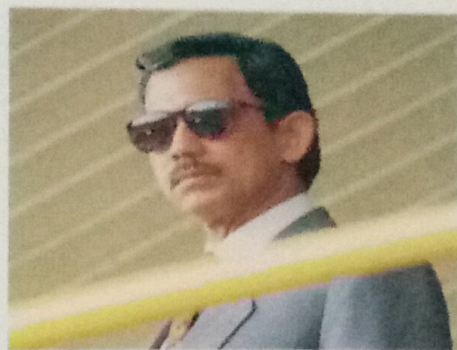




بروني دارالسلام
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
newsletter



A Ruler of distinctions

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM celebrates the forty seventh anniversary of the birthday of its Ruler - His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah Ibnu AlMarhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, today.

Since he was installed as the twenty ninth Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan on 5 October 1967, His Majesty has carved a memorable impression in many aspects of the nation's life.

For His Majesty is a man of many distinctions and capabilities in various fields, from the complex and intricate businesses of the day-to-day running of the country to sports, where his involvement has stamped an indelible mark.

A caring Monarch, His Majesty's concern for his subjects and people of Brunei Darussalam is evidenced by the numerous visits he makes each year throughout the country.

His Majesty also gives paramount importance to the nation's progress, both at home and abroad, and he constantly reminds his people to remain united always, for unity is the key to progress and national resilience.

Undeniable proof of His Majesty's striving for unity is the harmonious coexistence of the country's variety of ethnic and religious groups - the very essence of its population of 256 thousand.



Birthday of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan

Above: His Majesty being presented a copy of specially-handwritten Al-Qur'an - Mushaf Brunei Darussalam, which were produced in three bindings (inset) under a special project undertaken by His Majesty's Government. Left: The Monarch watching the 1992 National Day celebrations.



Daulat Kebawah Duli Tuan Patek



Above: His Majesty showing special interest at locally-manufactured furnitures on show at the 1993 Industrial Expo in May this year. In January, the Ruler officially opened the Islamic Bank of Brunei, a major turning-point in the shift towards absorbing Islamic principles in the country's financial system (above).

On a steady path of progress

Under the wise and firm guidance of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan, Brunei Darussalam has continued to move on a steady path of progress. Stated the Ruler: Brunei Darussalam will continue efforts to achieve progress in its own way, by being wise and mindful; and in accordance with the teachings of Islam.

IBB marks major shift towards Islamic financial system

The establishment of the Islamic Bank of Brunei (Bank Islam Brunei or IBB), opened by His Majesty on 13 January this year, was not just another milestone in reaffirming the high position of Islam in Brunei Darussalam, but had firmly placed the country on the world map with a laudable image.

The country has since been listed by the international media as one of the Islamic countries with an Islamic financial system of its own. The establishment of the IBB came within 15 months after another financial institution run on Islamic principles, The Brunei Islamic Trust Fund (Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei or TAIB) opened its doors for business.

Together with other issues such as education, economic diversification and environment protection, the development and strengthening of Islam is an area also being given high priority by His Majesty's Government.

To this end, it also undertook a major project in cooperation with the Wakaf Ministry of Egypt and the Al-Azhar University to produce a specially-handwritten edition of the holy Al-Qur'an (Koran) called Mushaf Brunei Darussalam. Printed by the Al-Ahram Printing Firm in Cairo, (at a cost of B\$3.6 million), the Mushaf have been completed and distributed in March this year to every Muslim family in Brunei Darussalam.

Tough stand against deviationists

Amid the concerted efforts to upgrade the standard of Islamic religious education as well as the quality of the reading and understanding of the Koran, through such measures as the establishment of the Institute of Islamic Studies and the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Tahfiz Al-Qur'an Institute, Brunei Darussalam is ever-vigilant of cultures that could erode its own, binded within the framework of the Melayu Islam Beraja or Malay Muslim Monarchy philosophy (MIB).

The banning of the Al-Arqam movement is an instance of the Government's firm stand against religious deviationists.

Under the current Sixth Five Year National Development Plan (NDP) (1991 - 1995), some B\$56 million has been allocated for various religious projects, which include construction

of 21 new mosques and extension of two existing ones. Another B\$32 million is set aside for building 14 new religious schools. There are already a total of 62 mosques throughout the country. Religious schools number 111, but only 54 have their own buildings, while the rest run religious classes in school buildings under the Ministry of Education.

His Majesty's Government stresses on striking a balance between material and spiritual developments in its endeavours to achieve progress.

To consolidate the economic base through the diversification of the economy is also a high priority so that the country's dependence on the oil and gas based-economy could be reduced gradually.

"The economic future of Brunei Darussalam depends considerably on the country's oil and gas reserves for the benefit of the future generations. At the same time, of course, we have to diversify the economy", His Majesty has stated.

During the first half of last year, Brunei crude and condensate exports were at a daily average of 176.42 thousand barrels, an increase of 11.53 thousand barrels daily over the corresponding period in 1991.

