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## Brunei-India committed to strengthening cooperation in various fields

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 4<sup>th</sup> September** – 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 Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, at Cheradi Laila Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman.

Present at the audience ceremony were members of the royal family.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam then proceeded together with the Prime Minister of the Republic of India for a bilateral meeting at Baitul Mesyuarah.



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 Audience Ceremony with His Excellency Prime Minister of the Republic of India.

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## Achieve partnerships that facilitate fair and inclusive technological progress

**NEW YORK CITY, UNITED STATES, 22<sup>nd</sup> September** – 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 Summit of the Future during the 79<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly at the United Nations Headquarters.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was the Monarch's daughter: Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah.

During the Summit, His Majesty in a *titah* (royal speech) emphasised the United Nations' (UN) origins in overcoming conflict and the importance of unity.

In line with the theme, 'Summit of the Future: Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow', His Majesty further underlined three key points. First, the digital divide exacerbates inequalities, and global peace is essential for progress in technology and infrastructure.

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## 10<sup>th</sup> YLP: Working visit

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, 11<sup>th</sup> September** – 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), made a working visit to the Sentosa Development Corporation (SDC) on Sentosa Island.

Upon arrival, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince was welcomed by the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment and the Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations.

His Royal Highness then proceeded to a briefing session on the Eco-Tourism Plan for Sentosa Island, presented by Kelly Yoong, Director of Planning and Data Analytics at the Sentosa Development Corporation.

The briefing included plans for six key areas to achieve Sentosa's goal of carbon neutrality by 2030, as well as discussions on sustainability partnerships and climate change adaptation measures. This effort aims to balance tourism growth with environmental stewardship while enhancing both the island's appeal and ecology.

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### EDITORIAL Advisory Board:

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

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

### Chief-Editor:

Mufidah Abdul Hakim  
(mufidah.hakim@information.gov.bn)

### Editors:

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

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

### Text & translation

Zawiyatun Ni'mah Mohammad Akir  
(zawiyatun.akir@information.gov.bn)

Syasya Bazilah Haji Mohammad Jafny

Amal Anisza Puasa

### Layouter:

Khairul Shaharim Haji Abdul Ghafor  
(shaharim.ghafor@information.gov.bn)

### Proofreader:

Hajah Nurizan Mohd. Irwan  
(nurizan.mohdirwan@information.gov.bn)

### Photographs

Photography Unit, Information Department

### General inquiries

Tel: (673) 2383 400/

### Information Department

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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:

Agnete Johnsgaard-Lewis, outgoing Managing Director of Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP) Company Sendirian Berhad and Johan Atema, the recently appointed Managing Director of BSP on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.



His Excellency General TNI (Retired) Prabowo Subianto, Minister of Defence and President-Elect of the Republic of Indonesia on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

## 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 To Lam, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam and President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; His Excellency Pham Minh Chinh, Prime Minister of Viet Nam, the government and the people of Viet Nam on the occasion of the

79<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Day of Viet Nam on 2<sup>nd</sup> September; and

- His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques; His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia; the government and people of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of the National Day of Saudi Arabia on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

## Message of condolences

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send a message of condolences to His Excellency To Lam, General Secretary of the Communist

Party of Viet Nam and President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; His Excellency Pham Minh Chinh, Prime Minister of Viet Nam, the government and the people of Viet Nam following Typhoon Yagi that hit Viet Nam recently, resulting in the loss of lives and widespread damage on 14<sup>th</sup> September.



## 5 students receive Sultan's Scholar

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 2<sup>nd</sup> September** – Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) Sultan's Scholar for 2024/2025 academic session was awarded to five exceptional students during a ceremony at Istana Nurul Iman.

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 presented the scholarships.

Also in attendance at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, Chairman of the YSHHB Committee of Governors.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, Chairman of the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) Committee of Governors in a group photo with the scholarship recipients.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam awarding scholarships to Dayang Nur Hidayah Haziyah binti Handrie (left), Awang Muhammad Asfa Radhi bin Mohammad Yusran (centre) and Awang Muhammad Nafeez bin Haji Arbaie (right).



The five recipients of the prestigious scholarship are Dayang Nur Hidayah Haziyah binti Handrie, a former Jerudong International School (JIS) student who will pursue her Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Geoscience at University College London, United Kingdom (UK).

Meanwhile, Awang Muhammad Asfa Radhi bin Mohammad Yusran, who graduated from Tutong Sixth Form Centre, will continue his studies with a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering (Honours) (Chemical Engineering) at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia.

Awang Muhammad Nafeez bin Haji Arbaie, a graduate of Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Science College, will pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Data Science and Decisions at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia.

While, Awang Muhammad Afq bin Abdul Rahman, who completed his studies in JIS, will pursue his Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics at University College London, UK.



His Majesty awarding scholarships to Awang Muhammad Afq bin Abdul Rahman (left) and Awangku Mohammad Idris Fadhlee bin Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Haji Mohammad Tashim (right).



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence at the Signing Ceremony of the Scholarship Agreement with the recipients.



Yang Berhormat Ministers in a group photo with the five exceptional students award YSHHB 2024/2025 scholarship.

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His Majesty mingling with recipients, their families and those present at the event.

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Awangku Mohammad Idris Fadhlee bin Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Haji Mohammad Tashim, who graduated from Sekolah Menengah Arab Laki-Laki Hassanah Bolkiah will pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Syariah Islamiyyah at Al-Azhar University, Arab Republic of Egypt.

Meanwhile, the Signing Ceremony of the Scholarship Agreement was held at Dewan An-Naura, Level 2, YSHHB Complex.

Present as the Guest of Honour was 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 the YSHHB Board of Directors.

Dr. Nor Imtihan binti Haji Abdul Razak, Permanent Secretary (Planning, Land Use and Environment) at the Ministry of Development cum Acting Managing Director of YSHHB, along with Awang Haji Abdullah @ Dollah bin Haji Ahad, Assistant Managing Director of YSHHB (Corporate Service), inked the agreement on behalf of YSHHB, witnessed by Guest of Honour.

## Brunei-India committed to strengthening cooperation in various fields

### From front page

Also present during the meeting was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

At the meeting, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) welcoming the Prime Minister on his first official visit to Brunei Darussalam, which coincides with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries. During the meeting, both leaders reflected on the excellent progress in bilateral relations over the years, including cooperation in connectivity, trade and investment, energy, education, and health.

Both leaders welcomed the planned direct flight connectivity between Bandar Seri Begawan and Chennai, as well as the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Telemetry Tracking and Telecommand Station, which will be beneficial to both countries. His Majesty expressed appreciation for the contributions of Indian nationals across various sectors to the socio-economic development of Brunei.

Moving forward, His Majesty and the Prime Minister reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen and deepen bilateral relations into an 'Enhanced Partnership' through the issuance of a Joint Statement during the Prime Minister's official visit to Brunei. Additionally, both leaders exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest, including developments in ASEAN, the situation in Myanmar, climate change, the Palestine-Israel conflict, and the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

After the conclusion of the meeting, a Joint Statement on an Enhanced Partnership between Brunei and the Republic of India was issued.

Following the meeting, His Majesty and the Prime Minister



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanah 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 Audience Ceremony with His Excellency Prime Minister of the Republic of India.

witnessed the signing ceremony of the MoU between the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Republic of India, on the Cooperation and Telecommand Station for Satellite and Launch Vehicles, as well as cooperation in the field of space research, science, and applications.

Signing on behalf of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications. The Government of the Republic of India was represented by His Excellency Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister.

At noon, His Majesty together with the Prime Minister, members of the royal family, and the official delegation of India, proceeded to Baitul Rahmah for an Official Luncheon.

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Present at the Audience Ceremony were members of the royal family.

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In a *titah*, His Majesty stated that Brunei and India officially elevated their relationship to an Enhanced Partnership during the Prime Minister's first official visit to Brunei. The visit, which coincides with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two nations, marks a new chapter in their longstanding friendship.

