

BRUNEI TODAY





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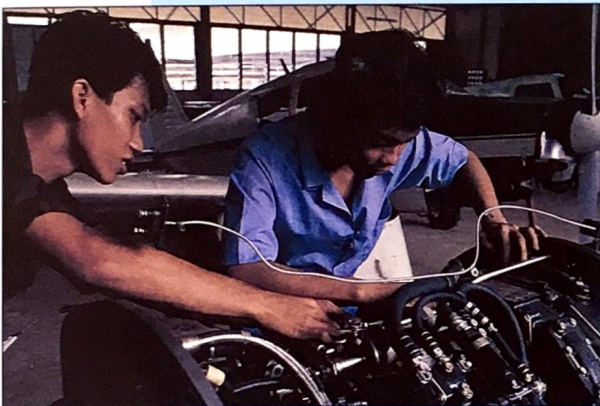
NO.1

MARCH 1990



A smile of
success

PERPUSTAKAAN
MAJLIS PENERANGAN
BRUNEI



Aircraft
engineering



Seven Golden
Candlesticks

Front cover

The University of Brunei
Darussalam

Inside of front cover

A side view of a college
complex at Jalan Muara

Inside of back cover

More of the Cassia alata flowers

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His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah receiving the conferment of Doctor of Letters, an honorary Doctorate degree, from the Vice Chancellor, Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, who is also the Minister of Education.

ANOTHER IN A LONG EDUCATIONAL

Thursday 21st September, 1989, was a historic day for Brunei Darussalam because the first group of 167 university graduates it produced received their degrees on that day.

The graduates, including sixty-nine ladies, were the successful students of the Brunei Darussalam University (BDU), which was officially established four years ago.

In an elaborate convocation ceremony befitting Brunei Darussalam's character as a Malay Muslim Monarchy, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan, His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, who is also the BDU Chancellor, graciously consented to present the degrees to the graduates.

The presentation, which took place at the International Convention Centre, was witnessed by His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, the Foreign Affairs Minister; His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji



The University logo with the motto KEARAH KESEMPURNAAN INSAN, which can be roughly translated as Towards Human Perfection, inscribed on it.

Jefri Bolkiah, the Finance Minister; other state dignitaries; invited overseas guests; members of the diplomatic community, and parents as well as relatives of the graduates.

The foreign guests comprised Vice Chancellors and representatives of universities and other institutions of higher learning in Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand, Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States and Holland.

Of the graduates, fifty-five received Bachelor of Arts (Education); twelve, Bachelor of Science (Education); ten, Bachelor of Arts (Primary Education); forty-eight, Bachelor of Arts (with two subjects chosen from Economics, Geography, History, Malay Language and Literature); and forty-two, Bachelor of Arts (in Management Studies or Social Policy and Public Administration).

MILESTONE ROAD OF PROGRESS

The graduation marked another milestone in the long road of educational progress in Brunei Darussalam. Bruneian students have attended university courses overseas for decades. The establishment of BDU as the country's chief learning institution has enabled Bruneians to pursue some of the courses and obtain similar academic qualifications without having to venture outside the State.

Born

The idea of setting up a university was first raised in 1976, as part of a review of higher education facilities in the country. Active planning, including discussions with overseas universities, began in 1984.

A decision was taken in 1985 that Brunei Darussalam would have its own university at the end of the year.

Formal academic links were subsequently established with the University College, Cardiff and the University of Leeds, which helped in the development of the English medium courses. At the same time assistance and cooperation were obtained from the University of Science, Malaysia and the National University of Malaysia for the Malay medium courses. On 28th October, 1985, the pioneer intake of 176 students was admitted to the first four degree programmes. The BDU, housed in a temporary campus of well-renovated buildings in Gadong near the capital, was born.

After about two years and three intakes, the expertise initially supplied by universities in the United Kingdom, Malaysia and Singapore was being replaced by that of BDU's own staff.

