



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

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Tackling the impacts of climate change together

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, December 1 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Opening Session of the World Climate Action Summit and the first part of the High-Level Segment for Heads of State and Government at the 28th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 28), which took place at Expo City in Dubai.

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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 Highness President of the United Arab Emirates and Leader of Abu Dhabi; and His Excellency Secretary General of the United Nations.



His Majesty graces 5th National Brunei Darussalam Jamboree



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 interacting with scouts.

TUTONG, December 4 – The Scout Association is the country's oldest non-governmental organisation, celebrating its 90th anniversary since its establishment in 1933.

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50th Years of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation

TOKYO, JAPAN, December 17 – The culmination of very close cooperation for five decades has allowed ASEAN and Japan to foster deep mutual trust and great respect for each other while working together across all ASEAN community pillars, jointly seizing opportunities and tackling challenges throughout years.

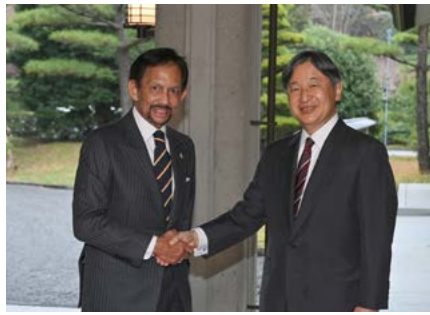
His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered a *titah* (royal speech) while attending the Plenary Session of the Commemorative Summit of the 50th Years of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation at Hotel Okura, in which acknowledged Japan is one of ASEAN's longstanding and most steadfast partners, and the establishment of the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in September 2023 was a natural progression in dialogue relations.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam believes that given the ongoing geopolitical

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5. His Majesty graces 5th National Brunei Darussalam Jamboree



7. Brunei - Japan continue to strengthen bilateral relations



8. 50th Years of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation



10. Importance of having 21st century skills



13. Scout movement contributes to youth, national development



16. HRH the Crown Prince visits British Forces Brunei



17. KDB Al-Faruq expands Brunei – Singapore defence cooperation



19. HRH the Crown Prince joins morning excursion with Singapore's Deputy Minister and Minister of Finance



24. Signing of CAT certificate



25. MOC on realisation of energy transition



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His Majesty receives audience



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman, His Excellency Lawrence Wong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of the Republic of Singapore on December 12.

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, Madam Loo Tze Lui, spouse of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of the Republic of Singapore on December 12.

HRH the Crown Prince receives audience



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman received in audience His Excellency Lawrence Wong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, Madam Loo Tze Lui at Qashr Al-Meezan on December 12.

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 Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) and His Excellency Dr. Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of the Lao PDR, as well as the government and people of the Lao PDR on the occasion of its 48th National Day on December 2.
- His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister, Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Defence, the UAE on the auspicious occasion of the 52nd Anniversary of the National Day of the UAE on December 2.
- His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua, The King of Thailand, all members of the royal family, His Excellency Srettha Thavisin, Prime Minister of Thailand, the government and the people of the Kingdom of Thailand on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand on December 5.
- His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, following His Highness' appointment as the Amir of the State of Kuwait on December 17.
- His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar; His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar; the government as well as the people of the State of Qatar, on the occasion of the National Day of the State of Qatar on December 18.

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 on December 17 to His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait; His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of Kuwait; members of the royal family and the people of the State of Kuwait following the passing of His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah recently.

News

Tackling the impacts of climate change together (continued)

From front page

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

The arrival of His Majesty at the Al Wasl Dome was welcomed by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Leader of Abu Dhabi; and His Excellency António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations (UN).

His Majesty then attended the Opening Session of the World Climate Action Summit at Al Waha Theatre.

After that, His Majesty proceeded to Plenary Al-Hairat to attend the High Level Segment for Heads of State and Government COP 28, where the Monarch delivered a *titah* (royal speech) underscoring climate change as the most



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 group photo at the Opening Session of the World Climate Action Summit at Al Waha Theatre.

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critical and life-threatening challenge of this generation.

Consequently, there is a renewed urgency to fulfil the Paris Agreement obligations, as the initial results of the first Global Stocktake shows that the world is not on track to limit global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

In this regard, His Majesty stressed that developed countries should fulfil their past commitments and provide sufficient resources and affordable technologies to developing countries, to deal with the impact of climate change.

Despite the contribution of only 0.017 per cent of the global greenhouse gas output, Brunei Darussalam remains committed in addressing climate change.

With this, His Majesty shared that Brunei balances its national development with environmental protection, while pursuing sustainable growth for its economy. The Monarch then stated that Brunei is actively diversifying its energy mix by emphasising on renewables.

Through the collaborations between all the stakeholders, including the youth and private sectors, Brunei is on track to reduce greenhouse gas production by 20 per cent by 2030, as outlined in the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

His Majesty further highlighted that Brunei has taken the lead in regional climate action and will be hosting the ASEAN Climate Centre for Climate Change. The centre will facilitate the enhancement of climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts across South East Asia through research, analysis, data exchange and policy recommendations.

His Majesty concluded the *titah* by expressing Brunei's support for all Member States and international organisations that are interested in ensuring that the regional centre contributes meaningfully to global efforts.

Earlier, a welcoming speech was delivered by His Excellency Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al-Jaber, President of COP 28, UAE Special Envoy for Climate Change and Minister of Industry



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the first part of the High-Level Segment for the Heads of State and Government at the 28th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28).

and Advanced Technology; His Excellency Narendra Motudi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India; His Excellency Dennis Francis, President of the UN General Assembly; and His Excellency Secretary General of UN.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen attending the first part of the High Level Segment for Heads of State and Government COP28, which took place at the Expo City in Dubai.



His Majesty graces 5th National Brunei Darussalam Jamboree (continued)

From front page

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as the Patron of the Brunei Darussalam Scout Federation (PPNBD) and the Honorary Patron of the World Scout highlighted the matter in a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with the 5th National Brunei Darussalam Jamboree at the Bukit Bendera Community Hall Field.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam believes the scout movement should lead youth education. The Monarch said youths are

the nation's assets, with a need to be educated and trained through methods suited to their interests and development so that they will have a strong self-identity and are able to adapt to various changes.

His Majesty highlighted that scouts should not only focus on basic skills, but also equip its members with 21st century skills for resilient human capital development.

The Monarch also urged scouts to uphold

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the 5th National Brunei Darussalam Jamboree 2023.





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 presenting medals to recipients.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and members of the royal family touring the camp site.

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the principles of scouting and setting a positive example for the younger generation.

At the event, His Majesty presented the Rakis Award Medal, Excellent Service and Brunei Scouts International Friendship Medal to recipients.

Also present at the ceremony were His Majesty's sons, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office as the Chief Scout of PPNBD; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

After the medal presentation, His Majesty and members of the royal family toured the exhibition and visited camp site.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office in a group photo with scouts.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince viewing an exhibit.