Three ASEAN member countries, namely the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, were the biggest importers of Brunei crude, buying some 38.89

percent of the total export, followed by Japan which imported 28.67 percent with Korea responsible for importing 22.8 percent. Another 5.05 percent of the total Brunei crude export went to Taiwan, and 4.58 percent to Australia.

In 1991, at a daily average production of 162 thousand barrels, which totals up to about 58 million barrels for the year, Brunei's crude earned B\$2.02 billion, after taking away a mere two million barrels for domestic use.

Natural gas, too, had a big part in the country's economy during the same period. Under the annual delivery programme 19 commencing 1 April 1991 and ending on 31 March last year, 160 cargoes of Brunei liquefied natural gas (BLNG) were exported to customers in Japan, earning some B\$1.9 billion.

And 158 cargoes of BLNG were expected to be delivered to those customers in Japan under the ADP 20, which began on 1 April 1992 and due to have ended on 31 March this year.

New contract for BLNG export

Oil and gas made up B\$3.9 billion out of the country's total export values of B\$4.125 billion during 1991.

The export of BLNG to Japan will continue for the next twenty years at least, under a new contract signed on 31 March this year between the Brunei Coldgas Sendirian Berhad and the three Japanese buyers: The Tokyo Electric Power Company, Inc., The Tokyo Gas Company Limited and The Osaka Gas Company Limited. The new contract, from 1 April, 1993 to 31 March, 2013, followed the expiry, also on 31 March this year, of the first 20-year contract which began in December 1972.

The new contract also means that more BLNG would be exported to the customers concerned, at 5.54 million tons per annum compared with 5.14 million tons annually under the previous agreement.

Over the next 20 years, some 110.8 million tons of BLNG will have been exported to those customers alone.

Despite this healthy economic prospect, the country sees the urgent need to diversify the economy.

As a responsible Muslim and head of family, His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam took his family to perform the Hajj in the holy city of Mecca during the 1992 Hajj season.

Birthday of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan

"We intend to encourage the creation of new industries and the private sector. We want to move our agricultural industry in the direction of self-sufficiency", His Majesty has stated.

The strategy behind the economic diversification is that the Government pursues an open, dynamic and competitive economy. As the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman Taib has indicated: Brunei Darussalam would achieve a meaningful economic development through an outward-looking economic policy and in creating international competitiveness.

Under the efforts to diversify the economy, the industry, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and commerce sectors are to be vigorously developed.

In the Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan, B\$272.5 million

has been allocated for the development of the industrial sector, B\$56.1 million for the development of agriculture and B\$26 million is being set aside for the development of the forestry industry and forests conservation. For the development of the fishery sector, there is an allocation of B\$38.9 million, while B\$56.5 million will go towards encouraging expansion of the commercial sector and the provision of special schemes for Malay entrepreneurs.

Amongst the projects aimed at developing and promoting Malay entrepreneurs is the building of shop-houses in the urban and rural areas.

The Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, created by His Majesty on 1 January 1989, coordinates all industrial activities through its One-Stop Agency, from the start in arranging approval in the type of in-

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His Majesty presents a happy applicant the key to her new house, built under the country's National Housing Development Programme as part of the Government's efforts to provide modern and comfortable housing for the population.





Far left: His Majesty among other world leaders at the Tenth Non-Aligned Movement's (NAM) Summit in Jakarta last September. Brunei Darussalam never fails to observe historical Islamic events such as the anniversary of Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) birthday, at which the Ruler joins the annual rally and procession in the national capital (picture at left). Above: The Monarch seldom fails to join his subjects in the Friday congregational prayer and above, he is joined by state dignitaries and foreign leaders including Malaysia's Yang Dipertuan Agong and Prime Minister, in a prayer in conjunction with the Silver Jubilee of his accession to the Brunei throne.

Birthday of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan

tom left: Loved by his subjects, His Majesty is thronged by a huge crowd during one of his get-together sessions with his people. Left: In full traditional tume, His Majesty is accompanied by Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam as he walks the Throne Room of Istana Nurul Iman for an audience ceremony on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of his reign.



Above: His Majesty takes personal interest in the welfare of his subjects, and his Government provides various facilities including low-interest financial loans to help them in business. Left: His Majesty stops for a word with pupils during a visit to a primary school - something that the Ruler does frequently. Right: Honouring a retired teacher with an award for his contribution to the development of education.



Right: His Majesty launched the Brunei-Singapore Digital Optical Fibre Submarine Cable System on 28 April last year by having a direct dialogue with Singapore's Prime Minister, His Excellency Goh Chok Tong, thus, not only improving the country's links with the outside world but bringing it into a new era of communications. The Monarch keeps in constant touch with members of the security forces, and below, is seen inspecting an honour guard during one of his visits to the Royal Brunei Police Force.



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dustry to be set up to the approval to operate as well as coordinates applications for visas, labour quotas and import permits.

Since the commencement of the drive to diversify the economy, the Government has identified numerous types of industrial activities that have good potentials in light and heavy industries, agriculture, forestry, fishery and commerce.

The policy is to first of all promote import-substitution in the short-term and export-oriented industries in the long-term, with foreign investment and participation being encouraged in any industrial activity, for example, by way of joint-venture enterprise. At the same time, a particular emphasis is placed on increasing the share of the private sector's contribution to the economic development.

