



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam newsletter

Published by the Information Department
Prime Minister's Office

OCTOBER 2024
VOLUME 39 ISSUE 10



Enriching student experiences, teachers granted Compassionate Leave

BERAKAS, 3rd October – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji

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 34th Teachers' Day Celebration 2024, held at the Plenary Hall, International Convention Centre.

Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam graced the 34th Teachers' Day Celebration 2024, held at the Plenary Hall, International Convention Centre, themed 'Quality Teachers Drive Education Transformation' with a focus on 'Education for a Continuously Changing World'.

Continue on page 5

State Visit by Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia



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 Majesty Sultan Ibrahim ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and Her Majesty Raja Zarith Sofiah binti Almarhum Sultan Idris Shah, Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia at Cheradi Laila Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 14th October

– 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 Majesty Sultan Ibrahim ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar,

Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and Her Majesty Raja Zarith Sofiah binti Almarhum Sultan Idris Shah, Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia.

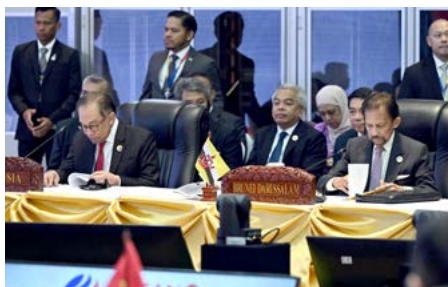
Prior to this, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), as personal representative of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang

Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman welcomed His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and Her Majesty Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia at The Empire Brunei, before proceeding together to Istana Nurul Iman.

Continue on page 7



9. ASEAN Summit: Enhancing ASEAN's relevance, shaping ASEAN's future



13. ASEAN Summit comes to a close



16. Her Majesty graces Birthday Celebration



18. Promoting youth engagement, quality education



20. Call for access to youth platform against drugs



11. ASEAN Summit: Discussing climate change, digital economy and transformation



16. RBAirF Commander bestowed Honorary Malaysian Armed Forces Order for Valor (First Degree)



17. UNISSA welcomes Raja Permaisuri Agong



18. Islamic calligraphy: Key component of Islamic heritage



20. His Majesty's Office announces royal birth



OCTOBER 2024 - VOLUME 39 ISSUE 10
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER
 is published monthly by the Department of Information. It reports on government, social and business events in the country. All money values are expressed in Brunei dollars \$, unless otherwise stated. Any information in this newsletter may be reproduced; a clipping of the publication would be appreciated.

EDITORIAL Advisory Board:

Siti Bismi Nuruliman Haji Awang Emzah
 (bismi.emzah@jpm.gov.bn)

Sastra Sarini Haji Julaini
 (sarini.julaini@information.gov.bn)

Chief-Editor:

Saadiatul Nur Aqilah Haji Jaman
 (aqilah.jaman@information.gov.bn)

Editors:

Nor Hanizah Haji Abd Halim
 (hanizah.halim@information.gov.bn)

Syakirah binti Matusin
 (syakirah.matusin@information.gov.bn)

Text and Translation:

Syakirah binti Matusin
 (syakirah.matusin@information.gov.bn)

Layouter:

Mohammad bin Kahar
 (mohammad.kahar@information.gov.bn)

Proofreader:

Nor Zuriana binti Haji Azman/Malai
 (norzuriana.azman@information.gov.bn)

Photographs

Photography Unit of Department of Information

General inquiries

Tel: (673) 2383 400/ext Publications Unit
 Fax: (673) 2382 012

Information Department

www.information.gov.bn

Information Gallery

www.infofoto.gov.bn

Follow us



Download InfoDeptBN



Instagram - @infodept.bn



X - @Infodept_bn



Facebook - Jabatan Penerangan
 Jabatan Perdana Menteri
 Brunei Darussalam

His Majesty receives Vice-President of People's Republic of China

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience His Excellency Han Zheng, Vice-President of the People's Republic of China at Istana Nurul Iman on 22nd October.



Her Majesty receives audience



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received in audience women envoys to Brunei Darussalam, as well as spouses of foreign diplomatic missions to Brunei Darussalam at Istana Nurul Iman on the occasion of Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha's birthday on 7th October.

Crown Prince receives audiences

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



His Excellency Mohammad Taghi Rajabi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Brunei Darussalam on 7th October.

His Excellency Han Zheng, Vice-President of the People's Republic of China on 22nd October.



ASEAN Ministers and Heads of Delegation attending the 12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management on 24th October.

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 Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China; His Excellency Li Qiang, Premier of the State Council of China; the government and people of China on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of China on 1st October;
- His Excellency Shigeru Ishiba, Prime Minister of Japan on the occasion of his appointment following his recent victory in the Liberal Democratic Party election on 1st October;
- His Excellency Yoon Suk-yeol, President of the Republic of Korea (RoK); the government and people of RoK on the occasion of its National Foundation Day on 3rd October;
- His Excellency Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Federal President of the Federal Republic of Germany; His Excellency Olaf Scholz, Chancellor of Germany; the government and people of Germany on the occasion of the Day of German Unity on 3rd October;
- His Excellency Luong Cuong on the occasion of his appointment as the new President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on 22nd October; and
- His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Türkiye; the government and people of Türkiye on the occasion of the Republic Day of Türkiye on 29th October.

His Majesty sends messages 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 messages of condolences on 26th October to:

- His Excellency Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr., President of the Republic of the Philippines; the government and people of the Philippines following the loss of lives and extensive damages resulting from the recent occurrence of Typhoon Kristine (Trami) in the Philippines; and
- His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Türkiye; the government and people of Türkiye following the recent terror attack on the Turkish Aerospace Industries in Ankara, Türkiye.

Enriching student experiences, teachers granted Compassionate Leave (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 and other members of the royal family during the recitation of *doa selamat* by Yang Berhormat State Mufti.

From front page

Also present were His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's sons and brother: His Royal

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



The event began with recitations of Surah Al-Faatihah and *doa selamat*.

The event also saw a welcoming speech by Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Setia Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Md. Salleh, Minister of Education; followed by a *titah* (royal speech) delivered by His Majesty.

Continue on page 6



Yang Berhormat Minister of Education delivering her welcoming speech at the event (right); among the attendees of the event (left).



The 34th Teachers' Day Celebration 2024 taking place (above and below).





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 the 34th Teachers' Day 2024 Awards to the recipients (above and below).



From page 5

In the *titah*, His Majesty emphasised that educational transformation extends beyond technology and infrastructure, highlighting the importance of everyone's wellbeing.

His Majesty noted the integration of religious education into the conventional system for Year 2 to 5 students, which optimises time management and broadens learning experiences without diminishing the value of religious education.

His Majesty also pointed on Brunei Darussalam's participation in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2022, noting improvements in student performance compared to 2018, crediting these advancements to dedicated teachers.

His Majesty reaffirmed the government's commitment to enhancing educational opportunities through scholarships and urged the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Religious Affairs to refine government scholarship policies to support human resource development.

To support teachers, His Majesty announced the introduction of Compassionate Leave during school terms, effective 1st January 2025, aimed at improving their wellbeing and motivation.

The celebration included a video presentation highlighting Brunei's educational advancements, such as the integration of religious studies, growth in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) initiatives, inclusive education, private school development, and digital transformation. A performance featuring 34 students added to the event's vibrancy.

His Majesty then presented the 34th Teachers' Day 2024 Awards to four Meritorious Teachers, which comprised Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Setia Raja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Suhaili bin Haji Mohiddin; Dato Paduka Haji Sheikh Adnan bin Sheikh Mohamad; Pengiran Haji Mahmud bin Pengiran Damit; and Awang Haji Mohsin bin Abu Bakar. The Monarch also conferred awards to nine Excellent Teachers; and 30 recipients of the Special Mention Teachers' Day Appreciation Award.

His Majesty and members of the royal family then consented to join a group photo and toured an exhibition focused on STEAM education, showcasing student projects. Before leaving, His Majesty received greetings from teachers and students from various educational levels.

Continue on page 7



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

From page 6



His Majesty touring the exhibition held in conjunction with the celebration.



His Majesty mingling with students at the event.



State Visit by Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia (continued)



From front page

Also present at The Empire Brunei were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik as Royal-in-Attendance and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah.

