The signing of the MoU was witnessed by the Vice-Chancellor UBD, as well the Chairman of the ZJU Council.

The MoU will provide scholarship programmes to equip local students with skills through industrial exposure in the Republic of China, followed by industrial training internship, before working at Hengyi Industries in the country.

JPMC introduces newly revised Patient Charter

JERUDONG, November 17 – To commemorate World Patient Safety Day 2023, the Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC) has introduced its newly-revised Patient Charter.

The ceremony held at JPMC was attended by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health as Chairman and Executive Director of JPMC.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health as Chairman and Executive Director of Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC) attending the launching of JPMC's newly revised Patient Charter.

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In his speech, the Minister of Health stressed the significance of the revised Patient Charter, highlighting its alignment with the World Health Organization's World Patient Safety Day 2023 theme: 'Engaging Patients for Patient Safety'.

The Minister also underscored the importance of involving clients and patients in the review process, emphasising the pivotal role

they play in shaping healthcare journeys.

The event also serves as a platform to celebrate JPMC's commitment towards patient safety, and its 25th Jubilee Anniversary.

The charter outlines patients' rights and responsibilities, emphasising JPMC's dedication to providing a safe, respectful and compassionate healthcare experience for all patients.

Launching of BMC Onshore Loading Facilities

SUNGAI LIANG, November 29 – The Brunei Methanol Company Sdn. Bhd. (BMC) marked another historic milestone with the launching of its new Onshore Loading Facility. The ceremony took place at the BMC main compound.

Present to officiate the launching as representative of the Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy was Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Khairuddin bin Haji Abdul Hamid, Deputy Minister (Economy) of Finance and Economy.

Also in attendance were Takayuki Miyamoto, Chairman of BMC; His Excellency Maeda Toru, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam; BMC Board of Directors; as well as regulators and industry stakeholders.

In his speech, the Deputy Minister (Economy) of Finance and Economy stated that the newly established facility supplies methanol to the domestic market. With its availability – at a cost that is competitive with international resources – Brunei Darussalam is not only transforming itself into a chemical hub, but also creating pathways to attract manufacturers, especially in the automotive component, textile and medical equipment sectors.

The Deputy Minister also stated that



Yang Mulia Deputy Minister (Economy) of Finance and Economy as a representative of the Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy launching the new Onshore Loading Facility.

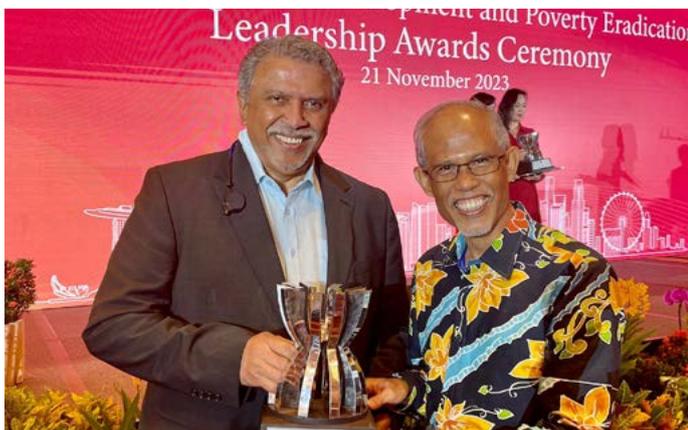
a number of local and international companies have contacted BMC to manufacture their products for use in the country. As an industry pilot project, BMC has provided a template and reference for chemical companies that wish to establish themselves in Brunei in the future.

The ceremony saw an exhibition by BMC; Polygel Organometallic (B) Sdn. Bhd.;

and Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company, Inc. The exhibition showcased the latest innovations and developments in methanol and its derivatives, offering an insight into the added value of methanol products.

The Brunei Economic Development Board also delivered a presentation on downstream opportunities at the event.

MKM receives ASEAN award



President of the Brunei Council on Social Welfare receiving the award from His Excellency Minister of Social and Family Development of the Republic of Singapore.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 23 – The Brunei Council on Social Welfare (MKM) was recently awarded the sixth ASEAN Rural Development Poverty Eradication Leadership Award during a ceremony at the MBS Convention Centre in the Republic of Singapore.

His Excellency Masagos Zulkifli, Minister of Social and Family Development of Singapore presented the award to Mohd. Yusof Shaik Abdul Halim, President of MKM.

The award serves as ASEAN's recognition to a non-governmental organisation contributing to the rural community development to eradicate poverty in the region.

