



Driving national development towards inclusive, sustainable growth

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 22nd February - 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 emphasised that Brunei Darussalam continues to strengthen economic diversification through key priorities under the Economic Blueprint, including the development of a maritime ecosystem to support transshipment activities and reduce logistics costs, while enhancing regional competitiveness and creating new economic opportunities.

In a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with the 42nd Brunei Darussalam National Day Celebration broadcasted nationwide, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam highlighted initiatives to develop Artificial Intelligence (AI) data centres through collaboration with Government-Linked Companies to strengthen technological capabilities, ensure data security and drive digital 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) in conjunction with the 42nd Brunei Darussalam National Day Celebration.

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Series of events mark Crown Prince's 52nd birthday



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

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 20th February – A series of Doa Kesyukuran and celebratory events were held to mark the 52nd birthday of 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).

On 16th February, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, accompanied by Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman, attended a celebratory luncheon organised by the PMO at the PMO Building. Also present were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien.

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His Majesty receives congratulatory messages

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received congratulatory messages from Foreign Heads of State and Government as well as Foreign Dignitaries on the occasion of Brunei Darussalam's 42nd National Day on 23rd February.

Among the aforementioned were:

- His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia;
- His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of the Kingdom of Cambodia;
- His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua, King of the Kingdom of Thailand;
- His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, King of the Kingdom of Sweden;
- His Majesty King Harald V, King of the Kingdom of Norway;
- His Majesty King Willem-Alexander R., King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
- His Majesty King Felipe R. King of the Kingdom of Spain;
- His Majesty King Charles III, King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
- His Excellency Tharman Shanmugaratnam, President of the Republic of Singapore;
- His Excellency Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., President of the Republic of the Philippines;
- His Excellency Dr. José Ramos-Horta, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste;
- His Excellency Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar;
- His Excellency Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America;
- Her Excellency Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia;
- His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China;
- His Excellency Kim Jong Un, President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;
- His Excellency Lee Jae Myung, President of the Republic of Korea;
- His Excellency Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation;
- His Excellency Alexander Van der Bellen, President of the Federal Republic of Austria;
- Her Excellency Iliana Iotova, President of the Republic of Bulgaria;
- His Excellency Petr Pavel, President of the Czech Republic;
- His Excellency Peter Pellegrini, President of the Republic of Slovakia;
- His Excellency Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt;
- His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa;
- His Excellency Daniel Ortega Savedra and Her Excellency Rosario Murillo, Co-Presidents of the Republic of Nicaragua;
- Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia;
- His Excellency Lawrence Wong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore;
- His Excellency Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran;
- Her Excellency Takaichi Sanae, Prime Minister of Japan;
- The Right Honourable Sir Keir Starmer, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
- His Excellency Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN; and
- His Excellency Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

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 has consented to send congratulatory messages to:

- His Excellency Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the government and the people of Iran on the occasion of its National Day on 11th February.
- Her Excellency Sanae Takaichi, Prime Minister of Japan as well as to the Government and people of Japan on the occasion of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito, Emperor of Japan's 66th birthday anniversary on 23rd February; and
- His Excellency Tarique Rahman on the occasion of his appointment as the new Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on 17th February;
- Her Excellency Sanae Takaichi on the occasion of her re-appointment as the Prime Minister of Japan on 18th February;
- His Majesty Emperor Naruhito, Emperor of Japan;
- His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jabar Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait and His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait as well as members of the royal family, the government and people of the State of Kuwait on the occasion of its 65th National Day on 25th February.

News

Observing Ramadan with devotion, healthy living

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 18th February - In the Special Titah in conjunction with Ramadan 1447 Hijrah, and Special Titah of Appreciation and Thanks broadcast nationwide, 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 emphasised the importance of good health as the foundation for performing fasting and charitable acts sincerely, drawing one closer to Allah the Almighty.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam expressed gratitude for the blessings of health and recovery following his recent medical treatment and thanked the people of Brunei, leaders from friendly nations, and medical teams for their prayers, support, and dedication. His Majesty highlighted that maintaining health enables individuals to serve their families, society, and the nation effectively.

Urging the nation to embrace the spiritual significance of Ramadan, His Majesty encouraged the faithful to seek forgiveness, engage in worship such as fasting, Tarawih prayers, Al-Quran recitation, and *qiamullail*, and to practice moderation and generosity. The Monarch also called upon government ministries, private sectors, and communities to fill the month with acts of worship and charity.



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).

His Majesty concluded with heartfelt greetings for a blessed Ramadan to Muslims in Brunei Darussalam and abroad, and extended Chinese New Year greetings to the local Chinese community.

Driving national development towards inclusive, sustainable growth (continued)

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His Majesty also underscored the importance of food security through regional cooperation, including the Brunei-Singapore Agri-Tech Food Zone, as well as expanding eco-tourism in preparation for Visit Brunei 2027. These initiatives, aligned with the 12th National Development Plan and Brunei Vision

2035, reflect the government's commitment to achieving inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

His Majesty further called on local entrepreneurs, youths and all citizens to seize emerging opportunities, to strengthen patriotism, and to work together to support national development and economic progress.

Get-Together Ceremony

JERUDONG, 3rd February - 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, who is also the Chairman of DPMM Football Club (DPMM FC) graced the group photo and get-together session with the DPMM FC. The ceremony took place at Jerudong Park Mini Stadium.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office during a meet-and-greet with the players of DPMM FC.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince in a group photo with DPMM FC players and the management.

His Majesty names granddaughter

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 11th February - By command of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, The Office of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, hereby announces that: His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, with great pleasure, has graciously named his granddaughter, the daughter of His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Anisha Rosnah binti Adam as Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Zahra Mariam Bolkiah binti Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Mateen.



Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Zahra Mariam Bolkiah binti Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Mateen.

On this occasion, His Majesty and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha together with other members of the royal family, sincerely thank all those who were involved, and all who have conveyed their messages of congratulations and greetings, on the birth of Their Majesties' granddaughter, who

was born safely on Sunday, 20 Syaaban 1447 corresponding to 8th February 2026 at 8.50 a.m.

Series of events mark Crown Prince's 52nd birthday (continued)



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman, together with other members of the royal family in a group photo.

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The programme included a group photo session, a visit to Galeri Pesambah, a birthday cake-cutting ceremony, and the presentation of congratulatory cards from PMO and 11 agencies, including government departments, higher education institutions, and the Brunei Scouts Federation. The luncheon at the Banquet Hall began with the recitation of Surah Al-Faatihah and *doa kesyukuran* led by Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Japar bin Haji Mat Dain @ Maidin, Deputy State Mufti.

In conjunction with the occasion, the Royal Brunei Police Force also held a celebratory luncheon at the Banquet Hall, Police Headquarters Complex.

Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Commandant of the Women Police and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar.



His Royal Highness taking a closer look at a *pesambah* (souvenir).



Their Royal Highness and other members of the royal family at the luncheon held in conjunction with the birthday celebration of His Royal Highness at the Banquet Hall, Police Headquarters Complex, Gadong.



His Royal Highness during the cake cutting ceremony.



Their Royal Highness together with members of the royal family at the afternoon tea ceremony.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince receives a *pesambah* (souvenir).

The programme included the signing of a commemorative guest book, group photo sessions, a cake-cutting ceremony accompanied by a police choir, and tribute presentations.

