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Brunei Darussalam

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Embrace education, responsibility, and values

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, 22nd December – 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 a Get-Together Ceremony with Citizens and Residents of Brunei Darussalam in the United Kingdom (UK) and Eire at the Royal Lancaster Hotel.

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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 delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the Get-Together Ceremony with Citizens and Residents of Brunei Darussalam who are in the United Kingdom (UK) and Eire.



Brunei-UK strengthen ties



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 Majesty King Charles III, the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, 18th December – 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 met with His Majesty King Charles III, the King of the United Kingdom (UK) of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at Buckingham Palace, yesterday. Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

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Brunei Darussalam's economy remains strong

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 31st December – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with the New Year 2025 highlighted Brunei Darussalam's resilient economy, which remains strong despite global uncertainties.

Economic growth projections for 2025 are positive, with forecasts from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) ranging from 2.5 per cent to 2.9 per cent, driven by the downstream sector.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam emphasised the Government of Brunei Darussalam's ongoing efforts to diversify the economy, focusing on Non-Oil and Gas Sector and attracting high-quality Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

Support for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and the development of local human resources through education and training aligned with industry needs were also key points.

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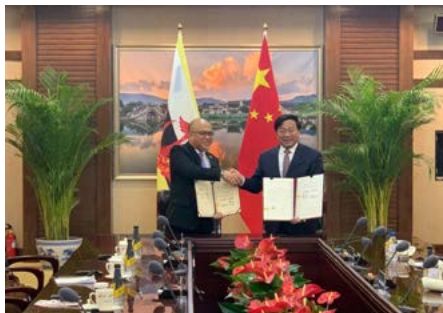
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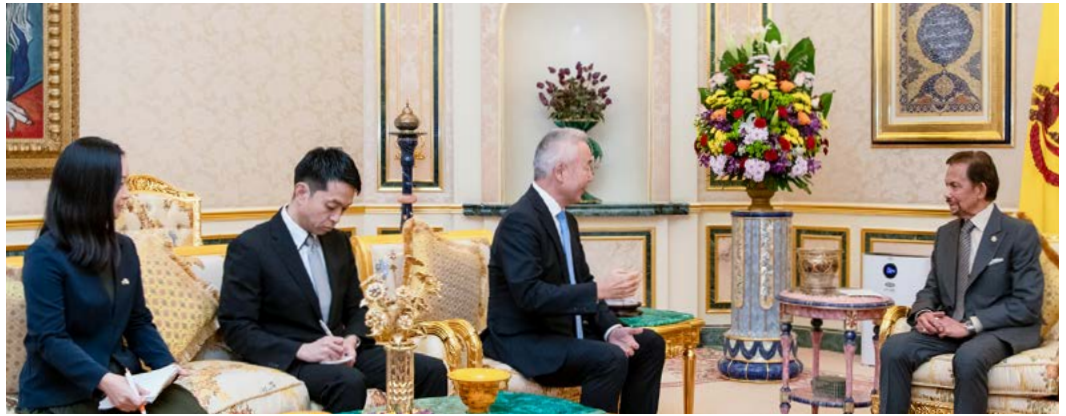
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His Majesty receives outgoing Japanese ambassador

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience at Istana Nurul Iman on 4th December, Her Excellency Maeda Toru, outgoing Japanese Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam.



His Royal Highness 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 Maeda Toru, outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam on 19th December.



His Excellency Lim Hokseng, outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Cambodia to Brunei Darussalam on 26th December.

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 Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, UAE and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE, Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Defence, UAE on the occasion of the 52nd Anniversary of the National Day of the UAE on 2nd December.
- 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 Lao PDR on the occasion of its 49th National Day on 2nd December.
- His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua, King of Thailand, members of the royal family, Her Excellency Paetongtarn Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand, the government and people of the Kingdom of Thailand on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand on 5th December.
- His Excellency Tun Dato Seri Paduka Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Musa bin Haji Aman on the occasion of his appointment as the 11th Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Sabah recently on 17th December.
- 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 18th December.

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 31st December to His Excellency Choi Sang-mok, Acting President of the Republic of Korea (RoK), the government and the people of RoK following the crash of Jeju Air Flight 2216 at Muan International Airport, RoK.

Inauguration of As-Salaam Mosque



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 performing the Friday Prayer at the new mosque with residents and people of the village.

JUNJONGAN, 6th December – 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 inaugurated the As-Salaam Mosque in Kampung Junjongan and joined the villagers in performing the Friday Prayer. Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, invited by Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs, signed the plaque to inaugurate the opening of the mosque, as the call of *takbir* echoed three times.

The Friday Sermon was delivered by Pengiran Haji Haslin bin Pengiran Haji Ali, Acting Director of Hajj Management. The Friday Prayers was led by Awang Haji Hayrul bin Haji Hakim, the mosque's officer.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam signing the plaque to inaugurate the opening of As-Salaam Mosque.



His Majesty in a group photo with residents and people of the village.



His Majesty being greeted by the public.



The mosque, constructed on a 3-acre plot, began construction on 18th June 2022, and was funded by the National Mosque Construction Fund at a cost of \$5.2 million. It can accommodate approximately 1,600 congregants and features various facilities, including restrooms, ablution areas, and parking spaces, with special provisions for persons with disabilities. The mosque is designed to provide comfort for daily prayers and serves as a centre for religious activities within the village.

Unify efforts to face future challenges



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 chairing the 224th Board of Directors Meeting of Brunei LNG Sdn. Bhd. (BLNG) and the 110th Board of Directors Meeting of Brunei Gas Carriers Sdn. Bhd. (BGC) for the Fourth Quarter (Q4) of 2024.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 10th December - 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, chaired the 413th Board of Directors Meeting of Brunei Shell Petroleum Sdn. Bhd. (BSP) and the 191st Board of Directors Meeting of Brunei Shell Marketing Sdn. Bhd. (BSM) for the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2024 held at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Building.

