



# برونى دارالسلام

## Brunei Darussalam

# Brunei Darussalam newsletter

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## His Majesty attends meetings, Official Welcome and reception

**MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, March 5** – 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 separate Bilateral Meetings with the Right Honourable Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister of New Zealand at Park Hyatt Melbourne; and with The Honourable Anthony Albanese, Prime Minister of Australia at the Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre (MCEC).

Also present during the meetings was His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's son: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

At the Bilateral Meeting with The Right Honourable Prime Minister of New Zealand, His Majesty congratulated the Prime Minister of New Zealand on his appointment, and said that the meeting reaffirmed the important ties between Brunei Darussalam and New Zealand as this year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations.

Both leaders discussed bilateral and regional matters, including exploring opportunities to further expand and



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 separate Bilateral Meetings with The Honourable Prime Minister of Australia.

diversify trade, tourism and education; the halal industry; working together on climate change; and discussing

efforts to further enhance the ASEAN-New Zealand dialogue relations.

## Over 18,000 receive *kurnia peribadi*

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 27** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to bestow *kurnia peribadi* (personal gifts) to 18,010 recipients in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1445 Hijrah/2024 Masihi.

The presentation ceremonies, which simultaneously took place across the country, were initiated in each country by

the sons of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as the Monarch's personal representatives.

Present to deliver the *kurnia peribadi* to 1,000 recipients of Brunei-Muara District at Istana Nurul Iman was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

In Belait District, the *kurnia peribadi* were presented to another 1,000 recipients by

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In commemorating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between Brunei and Australia, as well as the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN-Australia dialogue relations, His Majesty during the meeting with The Right Honourable Prime Minister of Australia looked forward to further deepening the much-valued friendship and partnership for many more years.

The Monarch further underscored that the shared commitment between both countries in enhancing the existing cooperation while exploring new areas is testament to the evolving friendship, where the two sides work closely to

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## His Majesty receives audiences

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience at Istana Nurul Iman:



Yang Amat Arif Tun Tengku Maimun binti Tuan Mat, Chief Justice of Malaysia on March 7.



His Excellency Masagos Zulkifli bin Masagos Mohamad, Minister for Social and Family Development, Second Minister for Health and Minister-in-Charge of Muslim Affairs of the Republic of Singapore on March 19.

## 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 Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif following his appointment as the new Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on March 5;
- His Excellency Asif Ali Zardari following his appointment as the new President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on March 10;
- His Excellency Prabowo Subianto, President of the Republic of Indonesia following his recent victory in the Indonesian General Election 2024 on March 21;
- His Excellency Asif Ali Zardari, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; His Excellency Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan; the government as well as the people of Pakistan on the occasion of Pakistan Day on March 23; and
- His Excellency Mohammed Shahabuddin, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh; the government as well as the people of Bangladesh on the occasion of its Independence Day on March 26.

## His Majesty sends message of condolences

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send a message of condolences to His Excellency Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation; the government as well as the people of Russia following the recent terrorist attack at the Crocus City Concert Hall in Moscow on March 24.

## News

### His Majesty graces Az-Zakireen 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 signing a plaque to mark the official opening of the new Az-Zakireen Mosque at the Kampung Meragang National Housing Scheme.

**MERAGANG, March 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 graced the new Az-Zakireen Mosque at the Kampung Meragang National Housing Scheme and performed the Friday Prayer at the new mosque.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was invited to sign a plaque 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, accompanied by the acclamation of *takbir* – signalling the official opening of the mosque.

Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Haji Mohammad Tashim bin Pengiran Haji Hassan, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs delivered the Friday Sermon; while the Friday Prayer was led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar, Chief Syarie Judge.

The new mosque can accommodate some 2,200 congregants, with facilities including toilets for people with different abilities (OKU), lecture room, library, funeral management room, as well as parking for OKU.

The mosque built on an 8.159-acre site was allocated \$4.3 million under the National Development Plan.

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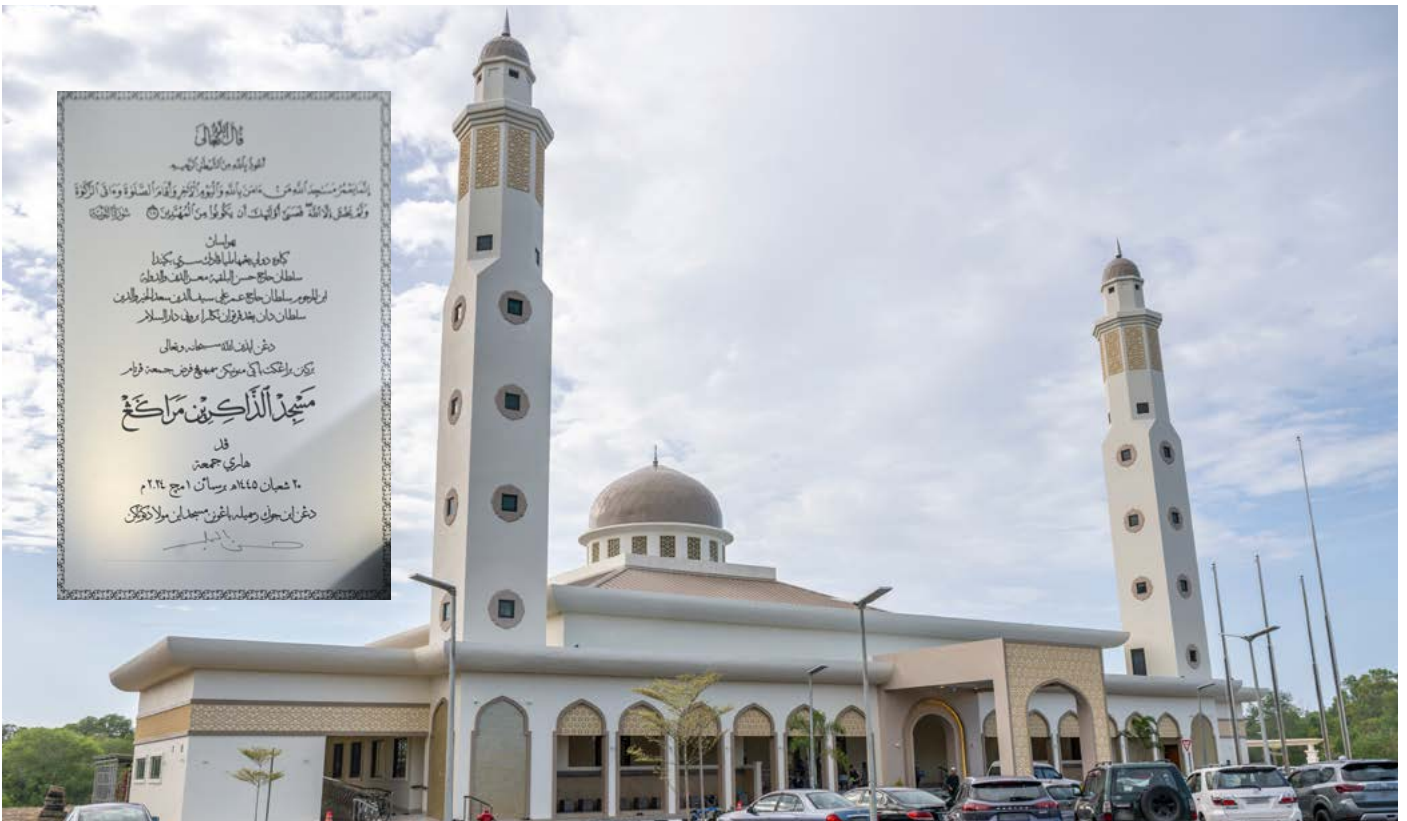


Yang Mulia Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs delivering the Friday sermon.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam performing the Friday Prayer at the mosque. Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.



The new Az-Zakireen Mosque at the Kampung Meragang National Housing Scheme and the plaque signed by His Majesty.



His Majesty and members of the royal family receiving a junjung ziarah.

## Call to practise Islamic values, regulation in governance

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 2** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made an unscheduled visit to the Religious Teachers University College of Seri Begawan (KUPU SB).

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended a lecture by Dr. Nurussa'edah binti Haji Abu Bakar and toured several blocks of the college building, including the Ta'lim Hall, hostels and the library.

His Majesty then delivered a *titah* (royal speech), stating that KUPU SB has undeniably produced a great number of well-trained and knowledgeable religious teachers. However, to keep to its vision and mission, the institution must always



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



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam taking a closer look at the facilities of the KUPU SB building.



be on the right track. Therefore, its structure and governance must be looked after, clean, in order and in accordance with the law.

Recalling His Majesty's visit to the institution in 2020, the Monarch noted that several of the institution's weaknesses still remain, particularly in governance and financial management. These weaknesses

cannot be left unheeded, especially not by the KUPU SB Council and management. His Majesty further called for all members of KUPU SB to practice Islamic values and regulation in all matters of governance.

His Majesty also brought to attention issues concerning the institution's auditing, stressing that audit findings should be taken seriously, as it impacts

service quality, trust and the transparency of human resources.

The Monarch then touched on the selection process for contractors to upkeep and renovate the university's premises. Looking at the schedule of rates used by ministries and departments

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His Majesty mingling with students of KUPU SB during the visit.



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as reference for comparison, His Majesty questioned the use of the same companies repeatedly despite their higher charges.

This raises speculations, which should be investigated by the university's management. His Majesty thus further questioned the integrity of the officers and staff members involved, highlighting that personnel responsible for financial matters and tendering process must be well-versed with the regulations.

