



79 Times Khatam Al-Quran Ceremony



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman at the 79 Times Khatam Al-Quran ceremony.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 2nd August
– A total of 1,708 participants took part in the 79 Times Khatam Al-Quran Ceremony at Istana Nurul Iman, held in celebration of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 79th birthday. The event

was attended by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam; members of the royal family, along with senior government officials and ministers.

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His Majesty attends Singapore's 60th National Day Celebration

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, 9th August
– His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended Singapore's 60th National Day Celebration, marking a significant occasion in the bilateral relations between the two nations.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the 60th National Day Parade of the Republic of Singapore.

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Exploring new cooperation, jointly addressing challenges

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, 27th August – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam undertook a State Visit to Malaysia from 25th to 27th August at the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia strengthening the longstanding and close ties between the two nations. During the visit, the 26th Annual Leaders' Consultation was held in Putrajaya between His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia, where both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to deepening cooperation in various areas such as strategic, economic, cultural, and educational sectors. They highlighted the importance of fostering closer people-to-people ties through initiatives like student exchanges, internships, and collaboration in language, culture, and religion.

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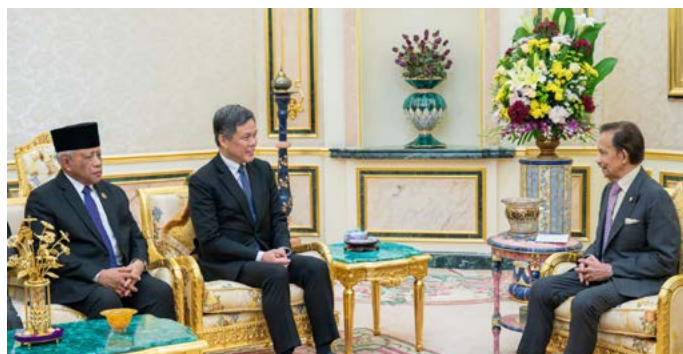
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His Majesty receives audiences

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 on 23rd August:

His Excellency Chan Chun Sing, Coordinating Minister for Public Services and Minister for Defence, Republic of Singapore (right).



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



Her Excellency Boosara Kanchanalai, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Kingdom Thailand to Brunei Darussalam.

Her Majesty receives foreign envoys

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received in audience Her Excellency Gerda Winkler, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany to Brunei Darussalam; and Her Excellency Boosara Kanchanalai, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam at Istana Nurul Iman on 23rd August.



Crown Prince receives audiences

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received in audience at Qashr Al-Meezan on 23rd August:



His Excellency Chan Chun Sing, Coordinating Minister for Public Services and Minister for Defence, Republic of Singapore (third from left).



Her Excellency Gerda Winkler, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany.



Her Excellency Boosara Kanchanalai, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Kingdom of Thailand.

His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send congratulatory messages to:

- His Excellency Tharman Shanmugaratnam, President of the Republic of Singapore; and His Excellency Lawrence Wong, the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of the Republic of Singapore as well as the Government and people of the Republic of Singapore on the occasion of its 60th National Day on 9th August.
- His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Prabowo Subianto, President of the Republic of Indonesia, as well as the Government and people of the Republic of Indonesia on the occasion of its 80th Independence Day on 17th August.
- His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, as well as the Government and people of Malaysia on the occasion of its 68th Anniversary of Independence Day on 31st August.

News

79 Times Khatam Al-Quran Ceremony (continued)

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The ceremony featured the recitation of Khatam Al-Quran led by national competition winners, along with *takhtim*, *tahlil*, and *dikir marhaban* by religious officers. Participants comprise members of Mukim and Village Consultative Councils nationwide as well as students from Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Tahfiz Al-Qur'an Institute, and the Youth Tilawah Al-Qur'an Scheme, children aged 12 and below representing religious schools under the purview of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Ministry of Education as well as higher education institutions nationwide.

The event reflected the nation's strong Islamic values and unity.

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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 and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman at the ceremony.



Yang Berhormat State Mufti reciting the *doa selamat*.



Participants during the ceremony.



Participants during the ceremony.



Their Majesties in Singapore



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

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, 8th August – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam arrived at Changi International Airport.

Singapore, further strengthened by the close ties between His Majesty and Senior Minister of the Republic of Singapore, who served as Prime Minister of Singapore from 2004 to 2024.

Upon arrival, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pegiran Anak Hajah Saleha were warmly welcomed by His Excellency Dr. Tan See Leng, Minister for Manpower of the Republic of Singapore.



During the visit, His Majesty also attended a High Tea hosted by His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Senior Minister of the Republic of Singapore at the Grand Hyatt Singapore. Also in attendance was Madam Ho Ching.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attending a High Tea hosted by His Excellency Senior Minister of the Republic of Singapore.

The meeting underscored the longstanding friendship and cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of

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His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam, as well as other members of the royal family at the ceremony.



His Majesty attends Singapore's 60th National Day Celebration (continued)



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Pre-Parade Reception (left); and at the Republic of Singapore's 60th National Day Celebration (right).



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The visit began with a Pre-Parade Reception hosted by His Excellency Lawrence Won, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, Madam Loo Tze Lui at the National Gallery. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was warmly welcomed before proceeding to the iconic Padang to witness the spectacular National Day Parade. Highlights included the 'Jump of Unity' by the Red Lions parachute team and naval divers, the State Flag Fly-past, local performances, and a fireworks display. The parade

carried the theme '*Majulah Singapura*', symbolising unity and progress.

On the same day, His Majesty attended a Luncheon at Istana Villa hosted by His Excellency Tharman Shanmugaratnam, President of the Republic of Singapore. Other dignitaries present included Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid bin Hamidi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Rural and Regional Development of Malaysia; and His Excellency Chan Chun Sing, Coordinating Minister for Public Services and Minister for Defence of the Republic of Singapore.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attending a Luncheon hosted by His Excellency President of the Republic of Singapore. Also present were Yang Amat Berhormat Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Rural and Regional Development of Malaysia. His Excellency Minister for Defence of the Republic of Singapore.

Their Majesties leave Singapore after National Day parade



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam were bid farewell at Changi International Airport.

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, 11th August – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam concluded the visit to the Republic of Singapore. At Changi International Airport, a *doa selamat* was recited for their safe journey before departure, with farewells from His

Excellency Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore; His Excellency Laurence Bay, High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam and spouse; and Her Excellency Hajah Noor Qamar binti Haji Sulaiman, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Singapore.

The visit underscored the strong friendship and cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore.

Building a future-ready ASEAN, shared values

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 8th August – 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) marking ASEAN Day 2025, commemorated the 58th Anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Reflecting on ASEAN's journey since its founding in 1967, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam highlighted the organisation's achievements in maintaining peace, security, and stability across the region, while fostering sustainable development and improving livelihoods. His Majesty noted ASEAN's success in navigating geopolitical challenges, economic crises, and global issues such as pandemics and natural disasters.