Thirteen sites identified for industrial activities

With no less than 13 sites throughout the country to be developed for heavy and light industries, manufacturing activities as well as the services industry, a budget of B\$100 million has been set aside for the improvement of infrastructure.

Industries that have been identified include mini steel plant, dairy milk production, glass manufacturing, pre-cast iron and food production covering the essential group comprising rice, vegetable, poultry and livestock.

Some of the industries have already got off the ground, for instance, in the last three years of the Fifth Five-Year National Development Plan (1985 - 1990), three big companies have gone into the production of pre-cast concrete for buildings and other structures such as long-span bridges.

One of these companies, a joint venture between Brunei and Indonesian firms, has an initial projected turnover of 400 thousand tons per year, to increase to 600 thousand tons per

year in later stages.

Brunei Darussalam still imports the bulk of its rice needs from Thailand, but within the 6th NDP it hopes to develop a production of up to 3,672 tons or 18 percent of local requirement. Meanwhile, the level of production for eggs and poultry has been encouraging - presently at 51.4 million eggs per year and 2.7 million birds per year. The plan is to increase the level of production to 70 million eggs and 6 million birds per year by 1996 - thus rendering the country self-sufficient in these commodities by then.

The country is already self-sufficient in beef by importing live cattle from its own ranch in Australia's



Right: Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam (Left of picture), play their part actively in steering the country's development. Bottom of page: His Majesty and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam often entertain the handicapped and disabled so they would not feel left out in society.

Birthday of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan

Northern Territory. The programme included in the 6th NDP is to produce 300 heads per year for buffaloes, and 2,000 heads per year for goats.

There are about 50 fish processing concerns in Brunei Darussalam to date - four of them on a fairly large scale.

The country's first mineral water enterprise, a joint-venture between Bruneian and Indonesian firms, currently has the capacity of turning out 238 bottles mineral water an hour, thus, reducing the country's demand for imported mineral water.

Also into the direction of economic diversification, three garment making businesses have been established and have exported their products to the United States of America, Canada, The United Kingdom and Europe.

HM Sultan, a strong advocator of environment preservation

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has taken an exemplary step in the preservation of the environment. The period of the 6th NDP will see the setting up of an Inter-Agency Committee on Environment, designed to monitor various activities and their impact on the environment.

Already in full swing are the Brunei Darussalam forests management and conservation, which involve a drastic cut in logging; and afforestation

and rehabilitation programmes.

As the Special Adviser to His Majesty in the Prime Ministers's Office and the Home Affairs Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa told an international conference earlier this year: Much of Brunei's forests are still pristine, with our development needs being satisfied by limited land clearance for construction, mostly along the coast, and our timber requirements met by a "reduced cut policy".

In this way, the country can also look forward to a sustained timber requirement.

There are stern laws against illegal logging and other tampering of the

Brunei forests, such as using them for cattle grazing or tapping, marking, felling and injuring a tree/s in any other way. The laws provide for imprisonment or fines of up to B\$100 thousand.

The Brunei forests harbour various rare animal and plant species which can prove useful for research and educational programmes not only in the country but throughout the world, as illustrated by the two-year (1991-1992) rainforest research project - a collaborative project between Universiti Brunei Darussalam and the Royal Geographical Society of London, carried out at the Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre in the depth of Temburong, one of Brunei



Darussalam's four districts.

The nation joined His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, in celebrations marking the silver jubilee of his accession to the throne last October.

More important institutions

During the two-week celebrations, the Ruler, among the many activities, laid the foundation stones of two important institutions: one for a permanent campus for Universiti Brunei Darussalam, and the other for the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation.

Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) or the University of Brunei Darussalam which opened in 1986 and has produced four batches of graduate to date, is not only a symbol of the aggressive and progressive national education policy of Brunei Darussalam, more importantly, it has played a very important role towards meeting the needs in skilled and professional manpower, along with the many technical and vocational institutions in the country.

The Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation will have such roles as handle all applications for financial assistance not included in any Government scheme. These will include assistance for religious, welfare and educational purposes.

Brunei Darussalam attaches great importance to its bilateral relations with countries around the world, but at



Birthday of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan

the same time also looks to regional and international organisations of which it is a member, namely The United Nations, The Organisation of Islamic Conference, The Commonwealth, The Non-Aligned Movement and ASEAN, which it regards as the cornerstone of its foreign policy.

It is through ASEAN that it sees the territorial integrity, regional peace,

Above: His Majesty attended and addressed the Sixth Summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference held 9-12 December, 1991, in Dakar, Senegal. With the Ruler were two of his brothers, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah and Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah, extreme right and second from right respectively. Brunei Darussalam is sensitive of world affairs and never hesitates to extend its assistance where possible, such as taking part in the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia Peacekeeping Operation, to which it sent a contingent of policemen and soldiers, bottom of page.

security and stability can best be maintained.

The country has to date established diplomatic relations with about 70 countries, and it is expected to continue to establish such relations in the future. In this way, His Majesty's leadership will not only steer the country into further developments at home, but outside the country as well.