His Majesty also raised the issue of companies being asked to offer services or products as charity or *wakaf* (endowments), which can be seen as extortion with elements of corruption. The Monarch called for an end to the practice as it harms the image of the institution as well as the Government of His Majesty

the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, and warned that action would be taken if it persists.

His Majesty further questioned the purchasing, storage and safekeeping procedures of properties. His Majesty urged for basic rules to be met – even those concerning small matters, such as purchasing office supplies, require the need to ensure their relevancy and usefulness. The Monarch stated that purchases or loans of office supplies should also be recorded for easier tracking, as there have been reports of purchased items being untraceable.

The Monarch then highlighted issues surrounding scholarship guidelines, including the exemption of tuition fees for international students. These guidelines should have gotten the approval of the KUPU SB Council beforehand, in case there are suggestions for improvements.

There have been reports of discussions conducted without the council, and such disorganisation has led to outstanding tuition fees of about over half a million dollars.

His Majesty further inquired about the progress of KUPU SB's plan for a centralised system to manage student affairs, as well as rumours of students suffering from heavy workloads and reports of student allowances in arrears for several months.

Before ending the *titah*, His Majesty emphasised that the level of integrity, ethics and morality of the management and all members of KUPU SB should not be taken lightly as they are important in ensuring honesty, responsibility, dedication and professionalism without allowing room for heinous acts such as theft, corruption, misappropriation and misuse of power.

## Utilise opportunities to gain knowledge



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).

**MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, March 5** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended a get-together with students, citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam residing in Australia and New Zealand at the Park Hyatt Hotel.

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

Prior to the get-together ceremony, His Majesty attended a reception with student representatives and signed a commemorative parchment.

At the ceremony, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) stating that students abroad are exposed to various challenges, and whoever can face them, shows that they have resilience. With this, the Monarch called for the opportunities to be utilised for self-development, as well as building mind-set and leadership quality. Hence, the students should not be complacent in gaining knowledge to address the challenges of globalisation.

Science and technology greatly influences life, where digital platforms, such as social media, are increasingly becoming decisive sources of knowledge, inspiration, ideas, collaboration and communication. The integration of technology and Artificial Intelligence makes the conveyance and dissemination of information more open, fast and easy. Therefore, His Majesty urged for the responsible use of these platforms, so as to not get caught in digital security issues, such as academic malpractice, spreading of false information and becoming a victim of cybercrime.

Touching on the recent 40<sup>th</sup> National Day Celebration, His Majesty said that the celebration was a reminder that independence must be filled with responsibility, hard work, undivided loyalty and commitment to defending it, so that independence carries more meaning.

In addition, students are called to embrace the independence by studying hard and cultivating the spirit of patriotism. They should also engage in beneficial activities as a symbol of *Pemuda Harapan Bangsa dan Pemuda Tiang Negara* (Youth are



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the get-together with students, citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam residing in Australia and New Zealand at the Park Hyatt Hotel.

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## Utilise opportunities to gain knowledge (continued)



Accompanying 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 was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

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the Aspiration and Pillars of the Nation'). His Majesty further reminded the students to never neglect the Bruneian culture by cultivating spiritual values grounded in the teachings of the Ahli Sunah Waljamah.

The ceremony commenced with the singing of the national anthem, followed by the recitation of Surah Faathir, verses 28 to 31 by Muhammad Razqan bin Haji Abdul Razak from University of New South Wales; while its summary was delivered by Nabil Iman bin Haji Azmee from Curtin University, Perth.

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

Meanwhile, Nur Azmina Hannani binti Muhammad Shahrul Nizzam, President of the Brunei Students' Union in Australia and New Zealand (BSUANZ) delivered a welcoming address.

At present, 180 students are studying in Australia; and 31 students in New Zealand – comprising recipients of His Majesty's Government Scholarships under the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Religious Affairs; Sultan Scholars of the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah; Education Loan Assistance Scheme (S.B.P.P); Brunei Shell Petroleum Scholarship; BIBD ALAF Scholarship; as well as privately-financed students.

The President of BSUANZ also presented a *pesambah* (souvenir)



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving a *pesambah* (souvenir) titled 'Brunei, Australia and New Zealand Friendship Art' from the President of the Brunei Students' Union in Australia and New Zealand (BSUANZ).

titled 'Brunei, Australia and New Zealand Friendship Art' to His Majesty. The *pesambah* was an artwork by the Australian Indigenous community to illustrate the close friendship between the three countries – Brunei, Australia and New Zealand – through high-quality education.

His Majesty proceeded to meet and greet over 600 students, citizens and residents of Brunei.

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His Majesty in a group photo with His Royal Highness and the students (left); and signing a commemorative parchment (above).



His Majesty interacting with students, citizens and residents of Brunei residing in Australia and New Zealand.



The President of BSUANZ delivering her welcoming address (left); and students from University of New South Wales and Curtin University, Perth performing the recitation of Al-Quran verses along with its summary (right).



## His Majesty attends meetings, Official Welcome and reception (continued)

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solidify the partnership with a joint plan of action. His Majesty urged for the relations to continue and noted Brunei's interest to cooperate with Australia on energy transition and health.

His Majesty and the Prime Minister of Australia also exchanged views on a wide range of topics, including bilateral, regional and international issues as well as the situation in Palestine.

A joint statement was issued at the end of the meeting.

His Majesty and His Royal Highness also attended an Official Welcome and the Prime Minister's Reception at MCEC. His Majesty initially joined heads of state and government of ASEAN, Australia and Timor-Leste for a group photo session, followed by a Smoking Ceremony by Wurundjeri First Nations Elders (a tradition of the Australian Indigenous community).

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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 separate Bilateral Meeting with the Right Honourable Prime Minister of New Zealand.

## His Majesty attends meetings, Official Welcome and reception (continued)



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attending the Official Welcome and the Prime Minister's Reception at the Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre. Also present was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

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This was followed by the reception, which commenced with a dance performance by Australian First Nations, the ASEAN anthem and Australia's National Anthem.

The event was also enlivened with a 'Welcome to Country' speech by Wurundjeri Elder, welcoming remarks from the Prime Minister of Australia, as well as a musical performance.

Following the reception, His Majesty attended a dinner hosted by the Prime Minister of Australia and Ms. Jodie Haydon at The Great Hall, National Gallery of Victoria.

His Majesty and His Royal Highness arrived in Melbourne, Australia earlier, on March 4.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness attending a dinner hosted by the Prime Minister of Australia.

## Prioritising maritime cooperation, nurturing close friendship

**MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, March 6** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Retreat Session of the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit at the Government House Victoria.

At the session, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered a *titah* (royal speech) expressing concern over the intensifying global geo-political uncertainties and evolving challenges affecting the region. The prolonged supply chain disruptions have led to higher food and energy prices. The creation of various Indo-Pacific strategies and minilaterals could further add to existing uncertainties and challenges. In



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 at the Retreat Session of the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit.

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this regard, His Majesty said that ASEAN has developed the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) to promote peace and cooperation, based on the principles of openness, inclusivity, and transparency.

His Majesty underscored that the region's continued prosperity is dependent on peace and stability in the surrounding seas and oceans. This is why maritime cooperation is a priority area in the AOIP.

To this end, the Monarch welcomed working together with Australia to enhance maritime domain awareness for the sustainable management of marine resources, conserving biodiversity and ensuring safe and secure sea lanes.

His Majesty further underlined the importance of cooperating with Australia on addressing global climate change to mitigate its impact on people's lives and fulfil the commitments made at the 28<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties, especially towards energy transition.

The Monarch ended the *titah* by extending appreciation for Australia's continued support through the Climate Change Action Strategy, as well as their commitment to provide assistance to operationalise the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change in Brunei Darussalam, which will facilitate regional coordination and develop strategies to address climate change.

His Majesty also attended the Plenary Session of the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit at the Melbourne Convention, held to celebrate 50 years since Australia became ASEAN's first Dialogue Partner in 1974 with the aim of enhancing ASEAN-Australia cooperation.

The session, which took place at the Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre, saw welcoming addresses delivered by The Honourable Anthony Albanese, Prime



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit.

Minister of Australia; and His Excellency Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic as the Chair of ASEAN.

His Majesty delivered another *titah* at the session, highlighting that Brunei and Australia have nurtured a close friendship based on mutual trust and respect since 1974, eventually leading to the establishment of the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2021.

Touching on people-to-people initiatives, His Majesty emphasised that the programmes are fundamental to the close ASEAN-Australia relations and are crucial investments to maintain strong partnership through building lasting linkages and understanding between the people of ASEAN and Australia.

His Majesty expressed appreciation for the scholarships provided to Brunei, as well as Australia's announcement of additional scholarships to commence in 2025.

The Monarch also underscored the importance of economic cooperation to the ASEAN-Australia relationship, where the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) continues to be the most comprehensive, high-quality and modern FTA in the region and has also served as a reference in negotiating the Regional Comprehensive

Economic Partnership to further expand trade and investment in the wider region.

In ending the *titah*, His Majesty expressed appreciation for Australia's 'Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040', which calls for increasing investments and building the region's capacities, with 'digital economy' as a priority. This strategy is relevant, especially as ASEAN's digital economy is expected to grow to US\$1 trillion by 2030, and ASEAN is working on developing a Digital Economy Framework Agreement.

His Majesty also engaged in discussions with other leaders in strengthening the ASEAN-Australia cooperation under the three pillars of the ASEAN Community.

At the end of the session, the Melbourne Declaration: A Partnership for the Future; and the ASEAN-Australia Leaders' Vision Statement: Partners for Peace and Prosperity were adopted.

His Majesty then joined other leaders for a luncheon hosted by Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, the Governor of Victoria at the State Drawing Room, Government House Victoria.