The following day, on 17th February, Their Royal Highnesses attended a special hi-tea hosted by the Ministry of Defence at the Bolkiah Garrison Officers' Mess. Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Lieutenant Colonel (U) His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

The programme featured a group photo session and introductions to Royal Brunei Armed Forces personnel returning from international missions, recipients of international awards, officers completing overseas and local courses, as well as athletes who won medals at the 33rd Southeast Asian Games and Borneo 2025 Games. His Royal Highness was also presented with a commemorative book, 'Sejambak Ristaan XIX', highlighting Defence Ministry engagements from 2025 to January 2026.

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His Royal Highness receiving an explanation of a *pesambah* (souvenir).

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The celebration continued with a cake-cutting ceremony, tributes under the theme 'Exemplary Leadership in the Nation's Legacy' and concluded with a *doa kesyukuran*.

Meanwhile, today, the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation (YSHHB), as Secretariat for the Crown Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah Fund for Orphans (DANA), held a Doa Kesuyukuran Ceremony at Dewan An-Naura, YSHHB Complex.

Present was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, Chairman of the Committee of Governors of YSHHB.

The ceremony began with the recitation of Surah Yaa Siin and *tahlil*, followed by a *doa kesyukuran* in honour of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince. The programme continued with the breaking of fast and mass Fardu Maghrib prayer.



His Royal Highness at the event.

The series of events reflected the nation's continued prayers, appreciation and respect for His Royal Highness's leadership and service.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, Chairman of the Committee of Governors of Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah at the Doa Kesuyukuran ceremony at Dewan An-Naura, YSHHB Complex (above and below).



Kesyukuran Ceremony Commemorates 42nd National Day



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; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen during the religious ceremony for the 42nd National Celebration 2026 at Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah.

KIARONG, 23rd February - 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 as the representative of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, graced the Kesyukuran Ceremony with the Mass Fardu Zohor Prayer, recital of Surah Yaa Siin and Doa Kesyukuran in conjunction with Brunei Darussalam's 42nd National Day celebration at Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen, along with senior government officials. Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Awang Haji Salim bin Haji Besar led the Zuhur prayer, mass Sunat Hajat prayer, followed by Surah Yaa Siin recital and *doa kesyukuran*.

Similar ceremonies were held simultaneously at mosques, suraus and religious halls nationwide as part of the National Day celebrations.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and members of the royal family during the recital of Surah Yaa Siin.



His Royal Highness at the event.



His Royal Highness and members of the royal family during the religious ceremony for the 42nd National Celebration 2026.

Joins LAUT Brunei Beach Clean-Up Campaign



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman in a group photo during the LAUT Brunei Turtle Conservation Programme Beach Clean-Up Campaign.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 16th February - A total of 723 kilogrammes of marine debris was collected at Tanjung Batu Beach during the official launch of the Brunei Sea Turtle Conservation Programme's Coastal Clean-Up Campaign.

Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman participated in the campaign with Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman; dan Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Faathimah Az-Zahraa' Raihaanul Bolkiah.

The initiative marks the start of a structured monthly programme under the 10-Year Brunei Sea Turtle Conservation Programme, a national, community-driven effort to protect turtle nesting beaches and promote sustainable conservation-based livelihoods. Around 60 volunteers, including local community members, teachers, students, and families from Miftah Ahn-Nur Islamic International School, participated in the campaign.

In addition to beach cleaning, the programme focuses on four pillars: community engagement and education, scientific monitoring and beach protection, establishment of turtle hatcheries and marine rehabilitation centres, and creation of

sustainable livelihoods linked to conservation.

The programme identifies Brunei's coastline as a critical nesting site for Olive Ridley turtles in Borneo, with marine pollution and habitat loss posing major threats. Collected debris is categorised and recorded to support long-term environmental monitoring, policy development, and conservation planning.

LAUT Brunei (Looking After Underwater Treasures of Brunei), under the Poni Foundation and supported by Poni Group, leads the initiative, combining community science, technology, and partnerships to protect marine life, coral reefs, and shipwrecks.

The programme also aims to empower local communities, offering opportunities in beach monitoring, hatchery operations, ecotourism guiding, data collection, and habitat restoration. Planned facilities include a Turtle Hatchery and Marine Rehabilitation Centre to serve as research, public education, and capacity-building hubs.

The next beach clean-up under the Turtle Conservation Programme is scheduled for 14th March, and the public is encouraged to follow @LAUTBrunei on Instagram and Facebook for updates and volunteer opportunities.

Distribution of His Majesty's Personal Gift of Dates



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 10th February - The annual personal gift of dates from His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, continues as a cherished tradition ahead of Ramadan, reflecting His Majesty's care and compassion for his people. The nationwide distribution is overseen by Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB).

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Chairman of the Committee of Governors of YSHHB, officiated the launching ceremony for the distribution in conjunction with Ramadan 1447 Hijrah/2026 Masihi. The ceremony took place at Dewan An-Naura, YSHHB Complex, in the capital.

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His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Chairman of the Committee of Governors of Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, delivering a *sabda* (royal speech).



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Chairman of the Committee of Governors of Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah distributing the dates as the Personal Gift of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

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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 as Chairman of the YSHHB Board of Directors in his welcoming remarks, announced that 160.2 metric tonnes of Safawy dates — amounting to 534,000 boxes of 300 grammes each — will be distributed to all Muslim citizens and residents, including Muslim foreign workers, regardless of age or nationality. The shipment arrived from the Port of Dammam, Saudi Arabia, in two sailings in January and February. This year marks the 31st consecutive year since 1995 that YSHHB has managed the distribution.

In a *sabda* (royal speech), His Royal Highness expressed gratitude to Allah the Almighty for enabling the continuation of His Majesty's personal gift, allowing the Muslim community to share in the traditional breaking of the fast. His Royal Highness

highlighted the significance of charity during Ramadan, citing Surah Al-Baqarah (verse 261), and emphasised that sincere charitable acts bring manifold rewards. The annual gift, His Royal Highness noted, not only enhances the spiritual observance of Ramadan but also nurtures compassion, unity and social well-being.

His Royal Highness later presented the dates on behalf of His Majesty to representatives of the uniformed services, members of the public, civil servants, private sector employees and associations of converts. The ceremony concluded with a *doa selamat*, officially commencing the nationwide distribution through relevant agencies and community leaders.

YSHHB called for continued cooperation from all parties to ensure the smooth distribution of the dates so that Muslims throughout the country may share in the meaningful tradition of breaking the fast during Ramadan.

Tahlil Ceremony



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

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 26th February - His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Chairman of the Committee of Governors of Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) attended a Tahlil Ceremony in conjunction with Ramadan for Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam, Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit binti

Al-Marhum Pengiran Bendahara Pengiran Anak Abdul Rahman, and Al-Marhum His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah. Organised by YSHHB, the ceremony was held at the Royal Mausoleum.

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His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik pouring the *Aying Asah-asahan* (scented water) onto the graves of Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam and Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Bendahara Pengiran Anak Abdul Rahman.