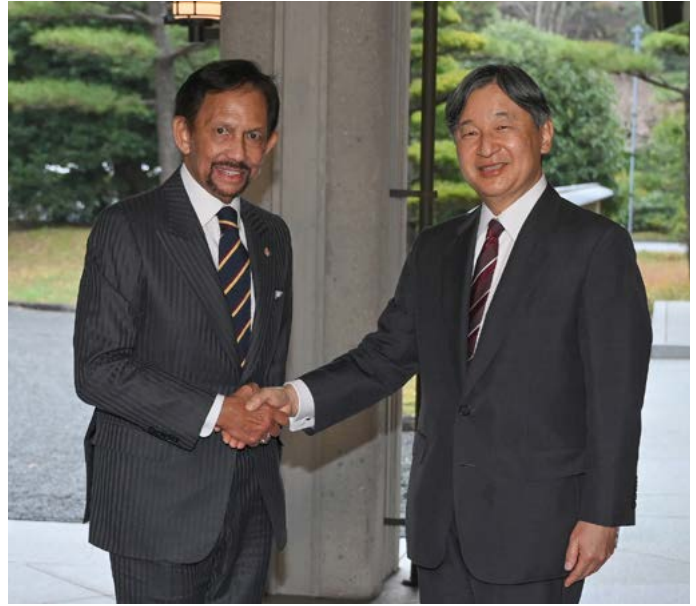


His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen viewing an exhibit.

Brunei - Japan continue to strengthen bilateral relationship



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 arriving at Tokyo Haneda International Airport on December 14 night to attend the Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Majesty Emperor Naruhito, Emperor of Japan.

TOKYO, JAPAN, December 15 - 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 began an Official Visit to Japan by attending a meeting with His Majesty Emperor Naruhito, Emperor of Japan.

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

The meeting with His Majesty Emperor Naruhito, Emperor of Japan provided the opportunity for His Majesty and His Majesty the Emperor of Japan to further strengthen the bond and friendship between both countries, in which the relationship has also been strengthened through cooperation in energy, trade, education and people-to-people exchanges.

His Majesty's arrival in Tokyo Haneda



His Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen with His Majesty Emperor of Japan.

International Airport on December 14 night was welcomed by His Excellency Masahiro Komura, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan; His Excellency Takehiro Shimada, Chief

of Protocol (Ambassador) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan; and His Excellency Maeda Toru, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam.

Continue to enhance goodwill and friendship

TOKYO, JAPAN, December 16 - 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* says that as Brunei Darussalam and Japan celebrate 40 years of friendship in 2024, His Majesty looks forward to continuing work in further enhancing the goodwill and friendship between both countries and people.

His Majesty delivered the *titah* at a Working Lunch with His Excellency Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan which took place at the Prime Minister's Office, Tokyo. Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

In the *titah*, His Majesty expresses appreciation to be able to make an Official Visit to Japan, at the sidelines of the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit. His Majesty also conveyed warmest

congratulations to His Excellency the Prime Minister of Japan and the Government of Japan in hosting the Commemorative Summit.

His Majesty extended an invitation to His Excellency the Prime Minister of Japan and spouse, Mrs. Yuko Kishida to visit Brunei Darussalam for an Official Visit as well as wished Prime Minister Kishida and

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Commitment towards improving bilateral relations

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the Government of Japan all the best in hosting the World Expo 2025 in Osaka successfully.

During the Working Lunch, His Majesty and His Excellency welcomed the signing of "Memorandum of Cooperation between the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan on the Realisation of Energy Transition" during His Majesty's Official Visit to Japan, in further strengthening energy cooperation between both countries.

His Majesty also expressed appreciation for Japan's continued support towards the ASEAN Climate Change Centre, as well as the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS), the Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Programme (SSEAYP) and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) scholarships in fostering better friendship and understanding, in which this support was also echoed by His Excellency the Prime Minister of Japan.

His Majesty and His Excellency also expressed hope for the important ties between Brunei Darussalam and Japan



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 with His Excellency Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan.

will be further strengthened by the visit of His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office to Japan in March 2024, highlighting that the visit is timely as both countries will celebrate the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations and Brunei-Japan Friendship Year in 2024.

In addition, bilateral cooperation areas such as in the fields of defence and maritime as well as regional and international matters including the development of ASEAN-Japan Dialogue Relations as well as the situation in Palestine were also discussed.

At the end of the Working Lunch, a Joint Press Statement between Brunei Darussalam and Japan was issued. Diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and Japan were established on 2nd April 1984. Both countries share warm and friendly relations through good cooperation in the areas of energy, trade and investment, education and people-to-people exchanges.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the Working Lunch with His Excellency Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan, which took place at the Prime Minister's Office, Tokyo. Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

50th Years of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation (continued)

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uncertainties, it is very crucial to continue strengthening the fundamental principles of regionalism and multilateralism in ASEAN-Japan relationship. Furthermore, ASEAN and Japan still have immense potential to cooperate in promoting peace and stability for continued prosperity and development.

In this regard, ASEAN and Japan must continue to be principled based on the United Nations (UN) Charter and the rules of International Law. His Majesty emphasised that such efforts will

reinforce the relevance and universality of the UN, ensuring no exceptions, particularly in working towards reforming the UN Security Council.

Earlier, the Opening and Plenary Session of the Commemorative Summit commenced with the opening remarks by the Prime Minister of Japan, followed by a statement by His Excellency Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia as Chairman of ASEAN this year.

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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 during the Commemorative Summit of the 50th Years of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation with Heads of State and Government of ASEAN, Japan and Timor-Leste.

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His Majesty was welcomed on arrival by His Excellency Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan. His Majesty first attended the opening and plenary session of summit at Heian-no ma I.

His Majesty also attended a Working Lunch where His Majesty in a *titah* reaffirmed that ASEAN and Japan's partnership over the years has played a key role in nurturing mutual trust and friendships among its peoples, through initiatives such as the Friendship Programme for the 21st Century; Ship for South East Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP); Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS); and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) scholarships, which have successfully laid a solid foundation for people-to-people relations.

His Majesty welcomed the Prime Minister of Japan's announcement of the WA Project 2.0, towards building on and further strengthening connections. These initiatives have enabled ASEAN and Japan to harness opportunities for development and prosperity, and are valuable investments to ensure that the close ties and strong partnership will be sustained beyond 50 years.

His Majesty recognised that Brunei Darussalam also believes in the importance of providing opportunities to young leaders who share common values and goals to be able to establish friendships and network together.



As such, the ASEAN Junior Fellowship Programme was initiated, to foster and enhance the togetherness among young officers in ASEAN as well as the important cooperation with dialogue partners. In this regard, His Majesty welcomed Japan's support in this programme, adding that all initiatives that involve youths and junior officials as future leaders will contribute towards further strengthening ASEAN and Japan's 'heart-to-heart partnership', ensuring a harmonious and prosperous future together.

During Session 2: Partners for Co-Creation of Economy and Society of the Future, His Majesty highlighted that the Asia-Pacific region is projected to continue being a centre for economic growth in the coming years amidst global uncertainties, with expected growth of 4.2 per cent in 2024, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

However, this growth may be at risk if there is failure to address urgent challenges

together. One of the pressing challenges is the increasing impact of climate change, as there are more frequent and intense weather events, such as extreme temperatures, destructive storms, flooding, and prolonged drought.

His Majesty said the recent Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP) in Dubai reached consensus on measures, especially to limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Therefore, ASEAN and Japan must collaborate on developing concrete and innovative measures that focus on mitigating and adapting to changing climate patterns.

In concluding the *titah*, His Majesty welcomed Japan's expertise in formulating policies, sharing technology, and its initiative to establish the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC), and

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The importance of having 21st century skills



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 *titah* (royal speech) at the Get-Together Ceremony with Citizens and Residents of Brunei Darussalam in the United Kingdom (UK) and Eire, held at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, London.

