



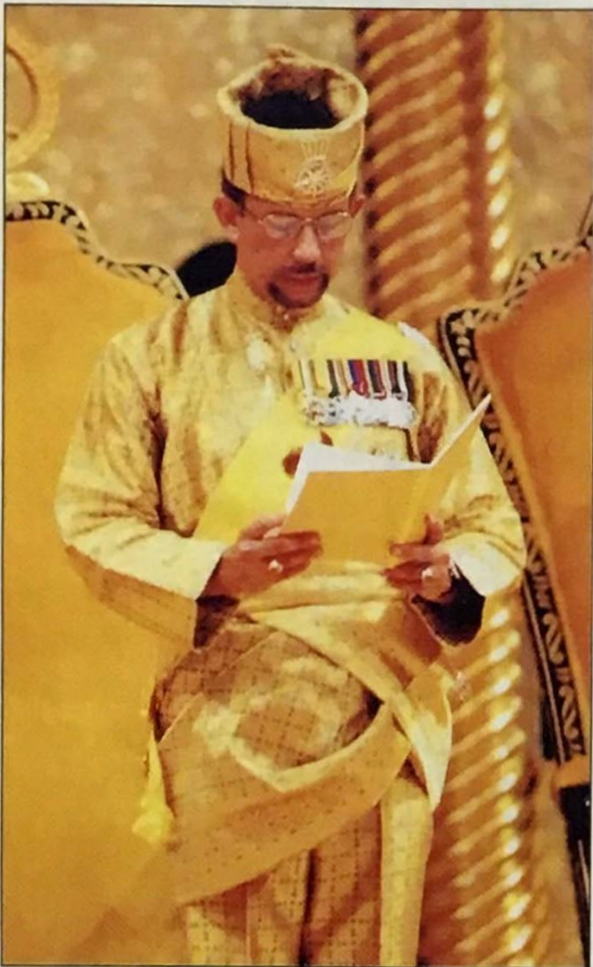
# بروني دارالسلام

## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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31 JULY 1997



## Unity, peace and stability for smooth implementation of nationbuilding efforts

*His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering his 51st birthday address from the throne of Istana Nurul Iman on 15 July, left.*

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has again underscored the importance of maintaining unity, peace and stability.

He said: "With the existence of unity which in turn renders peace and stability, we have so far been able to implement our nation-building programmes in accordance with our own capability and in our own ways".

Speaking from the throne room of Istana Nurul Iman (Nurul Iman Palace) on his fifty first birthday anniversary on 15 July, His Majesty spoke of the political and economic cooperation which countries are embarking upon in order to develop themselves in the wake of today's age of globalisation and changes brought about by the advancement in science and technology.

"All these efforts are aimed at none other than moulding a more guaranteed future for the people in the countries concerned through cooperation and prevention of conflicts and wars", he said.

For Brunei Darussalam, said His Majesty, its involvement in ASEAN will continue to be a priority towards bringing it to a new era of cooperation in the South-East Asian region.



*Contingents made up of several thousand men and women taking part in the birthday parade at the Haji Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddien mini stadium in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, come under close inspection by the monarch.*

## **BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER**

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### **YOUR TURN**

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 31 August 1997. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-383941 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.

• From page one  
(Unity, peace and stability for  
smooth implementation of  
nation-building efforts)

The country will follow the tides of change cautiously and wisely, for which it will need some preparation, of which, above all comes through education and the acquisition of knowledge, His Majesty pointed.

"Hence, my government continues to take measures to overcome educational problems. These measures include the up-dating of the education system and school curriculum at all levels."

In higher learning, he went on, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (The University of Brunei Darussalam) apart from offering places to local students, has also now opened its doors to foreign students to undergo courses from the diploma level up to post-graduate degrees.

"No countries can be developed without education and knowledge, and Brunei Darussalam is no exception to the rule", he said.

His Majesty also spoke of the high priority being given by his government to the Health Promotion Programme aimed at creating awareness among the people on the importance of adopting healthy life styles in order to improve their life quality.

For this, the government is now implementing and broadening the country's primary health care system by setting up more health centres.

It is hoped that these measures would reduce the congestion at hospitals, which will otherwise be able to concentrate on giving specialist treatment and attending to referral cases.

The audience and investiture ceremony during which His Majesty delivered his key-note address followed a big parade at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddien in Bandar Seri Begawan, the capital, in which some ten thousand men of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Royal Brunei Police Force and other uniformed government departments as well as uniformed voluntary organisations took part.

At the audience and investiture ceremony itself, His Majesty awarded honours, including the 'Datoship' title to more than a dozen people.

The parade and investiture ceremony also marked the start of celebrations marking the ruler's birthday. These included stage cultural shows, religious presentations and a diversity of sports events and competitions.