Continue on page 8

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 receiving the Salute of Honour together with His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and Her Majesty Raja Zarith Sofiah binti Almarhum Sultan Idris Shah, Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia inspecting the Guard of Honour, mounted by members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.



His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and Her Majesty Raja Zarith Sofiah binti Almarhum Sultan Idris Shah, Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia being introduced to the members of the royal family and Brunei Darussalam delegation.



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

From page 7

After welcoming the Malaysian royal couple on the grounds of Istana Nurul Iman, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha, together with His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and Her Majesty Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia, proceeded to the Special Dais to receive the Salute of Honour, accompanied by the national anthems of

both countries and a 21-gun salute. The two Monarchs then inspected the Guard of Honour, mounted by members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).

His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and Her Majesty Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia were introduced to members of the royal family, ministers, and dignitaries, and later attended a Royal Banquet. The event was attended

by members of royal family.

Accompanying His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and Her Majesty Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia throughout the State Visit was His Highness Tunku Idris Iskandar Al-Haj ibni Sultan Ibrahim, Tunku Temenggong of Johor Darul Ta'zim.

Continue on page 9



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha at the Audience Ceremony with His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and Her Majesty Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia.



Also present at the Audience Ceremony were members of the royal family; as well as His Highness Tunku Idris Iskandar Al-Haj ibni Sultan Ibrahim, Tunku Temenggong of Johor Darul Ta'zim (above and below).





From page 8

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri during the Royal Banquet in honour of the State Visit by His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and Her Majesty Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia.



Also present at the Royal Banquet were His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's children, siblings and other members of the royal family.

ASEAN Summit: Enhancing ASEAN's relevance, shaping ASEAN's future



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 Opening Ceremony of the 44th and 45th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits. Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen (above and right).

VIENTIANE, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, 9th October – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Opening Ceremony of the 44th and 45th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits held at National Convention Centre (NCC).

At the Opening Ceremony, His Excellency Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) delivered his welcoming remarks, followed by opening remarks by His Excellency Thongloun Sisoulith, President of Lao PDR.

The Prime Minister of Lao PDR then presented the 2024 ASEAN Prize to the ASEAN Youth Organisation from the Republic of Indonesia.



In the plenary session, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered a *titah* (royal speech) supporting Timor-Leste's future ASEAN membership and emphasised climate change cooperation under ASEAN Community Vision 2045. His Majesty also highlighted ASEAN's external relations, noting progress in partnerships and stressing the need for careful assessments to ensure beneficial collaborations. Key outcomes of the summit included declarations on climate change, supply chains, child labour prevention, and biosafety.

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 attending the Plenary Session of the 44th ASEAN Summit with other leaders from ASEAN and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen at the Retreat Session of the 45th ASEAN Summit (left); and at the ASEAN Leader's Interface (right).

From page 9

His Majesty then participated in the retreat session focused on Republic of the Union of Myanmar and regional issues, with leaders from ASEAN and Timor-Leste in attendance.

His Majesty also joined the ASEAN Leaders' Interface with ASEAN Youth representatives, emphasising the importance of youths as agents of change and development. His Majesty highlighted that youths should seize opportunities offered by ASEAN initiatives to contribute to regional progress. The Monarch also stressed the need to incorporate youths perspectives into the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and encouraged their active involvement in shaping ASEAN's future. Brunei Darussalam's representatives at the event were Awang Mohammad Nazib bin Haji Lamat from the Brunei Youth Council and Dayang Hazirah binti Sufian from Green Brunei.

During a bilateral meeting with Her Excellency Paetongtarn Shinawatra, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand at NCC, His Majesty highlighted the ongoing expansion of Brunei-Thailand cooperation in trade, education, defence, and people-to-people exchanges over the past four decades. His Majesty recalled his official visit to the Kingdom of Thailand in April, which focused on boosting tourism, investment, and halal cooperation. The recent visit by the Thai Government Pension Fund to Brunei was also seen as an opportunity to enhance economic ties, particularly in food security.

His Majesty expressed appreciation for Thailand's long-standing support in rice supply since 1971 and looked forward to finalising a memorandum of understanding on halal cooperation.

His Majesty also acknowledged the positive progress in educational and defence exchanges and thanked Thai

nationals for their contributions to Brunei's development.

During a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Phạm Minh Chính, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam which was held at Latsavong Wanda Vista Hotel, His Majesty expressed gratitude for the invitations to visit Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and to attend the 2nd ASEAN Future Forum in 2025. His Majesty highlighted the existing Plan of Action would further strengthen cooperation.

Both countries are focusing on expanding bilateral trade through halal cooperation, agriculture, and aquaculture. His Majesty also appreciated Viet Nam's supply of energy service vessels and expressed eagerness to enhance collaboration in oil and gas exploration activities.

Accompanying His Majesty at the events was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.



His Majesty during the bilateral meetings with Her Excellency Prime Minister of the Kingdom Thailand (left); and His Excellency Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (right).

ASEAN Summit: Discussing climate change, digital economy and transformation



VIENTIANE, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, 10th October

– The 27th ASEAN-China Summit focused on deepening cooperation and shaping future relations. 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) highlighted the progress under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and the successful ASEAN-China Year of People-to-People Exchanges, which strengthened socio-cultural ties. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam emphasised advancing ASEAN's digital economy by improving digital skills and creating opportunities for youth in entrepreneurship and innovation. The upgraded ASEAN-China Free Trade Area, especially in e-commerce and e-services, was welcomed as a step toward a regional digital economy.

His Majesty also stressed addressing interconnected challenges like food and energy security, and climate change, calling for better coordination for future prosperity. He praised China's support for the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change and welcomed further climate collaboration. Summit leaders expressed satisfaction with strengthened economic ties, the Free Trade Area upgrade, and proposed expanding cooperation in green economy and smart agriculture.

During the 25th ASEAN-Republic of Korea (RoK) Summit, His Majesty praised RoK's contributions to regional peace 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 attending the 27th ASEAN-China Summit. Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen (top and above).

prosperity.

The importance of the ASEAN-RoK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, particularly in light of technological advancements that have transformed business and interactions was also highlighted.

His Majesty emphasised RoK's role in ASEAN's digital transformation, including infrastructure development, and looked forward to collaborating on the Korea-ASEAN Digital Innovation Flagship Project to enhance digital connectivity.

His Majesty also stressed the need for cooperation on cybersecurity in response to new technology-related security challenges, thanking South Korea for its support through the ASEAN Cyber Shield Project.

At the 27th ASEAN-Japan Summit, His Majesty highlighted Japan's significant

contributions to the region's peace and prosperity, emphasising the importance of the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

His Majesty expressed gratitude for initiatives that foster people-to-people connections, such as scholarships, cultural exchanges, and Japan's support for the ASEAN Junior Fellowship Programme.

His Majesty also addressed the urgent need for action on energy consumption and climate change in Southeast Asia, urging ASEAN and Japan to collaborate on accelerating energy transition, including the Cleaner Energy Future Initiative. His Majesty called for closer cooperation between ASEAN and Japan on climate change policies and announced Brunei's upcoming regional workshop on the issue.

The discussions also focused on Japan's

Continue on page 12

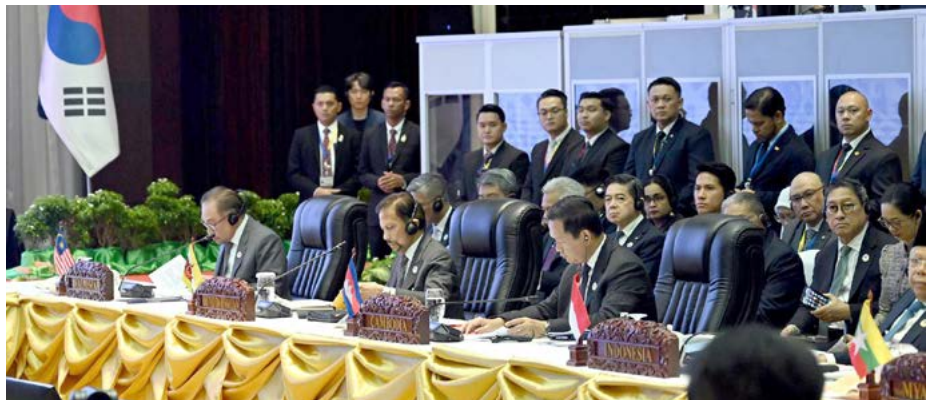
From page 11

decarbonisation efforts in ASEAN and welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Power Grid.

