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President of the Republic of the Philippines in the country

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 28 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, received in audience His Excellency Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., President of the Republic of Philippines and spouse, First Lady Louise Araneta-Marcos and delegation.

Prior to this, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), as personal representative of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman arrived at Istana Edinburgh to welcome the President of the Republic of Philippines and the First Lady, and later proceeded together with His Excellency and the First Lady to Istana Nurul Iman.

Continue on page 4



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam with His Excellency R. Marcos Jr., President of the Republic of Philippines and spouse, First Lady Louise Araneta-Marcos, during the State Welcoming Ceremony.

State Visit to Timor-Leste

DILI, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE, May 20 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam arrived at Presidente Nicolau Lobato International Airport for a State Visit and was greeted by His Excellency Dr. José Ramos-Horta, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste; His Excellency Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste; His Excellency Francisco Kalbuadi Lay, Vice Prime Minister and Minister Coordinator for Economic Affairs and Minister of Tourism and Environment as Minister-in-Attendance; His Excellency Mariano Sabino, Vice Prime Minister and Minister Coordinator for Rural Development and Community Housing; His Excellency Dr. Bendito dos Santos Freitas, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; and His Excellency Abel Guterres, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to Brunei Darussalam.

Continue on page 9



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency President of Republic of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste on board a special vehicle on the way to the State Welcoming Ceremony.

Contents



3. His Majesty receives audiences



9. Yang di-Pertuan Agong in Brunei Darussalam



15. Strengthen public health facilities



18. Borneo Ladies Golf Challenge Trophy Tournament



20. Ensure positive impact to community



22. Museums Collection Management Programme



8. His Majesty receives intending hajj pilgrims



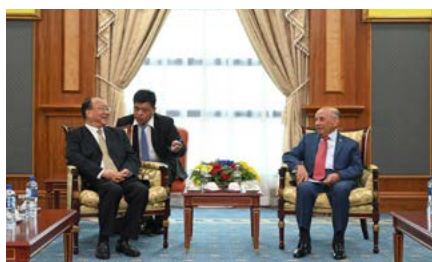
13. Al-Quran, source of blessings and strength



17. Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony



19. Brunei International Wushu Championship



21. LegCo Speaker receives courtesy calls



23. MoU on Air Traffic Rights



MAY 2024 - VOLUME 39 ISSUE 5

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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:



His Excellency Dato' Raja Reza bin Raja Zaib Shah, outgoing High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam on May 11.



His Excellency Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary on May 16.

HRH the Crown Prince receives audience

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received in audience His Excellency Dato' Raja Reza bin Raja Zaib Shah, outgoing High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam at Qashr Al-Meezaan on May 14.



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 Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation on the occasion of his re-appointment as the President of Russia on May 9.
- His Excellency Lawrence Wong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore on the occasion of his appointment as the fourth Prime Minister of Singapore on May 15.
- His Excellency Dr. Jose Ramos-Horta, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, as well as the government and people of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste on the occasion of the anniversary of the Restoration of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste's Independence on May 20.

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 has consented to send a message of condolences to His Eminence Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei, Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Mokhbet, the Interim President of Iran; as well as the government and people of Iran following the passing of His Excellency Dr. Seyyed Emrahim Raisi, President of Iran and His Excellency Dr. Hossei Amir-Abdollahian, Minister of Foreign Affairs as well as their delegation in the recent tragic helicopter crash on May 21.

President of the Republic of Philippines in the country (continued)

From front page

On the grounds of Istana Nurul Iman, His Majesty and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri welcomed the arrival of the President and the First Lady, and then received the Salute of Honour on the Special Dais, accompanied with the national anthems of both countries and a 21-gun salute. The two leaders then inspected the Guard of Honour mounted by members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

The State Welcoming Ceremony continued with the President and the First Lady being introduced to members of the royal family; Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran-Pengiran Cheteria; Special Advisor to His Majesty; Cabinet Ministers; members of the Privy Council; Deputy Ministers; the Commissioner of the Royal Brunei Police Force; Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces; Foreign Envoys in Brunei Darussalam; members of the Legislative Council; and Permanent Secretaries from the PMO and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam welcoming His Excellency President of the Republic of Philippines and spouse.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency President of Philippines inspecting the Guard of Honour mounted by the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

Their Majesties were then introduced to members of the delegation from the Republic of Philippines.

Following the State Welcoming Ceremony, Their Majesties proceeded together with the President and the First Lady to Cheradi Laila Kenchana for an Audience Ceremony.

Present at the Audience Ceremony were members of the royal family, as well as the delegation of the Republic of Philippines.

Shortly after, His Majesty and the President proceeded to Baitul Mesyuarah for a Bilateral Meeting, in which His Majesty in a *titah* (royal speech) welcomed the President and stated that this State Visit reflects the long-standing friendship between the two countries. In ensuring lasting peace and stability in Mindanao, His Majesty reaffirmed Brunei's continued support to the Philippines' Government through the Independent Decommissioning Body (IDB) with Norway and Türkiye.

Continue on page 5



Firing of 21 cannon shots during the Salute of Honour.



Students waving flags to greet the arrival of both leaders.

From page 4

During the Bilateral Meeting, His Majesty and the president discussed the close and excellent cooperation in trade, defence, education, health and people-to-people exchanges. Among others, His Majesty also welcomed the partnership between Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC) and Far Eastern University in establishing the JPMC College of Health Sciences in Brunei Darussalam in 2022, and appreciated the contributions of Filipino nationals across various sectors in Brunei's socio-economic development.

Furthermore, both leaders were pleased with the signing of several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) during this State Visit, including in the fields of maritime, tourism and agriculture, which will foster deeper cooperation and understanding between both countries.



The State Welcoming Ceremony taking place (above and below)



In addition, both leaders exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest including the importance of upholding international law, developments in Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Palestine-Israel, and the South China Sea.

Touching on ASEAN, His Majesty highlighted the importance of ensuring the relevance of ASEAN Centrality in maintaining sustainable peace and security in the region. In this regard, the Philippines' leadership in coordinating the ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations for the past three years is greatly appreciated. Finally, His Majesty expressed appreciation on the recent signing of the Establishment Agreement for the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change by the Philippines and looked forward to its ratification and entry into force.

The President in his opening remarks expressed gratitude for the affinity between the two nations.

Following the Bilateral Meeting, His Majesty and the President witnessed the signing ceremony of three MoUs and an Exchange of one Document between the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Republic of Philippines.

The MoU on Maritime Cooperation, was signed by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd. Yusof, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Honourable Enrique A. Manalo, Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs.

The MoU on the Recognition of the Certificates Issued Under the Provisions of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 as Amended was signed by Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications and the Honourable Jaime J. Bautista, Secretary, Department of Transportation.