Also present at the ceremony were Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Nazmi bin Haji Mohamad, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, as well as senior officials at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

UBD short film wins international competition



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 1 – Three students from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS), Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) won the Dracula Digital 2023 Competition in the 11th Dracula Film Festival held from October 25 to 29 in Brasov, Romania.

This is the second time FASS Design and Creative Industries students won EUR500 this year, from the international smartphone filmmaking competition.

The award-winning short film titled 'Séance' tells a story of a 20-year-old man's attempts to communicate with his deceased father.

Dr. Yong Liu from UBD attended the opening ceremony of the festival. He announced the three keys for this year's Dracula Digital Competition, followed by a screening of his documentary titled 'A Journey to Brasov', which tells the story of three UBD students visiting Brasov, Romania and teaming up with three Romanian students from University of Transylvania in Brasov to compete in the Dracula Digital 2022 Competition.

Screening on the opening night of the festival was the European premiere of 'A Journey to Brasov', after it was screened as the opening short at the 5th PRISM UBD Short Film Festival in November 2022.

Muara Port welcomes Norwegian Jewel



The Norwegian Jewel docking on the Muara Port for the first time.

MUARA, November 6 – The Cruise Ship Centre, Muara Port, for the first time, welcomed the arrival of the Norwegian Jewel.

Originating from The Bahamas Islands in the Caribbean, the Norwegian Jewel carried 2,302 passengers and 1,030 crew members. It was the fourth cruise ship to have visited Brunei Darussalam this year, following the arrival of the Oceania Insignia earlier on May 21.

Passengers aboard the Norwegian Jewel were offered exclusive tours to iconic destinations, including the Royal Regalia Museum, the Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkiah, the Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Mosque, and Istana Nurul Iman.

At the Cruise Ship Centre, the passengers were offered opportunities to acquire traditional Bruneian souvenirs, as well as to embark on adventure and exploration packages.

President of Timor-Leste concludes four-day visit

BERAKAS, November 8 – His Excellency Dr. José Ramos-Horta, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and his delegation left Brunei Darussalam after concluding a four-day state visit to the country.

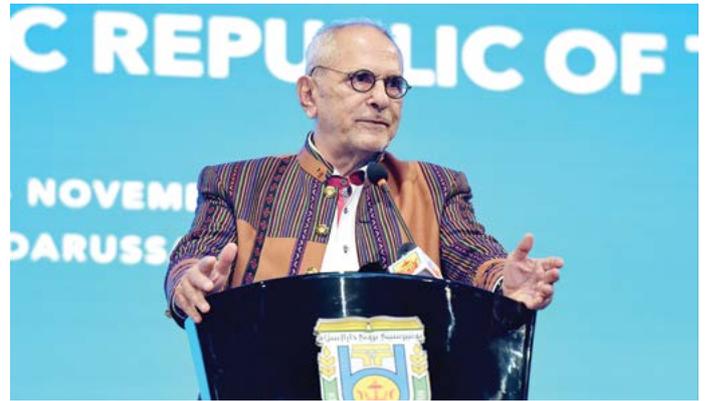
Previously, on November 7, His Excellency President of Timor-Leste visited the Bukit Patoi Forest Recreational Park in Temburong District; the Pantai Jerudong Specialist Centre; and the Jerudong Park Medical Centre.

The Business Engagement With President of Timor-Leste was also held on the same day at the Royal Berkshire Hall, Jerudong Park and Polo Country Club. The event was hosted by Stratacom Global Sdn. Bhd., and was also attended by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Home Affairs and Acting Minister of Education as the Minister-in-Attendance; and Yang Mulia Awang Haji Mohamad Azmi bin Haji Mohd. Hanifah, Deputy Minister (Energy) at the Prime Minister's Office.

Also present were foreign envoys in Brunei Darussalam, senior officials, as well as local and foreign business communities. The session was conducted by Dayang Nik Hafimi binti Abdul Haadi, Chair of the APEC Business Advisory Council as the moderator.

During the session, His Excellency, among others, touched on Timor-Leste's foreign direct investment opportunities.

The President also paid a visit to Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) on November 6, where His Excellency delivered a speech at the Pro Chancellor Art Centre, stating his keenness for more cooperation and partnership with Brunei. His Excellency then planted a Dryobalanosps Aromatic (Kapur Peringgi) sapling at the UBD Botanical Research Centre to commemorate his visit.



His Excellency President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste delivering a speech during his visit to Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), as part of his four-day state visit.