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, December 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 and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam attended the Get-Together Ceremony with Citizens and Residents of Brunei Darussalam who are in the United Kingdom (UK) and Eire, held at the Royal Lancaster Hotel.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri were also invited to sign commemorative parchments and attended a High Tea Reception with student representatives prior to the ceremony.

At the get-together ceremony, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech), which stressed the need for higher education students – who are expected to enter the workforce – to possess 21st century skills, such as innovativeness, effective communication, collaboration, critical thinking and adaptability as tools for shaping Brunei Darussalam's workforce.

These skills are acquired not only through textbooks and instructional methods, but also through informal learning from the environment and daily experiences.

The Monarch emphasised that students are still faced with the challenge of building a noble and praiseworthy identity in any situation. Towards this end, His Majesty stated that students should take advantage of the opportunity to study abroad not only to gain knowledge, but also to become human capital with noble character as well as broad and advanced ideas to help the country realise Wawasan Brunei 2035.

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The President of the Brunei Students' Union in the UK and Eire delivering his welcoming address (left); and the recitation of verses from the Al-Quran by Awang Mohammad Wajdi bin Haji Mohammad Ja'afar from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, and the translation of the verses by Awang Muhammad Nabil Syahmi bin Norman from the University of the Highlands and Islands, Perth, Scotland (right).



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 group photo.

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expressed confidence that ASEAN can benefit significantly from these, especially by working through the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change.

At the end of the Commemorative Summit, the Joint Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation and the Implementation Plan of the Joint Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation: 'Trusted Partners' were adopted.



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 signing commemorative parchments prior to the ceremony.



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Touching on technology, His Majesty stated that the country requires its people to be always aware of the future, to have an expansive mind and high discipline, and to master technology, as technology has become an important part of life in enriching experiences and they are used as tools.

However, His Majesty also cautioned the students against neglecting hard work and self-efficiency, while advising them to set firm and clear learning goals.

His Majesty concluded the *titah* by advising students to become individuals with integrity and strong moral principles amid exposure to different cultures and beliefs.

The Monarch also urged the students to remain loyal to the values and principles that come with being a Bruneian, and to not be involved in activities that endanger



Their Majesties attending a High Tea Reception with student representatives.

their own safety and well-being.

Activities involving the local community differ from what is commonly carried out by our society. As a result, His Majesty highlighted that students must assess risks by prioritising personal safety and well-being.

The ceremony began with the National Anthem of Brunei Darussalam, followed by the recitation of verses from the Al-Quran by Awang Mohammad Wajdi bin Haji Mohammad Ja'afar from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland; while

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Their Majesties in a group photo during the ceremony.



Student representatives presenting a *pesambah* (souvenir) titled '*Merentasi Sempadan Membina Masa Depan*', to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, which displayed the combination of two iconic bridges – namely the Tower Bridge in the UK; and the Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Bridge in Brunei (left); and a book titled '*Raja Berwibawa Pewaris Beriltizam*' (right).



Their Majesties during the Get-Together Ceremony with Citizens and Residents of Brunei Darussalam in the UK and Eire (above and below).



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the translation of the verses was read by Awang Muhammad Nabil Syahmi bin Norman from the University of the Highlands and Islands, Perth, Scotland.

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

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Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri receiving a *pesambah* (souvenir), '*Jambangan Jalinan Makmur*'.



Their Majesties leaving the ceremony.

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Awang Muhammad Fadzli bin Haji Adi-Putra/Adi Putera, President of the Brunei Students' Union in the UK and Eire

also delivered a welcoming address at the event.

His Majesty then proceeded to meet and greet some 1,200 citizens and residents of Brunei who are in the UK and Eire, comprising students, government officials

as well as those on vacation.

Student representatives then presented a *pesambah* (souvenir) titled '*Merentasi Sempadan Membina Masa Depan*' to His Majesty, which displayed the combination of two iconic bridges – namely the Tower Bridge in the UK; and the Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Bridge in Brunei – as a symbol of the spirit of cooperation and long-standing relations between the two countries.

Meanwhile, another *pesambah* (souvenir), '*Jambangan Jalinan Makmur*', was presented to Her Majesty, which was a bouquet of flowers made from the traditional woven fabric of Brunei, also as a symbol of the friendship between Brunei, the UK and Eire.

The ceremony also featured a *nasyid* performance titled '*Allahulkaafi*' to pray for the safety and well-being of His Majesty.

Scout movement contributes to youth, national development



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 the Chief Scout of the Brunei Darussalam Scout Federation (PPNBD) delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) at the 5th Brunei Darussalam National Jamboree Closing Ceremony, held at the Bukit Bendera Community Hall Field, Tutong District.

TUTONG, December 7 – The 5th Brunei Darussalam National Jamboree Closing Ceremony was graced by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office as the Chief Scout

of the Brunei Darussalam Scout Federation (PPNBD) at the Bukit Bendera Community Hall Field.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik was also present.

The ceremony began with the playing of the National Anthem of Brunei Darussalam, followed by the recitation of Surah Al-Fatihah and *doa selamat* was led by Awang Muhammad Aqil Arfan bin Arjune, scout member of Kelana, Tutong Open Team 2020. Afterwards, the *ikrar* was read by Awang Ahmad Termizie bin Ahmad Baihakie, scout member of Kelana.

Dato Paduka Ar. Haji Idris bin Haji Abas, President of PPNBD presented a welcoming speech at the event. Meanwhile, Haji Awang Badar bin Haji Awang Ali, Chief Commissioner of PPNBD as the Camp Commandant of the 5th Brunei Darussalam National Jamboree, informed about the progress of the activities throughout the jamboree in his report.

The total jamboree participants almost reached 900 participants: with 384 local participants; and 510 participants from neighbouring countries, such as the Republic of Indonesia (288 participants), Malaysia (209 participants), the Republic of Singapore (10 participants), and the Kingdom of Thailand (5 participants).

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His Royal Highness the Crown Prince as the Chief Scout of PPNBD at the 5th Brunei Darussalam National Jamboree Closing Ceremony; also attending the ceremony was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.





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 delivering awards and certificates to the participants (above and below).

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Also presented were the activities carried out based on six main themes, namely: competency skills (which were carried out around the jamboree site); Sustainable Development Goals; religious and routines (place of worship provided); culture and games (held in and at the site of the tour); excursions to interesting places (places and villages); and water activities.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince also delivered a *sabda* (royal speech) stating that the scout movement in Brunei Darussalam has undeniably made many contributions to the development of youth and the country. This is what we hope for its existence and survival as agents to help shape the younger generation in supporting and supporting the aspirations and success of the country's vision.

This is in line with His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's *titah* (royal speech) at the 5th Brunei Darussalam National Jamboree Opening Ceremony on December 4, which touched on the theme of the jamboree, 'Scouts on the Move'.

The theme serves as a reflection of the scouts who are always active and ready to face challenges with principles and skills of the 21st century, as 'skills set' that need to be learned and possessed.

His Royal Highness was pleased with the jamboree, which was held since December 2 as a platform for all scout members to learn and gain valuable experience.



"In addition, it also provides opportunities to interact among local and foreign scout members, by exchanging views and knowledge, as well as useful experiences for self and group development through various activities," added His Royal Highness.

"Since its establishment in 1933," said His Royal Highness, "the scout movement in Brunei has progressed step by step to follow the trend and development of scout movements around the world, whether at regional or international level."