The MoU on Tourism Cooperation was signed by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metusin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, and the Honourable Maria Esperanza Christina Frasco, Secretary, Department of Tourism.

Both leaders also witnessed the exchange of the Letter of Intent to Pursue Further Agricultural Cooperation between Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, and the Honourable Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., Secretary, Department of Agriculture.

Also present to witness the Signing Ceremonies and Exchange of Document was His Royal Highness the Crown Prince.

In the meantime, the First Lady made a visit to the Brunei Arts and Handicraft Training Centre.

Continue on page 6



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency President of the Republic of Philippines during the meeting.

From page 5

The visit was joined by Dayangku Azlina binti Pengiran Haji Aji, Acting Director of the Brunei Arts and Handicraft Training Centre.

During the visit, the delegation viewed Bruneian handicraft products and how to make them such as *songket* and *sinjang* cloth weaving, carvings and *tasbih* as well as batik making, which was the main attraction and interest among the delegation.

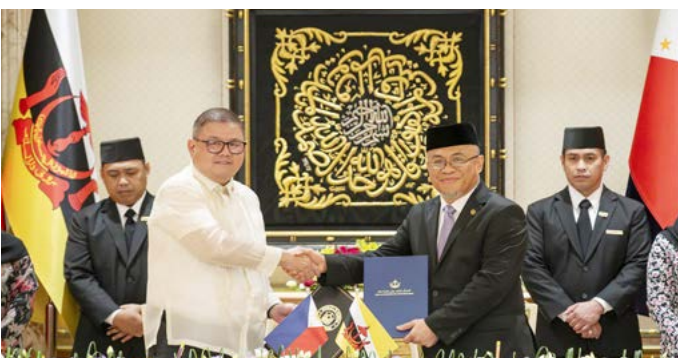


Continue on page 7

The Bilateral meeting held at Cheradi Laila Kenchana (above and below).



The signing of Memoranda of Understanding (above, right, and below).



First Lady Louise Araneta-Marcos, spouse of the President of the Republic of the Philippines during the visit to the Brunei Arts and Handicraft Training Centre (above).



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency President of the Republic of Philippines during the Signing Ceremony of three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs).



His Majesty and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam; His Excellency President of the Republic of Philippines and spouse, during the State Banquet (above and below).

From page 6

In the evening, their Majesties hosted a State Banquet at Istana Nurul Iman in honour of the President and spouse, as well as delegations who are in the country.

Present at the State Banquet were members of the royal family.

His Majesty then delivered a *titah*. His Majesty in the *titah* said that Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of the Philippines have forged strong cooperation on sub-regional initiatives, particularly BIMP-EAGA, establishing fruitful partnerships in energy, agriculture, fisheries, and environmental issues.

This was followed by a speech from the President who highlighted the importance of this State Visit as this year is also 40 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The President and delegation are in the country for a two-day State Visit on May 28-29.



His Majesty delivering a *titah* (royal speech) (above); and His Majesty with His Excellency President of the Republic of Philippines giving a speech during the State Banquet (below).



The State Banquet taking place (above); and Yang Berhormat State Mufti reciting the *doa selamat* (left).

His Majesty receives intending hajj pilgrims

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 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 received in audience this year's Brunei Darussalam intending hajj pilgrims.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Royal Highness Prince Haji

Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

This year, 1,033 Brunei Darussalam's intending pilgrims comprising 493 males and 540 females including administrative; medical team; and officers from hajj services operators.

Prior to the audience ceremony, the pilgrims performed the Zohor Prayer and continued with the luncheon.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving in audience intending Hajj pilgrims. Also in attendance was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) (above and below).



Brunei Darussalam's intending hajj pilgrims performing Zohor Prayer.



Among Brunei Darussalam's intending hajj pilgrims this year.



The intending pilgrims receiving gifts from His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; a bag containing white *ihram* clothes for male and *telekung* (prayer veils) for women.



Yang di-Pertuan Agong in Brunei Darussalam

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 16 – Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia arrived in Brunei Darussalam yesterday and was welcomed by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at His Majesty the Sultan's Flight Hanger.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also hosted a dinner yesterday evening at Istana Darul Hana. Also in attendance, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia during the recitation of *doa selamat* by the State Mufti.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam welcomes the arrival of Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia.



Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia attending a dinner hosted by His Majesty at Istana Darul Hana. Also attending the dinner is His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

His Majesty then bade farewell to His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia at The Empire Brunei. Before departing to His Majesty the Sultan's Flight Hanger at Rimba,

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

State Visit to Timor-Leste (continued)

From front page

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam began the State Visit with the State Welcoming Ceremony, where His Majesty along with the President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste proceeded to the Special Dais to receive the Salute of Honour accompanied by the national anthems of both countries, and a 21-gun salute. Shortly after, His Majesty boarded a special vehicle, accompanied by the President, to inspect the Guard of Honour mounted by members of the Defence Force of Timor-Leste and Timor-Leste National Police.

His Majesty then attended the Flag-Raising Ceremony with the President, which began with the raising of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste's national flag, followed with a minute of silence in honour of fallen heroes who had fought for the independence of the country.

Continue on page 10



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 inspects the Guard of Honour mounted by members of the Defence Force of Timor-Leste and Timor-Leste National Police.

From page 9

This was followed with the Grand Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste Medal Award Ceremony.

The President conferred the Grand Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste to His Majesty, in recognition of His Majesty's contributions and dedications. The medal is the highest honour awarded by Timor-Leste, exclusively bestowed to Heads of States, to recognise significant contributions to national peace and stability including, among others, exceptional military service, acts of heroism and cultural merit.

His Majesty in a *titah* (royal speech) expressed gratitude for the conferment of the Grand Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste. His Majesty stated that it is an immense honour to receive this prestigious accolade, and looks forward to further enhancing and fortifying the warm bilateral relations across all levels in the years ahead.



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 conferment of the Grand Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste.

Following the Medal Award Ceremony, His Majesty attended a Tête-à-tête Meeting with the President, in which both leaders discussed on bilateral matters of mutual importance to Brunei Darussalam and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, as well as exchange views on regional and international matters.

His Majesty later attended a Bilateral Meeting with the President, in which His Majesty in a *titah* emphasised that Brunei and Timor-Leste continue to cooperate closely in education and people-to-people exchanges.

During the State Visit of the President to Brunei, both sides have also agreed, among other things, to further strengthen cooperation in education, labour, and health, which is essential for the two countries' continued development, peace and security.

As oil-producing countries, Brunei and Timor-Leste remain vulnerable to global uncertainties and major power competition. In this regard, His Majesty highlighted the need for both countries to continue working together to safeguard common interests and therefore welcomes Timor-Leste's interest in strengthening energy cooperation to build its national capacities.