During the meetings, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered a *titah* (royal speech) emphasising the importance of strong leadership, coupled with technical expertise, unwavering commitment, and coordinated efforts from Brunei Shell Joint Venture (BSJV) and BGC companies to successfully address future challenges.

The discussions centred on key areas, including operational performance, safety, finance, human resource development, and strategic direction for BSP and BSM in the years ahead.

This meeting also marked the final session for the BSJV and BGC Boards of Directors for the Q4 of 2024.

His Majesty also chaired the 224th Brunei LNG Sdn. Bhd. (BLNG) Board of Directors Meeting and the 110th Brunei Gas Carriers Sdn. Bhd. (BGC) Board of Directors Meeting for Q4 of 2024 on 9th December.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam cutting a cake to commemorate the 55th anniversary of BLNG.

During the meeting, His Majesty delivered a *titah*, reflecting on the challenges, achievements, and lessons of BSJV companies in 2024. His Majesty emphasised the need for collaboration, prompt action, and maintaining high ethical standards and integrity across the companies.

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The Shareholder Directors representing the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Shell plc, and Mitsubishi Corporation, along with members of the management from BLNG and BGC at the meeting.





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 chairing the 413th Board of Directors Meeting of Brunei Shell Petroleum Sdn. Bhd. (BSP) and the 191st Board of Directors Meeting of Brunei Shell Marketing Sdn. Bhd. (BSM) for the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2024.

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The meeting, attended by key stakeholders and management members, focused on operational achievements, safety, finance, and human resource development. It also set the strategic direction for BLNG and BGC for the upcoming years. Afterwards, His Majesty marked the 55th anniversary of BLNG, celebrating its establishment on 9th December 1969, as the first company in the West Pacific to begin large-scale liquefied natural gas production.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam upon arrival at the meeting.



Among the stakeholders at the meeting.

Brunei-UK strengthen ties (continued)

From first page

The meeting reinforced the longstanding ties and friendship between the two royal families and their nations.

Today, His Majesty met The Right Honourable Sir Keir Starmer, the Prime Minister of the UK of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 10 Downing Street. His Majesty congratulated the Prime Minister of the UK of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on his appointment and discussed the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and the UK. Both leaders talked about defence cooperation, including the extension of the British Garrison's presence in Brunei and the renewal of the 'Exchange of Letters.'

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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 Majesty King Charles III, the King of the United Kingdom (UK) of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with The Right Honourable Prime Minister of UK of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.



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The Monarch expressed appreciation for the UK's commitment as an ASEAN Dialogue Partner and highlighted the progress of the Strategic Dialogue

between the two countries.

At the meeting, His Majesty signed the 'Exchange of Letters' on defence cooperation, aiming to further strengthen

ties between the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and the British Armed Forces. The leaders also exchanged views on regional and international matters, including developments in the Middle East.

Embrace education, responsibility, and values (continued)



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 signing a commemorative parchments prior to the ceremony.

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The event, which was also attended by members of the royal family, began with a national anthem, recitation of verses from the Al-Quran, and a *doa selamat*. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered a *titah*



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 attending the High Tea Reception with student representatives.

(royal speech), emphasising the important role of students as future leaders and agents of change.

His Majesty highlighted the value of studying abroad to gain diverse experiences and to develop skills to tackle complex global challenges, including

economic, social, and technological issues. The Monarch urged students to use technology responsibly, maintain mental and physical health, and stay connected to their families and religious values.

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Their Majesties and other members of royal family in a group photo during the ceremony.



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At the ceremony, His Majesty interacted with around 1,300 Bruneians, including students and government officials, and received gifts symbolising the strong ties between Brunei, the UK, and Eire. A special *pesambah* (souvenir) was presented to His Majesty, featuring a blend of Brunei *Tenunan* and Scottish Kilt fabric, designed by a Bruneian student. Her Majesty also received a set of culturally-inspired brooch and purse from two Bruneian students.

The event concluded with a *nasyid* performance by Bruneian students in the UK and Eire.



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 receiving a *pesambah* (souvenir).



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 in a group photo during the ceremony.



Citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam did not miss the opportunity to take selfies with His Majesty.



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha receiving a *pesambah*.



The Get-Together Ceremony with Citizens and Residents of Brunei Darussalam in the United Kingdom and Eire taking place.

Brunei Darussalam's economy remains strong (continued)

From front page

His Majesty stressed the importance of unity, dedication, and commitment to national progress. His Majesty called on the youth to seize opportunities for learning and growth, as they are the future of the nation. His Majesty reaffirmed Brunei's commitment to multilateral cooperation and international law, particularly through active participation in ASEAN and the United Nations.

The Monarch also reminded the nation of the importance of caring for the elderly and the less fortunate, ensuring no one is left behind in the country's development. His Majesty concluded with gratitude to public service personnel, the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, the Royal Brunei Police Force, other uniformed services, including those serving in the private sector and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and international partners for their contributions to Brunei's success.

His Majesty wished all citizens and residents, both locally and abroad, a Happy New Year 2025, praying for peace, prosperity, and security for Brunei Darussalam.



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) in conjunction with New Year 2025.

Official Opening, Welcoming Gala of APICTA Awards 2024



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 launching the Asia Pacific ICT Alliance (APICTA) Awards 2024.

JERUDONG, 4th December – 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, officiated the Official Opening and Welcoming Gala of the Asia Pacific ICT Alliance (APICTA) Awards 2024 at The Empire Brunei.

The event began with a speech by Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications, who among other things said that the development of ICT has significantly driven economic growth and innovation in the Asia-Pacific region, which is recognised as a global leader in technological progress and entrepreneurship. Combining established tech hubs with emerging economies,



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince in a group photo.

the region's dynamic startup ecosystem thrives on government support, ambition, and vibrant cities, pushing the boundaries of innovation.

The Minister of Transport and Infocommunications emphasised Brunei Darussalam's commitment to fostering innovation, empowering youths, and building a robust digital economy that promotes growth, education, and sustainability.