Present to accompany His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen. His Majesty and His Royal Highness left Australia later the same day.

## His Majesty leads recreational cycling event

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 10 –** In conjunction with Brunei Darussalam's 40<sup>th</sup> National Day Celebration, 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 joined the Semangat Hari Kebangsaan 2024 Recreational Cycling event, which commenced and concluded at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin in the capital.



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 joining the Semangat Hari Kebangsaan 2024 Recreational Cycling event. Also present were the sons and brother of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The event was organised by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and

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## His Majesty leads recreational cycling event (continued)



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam signing a commemorative jersey commissioned for the occasion (left); and receiving a *pesambah* (souvenir) (right).



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Sports, in collaboration with the Brunei Darussalam Cycling Federation, as well as committees from government agencies.

Also in attendance were the sons and brother of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah.

Prior to a group photo session, the event started with His Majesty signing a commemorative jersey commissioned for the occasion, and receiving a *pesambah* (souvenir) presented by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Nazmi bin Haji Awang Mohamad, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports; and Haji Harith

bin Pehin Haji Abdul Aziz, President of the Brunei Darussalam Cycling Federation.

His Majesty then led the 8-kilometre cycling event, kicked off by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports. This was followed by a ride-past comprising 40 cyclists, including national cycling athletes and members of clubs under the Brunei Darussalam Cycling Federation. The ride-past was led by Pengiran Amar Suriani bin Pengiran Hashim, national cycling athlete.

His Majesty and members of the royal family then mingled with participants of the 40<sup>th</sup> National Day Grand Assembly.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and members of the royal family in a group photo.



His Majesty touring the booths at the event.



His Majesty and members of the royal family mingling with the people at the event.

## His Majesty calls for holistic, inclusive programme



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 Passing Out Parade for the 12<sup>th</sup> National Service Programme (PKBN) Intake.

excellent youth who are responsible, disciplined and possess commendable leadership traits.

The measures of these traits can be seen when the youths are willing to contribute to the *ummah* and the nation without requiring remuneration.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stated the matter in a *titah* (royal speech) at the Passing Out Parade for the 12<sup>th</sup> PKBN Intake held at the PKBN Training Camp in Batu Apoi.

Such willingness is rare, His Majesty noted, stating his confidence that the nation's youth can be trusted and relied on, especially those of the independent era. The youth are aware that they are the agents of the dynamic future, said the Monarch.

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**TEMBURONG, March 9** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi

Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam expressed hope for the National Service Programme (PKBN) to continue producing the nation's



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Passing Out Parade for the 12<sup>th</sup> PKBN Intake.

## His Majesty calls for holistic, inclusive programme (continued)



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with the trainees.

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His Majesty also called for a more holistic and inclusive programme, taking into account the fitness levels and mental health of the trainees. To this end, family support plays a crucial role in creating a conducive environment for the trainees to achieve excellence. With these elements taken into account, PKBN will be more inclusive and will lead the trainees towards a lifestyle that ensures success in life and the hereafter.

In moving forward, His Majesty hoped for PKBN to train more youths, including graduates from higher education institutions, so that the younger generation will have the confidence and skills to contribute to nation building and help achieve Brunei Vision 2035.

Earlier in the *titah*, His Majesty congratulated the trainers of PKBN, as well as the 469 trainees of the 12<sup>th</sup> PKBN Intake. The

Monarch explained that over 4,000 youths have successfully graduated from the training since the establishment of PKBN 11 years ago.

Afterwards, His Majesty presented awards to the top six trainees of the programme. The Best Male Trainee in Precision Drill was 14090 Muhammad Sufi Muazzam bin Saiful Nidzam; while the best female in the category was 13887 Siti Nurbahriah binti Muhammad Norman Shah. The Best Male Trainee in Physical Trainee was 14176 Taufiq Nurhidayat bin Timbul; while 13928 Nur Farhana Syaherra binti Mohammad Faizal received the award in the female category. Meanwhile, 14293 Muhammad Zulhelmi Hashim bin Jainudin received the Best Overall Male Trainee; while 13965 Nur Lily Izzati binti Abdul Hamid received the award under the female category.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam signing a commemorative parchment at the event.



His Majesty in a group photo with the top six trainees of the programme.



His Majesty presenting awards to some of the top trainees at the event.

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The event initially commenced with a Royal Salute and the national anthem.

His Majesty then consented to inspect the Guard of Honour mounted by candidates of the 12<sup>th</sup> PKBN Intake, followed by a march-past.

The Monarch also viewed an exhibition by the Manpower Planning and Employment Council (MPEC) on the 'Program Jati Diri' scheme; before being invited for a light luncheon and mingling with the top trainees. His Majesty then signed a commemorative parchment.

Prior to leaving the venue, His Majesty



His Majesty receiving a *pesambah* (souvenir).

took part in a group photo session and received a *pesambah* (souvenir) from Major (Rtd) Haji Mohammad bin Dollah, Commandant of PKBN.

Following the event, His Majesty made an unscheduled visit to primary schools in the Temburong District: Sultan Hassan Primary School in Pekan Bangar; and Selapon Primary School. Present alongside the Monarch during the tours was Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Setia Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Md. Salleh, Minister of Education.



His Majesty in a group photo at the exhibition.

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His Majesty mingling with the people at the event.



His Majesty viewing an exhibition by the Manpower Planning and Employment Council (MPEC) on the 'Program Jati Diri' scheme following Passing Out Parade for the 12<sup>th</sup> PKBN Intake.



## His Majesty calls for holistic, inclusive programme (continued)

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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 in a group photo during the unscheduled visit to Selapon Primary School.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam being briefed by Yang Berhormat Minister of Education.



His Majesty mingling with the students during the unscheduled visit to Sultan Hassan Primary School in Pekan Bangar.



His Majesty during the unscheduled visit to Selapon Primary School.



## Night enlivened by drone and fireworks spectacle

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 9** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam graced the Semarak Perdana Negara Brunei Darussalam: Drones and Fireworks Show in conjunction with the 40<sup>th</sup> National Day Celebration.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of

Brunei Darussalam at the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Complex were the Monarch's sons: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

After the spectacle, His Majesty and Their Royal Highnesses consented to mingle and receive *junjung ziarah* from those who attended the event.

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The event featuring 500 drones and fireworks was organised by the Ministry of Culture Youth and Sports and supported by Dewan Perniagaan Tionghua – with DST Sdn. Bhd. as the strategic partner for the fireworks display; and Gallop Air as the strategic partner for the drone performance.

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 gracing the Semarak Perdana Negara Brunei Darussalam: Drones and Fireworks Show in conjunction with the 40<sup>th</sup> National Day Celebration. Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen (left).



The drone and fireworks spectacle taking place.



His Majesty and Their Royal Highnesses mingling and receiving a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from those who attended the event (above & below).



## Enliven Ramadan with religious acts

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 11** – Ramadan is here again, a month where the rank is very high in the eyes of Allah the Almighty. It is during this month that we are obligated to fast, the Al-Quran was revealed, and in it, a night better than 1,000 months.

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 stated the matter in a *titah* (royal speech) to mark the first day of Ramadan for the Year 1445 Hijrah/2024 Masihi.

Touching on a *hadis* of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stated that those who complete one month of fasting are fortunate: receiving blessings in the beginning of the month, forgiveness in the middle, and exemption from hellfire towards the end.

"Hence, let us make the commitment to perform one month of fasting together, to gain rewards as promised," His Majesty said.

Hoping for the holy month to be welcomed with an open heart, the Monarch stressed that this is the time for us to gain rewards for being patient, as Ramadan itself is called the 'month of patience', and the reward for patience is Heaven.

"Let us set the determination to embrace Ramadan together," His Majesty continued, urging for the month to be enlivened with fasting, reading the Al-Quran, *qiamullail* (spending the night performing religious acts), performing Tarawih Prayer, *zikir*, charity and other pious acts.



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) to mark the first day of Ramadan for the Year 1445 Hijrah/2024 Masihi.

The Monarch further explained the significance of Ramadan, and highlighted that the people of the nation are fortunate to reap the month's benefits without any disruptions, as our nation is blessed with peace.

## Adherence to Al-Quran fosters prosperity

**BERAKAS, March 27** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, in a *titah* (royal speech) delivered in conjunction with the National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration for 1445 Hijrah held at the International Convention Centre, expressed hope for all Bruneian children to be able to read Al-Quran with *tajwid*.

Hence, teachers are required for the proper teaching of the Al-Quran – especially primary school children who have not yet mastered fluent reading, without neglecting secondary level students.

Touching on the significance of the theme for this year's celebration, '*Al-Quran Pedomanku*', particularly in challenging times, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam

highlighted the pertinence of Al-Quran as a source of guidance in life – fostering prosperity when adhered to by all.

The Monarch, therefore, urges for the nation's commitment towards Al-Quran and improving in its readings.

His Majesty further called for the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA) and the

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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) in conjunction with the National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration for 1445 Hijrah.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and members of the royal family upon arrival at the National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration for 1445 Hijrah.



His Majesty at the National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration for 1445 Hijrah. Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

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Ministry of Education (MoE) to enhance the learning and teaching of Al-Quran in both government and private schools, with continuous monitoring from primary to tertiary levels.

His Majesty lauded MoRA's implementation, through the Islamic Studies Department, of the Tahsin Qira'atil Quran Programme, which was introduced in 2021. The Monarch believes that the programme will produce quality religious teachers who are skilled in Al-Quran reading.