His Majesty also expressed satisfaction with the two countries' joint commitment to enhancing people-to-people exchanges, especially through the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Employment/Recruitment of Timor-Leste Workers to Brunei Darussalam that was signed during the State Visit of the President to Brunei and the Visa Waiver Arrangement signed during this visit. This will pave the way for solid and enduring cooperation between the two countries for years to come.

Continue on page 11



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the Bilateral Meeting with His Excellency the President of Timor-Leste (above and below).



From page 10

On regional issues, His Majesty reiterated that Brunei has always welcomed Timor-Leste into the ASEAN family and noted the positive developments towards its full membership. To this end, Brunei Darussalam looks forward to continue working closely with Timor-Leste in implementing the Roadmap for Timor-Leste's Membership in ASEAN and its Annexes, including the ASEAN Junior Fellowship Programme.

On the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Brunei will also continue to support ASEAN's efforts to find lasting solutions based on the Five-Point Consensus, which is Myanmar-led and Myanmar-owned.

Meanwhile on developments in the South China Sea, His Majesty stated that the South China Sea must remain peaceful, particularly as a third of global maritime trade passes through these waterways. Brunei is engaging closely with other ASEAN Member States and China to ensure peace and stability in the region. His Majesty in ending the *titah* also stated that fundamentally, all parties must abide by international law, especially the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), as the overarching international agreement that governs the world's oceans and seas.

Following the meeting, His Majesty attended a State Luncheon hosted by the President, in which His Majesty delivered a *titah* expressing pleasure to be in Timor-Leste, particularly in joining the President and the people of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to celebrate the 22nd Anniversary of Timor-Leste's Independence Restoration Day.

His Majesty expressed his honour upon the conferment of the 'Grand Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste',

His Majesty also expressed Brunei's commitment to further develop the enduring relations and highlighted that Brunei values the friendship with Timor-Leste and looks forward to working together to protect and safeguard both countries' common interests.



His Majesty delivering a *titah* (royal speech) during the State Luncheon hosted by His Excellency President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

His Majesty then proceeded to the Government Palace for a Bilateral Meeting with the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

During the meeting, His Majesty in a *titah* shared that the Prime Minister is an old friend of Brunei, having worked together on several occasions in his previous capacities in government. His Majesty also expressed happiness to have welcomed the Prime Minister on his first visit to Brunei in 2000 as the President of the National Council of Timorese Resistance.

Over the years, cooperation between Brunei and Timor-Leste has progressed, thus His Majesty looks forward to strengthening the goodwill and friendship between the two countries and people. Furthermore, both countries have enjoyed warm and friendly cooperation since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2002.

His Majesty added that both countries have worked closely in education and people-to-people exchanges over the past two decades, and in 2023, both sides further enhanced education cooperation through the Brunei Government Scholarships for two Timor-Leste students to pursue their studies in Brunei. His Majesty further added that a private sector from Brunei will sponsor two Timorese citizens to come to Brunei.

On energy, His Majesty welcomed Timor-Leste's interest in developing these ties and noted that TIMOR GAP, a state-owned oil and gas company, had productive discussions during their visit to Brunei early this year.

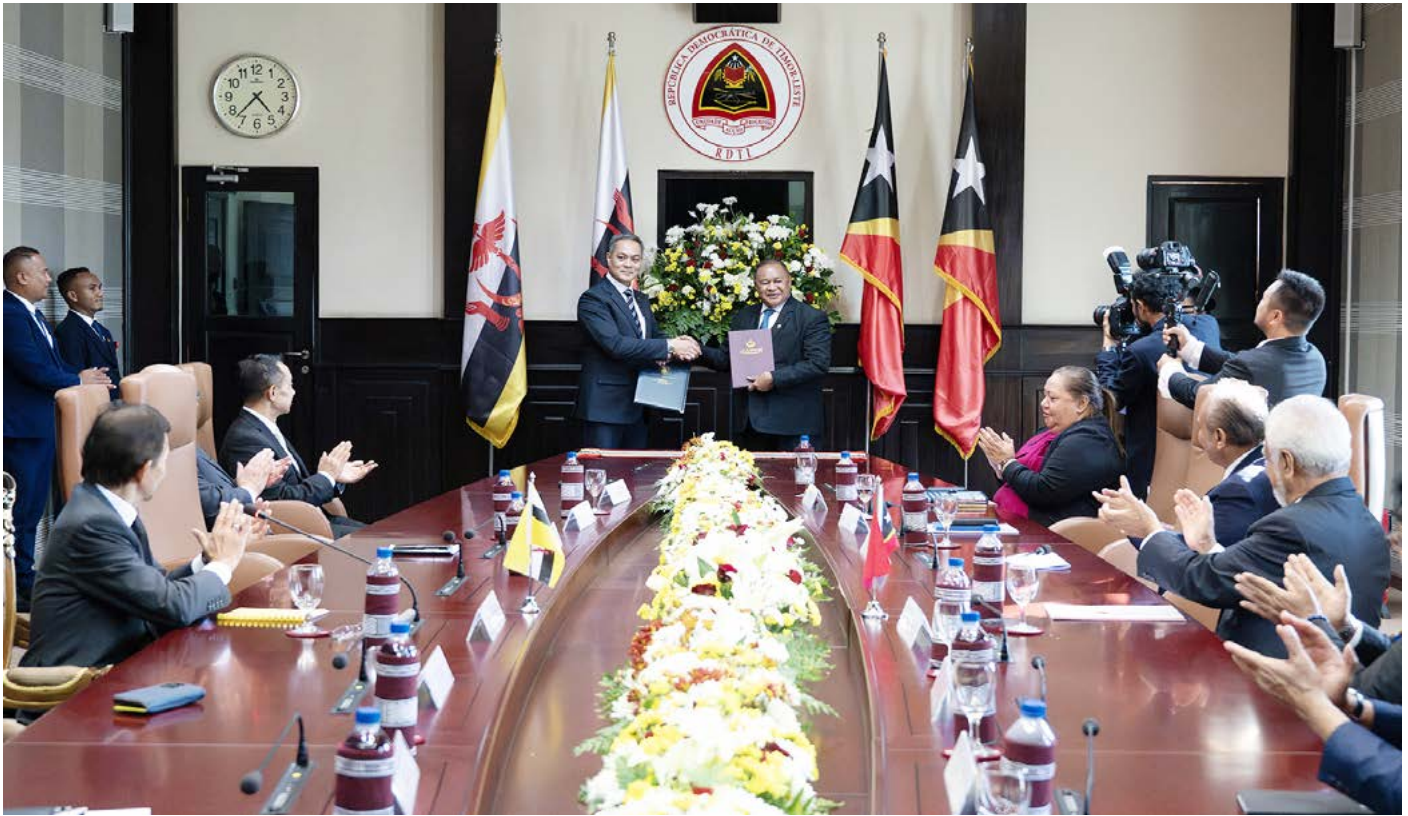
In addition, the mutual commitment from both sides under the MoU on the Employment/Recruitment of Timor-Leste Workers to Brunei Darussalam will open new opportunities for Timorese and in this regard, His Majesty looks forward to welcoming Timorese to Brunei. His Majesty also expressed happiness with the mutual commitment to the Visa Waiver Arrangement during this visit, which will make it easier for officials to travel and strengthen cooperation between both countries.