## **Efforts to make industrial climate in Brunei Darussalam more competitive intensified**

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is to intensify efforts to improve the industrial climate in the country, thus, making it more competitive.

The move was announced by His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his birthday address on 15 July.

He said that only through a competitive business climate can the country attract foreign investments while at the same time encourage industrial growth.

"Aside this, my government is also taking steps to improve industrial incentives in general, and financial incentives in particular, towards enabling the country compete in attracting investment", he said.

His Majesty's address, delivered from the throne room of Istana Nurul Iman (Nurul Iman Palace) at the traditional birthday audience and investiture ceremony, was heard by some 2,000 guests at the palace, who included cabinet ministers, foreign diplomats, local dignitaries and foreign guests as well as throughout the nation over Radio Television Brunei.

His Majesty cited as an example, that through the Tabung Kemajuan Perusahaan (Industrial Development Fund), some B\$132 mil-

• Continues on page 3

• From page 2 (Efforts to make industrial climate in Brunei Darussalam more competitive intensified)

lion (US\$100 million) has been allocated to various schemes including financial loans scheme to facilitate businesses.

The physical infrastructures, too, will be improved under the current National Development Plan, whereby industrial sites would be provided with such requirements as roads, telephones and water and electricity supplies.

"Furthermore, my government will also undertake to improve those incentives pertaining to equity, taxation, export promotion, encouragement of high-tech industries, research and development, and human resource development by having them coordinated by the relevant authorities in government", His Majesty further said.

The ruler also announced that the country's master plan for the tourism industry was being prepared, with the aim of giving the industry and its related sectors a positive direction.

He called on the private sectors to together mobilise and accelerate the national economic growth, while reminding them that they have a greater role to play in this aspect.

The ruler also urged the private sectors to grab the opportunities available in the region's economic development, in particular those offered by the ASEAN Free Trade Area, AFTA, and by the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area, BIMP-EAGA.

"The measures towards developing the private sector would also involve privatisation, budget planning and the re-organisation of government services and the management of the economy as a whole", His Majesty asserted.

It is hoped that these measures will bring about an economic progress which is on par with oil and gas, the role of which is expected to reduce in

the years to come while at the same time the social and economic challenges will escalate.

## Broadcasting Act enforced

Brunei Darussalam is enforcing a Broadcasting Act which will ensure high quality of broadcasting, and protect and maintain Bruneian values embracing the purity of Islam, purity of culture, custom and traditions, and national unity.

The enforcement of the act was announced by His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his birthday address on 15 July.

"All aspects of broadcasting including the dissemination of information by the government and private sectors, licensing, and broadcasting guidelines will come under the control of the act", His Majesty said.

The ruler had shortly earlier said that Brunei Darussalam, as were other countries around the world, was exposed to satellite television programmes of diverse forms and nature.

The same was the case with the Internet, which offered endless flow of information, and also of various nature.

He said: "We have to accept such development and progress in the broadcast and information technology as a new element, and their presence should not make us complacent but we should instead benefit from them for our truest development and progress".

His Majesty warned, however, "that at the same time we must also be cautious and on guard against negative elements they bring which are contradictory to Islamic teachings, our moral and cultural values and way of life".

On a similar note, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said that of late, there had emerged some anxiety over certain foods and drinks of being mixed with haram (not permissible for con-

• Continues on page 13

## Foreign leaders send greetings

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received messages of congratulations from foreign leaders on his 51st birthday anniversary on 15 July.

Among those who congratulated the Brunei monarch were Their Majesties The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia Tuanku Jaafar ibni Al-Marhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman, King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Emperor Akihito of Japan, King Juan Carlos I of Spain, and Their Excellencies President Fidel Ramos of the Republic of Philippines, President Ong Teng Cheong of the Republic of Singapore, President Le Duc Anh of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari of the Islam Republic of Pakistan.

Messages were also received from Malaysian Prime Minister, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Mr. Goh Chok Tong, Prime Minister of Thailand, His Excellency General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, His Excellency Mr. Vo Van Kiet and His Excellency Mr. Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

## IBB increases profit

The Islamic Bank of Brunei (IBB) has this year increased its profit, which before the payment of tax and

tithe, amounted to B26.065 million, an increase of 21 per cent over last year's profit of B\$ 21.4 million, while the amount of assest has increased to B\$1,060 thousand million in 1996.

With the excellent performance, the IBB Board of Directors has also approved that the payment of dividend

be made at the rate of 10 cents per share, and a share bonus at a rate of one for every ten shares held, will be given to all shareholders.