The APICTA Awards were highlighted as a prestigious platform to celebrate creativity, resilience, and excellence in the ICT sector. With 280 entries from 15 member economies, the awards not only recognise achievements but also inspire continued innovation. The Minister stressed the importance of staying updated with technological trends and fostering collaboration to address rapid advancements in the digital era.

Ultimately, the APICTA Awards symbolise a collaborative effort to build a sustainable, inclusive, and interconnected future by encouraging idea exchange, knowledge sharing, and technological progress for the betterment of society.

Following the speech, His Royal Highness Crown Prince officially launched the

awards and receiving a commemorative souvenir.

The event included a video presentation showcased the awards' categories and activities, emphasising APICTA Awards as a platform for networking, innovation, and celebrating ICT advancements. His Royal Highness the Crown Prince also mingled with delegates, fostering collaboration and mutual appreciation.

The APICTA Awards, an annual competition recognising innovative digital solutions in the Asia Pacific region, is hosted by Brunei Darussalam for the second time, coinciding with the 20th Anniversary of the Brunei ICT Awards (BICTA). The 2024 event features 35 categories spanning Users, Community Services, Industry, Students, and Technology, highlighting Brunei's commitment to ICT development.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications delivering a speech.

Her Royal Highness visits Sultanate of Oman



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during with His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Sultan of the Sultanate of Oman.

SULTANATE OF OMAN, 11th December – Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited the Sultanate of Oman from 8th to 10th December, to mark the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Sultanate of Oman.

On 9th December, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna was received in audience by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik of Oman at Al Barakah Palace. Both sides reflected on the strong bilateral ties, particularly in trade, investment, education,



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna and the Sultanate of Oman during the cake-cutting ceremony to commemorate the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and Sultanate of Oman.

and people-to-people exchanges.

Her Royal Highness also attended a dinner reception at Al Bustan Palace Hotel, Muscat, co-hosted by the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam in Muscat and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, featuring cultural performances from both nations.

During the visit, Her Royal Highness visited the National Museum and the Royal Opera House Muscat. Brunei Darussalam and the Sultanate of Oman formalised diplomatic relations on 24th March 1984, and has since cooperated across various sectors.

Strengthening defence diplomacy, enhancing security cooperation



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence in a group photo at the 20th Manama Dialogue.

MANAMA, KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN, 7th December – Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yusoff, the Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence, is leading Brunei Darussalam's delegation to the 20th Manama Dialogue in the Kingdom of Bahrain from 6th to 8th December.

The annual security dialogue, organised by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), brings together senior officials, military leaders, and experts to discuss key security challenges in the

Middle East and surrounding regions.

This year's theme is 'Middle East Leadership in Shaping Regional Prosperity and Security', focusing on regional security, conflict resolution, peace initiatives, and defence modernisation.

The dialogue began with an official reception hosted by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, followed by a keynote address from His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Minister of Foreign



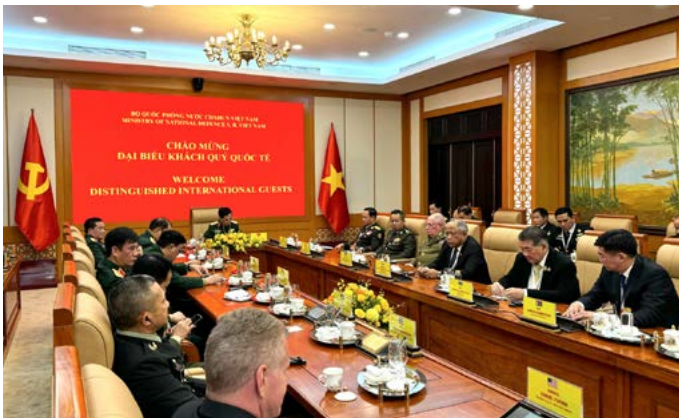
Yang Berhormat Minister at the 20th Manama Dialogue

Affairs, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, who stressed the importance of diplomacy and international law, especially in resolving conflicts like Israel-Palestine.

Since its inception in 2004, the Manama Dialogue has been a key platform for defence diplomacy and international cooperation.

This year's event has over 550 representatives from 40 countries, with Brunei's Ministry of Defence continuing to engage in strengthening global relations and security collaboration.

Viet Nam International Defence Expo 2024



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence at the Viet Nam International Defence Expo 2024.



Yang Berhormat Minister touring the exhibition.

HANOI, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM, 20th December

– Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence, is leading a delegation from Ministry of Defence to the Viet Nam International Defence Expo 2024, taking place from 19th to 22nd December.

Also joining the delegation Pengiran Mohamed Saiful Bahri bin Pengiran Haji Mohamed Jofray, Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam in Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

The expo is the second edition of the event, organised by Ministry of Defence of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and coincides with the 80th Anniversary of the Viet Nam People's Army and the 35th Anniversary of the All-People National Defence Festival.

The event aims to promote international defence cooperation, strengthen bilateral ties, and enhance mutual trust, focusing on defence technology, procurement diversity, and technology

sharing.

With 240 companies from 48 countries, the expo spans 25,000 square meters of exhibits, and includes participation from over 60 international delegations, including ministers and defence leaders.

The opening ceremony was officiated by His Excellency Pham Minh Chinh, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

The delegation of Brunei Darussalam toured the exhibition, attended a luncheon hosted by His Excellency General Phan Văn Giang, Minister of National Defence of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and had a joint courtesy call with Viet Nam's defence leadership.

Additionally, Minister at the PMO and Second Minister of Defence attended the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Viet Nam People's Army and the 35th National Defence Festival at the National Convention Centre.

The Airport Economist highlights Brunei's efforts in economic diversification

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 6th December – An Australian business programme, 'The Airport Economist', aired an episode on the Ticker streaming platform titled 'The Great Transformation of Brunei', which focused on Brunei Darussalam's efforts to diversify the economy. The episode explored Brunei's economic transformation under its Brunei Vision 2035, emphasising foreign investment and economic diversification.