Today, after several intakes, BDU has 1,000 students registered for the six honours degree programmes, which are offered in

four faculties: Arts and Social Science; Education; Management and Administrative Studies; and Science.

The number of students and courses will increase eventually when a new campus - for which active planning is under way - will be built at a large site in the Gadong area.



His Majesty handing over the degrees to two of the graduates (above).

Great emphasis is placed on religious studies, such as learning to recite the Holy Koran correctly (right).



Goals

In keeping with its status as an institution of higher learning, which has the country's progress and prestige in mind, BDU has placed upon itself various aims and objectives to achieve, namely to strive for excellence in the

performance of its functions of teaching, research and providing community service; uphold the tradition of seeking knowledge and truth, and act as an agent for constructive change for the good of the nation and its people; strive as a community-oriented university to be directly relevant to the needs and aspirations of Brunei Darussalam

and its people so as to contribute towards the creation of an integrated, loyal and harmonious society; aim at producing graduates to meet the manpower needs of the nation and undertaking relevant research and co-curricular activities in its effort to contribute towards improving the economic, social and cultural development of the country; strive to provide ample opportunities and programmes through non-formal continuing education for members of the public in line with national objective of improving the quality of life for the people of Brunei Darussalam; and seek to encourage effective interaction with other institutions of higher learning and research throughout the region and offer academic leadership and student participation in appropriate areas of teaching and research.

The setting up of BDU affords further evidence of the great significance the State attaches to education.

Like the rest of the world, Brunei Darussalam recognises that education is responsible for the individual's overall development and determines, for better or worse, the political, economic and social progress of a country. In short it holds the key to the future.

Free

Thus, in cognizant of these facts, the Government spares no effort in providing the best educational facilities, both in terms of quality and quantity. Besides, it gives Brunei citizens free education from kindergartens upwards. It also takes care of the schooling of its employees' children who go to non-government schools.

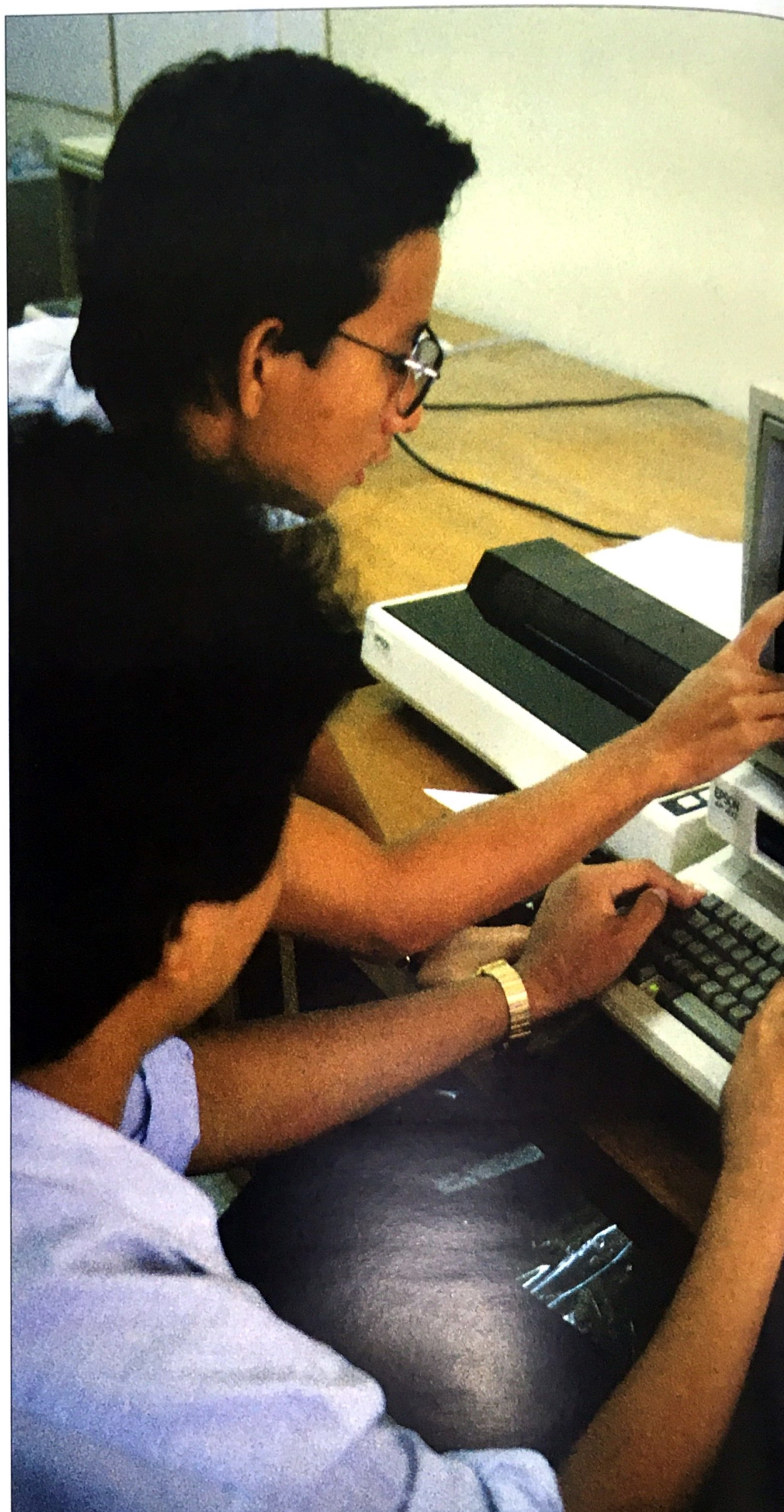
Education in Brunei Darussalam, like in most other countries, is compulsory usually between the