This was disclosed by the Minister of Law, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Haji

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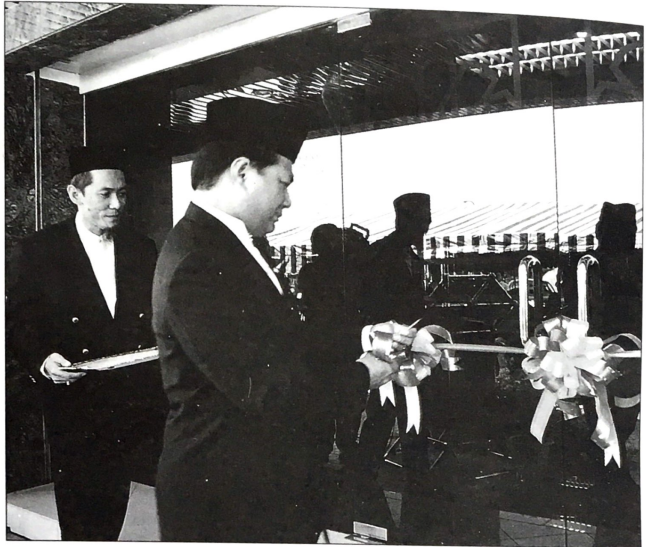
Bahrin, who is also the Chairman of IBB, before he officially launched the IBB Kredit Berhad and the IBB Tungku Branch on 2 July.

The IBB Kredit Berhad is another structure of the Islamic Bank of Brunei Berhad to improve financial service and Islamic banking to meet the current needs of the people in the country.

With only a workforce of seven when it began its operation on 20 March this year, the IBB Kredit Berhad has received encouraging response, and to this end, has met the expected achievement.

The formation of the IBB Kredit Berhad and the IBB branch in Tungku reflects IBB's determination to upgrade and diversify business activities so as to strengthen further its position as a major bank in Brunei Darussalam. With the launch of its eleventh branch and the sixth branch of the Takaful IBB Berhad, the IBB now emerges as one with the biggest number of branches in the country.

The new branch provides banking



The Minister of Law and Attorney-General, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Haji Bahrin officially opens a new branch of the Islamic Bank of Brunei (IBB), coupled with the launch of a new service - the IBB Kredit Berhad. At the ceremony, Pengiran Haji Bahrin, who is Chairman of IBB, spoke of the Bank's excellent performance during 1996.

and financial service, takaful, electronic banking centre, computer back up unit and training unit for staff re-

quirements. The office now has 27 workforce and is the second largest after the headquarters.

## ***Brunei and corporations of Japan and Taiwan sign MOU on proposed establishment of export-oriented refinery***

The government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and a consortium made up of the Kanematsu Corporation of Japan and the Chinese Petroleum Corporation of Taiwan, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on a proposed export-oriented refinery project in the country.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding, signed on 23 July, His Majesty's Government has consented for the consortium to prepare a development plan for the setting up of the proposed 60,000 barrels per day export-oriented refinery project following an initial study carried out by the consortium.

The proposed refinery project involves the processing of some 60,000 barrels per day of Brunei's crude oil and production of various petroleum products including paraxylene and benzene.

The total capital requirement for the refinery has been esti-



The Deputy Finance Minister, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Jamat bin Haji Munap (sideways to camera) representing the Brunei Oil and Gas Authority, exchanges documents with one of the representatives following the signing of a memorandum of understanding on the proposed establishment of an export-oriented refinery with a foreign consortium comprising the Kanematsu Corporation of Japan and the Chinese Petroleum Corporation of Taiwan.

• Continues on page 5

Diabetes is found to be the fifth main cause of death in 1995 in Brunei Darussalam, accounting for 5 per cent of total deaths, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health has disclosed.

Even though the country has no specific data on the disease, a research conducted by the Health Ministry on the risk of cardiovascular disease shows that the prevalence of diabetes among those above 40 years old is 6 per cent. The data, although low compared to "our developing neighbouring countries, should not make the people in Brunei Darussalam complacent," he said.

In Brunei Darussalam, diabetes has also led to many complications which bring about sufferings to patients, he asserted.

Those who are suffering from heart disease and chronic kidney problem and undergo dialysis treatment may also have diabetes, and diabetes is also the main cause of death and difficulties particularly among those who suffer from cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases. Several cases of blindness in the country are also due to diabetes.

Opening a course for diabetic educators at the Riverview Hotel on 2 July, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Lela Dato Paduka Haji Awang Chuchu said that diabetes has proven to be more dangerous to people in the region, and is expected to reach an alarming stage.

The available statistics show that about 100 million people are suffering from diabetes worldwide, and the figure is expected to rise to 160 million by the 21st century, he warned.

The socio-economic status of the country and the changing way of life, which sometimes involve diet imbalance and over nutrition, little exercise and over weightiness all contribute much to the rising figure of people suffering diabetes as well as other diseases.

In this respect, the official advised people in the country to practise a healthy life style, such as by observing their weight, having balanced diets and engaging in sports activities.