His Royal Highness further expressed his confidence that scout team members from neighbouring and international countries would bring back the knowledge, experience and memories

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The Chief Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam Scout Federation (PPPNBD) as the Camp Commandant of the 5th Brunei Darussalam National Jamboree, informing about the progress of the activities throughout the jamboree in his report.



A scout member of Kelana reading the *ikrar*.



The President of PPPNBD delivering his welcoming speech.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik in a group photo session.



His Royal Highness mingling with the contingents that joined the jamboree.

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throughout the jamboree, and would continue to strengthen the friendship relations forged through the jamboree and its benefits in the future.

His Royal Highness then delivered a *sabda* consenting to close the jamboree, and witnessed a video clip presentation from the participants, followed a performance by the champion of Culture Night.

At the ceremony, His Royal Highness awarded the Sultan's Scout Award to seven Venture scout members; the Baden Powell Award to 20 scout members of Kelana; as well as souvenirs and certificates of participation to the contingents of the jamboree.

At the end of the ceremony, His Royal Highness was invited for a group photo session.



A performance by the champion of Culture Night.



Among those who were present at the event.



Among the contingents from neighbouring countries attending the jamboree.



HRH the Crown Prince visits British Forces Brunei

SERIA, December 11 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office visited the British Forces Brunei (BFB) at the Brunei Garrison.

The arrival of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince at Tukur Lines Landing Point on a Puma helicopter from 230 Squadron of the United Kingdom Royal Air Force was greeted by His Excellency John Virgoe, British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam; Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Stanford-Tuck, the Commander of BFB; and Major Jiwan Pun, Gurkha Major, First Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles (1RGR).



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's arrival at Tukur Lines Landing Point on a Puma Helicopter from 230 Squadron of the United Kingdom Royal Air Force.

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His Royal Highness Prince being presented with a Maala Garland.



His Royal Highness Prince inspecting the Guard of Honour.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince signing a commemorative Parchment.



His Royal Highness during a demonstration of support weapons and tracking by one of the officers.



His Royal Highness in a group photo with the British Forces Brunei (BFB).



His Royal Highness being greeted by family members of BFB personnel at the Officers' Mess.



His Royal Highness receiving a *pesambah* (souvenir).

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His Royal Highness proceeded to the Tukur Lines Guard and inspected the Guard of Honour.

Shortly, His Royal Highness proceeded to the Tukur Lines 25m Firing Range to view a demonstration of support weapons and

tracking.

After, His Royal Highness visited the Hornbill School and was greeted by Caroline Neal, the Head Teacher, and met with students and teachers.

The visit concluded with a luncheon at the Officers' Mess.

KDB Al-Faruq expands Brunei – Singapore defence cooperation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 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 attended the Commissioning Ceremony of the Patrol Vessel Kapal Diraja Brunei (KDB) Al-Faruq.

The ceremony coincided with the 9th Young Leaders' Programme (YLP) between

Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore.

Members of the 9th YLP delegation from the Republic of Singapore were led by His Excellency Lawrence Wong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance.

The ceremony commenced with His Royal Highness the Crown Prince receiving the Royal Salute and inspecting the parade comprising 109 personnel of the Royal

Brunei Navy (RBN) led by Lieutenant Commander Mohammad Shahrul Idham bin Haji Bongsu, RBN.

His Royal Highness then proceeded to the commissioning dais, where Lieutenant Colonel Abdul Mujib bin Haji Japar, Acting Director of the RBAF's Religious Directorate (JAMAAT) recited Surah Al-Fatihah.

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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 inspecting the parade.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince delivering the commissioning *sabda* (royal speech).

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After, His Royal Highness delivered the commissioning *sabda* (royal speech) and bestowed KDB Al-Faruq with its commissioning pennant presented to Commanding Officer of KDB Al-Faruq, Lieutenant Commander Khairul Anwar bin Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar, RBN.

It proceeded with the inaugural hoisting of the Commissioning Pennant and RBN Ensign, accompanied by the national anthem. The commissioning was further blessed with the calling of the *Azan* and recitation of *doa selamat* by the Acting Director of JAMA'AT.

His Royal Highness then proceeded to the Royal Brunei Navy Officer's Mess for a luncheon.



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His Royal Highness bestowing a commissioning pennant to Commanding Officer of KDB Al-Faruq.



Commanding Officer of KDB Al-Faruq during the ceremony.



The calling of the *Azan*.



His Royal Highness in a group photo.



His Royal Highness touring the KDB Al-Faruq.



His Royal Highness during the luncheon.

HRH the Crown Prince joins morning excursion with Singapore's Prime Minister and Minister for Finance

TEMBURONG, December 14 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman, attended a morning excursion in conjunction with the 9th Young Leaders Programme, which included a visit to the Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien (SHOAS) Bridge, morning walk leisure and breakfast.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen were also in attendance.

Also present were His Royal Highness the Crown Prince's sons and daughters, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah; and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Faathimah Az-Zahraa' Raihanuul Bolkiah.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman with His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of the Republic of Singapore during the morning walk at The Abode Resort and Spa. Also present were other members of the royal family.

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His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahman with His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of the Republic of Singapore and spouse at the Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Bridge. Also present were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah; and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Faathimah Az-Zahraa' Raihanuul Bolkiah.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and other members of royal family with His Excellency.

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The morning excursion began with His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah along with His Excellency Lawrence Wong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, Madam Loo as well as the Singapore delegation,

taking a closer look at the SHOAS Bridge.

The SHOAS Bridge is a major landmark in Brunei Darussalam and the longest bridge in South East Asia, stretching 26.3 kilometres.

After viewing the SHOAS Bridge, Their Royal Highnesses with the Republic of Singapore delegation proceeded to The Abode Resort and Spa in Kampung Perdayan. The delegation took a leisurely walk at the resort and witnessed a cultural and silat performances to welcome their visit.

Their Royal Highnesses along with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of the Republic of Singapore and spouse proceeded to attend breakfast.

His Royal Highness and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of the Republic of Singapore also signed a commemorative parchment.

The programme reflects the strong and close bilateral relations between the two countries in various fields.



Their Royal Highnesses with His Excellency and spouse viewing a cultural performance.



Their Royal Highnesses with His Excellency and spouse during the breakfast.

HRH signs Book of Condolence

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 20 - Following the passing of His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on December 16, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam signed the Book of Condolence at the official residence of the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Brunei Darussalam.

Upon arrival, Her Royal Highness was greeted by Mr. Mubarak Al Subaiee, Chargé d' Affaires ad interim of the Embassy of the State of Kuwait.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs signing the Book of Condolence.



Visit to mosque construction sites

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 19 – Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs took a closer look at the progress of three mosque projects.

Two new mosques construction project are under the allocation of the 11th National Development Plan, while the construction of an additional building for a mosque is under the Mosque Construction Fund allocation.

The Minister of Religious Affairs and delegation first visited the construction site of the new mosque in RPN Kampung Meragang. The project began in

September 2021 and is expected to be completed in January 2024 with the cost of \$4.3 million.

The delegation also took a closer look at the RPN Kampung Mengkubau Mosque construction project. The \$4.3 million - mosque is expected to be completed by April 2024.

Both mosques can accommodate up to 2,200 congregants.

The visit concluded at the project site of the additional building for the Kampung Sungai Buloh Mosque. With a construction cost of \$870,000, it will provide additional space for various facilities including a funeral management room.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Religious Affairs at the construction sites.