His Excellency during his hiking session at the Bukit Patoi Forest Recreational Park in Temburong District.



His Excellency President of Timor-Leste with Yang Berhormat Minister of Health during his visits to Pantai Jerudong Specialist Centre and Jerudong Park Medical Centre (above) and touring the facilities (below).



His Excellency during the 'Business Engagement with President of Timor-Leste' session.



His Excellency planting a Dryobalanosps Aromatic (Kapur Peringgi) sapling at the UBD Botanical Research Centre.

UNISSA achieves five-star rating

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 8 – Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) received a five-star rating (excellent) and recognition based on the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Star Ratings.

Dr. Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, Rector of UNISSA received the recognition at the QS Stars Awards ceremony in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia recently.

In its first participation, UNISSA achieved a five-star rating in five out of eight categories – Teaching, Employability, Internationalisation, Academic Development and Infrastructure. Meanwhile, UNISSA scored a four-star rating in the Social Responsibility and Inclusiveness.

The QS Stars Awards are part of the QS Higher Ed Summit: Asia Pacific 2023, organised by QS in Kuala Lumpur from November 7 to 9.

The summit themed ‘Creating the Right Outcomes Universities and the Future of Work in the Asia Pacific’ discussed issues and best practices from higher education institutions and industry networks.



The Rector of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) receiving the recognition.

His Excellency visits BKISHHB and Royal Regalia Museum

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 10 – Balai Khazanah Islam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (BKISHHB) welcomed His Excellency Tun Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Mohd. Ali bin Mohd. Rustam, Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Malacca and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Toh Puan Datuk Wira (Dr.) Hajah Asmah binti Haji Abdul Rahman, who are on a three-day state visit.

His Excellency Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Malacca and spouse were greeted upon arrival by Pengiran Haji Raffizanna bin Pengiran Haji Razali, Acting Permanent Secretary (Civil Service Governance) at the Prime Minister’s Office; and Haji Muhammad Ibrahim bin Haji Juma’at, Acting Director of BKISHHB. Also



His Excellency Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Malacca during the visits to Balai Khazanah Islam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (above); and the Royal Regalia Museum (below).



present was His Excellency Dato’ Raja Reza bin Raja Zaib Shah, High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam.

The visit consisted of a tour around the BKISHHB exhibition galleries, which concluded with the signing of a commemorative parchment.

His Excellency Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Malacca and spouse also visited the Royal Regalia Museum earlier on November 9, where they were welcomed by Awang Haji Zakaria bin Haji Serudin, Permanent Secretary (Youth) at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Six officers receive OBOE Endeavour Academic Excellence Award

TANAH JAMBU, November 17 – Six officers from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) yesterday received the OBOE Endeavour Academic Excellence Award from the Government of Australia in recognition of their outstanding results during the recently concluded 13th RBAF Command and Staff Course (CSC) 2023.

The ceremony was held at the Defence Academy (DA) RBAF. His Excellency Luke Arnold, High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam attended the event as the Guest of Honour. Also present was Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Muhammad Haszaimi bin Bol Hassan, Commander of RBAF.

The event saw speeches delivered by Colonel Pengiran Sharifuddin bin Pengiran Haji Yusof, Commandant of DA RBAF; and His Excellency High Commissioner of Australia.

His Excellency then presented the award to the six recipients: 859 Lieutenant Commander Mohd Hydzir Zuhdi bin Haji Sulaiman from the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN); 881 Major Mohammad Sufrien bin Johan from the Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF); 889 Lieutenant Commander Dayangku Lyadia Ulandari binti Pengiran Haji Muhamad from RBN; 892 Lieutenant Commander Hidayatul Zabidah binti Haji Dayang from RBN; 907 Major Siti Nur Irmaya binti Yahya from the Ministry of Defence; and 925 Major Abdul Rahim bin Haji Adris from RBLF.



His Excellency High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam presenting the award to one of the recipients.

The OBOE Endeavour Award is an academic excellence programme by the Government of Australia awarded to CSC participants who have achieved outstanding results during the course.

The officers will be invited to Australia to meet senior military officers from the Australian Defence Force, tour selected Australian military bases, participate in educational and cultural activities, and engage in dialogues and discussions. This year's award recipients will leave for Australia on December 2.

UBDSBE receives AACSB Accreditation



Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam during the press conference.

TUNGKU LINK, November 17 – The Universiti Brunei Darussalam School of Business and Economics (UBDSBE) has been awarded the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) Accreditation, a hallmark of excellence in business education.