The Health Ministry, he said, is giving due attention to the prevention and cure of diabetes. Efforts towards this

## Diabetes, now the fifth main cause of death



The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Lela Dato Paduka Haji Chuchu speaking at the opening of a course for diabetic educators.

include identifying the disease at its early stage and upgrading the management of patients' treatment in order to avoid complications of the disease. Meanwhile, diabetic patients are advised to get the earliest possible treatment.

The Permanent Secretary also pointed that it is the objective of the Ministry to produce special diabetic nurse educators, not only for the purpose of treatment for diabetic patients, but also for the prevention of diabetic complications and to ensure proper and effective treatment.

Diabetic nurse educators among other things will ensure that diabetic patients strictly follow their prescribed treatment, teach them how to avoid diabetic complications and advise and guide them and their family on all aspects of diabetes.

The course for diabetic educators is aimed at giving the participants the knowledge on the medical and treatment of diabetic patients, upgrading the teaching techniques; and streamlining similar programmes at all hospitals in the country on the medical and treatment of patients.

• From page 4  
(Sultanate and corporations of Japan and Taiwan sign MUO on proposed Brunei export-oriented refinery)

mated at approximately US\$1 billion.

Signing on behalf of His Majesty's Government was the Brunei Oil and Gas Authority (BOGA), represented by Dato Paduka Awang Hj Selarnat bin Hj Munap, the Deputy Minister of Finance. Kanematsu Corporation was represented by its Managing Director, Mr Masami Kido, while Mr. Shieh Rong-Hwai, the Vice President of the Chinese Petroleum Corporation signed on behalf of the Taiwanese corporation.

Present to witness the signing was Dato Paduka Hj. Mohd. Alimin, the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office. Other attendance were members of the Brunei Oil and Gas Authority (BOGA), the Working Committee on Downstream Industries and senior Government officials.

Kanematsu Corporation, a large general trading company in Japan, and Chinese Petroleum Corporation, the leading oil company in Taiwan owning refineries with a total capacity of more than 700,000 barrels per day, had formed the consortium to promote the project and had completed their initial study at the end of last year.

# Construction industry urged not to ignore responsibility while striving to make profits

**T**he construction industry should not take into account matters of profit alone while ignoring other responsibilities, because this will not benefit the people and the country, the Minister of Development has pointed.

A construction industry which is responsible and has vision, he said, should also consider other responsibilities, namely their corporate, trade or business, social and environmental obligations.

Officiating at the launch of the Brunei Darussalam Construction Industry Exhibition 'CIEX' 97 at the Bumiputera Commercial and Trade Centre in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, on 1 July, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Wijaya Pengiran Dr. Hj. Ismail pointed that the construction industry plays an important role in together achieving the country's aspiration and objectives.

The industry's social responsibility, which is their contribution to the society and country, can be rendered by providing training and by recruiting more local citizens, providing career structure and development, and incentives such as housing and education.

Other efforts include to provide small and medium citizen contractors with training and guidance to enable them to equally develop and improve, increase and strengthen the business network contributing to mutual support among the construction industry, and support the citizens who are less capable in their study and daily lives.

On environmental responsibility, the construction industry should not ignore issues on pollution and environment maintenance but should be active and be prepared to together handle the problems, he said.

Among the roles they can play include instilling and putting into practice the Environment Impact Assessment Methodology to projects which may damage the environment, instilling and practising positive attitude and responsibility towards the environment, making proper management of the industry's left-overs and identifying and utilising a better working technology.

On the business responsibility, the minister pointed that it is important for the industry to gain the confidence

of their customers, employees, members of the business network such as suppliers, creditors, bankers and all parties related to the business and company, an effort which should be carried out continuously through practices and commitment.

A construction industry can only be developed if it has a strong work ethic, skilled and dedicated staff, able to use technology effectively to achieve high productivity, produces quality work and possesses a broad and trustworthy business network, he stressed.

Meanwhile, the corporate responsibility is their responsibility to the company's members or shareholders to ensure that the interests of the shareholders and members are always protected and developed from time-to-time.