His Majesty highlighted the deep-rooted friendship and strong people-to-people ties between the two nations and acknowledged the significant contributions of the Indian community in Brunei to the country's socio-economic development.

His Majesty emphasised the importance of looking to the future with optimism and strengthening cooperation in areas such as connectivity, energy, education, and health, as well as expanding collaboration into new sectors, including ICT, renewable energy, agriculture, and the halal industry.

In his remarks, the Prime Minister reiterated India's commitment to strengthening cooperation with Brunei in various sectors, including economic, scientific, strategic, FinTech, cybersecurity, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and health.

Under the energy sector, the potential for long-term cooperation in LNG was discussed.

To strengthen defence cooperation, both nations engaged in constructive dialogue on possibilities in the defence industry, training, and capacity building.



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 Bilateral Meeting. Also present was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency Prime Minister of the Republic of India at the Bilateral Meeting.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on behalf of the Government of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency External Affairs Minister signing on behalf of the Government of the Republic of India.

In the space sector, the two countries agreed on cooperation in satellite development, training, and enhancing connectivity.

The Prime Minister added that Brunei is an important partner in India's Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific Vision. India is grateful for Brunei's commitment to relations with the country, marking a new chapter in the historical ties between both nations.

Brunei and India enjoy robust cooperation across key sectors, including trade, energy, defence, health, and education.

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His Majesty and His Excellency Prime Minister of the Republic of India as well as other members of the royal family at the Official Luncheon.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at PMO, as Personal Representative of His Majesty welcoming His Excellency Prime Minister of the Republic of India at the Brunei International Airport.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and the Prime Minister of the Republic of India during the Official Welcoming Ceremony.

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The strategic partnership between India and ASEAN serves as a strong foundation for further enhancing bilateral relations.

The Prime Minister concluded his two-day official visit and departed the country.

The Prime Minister arrived at the Brunei International Airport yesterday was welcomed by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at PMO, as a personal representative of His Majesty.

The Official Welcoming Ceremony began with the national anthems of both countries, followed by the Prime Minister inspecting the Guard of Honour mounted by members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).

While in the country, the Prime Minister also had the opportunity to inaugurate the new Indian High Commission Building in



His Excellency Prime Minister of the Republic of India inspecting the Guard of Honour mounted by members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

Brunei Darussalam, located at the Diplomatic Enclave, Jalan Kebangsaan, and visit the Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque.



Yang Berhormat State Mufti reciting a *doa selamat* during the Official Luncheon.



His Excellency Prime Minister of the Republic of India inaugurating the new Indian High Commission Building in Brunei Darussalam located at the Diplomatic Enclave, Jalan Kebangsaan.



His Excellency Prime Minister of the Republic of India watching a video clip about the history and development of the Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque during the visit to the mosque.



# High-quality teachers contribute to effectiveness education system



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, Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the 12<sup>th</sup> UTB Convocation Ceremony.

**BERAKAS, 7<sup>th</sup> September** – 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 Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB), in a *titah* (royal speech), urged for UTB, as well as all higher education institutions, to focus on a more thorough recruitment process for their academic workforce. This is vital to ensure that those recruited are truly qualified and capable of contributing to the strategic plans of their respective

institutions and the development of the country.

Regarding the shortening of the study period from four to three years, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam noted that the first group benefiting from this change will be awarded bachelor's degrees in the fields of Science, Technology, and Business at the convocation ceremony. This change is the result of a study closely monitoring best practices at UTB.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting certificates to the graduates.



His Majesty upon arrival at the 12<sup>th</sup> UTB Convocation Ceremony.

His Majesty delivered the *titah* in conjunction with the 12<sup>th</sup> UTB Convocation Ceremony.

The establishment of the Centre of Green Technology and Sustainable Research is expected to contribute to the research thrusts in line with global best practices, with UTB research also targeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this regard, His Majesty noted that UTB has entered the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking for the first time. His Majesty congratulated UTB on this achievement.

Earlier in the *titah*, His Majesty congratulated the graduates on their successful completion of their studies and expressed hope that this success would be a catalyst for future excellence.

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His Majesty mingling with Awang Lim Siew Yong, aged 80, one of the recipients of the Master's Degree in the field of Civil Engineering by Coursework.



His Majesty in a group photo with the graduates.



His Majesty mingling with the graduates.



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His Majesty also extended congratulations to the parents and guardians, as well as the teaching staff, who have consistently encouraged the graduates to achieve success.

Before concluding the *titah*, His Majesty expressed his appreciation and gratitude to all members of the UTB community for their contributions and services.

A total of 670 graduates received their Doctor of Philosophy, Master's, and Bachelor's Degrees in various fields at the 12<sup>th</sup> UTB Convocation Ceremony.

Also in attendance was His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the

Prime Minister's Office (PMO) as Pro-Chancellor of UTB.

The ceremony began with the recitation of Surah Al-An'aam, verses 161-165, by Hajah Wafiqah binti Haji Daim, a Master's graduate, while Evy Surya Farhana binti Haji Ali-Bolkiah, who graduated with a Bachelor's degree, read the interpretations of the verses.

The ceremony continued with a welcoming address by Datin Paduka Profesor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah binti Haji Sulaiman, UTB Vice Chancellor, who noted that one of the recipients of a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering by Coursework was Awang Lim Siew Yong, aged 80.

At the ceremony, His Majesty presented 11 graduates with Doctor of Philosophy degrees, 112 with Master's degrees, and 547 with Bachelor's degrees.



Graduates of the 12<sup>th</sup> UTB Convocation Ceremony.





# Explore new investment opportunities, identify latest technology



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 *tutah* (royal speech) at the 412<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting of Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP) Sendirian Berhad and the 190<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting of Brunei Shell Marketing (BSM) Sendirian Berhad for the Third Quarter (Q3) of 2024 (right) and His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam upon arrival.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 10<sup>th</sup> September** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, chaired the 412<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting

of Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP) Sdn Bhd and the 190<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting of Brunei Shell Marketing (BSM) Sdn Bhd for the Third Quarter (Q3) of 2024 at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) building.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam chairing the meeting.



The meeting in session.





His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam chairing the 223<sup>rd</sup> Board of Directors Meeting of Brunei LNG (BLNG) Sendirian Berhad and the 109<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting of Brunei Gas Carriers (BGC) Sendirian Berhad for the Third Quarter (Q3) of 2024.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the meeting (above and below).

In a *titah* (royal speech), His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam emphasised the importance of the Brunei Shell Joint Venture (BSJV) and Brunei Gas Carriers (BGC) working together to plan for increased returns and support business growth on order to remain competitive in the future, noting that cost management remains a key driver of long-term sustainability for all businesses.



His Majesty highlighted the significant presence of BSJV and BGC in Brunei Darussalam and their extensive interface with vendors and contractors, emphasising the need for cooperation with relevant agencies to uphold high integrity in all activities.

These meetings followed the 223<sup>rd</sup> Board of Directors Meeting of Brunei LNG (BLNG) Sendirian Berhad and the 109<sup>th</sup> Board

of Directors Meeting of Brunei Gas Carriers (BGC) Sendirian Berhad for Q3 2024, which were held yesterday.

During the meeting, His Majesty reiterated the principle of 'zero tolerance' against abuse of power and corruption and stressed the importance of upholding business integrity in all activities, with a focus on cost optimisation while simultaneously driving the company's performance.



# His Majesty leads Maulidur Rasul procession

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 16<sup>th</sup> September** – 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, joined thousands of Muslims for the national-level Maulidur Rasul Grand Assembly and Procession for 1446 Hijrah/2024 Masihi.

Also present were His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's sons and brothers: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

The event began with a mass recitation of Surah Al-Fatihah and a *doa selamat* led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with the Maulidur Rasul Celebration for 1446 Hijrah/2024 Masihi.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the Maulidur Rasul Grand Assembly and Procession for 1446 Hijrah/2024 Masihi.