ages of five and fifteen including a year at pre-school classes. Some children start earlier by attending kindergartens at non-government schools.

In line with the status of Islam as the country's official religion, secular education and Islamic religious knowledge are dispensed side by side to every Muslim at school. In addition, there are full-time religious schools where schoolchildren can go to, either in the morning or afternoon, after their normal classes.

Great emphasis is placed upon religious education, and the assimilation of Islamic values through the school curriculum is one of the objectives of the national education system. Another is to foster the duty of undivided loyalty to and awareness of Brunei Darussalam, which is a Malay Muslim Monarchy (MMM), in Brunei citizens. MMM is a centuries-old concept that has been emphasised only since independence.

Apart from BDU, there are more than 140 other government educational institutions including one Institute of Islamic Studies, two teacher training colleges, one nursing college, one Institute of Technology and six other vocational/technical centres, 118 primary schools, and twenty secondary schools. The total does not include more than 200 pre-school classes, which are accommodated in the primary schools. It is estimated that well over 60,000 students are attending these institutions, whose mediums of instruction are Malay, English or Arabic.

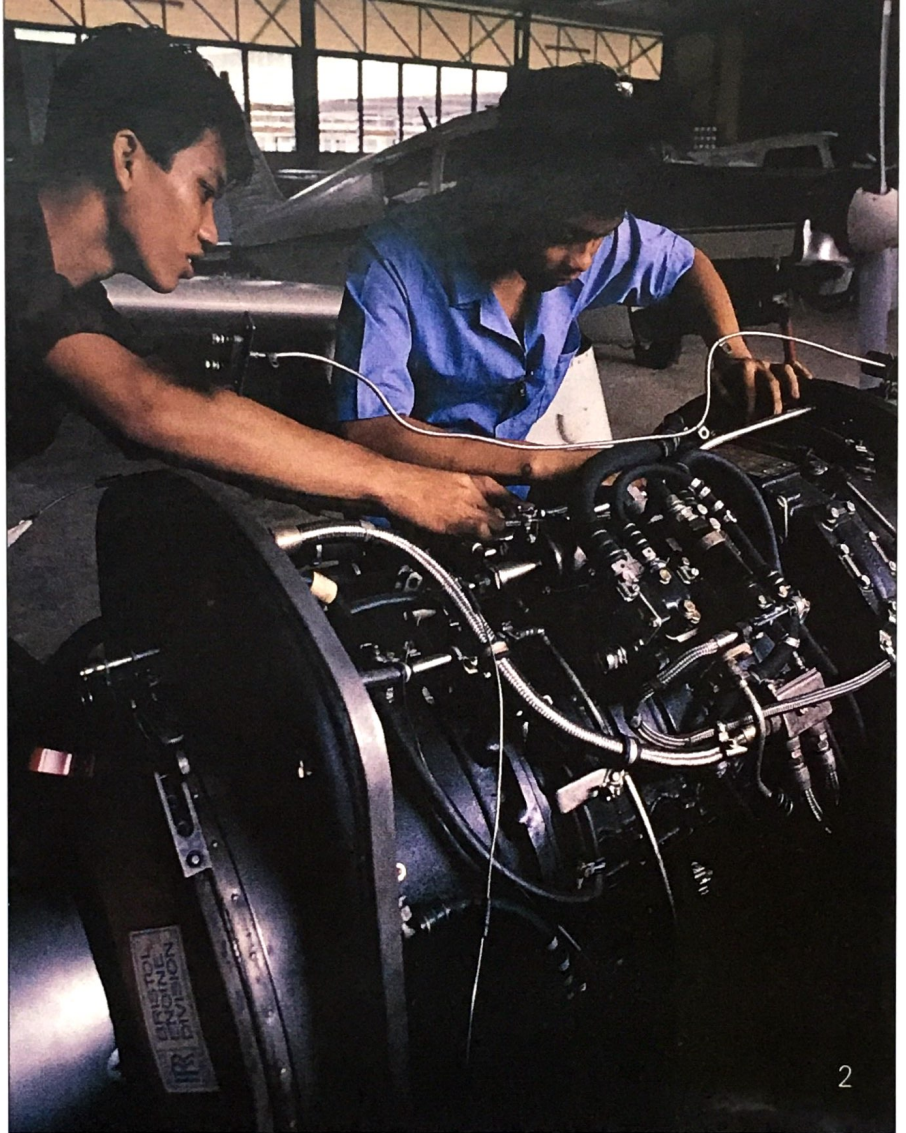


Technical colleges/schools offer numerous courses including:

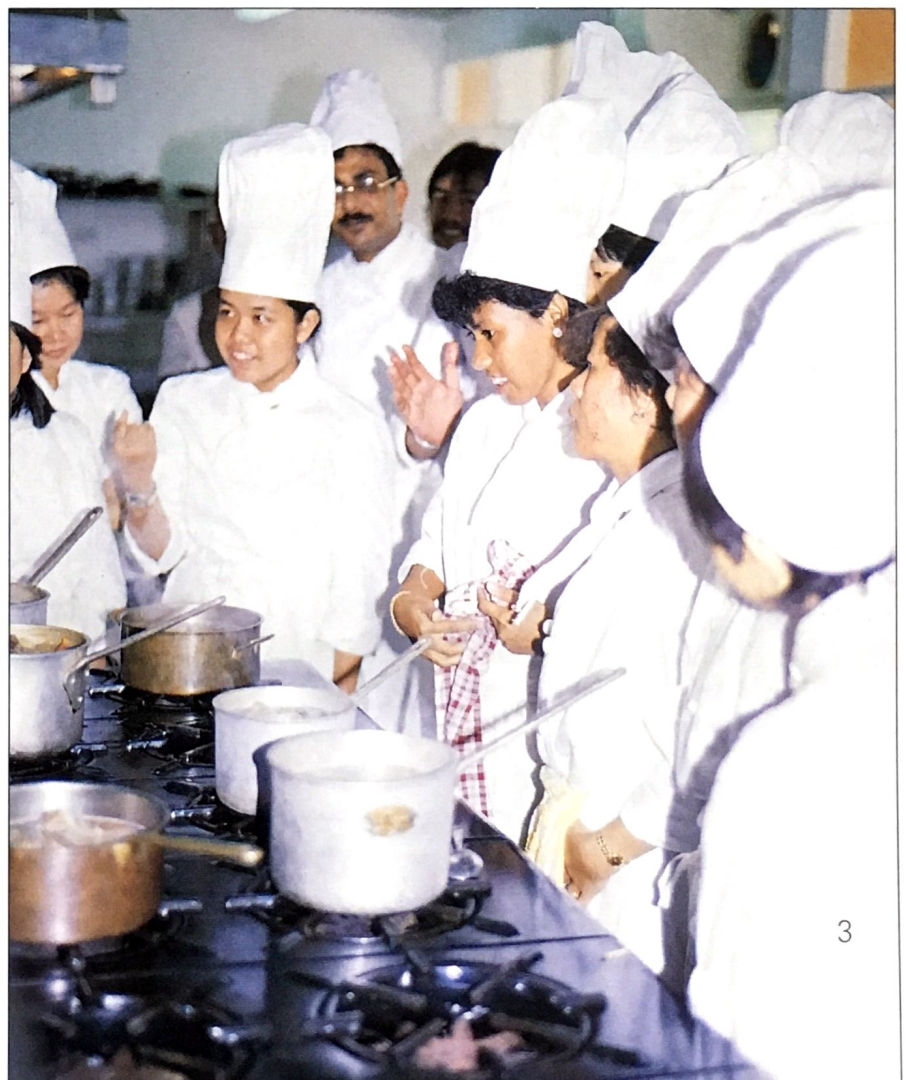
1. Computer Studies
2. Aircraft Engineering
3. Catering



1



2



3

In addition, the State has 38 non-government schools including an artisan training centre set up by Brunei Shell for the training chiefly of its own employees in mechanical and electrical trades.

The other 37 schools, which are classified as mission, Chinese or private, are run by religious denominations, organisations or individuals, and here, fees are usually charged.

The mission and Chinese schools have kindergarten, primary and secondary classes; the private schools offer kindergarten and primary classes only. Latest statistics show that no fewer than 18,000 students are enrolled at these schools, which use Malay, English or Chinese as their mediums of instruction.

All of these schools are subject to official inspection and their syllabuses, teaching staff and the like are subject to government approval.

Further

For adults who had no proper education or those with formal education but wish to extend the horizon of their knowledge, there are scores of Further Education Centres scattered around the country.

The aims of the adult education programme, besides increasing literacy in the State, are to raise the level of knowledge and academic standards and to prepare its students for public examinations that could lead to admission to tertiary institutions.

For nominal fees, men and women alike can enrol for a wide range of courses in domestic science, academic, commercial and vocational subjects as well as various languages including Malay, English, Arabic, Mandarin and Japanese.

Generally children in Brunei Darussalam commence their primary education at the age of six and

spend the next six years in primary schools before taking the Primary Certificate of Education examination. Getting through the exam qualifies them to go to lower secondary schools where they study for three years at the end of which they sit for the Brunei Junior Certificate of Education examination. Successful students then follow a two-year course for the GCE 'O' Level exam, the pass of which entitles them to join such places as the Sixth Form Centre; and the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education (SHBIE) and the Seri Begawan Religious Teachers College as trainee teachers; or most of the other tertiary institutions, which offer courses in agriculture, nursing, building trades, welding and fabrication, electronics, refrigeration and air-conditioning, mechanical and electrical trades, telecommunications,

catering, hotel management and numerous other subjects.