Brunei attends 36th ONOMM

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 4 - Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at Prime Minister Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence attended 36th OPEC and Non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting (36th ONOMM) held virtually on November 30.

Also present at the meeting, Haji Muhammad Azmi bin Haji Mohd. Hanifah, Deputy Minister (Energy) at PMO; Hajah Farida binti Dato Seri Paduka Haji Talib, Permanent Secretary (Energy) at PMO; and Awang Haji Asrul Adrain bin Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad, Acting

Permanent Secretary (Fiscal I) at the Ministry of Finance and Economy.

The meeting was co-chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud, Minister of Energy of Saudi Arabia and His Excellency Alexander Valentinovich Novak, Russian Deputy Prime Minister with the presence of the Minister of Mines and Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, His Excellency Antonio Ocari Ondo as President of OPEC Conference 2023.

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At the meeting, ONOMM participating countries in the Declaration of Cooperation (DoC) support suggestions proposed at the committee 51st Meeting of the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC).

The DoC between OPEC and non-OPEC oil producing countries started on December 10, 2016, recognising the need cooperation with the oil exporting countries to achieve stability sustained in oil market in the interest of producers and oil consumers.

Currently, a Ministerial Meeting will be held every six months and the next meeting ONOMM 37th will held on June 1, in Vienna, Austria.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence and senior government officers during the meeting.

BKISHHB receives 9th YLP delegation



His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of the Republic of Singapore and spouse; Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence; and Yang Berhormat Minister of Religious Affairs at the Balai Khazanah Islam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (BKISHHB).

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 12 – A delegation from the Republic of Singapore made a visit to Balai Khazanah Islam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (BKISHHB). Joining the delegation was His Excellency Lawrence Wong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, Madam Loo Tze Lui.

Upon arrival, the delegation was welcomed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohammad Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence as



His Excellency touring the exhibition.

Chairman of the BKISHHB Board of Advisors; Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs as Deputy Chairman of the BKISHHB Board of Advisors; and Dr. Haji Awang Mohammed Hussain bin Pehin Penyurat Haji Ahmad, Director of BKISHHB.

The delegation then attended a Welcoming Dinner at the Indera

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Yang Berhormat Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Defence; Yang Berhormat Minister of Religious Affairs; Yang Berhormat Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy with His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, as well as delegation from Republic of Singapore.

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Kayangan Ballroom, The Empire Brunei, hosted by the Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Defence; and Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy.

The delegation arrived in Brunei Darussalam yesterday, December 12, for a three-day working visit from December 12 to 14, to attend the 9th Young Leaders' Programme.

Present at Brunei International Airport to greet the delegation was Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy. Also present was Dato Seri Paduka Awang Mohd Riza bin

Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Yunos, Deputy Minister for Civil Service Governance at PMO.

Joining the delegation were His Excellency Teo Chee Hean, Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security for the Republic of Singapore; Her Excellency Indranee Thurai Rajah, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Finance and Second Minister for National Development; His Excellency Dr. Koh Poh Koon, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment and Ministry of Manpower; His Excellency Zaqy Mohamad, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Manpower; and His Excellency Tan Kiat How, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information and Ministry of National Development.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Finance and Economy with His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of the Republic of Singapore.

A partnership for all seasons



His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of the Republic of Singapore speaking at the lecture.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 14 – His Excellency Lawrence Wong, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, Madam Loo Tze Lui, and delegation left Brunei Darussalam after a three-day working visit to attend the 9th Young Leaders' Programme.

Present at the Brunei International Airport to bid farewell was Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence and His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of the Republic of Singapore in a group photo.

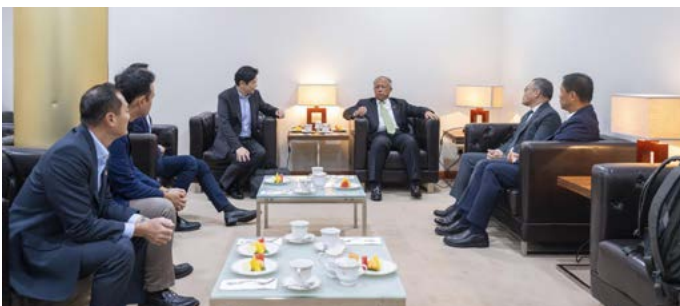
Mohd. Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence.

Yesterday, December 13, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of the Republic of Singapore gave a special lecture 'A Partnership for All Seasons' at PMO.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of the Republic of Singapore touched on the need to strengthen people-

to-people ties as these are the foundation of the special relationship between both countries.

Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore should broaden and strengthen exchanges among the youth. Both countries should make extra effort to encourage more exchanges between the youth, and to nurture youth leaders so they have a broad understanding on the history, culture, and strategic imperatives as well as perspectives.



Yang Berhormat Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Defence and His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of the Republic of Singapore at the Brunei International Airport.



Senior government officials during the special lecture.

Signing of CAT certificate



Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence at the ceremony.

SEVILLE, SPAIN, December 22 – The Ministry of Defence (MinDef) signed the certificate of Customer Acceptance Test (CAT) for the first C295MW aircraft under the Air Transport project.

Signing on behalf of the MinDef was 830 Major (U) Arif Shamirul bin Salleh, Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAF), as Head of Resident Project Office for the project while representing Airbus Defence and Space S.A.U, Spain was Pablo Alvaro Ramos Ruiz, Programme Manager.

To mark the milestone, the aircraft key was presented to Brigadier General (U) Dato Seri Pahlawan Mohd. Sharif bin Dato Paduka Haji Ibrahim, the Commander of RBAF.

Present to witness the ceremony 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 and the Second Minister of Defence; and Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Muhammad Haszaimi bin Bol Hassan, the Commander of RBAF, as well as members of the RBAF acceptance team. The ceremony took place at Airbus Defence and Space San Pablo.

The CAT is part of the acceptance requirements to be conducted before the aircraft is flown to Brunei Darussalam for delivery in January 2024.

Upon arrival to Brunei Darussalam, a Site Acceptance Test will be performed and the title of the aircraft shall then be transferred to MinDef.

The signing was the first out of two in the near future, with the second aircraft to undergo its CAT in January 2024 in Seville, Spain. Both aircraft are scheduled to be flown and delivered together to Brunei Darussalam in January 2024.

The Air Transport project contract was signed between MinDef, on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Airbus Defence and Space S.A.U. on 2 December 2022 for the delivery of four C295MW Air Transport fleet to replace the ageing CN235-110M aircraft of the Royal Brunei Air Force, capable to perform various missions including Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations, MEDEVAC (Medical Evacuations), NEO (Non-combatant Evacuation Operations) and SAR (Search and Rescue operations).

The aircraft is also configurable to perform various roles such as Troop and Cargo Transport, VIP Transport, Freefall, Airborne Static Jumps and Cargo Drops.

Continue to provide top healthcare services

RIMBA, December 18 – The Joint Commission International's (JCI) Gold Seal of Approval provides assurance to the community that Panaga Health is committed to providing safe, quality and effective patient care while adhering to best industry practices.

The Chief Medical Officer of Panaga Health, Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad Fakhri bin Dato Paduka Haji Junaidi, underscored this in his welcoming remarks during the JCI Gold Seal of Approval at the Garden's veranda.

Panaga health is the first medical facility

in Belait District to be accredited from JCI and the first in Brunei Darussalam which received recognition under the Ambulatory Care Organisation Category.

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

The accreditation demonstrates Panaga Health's compliance with international healthcare quality standards for patient care and organisation management.