At the 27th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit, His Majesty recognised the APT as a key force in advancing East Asian cooperation. His Majesty acknowledged the crucial role of the Plus Three countries in addressing regional challenges through initiatives such as the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation, APT Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR), and the APT Macroeconomic Research Office. His Majesty emphasised the need to strengthen these mechanisms and create new ones to effectively respond to future emergencies, ensuring APT's continued role in regional development and resilience. His Majesty also appreciated the support for the APTERR Table-top Exercise in 2025 to evaluate and enhance coordination.

At the 4th ASEAN-Australia Summit, His Majesty expressed appreciation for the progress made in implementing the Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040, especially the appointment of Business Champions and Investment Deal Teams to boost trade. His Majesty emphasised the importance of continued collaboration between ASEAN and Australia to address global challenges and achieve shared goals for a secure future.

His Majesty also highlighted the need for joint efforts to build resilience through policies, practices, and research in



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 at the 25th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit.

various industries. His Majesty looked forward to Australia's support for the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change in Brunei, strengthening regional climate emergency preparedness. The leaders reaffirmed Australia's key role as a partner in ASEAN, promoting job opportunities, trade, and stronger defence and people-to-people ties, including through education and youth involvement.

At the 21st ASEAN-India Summit, His Majesty emphasised the importance of preparing people, especially Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), to adapt to technological changes. Given that MSMEs represent 90 per cent of businesses and drive innovation and inclusive growth, His Majesty urged the ASEAN-India Business Council to facilitate more interactions between MSMEs in ASEAN and India. These interactions, along with digital skills training, would strengthen MSMEs'

resilience and help them succeed in the tech-driven economy.

The leaders at the summit also appreciated India's ongoing support for ASEAN through its Act East Policy and encouraged deeper ASEAN-India collaboration in mutually beneficial areas.

The events took place at the National Convention Centre in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR).

Accompanying His Majesty at the events was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

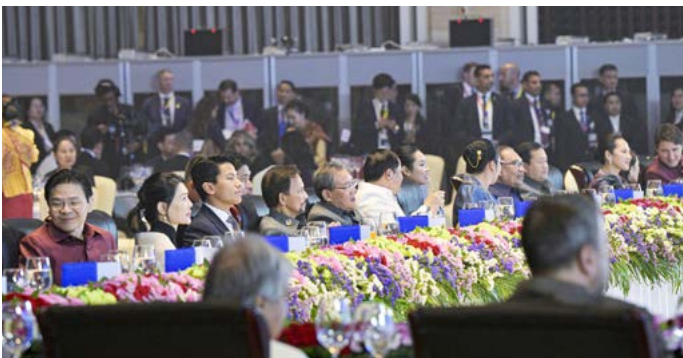
His Majesty and His Royal Highness also attended a gala dinner hosted by His Excellency Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of Lao PDR and Chairman of ASEAN, and spouse, Madame Vandara Siphandone. The event was enlivened by a number of cultural performances.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen at the 4th ASEAN-Australia Summit.

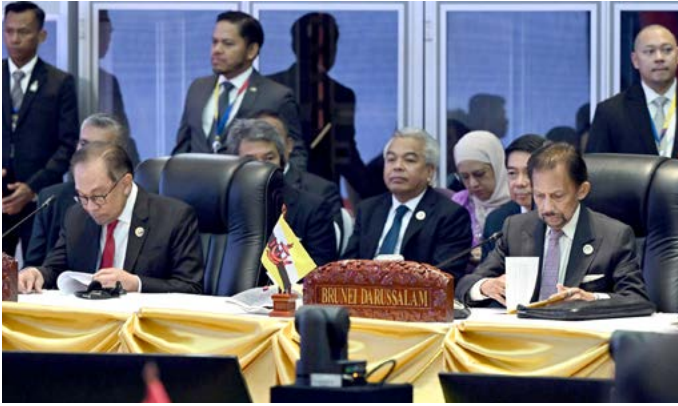


His Majesty at the 21st ASEAN-India Summit.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness at the gala dinner in honour of the Heads of State and Government of ASEAN and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Leaders of Dialogue Partners and special guests attending the 44th and 45th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits.

ASEAN Summit comes to a close



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 12th ASEAN-United States Summit (left); and the 19th East Asia Summit (right).

VIENTIANE, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, 11th October

– At the 12th ASEAN-United States (US) Summit, 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 gratitude for the US' support in ASEAN's community-building efforts, which have significantly contributed to its socio-economic development. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam called for stronger ASEAN-US cooperation, particularly in digitalisation and climate change, viewing these as both challenges and opportunities.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam emphasised the role of technological advancements in ASEAN's digital economy and the need to strengthen collective capacity in information technology. His Majesty also supported initiatives to help Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) integrate into the digital economy.

His Majesty welcomed the adoption of the Statement on Promoting Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence, which

aligns with the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement, and looked forward to continued US collaboration on digital solutions for global challenges like climate change.

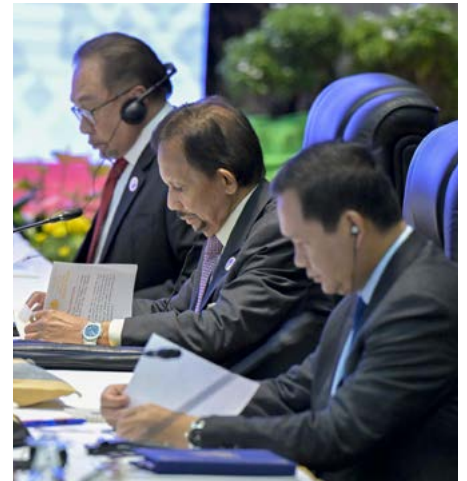
The summit discussions highlighted the importance of enhancing ASEAN-US partnership in digital economy, climate action, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

In a *titah* (royal speech) at the 19th East Asia Summit (EAS), His Majesty emphasised the EAS's potential to promote multilateralism in addressing global challenges and fostering collaboration on shared issues.

His Majesty stressed the importance of collective efforts to ensure a better future and the need for the EAS to implement past agreements to create a more resilient and prosperous region.

His Majesty highlighted the ongoing impact of the pandemic, particularly on mental health, and called for continued collaboration to build effective mental healthcare systems.

His Majesty expressed support for the upcoming 2nd EAS Workshop on Mental Health and its contribution to the EAS



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the 14th ASEAN-United Nations Summit.

Joint Action Plan on Mental Health Cooperation.

Regarding geopolitical tensions, His Majesty noted the EAS's role in restoring trust in international institutions like the UN (United Nations), and in upholding international law to ensure peace, stability, and prosperity. The summit leaders also underscored the importance of multilateralism and international law amid rising global tensions.

Continue on page 14



His Majesty in a group photo at the 2nd Asia Zero Emissions Community Leaders Meeting.

From page 13

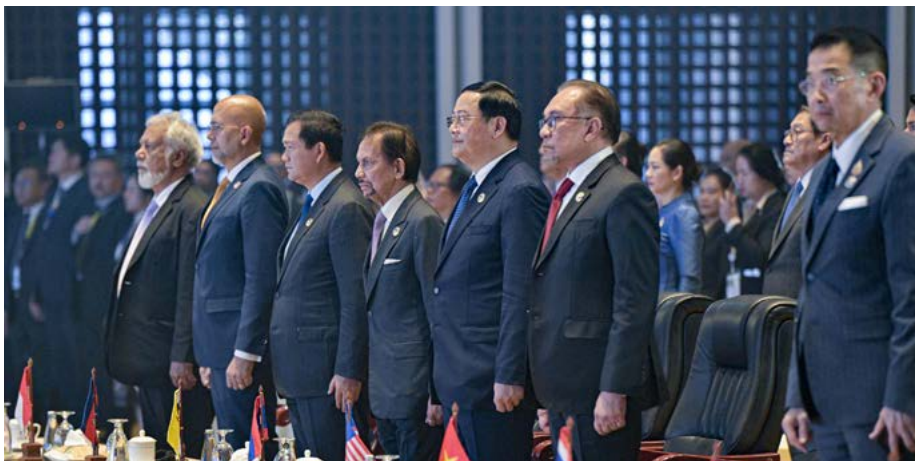
At the 14th ASEAN-UN Summit, His Majesty congratulated His Excellency António Guterres, Secretary-General of the UN on the success of the 'Summit of the Future' and the adoption of the 'Pact for the Future,' which outlines a shared vision for a better tomorrow. His Majesty reaffirmed Brunei's commitment to working with ASEAN and the UN to address regional and global challenges, ensuring continued progress and development.