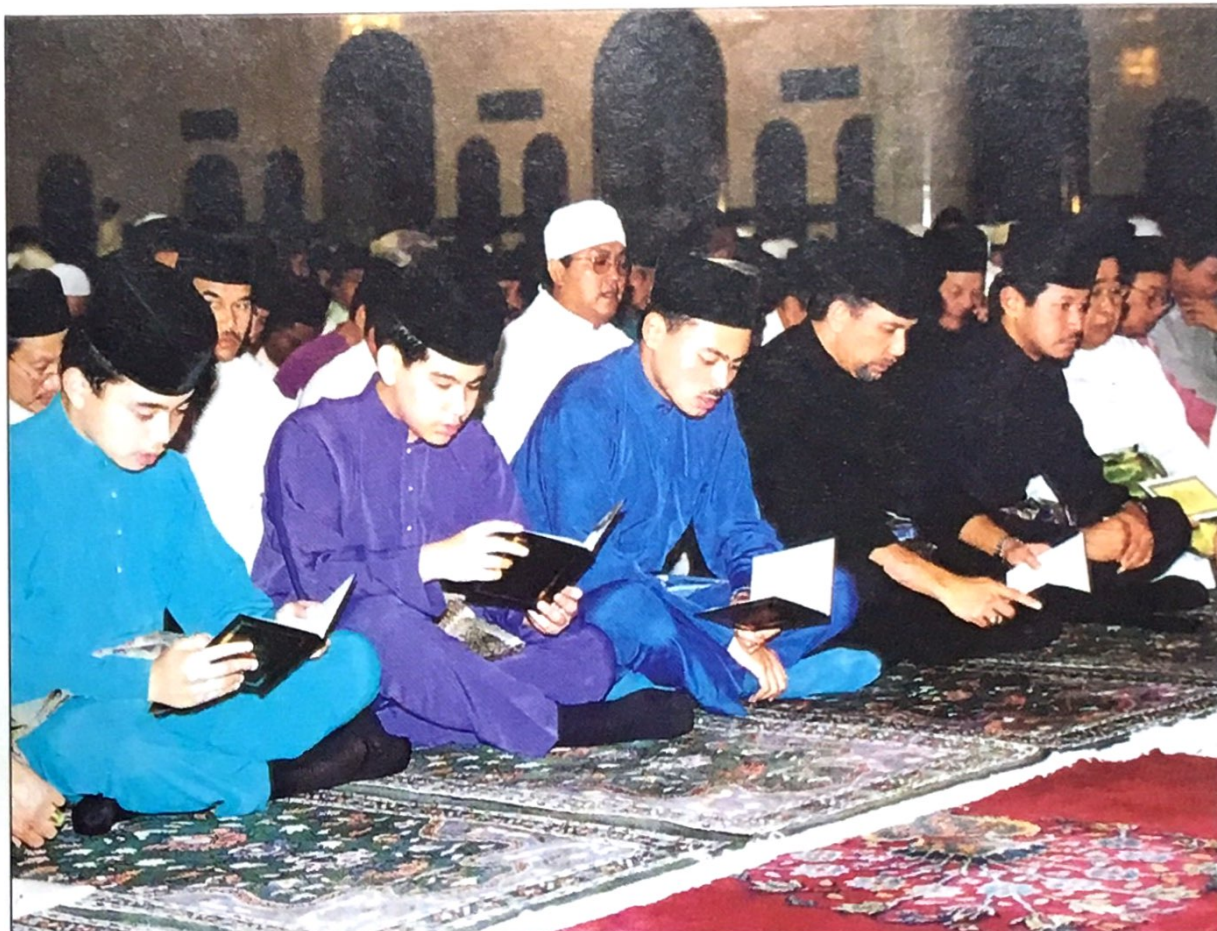
The 'CIEX 97', which was organised by the construction industry of the Development Ministry with the cooperation of the private sectors, reflects the efforts towards together developing the country and enhancing the understanding and close cooperation between the government and private sectors.



*The Minister of Development, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Wijaya Pengiran Dr. Haji Ismail being briefed while the ministry's Permanent Secretary, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Othman bin Haji Yaakub (second from right) looks on. Speaking earlier, the minister reminded those in the construction industry to bear in mind such factors as environmental protection when going about their business and not just think of making profit alone.*

# Birthday thanksgiving prayer

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and members of the royal family together with other Muslims perform a thanksgiving prayer at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah mosque and recite the surah Yaasin on the eve of the ruler's birthday anniversary. Similar thanksgiving prayers were also held at other leading mosques and prayer halls throughout the country to mark the occasion.



## Foreign guests at birthday celebrations have audiences



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri granting an audience to Her Royal Highness Jordan's Princess Basma binti Talal and to His Excellency Al-Syed Walid bin Ismail while they were in the country to attend the Brunei ruler's birthday celebrations.

More than a dozen foreign VIP guests were in Bandar Seri Begawan to attend the 51st birthday celebrations of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on 15 July.

After watching the traditional birthday parade at the Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddin mini stadium and attending the investiture ceremony at Istana Nurul Iman, the guests and their wives were granted audiences by His Majesty, Her Majesty Raja Isteri

Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam.