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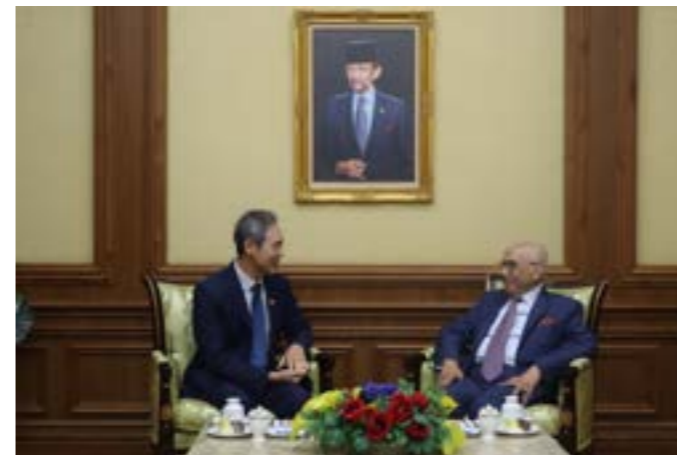
The reading of Surah Yaa siin, *tahlil* and *doa arwah* was led by Yang Dimuliakan Begawan Pehin Khatib Dato Paduka Awang Haji Metassan bin Haji Tahir.

His Royal Highness then poured *Aying Asah-asahan* (scented water) on the graves of Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien; Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit; and Al-Marhum His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim.

His Royal Highness graciously pouring the *Aying Asah-asahan* onto the grave of Al-Marhum His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.



Speaker of LegCo receives courtesy call



Yang Berhormat Speaker of the Legislative Council (LegCo) during the courtesy calls from His Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam (left) and His Excellency the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to Brunei Darussalam (right).

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 10th February – Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, the Speaker of the Legislative Council (LegCo) received separate courtesy calls from His Excellency Sun Nahmkook, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea (RoK), and His Excellency Heuankeo Sangsomsak, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR). The meetings were held at the Legislative Council Building.

During the courtesy call by the Ambassador of the RoK, congratulations were conveyed on LegCo's membership

in the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). Both sides exchanged views on strengthening bilateral relations at the parliamentary level, as well as cooperation in trade, culture, education and tourism. Regional and global issues of mutual interest were also discussed, highlighting the importance of diplomacy.

In the meeting with the Ambassador of the Lao PDR, discussions centred on long-standing cordial relations, particularly in trade and economic cooperation. Both sides also explored expanding parliamentary engagement and collaboration in education and training, with the Ambassador of the Lao PDR expressing hopes for closer ties.

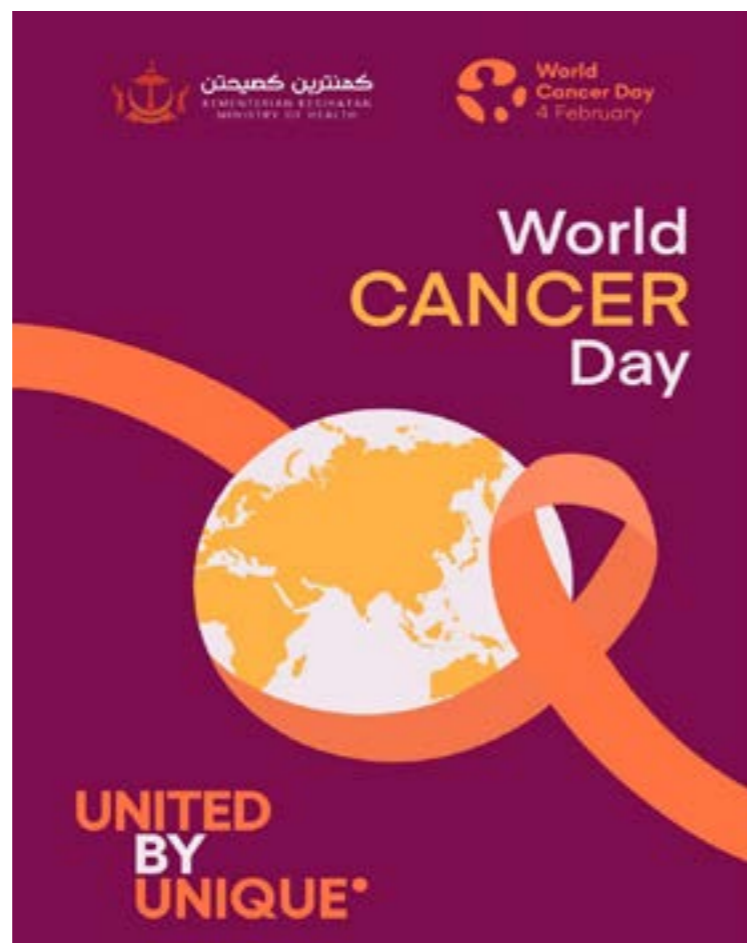
Prevention, early detection help reduce cancer cases, mortality

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 4th February - World Cancer Day, observed annually on 4th February, aims to raise global awareness of cancer and the importance of prevention, early detection, treatment and patient support. The 2026 observance marks the second year of the theme 'United by Unique', which highlights the need for a united effort in combating cancer while recognising the diverse backgrounds, needs and experiences of individuals.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health, in this World Cancer Day 2026 message, emphasised that understanding individual uniqueness enables more effective, relevant and patient-centred care, and that responsibility in addressing cancer is shared by all sectors of society.

According to data from the Brunei Darussalam Cancer Registry, 860 new cancer cases were recorded in 2024, an increase from 828 cases in 2023, with colorectal cancer as the most common among males and breast cancer as the most common among females. A total of 368 cancer-related deaths were also recorded.

The Minister of Health underscored the importance of preventive measures, including healthy lifestyles, and early detection through screening programmes such as the National Health Screening Programme, which is provided free of charge. The Minister also highlighted the need for continued psychosocial and community support for patients and survivors, calling for collective action to build an inclusive, compassionate and supportive society in the fight against cancer.



Enhancing connectivity and strengthening trade relations

MUARA, 2nd February - Brunei Darussalam marked a key milestone in the development of its logistics sector with the launch of a new maritime service by NEXT Bahtera Maritime Sendirian Berhad (NBM), a joint venture between the Ministry of Finance and Economy and Network Cross Trade Line Limited. The service connects Muara Port directly with major ports in The People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Indonesia and the Republic of the Philippines, strengthening regional connectivity and trade links.

The launch, held at the Muara Port Centre, Muara Port Company (MPC), was officiated by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Finance and Economy at the Launching Ceremony of NEXT Bahtera Maritime Sendirian Berhad.

Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Finance and Economy.

Also in attendance were Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications; and Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Khairuddin bin Haji Abdul Hamid, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy (Economy).

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The launching ceremony officiated by Yang Berhormat Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy. Also in attendance was Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications.

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The launch underscores Brunei Darussalam's commitment to enhancing supply chain resilience and expanding market access in support of Brunei Vision 2035. Speaking at the event, the Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy emphasised that the national vision serves as a guiding framework towards a resilient, sustainable and globally competitive economy, and described the establishment of NBM as a strong example of how foreign direct investment can bridge local aspirations with global expertise.

NBM operates its own vessel, MV NXT Genesis, which is capable of transporting a wide range of goods and has successfully delivered more than 800 cargo consignments since 2024. The operation of a dedicated vessel provides greater operational control, flexibility and service reliability, while reducing reliance

on external shipping networks.