This was followed by welcoming remarks from Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, the Minister of Religious Affairs.

His Majesty led the 1.9-kilometre procession around the capital, which involved approximately 95 teams and over 5,409 participants. Similar processions were also held in the other three districts.



In His Majesty's *titah* (royal speech) delivered in conjunction with the Maulidur Rasul Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam celebration for 1446 Hijrah/2024 Masihi, broadcasted nationwide through Radio Television Brunei on 15<sup>th</sup> September, His Majesty emphasised that intellect is the greatest gift of Allah the Almighty.

His Majesty highlighted the importance of intellect for survival and noted that Islam provides guidance on maintaining a healthy mind, free from disturbance or harm. This includes prohibitions against intoxicating substances such as alcohol and drug abuse.

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His Majesty receiving a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) after the procession.



Yang Berhormat State Mufti reciting the *doa selamat* (left), and among the participants involved the Maulidur Rasul Grand Assembly and Procession (above).



Dikir Marhaban performance.





His Majesty leading the procession around the capital. Also joining the procession were members of the royal family.



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This includes all matters that can lead to addiction, such as unrestrained browsing of media applications and disseminating invalid information. All these can affect the actual function of the mind.

“Therefore, we must strengthen our immune system through

religious education. This is crucial so that we are not influenced by ideologies and thoughts that are not in line with my government’s policies,” said His Majesty.

Earlier, His Majesty expressed gratitude to Allah the Almighty, stating that, with His permission, we can welcome and rekindle the month of Rabiulawal in conjunction with the Maulidur Rasul Celebration of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

## Knowledge Convention 2024: Addressing Mental Symptoms

**BERAKAS, 18<sup>th</sup> September** – 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 significance of mental health in light of increasing number of related issues in both nationally and globally.

The gravity of the situation, noting that among the total of 13,246 patients receiving treatment this year, civil servants and students were included.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered the *titah* at the opening of the Knowledge Convention 2024, held in conjunction with His Majesty 78<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration.

His Majesty stated that, according to Islam, physical and mental health are gifts and blessings from Allah the Almighty, and it is crucial that we nurture them as part of the Maqasid Syariah.

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar ‘Ali Saifuddien Sa’adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the Opening of the Knowledge Convention 2024.



The launching of two books titled ‘Buku Menyambut Hari Keputeraan Raja dengan Semangat Ilal Hijrah’ and ‘Amalan Penjagaan Kesejahteraan Minda dan Emosi: Buku Panduan Doa dan Zikir’.







His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam touring the Knowledge Convention 2024 Exhibition (left); and signing a book (right).



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam taking a closer look at the Knowledge Convention 2024 Exhibition.

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The Monarch was pleased to announce that numerous efforts have been made, involving health, religious and public services with the support of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), to tackle this issue in Brunei Darussalam. Many of these efforts integrates scientific and spiritual treatments, combining Islamic and scientific perspective on mental health and illnesses.

Accompanying His Majesty at the ceremony that took place at the International Convention Centre were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

The ceremony began with a recitation of *doa selamat* led by Yang

Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Mahajara Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti as Advisor to the Knowledge Convention 2024 Steering Committee.

This was followed by with a recitation of verses from the Al-Quran, read by Pengiran Muhd. Amirul Aiman bin Pengiran Haji Marjuki, Religious Education Officer and interpreted by Awang Abdul Mu'min bin Haji Awang, Religious Education Officer.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Defence as Co-Chairperson of the Knowledge Convention 2024 Steering Committee then delivered his welcoming remarks, presenting this year's theme: '*Menangani Gejala Mental*' (Addressing Mental Symptoms).

After, His Majesty proceeded with the launching ceremony of two books titled '*Menyambut Hari Keputeraan Raja Dengan Semangat Ilal Hijrah*' and '*Amalan Penjagaan Kesejahteraan Minda dan Emosi: Buku Doa dan Zikir*'.

The event continued with a lecture by the State Mufti titled '*Menangani Gejala Mental*'.

His Majesty then toured the Knowledge Convention 2024 Exhibition, aimed at raising awareness on the importance of mental health in our daily lives. The exhibition was divided into five main zones, showcasing various aspects of mental health from multiple perspectives.

Prior to departure, His Majesty were invited to join a group photo session and a luncheon.



His Majesty and other members of royal family in a group photo.



## Achieving partnerships that facilitate fair and inclusive technological progress



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Wadaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the Summit of the Future held during the 79<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly.



Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardahtul Bolkiah.

### From front page

Secondly, The Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals serve as beacons of hope, reinforcing the commitment to leaving no one behind.

Thirdly, Brunei Darussalam's support for multilateralism and international law is vital for regional peace and stability, especially amid current global security challenges.

His Majesty expressed confidence that a collective vision could create a brighter future, as reflected in the adopted 'Pact for the Future', focuses on five areas: Sustainable Development and Financing for Development; International Peace and Security; Science, Technology and Innovation and Digital

Cooperation; Youth and Future Generations; Transforming Global Governance.

The Summit also endorsed the 'Global Digital Compact' and the 'Declaration on Future Generations.'

The Summit was attended by world leaders aiming to rebuild trust in international cooperation and reaffirm existing commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Charter.

The Summit was preceded by statement from His Excellency Philémon Yang, President of the UN General Assembly; His Excellency António Guterres, The UN Secretary-General; and youth representatives.

## Committed to supporting peacekeeping missions, initiatives on poverty and education

**NEW YORK CITY, UNITED STATES, 23<sup>rd</sup> September** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Wadaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam met with His Excellency António Guterres, the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General and Her Excellency Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu, President of the Republic of Kosovo.

During the meeting with the UN Secretary-General, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered a *titah* (royal speech) regarding Brunei Darussalam's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a member of the UN, highlighting the extensive benefits of this membership and reaffirmed its strong commitment to the multilateral system through peacekeeping missions and initiatives on poverty and education.

"The UN's support has been beneficial for all the ASEAN Member States. Additionally, ASEAN has taken firm steps in realising its community development efforts with dialogue partners including welcoming Timor-Leste's admission into ASEAN," said the Monarch.

Furthermore, a diplomatic solution to the political situation in Republic of the Union of Myanmar, guided by the Five Point Consensus was also raised by His Majesty.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Wadaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency Secretary-General of the United Nations, at the UN Headquarters.

In this regard, stronger collaboration between the UN Special Envoy to Myanmar and Special Envoy to ASEAN Chair on Myanmar was also encouraged.

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His Majesty stated that Brunei remains committed to continue working closely with the Secretary-General and the UN to further enhance cooperation in the coming years.

Meanwhile, during the bilateral meeting with the President of the Republic of Kosovo, His Majesty welcomed the President and her delegation to Brunei for a state visit from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2017, Brunei and Kosovo have maintained warm and close relations, particularly in the area of education cooperation, with scholarship programmes benefiting 14 Kosovan students since 2001.

His Majesty welcomes more Kosovan students to pursue their studies through Brunei government scholarships, aiming to strengthen friendships and enhance mutual understanding among the youth.

Additionally, Brunei's financial contributions through the 2000 Tabung Insaniah Kosovo have supported scholarships for Kosovan students, funded an orphanage, and contributed to the construction of a school and mosques.

His Majesty highlighted Brunei's dedication to promote



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with the Her Excellency President of Republic Kosovo, during the bilateral meeting at the Park Hyatt.

lasting peace and stability in Kosovo under the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

The Monarch and the President also exchanged views on regional and international issues of shared concern, including developments in Russia and Ukraine, the Palestine-Israel situation, and relations among major powers.

## Committed to continuing close cooperation with the UN

**NEW YORK CITY, UNITED STATES, 24<sup>th</sup> September** – 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 a reception to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Brunei Darussalam's membership in the United Nations (UN) at the UN Headquarters.

During the reception, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered a *titah* (royal speech) reflecting on Brunei's accession as the UN's 159<sup>th</sup> member in 1984, which also coincided with the country's membership in ASEAN, enhancing its regional and global presence.