The episode featured an interview with Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy, who outlined the country's economic action plan and five priority sectors: downstream oil and gas, food, services, tourism, and ICT. Interviews with leading companies, including Hengyi Industries, Brunei Fertilizer Industries, Royal Brunei Airlines, and Royal Brunei Catering, provided insights into these sectors.

The Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) played a key role in the episode, sharing information on the country's business and regulatory environment and its Investors' Concierge service.

His Excellency Luke Lazarus Arnold, Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, highlighted the episode's value in showcasing Brunei's economic opportunities for foreign investors.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy during an interview at the Australian television business programme.

The timing of the episode aligns with the strengthening of Brunei-Australia relations and Australia's Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040.

The episode, divided into three segments, will air for a month on Ticker's 24-hour channel and is available on-demand. The Airport Economist has previously profiled over 30 countries, making it a significant platform for global business exposure.

BEDB explores economic potential in Belait District



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy as the Chairman of Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) in a group photo at the first BEDB Roundtable Dialogue with the Belait business community.

BELAIT, 16th December – The first Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) Roundtable Dialogue focused on exploring the economic potential of the Belait District. Held at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel V Plaza, the event brought together 30 prominent business leaders from the district to discuss opportunities for growth with BEDB and government agencies.

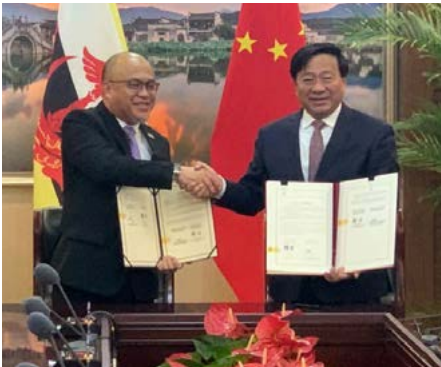
Chaired by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy, the session highlighted collaboration between the Belait business community

and government agencies to address challenges and create growth opportunities.

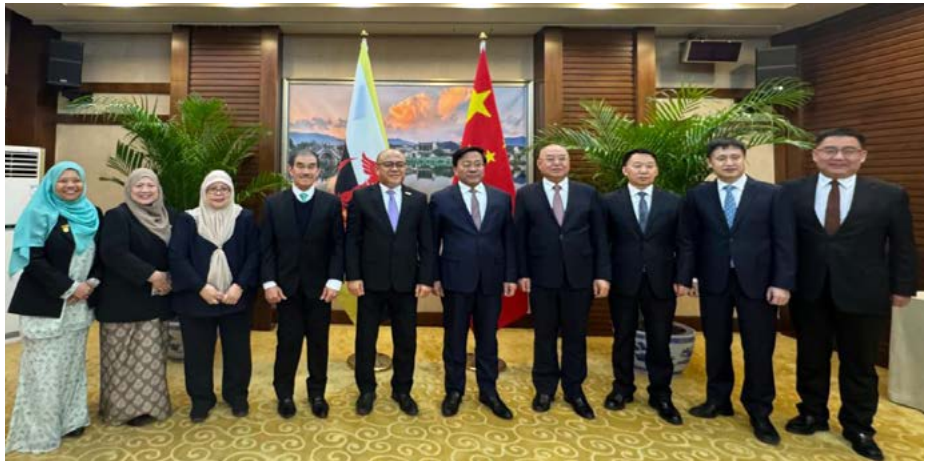
A key proposal was to develop more affordable shared commercial spaces for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), attracting local residents and visitors. The dialogue was followed by a Networking Lunch to strengthen relationships, with representatives from various sectors participating.

BEDB reaffirmed its commitment to fostering collaboration and driving sustainable growth in the Belait District's commercial ecosystem.

Brunei-China sign cooperation to advance agricultural industry



Yang Berhormat Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism representing the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).



Yang Berhormat Minister in a group photo.

BEIJING, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, 25th December – The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on agricultural cooperation in Beijing.

The MoU was signed by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Abdul Manaf, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism and His Excellency Han Jun, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

collaboration between the two countries, with a focus on improving food security and increasing production in sectors like rice, crops, and livestock.

The People's Republic of China has long supported Brunei's agricultural industry through training, research, and development initiatives.

The MoU aims to enhance rice production, address gaps in the rice industry value chain, and explore the establishment of a National Rice Research Centre in Brunei.

provision of hybrid rice seeds, technical expertise, and resources to boost rice production.

The partnership aligns with goals set during the leaders' meeting between His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and President Xi Jinping in San Francisco in 2023 to improve food security and cooperation in agriculture and fisheries.

The ministers also held bilateral discussions to review and expand future cooperation in the food sector.

This agreement strengthens agricultural

Key aspects of the collaboration include the

Brunei-Thailand strengthens close cooperation



Yang Berhormat Minister of Development representing the Government of His Majesty Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Reception Ceremony.



Yang Berhormat Minister and spouse along with Her Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam during the cake-cutting ceremony.

JERUDONG, 4th December – Brunei Darussalam and the Kingdom of Thailand maintain strong bilateral ties focused on regional peace, prosperity, and sustainability as ASEAN Member States. During a reception marking Thailand's National Day, the Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great, and the 40th Anniversary of Brunei-Thailand Diplomatic Relations, Her Excellency Boosara Kanchanalai, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand

to Brunei Darussalam emphasised that Thailand actively supports Brunei's climate initiatives and the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change, reinforcing regional efforts toward environmental resilience.

The Ambassador added, "both nations are committed to strengthening their military collaboration through continued high-level visits and meetings, ensuring regional security; and Thailand and Brunei expand educational ties with scholarships and exchange programmes,

including the launch of the Thai Book Corner at Universiti Teknologi Brunei to promote cultural and knowledge exchange."

The Ambassador expressed optimism about strengthening existing partnerships and exploring new areas of cooperation for mutual benefit. Representing Brunei at the event were Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Muhammad Juanda bin Haji Abdul Rashid, Minister of Development, and spouse.