His Majesty also emphasised ASEAN's role in nurturing human capital through education, cooperation, and integration - developing future educators, engineers, artists, and entrepreneurs.

In 2025, ASEAN celebrates several key milestones, including

the 10th Anniversary of the ASEAN Community and the 20th Anniversary of the East Asia Summit. His Majesty expressed Brunei Darussalam's support for Timor-Leste's expected accession as ASEAN's 11th member during the 47th ASEAN Summit in October, highlighting continued regional unity.

Looking ahead, His Majesty reaffirmed ASEAN's long-term vision, 'ASEAN 2045: Our Future Together', centred on building a people-focused, resilient, and innovative community while maintaining ASEAN Centrality. Key priorities include youth empowerment, climate action, digital transformation, and food and energy security.

His Majesty also voiced strong support for Malaysia's 2025 ASEAN Chairmanship under the theme 'Inclusivity and Sustainability', and pledged Brunei's commitment to regional collaboration.

Concluding his message, His Majesty extended warm wishes to all ASEAN citizens and expressed hope for a future of unity, resilience, and shared prosperity.

Diamond Wedding Anniversary

JERUDONG, 18th August – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam attended a Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony marking Their Majesties' Diamond Jubilee Wedding Anniversary (60 years). The event, hosted by State Dignitaries, was held at the Royal Berkshire Hall, Tarindak d'Polo. Attendees included members of the royal family.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, during the Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony in conjunction with Their Majesties' Diamond Jubilee Wedding Anniversary hosted by State Dignitaries.

The royal wedding originally took place on 29th July 1965.

The ceremony included recitation of *doa kesyukuran* by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti, signing of commemorative parchment, presentation of cake and *pesambah* (souvenirs), as well as a special lecture by the State Mufti emphasising the anniversary as a divine blessing for Their Majesties' faith and generosity.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha cutting the Royal Diamond Jubilee Wedding Anniversary Cake.



Also in attendance were the grandchildren of Their Majesties.

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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, and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam along with other member of the royal family at the Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony in conjunction with Their Majesties' Diamond Jubilee Wedding Anniversary.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha signing a commemorative parchment (left); and receiving a *pesambah* (souvenirs) from State Dignitaries (right).

UBD celebrates 1,177 graduates

TUNGKU LINK, 13th August – Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) held its 37th Convocation Ceremony at the Chancellor Hall, celebrating the graduation of 1,177 students from the 13th cohort of the GenNEXT programme. The event was graced by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, who conferred degrees and diplomas upon the graduates, alongside His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, who attended as Pro-Chancellor.

The ceremony began with recitation of *surah*, followed by a speech from Dr. Hazri bin Haji Kifle, Vice-Chancellor of UBD. He outlined key developments, including the upcoming Gen.B.E.S.T.A.R.I. curriculum launching in 2026, the formation of a Faculty of Military Studies with a new Master's programme starting in 2025, and several new postgraduate programmes. He also highlighted international collaborations, new Memoranda of Understanding, and initiatives like the Healthy University Roadmap and UniHEALTH to enhance student and staff wellbeing.

In a *titah* (royal speech), His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam congratulated the graduates, acknowledged the support of families, and underscored the importance of research, soft skills development, and alignment with Islamic values and national heritage. His Majesty also expressed support for UBD's adaptability in the AI era and praised its consistent contributions to national development over its 40-year history. His Majesty further acknowledged the creation of the UBD Sustainability Living Lab as a platform for addressing real-world challenges through innovation.



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 37th Convocation Ceremony of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (above); also present was His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office as Pro-Chancellor (below).



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



His Majesty touring the exhibition.



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The ceremony included the signing of commemorative plaques and a visit to a special exhibition marking UBD's evolution. The Ideas That Move exhibition, showcases UBD's journey from innovative policymaking to impactful scientific research and real-world applications. It begins with the Institute for Policy Studies' AI-driven framework that enhances data-informed decision-making across the policy cycle. The narrative then shifts to the Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research's work on restoring and conserving Brunei's carbon-rich peat swamp forests through long-term ecological studies. Finally, the Faculty of Military Studies highlights the use of drone technology to combat illegal logging, translating research into action with real-time forest monitoring and improved enforcement. The exhibition reflects UBD's commitment to turning ideas into evidence-based, sustainable solutions that serve national and global interests.



Continue on page 10 His Majesty signing a commemorative plaque.



His Majesty mingling with graduates.



Graduates during the convocation ceremony.



His Majesty graces 20th National Youth Day Celebration

BERAKAS, 16th August - 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, officiated the 20th National Youth Day Celebration 2025 at the International Convention Centre.

Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech).



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 upon arrival at the 20th National Youth Day Celebration 2025.

the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

In a *titah* (royal speech), His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam praised the contributions of youth towards achieving the Brunei Vision 2035, particularly in the areas of leadership and entrepreneurship. His Majesty also announced the launch of BizBelia, a Shariah-compliant micro-financing scheme aimed at supporting young entrepreneurs.

His Majesty further expressed concern over youth involvement in cross-border crimes and overseas job scams, calling for stronger preventive measures and the reinforcement of national values through the Melayu Islam Beraja (MIB) philosophy.

Highlights of the celebration included the Youth Pledge, a themed video presentation, and the presentation of awards across three categories.

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His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Pro-Chancellor of UBD upon arrival at the afternoon session for 37th UBD Convocation Ceremony.

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The event concluded with a group photo and His Royal Highness interacting with graduates and their families.

In the afternoon, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince conferred degrees and diplomas on an additional 563 graduates, including 263 Master's Degrees, 264 Bachelor's Degrees, 36 Diplomas.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince presents a certificate to a graduate.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince taking a photo with graduates.



His Majesty presenting the award to the recipients.

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The Youth Service Award was presented to Dayang Nurul Izyan binti Anver, Configuration Marketing Service Officer at an international company and Deputy President of the Brunei Youth Council. The Young Leader Award was presented to Sharifah Adila Surya binti Malai Haji Abdullah, Chief Executive Officer and Vice President of SMARTER Brunei. The Excellent Youth Project Award was awarded to the 'Jiwa Senja' Project.

The event concluded with His Majesty touring the National Youth Day Exhibition and receiving a *pesambah* (souvenir). This year's theme remained the same as previous years: 'Youth Ready for the Future'.



His Majesty taking a closer look at the National Youth Day Exhibition.



Among those present at the celebration.

Fostering a culture of impactful research

BERAKAS, 21st August – 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, as Chancellor of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) graced the university's 15th Hafli Al-Takharruj (Convocation Ceremony) at the International Convention Centre (ICC).

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and Pro-Chancellor of UNISSA.