His Majesty highlighted the significant benefits Brunei has gained through its UN membership, including advancements in sustainable development, education, and public health, contributing to both national and global progress.

His Majesty expressed pride in Brunei Darussalam's contributions to peacekeeping, poverty alleviation, and inclusive education, emphasising the importance of collective determination in addressing global challenges.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Brunei Darussalam's membership in the United Nations (UN).

The reception was attended by various dignitaries, reinforcing Brunei's role on the international stage since joining the UN, where it continues to contribute to peace, security, and global stability.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam mingling with heads of state and government, state and government representatives; foreign dignitaries of the UN member states as well as international organisations.





## Innovation and technology - key elements to achieving civil service's goals

**BERAKAS, 30<sup>th</sup> September** – 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) at the 31<sup>st</sup> Civil Service Day celebration for the year 2024 emphasised that innovation and technology are essential for achieving civil service's goals.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam highlighted the use of advanced technologies, such as big data and Artificial Intelligence, to improve service efficiency and responsiveness to community needs.

The Monarch announced the establishment of a Civil Service Transformation Committee, which will include members from the private sector and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), to promote holistic policy-making.

His Majesty urged civil servants to uphold government missions and strive for continuous improvement and innovation in a complex world.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with the 31<sup>st</sup> Civil Service Day.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting awards and certificates of appreciation to the recipients.



His Majesty consented to launch a book highlighting the leadership qualities of the *Tokoh Jasawan Negara*, His Majesty's late father, Al-Marhum His Majesty Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam, who was not only renowned for his wisdom in state affairs but also deeply concerned about the advancement of civil service.

His Majesty also acknowledged the dedication of both current and retired civil servants and expressed gratitude for their contributions.

His Majesty concluded the *titah* by stating that Civil Service Day is not only a time to celebrate achievements but also to prepare for future challenges.



Among those present at the event.

Prior to the *titah*, a welcoming address was given by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, the Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence.



Yang Berhormat Minister at Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence delivering his welcoming address at the event.

Also present at the ceremony which was held at the International Convention Centre were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at PMO; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah,

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Special Edition Book titled 'Jasawan Perkhidmatan Awam: Meneruskan Legasi Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddien III Tokoh Jasawan Negara'.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam launching the Special Edition Book.

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His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at Ministry of



Foreign Affairs.

The ceremony began with the recitation of verses from the Al-Quran. This was followed with a video presentation about the book, along with a poetic performance titled *Syair Perlembagaan Negeri Brunei*.

The celebration also featured a video on the Civil Service Awards: Premier Innovation Award; Public Sector Performance Grading Programme, Excellent Civil Service Employee Award; and the Civil Service Personnel Meritorious and Dedication Awards for 2024.

His Majesty presented these awards and certificates to recipients and toured a special exhibition dedicated to Civil Service Day.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam upon arrival at the 31<sup>st</sup> Civil Service Day Celebration. Also present were members of the royal family.

## Royal Attendance at Women's Special Assembly

**JERUDONG, 26<sup>th</sup> September** – Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam graced the Women's Special Assembly in conjunction with the Maulidur Rasul Celebration for 1446 Hijrah, held at the Main Hall of Berkshire Tarindak d'Polo.

Accompanying Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha were Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah; and 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.



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam at the Women's Special Assembly in conjunction with the Maulidur Rasul Celebration for 1446 Hijrah. Accompanying Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri were Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah; and 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.

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The event began with recitation of Al-Quran by Dayangku Alya Shahirah binti Pengiran Haji Jofri, first runner-up of the National Youth Quran Recitation Competition Final Level Year 1445H/2024M.

This was followed by welcoming remarks from Dayang Hajah Mariana binti Haji Jamil, Acting Assistant Director of Islamic Studies at the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA), who is also the Joint Chair of the Women's Special Assembly.

The event continued with a *Dikir Marhaban* performance by a group of officers and staff from MoRA, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications, Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) and the Brunei Darussalam Women's Council (MWNBD).

It was further enhanced by a special talk titled '*Memelihara Akal Berpandukan Sunnah Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam*' by Dayang Nor Syahmun binti Haji Matassan, a Clinical Psychologist and Head of Mental Health Strategy at the Health Promotion Centre, Ministry of Health. The ceremony then proceeded with a



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha attending the Women's Special Assembly in conjunction with the Maulidur Rasul Celebration for 1446 Hijrah.

*selawat* by Year 4 and 5 students from YSHHB Primary School.

To bless the gathering, a *doa selamat* was recited by Dayang Noraini Yanti binti Haji Hussin, a Senior Religious Officer at the Mosque Affairs Department of the MoRA.



Al-Quran recitation by Dayangku Alya Shahirah binti Pengiran Haji Jofri.



Dayang Nor Syahmun binti Haji Matassan delivering her special talk.



Recitation of *selawat* by Year 4 and 5 students from Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Primary School.



Among those present at the event.



## Spreading benefits, blessings of Al-Quran through learning

**BERAKAS, 5<sup>th</sup> September** – His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) 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), stated in a *sabda* (royal speech) that every individual Muslim must first master the recitation of the Al-Quran, of which a prerequisite is the readiness to learn *tajwid* and to refine the pronunciation of *makhraj* carefully, in stages and continuously.

Through a smooth reading method, both reader and listener will come to appreciate and invite Allah's blessings and mercy upon the society and country we cherish. His Royal Highness the Crown Prince delivered this *sabda* at the 12<sup>th</sup> Hafut Takharuj

of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Tahfiz Al-Quran Institute (ITQSHHB), which took place at the International Convention Centre.

Touching on spiritual ailments, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince reminded us of the issue of mental health symptoms that have been widely discussed lately.

The concerned parties in this country should be sensitive to how these symptoms can be treated or addressed with the Al-Quran. There is indeed a way, guided by the teachings of the Al-Quran, to overcome related problems.

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In this regard, His Royal Highness mentioned that with many *huffaz* (memorisers of the Al-Quran) in this country, particularly from ITQSHHB, the benefits and blessings of the Al-Quran can be further spread through learning and various programmes or activities related to its recitation, emphasising that its content should be appreciated as a fundamental way of life.

Also present at the ceremony was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

The ceremony began with the recitation of Surah Al-Balad, verses 1-20, by Dayang Awadah binti Awang Mohamad Ariffin, followed by the interpretation read by Dayang Nurqamariah binti Kepli.



His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) 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) delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) at the 12<sup>th</sup> Haflut Takharuj of Institute Tahfiz Al-Quran Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (ITQSHHB).



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince presenting the 'Aliyah Qira'at Diploma to graduates.



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



Among those present at the event.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs, expressed hope in his welcoming speech that the graduates would utilise the knowledge gained through their studies in their religious practices.

His Royal Highness then presented the Aaliyah Qiraat Diploma to 20 graduates. Of these, 11 earned Excellent grades, six obtained Very Good, one earned Good, and two received Passing grades. The ceremony continued with a speech from the representative of the graduates of the 'Aliyah Qira'at Diploma, presented by Dayang Nurmazrina binti Abdul Mahmod.

Before leaving the ceremony, His Royal Highness graciously consented to take a commemorative photo with the Members of the Supreme Committee and the Haflut Takharuj Working Committee of the 12<sup>th</sup> ITQSHHB, as well as the celebrated graduates.



# 10<sup>th</sup> YLP: Working visit (continued)

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After the briefing, His Royal Highness visited Palawan Beach, Beach Station, the Walkthrough RISE Sustainability Showcase, and Sensoryscape.

Before concluding the visit, His Royal Highness participated in a group photo session.

SDC is a statutory board under the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Republic of Singapore. Established on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 1972, SDC is responsible for overseeing the development, management, and marketing of Sentosa Island.



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) during the working visit to the Sentosa Development Corporation (SDC), Sentosa Island.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince listening to a briefing on Eco-Tourism Plan for Sentosa Island.