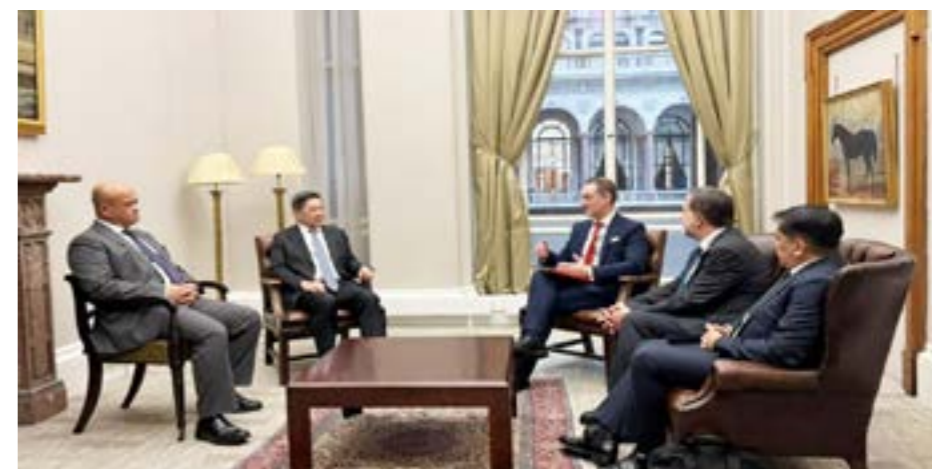
The Minister also highlighted that maritime connectivity is a strategic necessity for Brunei Darussalam, given its position in Southeast Asia. "The new service, including the operation of a dedicated Pure Car and Truck Carrier (PCTC) vessel, strengthens Brunei's role within the BIMP-EAGA sub-region and the wider ASEAN community, while integrating local markets more closely with key regional economies," said the Minister.

"Reliable shipping connectivity," he added, "will boost confidence among local businesses and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by improving service frequency and price competitiveness. The strong cargo performance achieved since 2024 reflects tangible trade growth and a strengthening economic foundation, supporting Brunei Darussalam's long-term development and economic diversification efforts."

Prioritising Brunei's energy transition, offshore assets

ABERDEEN, UNITED KINGDOM, 6th February - Alongside the Brunei-United Kingdom (UK) Strategic Dialogue in London led 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, a separate Brunei delegation was led by Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Mohamad Azmi bin Haji Mohd. Hanifah, Deputy Minister (Energy) at the PMO, visited Aberdeen, UK. The delegation included key government agencies, statutory bodies, and a representative from Brunei's decommissioning industry, Anson International Sdn. Bhd.

The Aberdeen programme focused on Brunei's long-term energy transition priorities, including offshore energy operations, industrial decarbonisation, and end-of-life oil and gas asset



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Finance and Economy, together with Yang Mulia Deputy Minister (Energy) at PMO, during discussions on the green transition with the United Kingdom (UK) Minister of Industry in the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and the Department for Business and Trade, UK.

management. Delegates participated in technical briefings, site visits, and stakeholder engagements with UK

bodies such as Offshore Energies UK, the National Decommissioning Centre, and Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning. The programme provided insights into the UK's approach to decommissioning, low-carbon energy transition, and sector development.



Yang Mulia Deputy Minister (Energy) at the PMO and delegation during a visit to Aberdeen Harbour, UK.

It also enabled Brunei to share perspectives, explore collaboration opportunities, and strengthen national capabilities, governance frameworks, and human capital to support a pragmatic energy transition. Outcomes from the visit will contribute to Brunei's sustainable economic development and the Brunei Green Economy Framework objectives.

In addition, the Deputy Minister joined selected London engagements, including dialogues with Brunei students, meetings with the UK Minister of Industry, and sessions organised by the UK-ASEAN Business Council.

Public-Private Cooperation boosts investment, trade, sustainability

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 9th February - Senior policymakers and business leaders gathered at the Baiduri Community Space for the 2026 Brunei Economy Roundtable (BER), a closed-door discussion on Brunei Darussalam's economic prospects. Organised by the ASEAN and APEC Business Advisory Council (BAC) Brunei, the Roundtable provided a platform for candid dialogue on Brunei's economic direction, resilience, diversification, and growth opportunities.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Finance and Economy, during the group photo session at the 2026 Brunei Economy Roundtable (BER).

Key discussions focused on investment competitiveness, foreign direct investment (FDI), trade expansion, regional integration, sustainability, and digital adoption to boost productivity. 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, delivered a keynote address outlining the government's economic policies and priorities for 2026, emphasising public-private collaboration to advance Brunei Vision 2035.

Ti Eng Hui of Baiduri Bank, Chief Executive Officer of Baiduri Bank highlighted the need for actionable outcomes, private sector engagement, and regional cooperation to strengthen competitiveness, investment, and trade.

Representatives from Brunei Shell Petroleum, Darussalam Assets Sdn. Bhd., Datastream Digital (DST) Sdn. Bhd., Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB), and other organisations participated, sharing insights on business risks, opportunities, and strategies to drive economic growth over the next three to five years.

Now in its fifth year, the Brunei Economic Programme, led by the private sector and ASEAN and APEC BAC Brunei, continues to connect Brunei's economy with regional and global developments, supporting economic diversification and contributing to the nation's long-term goals under Brunei Vision 2035.

Strengthen ties through trade, education, and tourism

GADONG, 9th February - Japan remains committed to supporting cooperation with Brunei Darussalam across multiple sectors, including downstream industries, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, ICT, and services, to advance sustainable development. Currently, 21 Japanese companies operate in Brunei, contributing to initiatives such as methanol production from natural gas and biotechnology applications in food and health.

His Excellency Kikuta Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam, highlighted these efforts during his keynote at the Reception celebrating the 66th Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan at Rizqun International Hotel. The Ambassador emphasised the importance of people-to-people exchanges, including youth programmes and academic partnerships between Japanese and Bruneian universities, noting Brunei's rich Islamic culture, natural environment, English proficiency, hospitality, and safety as key attractions.

In October, Royal Brunei Airlines resumed codeshare flights with Japan Airlines, improving travel accessibility and expectedly doubling Japanese tourist arrivals. The Ambassador reaffirmed Japan's commitment to fostering deeper bilateral ties through



Yang Berhormat Minister of Home Affairs during the reception.

continued people-to-people engagement. The Reception was attended by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Home Affairs.

Cooperation in environmental protection, climate change

JERUDONG, 11th February - The 18th Brunei Darussalam-Singapore Annual Exchange of Visit on the Environment (BSAEV) was held at Dewan Indera Samudra, The Empire Hotel, under the framework of the 2022 Bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Environmental and Climate Change Affairs.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Development attends the 18th Brunei Darussalam-Singapore Annual Exchange of Visit on the Environment (BSAEV) meeting.

The Brunei Darussalam delegation led by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Muhammad Juanda bin Haji Abdul Rashid, Minister of Development, included senior officials from key ministries and agencies, while the Republic of Singapore delegation, led by Her Excellency Grace Fu Hai Yien, Minister for Sustainability and the Environment comprised officials from Singapore's environmental and water agencies.