His Majesty also acknowledged the Tadabbur Al-Quran Programme conducted by various parties, especially agencies under MoRA and other educational institutions. With the establishment of such initiatives, the people of Brunei will not only be able to fluently read Al-Quran, but also understand its meaning. This is the desired outcome of *tadabbur*.

The Monarch then expressed gratitude for the commitment of the government, private sector, local agencies and youth in embracing Al-Quran through various study centres and classes aimed at refining Al-Quran reading skills. His Majesty highlighted the importance of these classes in strengthening religious

practice, and hopes for the continued support of these initiatives while ensuring adherence to the teachings of Ahli Sunah Waljamaah of Mazhab Syafi'e.

Also present at the event were His Majesty's sons and brothers: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

The celebration previously commenced with the recitation of Surah Al-Fatihah by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji



Yang Berhormat Minister of Religious Affairs delivering a welcoming speech at the event.

Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti. Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin, Minister of Religious Affairs also delivered a welcoming speech at the event.

After His Majesty's *titah*, the results of the National Level Al-Quran Memorisation and its Understanding Competition for 1445 Hijrah was announced by Pengiran Haji Haslin bin Pengiran Haji Ali, Acting Deputy Director of the Haj Affairs Department as the Chairman of the Judging Committee. This was followed by recitations by the winners from each category of the competition, who then received prizes and souvenirs presented by His Majesty.

The first place winner for Category 'A' – Memorisation of Juz 30 and its Understanding (age 13 and below) was Nur Soffiyyah Solehah binti Mohammad Fikri (98.55 per cent); followed by Nur Syifa Hasanah binti Mohammad Fikri (98.53 per cent) in second place; and Alya Sofiyyah binti Abdul 'Azim (95.68 per cent) in third place. The first place winner of the category received \$1,500; while the first runner-up received \$1,000; and the second runner-up received \$750.

For Category 'B' – Memorisation of Selected Surah (age 14 and above), the first place was won by 'Alya Fathiyyah binti Haji Abdul Rajid (97.95 per cent); followed by Nuramal Shofiyyah binti Irma Syukrin (95.72 per cent) in second place; and Ainaa Zunah Insiyrah binti Haji Abdul Manap (94.3 per cent) in third place. The first place winner of the category received \$2,000; while the first runner-up received \$1,500; and the second runner-up received \$1,200.

Meanwhile, under Category 'C' – Memorisation of Surah Al-Baqarah and Surah Ali-Imran, as well as the Understanding of Surah Yunus and Surah Hud (open to all age levels), Abdul Rasyid bin Haji Mohammad Norazmi (96.71 per cent) came in

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Recitations by the winners from each category of the competition (left); the Acting Deputy Director of the Haj Affairs Department as the Chairman of the Judging Committee announcing the results of the National Level Al-Quran Memorisation and its Understanding Competition for 1445 Hijrah (right).



## Adherence to Al-Quran fosters prosperity (continued)



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting prizes and souvenirs to the first place winners of Category 'A' (left); and Category 'B' (right).



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting prizes and souvenirs to the first place winners of Category 'C'.



His Majesty presenting prizes and souvenirs to the first place winners of Category 'D'.



His Majesty presenting prizes and souvenirs to the first place winners of Category 'E'.

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first place; followed by Mohammad Ahmed Maahee bin Haji Samry (96.28 per cent) in second place; and Siti Nur Aqilah binti Haji Jahari (95.57 per cent) in third place. The first place winner of the category received \$2,800; while the first runner-up received \$2,000; and the second runner-up received \$1,500.

The first place for Category 'D' – Memorisation of 15 Juz of Al-Quran, from Juz 1 to Juz 15, as well as the Understanding of Surah Saba', Surah Fatir and Surah Yaa Siin was won by Ahmad Huzaifah bin Haji Awang Hasbi (96.62 per cent).

Meanwhile, Dayangku Nurfaiezah binti Pengiran Haji Kamaluddin (94.68) emerged in second place; followed by Siti Nurul Syafiqah Shahirah binti Haji Sufri/Suhaili (89.6 per cent) in third place. The first place winner of the category received \$3,500; while

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His Majesty and members of the royal family during the doa recitation by Yang Berhormat State Mufti.

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the first runner-up received \$2,500; and the second runner-up received \$2,000.

As for Category 'E' – Memorisation of 30 Juz of the Al-Qur'an, as well as the Understanding of Surah Al-Fatihah and Surah Al-Baqarah (open to all age levels), the first place went to Mohammad Fikri bin Haji Sharbini (98.75 per cent). The second place was won by Muhammad Adi Syazani @ Muhammad Izz Raziq bin Shahri (98.4 per cent); with Dayangku Nuro Hafizah binti Pengiran Haji Tejudin (97.74 per cent) coming in third place. The first place winner of the category received \$5,000; while the first runner-up received \$3,500; and the second runner-up received \$2,500.

Each of the winners also received a digital Al-Quran and a certificate of participation.

To bless the ceremony, a *doa selamat* was recited by the State Mufti. Prior to departure, His Majesty and members of the royal family consented to have a get-together with the winners of the competition, along with their family members.

This year's event was co-organised by MoRA; the Ministry of Health; MoE; Royal Brunei Airlines Sdn. Bhd.; and the MABIMS Centre for Al-Quran Studies and Dissemination.



His Majesty having a get-together and taking group photos with the winners of the competition, along with their family members (above and below).



## His Majesty appoints new Ra'es

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 22** – By command of 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, it is hereby announced that His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented for the

appointment of Associate Professor Madya Dr. Abdul Nasir bin Haji Abdul Rani, Director of the Centre for Graduate Studies, Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali as Ra'es of the Religious Teachers University College of Seri Begawan, replacing Dr. Awang Haji Adanan bin Haji Basar. The date of appointment is effective March 23.

## Over 18,000 receive *kurnia peribadi* (continued)



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office presenting *kurnia peribadi* (personal gifts) to recipients from the Brunei-Muara District.

From front page

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik at Pusat Insani Community Hall, Seria.

Meanwhile, in Tutong District, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen presented the *kurnia peribadi* to 1,000 recipients at the Tutong Community Hall Complex; and in Temburong District, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel presented the *kurnia peribadi* to 901 recipients at the Belalong Hall, Community Hall Complex in Pekan Bangar.

Afterwards, the distribution of *kurnia peribadi* from His Majesty resumed at the Indoor Stadium, Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex in Berakas and Bridex Hall in Jerudong for the Brunei-Muara District recipients. The events also continued at the same venues for the recipients in other districts.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik presenting the *kurnia peribadi* to recipients from the Belait District.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen presenting the *kurnia peribadi* to recipients from the Tutong District.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel presenting the *kurnia peribadi* to recipients from the Temburong District.

## Recognising Brunei-Japan's excellent cooperation

**TOKYO, JAPAN, March 8** – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) attended a Reception to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Brunei Darussalam and Japan at the Imperial Hotel.

At the reception, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince delivered a *sabda* (royal speech) highlighting Brunei and Japan's excellent cooperation in energy, trade and investment, education and people-to-people exchanges.

"The confidence and trust between the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Shell and Mitsubishi Corporation since 1969 has contributed towards the energy cooperation enjoyed today between both countries," said His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness shared that Brunei has been a steady and reliable supplier



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) during the Reception to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Brunei Darussalam and Japan at the Imperial Hotel.

of energy, with 2022 marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Brunei LNG (BLNG) shipment to Japan. In this regard, His Royal Highness looks forward to deepening ties in the near future.

His Royal Highness also welcomed the finalisation of the Visa Waiver Arrangement, and expressed confidence that it will facilitate travel and the movement of goods and services, particularly as both countries mark the 2024 Brunei-Japan Friendship Year.

Touching on regional cooperation, His Royal Highness remarked on the close collaboration towards advancing ASEAN's community-building efforts under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in promoting regional peace and prosperity.

His Royal Highness concluded the *sabda* by expressing appreciation for Japan's contribution to the ASEAN Junior Fellowship Programme mooted by 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 in 2021, in bringing the people closer together and instilling a greater understanding of ASEAN.

Prior to the reception, His Royal Highness welcomed the arrival of His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Akishino, and subsequently held a meeting with His Imperial Highness.

The reception began with the national anthems of both countries. His Excellency Haji Shahbudin bin Haji Musa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Japan, as the host of the reception then delivered his welcoming remarks; followed by a speech by His Excellency Yoshimasa Hayashi, Chief Cabinet Secretary of Japan as the representative of the Government of Japan.

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## Recognising Brunei-Japan's excellent cooperation (continued)

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His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman during the Audience Ceremony and Luncheon with His Majesty Emperor Naruhito, Emperor of Japan and Her Majesty Empress Masako, Empress of Japan (above and below).

His Royal Highness and His Imperial Highness then proceeded to view an exhibition featuring Bruneian products and services.

The exhibition comprised Bruneian Government agencies and companies, as well as key business stakeholders engaged in Japanese oil and gas industries: including the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports; Department of Energy, PMO; the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism; Brunei Economic Development Board; Royal Brunei; The Empire Brunei; Darussalam Enterprise; Brunei Gas Carriers Sdn. Bhd.; Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn. Bhd.; BLNG Sdn. Bhd.; and Brunei Methanol Company Sdn. Bhd.



Earlier, His Royal Highness also met with Japanese business representatives from various companies: including Tokyo Gas; Japan's Energy for a New Era; Japan Petroleum Exploration; and Mitsubishi Corporation.

His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman also attended

an Audience Ceremony and luncheon with His Majesty Emperor Naruhito, Emperor of Japan and Her Majesty Empress Masako, Empress of Japan at the Imperial Palace.