Dr. Hazri bin Haji Kifle, Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) announced the achievement in a press conference, which took place at UBD.

With the accreditation, said the Vice-Chancellor, UBDSBE joins an elite group of over 1,000 business schools in 60 countries, impacting over five million students worldwide. UBDSBE is also one of the 28 business schools in ASEAN to achieve this prestigious recognition, and the first accredited business school in Brunei Darussalam.

TAP awarded ASSA Recognition

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, November 24 – The Employees Trust Fund (TAP) received the ASEAN Social Security Association (ASSA) Recognition for the Strategic Communication Recognition Award through the Empowering Retirement Planning for the Silver Generation project during the 40th ASSA Board Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from November 20 to 22.

The meeting hosted by the Employees' Provident Fund of Malaysia was officiated by Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Haji Ahmad Maslan, First Deputy Minister of Finance of Malaysia.

Keo Chanthavixay, Chair of ASSA 2022/2023 presented the award to Awang Haji Md. Adfarul bin Haji Maz Adanan, Managing Director of TAP.

TAP received the recognition in the Strategic Communication



The Chair of ASEAN Social Security Association 2022/2023 presenting the award to the Managing Director of the Employees Trust Fund.

Recognition Award category, through its project titled 'Empowering Retirement Planning for the Silver Generation'.

Non-Oil and Gas Sector records growth in Q2 2023

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 23 – The Non-Oil and Gas Sector recorded a positive growth of 4.3 per cent in the second quarter (Q2) 2023, attributed to a rise in subsectors such as air transports by 131.9 per cent; and finance by 79.9 per cent; followed by others manufacturing by 34.2 per cent.

The increase in the air transports subsector was in line with an increase in passenger air arrivals and departures, while the positive performance of the finance subsector was in line with an increase in the income of banking activities. Meanwhile, the increase in the others manufacturing subsector was contributed by the increase in cement production, attributed to a rise in construction activities.

The manufacture of petroleum and chemical products subsector under the Non-Oil and Gas Sector experienced a decline due to the decrease in the production of petrochemical products and urea fertiliser as a result of maintenance activities.

Meanwhile, the Oil and Gas Sector experienced a contraction of 10.7 per cent, caused by a decrease in the production of crude oil, natural gas and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). Thus, the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) recorded a negative growth of 3.1 per cent in Q2 2023.

The main contributor to the GDP according to economic activity is the Industrial Sector, which contributes a total of 62.7 per cent, followed by the Service Sector 35.9 per cent; and the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Sector 1.4 per cent.

The total GDP at current prices in Q2 2023 is \$4.8 billion compared to \$6.4 billion in

**Brunei Darussalam's GDP Performance
Q1 2022 - Q2 2023**



Q2 2022. The Oil and Gas Sector, which includes oil and gas mining activities and LNG manufacturing; and the Non-Oil and Gas Sector, which includes downstream activities such as the manufacture of petroleum and chemical products, have each contributed 50.0 per cent of the total gross value added.

According to the expenditure approach, the decline in GDP growth in Q2 2023 was

driven by a 2.1 per cent decrease in the export of goods and services, particularly the export of fossil fuels. This was followed by a decrease in government final consumption expenditure by 4.4 per cent.

However, household final consumption expenditure and gross capital formation have recorded an increase of 16.3 per cent and 19.0 per cent respectively.

	Q2 2022	Q2 2023	Growth
	BND Million		%
Government Final Consumption Expenditure	1,006.7	962.7	-4.4
Household Final Consumption Expenditure	1,165.6	1,355.8	16.3
Gross Capital Formation	1,627.3	1,935.7	19.0
Exports of Goods and Services	2,905.0	2,843.5	-2.1
GDP	4,543.3	4,403.1	-3.1

Total trade shows increase in July 2023

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 27 – Total trade rose by 5.2 per cent in July 2023 compared to June 2023. This increase was due to the rise in exports value by 30.9 per cent. However, imports value fell by 20.0 per cent.

Exports In July 2023 was valued at \$1,177.1 million, where mineral fuels represented the major contributor to Brunei Darussalam's exports at 81.3 per cent followed by chemicals (16.4 per cent), and machinery and transport equipment (1.1 per cent).

The five main imports by commodity for July 2023 were mineral fuels (58.6 per cent); followed by machinery and transport equipments (15.5 per cent); food (8.0 per cent); chemicals (6.8 per cent); and manufactured goods (5.8 per cent).