Yang Berhormat Minister of Health presenting the Joint Commission International's (JCI) Gold Seal of Approval.

MoC on realisation of energy transition



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy, and His Excellency Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry during the signing ceremony.

TOKYO, December 15 - The signing ceremony for the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) of Brunei Darussalam and Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry of Japan on the realisation of energy transition took place at the International Conference Room of Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry.

Signing on behalf of the PMO of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy, and signing on behalf of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan was His Excellency Saito Ken, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry.

Following the signing ceremony, the Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy made a call on the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan.

Both sides expressed gratitude for the deep appreciation on the warm and close relations between Brunei Darussalam and Japan, which are underpinned by long-standing cooperation in areas such as economy, trade and investment, and energy.

Both sides also looked forward to further advance the energy cooperation through the signed MoC in realising the energy transition efforts of both countries.

Brunei – China sign aquatic products protocols

BEIJING, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, December 16 - The Protocols Agreement Signing Ceremony on 'The Protocol on Inspection, Quarantine and Veterinary Sanitary Requirements for Wild Aquatic Products to Be Exported From Brunei Darussalam to The People's Republic Of China' and 'The Protocol on Inspection, Quarantine and Veterinary Sanitary Requirements for Cultured Aquatic Products to Be Exported From Brunei Darussalam To The People's Republic of China' between the Government of His Majesty the Sultan

and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China was held at Beijing.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism signed both protocols on behalf of the Government of Brunei Darussalam, where as His Excellency Yu Jianhua, Minister and Secretary of CPC Committee of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) signed both protocols on behalf of the

People's Republic of China.

The signing of these protocols are requirement for the export of aquatic products from Brunei Darussalam to People's Republic of China. Therefore, the main objectives of these protocols are namely to facilitate the export of more aquatic products from Brunei Darussalam to the People's Republic of China and to further strengthen cooperation between these two countries in the field of

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biosecurity, quarantine, hygiene and health inspections of aquatic products to be exported to the People's Republic of China under the purview of the Department of Fisheries as the Competent Authority for export of fisheries products from Brunei Darussalam and General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China.

With the signing of these protocols, there will be 134 newly approved aquatic products permitted for export from Brunei Darussalam to the People's Republic of China, from the current 42 approved aquatic products, making a total of 177 agriculture and fisheries products.

In 2022, the People's Republic of China has been recorded as the

third largest import trading partner for Brunei Darussalam valued at USD93.3 million (\$125.4 million), accounting for 14.2 per cent of total imports. Meanwhile, on export, the People's Republic of China was recorded as the 4th largest export destination for Brunei Darussalam valued at USD120.25 million (\$161.6 million), accounting for 10.2 per cent of total exports. From 2019 to 2023, 3,556 MT of fisheries products and 45 MT of musk melon have been exported to the People's Republic of China.

Additionally, the protocols also provide a platform for exchange of information on product safety through the monitoring of chemical waste, disease and microorganism surveillance in aquaculture farms, processing plants and cold storage premises. The protocols will contribute towards increasing export volume of fisheries products from Brunei Darussalam to ensure growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Three Brunei students awarded scholarship



Signing ceremony between the scholarship recipients, the Brunei Darussalam Government and the Republic of Singapore Government.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Education with one of the scholarship recipients and his parents.



Yang Berhormat Minister with scholarship recipients in a group photo.

Hassanal Bolkiah Auditorium.

Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Setia Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Md. Salleh, the Minister for Education, was present as the Guest of Honour.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Rosimah Sumaimah binti Haji Matassim, Head of the Department of Scholarship Management and Mr. Shaun Grosse, Deputy High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam on behalf of the government of the Republic of Singapore.

The scholarship recipients signed the agreement along with two guarantors comprising parents, or guardians.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 18 - Three students were awarded the Brunei Darussalam - Republic of Singapore Youth Education Scholarship for the 2023/2024 to pursue secondary

education in the Republic of Singapore, which will begin in January 2024.

An award and signing ceremony was held at the Balai Khazanah Islam Sultan Haji

Brunei fully committed to addressing climate change issues



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications at the 33rd Regular Session of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Assembly at the IMO headquarters in London, United Kingdom.



LONDON, December 3 – Brunei Darussalam is fully committed towards cooperation with international communities to address climate change, and calls for pragmatism and intensifying cooperation in sharing knowledge, technology and resources, so that no country is left behind and the burden of responsibility is shared equitably.

Hence, It is important to understand that member states are at varying stages of their decarbonisation journey, and that technological innovation as well as global introduction and accessibility of alternative fuels or energy sources for shipping will be integral towards achieving the overall ambition.

Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications as head of the Brunei delegation emphasised the matter at the 33rd Regular Session of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Assembly, which took place from November 27 to December 6 at the IMO headquarters in London, United Kingdom.

The Minister of Transport and Infocommunications also reiterated Brunei's commitment towards creating a more secure and sustainable maritime industry. The Minister shared Brunei's progress in improving maritime infrastructure and strengthening operational practices, in line with the IMO instrument, which the country participates in.

The Minister expressed his appreciation to Kitack Lim, outgoing Secretary-General of IMO (Republic of Korea) for his service throughout his tenure, as well as advancing the work in developing IMO's Greenhouse Gas Strategy, promoting diversity

and inclusion in the maritime sector, as well as the designation of seafarers as key workers during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Minister also congratulated Arsenio Dominguez (Republic of Panama) on his appointment as the next Secretary-General of IMO.

The assembly discussed issues related to maritime safety and security, protection of the marine environment and the election of new IMO Council members.

The Brunei delegation consists of officers from the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications (MTIC) and the Maritime and Port Authority of Brunei Darussalam (MPABD).

At the meeting, 85 Heads of Delegation, including Brunei, delivered general statements.

Meanwhile, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of merchant shipping and port operations was signed between MPABD and the Directorate General of Sea Transportation of the Ministry of Transportation of the Republic of Indonesia. The MoU aims to foster closer cooperation in projects to enhance sea connectivity between the two countries and promote sustainable direct trade activities.

The MoU was signed by Awang Haji Mohammad Salihin bin Haji Aspar, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Transport) at MTIC; and Dr. Captain Antoni Ariff Priadi Director General of Sea Transportation of the Ministry of Transportation of Indonesia.

Improving the safety and well-being of BIA

Bandar Seri Begawan, December 7 – With the resumption of air travel towards normalcy, the Brunei International Airport (BIA) has witnessed positive signs of recovery in air connectivity, where the number of airlines operating and inbound and outbound destinations are increasing.

The number of passengers passing through the airport has also witnessed an increase, where the air traffic statistic

for Q3 2023 has recorded 980,924 passengers passing through the airport compared to only 272,381 passengers for the same period in 2022. This can also be attributed to passenger's post-pandemic confidence in the airline and airport operations' health, safety and security practices.

Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transportat

and Infocommunications, delivered the message in conjunction with the International Civil Aviation Day 2023.

The International Civil Aviation Day is celebrated every December 7 globally, with the theme 'Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development' for the period of 2020 to 2023.

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Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications.

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The Minister of Transport and Infocommunication also stated that the country, through the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA), Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications (MTIC) as a member of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), remains committed to ensuring that the aviation industry fully adheres with the safety and security requirements established under the Brunei Aviation Requirements, and the National Civil Aviation Security

Programme which conforms to the ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).