His Majesty highlighted the urgency of tackling climate change and expressed support for the 'Early Warnings for All' initiative, aiming to provide early warning systems to everyone by 2027. His Majesty also welcomed collaboration with UN agencies like the World Meteorological Organization to support ASEAN's climate risk mitigation efforts.

In conclusion, His Majesty encouraged further cooperation between the UN and ASEAN to enhance digital literacy and promote responsible technology development. Summit leaders emphasised the importance of collective efforts in addressing global challenges, particularly in disaster risk reduction and climate change.

At the 2nd Asia Zero Emissions Community (AZEC) Leaders Meeting, His Majesty praised Japan's strong commitment to energy security and sustainable growth in the Asia-Pacific, particularly through its decarbonisation efforts. His Majesty welcomed Japan's 'one goal, various pathways' strategy for achieving zero emissions, which considers the unique circumstances and progress of each AZEC nation.

The Monarch reiterated Brunei's dedication to preserving its environment through renewable energy projects, including large-scale solar photovoltaic systems on marginal lands. These efforts, part of Brunei's National Climate Change Policy, have helped the country reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 14 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent in 2023, putting



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 at the Closing Ceremony of the 44th and 45th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits and Handing Over of the ASEAN Chairmanship to Malaysia.

it on track to meet its 20 per cent emissions reduction target by 2025.

In conclusion, His Majesty expressed a desire to collaborate closely with Japan through the Asia Zero Emission Centre to accelerate energy transition efforts in the region.

His Majesty also encouraged cooperation between the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change and the Asia Zero Emission Centre to explore innovative solutions and policy options for regional carbon neutrality. The leaders at the meeting emphasised environmental cooperation, financing energy transition efforts, and advancing cross-border electricity trading.

The closing ceremony of the ASEAN Summit began with a statement from His Excellency Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), who was the outgoing ASEAN Chair. The Prime Minister of Lao PDR then officially handed over the ASEAN Chairmanship to Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia, through the symbolic passing of the ASEAN Chair's Gavel.

In his speech, Prime Minister of Malaysia praised His Majesty as the most senior and distinguished leader of ASEAN



His Excellency Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic as ASEAN Chair handing over the ASEAN Chairmanship to Yang Amat Berhormat Prime Minister of Malaysia through the symbolic passing of the ASEAN Chair's Gavel.

and outlined Malaysia's priorities for its ASEAN Chairmanship under the theme 'Inclusivity and Sustainability.'

The ceremony concluded with a video presentation from Malaysia, highlighting its plans for the 2025 ASEAN Chairmanship.

The events took place at the National Convention Centre.

Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

His Majesty attends Inauguration Ceremony, State Dinner Reception

JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, 20th October – 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 attended the Inauguration Ceremony of the President and Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia.

His Majesty then joined other State

Guests to the Plenary Session of the People's Consultative Assembly and witnessed the Oath Taking Ceremony of His Excellency Prabowo Subianto as the 8th President of Indonesia; followed by the Oath Taking Ceremony of His Excellency Gibran Rakabuming Raka as the Vice-President.

The session continued with the signing of the Inauguration Minutes, and the inaugural speech by His Excellency

President of Indonesia.

In the afternoon, His Majesty also met with General TNI. (Rtd) H. Try Sutrisno, former Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia; and General TNI. (Rtd) Dr. H. Wiranto, former Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia.



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 being greeted by the President of the Republic of Indonesia (left) and the Oath Taking Ceremony of the 8th President of the Republic of Indonesia (right).



From page 14

Later in the night, His Majesty attended a State Dinner Reception held at the Presidential Palace. The reception was also attended by other state guests and included several musical performances.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the meeting with the former Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia (far left); and former Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (left).



His Majesty attending the State Dinner Reception at the Presidential Palace.

Appointment of new Deputy Permanent Secretary

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 6th October – 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 Dayang Noralinda binti Haji Ibrahim, Director of Forestry at the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) to be promoted and appointed as Deputy Permanent Secretary at MPRT.

The date of appointment is effective starting Monday, 7th October.

RBAirF Commander bestowed Honorary Malaysian Armed Forces Order for Valor (First Degree)

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, 29th October – His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, bestowed the Honorary Malaysian Armed Forces Order for Valor (First Degree) for the Year 2024 to Brigadier General (U) Dato Seri Pahlawan Mohammad Sharif bin Dato Paduka Haji Ibrahim, Commander of the Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF), in recognition of his contributions to enhancing bilateral relations and

cooperation between the RBAirF and the Royal Malaysian Air Force. The investiture ceremony took place at Balairung Seri, Istana Negara in Kuala Lumpur, during the 91st Malaysian Armed Forces Day.

His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia bestowing the Honorary Malaysian Armed Forces Order for Valor (First Degree) for the Year 2024 upon the Commander of the Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF).



Her Majesty graces Birthday Celebration



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam during the reception hosted by the Group of Wives of Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries and Affiliated Members (KI), and other senior officials to celebrate Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri's 78th Birthday.

JERUDONG, 13th October – The Group of Wives of Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers, permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries and Affiliated Members (KI), celebrated Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam's 78th birthday with a reception at the Royal Berkshire Hall, Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club.

Accompanying Her Majesty were Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah; Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyyah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.

The ceremony commenced with a welcoming speech by Datin Hajah Dayang Nahriah binti Haji Awang Asbi, spouse of the Minister of Religious Affairs.

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha then consented to cut the birthday cake and received a *pesambah* (gift) from the group.

Continue on page 17



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and members of the royal family in a group photo with KI members.



Her Majesty launching the special book titled *'Permaisuri Kesayangan: Inspirasi Wanita Islam, Bertakhta Di Hati Rakyat'*.



Her Majesty then consented to launch a special book titled *'Permaisuri Kesayangan: Inspirasi Wanita Islam, Bertakhta Di Hati Rakyat'*, co-produced by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the Information Department, sponsored by Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei (TAIB). The book showcases Her Majesty's life with nostalgic images, a special poem, and prayer. Additionally, a video presentation titled *'Pesona Diraja'* was shown. The celebration also included performances, including a song composed for the occasion, *'Puja Usia'*.



The special book titled *'Permaisuri Kesayangan: Inspirasi Wanita Islam, Bertakhta Di Hati Rakyat'* – co-produced by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the Information Department, and sponsored by Perbadanan Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei (TAIB).

UNISSA welcomes Raja Permaisuri Agong

GADONG, 14th October – Her Majesty Raja Zarith Sofiah binti Almarhum Sultan Idris Shah, Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia, visited the Gadong Campus of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), accompanied by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah.

During the visit, Her Majesty Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia donated 19 books related to royal customs, sultanates, coronation ceremonies, and Istana Negara to be added to UNISSA's Malaysia Book Corner.



Her Majesty also toured the Al-Imtiaz Gallery and an exhibition highlighting the university's collaborations with Malaysian higher education institutions.

Before leaving, Her Majesty received a *pesambah* (souvenir) from UNISSA and presented a souvenir to the university.

Her Majesty also mingled with academic staff and Malaysian students.



Her Majesty Raja Zarith Sofiah binti Almarhum Sultan Idris Shah, Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia during the visit to the Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), accompanied by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah.

Promoting youth engagement, quality education

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 25th October – The 20th Borneo Global Issues Conference (BGIC), organised by the International School Brunei (ISB), is an annual student-led event that brings together schools from Brunei and beyond for discussions on global challenges. The conference promotes youth engagement, collaboration with government bodies, and corporates to support Brunei Vision 2035.



During the Opening Ceremony, Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman in a *sabda* (royal speech) emphasised the importance of aligning the event with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4: Quality Education. Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah stressed the need for inclusive, equitable education to address global disparities and to create an empowering learning environment. Her Royal Highness encouraged delegates to emulate global leaders and work towards sustainable development.

The event, held at the International Convention Centre, hosted delegates from 23 schools, including two from Japan and Malaysia. The conference is supported by prominent sponsors, including Brunei Shell Petroleum and Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD). Keynote speakers included Dr. Stuart Lawrence and Linda Cruse. The conference runs until 27th October.

Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) at the Opening Ceremony of the 20th International School Brunei (ISB) Borneo Global Issues Conference (BGIC) (left).



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah at the 20th ISB BGIC.

Islamic calligraphy: Key component of Islamic heritage

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 16th October – His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Chairman of the Committee of Governors of Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) officially launched the Brunei Darussalam International Islamic Calligraphy Festival 2024.

At the ceremony, which took place at the Main Conference Hall of the International Convention Centre, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik delivered a *sabda* (royal speech) highlighting the historical development of Islamic calligraphy and its connection with Islamic civilisation.

His Royal Highness added that Brunei Darussalam is also taking steps to elevate the status of Islamic calligraphy. Touching on a *titah* (royal speech) 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 1991, His Royal Highness further stressed the need to preserve the Jawi script, as it is a key component of Islamic heritage.

In doing so, the YSHHB School of Islamic Arts and Calligraphy has initiated several projects and initiatives towards providing support and guidance, especially among the youth, in calligraphy writing.

Earlier in the *sabda*, His Royal Highness congratulated YSHHB; the Islamic Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), Republic of Türkiye; Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA); and the Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPU SB) for successfully organising the Brunei Darussalam International Islamic Calligraphy Festival 2024.

Previously, the event saw a welcoming address 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 and Second Minister of Defence as Chairman of the YSHHB Board of Directors; followed by a speech by His Excellency Professor Mahmud Erol Kilic, Director General of IRCICA.

The event also featured a short video titled 'Empowerment Of Islamic Arts Calligraphy'; as well as a keynote speech by Dr. Abd. Rahman bin Hamzah, Senior Lecturer at the Islamic Civilisation Academy of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia and President of the National Calligraphy Association of Malaysia titled '*Seni Khat Memartabatkan Bangsa, Pemangkin Generasi Rabbani*'.

His Royal Highness also presented prizes to the winners of the four categories of the IRCICA Regional Competition of Calligraphy in Asia 2024, jointly organised by IRCICA, and the Yayasan Islamic Calligraphy and Art Study Centre.

Continue on page 19

From page 18

The first place winner under the Khat Thuluth Category was Hafize Sunduvag Namazireihanloo from Türkiye; whereas the second and third place went respectively to Rivi Pratama Putra, and Huda Purnawadi from the Republic of Indonesia.

Under the Khat Nasakh Category, the first, second and third place winners were Mohammad Mustofa; Nafang Permadi Mulyani Utama; and Achmad Jalaludin from the Republic of Indonesia, respectively.

Under the Khat Diwani Category, the first place winner was Mohammad Abdul Ghoffar from Indonesia; followed by Hayatee Wado from the Kingdom of Thailand; and Nailil Muna from the Republic of Indonesia.

As for the Khat Diwani Jali Category, the

winners were Nafang Permadi Mulyani Utama in first place; Mohammad Abdul Ghoffar in second place; and Ikhsanudin in third place – all of whom were from the Republic of Indonesia. Each of the winners received a cash prize, a certificate and a plaque.

His Royal Highness then presented mementos to His Excellency Professor Mahmud Erol Kilic; Dr. Abd. Rahman bin Hamzah; as well as the judges of the competition.

His Royal Highness also toured an exhibition featuring calligraphy artworks from the YSHHB School of Islamic Arts and Calligraphy; UNISSA; and KUPU SB.

Themed 'Empowerment of Islamic Arts Calligraphy', the calligraphy festival seeks to promote the knowledge of Islamic art within the region, and raise awareness of the significance of Islamic calligraphy.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Chairman of the Committee of Governors of Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) while launching the Brunei Darussalam International Islamic Calligraphy Festival 2024.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik presenting prizes to the winners of the Islamic Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture Regional Competition of Calligraphy in Asia 2024.



His Royal Highness touring the event's exhibition.



His Royal Highness in a group photo at the event.

Call for access to youth platforms against drugs



JERUDONG, 8th October – Drug abuse is a pressing social issue that negatively affects communities, as highlighted by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah in a recorded *sabda* (royal speech) for the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) in a recorded video to commemorate the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen emphasised that drug abuse leads to criminal activities, disrupts community peace, and threatens the future of youths. His Royal Highness stressed the importance of providing youths with platforms to resist drug influences, fostering a positive environment for their lives and addressing the issue requires collective efforts from all levels of society, not just a national agenda.

The event, held at The Empire Brunei, included a video launch and a forum on the theme '*Memperkasa Masyarakat Masa Depan Tanpa Dadah*'.

The forum featured expert panellists and was attended by Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Sufian bin Haji Sabtu, Deputy Minister (Security and Law) at Prime Minister's Office; as well as permanent secretaries, deputy permanent secretaries and officials from government departments and the private sector, institutions, non-governmental organisations and the Brunei Youth Council.

Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence attending the event as Guest of Honour.



His Majesty's Office announces royal birth



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 2nd October – 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, the Office of His

Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has announced that Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, wife of Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Suami Abdullah Nabil Mahmoud Al-Hashimi, by the grace of Allah the Almighty, has safely given birth to a princess on Wednesday, 28 Rabiulawal 1446 Hijrah, corresponding to 2nd October 2024 at Portland Hospital, London, United Kingdom, at 9.55 a.m. local time.

Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, wife of Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Suami Abdullah Nabil Mahmoud Al-Hashimi.

To mark the birth, a 17-gun salute was fired from the compound of Istana Nurul Iman.

Her Royal Highness attends 70th Anniversary of CPAFFC

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, 14th October – Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited the People's Republic of China to attend the China International Friendship Conference and Commemorative Events marking the 70th Anniversary of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) from 10th to 12th October.

The visit was made upon the invitation of His Excellency Yang Wanming, President of CPAFFC.

On 11th October 2024, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna attended a meeting with His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of China at The Great Hall of The People, held for the Heads of Foreign Delegations at the China International Friendship Conference.

Later in the afternoon, Her Royal Highness

attended the conference, along with His Excellency Han Zheng, Vice-President of China; His Excellency Yang Wanming; and several other foreign dignitaries.

Afterwards, Her Royal Highness attended a Welcoming Dinner hosted by His Excellency Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Director of the Office of the Central Commission

Continue on page 21



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a group photo with His Excellency President of the People's Republic of China at The Great Hall of The People.

From page 20

for Foreign Affairs and Minister of Foreign Affairs of China.

On 12th October 2024, a Luncheon was hosted by Her Excellency Gu Xiulian, President of the China-ASEAN Association at the Grand Hotel Beijing. Accompanying Her Royal Highness

throughout the visit to Beijing was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna with His Excellency Vice-President of the People's Republic of China at the China International Friendship Conference.



LegCo Speaker receives courtesy call

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 7th October – 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 Her Excellency Eve Lubin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to Brunei Darussalam.

The meeting discussed various topics, including last year's friendly visit from the French Parliament. They also explored the initiative to establish a friendship group and highlighted France's significant role as a dialogue partner in the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly.

Additionally, both parties shared insights into their legal systems and expressed a desire to learn from each other's best practices and future visits.



Yang Berhormat Speaker of the Legislative Council during the courtesy call from Her Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to Brunei Darussalam.

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 was also present at the meeting.

AIPA: Creating a resilient, innovative, people-centric ASEAN

VIENTIANE, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, 23rd October – The Legislative Council (LegCo) delegation attended the 45th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) General Assembly, hosted by the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) in Vientiane from 18th to 22nd October.

The delegation led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Speaker of LegCo comprised 10 LegCo members; along with Dr. Dayang Hajah Huraini

binti Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Jaya Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hurairah, Secretary to the Cabinet Ministers' Council and Clerk to LegCo; and officers from the LegCo Secretariat.

The five-day general assembly saw the adoption of 38 resolutions covering various critical issues under the political, economic, social, organisational committees, as well as the Women Parliamentarians of AIPA, and the Young Parliamentarians of AIPA.

The assembly concluded with Malaysia

receiving the AIPA Chairmanship as the host of the 46th AIPA General Assembly in 2025.

Yang Berhormat Speaker of LegCo also held courtesy calls and bilateral meetings on 22nd October with His Excellency Seah Kian Peng, Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore; Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Dato' (Dr.) Johari bin Abdul, Speaker of Dewan Rakyat Malaysia; and His Excellency Wan Muhamad Noor Matha, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Continue on page 22

From page 21

Previously, in the First Plenary Session, Yang Berhormat Speaker of LegCo touched on the 45th AIPA General Assembly's theme, 'The Role of Parliaments in Enhancing Connectivity and Inclusive Growth of ASEAN', and its alignment with the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025's vision of an interconnected and integrated ASEAN, promoting competitiveness and inclusion.