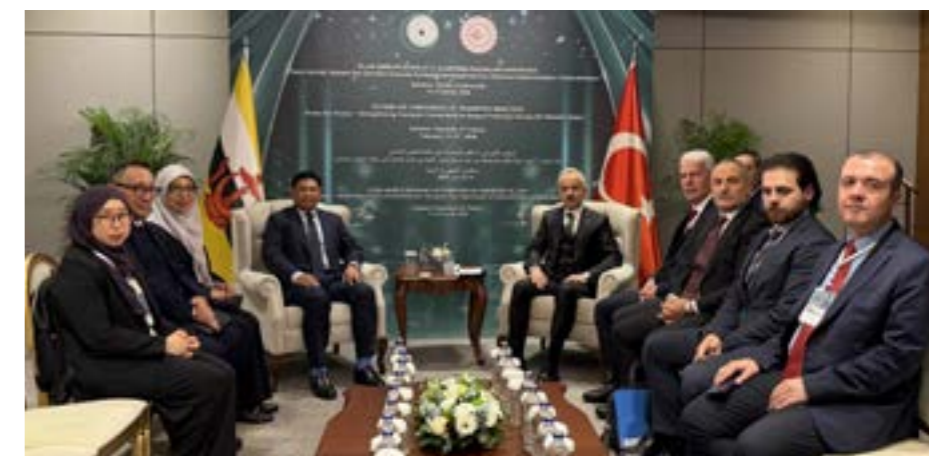
During the meeting, both ministers reaffirmed the strong bilateral relationship and commitment to environmental protection and climate change cooperation. They reviewed projects and programmes in solid waste management, air quality, water resources, youth environmental initiatives, and climate change. Brunei highlighted efforts such as the Eco-Food Waste Initiative, Waste-to-Energy development, Operation Langis, ambient air monitoring, and youth programmes, while Singapore shared its approaches to recycled materials, Changi Water Reclamation

Plant expansion, Deep Tunnel Sewerage System Phase 2, and GreenGov.SG initiatives.

The ministers also discussed circular economy opportunities, collaboration with ASEAN Member States, and joint initiatives on transboundary haze and oil spill management. Singapore is set to host the 19th BSAEV, continuing the bilateral environmental partnership.

Advancing transport sector cooperation and integration

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 21st February - Brunei Darussalam participated in the Second Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Transport Ministers' Conference held on 12th February in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, reaffirming its commitment to strengthening transport connectivity, cooperation and sustainable development across OIC member states.



Brunei Darussalam was represented by Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications.

Brunei Darussalam was represented by Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications, who highlighted the vital role of transport and logistics in driving economic growth, social inclusion and national development in line with Brunei Vision 2035.

During the conference, His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Türkiye, called for stronger

transport integration among OIC countries to enhance trade, regional competitiveness and economic cooperation.

On the sidelines of the conference, the Minister of Transport and Infocommunications, also held a bilateral

meeting with His Excellency Abdulkadir Uraloğlu, Türkiye's Minister of Transport and Infrastructure to explore cooperation in aviation, maritime, logistics and infocommunications, further strengthening bilateral ties between Brunei Darussalam and Türkiye.

Valuing cooperative relations to drive shared progress

GADONG, 13th February - The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Brunei Darussalam hosted a reception at The Rizqun International Hotel to mark the 47th Anniversary of the Victory of the Islamic Revolution (National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran).

Representing the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Nazmi Mohamad, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

In his address, His Excellency Mohammad Taghi Rajabi,

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Brunei Darussalam highlighted the significance of the 1979 Revolution in establishing national sovereignty and independence, and noted Iran's progress over the past five decades despite external pressures and sanctions.

The event concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony and reaffirmed the longstanding and mutually respectful bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

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The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Reception Ceremony in conjunction with the 47th National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Ensuring legal stability

NADI, REPUBLIC OF FIJI, 12th February - The Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting (CLMM) 2026, which took place from 9th to 12th February was attended by Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Paduka Dayang Hajah Nor Hashimah binti Haji Mohammed Taib, Attorney General and senior officials from the Attorney General's Chambers. The meeting was officially opened by The Honourable Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka, Fiji's Prime Minister, and chaired by The Honourable Siromi Turaga, Minister of Justice and Acting Attorney General of Fiji, with support from The Honourable Shirley Botchwey, Commonwealth Secretary-General.



Yang Berhormat Attorney General in a group photo.

Themed 'Anchoring Justice in a Changing Tide: Strengthening the Rule of Law for a Resilient Future', the meeting focused on how justice systems can remain resilient amid evolving global challenges, including climate change, security, human mobility, and technological advancements such as Artificial Intelligence (AI). The Attorney General highlighted Brunei Darussalam's initiatives on AI governance, ethics, judicial guidelines, and the Personal Data Protection Order 2025.

military justice, digital trade, misinformation, maritime boundaries, dispute resolution, asset recovery, legal education in prisons, and protection of vulnerable groups. The meeting concluded with the adoption of the Nadi Declaration on Democratic Resilience and Participation, reinforcing good governance, human rights, and the rule of law. CLMM serves as a biennial platform for member countries to share best practices, promote legal cooperation, and address emerging challenges in justice delivery.

Discussions covered democratic resilience, legal frameworks,

Advancing judicial collaboration, capacity in ASEAN

MANILA, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, 21st February - Yang Amat Arif Dato Seri Paduka Awang Steven Chong Wan Oon, The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam, together with a delegation from the High Court of Brunei Darussalam, recently paid a courtesy visit and held a bilateral meeting with the The Honourable Alexander G. Gesmundo, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines.



Yang Amat Arif Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in a group photo.

The visit reaffirmed Brunei Darussalam's commitment to strengthening regional judicial engagement as part of broader efforts to enhance judicial cooperation and capacity-building within ASEAN. The Chief Justice of Brunei Darussalam also expressed interest in collaborating on judicial education and training with the Supreme Court of the Philippines and the Philippine Judicial Academy (PHILJA).

The delegation also attended the 2026 Advanced Courses of The Hague Academy of International Law (THAIL), which focused on 'The Role of International Law in Advancing ASEAN Judiciaries'. The programme provided specialised training in public and private international law to equip ASEAN judiciaries with knowledge and tools to address complex cross-border and international legal issues.

Key speakers included The Honourable Rosmari D. Carandang, Chancellor of PHILJA; The Honourable Amy C. Lazaro-Javier, Associate Justice, Supreme Court

of the Philippines; Professor Diego P. Fernández Arroyo, President of the Curatorium, Hague Academy; Professor Jean-Marc Thouvenin, Secretary-General, Hague Academy; and Dr. Christophe Bernasconi, Secretary-General, Hague Conference on Private International Law.

The participation of Brunei's Chief Justice and delegation highlighted the country's ongoing commitment to judicial education, regional cooperation, and constructive engagement with international law to advance justice administration in ASEAN.

Discussions focused on closer cooperation in areas such as court mediation and dispute resolution, court administration, and staff training for bailiffs, clerks, and process servers.

Foster cooperation across multiple sectors for mutual development

JERUDONG, 10th February - The Embassy of Kuwait in Brunei Darussalam hosted a Reception celebrating Kuwait's 65th National Day and 35th Liberation Day at the Royal Berkshire, Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club. Representing the Government of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Sufian bin Haji Sabtu, Deputy Minister (Security and Law) at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The event included national anthems, a 'Visit Kuwait' video, memento exchanges, and the ceremonial cutting of Kuwait's National Day cake.



Yang Mulia Deputy Minister (Security and Law) at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) at the reception.