Meanwhile, Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman visited the Yong Siew Toh (YST) Conservatory of Music in Singapore.

Also present were Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Faathimah Az-Zahraa' Raihaanul Bolkiah.

Upon arrival, Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah was welcomed by Associate Professor Chan Tze Law, Vice Dean of the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory and the National University of Singapore.

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His Royal Highness in a group photo.



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman during the visit to Yong Siew Toh (YST) Conservatory of Music, Singapore. Also present were His Royal Highness the Crown Prince's children.





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Her Royal Highness was then briefed in the Student Lounge on the overview of the YST Conservatory of Music and the curriculum offered by the institution.

Established in 2023, YST plays a role in developing excellence in instrumental performance and music composition.

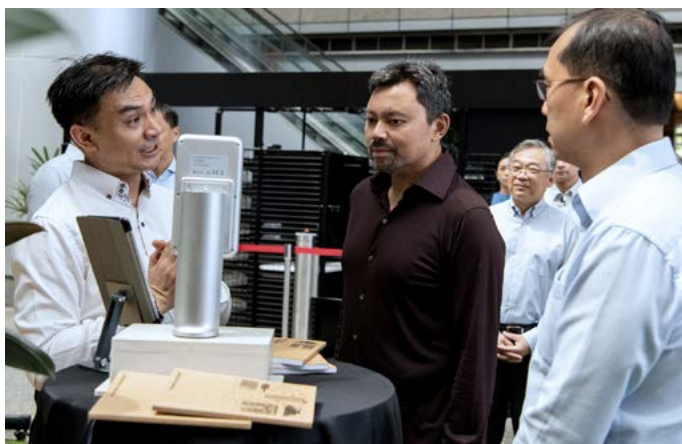
During the visit, Her Royal Highness toured the Recording Studio and proceeded to the Orchestra Hall for an acoustic music performance by Voice Department students from the Conservatory of Music.



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) and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman with His Excellency Senior Minister of Singapore and spouse, during the Dinner Reception at the Grand Hyatt Hotel Singapore.

Their Royal Highnesses then attended a dinner hosted by His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Senior Minister of the Republic of Singapore, and spouse, Madame Ho Ching. The dinner was held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel Singapore.

## His Royal Highness visits JTC Summit, Temasek Polytechnic



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) during the visit to the Exhibition Board on Punggol Digital District (PDD) and listening to a briefing and demonstration of the facial payment system and the Open Digital Platform.

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, 12<sup>th</sup> September** – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, visited the Jurong Town Corporation (JTC) Summit, where he was welcomed by His Excellency Gan Kim Yong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry of Singapore.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince then proceeded to the Exhibition Board on Punggol Digital District (PDD) for a brief



presentation, followed by a demonstration of the facial payment systems and the Open Digital Platform at the JTC Summit Welcoming Screen.

The presentation explained how PDD integrates the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) campus and JTC's Business Park to create Singapore's first smart district, as well as supporting key digital economy sectors and serving as a green, inclusive living environment.

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His Royal Highness toured The Makerspace and learned about JTC's digitalisation and sustainability initiatives, particularly the development of the PDD. Before concluding the visit, His Royal Highness participated in a group photo session.

Established on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June, 1968, JTC is a statutory board under the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), Republic of Singapore, which supports the growth of new industries and enterprises in Singapore. As the government agency responsible for Singapore's industrial progress, JTC places emphasis on developing resilient industries.

In the afternoon, His Royal Highness visited Temasek Polytechnic, greeted by Her Excellency Grace Fu, Minister for Sustainability and the Environment and Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince listening to a briefing at The Makerspace.



His Royal Highness in a group photo.



His Royal Highness participating in laboratory activity at the Temasek Polytechnics Aquaculture Innovation Centre (AIC).

His Royal Highness first proceeded to the Temasek Polytechnic Aquaculture Innovation Centre (AIC) and participated in laboratory activities such as parasite screening, feed palletising, and feed stability testing.

His Royal Highness continued the visit to the Centre for Research and Opportunities in Plant Science (CROPS), which aims to increase urban farming productivity and sustainability within two key areas, namely plant biotechnology and nutraceuticals. His Royal Highness then proceeded to visit the Temasek Gallery Lounge, and participated in sample testing activities and conducted health checks on microorganisms and oysters. Before concluding the visit, His Royal Highness consented to a group photo session.

The AIC is Singapore's first Centre of Innovation, operating on a collaborative consortium model. The AIC supports and develops small and medium enterprises in the aquaculture industry by enhancing farming productivity, identifying emerging technologies, and facilitating sustainable growth.

## Visit to CESP, launching of commemorative stamps

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, 13<sup>th</sup> September** – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office visited the Singapore Centre of Excellence for Soldier Performance (CESP) at Pasir Laba Camp, where His Royal Highnesses the Crown Prince was greeted by His Excellency Heng Chee How, Senior Minister of State for Defence of the Republic of Singapore, and Vice Admiral Aaron Beng, Chief of Defence Force.



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) inspecting the guard of honour at the Singapore Centre of Excellence for Soldier Performance.

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After inspecting the Guard of Honour and taking a group photo, His Royal Highness signed the visitor's book in the Leader's Hall and attended a presentation on CESP's use of science and technology to enhance soldiers' performance.

His Royal Highness then viewed a static display, which included Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) personal equipment, rehabilitation equipment, remote core temperature monitoring, heart rate monitoring systems, and fitness programme designs.

After, His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman attended a Tea Reception hosted by His Excellency Tharman Shanmugaratnam, President of the Republic of Singapore, and spouse, Madame Jane Ittogi Shanmugaratnam at Istana Villa, where Their Royal Highnesses signed the visitor's book and met the President of the Republic of Singapore and spouse.

His Royal Highness also held a courtesy call with His Excellency Lawrence Wong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore at the Press Room, discussing the 40-year bilateral relationship and the Young Leaders Programme (YLP), which celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

His Royal Highness and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore unveiled commemorative stamps marking 40 years of diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and Republic of Singapore.

In the evening, Their Royal Highnesses attended a Dinner Reception at Gardens by the Bay, hosted by the Prime Minister and spouse. They toured the Flower Dome and visited the Monet Exhibition before continuing to the Immersive Gallery for the dinner reception.



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) listening to a presentation.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman during the Tea Reception hosted by His Excellency President Singapore and spouse.



His Royal Highness and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore at the Launching Ceremony of the Commemorative Stamps in conjunction with the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Brunei Darussalam and Republic of Singapore.



Their Royal Highnesses at the Dinner Reception hosted by His Excellency Prime Minister of Singapore and spouse, held at the Immersive Gallery, Gardens by the Bay.

## His Royal Highness concludes 10<sup>th</sup> YLP

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, 14<sup>th</sup> September** – 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), and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman attended a Breakfast Reception hosted by His Excellency Teo Chee Hean, Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security at The Halia, Singapore Botanic Gardens.

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His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman touring the Singapore Botanic Gardens.





His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah along with children prior to leaving Singapore after concluding the 10<sup>th</sup> YLP.

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Accompanying His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah were Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman, and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Faathimah Az-Zahraa' Raihaanul Bolkiah.

Upon arrival, Their Royal Highnesses was greeted by Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security.



Their Royal Highnesses then toured several areas in the Singapore Botanic Gardens, showcasing over 1,000 species and 2,000 orchid hybrids.

After, Their Royal Highnesses proceeded together with the Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security to the Batik Room, The Halia for Breakfast Reception.

Their Royal Highnesses with children departed from Republic of Singapore after concluding the 10<sup>th</sup> YLP, which was held from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> of September.

## Reduce stigma surrounding mental health issues



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) gracing the Premier Forum in conjunction with the Knowledge Convention 2024. Also in attendance was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

**BERAKAS, 19<sup>th</sup> September** – The Premier Forum titled 'Socioeconomic Stability and Its Impact on Mental Health' aimed to raise public awareness about mental health and reduce stigma surrounding mental health issues in Brunei Darussalam.