The ceremony began with traditional honours, including the procession of the Mace of Convocation bearing UNISSA's Mushaf Al-Quran, *selawat*, *qasidah*, and the national anthem.

In a *titah* (royal speech), His Majesty stressed the importance of strategic collaboration between universities, government bodies, and industries, particularly in the field of research and development. His Majesty called for the fostering of high-impact research that addresses societal challenges and contributes to real-world solutions. His Majesty also encouraged UNISSA to explore traditional Islamic fields such as *tafsir*, *hadis*, and *fiqh* through digital innovation and to offer micro-credential programmes that merge traditional and modern knowledge.

Highlighting specific areas, His Majesty pointed to halal and food sciences, as well as Islamic economics and finance, as fields where UNISSA could lead, especially when aligned with modern technology to support underprivileged communities and economic inclusion.

Yang Mulia Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang



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 as the Chancellor of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the 15th Hafli Al-Takharruj UNISSA (Convocation Ceremony).



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and Pro-Chancellor of UNISSA grace the 15th Hafli Al-Takharruj UNISSA.

Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, Rector of UNISSA earlier delivered a welcoming address and announced award recipients and benefactors. The event concluded with 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.

degrees and diplomas to over 500 graduates, including PhD, Master's, Bachelor's, and diploma holders.

Among the graduates were international students from several countries, including Egypt, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Togo, and Palestine.

This year's convocation conferred

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Graduates during the ceremony.



His Majesty presenting certificates to graduates.

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More than a celebration, the convocation served as a reminder of the graduates' responsibility to contribute to religion, society, and national development. UNISSA reaffirmed its commitment to delivering quality Islamic education and impactful research, in line with its vision of becoming a global Islamic higher learning institution that nurtures the Khayra Ummah generation.



His Majesty with graduates (right).

His Majesty pays State Visit to Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, 26th August – 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, paid a State Visit to Malaysia at the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia.

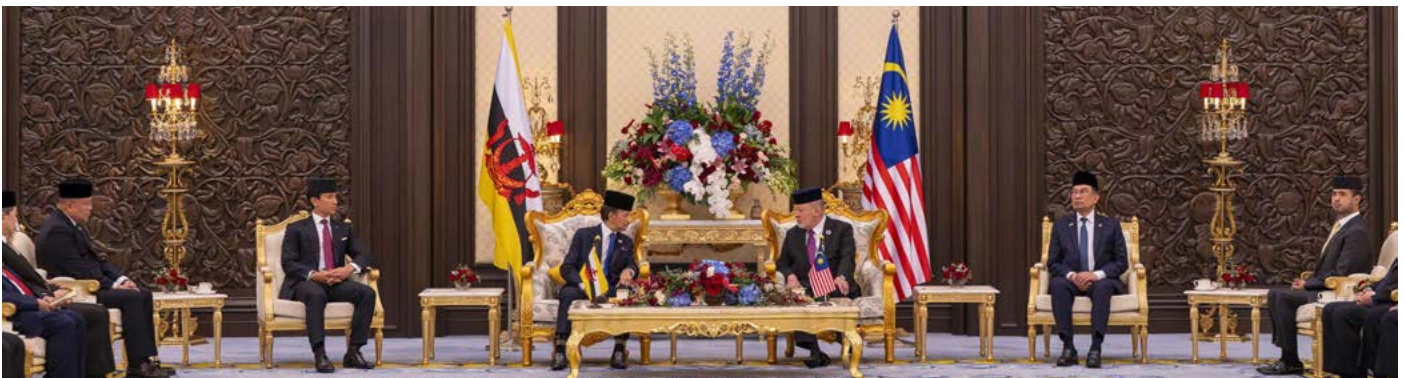
Accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended a State Welcoming Ceremony at Istana Negara, where His Majesty was greeted by His Majesty King of Malaysia and Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia. The arrival was marked by a 21-gun salute and the playing of the national anthems of both countries.

During the visit, state dignitaries from Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia were introduced, followed by an Audience Ceremony and a gift exchange between the two monarchs. The visit also included a photo session and a State Luncheon.

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, during a photo session with His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia, upon arrival for an official State Visit to Malaysia.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Majesty the King of Malaysia during the Audience Ceremony. Also present was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.



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 together with His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia during the Audience Ceremony.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam together with His Majesty the King of Malaysia at the State Luncheon.

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The visit highlighted the strong and enduring bond between the royal families of Brunei and Malaysia. Since establishing diplomatic relations in 1984, both nations have fostered excellent bilateral cooperation in economic, educational, defence, health sectors, and cultural exchanges. They also collaborate closely in regional and international organisations such as ASEAN, BIMP-EAGA, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, and the United Nations.



His Majesty upon arrival at Subang Air Base on 25th August, welcomed by Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia; Yang Amat Mulia Tunku Idris Iskandar Al-Haj ibni Sultan Ibrahim, Tunku Temenggong of Johor. Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

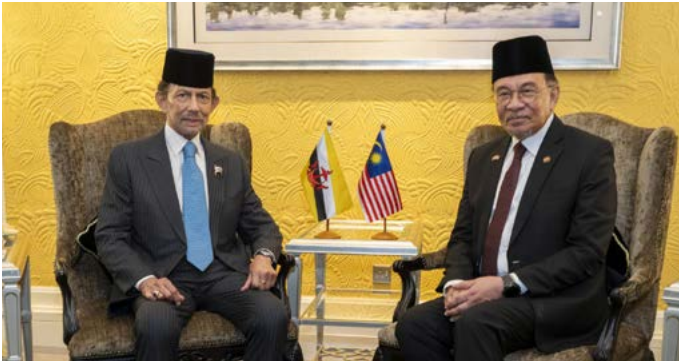
Strengthen bilateral cooperation in various fields

PUTRAJAYA, MALAYSIA, 27th August – 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, held a meeting with Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia at the Seri Perdana Complex for the 26th Annual Leaders' Consultation between the two countries. Accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was warmly welcomed with a cultural performance, before proceeding to sign the visitor's book, and participating in an official photo session with the Prime Minister.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen being welcomed upon arrival with a cultural performance.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Yang Amat Berhormat Prime Minister of Malaysia at the meeting in conjunction with 26th Annual Leaders' Consultation.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen at the Official Luncheon hosted by Yang Amat Berhormat Prime Minister of Malaysia in conjunction with the 26th Annual Leaders' Consultation.

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The consultation began with the exchange of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on health cooperation, signed by the respective Ministers of Health from both governments. His Majesty and the Prime Minister of Malaysia then held a private Four-Eye Meeting, discussing the overall bilateral relationship, progress on key agreements such as the 2009 Exchange of Letters, and important regional and international issues.