This year marked 35 years of diplomatic relations between Brunei and Kuwait, built on mutual respect, trust, and shared cultural and religious values. Bilateral ties had grown through official visits, including His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 2015 visit to Kuwait and the late Amir of Kuwait's 2016 visit to Brunei. Upcoming initiatives included the 4th Joint Committee Meeting on Economic and

Technical Cooperation in Kuwait, which aimed to enhance trade, investment, clean energy, digital technology, and Islamic finance. Both nations reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen cooperation and promote economic resilience amid global uncertainties.

Brunei-Canada reinforce existing relations, explore new opportunities



His Excellency High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam delivering a speech.



Group photo session during the CanCham Brunei New Year High Tea at the CAE Brunei Multi-Purpose Training Centre.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 2nd February - The Canada-Brunei Chamber of Commerce & Networking Association (CBNA) recently held its inaugural CanCham Brunei New Year High Tea at the CAE Brunei Multi-Purpose Training Centre. The event was attended by CanCham members, business leaders, Canadian alumni, and the diplomatic and Canadian communities in Brunei.

importance of collaboration and individual initiative in strengthening Canada-Brunei relations.

Dayang Nik Hafimi binti Abdul Haadii, CanCham Brunei's Executive Chairperson, outlined the Chamber's mission, membership benefits, and unique business opportunities.

The Guest of Honour, His Excellency Dr. Tamer Mansy, High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam, highlighted the

The event successfully celebrated and reinforced existing Canada-Brunei ties while exploring new opportunities for partnership.

Brunei hosts AMA Beef and Lamb Masterclass

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 3rd February - Brunei Darussalam recently hosted the inaugural Aussie Meat Academy (AMA) Beef and Lamb Masterclass at The Airport Restaurant by Anjung Saujana, with over 60 chefs, retailers, and importers from the local food and hospitality sector. Organised by Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) in collaboration with the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade), the Australian High Commission, and Royal Brunei Culinary (RBC), the one-day workshop provided participants with practical training in handling, cutting, and managing Australian beef and lamb. It also explored effective ways to present and market these products locally.

demonstrations, tasting sessions, and insights into production, grading, and quality assessment, as well as guidance on consumer engagement and marketing strategies. Participants gained hands-on experience in enhancing carcass value and maintaining meat quality from source to presentation.

Speeches by Awang Haji Jeff Hadiman bin Dato Paduka Haji Danial, RBC General Manager and His Excellency Michael Hoy, Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam highlighted the event as a key platform for knowledge sharing, skills development, and strengthening Brunei's food and hospitality industry.



collaboration between MLA, Austrade, the Australian High Commission, and RBC, reinforcing their commitment to professional development, skills transfer, and ongoing industry engagement.

The programme featured live The masterclass reflected strong

Seminar on UNESCO Heritage Pathway

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 4th February - The Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT), in collaboration with the ASEAN-Korea Centre, organised a capacity-building seminar titled 'Laying the Groundwork: Beginning the UNESCO Heritage Pathway in Brunei' to enhance Brunei Darussalam's tourism competitiveness and explore pathways towards future UNESCO World Heritage Site nominations.

The Guest of Honour was Awang Haji Mohd. Yusree bin Haji Junaidi, Deputy Permanent Secretary I of MPRT. Also present were Mr. Kim Jae-shin, Secretary-General of the ASEAN-Korea

Centre; and His Excellency Sun Nahm Kook, the Ambassador of RoK to Brunei Darussalam.

The seminar shared the Republic of Korea's (RoK) experiences in the UNESCO recognition process, with support from UNESCO, and was attended by around 80 participants from government, the tourism industry, and academia. World Heritage experts from RoK and UNESCO discussed nomination requirements, preparatory strategies, post-inscription management, and international case studies.

MPRT highlighted Brunei's rich natural

and Islamic cultural heritage, ongoing collaboration with the UNESCO Jakarta Office and Universiti Brunei Darussalam, and recent success in the multinational inscription of *Kebaya* and *Pantun*.

A technical visit to Ulu Temburong National Park preceded the seminar to assess natural heritage management and conservation efforts.

The initiative was described as a strategic milestone to strengthen Brunei's global visibility, tourism competitiveness, and bilateral cooperation with the RoK in advancing towards UNESCO World Heritage recognition.



Deputy Permanent Secretary I, Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT), delivering a speech.



Among those in attendance at the seminar.

Brunei-China talks highlight friendship, future collaboration

TUNGKU LINK, 7th February - Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China held the China-Brunei Dialogue 2026 at Universiti Brunei Darussalam to strengthen bilateral cooperation and friendship. Organised by the Brunei-China Friendship Association with the Chinese Embassy, the event included discussions on building a sustainable future and fostering inclusive communities in Asia, along with a panel question and answer. Key attendees included His Excellency Chen Shaochun, Ambassador-Designate of China to Brunei Darussalam and senior officials from both countries.



China-Brunei Dialogue 2026 held at Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

Explore EU scholarships and research

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 7th February - The European Union (EU) is encouraging more students from Brunei Darussalam to pursue higher education across its 27 Member States and explore scholarship opportunities in Europe, as highlighted during the 11th Higher Education Expo 2026 at BRIDEX Hall, Jerudong.

A high-level panel, chaired by His Excellency Denis Chaibi, EU Ambassador to Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam featured Her Excellency Eve Lubin, Ambassador Extraordinary and

Plenipotentiary of the Republic of France and His Excellency Weert Börner, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany, who emphasised the value of investing in youth and the diverse, culturally enriching academic experiences Europe offers. Germany highlighted its extensive network of universities, while France noted its large international student community.

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The Expo saw participation from 69 higher education institutions and agencies, including international universities under the Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters (EMJM) programme, which offers scholarships for postgraduate study across Europe. Attendees also experienced virtual reality demonstrations of studying in the EU and learned about academic mobility and research collaboration opportunities.

High-level Ambassadors' discussion session entitled 'Studying in the EU: Scholarships, Research and Opportunities for Collaboration'.



6 RBAF officers receive OBOE Endeavour Award

TANAH JAMBU, 9th February - Six officers of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) received the OBOE Endeavour Academic Excellence Award at a ceremony held at the RBAF Defence Academy. The Guest of Honour was His Excellency Michael Neil Hoy, Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, joined by Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Muhammad Haszaimi bin Bol Hassan, RBAF Commander, senior officers, award alumni, and officials from the Australian High Commission.

The awardees were Lieutenant Commander Shamsu Nuzli Wazri bin Haji Tajuddin and Lieutenant Commander Mohammad Asharuddin bin Ahanapih of the Royal Brunei Navy, as well as Major (U) Muhammad Adib bin Haji Hashim, Major (U) Dayangku Ainaamolyatie binti Pengiran Salim, Major Pengiran Abdul Rahim bin Pengiran Haji Yakup, and Major (U) Muhammad Ammar Rusyduddin bin Ahmad. The ceremony featured the recitation of Surah Al-Fatihah, a welcome address by Colonel (U) Azmie Iskandar bin Ariffin, and a speech by the High Commissioner.

The OBOE Endeavour Award, introduced in 2018, recognises academic excellence in the Staff College Course. Recipients are



His Excellency High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam at the presentation of the OBOE Endeavour Academic Excellence Award.

invited to Australia to engage with senior leaders of the Australian Defence Force, visit military bases, and participate in educational and cultural activities. The programme aims to enhance understanding of regional security, strengthen professional ties, and reinforce bilateral defence relations between Brunei and Australia. The award also commemorates the Australian Defence Force's role in the liberation of Borneo during Operation OBOE in World War II.