They included Jordanian Princess Her Royal Highness Princess Basma binti Talal and His Excellency Al-Syed Walid Ismail, His Highness Sayyid Fatik bin Fahr bin Taymour Al-Said, Secretary-General of the office of Minister for National Heritage and Culture of the Sultanate of Oman, Malaysian Agriculture Minister, Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Dr.Haji

Sulaiman bin Haji Daud and his wife, Datin Naimah binti Haji Hasbi, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office of Malaysia, Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr. Abdul Hamid bin Othman and his wife Datin Jamilah binti Haji Mohd. Said, Secretary of the Philippines' National Defence Department, The Hon. Renato. S. Villa and Mrs Monica Villa, Laotian Foreign Minister, His Excellency Somsavath Lengsavand and

• Continues on page 9



Left: His Majesty converses with Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Datuk Setia Abang Haji Ahmad Urai and Mr. Carlos Dominguez at Nurul Iman palace, while their wives had a separate audience in another part of the palace with Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri.

Below: The ruler with Malaysian Agriculture Minister, Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Dr. Haji Sulaiman and at right, exchanging greeting with His Highness Sayyid Fatik bin Fahr bin Taymour Al-Said who is Secretary-General of the Office of Minister for National Heritage and Cultures of the Sultanate of Oman.



Below left and below respectively the Thai Foreign Minister, His Excellency Prachuab Chiyasan and Singapore's Education Minister and Second Minister for Defence, His Excellency Vice-Admiral Teo Chee Hean at their audiences.





The Foreign Minister of Laos, His Excellency Somsavath Lengsavad, above, and the Minister in the Prime Minister's Office of Malaysia, Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr. Abdul Hamid, right, were also at the palace for their audiences with the Brunei monarch.



• From page 7  
(Foreign guests at birthday celebrations have audiences)

Mrs Bounkongmany Lengsavad, Indonesian Religious Affairs Minister, Yang Terhormat Dr. Haji Tarmizi Taher and wife Ibu Djusma Tarmizi, Thailand's Foreign Minister, His Excellency Prachuab Chiyasan and Mrs Taptim Chiyasan, Education Minister and Second Defence Minister of Singapore, His Excellency Vice-Admiral Teo Chee Hean and Mrs Teo, State Minister for the Secretary of the Indonesian Cabinet, Yang Terhormat Dr



• Continues on page 10

Clockwise from above shows His Majesty granting audiences to the State Minister for the Secretary of the Indonesian Cabinet, Yang Terhormat Dr. Saadillah Mursjid and Commander of the Indonesian Armed forces, Yang Terhormat General Feisal Tanjung; to the Secretary of the Philippines' National Defence Department, His Excellency Renato De Villa; and to the Religious Affairs Minister of Indonesia, Yang Terhormat Dr. Haji Tarmizi Taher.



Right: Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri granting audiences to Ibu Hajjah Halimah Ratna Mursjid and Ibu Dr. Masrowida Feisal Tanjung, and below, to Datin Jamilah Hj. Mohd. Said.



Above right: Mrs Taptim Chiyasan and below right: Datin Naimah binti Haji Hasbi and below: Mrs Bounkongmany Lengsavad having audiences with Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness.

**Opposite page:** from top to bottom showing Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness granting audiences to Ibu Djusma Tarmizi; to Mrs. Teo; to Puan Sri Datin Hajjah Siti Murniati Abdullah and Mrs. Cynthia Dominguez; and to Mrs. Monica De Villa.



• From page 9  
(Foreign guests at birthday celebrations have audiences)

Saadillah Mursjid and wife Ibu Hajjah Halimah Ratna Mursjid, Commander of the Indonesian Armed Forces, Yang Terhormat General Feisal Tanjung and wife Ibu Dr. Masrowida Feisal Tanjung, and Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Datuk Setia Abang Haji Urai bin Datuk Hakim Abang Haji Muhiddin and wife Puan Sri Datin Hajjah Murniati Abdullah, and Mr. Carlos Dominguez and Mrs Cynthia Dominguez.





## Relevant government authorities and private sectors urged to cooperate in tourism

The head of the Tourism Development Division of the Brunei Darussalam Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources has called on relevant government authorities and the private sectors to cooperate in making the country's tourism industry a success.

"Tourism in Brunei is new, and the way forward in the implementation of our tourism strategy will be fraught with difficulties which can be overcome as long as concerted efforts from relevant ministries are available in support of our stated objectives," said Sheikh Jamaluddin Sheikh Mohamed.

As our strategic objectives are realised, he said, the government and private sectors must ensure that local educational institutions are pro-active in providing human resources for tourism and its related industries, in term of providing tourism courses and training.

They must also ensure that there are enough supply of students to meet the tourism industry's requirements, and mount an awareness campaign of the advantages and opportunities of tourism as a career, he said.

The private sector, on the other hand, must be pro-active and able to identify opportunity in tourism which needs capacity and quality of human resources.