Brunei also values Timor-Leste's continued support for Palestine in all relevant UN Resolutions, including the recent UN membership vote. However, Brunei remains concerned with the Occupying Power's military operation in Rafah, including seizing control of the Rafah border crossing. Thus, His Majesty urged all parties to cease all forms of violence and to exercise utmost restraint immediately, and called on the international community to work together to achieve a permanent ceasefire and urgent, unhindered entry of humanitarian aid.



His Majesty during the Bilateral Meeting with His Excellency Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

Continue on page 12



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam along with His Excellency Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste witnessing the Exchange of the Agreement on Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic and Official or Service Passports.

From page 11

In this regard, His Majesty reaffirmed Brunei's full support for the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and the two-state solution, towards an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, based on pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as the capital.

Both leaders had fruitful exchanges on bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of mutual concern. The leaders also, among others, agreed to explore cooperation in the areas of higher education and science, health, petroleum and mineral resources as well as economics and investment.

Shortly after, His Majesty along with the Prime Minister witnessed the Exchange of the Agreement on Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic and Official or Service Passports between the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

Signing on behalf of the Government of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Home Affairs, while the Government of Republic of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste is represented by His Excellency Dr. Bendito dos Santos Freitas, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

Following the events of the State Visit, His Majesty left the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

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

Present at Presidente Nicolau Lobato International Airport to bid farewell to His Majesty were His Excellency Dr. José Ramos-Horta, President of the Democratic Republic of

Timor-Leste; His Excellency Francisco Kalbuadi Lay, Vice Prime Minister and Minister Coordinator for Economic Affairs and Minister of Tourism and Environment as Minister-in-Attendance; His Excellency Mariano Sabino, Vice Prime Minister and Minister Coordinator for Rural Development and Community Housing; His Excellency Dr. Bendito dos Santos Freitas, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; and His Excellency Abel Guterres, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Democratic Republic of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to Brunei Darussalam.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam departing the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

Al-Quran, source of blessings and strength



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 Final of the National Level Musabaqah Al-Quran Reading for Adults.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam upon arrival at the Final of the National Level Musabaqah Al-Quran Reading for Adults.

BERAKAS, May 23 – Al-Quran is a source of enlightenment and guidance in worldly affairs, and in the hereafter, and is never wrong in giving guidance, as it is *Kalamullah*.

Hence, it is fortunate for people who are committed to the Al-Quran to develop oneself and their nation with Al-Quran, meaning all plans and developmental works are guided by Al-Quran.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered a *titah* (royal speech) during the Final of the National Level Musabaqah Al-Quran Reading for Adults for 1445 Hijrah.

"Without a doubt, the Al-Quran is a source of blessings and strength that is incomparable to others. As such, Brunei Darussalam should not distance itself from Al-Quran. Even in education, the Al-Quran has been categorised as a core subject.

"Let us embrace the teachings of Al-Quran by reading it



consistently and to practise its guiding principle for the people and nation to gain blessings, peace and security," said His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.



His Majesty presenting trophies to the champion *qari* and champion *qariah*.



Yang Berhormat State Mufti reciting the *doa selamat*.

Attending alongside His Majesty were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

His Majesty also delivered prizes and souvenirs to the winners at the event, with Awang Haji Mohammad bin Ali and Dayangku Fauziah Nadhirah binti Pengiran Haji Jofri crowned as the champion *qari* and *qariah* of the competition.

Continue on page 14



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office delivering a *sabda* (royal speech).



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik at the event. (above and below).

From page 13

Each of the first-place winners were awarded with \$7,000 cash prize along with a challenge trophy; an accompanying trophy; a certificate of participation; an *Umrah* Package worth \$4,200 from Belurih Travel Sdn. Bhd.; a \$3,000 Tekad Haji Account from Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei (TAIB) and its subsidiary companies; and a piece of Brunei woven cloth sponsored by Syarikat Little Ummi.

Meanwhile, the runner-up *qari* and *qariah*, Pengiran Muhd. Amirul Aiman bin Pengiran Haji Marjuki and Dayangku Siti Ummy Syazana binti Pengiran Haji Marjuki, each received \$5,000 cash prize along with an accompanying trophy; a certificate of participation; a \$2,000 Tekad Haji Account from Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei (TAIB) and its subsidiary companies; and *Umrah* Air Ticket sponsored by At-Taqlwa Travel and Tours.

Awangku Adi Nazri bin Pengiran Haji Jofri and Dayang Najla Sabreena binti Haji Abd. Rajid, who came in third, each received \$3,000 cash prize along with an accompanying trophy; a certificate of participation; a holiday package to Istanbul worth \$2,500; and a \$1,000 Tekad Haji Account from Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei (TAIB) and its subsidiary companies.

Gracing the Opening Ceremony of the Final of the National Level Musabaqah Al-Qur'an Reading for Adults for 1445 Hijrah which was held May 21 was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office. Also in attendance was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince emphasised in his *sabda* (royal speech) that happiness and interest in the ongoing efforts by various stakeholders to enhance and strengthen religious education, aiming to shape students with noble character. Educational programmes, including scholarly studies that uphold



The invited *qari* from the Republic of Indonesia reciting the holy verses of the Al-Quran.

the sanctity of Al-Quran, have yielded positive results, especially in fostering love for the Al-Quran within Muslims, from primary education to higher education institutions. Such opportunities continue to be expanded to every level of society, including efforts to integrate them into the national education system. His Royal Highness also stressed that the continuity and success of these efforts are vital to make the teachings of Islam and the Al-Quran the foundation of family unity, societal harmony and national peace, based on the Malay Islamic Monarchy philosophy.



The Opening Ceremony of the Final of the National Musabaqah Al-Quran Reading for Adults 1445 Hijrah at the International Convention Centre (ICC).

Strengthen public health facilities



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

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 25 – 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 unscheduled visit to Ministry of Health (MoH) at Commonwealth Drive.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in a *titah* (royal speech), it is the Monarch's aspiration to continue the free provision of medical and healthcare services to the people despite the challenging economic situation but the preservation of life according to the principles of Maqasid Syariah will remain a priority.