JIS hosts FOBISIA MUN 2026

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 9th February - Jerudong International School (JIS) hosted the FOBISIA Model United Nations (MUN) Conference 2026 from 6th to 8th February, welcoming student delegates from across the FOBISIA network to Brunei Darussalam. The three-day conference, themed 'Finding Unity in Uncertainty', engaged students in debates, collaborative problem-solving, and diplomatic discussions to address global challenges while developing critical thinking and public speaking skills.

Keynote speakers included His Excellency Ken O'Flaherty, Acting British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam; His Excellency Sun Nahm-kook, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam and Her Excellency Caryn Roberta McClelland, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States to Brunei Darussalam who shared insights on diplomacy, leadership, and international cooperation. Participating schools included institutions from Malaysia, the Kingdom of Thailand, Hong Kong, the Republic of India, the Republic of the Philippines, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and Brunei Darussalam.

Students worked in committees representing different countries,



His Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam at the FOBISIA Model United Nations Conference 2026.

building consensus and proposing solutions to contemporary international issues. Nicholas Sheehan, JIS Executive Principal highlighted that the conference provided a valuable platform for students to explore global challenges, practice respectful dialogue, and develop leadership and diplomacy skills. He also thanked MUN Coordinators Claire Shearman and Joe Wall for organising the event.

LegCo receives courtesy visit

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 5th February - The Legislative Council (LegCo) received a courtesy visit from The Honourable Marja-Liisa Völlers and The Honourable Ellen Demuth, German Bundestag, Federal Republic of Germany as well as officers from Federal Foreign Office, Federal Republic of Germany.

Representing LegCo were Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman; Yang Berhormat Dayang Hajah Safiah binti Sheikh Haji Abdul Salam; Yang Berhormat Dayang Hajah Rosmawatty binti



The Legislative Council (LegCo) in a group photo during the courtesy visit from Members of the German Bundestag, accompanied by officials from the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Haji Abdul Mumin, and Datin Paduka Dr. Dayang Hajah Huraini binti Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Jaya Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hurairah, Clerk to the Privy Council, Secretary to the Cabinet Ministers' Council and Clerk to the Legislative Council.

During the visit, both parties exchanged views on legislative functions, member roles, developments in early childhood education, and women's progress in careers. The visit was part of the official two-day German delegation visit to Brunei, led by Dr. Johann David Wadehul, Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs.



The Legislative Council (LegCo) receives a courtesy visit from Members of the German Bundestag, accompanied by officials from the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Addressing emerging technological challenges



Yang Berhormat Members of the Legislative Council (LegCo) at in the training programme entitled 'Legislative and Policy Measures to Prevent and Counter the Use of Artificial Intelligence and New Technologies for Terrorism and Violent Extremism'.

MANILA, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, 14th February - Yang Berhormat Dayang Chong Chin Yee and Yang Berhormat Awang Mohammad Ali bin Tanjong, Members of the Legislative Council (LegCo), recently attended the training programme titled 'Legislative and Policy Measures to Prevent and Counter the Use of Artificial Intelligence and New Technologies for Terrorism and Violent Extremism', held from 11th to 13th February.

The programme aimed to strengthen regional dialogue and inter-parliamentary cooperation in addressing emerging technological threats. During the opening ceremony, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines, The Honourable Faustino "Bojie" G. Dy III, highlighted AI's potential

to improve public service delivery while stressing vigilance against misuse, particularly the spread of misinformation. The Speaker also underscored the importance of law enforcement, legislative oversight and ASEAN parliamentary cooperation in tackling cross-border crimes.

Experts from the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and DLA Piper LLP contributed insights on AI developments, digital security and human rights. The programme concluded with the Philippines set to propose a draft AI resolution at the 47th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly General Assembly Meeting.

Strengthening trade networks, expanding economic cooperation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 2nd February - Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Korea enjoy a long-standing, friendly relationship, strengthened through growing economic cooperation under the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreement. This partnership was further reinforced during the ASEAN-Korea Trade Facilitation Mission, hosted by Brunei from 1st to 3rd February 2026.

The mission provided Bruneian Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with a practical platform to meet Korean importers, gain insights into market demands, and explore opportunities for business expansion beyond the domestic market. Organised by the ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC) in collaboration with the Korea Importers Association (KOIMA), and with strong support from the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB), the event included a business forum, keynote addresses, presentations on trade facilitation and free trade agreements, and structured business-matching sessions.

Delegates also visited local industry hubs, including the Bruneian Made Hub and Ghanim International Corporation, to observe Bruneian products, manufacturing capabilities, and export readiness. The mission not only strengthened trade networks



The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and Economy in a group photo during the ASEAN-Korea Trade Facilitation Mission at the Radisson Hotel.

and promoted sustainable economic partnerships but also showcased Brunei as a high-income, stable, and reliable trading partner with a growing, internationally connected economy.

Brunei's active participation reflects its focus on connecting local enterprises to international demand, expanding regional and global trade links, and promoting sustainable economic growth.

Brunei-Singapore join forces on future education

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, 7th February - Brunei Darussalam and Republic of Singapore held the 15th Joint Working Group Meeting on education from 4th to 5th February, co-chaired by Dr. Shamsiah Zuraini Kanchanawati, Permanent Secretary (Core Education) at the Ministry of Education and Lim Wan Yong, Permanent Secretary (Education) of Singapore. The annual meeting focused on sharing best practices and exploring collaboration in Green Education, Artificial Intelligence, Education Tourism, and Environmental Sustainability. The Brunei delegation also visited local schools, including Elias Park Primary and Yusof Ishak Secondary.



Permanent Secretary (Core Education), Ministry of Education, attends 15th Joint Working Group Meeting between Brunei Darussalam and Singapore Ministries of Education.

Strengthening regional economic cooperation



The First APEC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM1) attended by the Permanent Secretary (Economy, Trade and Industry), Ministry of Finance and Economy.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 12th February - The First APEC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM1) held on 10th February in Guangzhou, People's Republic of China was attended by Dr. Hajah May Fa'ezah binti Haji Ahmad Ariffin, Permanent Secretary (Economy, Trade and Industry), Ministry of Finance and Economy. Preceded by the ASEAN APEC Caucus and

APEC Senior Officials' Retreat on 9th February, SOM1 launched a series of APEC meetings leading to the Economic Leaders' Meeting in November 2026.

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Hosted under the theme 'Building an Asia-Pacific Community for Shared Prosperity', the meeting was officially opened by His Excellency Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, who highlighted the Asia-Pacific's role in global growth and outlined China's APEC priorities: trade and investment cooperation, connectivity and supply chain resilience, FTAAP advancement, and digital, green, and innovation-driven growth.

The Permanent Secretary emphasised Brunei Darussalam's commitment to regional economic cooperation, an open and predictable trade environment, and the importance of a rules-

based multilateral trading system centred on the World Trade Organization (WTO). Brunei supported Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) as a long-term regional aspiration and welcomed initiatives on trade digitalisation, economic and technical cooperation, and strengthening local capacities, institutions, and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Brunei also highlighted cooperation in food security, human resource development, energy, and demographic resilience as key to sustainable regional growth.