Yang Berhormat also highlighted the role of parliaments in supporting infrastructure development, strengthening digital networks and connecting people and economies within ASEAN. He also emphasised the assembly's significance as a platform for strengthening regional dialogue and cooperation.

Yang Berhormat added that through connectivity and inclusive growth, ASEAN

will become more integrated and offer wider opportunities to its people.

The 45th AIPA General Assembly also saw a *titah* (royal speech) delivered as a message 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, highlighting the importance of the AIPA theme; as well as the ASEAN community's vision to create a more resilient, innovative and people-centric ASEAN, which focuses on infrastructure development, reducing development gaps, as well as fostering economic integration and exchange among people.

The Monarch also underscored the pivotal role of parliaments in supporting and shaping a rule-based and people-oriented ASEAN community; and further expressed Brunei Darussalam's commitment in supporting AIPA.



Yang Berhormat Speaker of the Legislative Council (LegCo) during the courtesy call with the Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore during the 45th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) General Assembly.

The assembly was officially opened by His Excellency Thongloun Sisoulith, President of Lao PDR on 19th October.



Yang Berhormat Speaker of LegCo and the Brunei Darussalam delegation in a group photo at the 45th AIPA General Assembly.

YEAB-SEA partnership to enhance business, tourism opportunities

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 4th October – The Young Entrepreneurs Association of Brunei (YEAB) and the Sarawak Entrepreneur Association (SEA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to inaugurate the Sarawak Trade and Tourism Office (STATOB).

This partnership aims to foster collaboration among entrepreneurs from both regions, facilitating the exchange of ideas and the development of initiatives in various sectors.

Each party was represented by Awangku Abdul Azim bin Pengiran Yusof, Assistant Secretary of YEAB – who also stood in for Goh Chai Li, President of YEAB; and Khairulnizam Mohamed Khalid, President of SEA respectively.

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 Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy; Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang

Haji Openg, Premier of Sarawak; as well as cabinet ministers, government officials, and business heads and representatives from both countries were also present at the signing.

The establishment of STATOB in Bandar Seri Begawan is expected to strengthen ties between the two regions and promote future joint entrepreneurial projects.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence; Yang Berhormat Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy; and cabinet ministers during the signing.

MoH recognised as AHA International Training Centre



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health delivering a speech at the event.



Yang Berhormat Minister during the inauguration ceremony.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 7th October – The Ministry of Health (MoH) announced its most recent accreditation as an American Heart Association (AHA) International Training Centre (ITC). The AHA accreditation has been effective since 24th February this year.

The inauguration ceremony took place at the Al-'Afiah Hall, MoH, with the attendance of Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health as the Guest of Honour.

At the event, the Minister of Health delivered a speech explaining that MoH, through the Resuscitation and Development and Monitoring Unit conducted a survey from November 2022 to January 2023 to assess basic life support (BLS) and advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) certifications for healthcare professionals across eight facilities – including the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital and primary health centres.

Of the 3,403 healthcare professionals surveyed, 42 per cent held valid BLS certifications, with paramedics leading, followed by dentists, doctors and nurses. For ACLS, 30 per cent of paramedics, 17 per cent of doctors, and two per cent of nurses were certified. While these figures highlight areas for improvement in certification validity, they do not reflect a lack of capability, as they likely resulted from COVID-19 disruptions. Nevertheless, this situation presents an opportunity to enhance training programmes and increase certification rates.

According to the Minister, several measures have been implemented to strengthen resuscitation training and practices in Brunei Darussalam. These are key initiatives of the ministry's Resuscitation Policy and Framework, which provides guidance on the healthcare professionals' training needs, implementation of resuscitation trolley checklists and the formation of facility resuscitation committees.

"This policy is currently being revised to include requirements for community-based health facilities," the Minister said, "as well as to develop a standardised cardiac arrest documentation and audit form for use across healthcare facilities, ensuring consistent documentation and auditing."

"The ministry has also taken the initiative to develop standardised specifications for automated external defibrillators and manual defibrillators across healthcare facilities. This

standardisation improves efficiency, while ensuring consistency for healthcare professionals during emergencies and enhancing cost-effectiveness. This initiative will extend to other critical resuscitation equipment, such as central monitors and other resuscitation tools," added the Minister.

The Minister further shared that the ministry has invested in upgrading the National Resuscitation Centre to create a conducive training environment for faculty, instructors and providers – reinforcing MoH's commitment to high standards in resuscitation training and ultimately improving patient outcomes.

The event also featured a recorded speech by Christopher D' Esposito, Senior Vice-President of International Business at AHA; and a keynote speech by Alina Zhuang, Regional Director for Asia Pacific and China at AHA.

This milestone enables MoH, in partnership with AHA Regional Training Faculty, to launch its first Train-the-Trainers (ToT) programme, which focuses on enhancing local resuscitation training capacity for healthcare professionals. The programme includes essential courses, such as the Training Centre Faculty (TCF) course, as well as BLS and ACLS Provider and Instructor Essentials.

Following the ceremony, 11 senior clinicians from various specialties will undergo TCF training to become MoH ITC's BLS and ACLS Faculty members. Afterwards, 17 healthcare professionals will participate in BLS and ACLS Instructor courses. The training will be held at the recently renovated National Resuscitation Centre.

Following the ToT programme, MoH ITC will launch its first AHA-certified BLS and ACLS Provider courses later this year, further certifying healthcare professionals as BLS and ACLS providers.

MoH ITC targets annual training for at least 480 people in First Aid, CPR, and AED through the Heartsaver course; about 1,600 healthcare staff in BLS; and around 360 in ACLS.

Also present at the inauguration ceremony were Awang Haji Maswadi bin Haji Mohsin, Permanent Secretary at MoH; Dr. Hajah Rafidah binti Haji Gharif, Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary (Professional) at MoH; as well as senior officials and staff members of MoH.

Courtesy visit: Fostering bilateral ties

JERUDONG, 4th October – Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Professor Dr. Sim Kui Hian, Deputy Premier and Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government of Sarawak, visited the Pantai Jerudong Specialist Centre (PJSC).

Upon arrival at the Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC), the Deputy Premier and Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government of Sarawak was welcomed by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health as the Chairman of the PJSC and JPMC Board of Directors.

The visit aimed to exchange insights on healthcare and treatment services, while fostering stronger bilateral ties.

The delegation toured PJSC facilities, including The Brunei Cancer Centre and the Brunei Neuroscience Stroke and Rehabilitation Centre.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health with Yang Berhormat Deputy Premier and Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government of the State of Sarawak and the Executive Director of Pantai Jerudong Specialist Centre (PJSC).

Call for continued support, technical assistance



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health at the 75th Regional Committee Meeting for the Western Pacific Region.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 22nd October – Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health; along with Awang Haji Maswadi bin Haji Mohsin, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health (MoH); and several other senior officials from MoH are attending the 75th Regional Committee Meeting for the Western Pacific Region, which is being held from 21st to 25th October in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines.

At the meeting's opening, the Minister of Health as the Chair of the 74th Regional Committee Meeting delivered an address, followed by a report on the achievements during his tenure.

This included the approval of the Asia Pacific Health Security Action Framework, which promotes a multilateral approach to addressing health threats and fosters collaboration among countries, partners and stakeholders.

This year's meeting focused on topics such as climate change resilience in healthcare facilities, transformative healthcare approaches, strengthening oral health, health funding and digital health, programme allocation evaluation, and progress report on other technical programmes.

The Minister expressed support for the Regional Director's vision, 'Weaving Health for Families, Communities and Societies in the Western Pacific Region', which aligns with MoH's new strategic plan focusing on excellent healthcare, non-communicable disease prevention and control, as well as public health protection.

The Minister called on the World Health Organization (WHO) to maintain its support and technical assistance to member countries. Yang Berhormat also expressed MoH's commitment towards developing a skilled and qualified healthcare workforce; and keenness towards resilience and climate sustainability in the WHO Western Pacific Region's five-year strategy.

The Minister also held bilateral meetings with Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Dr. Haji Dzulkhefly Ahmad, Minister of Health of Malaysia; and the Honorable Dr. Teodoro Herbosa, Secretary of Health of the Philippines.