It emphasised the significance of socioeconomic stability on mental health, advocating for a Whole of Nation Approach that integrates medical and spiritual treatments to foster a resilient population.

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Panellists at the Premier Forum.



Among those present at the event.







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) and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik in a group photo with Committee members for Knowledge Convention 2024.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince signing a Commemorative Parchment.

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The forum, part of the Knowledge Convention 2024, was held at the International Convention Centre and was graced by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

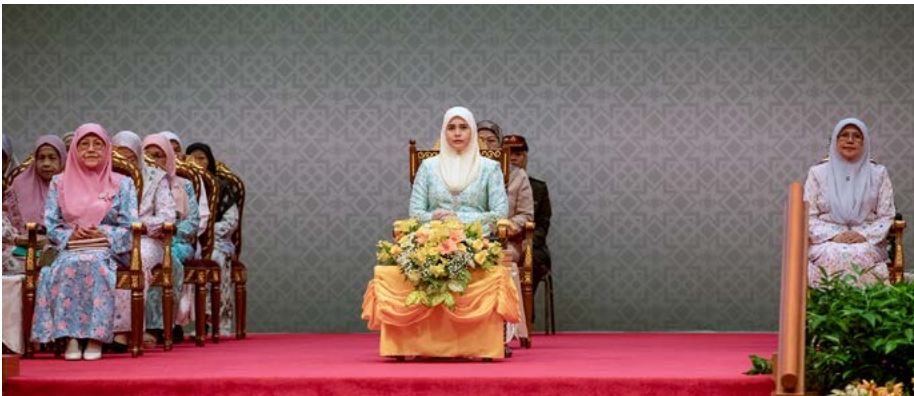
The event began with the recitation of Surah Al-Fatihah, followed by a welcoming speech from Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health.

The forum was chaired by Dr. Haji Mohammad Shahrol Azmi bin Haji Abdul Muluk, Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Student

Affairs and Alumni at Seri Begawan Religious Teacher University College (KUPU SB).

The forum featured discussions led by panellists including Associate Professor Dr. Mohd. Shahril bin Ahmad Ramizi, Dean and Associate Professor of the Faculty of Social Science Education at KUPU SB, who highlighted the World Health Organization's warning about the rising prevalence of mental disorders; and Pengiran Dr. Hajah Fariza Suryani binti Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Sani, Head of the Psychiatry Department at the Ministry of Health, who spoke on government initiatives and the role of citizens in maintaining mental health during socioeconomic instability. Awang Mohd. Yussof bin Haji Abdul Majid, Special Duties Officer II from the Counselling and Religious Understanding Unit (KAFA) at the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA) addressed the challenges faced by youth and the importance of Islamic teachings in fostering resilience.

## Premier Lecture of the Knowledge Convention 2024



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman gracing the Premier Lecture of the Knowledge Convention 2024 in conjunction with the 78th Birthday Celebration 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.



**BERAKAS, 21<sup>st</sup> September** – Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman graced the Premier Lecture of the Knowledge Convention 2024 in conjunction with the 78th Birthday Celebration 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, at the International Convention Centre.

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Awang Muhammad Tarmizi bin Abdul Wahid, the Chief Executive Mizium Holdings Pte. Ltd as Guest Speaker delivering lecture.



Among those present at the Premier Forum.



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Also present was 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.

The ceremony began with the recitation of Surah Al-Fatihah led by Dayang Hajah Azizah binti Haji Mohammad, Principal of Sekolah Menengah Arab Laki-Laki Hassanah Bolkiah.

Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Setia Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti

Haji Md. Salleh, Minister of Education, delivered welcoming remarks highlighting the convention theme 'Addressing Mental Symptoms'. This theme aims to enhance of mental health problems and support the implementation of the Brunei Darussalam Mental Health Action Plan 2022-2025, ultimately achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG3), 'Good Health and Well-Being' at the global level.

The event featured a Premier Lecture titled 'Mindful Matters: Prioritising Mental Health in the Modern World' delivered by Awang Muhammad Tarmizi bin Abdul Wahid, the Chief Executive Mizium Holdings Pte. Ltd.

## Her Royal Highness graces get-together ceremony

**GADONG, 28<sup>th</sup> September** – Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Commandant of the Women's Police at the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPf), graced a get-together organised by the Women's Police of the RBPf at the Officers' Mess Banquet Hall, RBPf Headquarters.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna was welcomed by Masni binti Haji Jamil, Assistant Superintendent of Police the advisor of the ceremony along with organising committee members.

The ceremony served as an appreciation to Her Royal Highness and was attended by some 250 female police officers.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Commandant of the Women's Police at the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPf) a get-together ceremony organised by the Women's Police of the RBPf.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna in a group photo.

## YSHHB receives 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Inclusive Business Award 2024

**VIENTIANE, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, 24<sup>th</sup> September** – Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah (YSHHB) has been awarded the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Inclusive Business Award 2024 for its contributions through the Self-Sustaining Programme, which supports underprivileged families and low-income individuals in starting businesses by providing skills training and capital assistance. This ongoing support helps beneficiaries achieve independence and subsequently assist others.

The award was presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Inclusive Business Forum at the Grand Ballroom, Lao Plaza Hotel.

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Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence receiving the award on behalf of Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah at 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Inclusive Business Award 2024.



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Receiving the award on behalf of YSHHB was Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yusof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence as Chairman of the YSHHB Board of Directors.

The forum also featured presentations by YSHHB officials on the Self-Sustaining Programme, which has been in place since 2015.

The Brunei Economic Development Board facilitated YSHHB's application for the award, highlighting ASEAN's commitment to promoting Inclusive Business since its introduction in 2017.

The ASEAN Inclusive Business Award aims to foster environments that help underprivileged individuals become self-reliant through entrepreneurship.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence in a group photo.

## Ensure smooth collective efforts to strengthen ASEAN Community



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence at the 42<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) and its related meetings (above and below).

**VIENTIANE, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, 27<sup>th</sup> September** – Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yusof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence, attended the 42<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM), on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of September.

The Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Defence was accompanied by His Excellency Haji Rosli bin Haji Yacub, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) and senior officials from the Energy Department.



The meeting was officially opened by His Excellency Phosay Sayasone, Minister of Energy and Mining of Lao PDR, and Yang Amat Berbahagia Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah bin Haji Yusof, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia.

Themed 'ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience', the 42<sup>nd</sup> AMEM aimed to strengthen ASEAN's collective energy efforts and implement the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC), focusing on energy security, accessibility, and sustainability.

Key discussions included the development of the Post-2025 APAEC, emphasising stakeholder consultations to address evolving energy challenges and the theme for APAEC 2026-2030: 'Advancing Regional Cooperation in Ensuring Energy Security and Accelerating Decarbonisation for a Just and Inclusive Energy Transition'.

The meeting resulted in the adoption of the Joint Statement of the 42<sup>nd</sup> AMEM and included related ministerial meetings.



## Diversifying more resilient, eco-friendly economy

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 12<sup>th</sup> September** – Brunei Darussalam emphasised its commitment to diversifying its economy beyond oil and gas during the Launch of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group Day.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Finance and Economy highlighted successes in sectors like petrochemicals, tourism, and ICT, achieved through collaboration with foreign investors and local financial institutions.

The Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance further stated that besides efforts to diversify the economy, sustainability is also a priority for them, setting high goals to achieve net-zero emissions and increasing renewable energy use, demonstrating their commitment to a greener future.

Despite facing global challenges, the Minister noted that Islamic finance has



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy delivering his opening speech at the Launch of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group Day in Brunei.

shown remarkable resilience, with global Islamic financial assets increasing by 69 per cent over the past five years, and the global industry expected to reach USD 5.9 trillion by 2026.

As reflected by this global growth, the Islamic finance sector in Brunei is also growing, with assets from Islamic financial institutions reaching BND13.3 billion in

2023, driven primarily by banks.