Strengthening aviation regulatory framework

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 11th December – On 7th December, the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications (MTIC) and the Department of Civil Aviation joined the global aviation community in celebrating International Civil Aviation Day. The theme, 'Safe Skies, Sustainable Future: Together for the Next 80 Years', underscores the importance of aviation in fostering safe, efficient global connectivity while addressing sustainability and innovation for future generations.

Brunei Darussalam, as a committed member of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), supports the global mission of advancing aviation safety, security, and environmental

sustainability. Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications emphasised the aviation sector's role in combating climate change through reduced emissions and sustainable practices supported by advanced technologies.

Key initiatives include workshops on aviation safety and security; security training; environmental initiatives; and navigation and operational safety. These measures aim to uphold international standards, foster passenger confidence, and drive sustainable growth in Brunei's air transport sector.

Empowering youths to build ASEAN Community

REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR, 1st December – The 13th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY XIII), themed 'Encouraging Youth's Contribution Towards a Cohesive Society in ASEAN', was chaired by His Excellency Minn Thein Zan, Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs of Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and attended by ASEAN Youth Ministers, representatives, and Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.

Held via video conference, the meeting aimed to foster collaboration and empower ASEAN youths in shaping the region's future, aligning with the post-2025 ASEAN Community development vision.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Nazmi bin Haji Awang Mohamad, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, emphasised key priorities for empowering youth, including education as a foundation, global challenges, technology and innovation, and youth entrepreneurship.

The ASEAN Youth Ministers and ASEAN Plus Three ministers issued Joint Ministerial Statements for AMMY XIII and the 9th AMMY+3, reinforcing their commitment to empowering youth as key drivers of a cohesive and progressive ASEAN community.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports during the 113th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth, held via video conference.

Strengthening leadership of PWD for more sustainability

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 3rd December – The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam prioritises the welfare of Persons with Disabilities (PWD), offering various support initiatives. To date, 1,654 caregivers have received the Caregiver Allowance, while 6,156 PWD benefit from the Disability Allowance, with 825 also receiving the Old Age Pension.

Recognising the importance of skilled care, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS), alongside the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, plans to launch a Care Provider Course for caregivers, especially those assisting elderly PWD.

Efforts to foster inclusivity include early intervention programmes for children with disabilities, education allowances for special institutions, and the Plan of Action on Persons with Different

Abilities 2020-2024, which focuses on education and economic empowerment. Employment opportunities for PWD are bolstered through initiatives like the Career Tour 2024 Recruitment Drive.

The International Day of PWD 2024 celebration, themed 'Amplifying the Leadership of Persons with Disabilities for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future', underscores the importance of PWD leadership and their role in national development. Events such as the Special Needs Resources Exhibition and Forum aim to provide parents and guardians with comprehensive information on PWD education and skills development.

The government calls for societal cooperation to create an inclusive environment that respects the rights and contributions of PWD, advocating for equal opportunities in education, employment, and community engagement.

Volunteers catalysts for creativity

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 5th December – "Volunteers play a dual role as community supporters and strategic partners in fostering inclusive national development, they strengthen social relationships, elevate living standards, drive positive change, and contribute to long-term sustainability," emphasised Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Nazmi bin Haji Awang Mohamad, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, in his message for the International Volunteer Day 2024.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports expressed pride in youth volunteers' active participation and initiatives by government agencies, non-governmental organisations, and the private sector.

The Minister highlighted the importance of intergenerational collaboration in building a harmonious and resilient community, where youth bring energy and creativity, and older generations

offer valuable experience.

The Minister urged youths to innovate and expand volunteer efforts; organisations to foster a culture of volunteerism; and all to promote intergenerational and cross-cultural cooperation in volunteer activities.

Additionally, the Minister stressed enhancing regional collaboration through initiatives like the ASEAN Youth Volunteer Exchange to address shared challenges and exchange best practices.

On International Volunteer Day, the Minister celebrated volunteers as agents of change, crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and emphasised their role in tackling global issues such as climate change, inequality, and poverty by catalysing innovative solutions for societal progress.

Strengthen international cooperation to tackle health threats



Legislative Council (LegCo) members attending the Regional Conference for Parliaments of the Asia-Pacific Region on Global Health Security.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 4th December - The Regional Conference for Parliaments of the Asia-Pacific Region on Global Health Security was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 2nd to 3rd December, focusing on health security in the Asia-Pacific.

Jointly organised by the Parliament of Thailand, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and the World Health Organization (WHO), it brought together over 90 participants, including parliamentarians, health experts, and international representatives.

His Excellency Wan Muhamad Noor Matha, President of the National Assembly and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, highlighted the need for cross-border solidarity and international cooperation to tackle growing health threats.

Discussions centred on Universal Health Coverage, the health impact of climate change, and the role of technological innovation



The conference in session.

in crisis response.

The conference addressed issues such as emergency health preparedness, regional cooperation, and policy adjustments for future challenges.

Brunei Darussalam was represented by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Haji Mohd. Yusuf; Yang Berhormat Dayang Hajah Rosmawatty binti Haji Abdul Mumin; and Yang Berhormat Awang Haji Mohamad Danial, alias Tekpin bin Ya'akub, members of the Legislative Council (LegCo).

A delegation from the LegCo actively participated, reflecting its dedication to strengthening regional collaboration and promoting robust and inclusive health systems globally.

Creating an inclusive society

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 8th December – Brunei Darussalam, through its Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS), chaired the 20th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) and related meetings from 4th to 6th December, via video conferencing. The theme was ‘Strengthening Partnerships for Advancing the Rights and Welfare of Persons with Disabilities (PWD)’.