ABAC report focuses on economic sustainability, digitalisation

BERAKAS, 31st October – Themed 'People. Business. Prosperity', this year's APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) report focuses on the pillars of economic integration, sustainability and human development.

It highlights key initiatives, such as advancing the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific, strengthening supply chain resilience, and fostering digital trade through a regulatory framework that supports data security, cybersecurity and innovation.

The report also recommends establishing a Greener Trade Framework to ensure sustainable growth and emphasises the importance of interoperable digitalisation and inclusion. These priorities align with ABAC's commitment to the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy receiving the APEC Business Advisory Council report for 2024.

Continue on page 25

From page 24

Members of ABAC Brunei – Pengiran Aki Ismasufian bin Pengiran Haji Ibrahim, Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Brunei; and Hafiz Fayadh, Managing Director of Exceltech Solutions Sdn. Bhd. – presented the ABAC report for 2024 to 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 in a ceremony held at the Ministry of Finance and Economy building.

The recommendations will be formally presented to APEC leaders during the annual ABAC Dialogue in November in Lima, Republic of Peru.

Towards unified action in post-disaster recovery



Ministers and representatives of ASEAN Member States at the 12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) and the 13th Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response.

JERUDONG, 24th October – The 12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) and the 13th Conference of the Parties (CoP) to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) convened earlier today at The Empire Brunei.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Home Affairs as Chair of the 12th AMMDM officiated the meeting.

The opening ceremony was attended by ministers and representatives of ASEAN Member States; the Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community; ASEAN Secretariat; ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre); and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste as an observer, as well as dialogue partners from the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (RoK).

The Minister of Home Affairs, in his address at the Opening Ceremony of the 12th AMMDM, called for unified action and inclusivity in ASEAN's post-disaster recovery efforts, in line with the theme of this year's meeting, 'Building a Resilient ASEAN Through Inclusive and Sustainable Disaster Recovery'.

Yang Berhormat also expressed appreciation for the

ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management's efforts in the implementation of the 2021-2025 AADMER Work Programme; as well as the Governing Board of the AHA Centre for overseeing the centre's operation.

The Minister further highlighted the importance of success in both policy and operational areas in fulfilling the ASEAN Agreement on AADMER, ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region, and the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management; as well as in meeting the objectives of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025.

On the sidelines of the 12th AMMDM, the ASEAN Ministers additionally attended meetings with dialogue partners, namely the 4th AMMDM Plus China meeting; the 4th AMMDM Plus Japan meeting and the 3rd AMMDM Plus RoK meeting.

During the meeting, the Minister also witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Intent, alongside the launching of several ASEAN projects.

The 12th AMMDM concluded with the handing over of the Chair to the Kingdom of Cambodia, who will take over the chairmanship of the sectorial body responsible for disaster management and humanitarian assistance in 2025.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Home Affairs witnessing the signing of a Memorandum of Intent and the launching of several ASEAN projects.



Brunei-Türkiye commemorate decades of friendship

GADONG, 31st October – A celebration was held at the Songket Ballroom, The Rizqun International Hotel to commemorate the 101st Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Türkiye, and the 40th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Türkiye and Brunei Darussalam.

Representing the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as the Guest of Honour at the event was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, who was present with his spouse, Datin Paduka Dr. Hajah Norlila binti Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Jalil.

The event saw a cake-cutting session, featuring the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism; His Excellency Professor Dr. Hamit Ersoy, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Türkiye to Brunei Darussalam; along with their respective spouses.

A group photo session with foreign diplomats to the country also took place, followed by a presentation of certificates to the



Yang Berhormat Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism; and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Türkiye to Brunei Darussalam, along with their respective spouses during the cake-cutting ceremony.

students of Yunus Emre Institute for their participation in the Turkish Language Course.

Brunei-Saudi Arabia renew ASA

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, 25th October – The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia signed an updated and modernised Air Services Agreement (ASA) on 23rd October.

The agreement complements the updated Memorandum of Understanding on Freedom of the Air Traffic Rights signed earlier this year in Riyadh.

The signing took place during the International Civil Aviation Negotiation 2024 (ICAN2024), which was held at the Sunway Resort Hotel from 21st to 25th October.

Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications signed the agreement on behalf of the Government of Brunei Darussalam; while Saudi Arabia was represented by His Excellency

Abdulaziz bin Abdullah Al-Duailej, President of the General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) of Saudi Arabia.

The new ASA renews the original agreement established in 1992. The enhanced agreement aims to provide more flexible commercial air transport options, enabling designated airlines from both countries to operate flights to each other's international airports. It aligns with the latest standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization and adheres to the regulatory frameworks of both nations.

Ahead of the signing, the Minister of Transport and Infocommunications held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency President of GACA. The Minister also met separately with Yuli Thompson, Regional Manager for Southeast Asia at the International Air Transport Association.

Throughout ICAN2024, Brunei's delegation actively sought opportunities to negotiate air service agreements that



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications; and His Excellency President of the General Authority of Civil Aviation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the signing.

support global aviation standards and promote air transport liberalisation.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications during the bilateral meeting with the Regional Manager for Southeast Asia at the International Air Transport Association.

Brunei-Germany celebrate diplomatic relations

JERUDONG, 3rd October – The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Brunei Darussalam hosted a reception to celebrate the 34th Day of German Unity and the 40th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Brunei Darussalam and Germany.

Representing the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as the Guest of Honour at the event was Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications.

Held at the Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club, the event featured a welcoming speech by Her Excellency Gerda Winkler, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Germany to Brunei Darussalam, and a cake-cutting ceremony.

Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications and Her Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany to Brunei Darussalam during the cake-cutting session.



MoU strengthens Brunei-Canada maritime cooperation

LONDON, 2nd October – The Maritime and Port Authority of Brunei Darussalam (MPABD) and Department of Transport of Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to mutually recognise a certificate issued under the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers.

The agreement, signed at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) headquarters during the 82nd Session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee meeting in London, enhances maritime cooperation between the two countries.

It allows Bruneian and Canadian seafarers to work on vessels registered under either flag, promoting international collaboration and growth.

Captain (Rtd) Zil Husam bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Chief Executive of MPABD; and



Chief Executive of the Maritime and Port Authority of Brunei Darussalam (MPABD), Alternate Permanent Representative of Canada to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to United Kingdom (UK), and High Commissioner of Canada to the United Kingdom at the Signing Ceremony.

Michelle Sanders, Alternate Permanent Representative of Canada to IMO represented their respective countries at the signing.

His Excellency First Admiral (Rtd) Pengiran Dato Seri Pahlawan Norazmi

bin Pengiran Haji Muhammad, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to United Kingdom (UK); and The Honourable Ralph Goodale, High Commissioner of Canada to UK and Northern Ireland and Permanent Representative to IMO were also present to witness the signing.

UBD receives Coursera 2024 AI Innovation Award

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 22nd October – Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) achieved yet another international accolade with its School of Digital Science (SDS) after receiving the prestigious Coursera 2024 AI Innovation Award for the Asia-Pacific Region. The award recognises UBD's Applied Artificial Intelligence (AAI) programme as a leader in artificial intelligence (AI)-driven education and innovation.

The AAI programme, offered through SDS, rapidly became a key player in developing highly competitive AI professionals equipped with the skills to not only leverage AI technologies but also to drive technological innovations across industries.

Launched in collaboration with Coursera, a global leader in online learning, the AAI programme ensures students receive a world-class education in the field of AI, making them industry-ready graduates in line with Brunei Vision 2035. In addition to AAI, SDS offers other majors such as AI and Robotics, Cybersecurity, Data Science, and Computer Science, solidifying its position as a hub for digital innovation and future-forward education.

The AAI programme has distinguished itself by focusing on real-world applications of AI, utilising courses from industry leaders like International Business Machines and Google with certification. The recognition by Coursera places UBD among the top universities worldwide for

its innovative approach to AI education, which is in sync with the demands of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Without compromising the quality, UBD managed to reduce the duration of its Bachelor of Digital Science degree from four years to three years for the AAI programme to meet the rising demand for digital science experts. The rapid change was supported by the availability of Coursera's rich selection of AI modules, which were seamlessly integrated into the new AAI programme. With this programme, SDS supports the capacity building and manpower requirements towards meeting the vision of a smart nation according to the country's Digital Economy Masterplan 2025.