Following the meeting, a Joint Statement was released, reaffirming the leaders' commitment to advancing land boundary demarcation, strengthening economic ties with Sabah and Sarawak, and enhancing cooperation in areas including defence, investment, immigration, education, disaster management, and Syariah judiciary. The renewed health cooperation MoU was also highlighted, alongside Brunei's support for Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship and the ASEAN Vision 2045 agenda.

The consultation concluded with an Official Luncheon hosted by the Malaysian Prime Minister. Since its inception in 1997, this annual forum serves as a vital platform for Brunei and Malaysia to review existing partnerships and explore new avenues for collaboration, with chairmanship alternating between the two nations. Brunei had previously chaired the 25th consultation in August 2024.

His Majesty then left Malaysia after making a State Visit to the country and attending the 26th Annual Leaders' Consultation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia.



His Majesty during the Official Luncheon.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen leaving Malaysia. Present to bid farewell was Yang Amat Mulia Tunku Idris Iskandar Al-Haj ibni Sultan Ibrahim, Tunku Temenggong.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness in a group photo.

Exploring new cooperation, jointly addressing challenges (continued)

From front page

Significant progress was noted in resolving land boundary issues, with both countries agreeing to continue joint demarcation and survey work according to existing agreements and principles, aiming to complete key sectors by 2027. The visit also saw a focus on maritime cooperation, energy collaboration, and regional economic integration, particularly with the Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak. This included advancing projects in energy connectivity, agriculture, tourism, and telecommunications to strengthen trade and food security in the region.

Education and health cooperation were further enhanced through ongoing scholarship programmes, academic exchanges, and the signing of a memorandum of understanding on health cooperation covering pharmaceuticals, health security, and digital health initiatives. Defence cooperation remained strong, with joint training, military exercises, and participation in international peacekeeping efforts, as well as collaboration

within ASEAN security frameworks.

The leaders discussed key regional issues, including support for ASEAN unity and peace efforts related to Myanmar's political crisis, the ceasefire agreement between The Kingdom of Cambodia and Kingdom of Thailand, and the importance of maintaining freedom of navigation in the South China Sea. Both expressed grave concern over the humanitarian crisis in Palestine, condemning violence and calling for international action and recognition of Palestinian statehood.

Additionally, cooperation extended to prisoner transfer agreements, immigration management, disaster response, and syariah judiciary collaboration. The leaders expressed satisfaction with the visit's outcomes and agreed to convene the next Annual Leaders' Consultation in Brunei in 2026, emphasising the ongoing commitment to further strengthen bilateral relations and regional cooperation.

Get-Together Ceremonies

BELAIT, 30th August – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam graced the Get-Together Ceremony with the citizens and residents in the Belait District held at Padang Bandaran.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

A special performance themed '*Raja dan Rakyat Berjiwa Satu*' featured students, cultural performers, and the Royal Brunei Armed Forces band. Following the performance, His Majesty and the members of the royal family mingled with performers and greeted the public. The celebration concluded with a Royal Banquet where His Majesty consented to cut a cake to mark the occasion, and a *doa selamat* was recited by Awang Mohd. Shah bin Taip, Belait District Syariah Subordinate Court Judge.



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 attend the Get-Together and Junjung Ziarah Ceremony at Padang Bandaran, Kuala Belait.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of the royal family mingling with performers (left) and during the Get-Together Ceremony with citizens and residents of the Belait District (centre and right).



His Majesty during the Get-Together Ceremony with citizens and residents of Belait District.

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His Majesty, together with His Majesty's sons and brother at the Get-Together Ceremony with citizens and residents of Temburong District.

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Earlier, on 24th August, in Temburong District - known as the Green Jewel - hosted a similar celebration. His Majesty was welcomed by cheering students lining the streets and witnessed a performance themed '*Raja Berwawasan Inspirasi Kesejahteraan dan Kemakmuran Negara*', involving 333 participants. Highlights of the Temburong event included *Butir Kasih*, a rice-grain portrait of His Majesty by local artist Muhammad Miqdam Zaini, and the 'Wajid Temburong 79' exhibition under the One Village One Product initiative. The visit concluded with a Royal Banquet at the Kompleks Dewan Kemasyarakatan in Pekan Bangar.



His Majesty at the Get-Together Ceremony in Temburong District (right).



His Majesty during the Get-Together Ceremony with citizens and residents of Temburong District.



His Majesty mingling with citizens and residents of Temburong District.

Crown Prince launches Convocation Festival

TUNGKU LINK, 5th August – The Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) Convocation Festival 2025 officially began, marking the lead-up to UBD's 37th Convocation Ceremony. The event was officiated by 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, as Pro-Chancellor of UBD.

Held at the Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah Institute of Health Sciences, the launch was attended by senior government officials, UBD Council members, and university leadership. The ceremony opened with the recitation of Surah Al-Faatihah and *doa selamat*, followed by a *sabda* (royal speech) from His Royal Highness the Crown Prince to officiate the festival. His Royal Highness also launched the 'Rooting for the Future' initiative by planting a *Gymnostoma Nobile* tree, symbolising UBD's commitment to sustainability.

A key moment of the event was the launch of the UBD Healthy University Roadmap, a strategic framework designed to promote health, safety, and well-being across all aspects of university life. The roadmap, inspired by international best practices and aligned with Brunei Vision 2035, the Ministry of Education's Green Education Partnership, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, will be implemented in three phases from 2025 to 2028.

His Royal Highness then toured the Convocation Festival Exhibition, themed 'Ideas That Move', which showcased how UBD's research, programmes, and collaborations are contributing to healthier lifestyles, greener campuses, and stronger communities. Divided into zones focusing on community innovation, culture and identity, and health and well-being, the exhibits reflected the real-world impact of student-led projects.

His Royal Highness also visited the Dental Simulation Laboratory, which supports Bachelor of Health Sciences (Dentistry) students in clinical training through advanced simulation technology. This was followed by a tour of the UBD Clinic (Klinik Rayyan Baharin), the fifth branch of the Rayyan Baharin Clinic, offering healthcare and psychological counselling services primarily for students.

Before departing, His Royal Highness was presented with a specially designed *pesambah* (souvenir) titled 'UBD 40 GEM' by a student from the Bachelor of Science in Digital Economy



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, and Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) officiating the UBD Convocation Festival 2025.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince touring the exhibition.

programme. The piece incorporated UBD's 40th anniversary logo and symbolic motifs representing Islamic values, lifelong learning, digital innovation, and quality education in line with national goals.

The Convocation Festival is an annual event held to celebrate student achievements and highlight innovations and ideas from the UBD community. As part of the convocation celebrations, a Khatam Al-Quran and Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony is scheduled on the 6th August, ahead of the main Convocation Ceremony on 13th August at the UBD Chancellor Hall.