His Majesty then said that MoH, with the help of other ministries and government agencies, proved capable of tackling COVID-19, thus the nation was less impacted by the pandemic.

"However," His Majesty added, "the healthcare system still needs improvement and upgrades. The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has allocated a huge budget to upgrade and maintain hospitals, health centres and health clinics, and to obtain new medical equipment in place of the old ones."

"In an effort to enhance healthcare services in the country and provide more job opportunities for locals, I have consented for 996 posts to be established by MoH in stages from 2023 until 2027," said His Majesty.

Regarding the welfare of MoH, His Majesty emphasised the importance of addressing issues, such as work-life balance, overtime allowances and scheduling to limit undue burden.

Every expense must be managed prudently, carefully and free from misappropriation. There should not be short-cut practices in management when it comes to the welfare and well-being of the people.

His Majesty reminds the MoH not to ignore the grievances of the public such a long wait time to seek the emergency treatment, the months-long wait for the follow-ups, treating patients in a

Continue on page 16



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during unscheduled visit to MoH (above).



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during unscheduled visit to Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital (above).

From page 15

rude and abusive manner, the unavailability of medicine after hours of waiting, and other matters.

The Monarch concluded the *titah* by extending appreciation for the efforts from the MoH in strengthening public health facilities.

During the unscheduled visit to MoH, His Majesty took a closer look at several departments and sections of the said ministry.

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

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health.

His Majesty first visited the Administration and Finance Department.

Also the focus of His Majesty's visit was the Healthcare Technology Department.

From MoH, His Majesty made a visit to the Accident and Emergency Department, Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital.

The Pharmacy Division also came under His Majesty's scrutiny.

HRH Prince 'Abdul Wakeel appointed as member of the Privy Council

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 to the appointment of His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah as Member of the Privy Council with effect from Thursday, May 16.

Yang Di-Pertua Adat Istiadat Negara now a ministerial-level position

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 5 - 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 commencing May 6, the designation of Yang

Di-Pertua Adat Istiadat Negara, which is currently held by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Setia Diraja Sahibul Karib Pengiran Anak Haji Idris bin Pengiran Maharaja Lela Pengiran Muda Abdul Kahar will be a ministerial-level position.

New appointment

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 7 - The Department of Public Services, Prime Minister's Office hereby informs that His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented for Dayang Hajah Zanatul 'Aini

binti Haji Zainin/Haji Jinin, Senior Medicinal Chemist at the Department of Pharmaceutical Services at the Ministry of Health to be promoted to Director of Pharmaceutical Services effective from April 8.

Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony



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 during the Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony.



BERAKAS, May 30 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office attended a Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony in conjunction with the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) 63rd Anniversary Celebration. The ceremony took place at Surau Ad-Dhifa, Bolkiah Garrison.

The ceremony began with the reading of Al-Quran by Warrant Officer Aliuddin bin Haji Sarbini from the Royal Brunei Navy.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince at the banquet.

Continue on page 18



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 in a group photo.

From page 17

Directorate.

The mass Maghrib Prayer and Sunat Hajat Prayer was led by Lieutenant Colonel Ariffin bin Amit @ Hamid from RBAF Religious

His Royal Highness then joined a banquet at the Officers' Mess, Bolkiah Garrison to mark the conclusion of the ceremony.

Borneo Ladies Golf Challenge Trophy Tournament

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 16 – Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman as Royal Patron of the Brunei Ladies Golf Association (BLGA), presented prizes to winners of the 22nd Borneo Ladies Golf Challenge Trophy Tournament which took place at J Hotel, Kiulap.

A total of 88 female golfers from Brunei Darussalam, Sabah, Sarawak, Kalimantan and the Federal Territory of Labuan joined the tournament which was held on May 15 to 16 at Mentiri Beach Golf Club.

Brunei Darussalam team won the Team Event Nett 18 Holes, while Sabah came in second place, and Sarawak in third.



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman presenting a trophy to the winning team.



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah in a group photo.

Brunei International Wushu Championship

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 5 – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) attended the final day of the First Brunei International Wushu Championship 2024 at the Youth Centre.

A total of 12 categories were competed. Brunei Darussalam's wushu team won first place after collecting 29 golds, 13 silvers and 13 bronzes.

The three-day tournament organised by the Brunei Darussalam Wushu Federation in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, hoped will improve the skills of local wushu judges and technical personnel's knowledge, while also improving the standard of wushu in the Sultanate.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) mingling with a participant.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah in a group photo.

HRH Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah attends OCA

BANGKOK, THAILAND, May 12 – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC), as an executive member of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) attended the 43rd OCA General Assembly (GA).

According to the OCA website, apart from the OCA Committee Report and updates, the reforms of OCA Constitution will also be presented in the 43rd OCA GA that align with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Olympic Agenda 2020+5.

During the Opening Session of the 43rd OCA GA, Raja Randhir Singh, OCA Acting President welcomed all the delegations from 45 National Olympic Councils.

In his speech, the IOC President urged participants to use this moment to drive positive changes for the future of sports in Asia.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien at the 43rd Olympic Council of Asia General Assembly (OCA GA).

Ensure positive impact to community

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 26 - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah in a *sabda* (royal speech) called for the Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam (PPPBD) to make sure its role can give a positive impact to the community, especially in empowering the role of women and girls. Her Royal Highness as the President of PPPBD made the *sabda* at the association's First Council Meeting 2024 at the association's headquarters in Kampung Anggerek Desa.

Her Royal Highness added that the working visit provided an opportunity to get acquainted with the association's members and learn about its developments.

Her Royal Highness in a *sabda* expressed hope that the association can continue to share views to further improve its role.

The Vice President of the association in her speech among other things touched on the association's latest development.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) at the First Council Meeting of the Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam (PPPBD).

Meanwhile, the meeting among other things discussed on the association's annual activity report, and the appointment and confirmation of the council members for the 2024-2029 session.



Among those attending the meeting.



Reaffirm unwavering commitment

JERUDONG, May 29 – The Republic of the Philippines is committed to strengthening economic ties within ASEAN, as a catalyst for deeper business collaboration and to enhance market access.

This was stated by His Excellency Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., President of the Republic of Philippines at the Philippine Business Forum, which was held at the Royal Berkshire Hall, Tarindak D'Pollo.

According to the President of the Republic of Philippines, this

year marks the fourth decade of diplomatic relations between Philippines and Brunei. In testament to the enduring partnership, the president said it reaffirmed the unwavering commitment to regional economic integration in multiple phrases.

The forum was organised by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and the Brunei Economy Programme with the support of the Philippines Embassy in Brunei.

Continue on page 21



His Excellency President of the Republic of Philippines during the Philippine Business Forum.