During the Audience Ceremony, His Royal Highness and His Majesty discussed matters of mutual interests, including cooperation in energy, trade, education and people-to-people exchanges.

Following the ceremony, Their Royal Highnesses attended the luncheon hosted by Their Majesties at Rensui-kita, Imperial Palace. Also attending the luncheon were His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Akishino and Her Imperial Highness Crown Princess Akishino.

Their Royal Highnesses arrived in Japan earlier, on March 7.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Akishino in a group photo.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and His Imperial Highness viewing an exhibition featuring Bruneian products and services.

## Brunei-Japan: Years of goodwill and friendship

**KYOTO, JAPAN, March 9** – 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 dinner jointly hosted by Matsui Koji, Mayor of Kyoto City; Furukawa Hironori, Vice Governor of Kyoto Prefecture; and Iwai Kazumichi, Chairman of the Committee on Tourism and Industry of Kyoto Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Before commencing the dinner, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince delivered a *sabda* (royal speech) expressing pleasure to visit Kyoto for the first time.



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 a *sabda* (royal speech) at the dinner.



His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman attending the dinner.

His Royal Highness stated that Brunei Darussalam and Japan have long fostered goodwill and friendship through various interactions at all levels, and believes that there are many opportunities for both countries to work together, especially in trade and investment.

In addition to celebrating the Brunei-Japan Friendship Year in 2024, His Royal Highness expressed confidence that both countries will continue to further strengthen the much-valued relationship in the years to come.

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His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah attending the dinner.



Their Royal Highnesses in a group photo.

## Brunei-Japan: Years of goodwill and friendship (continued)

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Prior to the *sabda*, the Mayor of Kyoto also delivered his welcoming remarks.

During the dinner, the Vice Governor of Kyoto Prefecture; and Chairman of the Committee on Tourism and Industry of Kyoto Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivered their speeches.

The dinner was enlivened by traditional Japanese performances.

Earlier in the day, Their Royal Highnesses paid a visit to Kyoto. Joining the visit were the children of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince: Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman;



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 during the visit to Kyoto, Japan (above); Their Royal Highnesses and their children taking a photo (below).



and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Faathimah Az-Zahraa' Raihaanul Bolkiah. Their Royal Highnesses first visited the Kyoto Sento Imperial Palace, where Their Royal Highnesses were briefed on the history of the palace and toured the premises.

Their Royal Highnesses then visited Kinkaku-ji, also known as the Golden Pavilion, where Their Royal Highnesses were briefed on the Zen Buddhist temple, one of the 17 locations under the Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto that are World Heritage Sites under The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

## Commitment towards a strategic partnership

**KYOTO, JAPAN, March 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 and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman attended a dinner hosted by His Excellency Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan and spouse, Madame Yuko Kishida.

At the dinner, His Royal Highness delivered a *sabda* (royal speech) expressing appreciation for His Excellency Prime Minister of Japan's dedication and commitment to relations between both countries since his time as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

To this end, His Royal Highness expressed confidence that the relations will continue to strengthen under His Excellency's leadership.



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 attending the dinner hosted by His Excellency Prime Minister of Japan and spouse.

As Brunei and Japan celebrate 40 years of friendship this year, His Royal Highness affirmed that the two countries' mutual commitment to elevate ties to a strategic partnership and the robust cooperation

that the two countries have built together will ensure resilience in an era of disruption and uncertainty.

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His Royal Highness further stated Brunei Darussalam's deep appreciation for Japan's continuous support leading to the strong cooperation in energy enjoyed today; as well as Japan's support under the Asia Zero Emissions Community and Brunei's initiative under the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change in developing coordinated and strategic policies for the region.

"Hence, the finalisation of the Exchange of Notes on Visa Waiver Arrangement," said His Royal Highness, "will bring the people closer together, particularly in marking 2024 as the Brunei-Japan Friendship Year."

Finally, touching on regional matters, His Royal Highness stated that Brunei consistently values the cooperation and support Japan has given to ASEAN, particularly in establishing the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to ensure peace and security.

The Prime Minister of Japan also delivered a speech prior to the *sabda*.

Earlier, His Royal Highness and the Prime Minister of Japan witnessed the Exchange of Notes Ceremony on the Visa Waiver Arrangement between Brunei and Japan. The exchange was carried out by His Excellency Haji Shahbudin bin Haji Musa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Japan; and His Excellency Toru Maeda, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam.

The Exchange of Notes allows Japanese nationals to enter Brunei without a visa for a period of 30 days, to encourage and facilitate people's travel, as well as the movement of goods and services between the two countries.

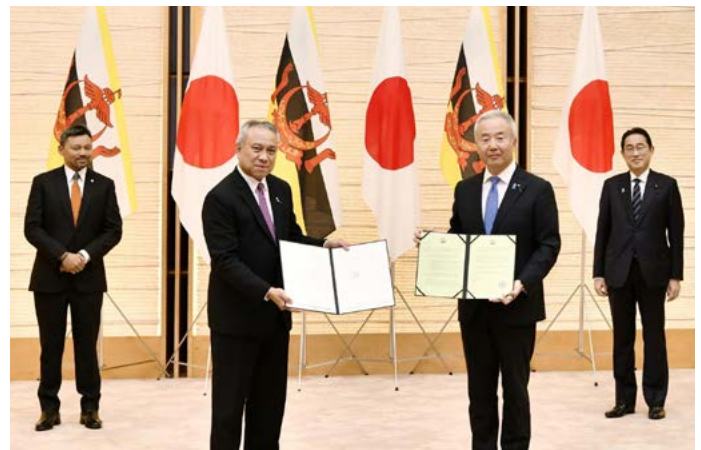


His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah attending the dinner hosted by His Excellency Prime Minister of Japan and spouse.

Prior to the ceremony, His Royal Highness and the Prime Minister of Japan held a meeting, where both leaders discussed bilateral cooperation between Brunei and Japan in energy, people-to-people exchanges, defence and maritime cooperation. The leaders also exchanged views on regional and international matters.

In a separate event, Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah also attended a meeting with Madame Kishida at the Prime Minister's Residence, after observing an *Ikebana* demonstration and participating in a flower arrangement activity.

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His Royal Highness and His Excellency witnessing the Exchange of Notes Ceremony on the Visa Waiver Arrangement between Brunei and Japan.



Their Royal Highness during their separate meetings (above and left).

## Commitment towards a strategic partnership (continued)



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office during the visit to the Anegasaki Thermal Power Station in Ichihara.

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Also known as *kado*, *Ikebana* is the Japanese art of flower arrangement that involves the cutting of stems, leaves and flowers in vases or other containers to convey a specific feeling or emotion, similar to a painting or sculpture.

In the morning, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince visited the Anegasaki Thermal Power Station in Ichihara. His Royal Highness was briefed on Japan's Energy for a New Era – a joint venture between Tokyo Electric Power Company and Chubu Electric Power operating the Anegasaki Thermal Power Station, as well as the background on the station.

His Royal Highness also visited the Central Control Room, the command centre of the station; as well as the Turbine No. 1 building.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince being briefed on Japan's Energy for a New Era.



His Royal Highness in a group photo.

## Distribution of dates for Ramadan commences



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah as the Chairman of the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) Committee of Governors delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) at the Launching Ceremony for the Distribution of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's Personal Gift of Dates in conjunction with Ramadan 1444 Hijrah/2023 Masihi.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 5** – His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah as the Chairman of the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) Committee of Governors, in a *sabda* (royal speech), applauded grassroots leaders, including members of consultative councils, for their sincerity, commitment and perseverance in distributing dates as *kurnia peribadi* (personal gifts) of 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 for the month of Ramadan.

However, we should not be complacent, as certain parties have not received the dates. Hence, His Royal Highness said that the management authorities of YSHHB and other parties involved must continue to shoulder the responsibility with full sincerity and dedication in ensuring no one is left out.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik was also pleased that this year, the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and the Public Works Department, Ministry of Development will once again be involved in the distribution through the provision of transport to designated areas.

The *sabda* was delivered at the Launching Ceremony for the Distribution of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's personal gift of dates in conjunction with Ramadan 1444 Hijrah/2023 Masihi held at the An-Naura Hall, YSHHB Complex.

The ceremony began with the recitation of Surah Al-Fatihah by Yang Dimuliakan Begawan Pehin Khatib Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mustapa bin Haji Murat, the Imam of Jame' 'Asr Hassanal Bolkiah; followed by a welcoming speech by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health as Acting Chairman of the Board of Directors of YSHHB.

Following the *sabda*, His Royal Highness consented to distribute the dates to representatives of uniformed personnel, the public, civil service, the private sector and *Muallaf* associations. The ceremony ended with the recitation of *doa selamat* by the Imam of Jame' 'Asr Hassanal Bolkiah.

This year, some 159 Safawy dates will be distributed to all Muslims in the country.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik distributing the dates as *kurnia peribadi* (personal gifts) of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.



His Royal Highness in a group photo at the ceremony.

## His Royal Highness attends YSHHB Tahlil Ceremony

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 18**

– Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) conducted a Tahlil Ceremony for the late parents and son of 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: Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam; Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Bendahara Pengiran Anak Abdul Rahman; and Al-Marhum His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim. The ceremony was held at the Royal Mausoleum, Jalan Tutong.

Present at the ceremony was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Chairman of YSHHB Committee of Governors.

The event's recitation of Surah Yaa Siin and *tahlil* was led by Yang Dimuliakan Begawan Pehin Khatib Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mustafa bin Haji Murat.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Chairman of the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) Committee of Governors at Tahlil Ceremony held at the Royal Mausoleum, Jalan Tutong, Bandar Seri Begawan.