The SHBIE, formerly known as the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Teachers College until its redesignation in January 1985, has trained more than 2,000 teachers since its inception in 1956. It introduced in July 1985 a two and a half year Bachelor of Education degree programme for thirty-three in-service teachers, who graduated in November 1987. Since 1988 it has been put under the administration of the BDU.

Those who opt to carry on with their studies follow a two-year course at the end of which they sit for the GCE Advanced Level or similar examinations. After gaining their 'A' Levels or equivalent qualifications, they can enrol at the BDU, Institute of Islamic Studies (IIS) or Institute of Technology - Brunei (ITB). The IIS and ITB



Part of the newly completed Arabic Secondary School complex in Tutong Town.

provide Diploma and Higher National Diploma courses respectively.

Overseas

If the courses to be pursued are not available locally, they can then apply for government scholarships to further their studies overseas. Each scholarship award provides a comprehensive range of allowances

designed to enable the recipient to study and live with ease. Besides educational fees, return air fares and shipment of personal effects, the students receive allowances for subsistence, accommodation, clothing, books, marriage in the case of male student, transport and educational tour for those who have successfully completed their studies.

The Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Science College at Jalan Muara, just outside the capital, is one of the country's premier educational institutions.

The Institute of Technology Brunei at Jalan Muara (below).





1. His Majesty Paduka Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, Mu'izzaddin Waddaula, Chancellor of BDU, presenting the degree
2. One for the album members of the Brunei Sultanate. On His Majesty's right is Pehin Orang Kaya Dato Seri Setia Abdul Aziz, the Minister of Education and Vice Chancellor
3. The smile of success over the face of the fellow graduates with their degrees
4. Some of the local graduates who were

PERPUSTAKAAN
JABATAN PENERANGAN
BRUNEI



Seri Baginda
Bolkiah
ah, who is also
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An art class (left).

A student giving final touches to his painting.



At present no fewer than 2,000 young Bruneians, inclusive of those on government scholarships, are doing diploma and degree as well as professional and semi-professional courses at colleges or universities in various parts of the world including the United Kingdom, Egypt, Malaysia, Singapore, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and the United States.

Brunei Shell has also made substantial contributions to educational efforts in the country. Notable among these is the Sinaut Agricultural Training Centre, which it jointly established with the Government in 1975 to teach young men and women modern farming techniques. The Centre offers two main courses, namely the Brunei National Diploma in Agriculture

and the Brunei National Diploma in Agricultural Engineering. In October 1987 Brunei Shell handed over the complete management of the Centre to the Government.

Another is the scholarship awards it has been giving since 1971 to talented Bruneian students to take up courses overseas and thus helps to create a pool of qualified

Bruneians to work in the oil and gas industry.

Undoubtedly formal education, as it is perceived today, has gone a long way towards helping Brunei Darussalam's rapid development. Up to the early part of the present century the only known written communication among most Bruneians was the Jawi script, which is derived from the Arabic script and has been in use in the country for hundreds of years. According to Chinese historians, who recorded the strong ties between China and Brunei, the use of the Jawi script was already quite prevalent in the State in the year 977.

The script was introduced into Brunei Darussalam by Arab traders, some of whom were also Islamic missionaries. Learning the script was necessary to enable the people to understand and practise Islam properly.

The presence of Western powers, who began to introduce their languages and religious beliefs, in the region made the learning of romanised writing more widespread.

Formal

In Brunei plans were in hand in 1911 to build schools because it was thought that the time had come to encourage formal secular education in the country. Three years later the first Malay school with an enrolment of 30 pupils materialised in Brunei Town (now Bandar Seri Begawan). Malays from neighbouring Malaya were recruited as teachers.

By 1924 there were four Government Malay schools in the



*Pre-school pupils trying
their hands at drawing
with colour pencils.*



State with a total enrolment of 175 pupils. Apart from teaching the pupils to write and read, the schools' foremost concern was described as 'elementary training and discipline, punctuality and cleanliness'.