Among those who attended the Philippine Business Forum.



His Excellency President of the Republic of Philippines in a group photo.

From page 20

Also present were Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Home Affairs; and Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism.

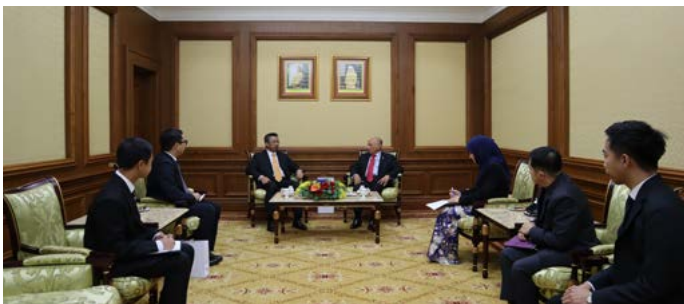
The forum saw two agreements were signed between both

countries to strengthen agricultural and economic cooperation.

The first agreement signed was the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Partnership in Agriculture and MSMEs Development between the ASEAN Business Advisory Council Brunei and ASEAN Business Advisory Council Philippines.

The second MoU was signed between the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Brunei Darussalam and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) to strengthen economic cooperation between both countries.

LegCo Speaker receives courtesy calls



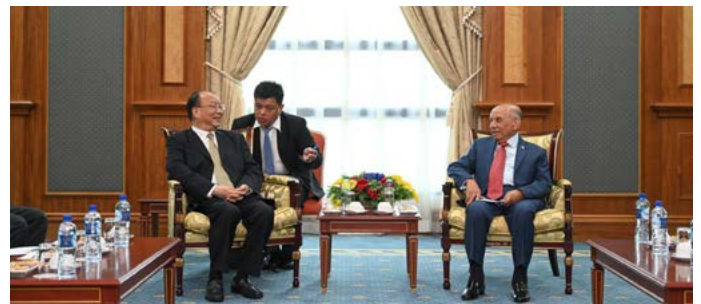
Yang Berhormat Speaker of the Legislative Council (LegCo) during the courtesy call from His Excellency outgoing High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 16 – 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 His Excellency Dato' Raja Reza bin Raja Zaib Shah, outgoing High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam.

During the courtesy call, Brunei and Malaysia appreciated the long-standing friendship and close cooperation enjoyed by both countries especially in trade, education, defence, sports, and other.

The Speaker of LegCo congratulated the outgoing High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam on his excellent performance throughout his service in Brunei.

Both side hope that Brunei and Malaysia will continue to maintain



Yang Berhormat Speaker of LegCo during the courtesy call from the Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Yunan Provincial People's Congress of the People's Republic of China.

good relations and be able to develop further cooperation.

Meanwhile, on May 13, the Speaker of LegCo received a courtesy call from His Excellency Mr. Li Xiaosan, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Yunan Provincial People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, accompanied by a delegation of five members from the Yunnan Provincial People's Congress.

Both parties discussed in-depth the tourism and economic sectors as potential areas for further development.

The Speaker of LegCo stated that China plays an important role in the country's economic growth as one of the main investors and in expanding trade.

Both parties hope to further strengthen cooperation and relations through exchange of visits in the near future.

18th DSA 2024 and 3rd NATSEC Asia Exhibition 2024

KUALA LUMPUR, May 8 – 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 led a delegation from the Ministry of Defence (MinDef) to attend the 18th Defence Service Asia (DSA) 2024 and the 3rd National Security (NATSEC) Asia Exhibition 2024 at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre in Putrajaya.

The Opening Ceremony of 18th DSA 2024 and 3rd NATSEC Asia Exhibition 2024 was officiated by Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia.

The 18th DSA 2024 showcases advanced technologies in land, air and sea defence, combat robotics, cyber defence and security, Humanitarian and Disaster Relief (HADR), Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), and battlefield medicine, as to attract global government officials and industry leaders.

Meanwhile, the 3rd NATSEC Asia Exhibition 2024 prioritises on national security by exhibiting equipment for policing, battlefield healthcare, sea-based platforms, and training systems to address regional security challenges and foster collaborations.

The Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Defence also had



Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim officiate the opening of he 18th Defence Service Asia (DSA) 2024 and the 3rd National Security (NATSEC) Asia Exhibition 2024 .

the opportunity to hold a separate bilateral meeting with Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled bin Nordin, the Minister of Defence Malaysia.

During the meeting, both sides emphasised the long standing defence relations, discussed various bilateral and strategic issues of mutual interests and concerns, and reiterated commitments to further expand the strong and long-established defence cooperation between the two countries.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence during the bilateral meeting with the Minister of Defence Malaysia.



Museums Collection Management Programme

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 21 – Balai Khazanah Islam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (BKISHHB) in collaboration with the Embassy of the United States of America in Brunei Darussalam launched the Opening Ceremony of the Museums Collection Management Programme. The event was held at BKISHHB.

The three-day programme will be conducted by Danielle Bennet, the Interim Deputy Director for Collections and Exhibitions at the Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art.

Officiating the launching of the programme was the Guest of Honour, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence as the Chairman of BKISHHB Advisory Board.

Also present was Her Excellency Caryn R. McClelland, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Brunei Darussalam.

Participants comprised over 30 museum experts and administrators from BKISHHB, Museums Department, Brunei History Centre, Islam Da'wah Centre, Royal Brunei Armed



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence receiving a token of appreciation from Her Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Brunei Darussalam.

Force Museum, Royal Brunei Police Force Museum and Brunei Darussalam Currency Gallery.

Biomedical Laboratory Science Day

JERUDONG, May 3 – Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC) celebrated International Biomedical Laboratory Science Day with this year's theme 'Guardians of Quality and Patient Safety: Biomedical Laboratory Scientists'.

Biomedical Laboratory Scientists play an important role in diagnosis, development and quality assurance, treatment, research and development in modern medical science.

JPMC Laboratory also participated in the External Quality Assessment/Competency Assessment programme with the College of American Pathologists, the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia Quality Assurance Programme (RCPAQAP) and Randox International Quality Assessment Scheme (RIQAS).

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health and Executive Director



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health being briefed during the tour.

of JPMC attended as the Guest of Honour.

The event concluded with an exhibition tour to the different sections of the Laboratory Department.

DPS signs MoU with MMASB

JERUDONG, May 14 – Darussalam Pilotage Services Sdn. Bhd. (DPS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Malaysian Maritime Academy Sdn. Bhd. (MMASB) to strengthen collaboration between the two companies.

A total of 10 students signed the scholarship to undertake a Diploma in Nautical Studies at MMASB, Akademi Laut Malaysia (ALAM).