The ceremony is an annual YSHHB event conducted every Ramadan. Also present were members of the YSHHB Board of Directors; members of the Board of Trustees of the Pengiran Muda Mahkota Al-Muhtadee Billah Fund for Orphans;

officers and staff of YSHHB; members of the YSHHB Sultan's Scholar Alumni; YSHHB volunteers; residents of the Kampung Bolkiah 'A' and 'B' National Housing Scheme; as well as students of YSHHB Secondary School.



His Royal Highness pouring *Aying Asah-asahan* (scented water) on the tombs of the late members of the royal family.

## Speaker of LegCo receives courtesy call

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 2** – Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Speaker of the Legislative Council (LegCo) received a courtesy call from The Honourable Gabriele Katzmarek, Chairperson of the ASEAN Parliamentary Group in the German Bundestag, along the rest of the delegation from the ASEAN Parliamentary Group in the German Bundestag.

The delegation of six included Her Excellency Gerda Winkler, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany to Brunei Darussalam.

Also present were Dr. Dayang Hajah Huraini binti Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Jaya Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hurairah, Clerk to the Privy Council, Secretary to the Cabinet Ministers' Council and Clerk to LegCo; as well as other members of LegCo.

During the courtesy call, both parties discussed and affirmed commitment to further strengthen the relationship between the two countries, including people-to-people exchanges. The delegates emphasised the importance of ASEAN in Germany's foreign policy, as well as their commitment to increase cooperation in the region.



Yang Berhormat Speaker of the State Legislative Council during the courtesy call from The Honourable Chairperson of the ASEAN Parliamentary Group in the German Bundestag.

The visit concluded with both parties affirming their commitment to strengthen parliamentary relations and increase cooperation between the two legislatures.

## Embassy hosts Iftar Ceremony

**JERUDONG, March 16** – The Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Brunei Darussalam held an Iftar Ceremony at the Royal Berkshire Hall, Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club. His Excellency Mohammed Abdullah H. Al Buraithin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Saudi Arabia to Brunei Darussalam hosted the ceremony.

Present at the event were Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs; Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd. Yusof, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Muhammad Juanda bin Haji Abdul Rashid, Minister of Development; Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications.

Also present were foreign envoys, senior government officials



Yang Berhormat Cabinet Ministers in a group photo with His Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Brunei Darussalam at the Iftar Ceremony.

and special guests.

The event consisted of a mass Maghrib Prayer led by Pengiran Haji Haslin bin Pengiran Haji Ali, Acting Managing Director of the Haj Affairs Department at the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

## Ramadan Iftar Ceremony in Cambodia

**PHNOM PENH, KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA, March 23** – Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs attended a Ramadan Iftar Ceremony hosted by His Excellency Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia held on March 21 at the OCIC Center in Phnom Penh.

The event comprising 6,000 people was organised by the

Cambodian Muslim community and co-ordinated by the Senior Minister at the Office of the Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia. Also present were ministers and members of the Parliament and the Senate, as well as foreign state dignitaries.

The Minister of Religious Affairs also visited Al-A'la Mosque in Prek Pra, where the handing over of Brunei Darussalam's Mushaf Al-Quran took place.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Religious attending the Ramadan Iftar Ceremony (left); and during the visit to Al-A'la Mosque (right).

## Supporting regional defence dialogue and cooperation

**LUANG PRABANG, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, March 5** – The ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Retreat was held at the Pullman Luang Prabang Hotel and Resort.

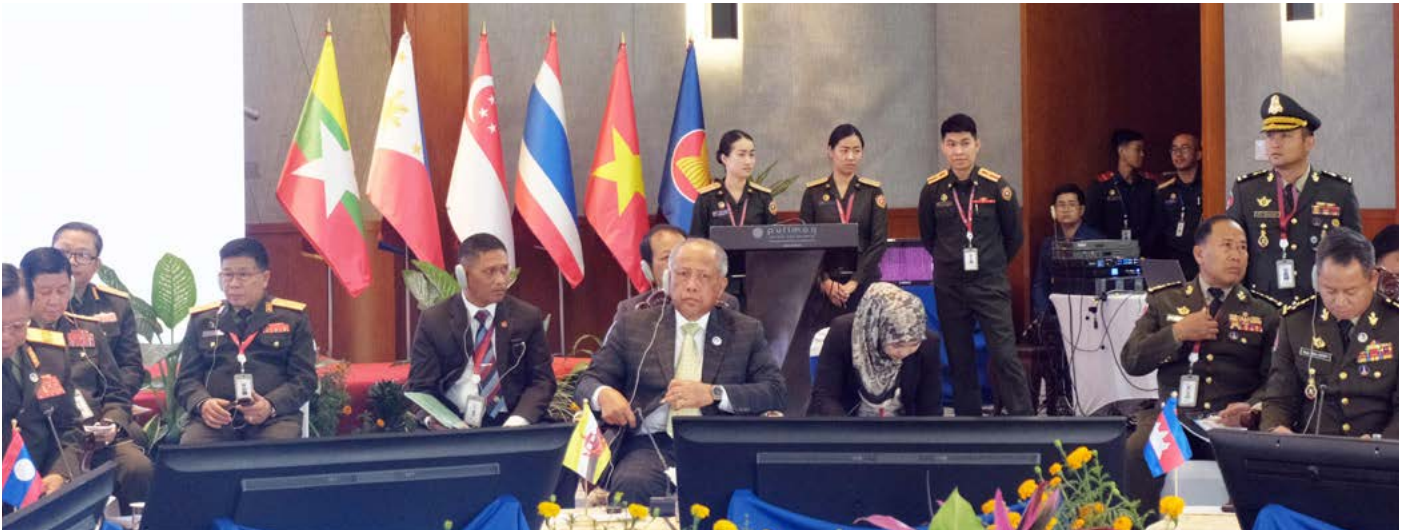
The retreat was chaired by His Excellency General Chanasamone Chanyalath, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence of Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) as the

Chair of ADMM for 2024.

Brunei Darussalam's delegation at the retreat was led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence.

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## Supporting regional defence dialogue and cooperation (continued)



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence at the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Retreat.

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The delegation comprised His Excellency Haji Roslan bin Haji Yacub, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Lao PDR; Brigadier General (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Alirupendi bin Haji Perudin, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence (MinDef) as the leader of Brunei's ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting; as well as officials from MinDef.

This year, the retreat focused on the theme 'ADMM's post-2025 Strategy in response to current and future security challenges, which includes ADMM-Plus membership expansion, impacts of major power rivalry and maintenance of ASEAN unity'.

At the retreat, Minister at PMO and Second Minister

of Defence emphasised the importance of ADMM and ADMM-Plus in supporting regional defence dialogue and cooperation, and expressed support for the development and enhanced engagement with ASEAN's External Partners.

The retreat also observed the adoption of the Joint Statement by the ASEAN Defence Ministers on ADMM's Accomplishments of the Implementation of the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025, which captures the progress and commitment towards implementing the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025.

Separate bilateral meetings also took place between Brunei and Lao PDR, as well as with the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

## Creating healthy food environments

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 21** – ASEAN Member States, including Brunei Darussalam, have developed 12 recommendations for regulating the marketing of food and non-alcoholic beverages to protect children and the future generation.

Following its approval, the country also took part in the virtual launching of the 'Minimum Standards and Guidelines on Actions to Protect Children from the Harmful Impact of Marketing Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages in the ASEAN Region' on March 18.

The event was held by the Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, the Kingdom of Thailand as the lead country of the project, co-lead by the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of Singapore, with support from the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund; the World Health Organization; and Alive & Thrive.

The launching saw the presentation of video messages expressing unified support from 10 ASEAN Ministers of Health – including Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health's video message during the launching of the 'Minimum Standards and Guidelines on Actions to Protect Children from the Harmful Impact of Marketing Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages in the ASEAN Region'

Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health of Brunei.

In his video message, the Minister of Health also supported efforts to create healthy food environments to ensure that children in ASEAN have healthier dietary choices.

Representing Brunei at the event were

Dr. Hajah Norol-Ehsan binti Haji Abdul Hamid, Senior Medical Officer at the Health Promotion Centre (HPC), Ministry of Health; Dr. Ernina Nisdzarinah binti Haji Abdul Rani, Acting Head of HPC; as well as Control Committee members of Code on Responsible Marketing of Foods and Beverages to Children in Brunei Darussalam.

## Launching of Peritoneal Dialysis Patient Data Monitoring System

**RIMBA, March 23** – The introduction of the Peritoneal Dialysis Patient Data Monitoring System will improve quality of health services for patients with kidney issues. This involves increase in the access to a balanced treatment and best medical practices, in accordance with this year's World Kidney Day theme, 'Kidney Health for All – Advancing Equitable Access to Care and Optimal Medication Practice'.

The system is hoped to allow health professionals to plan a more systematic treatment for every patient.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr.

Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health stated the matter during the Launching Ceremony for the Peritoneal Dialysis Patient Data Monitoring System in conjunction with World Kidney Day 2024. The event took place at the Rimba Dialysis Centre.

According to the Minister of Health, the advantage of the system is its ability to detect issues earlier and enable immediate action to reduce the need for hospital treatment. Real-time information allows health professionals to adjust dialysis machine settings without waiting for patients to be in the clinic during appointment. This not only improves the



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health at the Launching Ceremony for the Peritoneal Dialysis Patient Data Monitoring System in conjunction with World Kidney Day 2024.

efficiency and effectiveness of patient care, but also provides more individual care and it is responsive to the unique needs of each patient.

Following the launching, the Minister also witnessed a demonstration of the system's usage. The event proceeded with a visit to the residence of a dialysis patient under the Rimba Landless Indigenous Citizens Housing Scheme area, Gadong.