Although schooling was free, attendance was optional at best. However, this was changed in 1929 when the School Attendance Act was introduced, making presence in classes compulsory.

As time passed, education started to blossom. In 1930 a girl school, the first of its kind in the country, opened with 24 pupils. By the time

of the Japanese Occupation from 1941 to the close of the Second World War, the number of State schools totalled 20 and pupils mushroomed to about 1,750, of whom 312 were girls.

Private schools, which entered the scene as early as 1916, grew to eight-three English and five Chinese - by 1941. They were partly financed by the Government and the British Malayan Petroleum Company.

Although schools continued to sprout up in the urban and the rural areas, education was still without any definite framework. This

Emphasis is also put on science studies at schools.



condition prevailed until the promulgation of the Brunei Constitution in 1959. From then on education has become a top priority and has been subsequently geared to the State's development aspirations.

High

With problems such as shortage of schools and illiteracy having been done away with for quite some time now, the country's main tasks have since been the enhancement of facilities, the maintenance of high teaching standards and the overall pursuit of excellence in education. Being a small country, Brunei Darussalam has to make full use of outside assessment and accreditation methods to keep standards up to international levels.

Moreover, its membership of the various regional and international organizations such as ASEAN (the Association of South-East Asian Nations); the United Nations; the Commonwealth; SEAMEO (the South-East Asian Ministers of Education Organization); and ISESCO (the Islamic Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization) to name a few has afforded it the chance to exchange views and experiences with its fellow members and cooperate in improving the development of education in the world.

Underscoring the importance of education as an investment in the country's future, the Government annually earmarks a sizeable budget for the Ministry of Education,

which is directly responsible for all matters related to education.

The Ministry was allocated a budget of \$296.1 million in 1988 and \$303.2 million the following year. In addition, it received appropriations totalling \$66.5 million and \$108.9 million respectively for development.

Malay, the National Language, remains the important language but proficiency in the English Language is just as significant. Picture on the right shows students in an English Language Laboratory



Long before the advent of modern medicines, people everywhere were making use of numerous species of plants to get rid of all sorts of ailments.

To this day certain plants or herbs are used in medicines, and in some parts of the world they are still utilized as direct remedies for a myriad of illnesses.

Brunei Darussalam is abound with plants that are known to have been employed in bygone days to treat a variety of diseases with satisfactory results.

Thus today, despite medical advances in the country, many Bruneians still find these plants efficacious cures for a host of bodily disorders. They turn to this form of natural medicament out of traditional habit rather than for lack of faith in present day medicines, which are easily available in the State.

One of the plants with medicinal properties is Pawul or Tam Sulok, which is called the Seven Golden Candlesticks or ringworm plant in English.

Pawul, which is one of the country's common shrubs, thrives well in open wasteland. It is scientifically known as *Cassia alata* and belongs to the family Leguminosae, which is the third largest group of horticultural plants in the world after the orchids and compositae.

Regarded as the most attractive among the genus of *Cassia*, the Seven Golden Candlesticks has sixteen to twenty-eight leaves per branch and bright to dark yellow flowers arranged in erect spikes. A few pods, each containing between fifty to sixty flat triangular seeds, cluster round the stem just below the flowers.

Bruneians who have benefited from Pawul say its curative values lie in its leaves and seeds. To treat ringworm, other skin diseases and insect bites, the leaves are washed, cut up and ground until they are quite fine and wet with their moisture. These are then spread evenly over the affected area. The seeds when finely crushed or pounded and mixed with warm water can be taken as an effective medication for expelling parasitic worms from the bowels.



A PLANT WITH MEDICINAL VALUES



Pawul thrives well on wasteland and among bushes.



A pod with the seeds inside.

The golden yellow flower and a few pods just below it are arranged on erect spike.

A close-up view of the leaves.