The 20th SOMSWD Meeting and the 19th SOMSWD+3 Meeting were chaired by Dayang Hajah Nor Ashikin binti Haji Johari, Permanent Secretary (Community) at MCYS. Brunei Darussalam, as SOMSWD Chair, aims to achieve milestones such as the Mid-Term and End-Term Reviews of the 2021-2025 SOMSWD Work Plan, drafting the 2026-2030 Work Plan, and developing the next ASEAN Enabling Masterplan.

ASEAN Member States reviewed the implementation of SOMSWD’s regional framework and identified future cooperation areas in social welfare and development. The SOMSWD+3 Meeting highlighted collaboration with ASEAN Plus Three countries on social protection, ageing populations, care economies, and PWD inclusion.

The 19th GO-NGO Forum held on 4th December brought together over 100 participants, including SOMSWD focal points, NGOs,



Permanent Secretary (Community) at Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports chairing of the 20th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) and related meetings.

private sector representatives, and the ASEAN Disability Forum (ADF). The forum emphasised partnerships among stakeholders to promote the rights and welfare of PWD. The Permanent Secretary (Community) of MCYS underscored the need for dynamic, multi-sectoral collaboration to build a disability-inclusive society.

These events showcased Brunei’s commitment to fostering partnerships and advancing PWD inclusion across ASEAN.

Increase capacity in addressing cross-border haze pollution



Permanent Secretary (Planning, Land Use and Environment) at the Ministry of Development, representing Brunei Darussalam at the Ministry of Development and senior officers of the Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation (JASTRe).



BANGKOK, KINGDOM OF THAILAND, 18th December - The 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (COP-19) took place with the participation of ASEAN Member States (AMS) and representatives from various environmental and government sectors.

The meeting emphasised continued efforts to implement the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) and encouraged quicker action by remaining member states to sign the Establishment Agreement for the ASEAN Coordinating Centre on Transboundary Haze Pollution Control (ACC THPC) in Indonesia.

Key highlights from the meeting included the implementation of the Second Roadmap on ASEAN Cooperation towards Transboundary Haze Pollution Control (Haze-free Roadmap)

2023-2030 and the acknowledgment of the Second ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (APMS), along with stronger monitoring frameworks to address the root causes of haze pollution.

The meeting welcomed the creation of the ASEAN Investment Framework Ad-Hoc Task Force to lead efforts towards sustainable land management.

ASEAN introduced new guidelines to improve the mapping and management of forest fires and reduce crop burning. This was supported by efforts to address the carbon/greenhouse gas neutrality pathway and sustainable agriculture.

Reports from the ASEAN Special Meteorological Centre (ASMC) noted that fire hotspots in the Mekong sub-region had decreased by 12.5 per cent compared to 2023, though transboundary haze remained a concern,

especially during the dry season from December 2023 to May 2024.

La Niña conditions were expected to affect weather patterns, potentially increasing fire risks in early 2025.

Brunei Darussalam shared its experience with haze during March and urged AMS to improve national preparedness and response measures to mitigate haze pollution.

The Southeast Asia Fire Danger Rating System (SEA FDRS), aligned with ASMC warnings, was noted for its reliability, and further improvements to its accuracy were planned.

AMS were commended for their coordination in tackling land and forest fires. The meeting highlighted the importance of continuing vigilance and action during the upcoming dry season to prevent transboundary haze.

Address teacher education related issues, challenges



Representing the Religious Teachers University College of Seri Begawan (KUPU SB) at the meeting and conference were Rector of KUPU SB and KUPU SB Director of the Centre for Training and Competency Development.



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 17th December – The 18th Meeting of the Heads of the Association of Southeast Asian Teacher Education Network (AsTEN) and the 6th AsTEN Conference took place from 12th to 14th December, in Ho Chi Minh City. The event was hosted by the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

The Religious Teachers University College of Seri Begawan (KUPU SB) was represented by Professor Madya Dr. Abdul Nasir bin Haji Abdul Rani, Rector of KUPU SB, and Dr. Kharhan

bin Haji Jait, Director of the Centre for Training and Competency Development.

AsTEN is a network of teacher education institutions across ASEAN, focused on addressing challenges in teacher education programmes, practices, and policies. KUPU SB's involvement with AsTEN provides a platform for academic collaboration and research, benefiting both the university and Brunei Darussalam. KUPU SB is set to host the 19th AsTEN Heads Meeting and 7th AsTEN Conference next year.

KUPU SB appointed as Member of the APUCEN Supreme Council



Ra'ees of Religious Teachers University College of Seri Begawan (KUPU SB) leading the KUPU SB delegation at the Supreme Council Asia Pacific University-Community Engagement Network (APUCEN) Summit.



CHONGQING, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, 20th December – Religious Teachers University College of Seri Begawan (KUPU SB) has been selected as a member of the Supreme Council of the Asia Pacific University-Community Engagement Network (APUCEN) for the implementation of the APUCEN Strategic Plan 2025-2027.

This decision was made during the 5th APUCEN Summit Executive Meeting, held from 17th to 19th December in The People's Republic of China. KUPU SB's delegation was led by Professor Madya Dr. Abdul Nasir bin Haji Abdul Rani, Ra'ees of KUPU SB.

The summit, organised by Chongqing Perham Education, featured discussions on community engagement programmes

from 2022-2024, along with a Supreme Council meeting.

KUPU SB's participation provided an opportunity for networking, knowledge exchange, and collaboration with regional and international universities, furthering its role as a religious teaching university on the global stage.

KUPU SB also presented two programmes: one on community engagement initiatives by the Fundamental Knowledge Centre, and another on enhancing mental well-being among students in Brunei Darussalam through a collaborative programme with the Ministry of Health.

APUCEN promotes a proactive, inclusive, and holistic culture of university-community engagement across the region.

CPI records decline in November 2024

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 23rd December - In November, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) registered a 0.5 per cent decrease compared to November 2023, driven by declines of 1.2 per cent in the food and non-alcoholic beverages and 0.3 per cent in the non-food index.