Speaking at the closing of the Training of Japanese Tourism Language on 9 July, Sheikh Jamaluddin pointed that the combination of these measures will improve recruitment to

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Above: In the magnificence and splendours of the Nurul Iman Palace's throne room, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam sit on the throne for the traditional audience and investiture ceremony on His Majesty's 51st birthday anniversary. On either side of the throne, sit other members of the royal family and foreign royal guests that included from right to left in the above left-hand picture, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Azim, His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Malik, His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Mateen and His Excellency Al-Syed Walid Ismail; and from left to right in the above right-hand picture, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Norhayati, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma binti Talal of Jordan, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Mutawakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah. Centre left, bottom left and bottom centre-of-page: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam exchanges greetings after a dinner he hosted for members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Royal Brunei Police Force and uniformed government departments and uniformed organisations.

• From page 3 (Efforts to make industrial climate in Brunei Darussalam more competitive intensified) sumption by Moslems) ingredients, including imported beef.

"The time has come for the relevant authorities in the government to assess the possibility of setting up a body to control

the security (from Islam's perspective) of drink and food commodities in this country", he stressed.

"I would like to say that sometime ago, I had decreed a ban on the import and distribution in this country of alcoholic drinks", the ruler reminded as he pointed to halal

(permissible for consumption by Moslems) and haram (not permissible for Muslim consumption) of certain drink and food commodities - in an apparent reference that these commodities, too, could be banned if they did not meet the requirements according to Islam.



Left: His Majesty pinning medal on the Commissioner of Police, Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Yaakub bin Haji Zainal, who heads this year's birthday honours list.



Above: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri hosting a banquet at the banquet hall of Istana Nurul Iman in conjunction with the ruler's birthday. Right: At a special ceremony held on 23 July, His Majesty presented more birthday honours to over 200 people.



# Sultan goes on get- together sessions with subjects

**B**ig enthusiastic crowds turned up to welcome His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam when he met Brunei Muara, Belait, Temburong and Tutong districts' residents for get-together sessions in conjunction with his 51st birthday anniversary.

• Continues on page16



*Above: His Majesty, flanked to his left by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim and to his right by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah watch the various displays and presentations during his meet-the-people session with Brunei Muara district residents in the capital. Other pictures show the ruler being thronged by eager subjects and looking at spin-tops which is one of the country's most popular traditional games, and some scenes of the day's presentations and displays.*





Residents line up to greet the ruler as he arrived by helicopter at Bangar for the gathering with Temburong district residents, who staged a variety of presentantions and displays including those pertaining to the traditions and cultures of the district's numerous ethnic groups. The monarch also went aboard a specially-built boat called Bahtera reminiscent of those of olden days. From the boat he set free some local fish into the man-made lake, which is a popular recreational spot.





• From page 14  
(Sultan goes on get-together  
sessions with subjects)



First on hand greet the ruler was a crowd of several thousand people who on 19 July converged on the grounds of the community centre at Bangar, the Temburong district's main town. The monarch was accompanied by his three brothers, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

Soon after arrival, His Majesty heard the District Officer pledge loyalty on behalf of the people of the district before proceeding to watch various presentations of sporting events and cultures in which some 450 people from the district's Malay, Murut, Iban and Chinese communities took part.

• Continues on page 17



A mock ceremony showing the intricacies and splendours of a Malay wedding, above, was one of the highlight events during His Majesty's visit to Tutong, where other presentations such as local dances and martial arts displays were also staged. Everywhere His Majesty went, citizens lined up eagerly wanting to see him from close quarters and shake his hands, top pictures.



• From page 16  
(Sultan goes on get-together  
sessions with subjects)

The presentations, among others, demonstrated His Majesty's ability in achieving a harmonious co-existence of the country's variety of ethnic and religious groups.

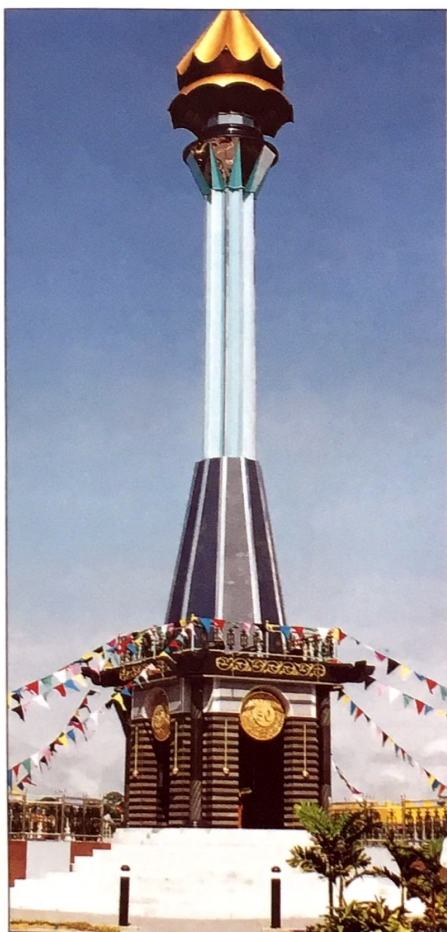
In between these events, His Majesty mingled and chatted informally with the people. There was also a special audience inside the District Officer's residence for Muslim converts in the district.