The Brunei Darussalam Central Bank's Financial Sector Master Plan aims to create a resilient financial ecosystem in line with Brunei Vision 2035.

The Memorandum of Understanding between BIBD and the IsDB has also been signed. This is based on the MoU recently signed between IsDB and the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the visit of His Excellency Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser, the IsDB President to Brunei, which has established a comprehensive framework to enhance cooperation in key areas including Islamic finance, support for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), promotion of regional economic cooperation, climate change mitigation, and human capacity development.

This partnership will enhance support for Brunei Darussalam's economic goals and promote sustainable development through knowledge sharing and innovation in Islamic finance.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy in a group photo.

## Committed to strengthening ASEAN economic integration agenda

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 19<sup>th</sup> September** – The 56<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting (56<sup>th</sup> AEM) and related meetings took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> of September, in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), attended by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Finance and Economy.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Finance and Economy in a group photo at the 56<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting and Related Meetings.

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Key highlights included the signing of the Fifth Protocol for the Amendment of the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA), aimed at enhancing transparency and attracting more investment by expanding ACIA's scope beyond traditional sectors.

The ministers also welcomed progress in implementing the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA), particularly with the electronic Certificate of Origin, and expressed hopes to conclude upgrading negotiations by early 2025.

During the ASEAN Investment Area Council Meeting, progress on the ASEAN Sustainable Investment Guidelines was noted, with completion targeted for 2024.

The ministers discussed the 2024 ASEAN Investment Report and a Policy Paper on Global Minimum Tax's implications for investment incentives. Despite global economic challenges, ASEAN's economy grew by 4.1 per cent in 2023, with projected growth of 4.6 per cent in 2024 and 4.7 per cent in 2025.

The Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy emphasised Brunei Darussalam's commitment to sustainability as a key part of its policy aspirations and recognised ongoing initiatives such as the ATIGA Upgrading Negotiations and the establishment of an ASEAN Task Force on Carbon Neutrality.

Preparatory discussions by senior economic officials focused on key economic deliverables and ongoing cooperation within ASEAN and with external partners.

## Involving youth in driving the Tourism Industry



Yang Berhormat Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism as the Head of Delegation at the 7<sup>th</sup> Tourism Expo Japan Ministerial Roundtable in collaboration with the United Nations World Tourism Organization (above); and Yang Berhormat Minister in a group photo (left).

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 26<sup>th</sup> September** – The 7<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Roundtable for the Tourism Expo Japan (TEJ), held from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> of September, in collaboration with the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), featured discussions focused on the theme 'Creating a New Travel Journey'.

Representing Brunei Darussalam, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, led the delegation.

Key topics included engaging youths in tourism's future, emphasising their role in driving innovation and transformation.

The Roundtable called for inspiring young people to shape the industry through digitalisation, sustainability, and changing traveller behaviours.

Discussions also revolved around enhancing tourism offerings

to create meaningful experiences while promoting value-based tourism that showcases local cultural and natural heritage.

Cultural tourism, particularly gastronomic tourism, was highlighted as a means to deepen cultural understanding and support local economies through culinary experiences.

The Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism underscored the importance of youth as future leaders and champions of sustainability in the tourism sector, advocating for regenerative tourism that combines conservation with community benefits.

Brunei's active participation at TEJ 2024 reflects its commitment to sustainable, high-value tourism, fostering international cooperation and showcasing its potential as a destination for cultural, adventure, and nature tourism. Brunei is also collaborating with Japanese agents to attract more tourists and enhance its tourism sector.

## Explore strategies, strengthen TVET systems

**REPUBLIC OF FRANCE, 13<sup>th</sup> September** – The WorldSkills Conference 2024 was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> of September at Eurexpo Lyon, alongside the 47<sup>th</sup> WorldSkills Competition.

Attended by Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Setia Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Mohd. Salleh, Minister of Education, the conference with the theme 'Moving Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to the Top of the Global Agenda,' discussed the importance of TVET and skills in human resource and economic

development.

With participation from global ministers, officials, and representatives from organisations, the conference featured several panel discussions and roundtable sessions on relevant topics such as 'How Do We Create Excellence in the TVET System,' 'Tools and Strategies Required for Quality Assurance in TVET,' and 'Foundational Skills for Better TVET'.

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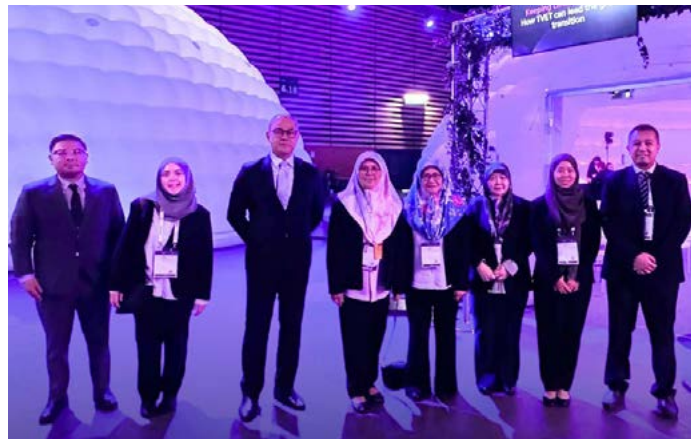


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During the conference, the Minister of Education also had the opportunity to meet with His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Maliki bin Osman, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and the Second Minister for Education and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, to discuss bilateral cooperation in education between the two countries.

Additionally, the Minister and delegation visited the 47<sup>th</sup> WorldSkills Competition, the largest skills competition in the world, held every two years by WSI.

The competition saw participation from 1,500 competitors from 65 countries competing in 62 skills across six sectors, including construction, industry, new technology, services, food and creative professions, digital, and hospitality.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Education at the WorldSkills Conference 2024.

## Strengthening the nation's cyber defence



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications delivering a keynote address at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brunei Cyber Security Conference (CySec 2024) (above); and Yang Berhormat at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brunei CySec 2024 (right).



**JERUDONG, 18<sup>th</sup> September** – The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brunei Cyber Security Conference (CySec 2024), held over two days, gathered local and international cybersecurity experts to address digital threat and innovative solutions.

Organised by the Brunei Cyber Security Association (BCSA) and Cyber Security Brunei (CSB), and held at The Empire Brunei, the conference was officiated by Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications, as the minister responsible for cybersecurity.

CySec 2024 featured a comprehensive agenda focused on cybersecurity vigilance and data sovereignty, with keynote presentations, workshops, and exhibitions from cybersecurity providers.

CySec 2024 aims to raise awareness of cybersecurity's important in the digital landscape and to enhance the understanding and

implementation of effective measures among local organisations.

The Minister of Transport and Infocommunications, in his keynote address at the 2<sup>nd</sup> CySec 2024, emphasised that in today's increasingly interconnected world, the security of digital infrastructure is crucial, serving as the foundation for national security, economic advancement, and the well-being of our country.

To address cyber threats, the Minister stated that our focus must be on strengthening the nation's cyber defences, protecting critical infrastructure, and collaborating internationally to thwart sophisticated adversaries.

On the other hand, preventing cybercrime requires a proactive approach, including awareness campaigns, law enforcement capabilities, and leveraging cutting-edge technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning to detect and prevent fraudulent activities.

## Enhance digital education for all ages

**ANGGEREK DESA, 21<sup>st</sup> September** – Innovation is crucial for sustainable economic development and enhancing quality of life. This matter was emphasised by Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, the Minister of Transport and Infocommunications at the Second Anniversary of the Brunei Innovation Lab (BIL) at the KHUB Building Amphitheatre.

Established under the Brunei Darussalam Digital Economy

Master Plan 2025, BIL promotes technopreneurship by fostering collaboration among developers, start-ups, and institutions.

The Minister of Transport and Infocommunications highlighted the need to focus on innovation outputs, including creative and technological advancements, as assessed in the recent Digital Innovation Profile for Brunei Darussalam.





Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications delivering a speech at the celebration of the Second Anniversary of the Brunei Innovation Lab (BIL) at the KHUB Building Amphitheatre (above); and Yang Berhormat Minister in a group photo (left).

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Key proposals include strengthening the digital innovation community and enhancing technological readiness. The Minister stressed the importance of translating education and digital infrastructure into impactful societal benefits.

Looking forward, the Minister expressed confidence that

innovation will drive national progress and emphasised the importance of leading technological changes through new technologies like AI and big data.

The launch of the KLIQ Digital Learning Platform aims to improve digital skills across the population, encouraging lifelong engagement with innovation.

## Collaborating address key regional challenges

**VIENTIANE, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, 26<sup>th</sup> September** – Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Nazmi bin Haji Mohamad, Minister of Culture, Youth, and Sports, participated in the 32<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council (ASCC) Meeting at the Landmark Mekong Riverside Hotel.

The meeting, themed 'Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience', was chaired by Her Excellency Suanesavanh Vignaket, the Minister of Information, Culture, and Tourism of Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Attended by ASCC Ministers and representatives from ASEAN Member States, along with the Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for the ASCC pillar, and Timor-Leste as observer, the meeting focused on regional priorities such as environmental sustainability, health resilience, and social protection.

It underscored the significance of regional cooperation and discussed preparations for the ASCC Post-2025 Strategic Plan, aligned with the ASEAN Community Vision 2045.

During the meeting, the Minister of Culture, Youth, and Sports emphasised the need to balance the needs of current and future generations and to raise public awareness about ASEAN initiatives.

The Minister also highlighted the importance of collaboration across sectors to tackle regional challenges and expressed Brunei Darussalam's support for the ASCC outcome documents, which will be presented for endorsement at upcoming ASEAN Summits.

The meeting, followed a series of preparatory sessions held from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> of September, focused on developing the ASCC Post-2025 Strategic Plan and fostering a culture of prevention.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Culture, Youth, and Sports at the 32<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council (ASCC) Meeting.



## Advance IP cooperation in ASEAN region



Yang Berhormat Attorney General delivering her opening speech (above); and Yang Berhormat Attorney General in a group photo (right).



**GADONG, 2<sup>nd</sup> September** – The Brunei Intellectual Property Office (BruiPO) is hosting the 73<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation (AWGIPC) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> of September.

In her opening speech, Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Paduka Dayang Hajah Nor Hashimah binti Haji Mohammed Taib, the Attorney General said she acknowledged the significant achievement of establishing the first Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC) in Brunei Darussalam at Universiti Brunei Darussalam. The centre provides essential support for research, innovation, and access to high-quality information technology services, all critical for achieving our SDG targets, particularly

in fostering innovation and infrastructure development.

“While we continue to strengthen our intellectual property system, Brunei Darussalam remains committed to our role in the ASEAN community. The ASEAN Intellectual Property Action Plan, which has become a pillar of our regional cooperation, is scheduled to conclude in 2025. This plan has guided us in harmonising intellectual property practices among ASEAN Member States, foster collective resilience, and positioning ASEAN as a dynamic region for innovation and creativity,” said the Attorney General.

The gathering emphasised ASEAN's

commitment to advancing IP cooperation, which is essential for fostering innovation, economic growth and competitiveness in the region.



Attendees at the event.

## Sharing best practices in judicial cooperation

**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, 26<sup>th</sup> September** – Yang Behormat Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong Wan Oon, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam, led a delegation to the People's Republic of China from the 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> September, at the invitation of Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China.

This visit celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) signed in 2004, promoting bilateral exchange and judicial cooperation.

During the visit, the Chief Justice held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Zhang Jun, Chief Justice of People's Republic of China, to reaffirm the commitment to strengthen bilateral relations through judicial cooperation. They discussed various topics, including judicial education, alternative dispute resolution, and court technology, and expressed a desire to renew cooperation through a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The delegation visited judicial institutions, including the Smart Court Laboratory, the Beijing International Commercial Court, Beijing Internet Court; and the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Mediation Centre; and held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Jia Yu, the President of the Shanghai People's Court on advancements in court technology and Artificial Intelligence.

While in Shanghai, the Chief Justice and his delegation visited the Shanghai People's High Court, where they were briefed on



Yang Berhormat the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency Zhang Jun, Chief Justice of People's Republic of China.

the Digital Court construction initiative, integrating technology into the judiciary and also visited the Shanghai Financial Court and the Shanghai Commercial Mediation Center (SCMC).

The Brunei Supreme Court expressed congratulations on the upcoming 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the People's Republic of China and emphasised the importance of fostering a stronger judicial relationship through the MoC. The Chief Justice also thanked the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Brunei Darussalam for its support in enhancing judicial relations.



## MTWG: Driving significant change in regional maritime cooperation



Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications (MTIC) in a group photo at the 47<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group (MTWG) meeting.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 17<sup>th</sup> September** – The 47<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group (MTWG) meeting began on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September and will continue until the 18<sup>th</sup> of September.

The ceremony was inaugurated by Ir. Awang Haji Mohammad Nazri bin Haji Mohammad Yusof, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications (MTIC).

In his opening speech, the Permanent Secretary of MTIC welcomed the delegates on behalf of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and expressed confidence that the 47<sup>th</sup> MTWG will continue to enhance maritime transport cooperation in the region and contribute to realising the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) goals.

He also emphasised the important role of maritime connectivity in driving economic growth across the region, highlighting initiatives such as the ASEAN Connectivity Master Plan, which

plays a key role in strengthening logistics networks, facilitating trade, and promoting tourism, thereby fostering deeper ASEAN integration.

The 47<sup>th</sup> MTWG meeting, chaired by Dayang Salmaya Rahayu binti Salleh, Assistant Chief Executive of Maritime and Port Authority of Brunei Darussalam, welcomed heads of delegations from ASEAN Member States, dialogue partners, representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Key discussions focused on transport development strategies, sustainable maritime transport initiatives, and cooperation with the private sector to address increasing maritime challenges.

This year's meeting aims to drive significant change in Brunei Darussalam and ASEAN by enhancing regional maritime cooperation, optimising port operations, and improving port safety, ultimately supporting robust economic growth.

## Increase understanding, cooperation in peatland biodiversity management

**KIULAP, 2<sup>nd</sup> September** – The Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT), through the Department of Forestry in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) SUPA/REPEAT, held the ASEAN Forum on Peat Swamp Biodiversity, which lasted for five days at J Hotel.

Present as the Guest of Honour during the opening of the forum was Awang Reni bin Haji Yahya, Deputy Director of Forestry.

The forum, supported by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), was attended by 52 participants from ASEAN

Member States and Timor-Leste, including experts, researchers, and policymakers, to discuss biodiversity and ecology in peat swamp forests in the ASEAN region.

Forum participants engaged in a series of presentations and discussions covering a wide range of topics. These included the contribution of peatland biodiversity to global and regional biodiversity and climate change agendas, the importance of peatland and peatland forests in Brunei Darussalam, their current status, the specific status of peatland forest species in Brunei Darussalam according to classifications from the International

Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and a comparison of peatland biodiversity in protected versus non-protected areas in Brunei Darussalam. Additionally, information was shared by each of the ASEAN Member States on biodiversity management, particularly regarding the commitment to the Kunming-Montreal 2030 Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as the vulnerability of peatland biodiversity due to land use and climate change in Indonesia and Malaysia.

Participants also had the opportunity to plant 50 *Shorea albida* saplings during the visit.



Among those present at the forum.



The Deputy Director of Forestry delivers his remarks at the ASEAN Forum on Peat Swamp Biodiversity.

The forum aligns with the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (APMS) 2023-2030, supporting the commitment of ASEAN Member States, especially Brunei Darussalam, to protect and preserve peatland for future generations.

Brunei has over 90,000 hectares of peat swamp forest and is currently conducting a National Forest Resource Inventory project to update data on its entire forest resource, with a primary focus on the carbon inventory in the Belait District peat swamp forest.