UNISSA's 15th Mahrajan Hafli Al-Takharruj

TUTONG, 11th August – 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 and Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), officiated the opening ceremony of the 15th Mahrajan Hafli Al-Takharruj at UNISSA's Sinaut Campus.

The event highlighted the theme 'Sustainable Development of the AgriHalal Industry', emphasising UNISSA's commitment to advancing sustainable practices in agriculture and halal sectors in the face of global challenges and technological changes.

During the event, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince toured various exhibitions showcasing innovative student and faculty projects related to food security, halal standards, and sustainable agriculture. These included fish hatchery systems, urban rice farming, aquaponics, and renewable energy-based drying technologies.



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, and Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) officiating the 15th Mahrajan Hafli Al-Takharruj.

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His Royal Highness the Crown Prince touring the exhibitions.



His Royal Highness officiating the Faculty of Halal Science and Sustainable Tourism held at UNISSA's Sinaut Campus.



His Royal Highness launching new publications by UNISSA Press.

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A major highlight of the day was the inauguration of the newly established Faculty of Halal Science and Sustainable Tourism, which aims to offer academic programmes and produce skilled professionals who can contribute to Brunei's halal and tourism industries. The faculty supports the national vision of becoming a Zikir Nation and achieving Brunei Vision 2035, focusing on developing experts grounded in Islamic values and sustainability.



Projects showcased at the exhibition (above and below).

His Royal Highness also launched 33 new publications by UNISSA Press, covering areas such as Islamic studies, halal science, sustainable development, and Islamic economics. These included books in multiple languages and several new academic journals. Before concluding the visit, His Royal Highness received a *pesambah* (souvenir) and interacted with staff and students, marking a meaningful day of academic, scientific, and spiritual significance at UNISSA.



Launching of UTB Convocation Festival

TUNGKU LINK, 23rd August. – 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 as Pro Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB), officiated the 10th UTB Convocation Festival 2025. The event took place at the newly completed UTB School of Applied Sciences and Mathematics Building.

The ceremony began with the recitation of Surah Al-Faatihah and *doa selamat*, followed by a *sabda* (royal speech) from His Royal Highness the Crown Prince to mark the official opening of the Convocation Festival. A multimedia presentation and a second *sabda* to officiate the new academic building followed. His Royal Highness then witnessed cultural performances by UTB student clubs, including martial arts and traditional Bruneian arts, and toured an exhibition titled 'Bridging Ideas, Building Futures – Collaboration Across Disciplines', which emphasised the university's focus on interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation. Eight student projects aligned with this theme were showcased during the event.

Before departing, His Royal Highness received a *pesambah*



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, Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) delivering a *sabda* (royal speech).

(souvenir) from the UTB Student Representative Council and took a group photograph with the 2025/2026 council members. The Convocation Festival includes a series of events celebrating graduating students, culminating in the UTB Convocation Ceremony on 3rd September at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince signing a plaque (left); and viewing a multimedia presentation (right).



His Royal Highness in a group photo session.



His Royal Highness touring the exhibition (left); and a presentation of cultural performance (right).



Royal Thai Embassy organises cooking class

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 25th August – In celebration of the 93rd Birthday of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit The Queen Mother on 12th August, the Royal Thai Embassy in Brunei Darussalam organised a cooking class at the An-Nur Harapan Centre.

Her Excellency Boosara Kanchanalai, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam, also took part in the activity.

Chef Thikamporn Sawangarom from the Royal Thai Embassy conducted a Thai cooking demonstration, preparing Chicken Green Curry for the UNIKLEARN trainees and staff.



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman joined in a group photo session.



Her Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam in a group photo.



Chef Thikamporn Sawangarom from the Royal Thai Embassy conducted a Thai cooking demonstration.

Building an inclusive future together

BERAKAS, 13th August – Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Speaker of Legislative Council (LegCo), received a courtesy call from a delegation of Young Parliamentarians of AIPA (YPA-AIPA) from the Malaysian Parliament, led by Yang Berhormat Dato' Indera Mohd. Shahr bin Abdullah, Member of the Malaysia Parliament as Chairman of the YPA Committee. The visit included discussions on the role of young leaders in voicing youth concerns and contributing to national and regional development, with a focus on education, unemployment, and skills development, particularly in technology and AI.

Both sides affirmed their commitment to cooperation and building an inclusive future. The visit is part of YPA-AIPA's regional tour ahead of the 46th AIPA



Yang Berhormat Speaker of the Legislative Council with the delegation of the Young Parliamentarians of AIPA, Malaysian Parliament during the courtesy call.

General Assembly, which Malaysia will chair, aiming to strengthen parliamentary diplomacy and youth leadership across ASEAN.

The Speaker of LegCo undertakes courtesy calls

JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA 16th August – Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Speaker of the Legislative Council (LegCo), made an official visit to Jakarta, to attend the Joint Annual Session of the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR RI) and Regional Representative Council (DPD RI), held in conjunction with Indonesia’s 80th Independence Day and the opening of the 2025–2026 legislative year.

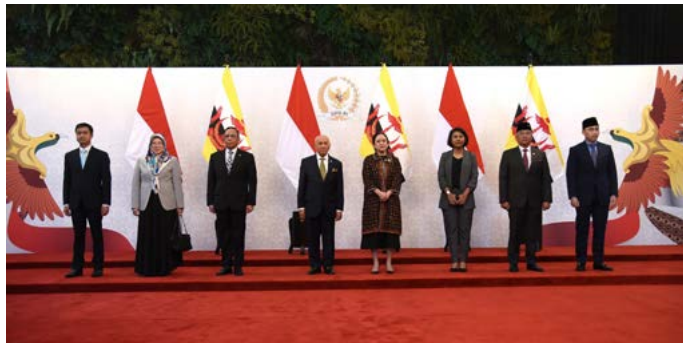
During the visit, the Speaker of LegCo paid separate courtesy calls to Her Excellency Dr. (H.C.) Madam Maharani, Speaker of the DPR RI, reaffirming Brunei-Indonesia ties and expressing hopes for deeper cooperation; and The Honourable Seah Kian Peng, Speaker of the Singapore Parliament, where both sides reaffirmed strong bilateral relations and discussed enhanced parliamentary cooperation.

The Speaker also visited the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Secretariat, where he was updated on



Yang Berhormat Speaker of LegCo during the courtesy call with the Speaker of the Singapore Parliament.

developments and preparations for the upcoming 46th AIPA General Assembly.



Yang Berhormat Speaker of LegCo with the Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives.



Yang Berhormat Speaker of LegCo visit the AIPA Secretariat.

Indonesia’s 80th Independence Day celebration

JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, 17th August – Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Speaker of the Legislative Council (LegCo), attended Indonesia’s 80th Independence Day celebration at the Merdeka Palace.