Compliance is continuously monitored by the authority with the purpose of ensuring safe and secure air transport operations. This is also aligned with MTIC 2025 strategic objectives that cover the uphold of safety standards in the transport and infocommunications sector.

The DCA is committed to compliance with the requirements of the ICAO Regional and Global Air Navigation Plan and achieve seamless air navigation by 2030, according to the Minister. This includes the implementation of performance based navigation methodology that leverages on the capabilities of modern aircrafts and navigation technology to enhance safety, efficiency, and capacity within the airspace system.

In support of the DCA's improvement initiatives, ICAO via their Implementation Support Mission has supported improvements of BIA and Air Navigation Services.

Several activities and workshops to elevate the readiness of all relevant stakeholders in dealing with flight operations and terminal building services and emergencies have also been implemented.

Other initiatives conducted with ICAO's technical assistance include the reviewing of aerodrome regulatory framework and aerodrome operations to assure compliance with SARPs and attaining ICAO certification for BIA. Various national development plan projects to enhance BIA's safety and security are also currently being progressed.

Brunei Darussalam is also developing its first-ever state action plan on aviation emission reductions, in line with ICAO's state action plan to encourage ICAO member states to act and advance its initiatives on environmental protection. These encompass upgrading the existing aerodrome infrastructure, aerodrome facilities, and navigational aid systems.

The country's first action plan will enable DCA to map out its proposed initiatives to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from international flights and establish its climate change strategy for the international aviation sector.

"This first-ever submission of Brunei Darussalam's state action plan to ICAO will affirm our commitment towards implementing climate-action efforts and contribute towards ICAO long-term global aspirational goal for international aviation of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050," said the Minister.

Brunei-Thailand bilateral ties continue to strengthen

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 2 – During a Reception at the Royal Thai Embassy to commemorate the Thai National Day, Her Excellency Boosara Kanchanalai, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam said that next year will mark 40 years of Diplomatic Relations between Thailand and Brunei.

Brunei's bilateral relations with Thailand were further enhanced when His Excellency Srettha Thavisin, Prime Minister of Thailand paid an official visit to the country, resulting in an agreement to expand cooperation in energy, food security, agriculture, fisheries, education, tourism, and health.

The Prime Minister also stated that throughout next year, the embassy plans to organise several projects to celebrate the significant milestone in bilateral diplomatic relations, in order to demonstrate their commitment in strengthening friendship and cooperation for the years ahead.

The embassy will also publish a Thai Restaurant e-Book in Brunei Darussalam in 2024 as part of the 40th Anniversary Celebrations for Bilateral Relations between the two countries.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports and Her Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam during the cake-cutting session at the event.

Towards the end of next year, the embassy looks forward to celebrating with Brunei, the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia and the Republic of Singapore on the joint nomination of their Kebaya in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Intangible

Cultural Heritage list.

Present as the Guest of Honour, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Nazmi bin Haji Mohamad, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports and spouse, Datin Hajah Binanun binti Haji Bungsu.

Encourage involvement in volunteering



Yang Berhormat Minister for Culture, Youth and Sports.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 5 - The celebration of International Volunteer Day this year recognises the

power of collective action through the theme 'If Everybody Did', which focuses on collective efforts and actions by levels of the community.

The theme is in line with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport's (MYCS) Day of Action Campaign a marathon of volunteer works in conjunction with the International Volunteer Day.

"To raise awareness on volunteerism among the Brunei community, especially among youths, the Day of Action Campaign encourages involvement in volunteering and humanitarian activities from all walks of life," said Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Nazmi bin Haji Mohamad, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports in a message in conjunction with the International

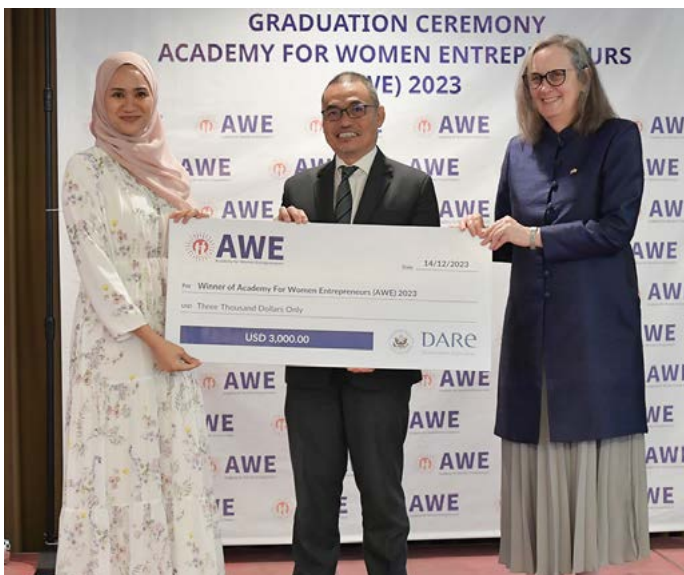
Volunteer Day 2023.

The Day of Action Campaign started in 2016. As of 2022, the campaign has gathered more than 3,000 volunteers in over 200 activities.

The International Volunteer Day is celebrated every December 5, that is mandated by the United Nations (UN) in 1985. It is a day where efforts and contributions of the volunteers are recognised, the spirit of volunteerism promoted and awareness rising on volunteer services.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports believes that the COVID-19 pandemic has proved that volunteers are trustworthy and care for the community tirelessly and without hesitation.

Diversify economy through entrepreneurship



Deputy Minister (Economy) of Finance and Economy during the Certificates Presentation Ceremony for the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs Programme.



Her Excellency the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States to Brunei Darussalam delivering her welcoming speech.

GADONG, December 14 – Some 21 female entrepreneurs successfully completed the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) Programme. A Certificates Presentation Ceremony was held at the VIP Hall, The Rizqun International Hotel.

Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Khairuddin bin Haji Abdul Hamid, Deputy Minister (Economy) of Finance and Economy was present at the event.

Her Excellency Caryn McClelland, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States (US) to Brunei Darussalam and Dayang Norlela

binti Suhailee, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Darussalam Enterprise (DARE) were also in attendance.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the US to Brunei Darussalam said in her welcoming remarks that graduates were chosen from a pool of over 200 applications, and most of the entrepreneurs are housewives, working mothers, single mothers, and multi-tasking professionals from various socioeconomic origins.

"We strongly believe in continuing this programme as it combines two of our key goals: empowering women and assisting

Brunei in its economic diversification efforts through entrepreneurship," said Her Excellency.

The judging panel consisted of Cynthia Lim, Senior Manager at DARE; Katherine Ntiamoah, Embassy Public Affairs Officer at the US Embassy; Dayang Hajah Nurul Akmar binti Haji Mohd. Jaafar, Chief Marketing Officer at Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam; Dayang Anna Aziz, Chief Business Officer from Poni Group Sdn. Bhd. and mentor under DARE's Brunei Inc. for Entrepreneurs Network Mentorship

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Programme; and Dayang Maria Rahman, Managing Partner of Sapphira Cake House and Café.

Harry Knit-A knitwear; KUEHKU!; and Khush won the hearts of the judges and were selected as the top three businesses and

received a funding of US\$3,000 each.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the US to Brunei Darussalam presented awards to individuals who successfully finished the AWE programme; whereas Deputy Minister (Economy) of Finance and Economy presented the provision of funding to the three best firms.

UNISSA organises 11th AICIF



Deputy Minister (Economy) of Finance and Economy as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (BDCB) delivering a speech.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 5 – The 11th ASEAN International Conference on Islamic Finance (AICIF) is taking place from December 5 to 6 at the Balai Khazanah Islam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah.