The main export markets in July 2023 were Australia (23.4 per cent); followed by the Republic of Singapore (19.6 per cent); and the People's Republic of China (13.8 per cent). The largest export commodities to these countries were mineral fuels and

chemicals.

The biggest import partners were Malaysia (32.7 per cent); followed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (15.8 per cent); and the Republic of Kazakhstan (15.5 per cent), with mineral fuels as the largest import commodity.

Meanwhile, 60.3 per cent of imports were used as intermediate goods for processing; followed by capital goods (34.6 per cent) for business operations; and consumption goods (5.1 per cent) for household use. On the other hand, 94.3 per cent of trade by value was delivered through sea transport. This was followed by air transport (4.2 per cent); and via land (1.5 per cent).

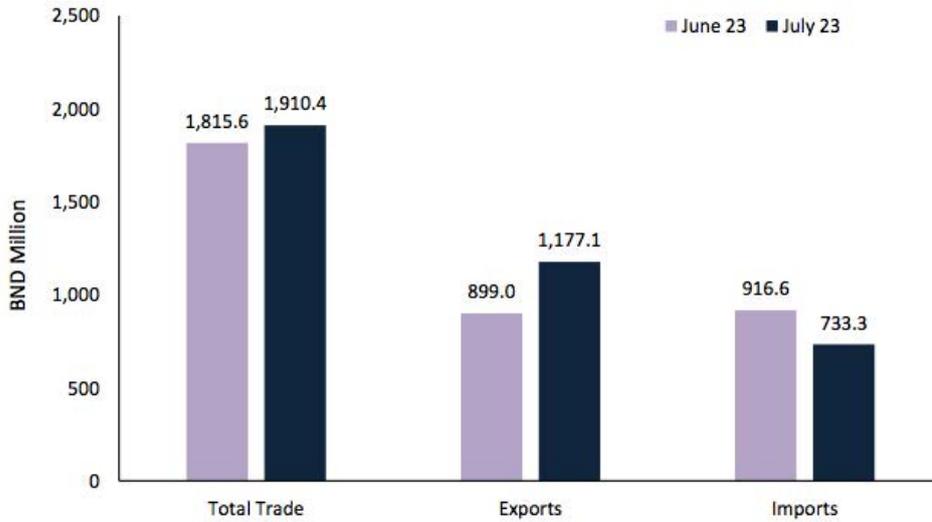
From January to July 2023, total trade was \$13,015.3 million, comprising exports valued at \$7,806.4 million; and imports amounting to \$5,208.9 million – resulting in trade surplus of \$2,597.4 million.

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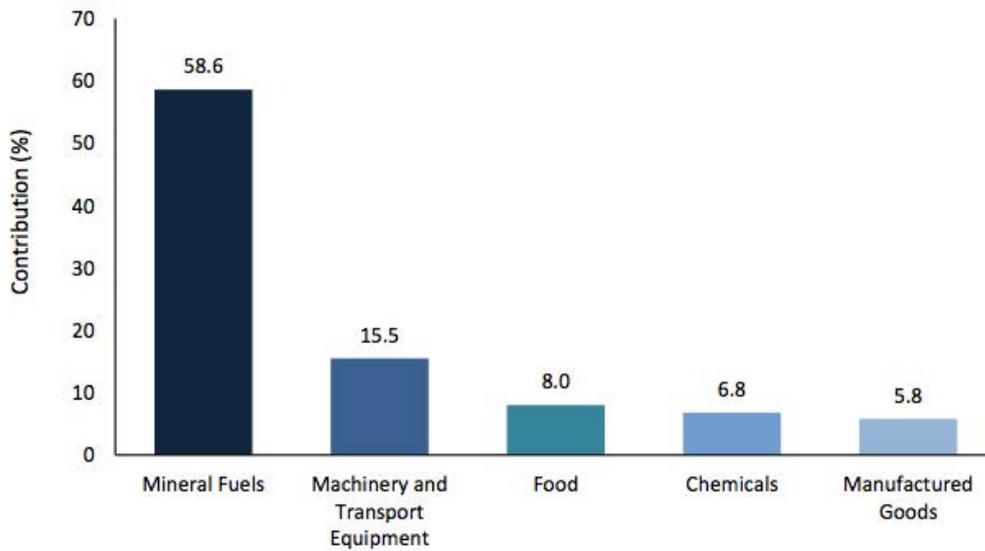
Total trade shows increase in July 2023 (continued)