The MoU was signed by Zil Husam Haji Abdul Rahman, General Manager of DPS; and Eddie Ahmad Khodzali, Chief Executive Officer of MMASB. The ceremony took place at Indera Kayangan Ballroom, The Empire Brunei.

Present as Guest of Honour was Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications.

The Minister of Transport and Infocommunications said that with the observed growth and further growth



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications in a group photo during the signing ceremony.

opportunities, the industry has the ability to grow the available job opportunities for locals.

The General Manager of DPS, in his remarks, emphasised the strengthened collaboration with MMASB through the MoU and said that the partnership not only aims to drive advancements in maritime education, research and industry practice, but it also aims to encompass a mutual exploration of interests in maritime services and products, setting the stage

for future joint initiatives that promise to innovate and lead the industry.

Meanwhile, Awang Mohd. Denny Mohd. Isa, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MISC Maritime Services Sdn. Bhd. representing the president and group CEO of MISC Berhad, MMASB's parent company, echoed a similar sentiment in his speech. He vowed to dedicate to fostering holistic growth and a fruitful long-term alliance that will benefit both parties.

MoU on Air Traffic Rights

RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA, May 22 – The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to update the Freedom of the Air Traffic Rights on May 20, following the Air Services Agreement signed in 1992 and the Confidential MoU signed in 2009.

The new MoU allows the operation of

third, fourth and fifth Freedom of the Air Traffic Rights for passenger and cargo services without restrictions. Under the MoU, designated airlines from Brunei, including Royal Brunei, are permitted to operate to any destinations in Saudi Arabia including to Madinah, as normal scheduled flights.

The signing ceremony was held during the Third Edition of the Future Aviation

Forum (FAF2024) that took place at the King Abdulaziz International Conference Centre (KAICC).

The signing was witnessed by Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and

Continue on page 24

MoU on Air Traffic Rights (continued)

From page 23



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications in a group photo at the signing ceremony (above); Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications and President of General Authority of Civil Aviation signing the Memorandum of Understanding (below).



Infocommunications and His Excellency Haji Harun bin Haji Junid, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Saudi Arabia.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Ir. Awang Haji Mohammad Nazri bin Haji Mohammad Yusof, Permanent

Secretary at the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications. Meanwhile, signing on behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was Abdulaziz bin Abdullah Al-Duailei, President of General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA).

The Minister of Transport and Infocommunications also attended the Third Edition of FAF2024 at the KAICC.

Brunei-Türkiye strengthen bilateral relations

ISTANBUL, TÜRKİYE, May 27 - Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Nazmi bin Haji Awang Mohamad, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, visited the Republic of Türkiye from May 23 to 25.

The visit was for the follow up of the Memorandum of Understanding between The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and The Government of the Republic of Türkiye on Cultural Cooperation and the Protocol on Cooperation between the National Archives of Brunei Darussalam and the Directorate of State Archives of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, on March 7, 2023, during the State Visit 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 on March 6 to 9, last year.

During his visit, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports held bilateral meetings with His Excellency Osman Aşkın Bak, Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Türkiye; and Dr. Serdar Çam, Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Türkiye to exchange views and explore potential areas of cooperation to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Minister also had the opportunity to visit several historical sites in Ankara and Istanbul, to have a closer look at their preservation and conservation efforts.



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports during a visit (above and below).



State Mufti receives farewell call from outgoing envoy

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 9 – Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, State Mufti, received a farewell call from His Excellency Raja Dato' Reza bin Raja Zaib Shah, outgoing Malaysian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam at Darulifta' Brunei Darussalam, the State Mufti's Office.

During the meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction on the existing warm and cordial ties between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia. They exchanged views on current issues and matters of mutual concern, especially relating to religious development.

His Excellency Raja Dato' Reza presented his credentials to 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 on October 11, 2021.



Yang Berhormat State Mufti with His Excellency outgoing Malaysian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam during the farewell call.

Improve quality of life through justice

SINGAPORE, May 25 - The 10th Event of the Attorney General's Chambers of Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, and Republic of Singapore (Tri-AGC), which was hosted by the Attorney General's Chambers (AGC) of Singapore, was held from May 23 to 25 at Conrad Orchard Hotel, with the theme 'A Common Heritage: Building Tomorrow Today Together.'

The 10th Tri-AGC was officiated by Honourable Edwin Tong, SC, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law of Singapore.

In attendance were Honourable Mr. Lucien Wong, SC, Attorney General of Singapore; Yang Berhormat Datin Paduka Hajah Nor Hashimah binti Haji Mohammed Taib, Attorney General of Brunei Darussalam; and The Honourable Datuk Ahmad Terrirudin bin Mohd. Salleh, Attorney General of Malaysia.

In the keynote speech, the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law of Singapore stated that the three countries shared a common legal heritage. Over time, the respective countries have developed their legal systems to suit domestic needs. Nonetheless, a fundamental value that continues to underpin the three jurisdictions is adherence to the rule of law.

The Minister further highlighted that the rule of law ensures access to justice for all parties and improves the quality of life in a society.

More than 119 officers from the three chambers participated in the event. Each chambers presented on the topics of 'Sharing of work, organisational structure and significant recent developments',



Yang Berhormat Attorney General of Brunei Darussalam with Honourable Attorney General of Singapore, Honourable Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law of Singapore and Honourable Attorney General of Malaysia during the 10th Event of the Attorney General's Chambers of Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, and Singapore (Tri-AGC).

'Tackling Online Falsehoods', and 'Combating Internet Scams'.

In addition, the delegates took part in team-building activities, with the aim of strengthening the close relationships between officers of the three chambers.

The Tri-AGC, which first began in 2006, serves as a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experiences in areas of law of mutual concern among the Attorney General's Chambers of the three countries. The event is held every two years and provides opportunities and platforms which build on existing partnerships links as well as foster friendship and closer rapport among the officers of the three Chambers, such as through attachment programmes, workshops and in-house training.

Building a resilient ASEAN



GADONG, May 7 – The 44th ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) Meeting and related meetings were held at the Rizqun International Hotel.

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

Continue on page 26

Acting Permanent Secretary (Security and Welfare) at the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) delivering her speech during the Opening Ceremony.

Building resilient ASEAN (continued)

From page 25

This year, the ACDM meeting was co-chaired by Colonel (Rtd) Muhd. Harrih Rashidi bin Haji Muhd. Jamin, Director of the National Disaster Management Centre as the Chairman, and His Excellency Mr. Virak Kim, ASEAN and International Cooperation Advisor of Cambodia's National Disaster Management Committee as the vice-chairman.

Earlier, the Acting Permanent Secretary (Security and Welfare) at MoHA said that as ASEAN continues to grow rapidly, it is important to continue to strengthen relations, and cooperate by sharing best practices and exchanging knowledge, in enhancing disaster management strategies, which will be able to better protect communities and reduce losses of life. This year's theme is 'Building a resilient ASEAN through inclusive and sustainable disaster recovery'.