Also present were Haji Maswadi bin Haji Mohsin, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health (MoH); Dr. Ang Swee Hui, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Professional) at MoH; as well as heads of departments, officials and staff at MoH.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Launching Ceremony for the Peritoneal Dialysis Patient Data Monitoring System in conjunction with World Kidney Day 2024.

## 38 receive ASEAN-ERAT Induction Course certificates

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 5** – The 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) Induction Course commenced on February 26, and ended on March 5 with a Graduation Ceremony.

At the ceremony, 38 participants received certificates of participation, presented by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Home Affairs, held at the Officers' Mess Room, Fire and Rescue Multi-purpose Hall in Jalan Landasan Lama, Berakas.

The course is an annual project of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) in collaboration with ASEAN Member States as hosts.

The 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-ERAT Induction Course was hosted by Brunei Darussalam, through the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) as the Chairman of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management 2024.

The course included in-class training



Yang Berhormat Minister of Home Affairs presenting a certificate to one of the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team Induction Course's participant.

sessions; followed by a 52-hour long simulation exercise, which was held at the Fire and Rescue Multi-purpose Hall and the NDMC building in Jalan Lapangan Terbang Berakas to provide comprehensive disaster training.

The course was fully supported by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund, with the aim of recognising appointed and trained ASEAN citizens to be members

of the ASEAN-ERAT, which is a team that is ready to be deployed when needed to assist and support ASEAN Member States immediately after a disaster.

The facilitators include ASEAN partners, such as the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; Telecom Sans Frontieres; and

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## 38 receive ASEAN-ERAT Induction Course certificates (continued)

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MapACTION. The participants of the programme comprised representatives from ASEAN Member States, including the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

Present at the ceremony were the Permanent Secretary (Safety and Welfare) and Deputy Permanent Secretary (Safety and

Welfare) at the Ministry of Home Affairs; Executive Director of the AHA Centre; Director of NDMC; Acting Director of the Fire and Rescue Department; Acting Belait District Officer; Acting Director of the Community Development Department, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports; as well as members of the ASEAN-ERAT Advisory Group, ASEAN-ERAT Brunei, and the Disaster Preparedness Coordinator Brunei.

## MoD receives working visit from HURD

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 6** – A six-member delegation from the Guangxi Housing and Urban-Rural Development Department (HURD) of the Republic of China held a working visit to the Ministry of Development (MoD).

The delegation, led by Dr. Professor Yang Lufeng, Director General of Guangxi HURD paid a courtesy call to Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Muhammad Juanda bin Haji Abdul Rashid, Minister of Development.

Also present to welcome the delegation were Ir. Awang Haji Amer Hishamuddin bin Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Zakaria, Permanent Secretary (Infrastructure, Housing and Professional) at MoD; Sr. Dayang Hajah Norhayati binti Haji Mohd. Yaakub, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Construction Industry and Development) at MoD; and Haji Shaharuddin Khairul bin Haji Anuar, Acting Director General of the Public Works Department.

During the visit, the delegation attended a meeting led by Sr. Dayang Hajah Norhayati. A welcoming speech was also delivered by Ar. Dayang Hajah Haslinawati binti Haji Abdul Halim, Head of Authority for Building Control and Construction Industry (ABCI).



Yang Berhormat Minister of Development with the Director General of Guangxi Housing and Urban-Rural Development Department (HURD), Republic of China.

Among the purpose of the visit was to explore the areas facing global challenges, as well as to strengthen and encourage cooperation in high quality housing and construction through joint cooperation and understanding, as a continuation of the China-ASEAN Ministerial Roundtable on Construction meeting held from September 14 to 16, 2023 in Nanning, China.

The delegation also witnessed presentations titled 'Ministry of Development: Supporting Brunei Vision

2035 towards High Quality Living' by the Policy Coordination and Strategic Planning Division at MoD; 'Green initiatives through urban planning' by the Town and Country Planning Department; and 'Sustainability Initiatives' by ABCi.

In the afternoon, the delegation visited the Kampung Lugu housing site at Mukim Sengkurong, after a briefing on planning and development activities by Rosniza binti Dato Paduka Haji Hamdan, Acting Director of the Housing Development Department at MoD.



The delegation from Guangxi HURD during the visit to the Kampung Lugu housing site at Mukim Sengkurong.

## Mitigating, adapting to climate change

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 23 –**

This year's World Meteorological Day is celebrated with the theme, 'At the Frontline of Climate Action'. The theme emphasises the World Meteorological Organization members' crucial role in leading efforts to address climate change, by providing the tools and knowledge to support mitigation and adaptation measures for climate change.

Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications stated the matter in his message for World Meteorological Day 2024.

The Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications (MTIC), through the Brunei Darussalam Meteorological Department (BDMD), has been actively conducting climate science research for Brunei Darussalam.

The studies have shown that our country has experienced an increasing trend in air temperature at a rate of 0.23 degrees Celsius every 10 years, amounting to an average increase of about 1.15 degrees Celsius over the past 50 years. The research also indicates that the trend in rainfall amounts has increased at a rate of 110 millimetres every 10 years. The increasing trends demonstrate that our country is no exception to the effects of

climate change.

In this regard, to contribute to the provision of climate science information for our country, BDMD is a key member of the Adaptation and Resilience Working Group under the Brunei Climate Change Secretariat.

Expressing his support for BDMD's continuous efforts in addressing climate change, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications noted BDMD's long-range climate projections, spanning nearly a century based on international climate models, to support the efforts of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in planning and formulating policies, as well as managing the risks and opportunities arising from climate change.

Considering the effects of climate change that have altered both the global and local weather patterns, the Minister explained that weather observation and monitoring operations in our country are paramount, and the implementation of BDMD projects under the National Development Plan is aligned with MTIC's goal to ensure weather observation and monitoring to keep abreast with current technological advancements. This will enhance the accuracy of weather forecast, advisories and warnings for the well-being and safety of the people.



**Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications.**

The Minister added that to enhance the nation's capacity in dealing with extreme weather events caused by climate variability, seasonal rainfall outlooks for the next three to five months along with early climate advisories have been issued regularly through press releases and mass media channels, including social media.

## Enhancing cooperation, exchanging best practices



**Yang Berhormat Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports during the meeting with His Excellency Secretary-General at the National Museum of Oman.**

**MUSCAT, SULTANATE OF OMAN, March 2 –** Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Nazmi bin Haji Awang Mohamad, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports paid a working visit to the Sultanate of Oman from February 28 to 29.

The visit was made upon the invitation of His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham bin Tariq Al-Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth of Oman and to attend the 28<sup>th</sup> Muscat International Book Fair, which took place from February 21

to March 2.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports visited the booths set up by the agencies of Oman at the book fair and was briefed on the functions and roles of each agency: including the National Records and Archives Authority of Oman; the Children's Museum of Oman; the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism of Oman; the Social Protection Fund of Oman; and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning of Oman.

Throughout the working visit, the Minister was accompanied by His Excellency Saeed bin Sultan bin Yarub Al Busaidi, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth of Oman as a representative of His Highness Sayyid Theyazin, and exchanged views and experiences on the issues of the ministries of both countries. Both parties also discussed opportunities to enhance bilateral relations.

The Minister also had a meeting and

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## Enhancing cooperation, exchanging best practices

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discussion with His Excellency Jamal Al-Moosawi, Secretary-General at the National Museum of Oman, where they both agreed to enhance cooperation for exhibitions in 2024, alongside the suggestion to exchange best practices of the museums in both countries. This was followed by a tour of the museum.

The Minister additionally met with Bruneian citizens serving at the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam in Oman, as well as those working and studying in Oman.

Joining the working visit were Her Excellency Noralizan binti Abdul Momin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Oman; Hajah Nor Ashikin binti Haji Johari, Permanent Secretary (Community) at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS); as well as senior officials at MCYS.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports with His Excellency Secretary-General in a group photo at the 28<sup>th</sup> Muscat International Book Fair.

## Significance of arts, culture in ASEAN development



Yang Berhormat Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports at the 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Socio-Cultural Council Meeting in Luang Prabang, Lao People's Democratic Republic.

**LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, March 25** – Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Nazmi bin Haji Awang Mohamad, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports attended the 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council Meeting in Luang Prabang, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) from March 23 to 24.

The meeting themed 'Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience' was chaired by Her Excellency Suanesavanh Vignaket, Minister of Information, Culture, and Tourism of Lao PDR as the Chair of ASCC 2024.

Also present were the ASCC Ministers or representatives, Secretary-General of

ASEAN and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste as an observer.

The meeting was preceded by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ad-Hoc Working Group to Develop ASCC Post-2025 Strategic Plan Meeting and the 36<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Committee Meeting for the ASCC from March 21 to 23.

During the meeting, ASCC Ministers exchanged views on the strategic directions of the ASCC Pillar, particularly on the development of the ASCC Post-2025 Strategic Plan.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports highlighted the significance of culture and the arts in harnessing the potential of culture in the development of ASEAN by empowering community-driven cultural enterprises. This would further unlock innovation and creativity for the benefit of ASEAN.

The Minister also attended the ASCC Council's Interface with the Ministers of ASCC Sectoral Bodies for the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 of Lao PDR.

## MOJC strengthens ties with Federal Court of Malaysia

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 9** – The Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam and the Federal Court of Malaysia signed a Memorandum of Judicial Cooperation (MOJC) to strengthen communication, collaboration and cooperation on issues relating to dispute avoidance and resolution.