Prior to SOM1, sectoral committees and working groups convened on areas including health, anti-corruption, standards, customs, structural reform, and business mobility.

Brunei, Indonesia ink anti-drug MoU

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 9th February - The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) signed its first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indonesia's National Narcotics Board (BNN), marking a significant step in strengthening regional cooperation to combat drug abuse within ASEAN.

The MoU expands collaboration in information-sharing, expertise and best practices in drug law enforcement, preventive education, and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addiction.

The signing ceremony was held at Balai Khazanah Islam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah. Signing on behalf of Brunei Darussalam was Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Zalani bin Haji Ismail, Director of NCB while the Republic of Indonesia was represented by Police Inspector General Drs. Agus Irianto, Deputy for Legal Affairs and Cooperation, BNN.

Present as Guest of Honour was Awang Zulhusam bin Haji Abdul Samad, the Acting Permanent Secretary (Security and Law) at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Also in attendance was His Excellency Prof. Dr. Achmad Ubaedillah, the Ambassador



The courtesy call taking place.

Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam.

In conjunction with the event, Deputy for Legal Affairs and Cooperation BNN delivered a special lecture titled 'Indonesia's Experience: Evolving Drug Trafficking Trends, Transnational Syndicate and Operational Responses,' outlining Indonesia's strategies in addressing emerging drug-related crimes. The session was attended by chairpersons and members of working committees under the National Security Committee, as well as senior officials from the PMO, the Attorney General's Chambers, the Ministry of Home Affairs and NCB.

Earlier, Deputy for Legal Affairs and Cooperation paid a courtesy call on the Acting Permanent Secretary (Security and Law), during which both sides exchanged views on current drug-related challenges and explored avenues to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in tackling drug crimes.



The Acting Permanent Secretary (Security and Law) at the Prime Minister's Office attending as Guest of Honour to witness the MoU signing ceremony.

France confers National Defence Medal

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 26th February - The Government of the Republic of France awarded the National Defence Medal (Gold Grade) to Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Muhammad Haszaimi bin Bol Hassan, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armend Force (RBAF), and Brigadier General (U) Dato Seri Pahlawan Mohammad Sharif bin Dato Paduka Haji Ibrahim, Deputy Commander of the RBAF in recognition

of their leadership and contributions to strengthening bilateral defence cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and France.

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Commander of the Royal Brunei Armend Force (RBAF), and Deputy Commander of the RBAF receiving the National Defence Medal (Gold Grade).



UNISSA signs strategic MoU with UNITAR Malaysia

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 1st February - Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) has strengthened its strategic collaboration with UNITAR International University, Malaysia, through a recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at UNISSA's Gadong Campus. The partnership aims to drive high-impact research and develop innovative programmes based on Islamic values, including applications in Artificial Intelligence (AI), while enhancing academic quality, research excellence, and industry engagement.

The MoU signing was preceded by workshops led by Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dato' Sri Professor Ir. Dr. Sahol Hamid bin Abu Bakar, UNITAR's Vice-Chancellor on leadership and AI in higher education, attended by UNISSA executives and senior staff.



Rector of UNISSA and Vice-Chancellor of UNITAR during the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

SPM 2026 sets direction for BIMP-EAGA cooperation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 9th February - The BIMP-EAGA Strategic Planning Meeting (SPM) 2026 opened today at the Musyawarah Hall, International Convention Centre (ICC), and runs until 12th February 2026.

Officiating the ceremony was Awang Mohammad Harris bin Brigadier General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Haji Ibrahim, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Trade and Industry) at the Ministry of Finance and Economy. In his welcoming remarks, he urged Cluster and Working Group Heads to advance decisions from the 28th BIMP-EAGA Ministerial Meeting, underscoring digital transformation, innovation, stronger connectivity and resilient supply chains as key drivers of competitiveness and economic growth.

Deliberations include reviewing the existing Rolling Pipeline of Projects (RPOP), identifying new projects for 2026-2028, and formulating implementation plans for cross-cluster 'convergence' initiatives.

A plenary session on 12th February will gather senior officials from member countries, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the BIMP-EAGA Business Council to discuss ongoing initiatives and preparations for the upcoming BIMP-EAGA Special Summit and the 29th BIMP-EAGA Ministerial Meeting and related meetings.



Deputy Permanent Secretary (Trade and Industry) at the Ministry of Finance and Economy delivering a speech.

Held alongside the SPM is a mini expo organised by the Brunei Darussalam BIMP-EAGA Business Council, featuring 10 local and regional Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to promote locally made products, boost market access and strengthen regional business networks.

The annual SPM serves as the curtain-raiser for BIMP-EAGA meetings, bringing together public and private sector stakeholders to chart the year's strategic direction for sub-regional cooperation.

SHENA receives MiSHA Asia Country Award 2025

MALAYSIA, 2nd February - The National Authority for Safety, Health and Environment (SHENA), led by Awang Haji Muhsin bin Haji Ahmad, Chief Executive Officer recently received the MiSHA Asia Country Award 2025 under the Occupational Safety and Health Principle of Prevention (OSHPoP) at the MiSHA Asia Excellence Awards Dinner in Putrajaya.

The award recognises SHENA's efforts in strengthening Brunei's Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) framework, promoting a prevention-based approach, and advancing workplace safety and health across the region.

The event also provided a platform for regional collaboration and the sharing of best OSH practices.



Chief Executive Officer of Safety, Health and Environment (SHENA) receiving the award.



During the working visit.

In conjunction with the award, SHENA conducted official working visits to ATOM Malaysia, the Malaysian Nuclear Agency, and DOSH Malaysia. The visits aimed to reinforce bilateral cooperation, exchange technical knowledge, and enhance understanding of safety, health, and radiation protection governance.

Discussions and site visits covered regulatory oversight, radiation safety, nuclear and radiological emergency preparedness, occupational safety and health management, and training infrastructure.

These engagements provided SHENA with valuable insights and practical experience to support its ongoing efforts to strengthen regulatory governance and build capacity in Brunei Darussalam, aligning with national priorities and long-term development objectives.

ASEAN judges unite against human trafficking

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 3rd February - The ASEAN Multilateral Judicial Knowledge Exchange (JKE) on Victim-Sensitive Adjudication of Trafficking in Persons Cases was officially opened at the Radisson Hotel.

The programme, running until 5th February, brings together judges from ASEAN Member States, judicial training institutions and the Secretariat of the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices (CACJ).

An initiative of the CACJ Working Group on Judicial Education and Training, jointly chaired by the judiciaries of Republic of Indonesia and the Republic of the Philippines, the JKE reflects ASEAN's commitment to strengthening judicial responses to trafficking in persons through victim-centred and human rights-based approaches.

The programme is supported by ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking (ASEAN-ACT) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The opening ceremony featured senior



Delegates from Brunei Darussalam attending the session.

judicial and international representatives, who emphasised that trafficking in persons is a serious transnational crime requiring a strong, coordinated and victim-sensitive judicial response.

They highlighted the importance of regional cooperation, knowledge-sharing and harmonised adjudication.

The JKE provides a platform for sharing practical experience and best practices, and for developing a regional Compendium on Victim-Sensitive Adjudication for trafficking in persons cases, covering court procedures, victim protection, the best interests of the child, compensation, and judicial capacity-building.