The Speaker of LegCo visit was at the invitation of Dr. (H.C.) Puan Maharani, Speaker of Indonesia’s House of Representatives (DPR RI), in conjunction with the Joint Annual Session of the DPR RI and the Regional Representative Council (DPD RI).

Yang Berhormat Speaker of the Legislative Council at the 80th Independence Day Celebration Ceremony of the Republic of Indonesia at the Merdeka Palace, Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia.



Brunei and Timor-Leste boost defence ties

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE, 21st August – Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence, led a delegation to attend the 50th Anniversary ceremony of the Armed Forces for the National Liberation of Timor-Leste (FALINTIL) in Dili from 19th to 21st August. The delegation included senior military and diplomatic officials.

ceremony, a military parade, and speeches by His Excellency Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and His Excellency José Ramos-Horta, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, commemorating five decades of Timor-Leste’s struggle for independence under the theme ‘Extending Peace to the World’. The ceremony honoured veterans and reflected the country’s journey from conflict to peace.

The event featured an international conference, a remembrance

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Bilateral meeting between Yang Berhormat the Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence and His Excellency Defence Minister of Timor-Leste.

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During the visit, the Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Defence also met with Timor-Leste's Defence Minister to discuss defence and regional security issues, highlighting and strengthening bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and Timor-Leste for regional peace and stability.



Military Parade in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Armed Forces for the National Liberation of Timor-Leste (FALINTIL).

MinDef receives official visit

BOLKIAH GARRISON, 23rd August – His Excellency Chan Chun Sing, Coordinating Minister for Public Services and Minister for Defence, Republic of Singapore, made an official visit to the Ministry of Defence following his appointment in May 2025.

The Singapore's Coordinating Minister for Public Services and Minister for Defence was warmly welcomed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence, with a formal salute and Guard of Honour from the Royal Brunei Land Forces.

During the visit, both sides expressed their satisfaction with the strong and ongoing defence cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore, which includes policy dialogues, visits, military exercises, and training.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence with His Excellency Coordinating Minister for Public Services and Minister for Defence, Republic of Singapore.



Yang Berhormat Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Defence with His Excellency during a group photo session.

Committed to inclusive energy transition

BUSAN, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, 29th August – Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence as the Minister in charge of Energy, attended the 15th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Energy Ministerial Meeting (APEC EMM), from 27th to 28th August.

The APEC forum, focused on regional economic integration

and sustainable growth, highlights energy cooperation as a key priority. This year's meeting, hosted by the Republic of Korea as APEC Chair, focused on accelerating sustainable, affordable, reliable, secure, and innovative energy.

The meeting included sessions on expanding electricity supply, strengthening grid security and reliability, and AI-driven energy innovation.

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Brunei Darussalam reaffirmed its commitment to a balanced energy transition, integrating traditional oil and gas with renewable sources. It aims for 30 per cent renewable power generation by 2035, with a 30MW solar project due in 2026. Brunei also emphasised the importance of modernising its power grid, exploring battery storage systems, and regional cooperation through projects like the Brunei-Sarawak interconnection.

The Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Defence highlighted the need for coordinated policies, infrastructure upgrades, and public-private partnerships to ensure energy security and a successful transition.

The meeting ended with a Joint Ministerial Statement, and the next APEC Energy Ministers' Meeting will be hosted by the People's Republic of China in 2026.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence as the Minister in charge of Energy at the 15th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Energy Ministerial Meeting at the Nurimaru APEC House.

Signing of MoU for cooperation in various fields

BERAKAS, 20th August – The Ministry of Health (MoH) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BNH Medical Centre Ltd. of Kingdom of Thailand and Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC) to strengthen cooperation in areas such as professional exchanges, training, research, education, and patient referrals.

The signing ceremony took place at Dewan Al-'Afiyah and was witnessed by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health. The event began with a religious recitation and prayer, and was attended by Her Excellency Boosara Kanchanalai, the Ambassador of Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam, along with officials and staff from the MoH, JPMC, and BNH Medical Centre.



The Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Health and BNH Medical Centre Ltd. of Kingdom of Thailand.

Promoting unity, regional spirit of Borneo

BERAKAS, 2nd August – The Citarasa & Tautan Budaya Sarawak–Brunei 2025 was officially launched at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium, showcasing a celebration of shared culture, heritage, and economic collaboration between Sarawak and Brunei Darussalam. Organised by the Sarawak Trade and Tourism Office, Brunei (STATOB), the event highlights local crafts, cuisine, and traditions of both regions.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Finance and Economy delivering a speech (left); and officiating the Citarasa & Tautan Budaya Sarawak–Brunei 2025 Ceremony (right).



The launch was officiated 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, alongside Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Seri Laila Jasa Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah bin Ali Hasan, the Deputy Premier of Sarawak.

In his speech, the Deputy Premier of Sarawak underscored

the importance of cultural events in fostering regional unity, especially amidst global challenges. The Deputy Premier noted that shared heritage, such as food, attire, and family values, forms the foundation of strong bilateral ties. The Deputy Premier also emphasised the role of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in boosting cross-border trade, which has already reached RM3.39 billion, involving key products like mineral fuel, animal feed, machinery, and plastics.

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Meanwhile, the Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy described the event as more than a celebration - it is a strategic platform to empower local entrepreneurs, strengthen people-to-people connections, and promote sustainable economic development. The Minister praised Sarawak's dynamic community and highlighted Brunei's ongoing support, including from His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, for initiatives that build a resilient and cooperative regional economy.



Among those present at the event.



Yang Berhormat Minister touring the exhibition.

The programme features 38 entrepreneurs - 20 from Sarawak and 18 from Brunei - offering fresh food, packaged products, and handcrafts. The event aims to enhance tourism, encourage SME collaboration, and deepen cultural ties between the two regions.

The Minister also called for greater youth involvement and innovation in future programmes, suggesting expansions into digital commerce, creative industries, and environmental sustainability. He expressed hope that this event would become an annual flagship initiative.

Palestinian Humanitarian Fund

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 23rd August – Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Nazmi bin Haji Awang Mohamad, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, received \$23,688 donation from the Ministry of Finance and Economy (MoFE) for the Humanitarian Fund for the People of Palestine in Gaza 2023.

The handover ceremony took place at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports building, with the donation presented by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy. The funds were collected through contributions from MoFE officers, staff, and the public via donation boxes placed at the Ministry's lobby.

Due to ongoing instability in Palestine, which has delayed humanitarian aid delivery, the fundraising period for the fund has been extended until 18th October. Members of the public who wish to organise donation drives must obtain prior approval from the Department of Community Development (JAPEM), which



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy presenting the Humanitarian Fund for the People of Palestine in Gaza 2023 to Yang Berhormat Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

oversees the fund. For activities involving public entertainment where only a portion of the proceeds will be donated, approval must be sought from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Advancing Technology in Immigration Management

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 13th August – The 28th Meeting of ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (28th DGICM) was officially opened at the Rizqun International Hotel. The event highlighted ASEAN's continued commitment to regional cooperation in immigration and consular matters. Officiated by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Home Affairs, the opening ceremony underscored progress made in border security, immigration work plans, and consular assistance guidelines.