RBPF Commissioner receives Distinguished Service Order

GADONG, 20th October – Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Mohammad Irwan bin Haji Hambali, Commissioner of the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) was conferred the Distinguished Service Order by His Excellency Tharman Shanmugaratnam, President of the Republic of Singapore on 15th October in an event held at the Banquet Hall, Istana in Republik of Singapore.

The conferment served as an appreciation of the Commissioner's leadership in strengthening the bilateral relationship and close cooperation between RBPF and the Singapore Police Force in capability and capacity building.

During his stay in the Republic of Singapore, the Commissioner paid courtesy calls on His Excellency Lawrence Wong, Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of Singapore; and His Excellency Hoong Wee Teck, Commissioner of Police of Singapore.

Commissioner of the Royal Brunei Police Force receiving the Distinguished Service Order from His Excellency President of the Republic of Singapore.



Vice-President of China conducts visits

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 22nd October – His Excellency Han Zheng, Vice-President of the People's Republic of China visited the Brunei History Centre, Royal Regalia Museum and the Muara Port Company Sdn. Bhd. (MPC) as part of a wider visiting programme to Brunei Darussalam from 21st to 23rd October.

At the Brunei History Centre, the Vice-President of the People's Republic of China toured several galleries, starting with the Salasilah Exhibition Hall; Borneo Manuscript Collection Gallery; Old Brunei History Gallery; before proceeding to the Brunei Golden Era Gallery.

The Vice-President was also briefed on the Royal Regalia Museum during his time at the building, before touring the Royal Regalia (Coronation, 1968) Gallery; Royal Exhibition Gallery; and the Silver Jubilee Gallery.

A discussion was also held to strengthen the ties between Brunei and China during the Vice-President's time at MPC, with a focus on logistics, trade and port operations. The Vice-President also toured the Cruise Ship Terminal and its gallery, which showcases Muara Port's role in regional tourism and maritime sectors.

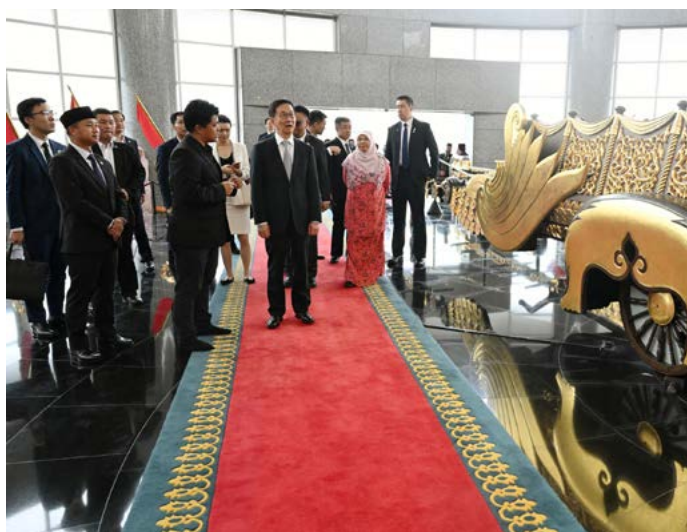
The Vice-President had the chance to observe the terminal's operations, and proceeded to tour of the rice and sugar warehouses, where the newly introduced Mobile Intelligent



His Excellency Vice-President of the People's Republic of China during the visit to the Brunei History Centre.

Nitrogen Filling Control Management System was demonstrated.

The system, developed by Guangxi Sinograin Storage Apparatus Science and Technology Co. Ltd., aims to enhance the storage and preservation of essential commodities in Brunei.



His Excellency touring the Royal Regalia Museum (left); and the Muara Port Company Sdn. Bhd. (right).



Book donation from Royal Thai Embassy

TUNGKU LINK, 5th October – To celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Brunei Darussalam and Kingdom of Thailand, the Royal Thai Embassy donated a collection of books to Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB).

The ceremony, which took place at the UTB Library commenced with remarks from Datin Paduka Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah binti Haji Sulaiman, Vice Chancellor of UTB; and Her Excellency Boosara Kanchanalai, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam.

The event included the launch of a Thai Corner in the UTB Library, showcasing 25 books on topics such as culture, history, travel, architecture, and sustainable development.

The books are hoped to enrich UTB's academic resources and promote cultural appreciation between the two nations.



The Vice Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Brunei and Her Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam at the ceremony.

Brunei-RoK celebrate diplomatic relations

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 30th October – In celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the Republic of Korea (RoK) and Brunei Darussalam, a Tree Planting Ceremony was held at the Mullae Community Garden in Yeongdeungpo District, Seoul.

The ceremony was organised in collaboration with the Brunei Darussalam Embassy in RoK; the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO); and the Yeongdeungpo-gu District – supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of RoK; and the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) of Brunei Darussalam.

The ceremony featured the planting of a Korean Caramel Tree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*), known as Gyesu-Namu in Korean.

Present at the ceremony were Her Excellency Hajah Nooriyah binti Pengiran Lela Wijaya Pengiran Haji



The Tree Planting Ceremony held at the Mullae Community Garden in Yeongdeungpo District, Seoul to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the Republic of Korea and Brunei Darussalam.

Yussof, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to RoK; Dayang Noralinda binti Haji Ibrahim, Deputy Permanent Secretary at MPRT; Kim Dong-bae, Deputy Director-General for ASEAN and South East Asian Affairs

Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of RoK; Cha In-young, Assembly Representative of Yeongdeungpo District; Choi Ho-gwon, Mayor of Yeongdeungpo District; and Dr. Park Chong-ho, Executive Director of AFoCO.

Q2 2024 shows 6.0 per cent GDP growth

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 1st October – In the second quarter (Q2) of this year, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant prices grew by 6 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), driven by a 7.7 per cent increase in the Oil and Gas Sector and a 4.5 per cent rise in the Non-Oil and Gas Sector.

The expansion in the Oil and Gas Sector was driven by the increased production of crude oil, natural gas, and liquefied natural gas (LNG), linked to the development of a new oil and gas field, and higher gas supply.

The Non-Oil and Gas Sector maintained

its positive performance, with notable increases in the manufacture of petroleum and chemical products (52.8 per cent), air transport (24.2 per cent), and wholesale and retail trade (2.1 per cent).

The growth in manufacture of petroleum and chemical products was driven by higher outputs of petrochemicals and fertilisers, while air transport benefitted from more passengers and flights, and wholesale and retail trade saw boosted motor vehicle sales.

In terms of GDP contribution, the Industry Sector accounted for 64.7 per cent, the Services Sector 34.1 per cent, and

Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery Sector 1.2 per cent.

The GDP at current prices was valued at \$5.2 billion, compared to \$4.8 billion in Q2 2023, with the Oil and Gas Sector contributing 50.3 per cent and the Non-Oil and Gas Sector 49.7 per cent.

From an expenditure perspective, GDP growth was driven by a 37.7 per cent increase in exports of goods and services, a 6 per cent rise in household final consumption expenditure, and a 4.9 per cent increase in government final consumption expenditure, although gross capital formation fell by 12 per cent.

CPI in September 2024 shows decrease

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 28th October – The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in September registered a 0.4 per cent decrease compared to September 2023. This was due to a 0.4 per cent and 0.5 per cent decrease in the food and non-alcoholic beverages; and non-food indices, respectively.

The decrease in the food and non-alcoholic beverages index was mainly attributed to the fall of prices under the meat category (1.7 per cent), particularly processed meat; as well as prices under the oil and fats category (6.4 per cent),

particularly the cooking oils.

The fall in the non-food index was mainly due to the decline of prices under housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels category (1.3 per cent), with the cost of maintenance and repair of the dwelling as the primary factor. In addition, the transport category (0.7 per cent) also contributed to the decrease in the non-food index, mainly due to the lower prices of motor cars.

As for month-on-month comparison, the CPI in September registered a

decrease of 0.3 per cent from August, following the decline in both food and non-alcoholic beverages; and non-food indices by 0.2 per cent and 0.3 per cent respectively.

The decrease in the food and non-alcoholic beverages index was mainly contributed by vegetables (1.9 per cent); and meat (0.3 per cent). Meanwhile, the decrease in the non-food index was mainly driven by the prices of transport (1.9 per cent); as well as housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (0.3 per cent).