The MOJC was signed by Yang Amat Arif Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong Wan Oon, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

of Brunei; and Yang Amat Arif Tun Tengku Maimun binti Tuan Mat, Chief Justice of Malaysia on behalf of the Federal Court of Malaysia.

Also present at the ceremony were Yang Arif Hayatul Akmal binti Abdul Aziz, Judge of the Kuala Lumpur High Court; Zamri

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bin Bakar, Chief Registrar of the Federal Court of Malaysia; and Nur Ezira Mahadi, Deputy High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam.

Prior to the signing, Yang Amat Arif Chief Justice of Malaysia held a Bilateral Meeting with Yang Amat Arif Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Brunei, where both parties discussed court administration, judicial education and training, as well as developments on technological use and voice to text transcription in court proceedings.

The MOJC will strengthen ties between the judiciaries of both countries, as well as establish a working group to develop a plan of action to chart future



The Memorandum of Judicial Cooperation signed by Yang Amat Arif Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam; and Yang Amat Arif Chief Justice of Malaysia on behalf of the Federal Court of Malaysia.

judicial cooperation. This is the fourth memorandum signed between the Supreme Court of Brunei and other jurisdictions.



A group photo session at the ceremony.

## UBD BRC celebrates 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary

**RIMBA, March 5** – In a speech delivered by Hajah Tutiati binti Haji Abdul Wahab, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) as personal representative of Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism during the Universiti Brunei Darussalam Botanical Research Centre's (UBD BRC) 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism highlighted UBD BRC's contribution towards biodiversity preservation and the economy through tourism industry development. The Minister also encouraged partnerships with local tour agencies in diversifying tourism packages.

The ceremony took place at the Senate Room of the Chancellor Hall, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). Earlier, the event saw a welcoming speech by Dr. Hussein bin Haji Taha, Director of the Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research, UBD, who explained that UBD BRC is home to over 500 plant species and has continued to play a key role in UBD's biodiversity research thrust – resulting in publications on Brunei's flora and projects with top research and academic institutions.

The event included the launching of the 'Walking through the UBD Botanical Research Centre' book, posters on medicinal plants at UBD BRC, a video presentation and a new website for the UBD BRC.



The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism at the Universiti Brunei Darussalam Botanical Research Centre's 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Also launched was the UBD BRC Audio Guided Tour application, developed in collaboration with Dynamik Technologies Sdn. Bhd. with the support of MPRT. The winners of the UBD BRC photo challenge additionally exhibited their winning photos.

Dr. Hazri bin Haji Kifle, Vice Chancellor of UBD was also present at the event.

## Conference highlights digital innovation in defence



The Acting Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces presenting certificates and mementos to a recipient at the closing ceremony.

**TANAH JAMBU, March 4** – The Defence Academy Royal Brunei Armed Forces (DA RBAF) and the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom (UK) hosted the Closing Ceremony for the 2<sup>nd</sup> South East Asia Conference of Commandants at the DA RBAF Auditorium.

Present as the Guest of Honour was Brigadier General (U) Dato Seri Pahlawan Mohammad Sharif bin Dato Paduka Haji Ibrahim, Acting Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), who delivered a closing remark highlighting the influence of digital innovation on defence and military affairs, in line with the conference's theme: 'Professional Military Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century'.

The ceremony proceeded with the

presentation of certificates and mementos to the participating heads of defence universities and military academies. The event concluded with a video presentation and a photo session.

The two-day conference was co-chaired by Colonel Pengiran Sharifuddin bin Pengiran Haji Yusof, Commandant of DA RBAF; and Major General Andrew Roe, Commandant of the Defence Academy of UK.

Heads of defence universities and military academies, as well as representatives from Australia, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist

Republic of Viet Nam participated in the conference.

The conference was held to discuss and exchange views on contemporary military education and to strengthen efforts through mutual collaboration. It also promoted continued dialogue to enhance intellectual interoperability in professional military education, while fostering professional development and networking.

In addition to presentations by the delegations, the conference also saw presentations by guest speakers: namely 'Digitalisation' by Mike Wadley, Head J7, under Research and Education, Defence Academy of UK; 'Talent Management' by Dr. Mahani binti Haji Hamdan, Director of Institute of Policy Studies at Universiti Brunei Darussalam; and 'Critical challenge: Developing Curriculum' by Assistant Professor Michael Hatherell, Deputy Principal and Head of Teaching and Learning at the Australian War College.

On March 2, a welcoming reception was hosted by the Commandant of DA RBAF at The Rizqun International Hotel, Gadong, marking the first occasion of the conference.

Meanwhile, the opening ceremony took place on March 3 at the DA RBAF Auditorium, which saw the presence of the Commander of the Royal Brunei Land Force as the Guest of Honour.

## Forum supports women involvement in disaster management

**TUNGKU LINK, March 4** – In conjunction with International Women's Day 2024, the High Commission of Canada in Brunei Darussalam, with the support the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) and Brunei CAE Multi-Purpose Training Centre (MPTC), held a forum on the role of women in managing disasters at Brunei CAE MPTC.

Present as the Guest of Honour was Nor Hamidah binti Haji Hamidon, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Safety and Welfare) at the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The forum featured four expert panellists in natural disaster response in the country and the ASEAN region: including Dr. Maria Carinnes Alejandria, Lecturer from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD); Colonel (Rtd) Muhd. Harrih Rashidi bin Haji Muhd. Jamin, Director of NDMC; Adelina Kamal, former Executive Director of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance; and Runjini Raman, Senior Officer in Gender and



Deputy Permanent Secretary (Safety and Welfare) at the Ministry of Home Affairs at the forum.

Inclusion at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescents' Societies.

Meanwhile, Dr. Shariza Wahyuna binti Haji Shahrin from UBD moderated the forum. The forum also saw a speech by Her Excellency Ambra Dickie, High

Commissioner of Canada.

Seventy members of diplomatic corps, agencies involved in natural disasters management, as well as students attended the forum, which was held in hybrid format.

## Harvesting ceremony takes place in Temburong



His Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam in a group photo.

**TEMBURONG, March 16** – In continuation of a paddy planting ceremony held on December 14, 2023, the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) through the Agriculture and Agrifood Department held a Harvesting Ceremony of Rice Varietal Trials in Non-Irrigated Areas at the Lekiu Agricultural Development Area.

The paddy planting involved a study using three rice varieties: AWD101, AWD102 and AWD 103.

Present as the Guest of Honour was His Excellency Xiao Jianguo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam. Also in attendance were Hajah Tutiaty binti Haji Abdul Wahab, Permanent Secretary at MPRT; the Deputy Permanent Secretary at MPRT; Acting Director of the Agriculture and Agrifood Department, as well as senior officials from the department.

The event commenced with a briefing by Siti Hamizah binti Haji Zinal Abadin, Eco-agriculturist from the Agriculture and Agrifood Department. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of

the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam then joined a harvesting session.

The research is a collaboration between Brunei and China to develop the nation's paddy industry – with focus on obtaining a variety of high-quality paddy seedlings from China to study their suitability in the country, and bringing in experts to help implement and strengthen the rice breeding and paddy

industry programmes in the country.

Currently, research is actively carried out in both irrigated and non-irrigated sites. The Agriculture and Agrifood Department is teaming up with the Hunan Hybrid Rice Research Centre in China for the study, which normally takes three years before moving on to the next stage.



His Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam joining the harvesting session.

## SPK crowned Most Improved Pension Fund

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 2** – The Employees Trust Fund (TAP) announced that the National Retirement Scheme (SPK) has been honoured with the 2024 Best of the Best ASEAN Awards for Most Improved Pension Fund, organised by Asia Asset Management.

The Most Improved Pension Fund category celebrates retirement funds in the ASEAN region that have sustainably implemented

new schemes and benefits for their members; to meet long-term needs and prioritise the members' welfare.

One of SPK's significant improvements is a holistic approach through the use of a hybrid retirement plan, which not only ensures better monthly retirement income for members and can reach up to the rest of their lives, but also allows withdrawals from Member Account savings for important needs.

## Brunei continues to attract cruise ships



The Oceania Insignia docking at the Muara Port Terminal.

**MUARA, March 14** – The Oceania Insignia became the fourth cruise ship to dock at the Muara Port Terminal this year, with the last being the Crystal Symphony on March 10.

The cruise ship arrived in the country from Surabaya, the Republic of Indonesia, carrying 601 passengers and 400 crew members.

The Oceania Insignia last visited the previous year, and is the fourth international cruise ship to visit the Sultanate this year,

with the last being the Crystal Symphony on March 10.

The tourists then had the opportunity to embark on tour packages to explore the country's famous landmarks, including the Royal Regalia Museum; Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah; Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque; Istana Nurul Iman; and Kampong Ayer.

During their brief stay, the tourists also had the chance to purchase a wide range of traditional Bruneian souvenirs.

## 24 students pursue study at LPUVT

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 5** – Twenty-four students from Politeknik Brunei (PB) have started their educational journey to Lanzhou Petrochemical University of Vocational Technology (LPUVT) in the Republic of China, as part of the university's collaborative programme with Hengyi Industries Sdn. Bhd.

The programme provides students with an opportunity to acquire practical skills and knowledge for a career in the petrochemical industry.

The students have completed two years of study at PB within the three-year programme, and will be undergoing one semester at LPUVT. They will conclude their final semester with Hengyi



A group photo session with the students, who will be furthering their studies at Lanzhou Petrochemical University of Vocational Technology in the Republic of China.

Industries at Pulau Muara Besar, where they will receive industrial-based learning.

The programme also provides the students

with Conditional Offers of Employment. Upon completion of their studies, they will be offered the opportunity to work full-time at Hengyi Industries.