Continue on page 26 Yang Berhormat Minister of Home Affairs in a group photo.

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The Minister of Home Affairs stressed the importance of balancing mobility and security, and called for further collaboration on initiatives such as visa exemptions and strengthening the ASEAN Immigration Training Centre. The Minister also encouraged the adoption of technologies like artificial intelligence to modernise immigration systems while preserving human-centred values.

The Minister acknowledged the growing role of ASEAN's dialogue partners - including the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Australia - and expressed confidence that the meeting would yield concrete strategies to enhance regional cooperation and security. Over 120 delegates participated, including Directors-General of Immigration from ASEAN Member States, observers from Timor-Leste, and representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat and dialogue partners.

Awang Haji Azmi bin Haji Abdul Rahim, Acting Director of Immigration and National Registration reaffirmed ASEAN's dedication to cooperation in immigration and consular affairs and thanked the ASEAN Secretariat for its support. The DGICM meetings focus on reviewing immigration policies, addressing illegal migration, human trafficking, and document fraud, and promoting legitimate travel and regional security. These discussions are expected to contribute to the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision.

Prior to the plenary sessions, three key forums took place on 12th August: the 8th ASEAN Heads of Major Immigration Checkpoints Forum (AMICF), the 4th Heads of Specialist Unit on People Smuggling (HSU), and the 20th ASEAN Immigration Intelligence Forum (AIIF). The outcomes of these forums will be tabled for discussion in the DGICM sessions and during dialogue meetings with Australia and the Plus Three partners. Brunei's Immigration and National Registration Department (JIPK) is serving as the host and chair of this year's meetings.

Boosting Halal Sustainability via Islamic Knowledge, Science, and Technology

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 26th August – Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), through its Faculty of Halal Science and Sustainable Tourism and in collaboration with International Institute for Halal Research and Training (INHART), International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), hosted the Halalan Thayyiban Intellectual Assembly (HTIA) 2025, launched at the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Islamic Exhibition Gallery. The seminar runs until 27th August and coincides with the 15th Mahrajan Hafli Al-Takharuj, partnering with universities from Malaysia and the Republic of Indonesia.

The event, themed 'Integration of Islamic Science and Technology towards Halal Industry Sustainability', merges two major halal seminars and focuses on advancing the halal industry beyond



Yang Berhormat Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism as the Guest of Honour of the Halalan Thayyiban Intellectual Assembly (HTIA) 2025.

Shariah compliance by incorporating science, technology, and governance to ensure global competitiveness and sustainability.

HTIA 2025 aims to foster awareness, collaboration, and research while aligning with Brunei Vision 2035 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Activities include keynote speeches, over 40 academic paper presentations, a Halal Masterclass, a Panel Forum, and a Halal Product Innovation Competition. The event concluded with a Halal Tour showcasing Brunei's cultural and Islamic heritage.

Overall, HTIA 2025 positions itself as a key platform for innovation, knowledge sharing, and strategic networking in the international halal industry.



Head of Postgraduate Programmes, Faculty of Halal Science and Sustainable Tourism, Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali delivering a keynote address.

Advancing inclusive, equitable education for all

SANTIAGO, REPUBLIC OF CHILE, 30th August – Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Setia Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Md. Salleh, Minister of Education as President of the SEAMEO Council, attended the High-Level Steering Committee Leaders' Meeting on SDG4 (Education 2030) and the World Teachers' Summit from 28th to 29th August.

the event addressed global teacher shortages and aimed to strengthen support for teachers to advance inclusive, equitable education. Key themes included: strengthening the teaching profession; professional development and education; and social dialogue in education policy-making.

Jointly organised by UNESCO and the Government of Chile,

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The Minister of Education contributed to the High-Level Steering Committee (HLSC) discussions, highlighting SEAMEO's initiatives such as SEA-PLM (Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics); Out of School Children and Youth (OOSCY) programme; and Greening Education Plan.

The Minister also stressed the importance of transforming education financing and sought UNESCO's support for regional diagnostic assessments.

The meeting concluded with the endorsement of the 2025 HLSC Outcome Document. The Minister also spoke in a plenary session on addressing teacher shortages, advocating for stronger teacher development policies and regional cooperation.

The Summit ended with the adoption of the Santiago Consensus,



Yang Berhormat Minister of Education as President of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) Council, in a group photo at the High-Level Steering Committee (HLSC) Leaders' Meeting on SDG 4 Education 2030 and the World Summit on Teachers.

a global commitment to improve the teaching profession through policy coordination and sustained investment.

Explore opportunities, establish collaborative pathways to Advance AI



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications during the AI Malaysia Summit 2025, held at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre, Kuala Lumpur.



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 18th August – The Brunei Darussalam delegation, led by Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications, participated in the ASEAN AI Malaysia Summit 2025 held from 11th to 13th August at MITEC, Kuala Lumpur.

Themed 'Driving Sustainable and Inclusive AI Development in ASEAN', the Summit was officiated by Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia and brought together key stakeholders from across the region to discuss AI's role in sustainable growth, inclusion, and resilience.

During the event, the Minister of Transport and Infocommunications took part in a Ministerial Panel Discussion focused on creating a safe and governed AI ecosystem in ASEAN, emphasising regional cooperation, standard development, and

the balance between national and ASEAN-wide objectives.

The Minister also joined a Ministerial Roundtable on developing a unified approach to responsible AI and digital trust, underscoring the importance of a human-centric, risk-aware framework and highlighting regional initiatives such as the ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics and the ASEAN AI Safety Network. These priorities align closely with Brunei's national goals under its Digital Brunei Transformation Plan (DBTP), which supports ethical AI development in line with Brunei Vision 2035.

On the sidelines, the Minister held bilateral talks with His Excellency Chea Vandeth, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications on digital transformation and cybersecurity, The Kingdom of Cambodia and met with Mr. Khailee Ng of 500 Global Partners to explore innovation and investment opportunities.

Reinforcing transport sector synergy towards shared prosperity

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 29th August – The Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications (MTIC) recently hosted an official visit from Yang Berhormat Datuk Sri Lee Kim Shin, the Minister of Transport of Sarawak, Malaysia, at the Rizqun International Hotel. The visit began with a courtesy call on Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin

Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications, during which both sides discussed enhancing cooperation in land, maritime, and air transport, focusing on safety, infrastructure development, and collaborative opportunities.