The main organiser of the event is Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), through the Faculty of Islamic Economics and Finance (FEKIm), in collaboration with six other ASEAN universities: the Institute of Islamic Banking and Finance; International Islamic University Malaysia; Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University Yogyakarta; Universitas Islam Sultan Agung; Universitas Darussalam Gontor; and the Mindanao State University of the Republic of the Philippines.

The Guest of Honour was Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Khairuddin bin Haji Abdul Hamid, Deputy Minister (Economy) of Finance and Economy as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (BDCB).

Dr. Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, Rector of UNISSA was also in attendance, alongside Chief Officers of UNISSA; representatives of ASEAN universities; as well as presenters and conference

participants from home and abroad.

Yang Mulia Deputy Minister for Finance and Economics (Economy) also delivered a speech.

The conference also began with a keynote speech by Associate Professor Dr. Hakimah Yaacob, Lecturer at FEKIm, UNISSA titled 'Exploring Islamic Values and Norms on Sustainability from Multidisciplinary Approaches'.

This year's theme is 'Islamic Finance and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The Way Forward'.

The conference is expected to draw 200 participants, with one keynote paper and 70 papers covering six sub-themes: Fintech; Islamic Banking and Capital Market; Legal, Compliance and Governance of Islamic Financial Institutions; Money, Payment System and Financial Innovation; Takaful and Risk Management; Islamic Social Finance and Islamic Wealth Management; as well as Human Capital and Education.

The 11th AICIF Conference was also sponsored by BDCB, Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam, and Takaful Brunei Darussalam.



Lecturer at FEKIm, UNISSA Professor delivering a keynote speech.

Brunei - US cooperation on climate change



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 4 - The United States (US) will work to deepen relations with Brunei Darussalam and ASEAN Member States including the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change. To better understand the goals and where the US's expertise can fit in, US would love to find ways for their scientific and technical expertise to support effort of Brunei Darussalam and ASEAN.

William Russo, US Assistant Secretary for Global Public Affairs said this in a press briefing at Radisson Hotel.

The United States Assistant Secretary for Global Public Affairs during the press briefing.

Embassy of Thailand organises volunteering activity

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 6 – The Embassy of the Kingdom of Thailand in Brunei Darussalam, in collaboration with Bangkok Nursing Home (BNH) Hospital in Thailand, organised a volunteering activity at the Child Development Centre (CDC), Ministry of Health, Kampung Kiarong.

During the activity, Her Excellency Boosara Kanchanalai, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam, along with officers and staff from Team Thailand; the delegation from BNH Hospital; as well as and representatives from the Thai community in Brunei Darussalam, handed over donations in the form of toys, stationeries, and books for the children at CDC.

The activities began with a CDC briefing provided by Dr. Hajah Mawarni binti Haji Abd. Hamid, Chief of CDC and Paediatric Consultant.



Her Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam in a group photo.



Her Excellency being briefed about the activity.

MoRA receives books

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 5 – Six sets of books, covering Chinese culture, science, landscape and history were donated by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Brunei Darussalam to the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA).

The donation was a symbol of friendship and exchange of culture between both nations.

His Excellency Xiao Jianguo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam presented the books to Awang Haji Mohammad Rosli bin Haji Ibrahim, Permanent Secretary at the MoRA. The handover ceremony was held this morning at MoRA.

The books will be distributed to units, departments and education institutions under the ministry.

In his speech, Ambassador Extraordinary



Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Religious Affairs receives the donation from His Excellency Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam.

and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam said the books will not only help Bruneians to understand the past, present

and future of the People's Republic of China, it will also help to deepen understanding on the country's Islamic history as well as culture.

Brunei-China focus on collaborative paddy project

TEMBURONG, December 14 – The Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT), through the Agriculture and Agrifood Department launched a project to study suitable rice varieties for non-irrigation farm areas at a paddy field

in the Lekiu Agricultural Development Area, Temburong District.

Dayang Hajah Tutiatty binti Haji Abdul Wahab, Permanent Secretary at the MPRT was present to welcome His

Excellency Xiao Jianguo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam as the Guest of Honour.

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Also present were the Acting Village Head of Kampung Batu Apoi, as well as and local paddy farmers.

The collaborative research and research

project was undertaken through the Agriculture and Agrifood Department with the Hunan Hybrid Rice Research Centre of China.

The main event of the launching ceremony was the presentation of paddy seedling by

His Excellency Ambassador of China to the Permanent Secretary of MPRT, followed by the presentation of the seedlings from the Permanent Secretary to Awang Pilpus bin Riyoung, a paddy farmer from Lekiu Agricultural Development Area, who is participating in the study.

Brunei Darussalam delegates earn 3 merit awards



Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs in a group photo with merit awards recipients and the Brunei Darussalam delegation.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 10 – Representatives from Brunei Darussalam received three merit awards at the 22nd Asia Pacific ICT Alliance (APICTA) Awards 2023, held in Hong Kong from December 5 to 8.

Ma'had Islam Brunei received two merit awards under the 'Junior Student' Category – with their products 'Brugency' and 'Mr. Grabbish'. ODE Aquaculture and Agriculture Company Sdn. Bhd. received a merit award under the 'Technology –

Internet of Things of the Year' Category – with their product 'Alquatic Tech'.

Welcoming the representatives at the Brunei International Airport were Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Haji Mohammad Tashim bin Pengiran Haji Hassan, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs; and Ir. Awang Haji Mohammad Nazri bin Haji Mohammad Yusof, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications (MTIC) as Co-Chairs of the 2023 Brunei ICT Awards

Steering Committee; and Haji Mohammad Rosli bin Haji Ibrahim, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA).

Also present were Haji Shamshol bin Haji Omar, Deputy Permanent Secretary at MoRA; Ir. Haji Jailani bin Haji Buntar, Chief Executive of the Authority for Infocommunications Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam (AITI); as well as senior officials from MTIC, MoRA, AITI and InfoCom Federation Brunei.

The 2023 APICTA Awards saw 200 groups from 16 economists, with over 250 participants. Nine teams with 10 products from the Brunei competed at the APICTA Awards.

Brunei Darussalam is set to host the 23rd APICTA Awards next year. Awang Haji Hairul Mohd. Daud bin Haji Abdul Karim, Deputy Secretary Permanent (Infocommunications) at MTIC was present to receive the flag handover as host of APICTA 2024 from Ir. Tony Wong JP, Government Chief Information Officer from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; and Agnes Mak MH JP, Chief Judge of APICTA 2023.

Fulvio Insera, Chair of APICTA Committee was also present.

BIBD ranked The Strongest Bank in Brunei

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 16 – Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD) has been named The Strongest Bank by Balance Sheet in Brunei and The Strongest Islamic Bank by Balance Sheet in Brunei, 2023 by The Asian Banker. This accreditation was bolstered by BIBD's good performance in key financial indicators.

According to The Asian banker, BIBD has made considerable improvements in profitability, asset quality, and liquidity. Maintaining its position as the nation's largest bank by total assets, the growth in BIBD deposits is consistent with the bank's strategy focus on business expansion.

BIBD also showed a commendable increase in net profit, demonstrating good financial performance.



BIBD was recently recognised as the Bank of the Year 2023.

The Asian Banker also mentioned critical performance measures, putting BIBD in

the top 1,000 banks worldwide and top 500 global Islamic banks.