The decrease in the food and non-alcoholic beverages index was

mainly attributed to lower chicken meat prices under the meat category (2.5 per cent), resulting from a reduction in chicken feed costs. Additionally, the vegetables category saw a decrease (4.6 per cent) driven by the fall in prices of onions and shallots from producing countries.

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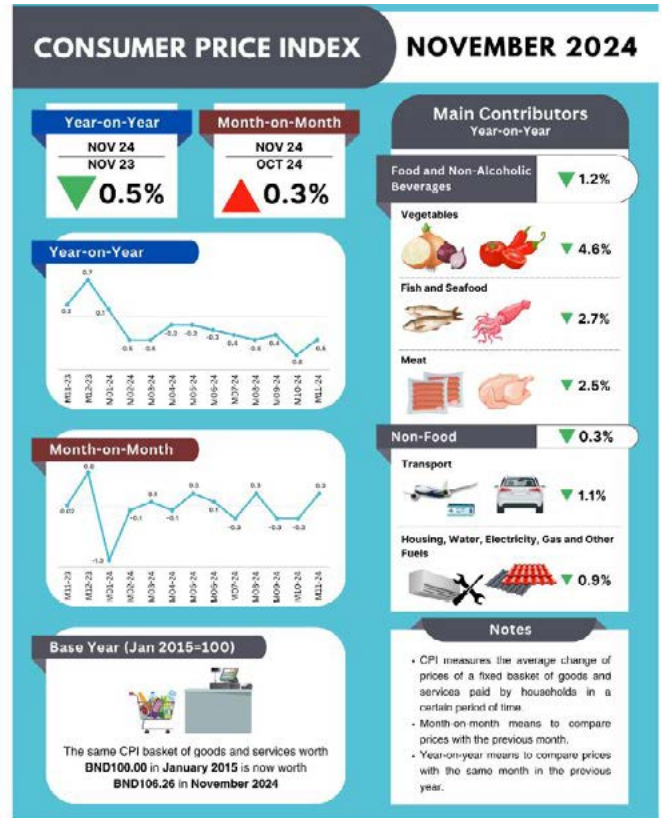
As for the non-food index, the decline was mainly influenced by lower prices of motor cars and air fares leading to a 1.1 per cent drop in the transport category. A 0.9 per cent decrease in the housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels category, particularly, in the maintenance and repair of the dwellings, also contributed to this decline.

For a month-on-month comparison, the CPI in November increased by 0.3 per cent from October. This was driven by a 0.4 per cent rise in the non-food index, while the food and non-alcoholic beverages index registered a decline of 0.1 per cent.

The increase in the non-food index was mainly contributed to by price increases in clothing and footwear (5.7 per cent); and recreation and culture (1.1 per cent). As for the food and non-alcoholic beverages index, the decrease was mainly driven by the prices of fish and seafood (1.2 per cent); and meat (0.3 per cent).

The CPI is a measure of price changes of a basket of goods and services purchased by consumers in a specified period and compiled on a monthly basis.

The list of goods and services in the CPI is based on the average expenditure per household from the Household Expenditure Survey (HES).



GDP for Q3 increases by six per cent

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 23rd December - Brunei Darussalam's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant prices grew at six per cent year-on-year in the third quarter (Q3) of 2024. This growth was driven by a 12.9 per cent expansion in the Oil and Gas Sector, while the Non-Oil and Gas Sector saw a growth of 0.3 per cent.

The growth of the Oil and Gas Sector was driven by higher production of crude oil, natural gas, and liquefied natural gas (LNG). The increase in crude oil and natural gas production was driven by new oil and gas wells, while the increase in LNG production was attributed to a higher gas supply.

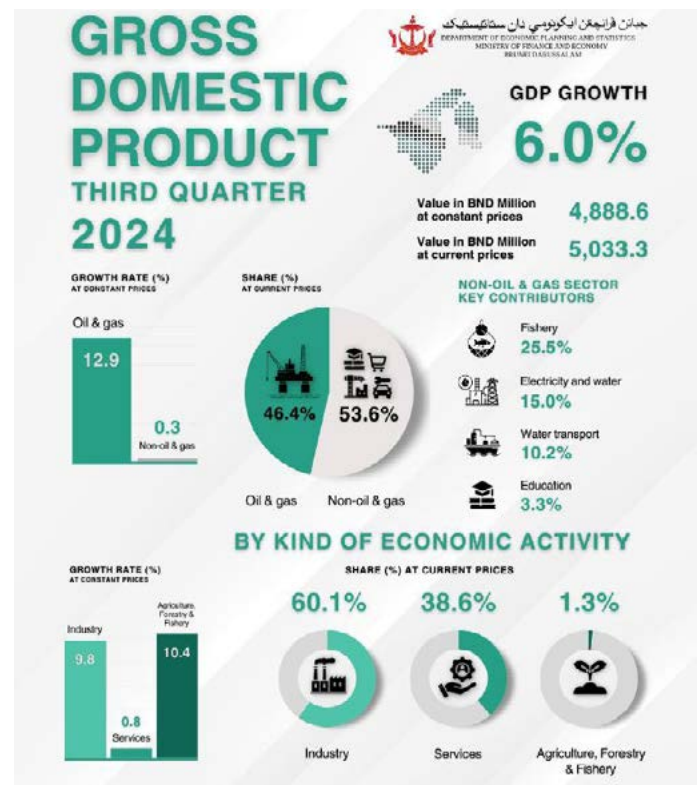
The Non-Oil and Gas Sector showed moderate growth in the Q3, supported by expansions in subsectors such as fishery (25.5 per cent), electricity and water (15.0 per cent), water transports (10.2 per cent), and education (3.3 per cent).

The growth in the fishery subsector was mainly contributed to by increased production in capture fisheries. Growth in the electricity and water subsector was supported by an increase in electricity production and expanded waste management activities. The expansion in the water transports subsector was linked to higher LNG exports. Meanwhile, the education subsector grew in tandem with increased activities in tertiary education.

In terms of GDP contribution by economic activity, the Industry Sector contributed 60.1 per cent, followed by the Services Sector at 38.6 per cent and the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery Sector at 1.3 per cent.