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Senior officials from both Brunei and Sarawak, including deputy ministers and permanent secretaries, were present throughout the visit. A bilateral meeting followed, co-chaired by MTIC's Permanent Secretary and Sarawak's Minister of Transport, involving various Bruneian government departments and agencies. The meeting covered key topics such as policy exchange, cross-border transport initiatives, regional connectivity, and sustainable aviation practices.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications in a group photo.

In the afternoon, the Minister of Transport of Sarawak held a dialogue session with Brunei-based logistics, aviation, and shipping companies. The visit aimed to

strengthen transport and logistics ties, improve cross-border movement of people and goods, and promote economic collaboration. Overall, the engagement

highlighted the shared commitment of both Brunei and Sarawak to deepen bilateral relations and create mutual benefits for their regions.

Enhancing ASEAN's social protection efforts

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 29th August – Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Nazmi Mohamad, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports attended the 12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD) via video conference. The meeting focused on strengthening social protection for vulnerable groups and saw the adoption of a Joint Statement supporting inclusive policies and the launch of ASEAN Vision 2045.

Brunei Darussalam reaffirmed its commitment to social development through national initiatives such as the digital National Welfare System, the Family Institution Action Plan, and efforts to support Persons with Disabilities and successful ageing. The event also marked the end of Brunei's chairmanship of the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development. Ahead of the meeting, Brunei organisations MKOKU and An-Nur Harapan (Uniklearn) received regional awards for their contributions to social welfare. The 8th ASEAN Plus Three meeting followed, strengthening cooperation with the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.

Yang Berhormat the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports during the 12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development, held via video conference.



Promoting inclusive growth in the digital era

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 21st August - Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Paduka Dayang Hajah Nor Hashimah binti Haji Mohammed Taib, the Attorney General, along with officials from the Attorney General's Chambers, attended the ASEAN Law Forum 2025 held from 19th to 21st August at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Malaysia. The forum was officially opened by Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Azalina Othman Said, Malaysia's Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform).

Ministers of Law, legal officials, ASEAN Dialogue Partners, and international legal experts from organisations such as United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), focusing on discussions to enhance access to justice, legal cooperation, and inclusive growth in the digital era. Topics included international trade arbitration, mediation, cross-border insolvency, cybercrime, AI-driven legal innovation, and good governance.

The forum brought together ASEAN Ministers and Deputy

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A significant outcome was the adoption of the Joint Statement on the Development of International Trade Arbitration and Mediation by ASEAN Ministers of Law, witnessed by Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia and His Excellency Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, ASEAN Secretary-General. This statement highlights commitments to regional economic development, technological innovation, and improved access to justice, marking a key achievement of Malaysia's 2025 ASEAN Chairmanship.



Yang Berhormat Attorney General at the ASEAN Law Forum 2025.

Food festival highlights traditional, modern Japanese dishes



His Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam together with owner of Onecity Shopping Centre during the ribbon cutting opening of 2025 Japanese Food Festival.

SALAMBIGAR, 9th August – The Embassy of Japan in Brunei Darussalam, in collaboration with Onecity Shopping Centre, held the Japanese Food Festival 2025, which runs until 10th August at Onecity Shopping Centre. The event aimed to promote Japanese cuisine, culture, and tourism. The opening ceremony was officiated by His Excellency Kikuta Yutaka, Ambassador



Among the products displayed at the festival.

Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam.

Now in its second year, the festival featured 33 vendors, offering a mix of traditional and modern Japanese food, drinks, and travel information. Highlights included a Wadaiko drum performance and a swordfish-cutting demonstration (Kajiki Maguro Kaitai).

Boosting investment, bilateral trade

PERTH, AUSTRALIA, 29th August – A Brunei Business Roadshow visited Western Australia on 28th to 29th August to strengthen ties with Australia's leading energy, green economy, and agrifood sectors. Co-led by Mr. Daniel Leong, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB), and His Excellency Mr. Michael Hoy, Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, the delegation connected with over 35 Australian companies, focusing on downstream oil and gas, decommissioning, and agricultural innovation. The visit highlighted Western Australia's expertise in LNG, offshore engineering, and sustainable farming. Additionally, it was announced that Brunei ePassports are now compatible with Australia's SmartGate system, improving travel for Bruneian businesspeople. Both leaders emphasised the event's role in fostering partnerships and supporting Brunei's economic diversification under Brunei Vision 2035, reinforcing strong trade and investment relations between the two countries.



The Brunei Business Roadshow taking place - forging new links with Australia's world-leading energy, green economy and agrifood companies.

5 Bruneian students awarded Canada-ASEAN SEED scholarships

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 15th August – Mr. Ross Willows, Chargé d’Affaires at the Canadian High Commission in Brunei Darussalam, recently welcomed current and past recipients of the Canada-ASEAN SEED Scholarship for the 2025–2026 academic year. Five Bruneian students are set to study in Canada for one semester at various universities, including Kwantlen Polytechnic, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, Memorial University of Newfoundland, and Laurentian University. The scholarship supports travel, tuition, visas, and accommodation, and has benefited 29 Bruneian students since 2022 under Canada’s Indo-Pacific Strategy. The programme fosters stronger ties between Canada and Brunei while giving students cultural and academic experiences. During the meeting, students received advice on studying in Canada, and previous recipients shared their insights.



A group photo session with Chargé d’Affaires at the High Commission of Canada in Brunei Darussalam with the five awardees.

Strengthening the role of women in the economy

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 14th August – The High-Level Policy Dialogue on Women and the Economy took place on 12th August in Incheon, Republic of Korea, chaired by The Honourable Kim Hyun Sook, Acting Minister of Gender Equality and Family of the Republic of Korea. Brunei Darussalam was represented by Dr. Hajah May Fa’ezah binti Haji Ahmad Ariffin, Permanent Secretary (Economy, Trade and Industry) at the Ministry of Finance and Economy. The event, under the theme ‘Promoting Women’s Economic Participation for Sustainable Growth’, brought together APEC ministers and officials to discuss strategies aligned with the Putrajaya Vision 2040, La Serena Roadmap, and Aotearoa Plan of Action.

Key topics included demographic shifts, digital transformation, and the green transition as factors affecting women’s economic

empowerment. Discussions emphasised support for women-led MSMEs, digital inclusion, and care infrastructure.

The Permanent Secretary highlighted Brunei’s commitment to women’s economic participation as part of Brunei Vision 2035 and shared initiatives such as the Industry Business Academy and the Brunei Mentors for Entrepreneurs Network. Since 2016, the academy has trained over 10,000 women, with 57 per cent of businesses being women-owned.

The dialogue began with public-private sector discussions on care systems, work-life balance, and the impact of AI and digital tech on women’s roles. The event concluded with the release of the Women and the Economy Forum (WEF) Statement, available on the APEC website.



Yang Mulia Permanent Secretary (Economy, Trade and Industry) at the Ministry of Finance and Economy during her attendance at The High-Level Policy Dialogue on Women and the Economy.