From page 30

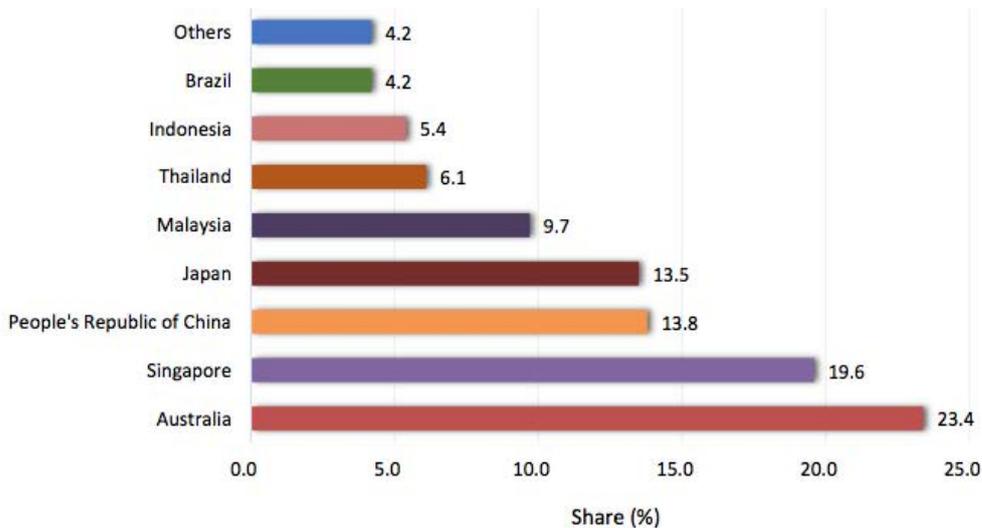
Brunei Darussalam's Month-on-Month Trade Performance



Five Main Imports by Commodity



Share of Exports by Trading Partner



CPI in October 2023 records increase

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

OCTOBER 2023

Year-on-Year

Oct 23
Oct 22

▲ 0.1%

Month-on-Month

Oct 23
Sep 23

▲ 0.1%

Main Contributors
Year-on-Year

Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages ▲ 2.1%

Non-Alcoholic Beverages ▲ 11.4%

Food ▲ 0.8%

Non-Food ▼ 0.5%

Transport ▼ 3.1%

Communication ▼ 3.1%

Year-on-Year

Month	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sep 22	Oct 22	Oct 23
Value	3.5	3.1	3.3	1.4	1.2	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.2	0.1	-0.1	-0.7	-0.1	0.1

Month-on-Month

Month	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sep 22	Oct 22	Oct 23
Value	-0.6	-0.1	0.4	-0.7	0.5	0.1	-0.5	0.3	0.2	-0.2	0.4	-0.3	-0.1	0.1

Base Year (Jan 2015=100)

The same CPI basket of goods and services worth BND100.00 in January 2015 is now worth BND106.80 in October 2023

Notes

- CPI measures the average change of prices of a fixed basket of goods and services paid by households in a certain period of time.
- Month-on-month means to compare prices with the previous month.
- Year-on-year means to compare prices with the same month in the previous year.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 29 - In October, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) recorded a slight increase of 0.1 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), contributing to a 2.1 per cent increase in the prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages. Meanwhile, non-food prices registered a decrease of 0.5 per cent.

The y-o-y increase in food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages prices was due to a rise in the prices of Non-Alcoholic Beverages (11.4 per cent), particularly ready-to-consume low-sugar drinks; vegetables (4.4 per cent), following an increase in ginger and onions prices due to limited supply from producing countries; and rice and cereals (2.9 per cent), caused by a continuous increase in raw materials prices mainly wheat flour.

Non-food prices registered a decrease due to a fall in prices of transport (3.1 per cent) mainly motor vehicle and airfares; communication (3.1 per cent), particularly telephone and telefax

services prices, in line with the promotional offer for internet services since September; and housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (0.1 per cent), caused by a fall in the cost of housing rentals.

For month-on-month (m-o-m) changes, the CPI also showed an increase of 0.1 per cent, which contributed to an increase in both food and non-alcoholic beverages; and non-food prices by 0.4 per cent and 0.02 per cent respectively.

The m-o-m increase in food and non-alcoholic beverages prices was mainly contributed by the rise in the prices of vegetables (3.2 per cent); non-alcoholic beverages (0.5 per cent); and rice and cereals (0.3 per cent). Meanwhile, an increase in non-food prices was attributed by transport (0.6 per cent); recreation and culture (0.2 per cent); and furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance (0.1 per cent).