Brunei Darussalam's GDP at current prices stood at \$5.03 billion in Q3 2024, up from \$4.98 billion in Q3 2023.

The Oil and Gas Sector accounted for 46.4 per cent, comprising oil and gas mining and manufacture of LNG. The Non-Oil and Gas Sector contributed 53.6 per cent of GDP, mainly comprising downstream activities such as the manufacture of petroleum and chemical products.



By the expenditure approach, the increase in GDP growth in Q3 2024 was primarily driven by a 6.2 per cent increase in household final consumption expenditure, followed by a 1.5 per cent rise in government final consumption. However, Gross Capital Formation contracted by 3.9 per cent and Exports of Goods and Services also declined by 12.5 per cent.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a measure of the total value of goods and services produced in a particular period after deducting the cost of goods and services used up in the process of production.

Increase in trade balance in October 2024

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 24th December - The total trade for October was \$1,682.1 million comprising exports valued at \$1,063.2 million and imports amounting to \$618.9 million.

The major contributors to the export value were mineral fuels accounting for 69.1 per cent, followed by chemicals at 27.8 per cent and machinery and transport equipment at 1.9 per cent.

The main export markets were: the People's Republic of China accounting for 25.5 per cent; followed by Japan and Australia at 19.7 per cent and 19.6 per cent respectively. The largest export commodities to these countries were mineral fuels and chemicals.

Meanwhile, imports in October were valued at \$618.9 million. The three main import commodities were mineral fuels, accounting for 59.8 per cent, followed by machinery and transport equipment at 13.9 per cent, and food at 9.6 per cent.

The largest import partners were Malaysia accounting for 29.9 per cent, followed by Australia at 19.0 per cent and United Arab Emirates at 16.5 per cent. The main import commodities from these partners were mineral fuels, food as well as chemicals.

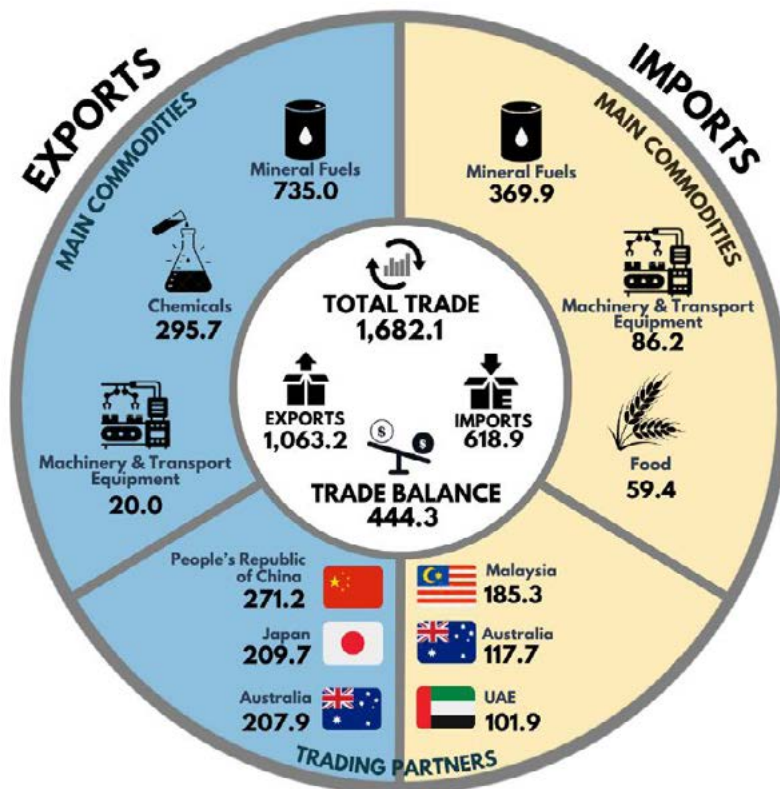
Compared to September, the trade balance in October rose by 30 per cent, driven by the decline in imports by 24.9 per cent.

The imports for end-use categories, were mainly consumed as intermediate goods processing accounting for 57.6 per cent, followed by capital goods for business operations at 38.1 per cent, and consumption goods for household use at 4.3 per cent.

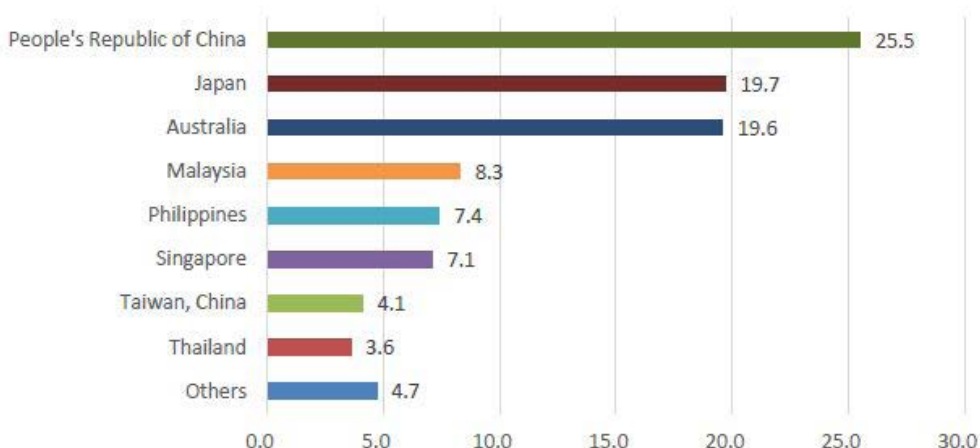


INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS OCTOBER 2024

BND Million



Share of Exports by Trading Partners



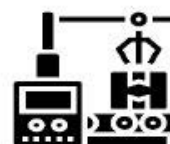
Main Exports by Commodity



69.1 %



27.8 %



Machinery and Transport Equipment

1.9 %