"The theme underscores our unified efforts in disaster risk reduction, and disaster management, aiming to strengthen our region against adversities, while ensuring no community is left behind," she added.

"Despite facing numerous trials, and enduring devastating catastrophes, our 'Whole of ASEAN' approach and commitment to 'One ASEAN, One Response' have showcased our resilience," she said.

At night, over 70 delegations of the meeting were feted to a Dinner Ceremony, which was also held at the Rizqun International Hotel.



Director of the National Disaster Management Centre during the ASEAN Committee Disaster Management Meeting.



Acting Permanent Secretary (Security and Welfare) at MoHA during the Dinner Ceremony.

The event aimed to create a conducive environment through continuous dialogue and networking among ASEAN Member States on disaster management.

Launching of Prototype Vehicle

TUNGKU LINK, May 13 – Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) has announced its participation at the upcoming Shell Eco-Marathon Asia-Pacific and the Middle East 2024 during the Launching Ceremony of the Prototype Vehicle at the Pro Chancellor Arts Centre, UBD.

Present to officiate the launching as Guest of Honour was Dr. Hazri bin Haji Kifle, Vice Chancellor of UBD. UBD's entry vehicle this year named 'Mekar', will be represented by the UBD Shell Eco-Marathon Organisation Team 'Belia Tabah', comprising

eight UBD students. Witnessing the event were this year's sponsors - representatives from Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP); Brunei Shell Marketing (BSM); Unified National Networks Sdn. Bhd. (UNN); Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah; and Shell Exploration and Production Brunei B.V.; as well as UBD's principal officers; academics; and students.

This is UBD's 9th year participating in the competition. The Shell Eco-Marathon competition will be held in Lombok, Indonesia on July 2 to 6.



Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) with team 'Belia Tabah' and their vehicle 'Mekar'.

KUPU SB and UNU Kalbar sign MoU

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 7 – Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPU SB) received a visit from 20 members of the Yayasan Kejayaan Muallaf and Universitas Nahdlatul Ulama Kalimantan Barat Indonesia (UNU Kalbar).

The delegation led by Muhammad Damanhuri, Head of Yayasan Kejayaan Muallaf, and Dr. Rahmad Saputra, Rector of Universitas Nahdlatul Ulama Kalimantan Barat Indonesia was welcomed by Associate Professor Dr. Abdul Nasir bin Haji Abdul Rani, Ra'es of KUPU SB.

The delegation discussed areas of cooperation covering student and staff exchanges, publication exchange and teaching research collaboration programmes during the visit.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Signing Ceremony was also held between KUPU SB and Universitas Nahdhatul Ulama



Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPU SB) and Universitas Nahdlatul Ulama Kalimantan Barat during the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Kalimantan Barat. The signing of the MoU will further enhance cooperation and sharing of the best experiences between the two parties.

Enhance regional humanitarian logistics capacities

GADONG, May 8 - The implementation progress of ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) was among the matters discussed at the 20th Meeting of the AHA Centre Governing Board. The meeting was held as part of the 44th Meeting of ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM).

During the meeting, the AHA Centre discussed the progress and achievements in the period of October 2023 to April 2024. Two disaster responses were conducted during the reporting period, which were the deployment relief items from the Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) to the communities affected by the flooding situation in Thailand in December 2023 and January 2024.

At the end of the meeting, a Memorandum of Intents (MOI) was signed between AHA Centre and HELP Logistics and Direct Relief, focusing on humanitarian logistics training to enhance regional humanitarian logistics capacities, and cooperation related the provision of humanitarian assistance and disaster management between the two organisations.



The Director of the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) at the Ministry of Home Affairs as the Chairman.

Earlier, the ACDM and other related meetings was held, co-chaired by Colonel (Rtd) Muhd. Harriith Rashidi bin Haji Muhd. Jamin, Director of the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) at the Ministry of Home Affairs as Chairman and Advisor for ASEAN; and His Excellency Virak Kim International Cooperation Cambodia NDMC as Vice Chairman.

The meeting discussed the progress of the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement in Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER - Work Programme 2012-2025), particularly on strengthening



The Director of the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) witnessing the signing of Memorandum of Intents (MOI).

the capacity of ASEAN Member States in disaster management and emergency response by encouraging cooperation and coordination at the regional level.

In addition, the meeting also discussed the risk assessment and monitoring, prevention and mitigation, preparedness and response, resilient recovery and global leadership.

Over 70 delegations from the disaster management organisations in 10 ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN Secretariat and the AHA Centre as well as Timor-Leste as observer attended the meeting.



The ACDM meeting taking place.

Promote Brunei to Singaporean market

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 1 – The Tourism Development Department hosted a networking session at the Radisson Hotel, bringing together travel agents from Brunei Darussalam and Republic of Singapore in its ongoing efforts to promote Brunei to the Singaporean market.

A ten-member delegation, comprising representative from Singapore travel agents, the National Association of Travel Agents Singapore (NATAS) and Royal Brunei Airlines General Sales Agents (RB-GSA) arrived in Brunei for a five-day familiarisation session.

Salinah binti Haji Mohd. Salleh, Acting Deputy Director of Tourism Development Department commenced the session with opening remarks followed by a product briefing.

Eight travel agencies from Brunei participated in an one-on-one networking session, seizing the opportunity to



Group photo of travel agents from Brunei and Singapore.

showcase their packages and explore potential collaborations with Singaporean agents to attract more Singaporean tourists to Brunei.

From mangrove river tours and cultural

activities, visited the Village Consultative Council (MPK) and longhouses, city tours, farm-to-table dining experiences, and adventure activities covering four districts, participants were introduced to the uniqueness of Brunei Darussalam.



Travel agents from Brunei Darussalam and Singapore ready to experience first-hand the country's diverse cultural and natural treasures.



The delegates during the familiarisation session.

Brunei receives EMS Cooperative Customer Care Award 2023

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 6 – Brunei Darussalam once again received the Express Mail Service (EMS) Cooperative Customer Care Award for 2023. Brunei is ranked 17th out of 175 countries and this marks the second consecutive year the country received the award since becoming a member of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and EMS in 1984.

The award was presented by Masahiko Metoki, the Director General of UPU; and Patrick Rinchon, Chair of the EMS Cooperative, at the UPU International Bureau in Berne, Switzerland on April 19.

Receiving the award on behalf of the Sultanate was Dr. Rosdi bin Haji Abdul Aziz, Acting Postmaster General of the Postal Services Department, Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications.



Acting Postmaster General of the Postal Services Department, Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications on behalf of Brunei Darussalam receiving the Cooperative Customer Care Award for 2023.