The following day, huge crowds

• Continues on page 18



Eager hands reach out as His Majesty went about meeting his subjects and residents in Belait, above. The ruler putting down his signature, right, on the plaque of a memorial tower which was presented to him by Belait district residents to commemorate his fiftieth birthday last year, left.



Belait - the country's largest district, is not only the seat of the country's oil and gas industry but is also endowed with ample rich, fertile lands conducive to agriculture, the produces of which were displayed during the ruler's visit. A wide range of other activities including sailing and boat races added to make up the programme.



• From page 17  
(Sultan goes on get-together sessions with subjects)

descended on the Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddien mini stadium in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan for a similar session between the monarch and Brunei Muara district residents.

His Majesty was accompanied by two of his sons, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim as well as his three brothers.

Soon after arriving at the mini stadium, His Majesty heard three cheers of 'Daulat Kebawah Duli Tuan Patik' (Long live your Majesty), followed by a welcoming address by the Brunei Muara District Officer.

His Majesty and other members of the royal family then mingled and chatted informally with the people and watched various presentations of sports including a special tug-of-war contest between his own team and the district's

Birthday Celebration Executive Organising Committee side, and an art exhibition staged by the Brunei Artists' Association.

July 21 saw a similar gathering between the ruler and Tutong district residents, at which His Majesty was again accompanied by his three brothers.

The gathering took place on the grounds of the community centre of the district's main town- Pekan Tutong.

As in the previous two districts, the Tutong gathering also began with a brief welcome address by the district officer, in which he also pledged loyalty on behalf of the people in the district and support for efforts under His Majesty's leadership towards bringing the country to excellence and glory.

Again the ruler watched a colourful variety of cultural presentations by the district's ethnic groups, and took a walk-about to mingle freely and chat with his subjects.

On 22 July it was the turn of Belait

district residents to get together with His Majesty. For the occasion huge number of people turned up at Persiaran Menara Jalan Sungai (recreation park) in Kuala Belait which is also the district's largest town.

A welcome address and pledge of loyalty by the district officer prompted the proceedings in Kuala Belait to a start and as in the previous three gatherings - an array of activities from exhibitions of agricultural produces to water sports followed.

The residents also presented His Majesty a memorial tower to commemorate his 50th birthday last year. The tower is designed symbolic of the characters and values of the country's form of governance of the Malay Muslim Monarchy philosophy.

Two of His Majesty's brothers, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Jefri Bolkiah and Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah were with Him at the Belait gathering.

• From page 11  
(Relevant government authorities and private sectors urged to cooperate in tourism)

the industry and improve training standards.

He highlighted that the tourism industry in the Sultanate is facing challenges such as on how to enhance the country's image and attractiveness as a travel and tourism destination, and how to make tomorrow better than today for Brunei Darussalam.

"It will not be easy to get from where we are today to where we want to be tomorrow. We are now at the very first step on the ladder of change. A ladder of opportunity for our country to develop what has been widely accepted as the world's number one industry, tourism," he said.

We should emphasise to the people of the country the value and importance of tourism, as it brings about not only economic benefits but also close integration and relations among countries in the region, he pointed.

In effort to encourage tourism, he further urged Bruneians to be responsible and not be labelled as a 'throw away society' and to always ensure that the environment is kept clean and tidy.

Employers of foreign workers must



Close cooperation between relevant government agencies and the private sector can make Brunei's tourism industry succeed, says Sheikh Jamaluddin bin Sheikh Mohamed, who heads the Tourism Development Division of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.

also be accountable to the action of their workers, and called on them not to litter.

The closing ceremony marked the conclusion of 120 hours of a Beginners' Course on the Training of Japanese Tourism Language, which is one of the ASEAN Centre's most important promotional activities.

In a keynote address, Mr. Jounkei Fuchigami, Assistant Director of Tourism Division, ASEAN Centre, among others said that the centre, with the cooperation of the ASEAN National Tourist Offices and tourism-related government agencies, will continue to implement projects for human resources developments (HRD).

# Sultanate hosts first International Conference on Special Education: "Inclusive Education, Inclusive Society"

**Minister urges development of an education system that includes all children**

*The Minister of Education, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz stressing on the importance for the development of an education system that "includes all children" when he spoke at the opening of an international conference on special education in Bandar Seri Begawan recently.*



Brunei Darussalam has hosted the first international conference on Special Education with the theme "Inclusive Education: Inclusive Society", beginning 21 July.

Speaking at the official opening ceremony at the International Convention Centre, the Education Minister stressed that the topic of the conference "is appropriate, timely, and important if we are to move forward and develop an education system that includes all children."

The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, said that the concept of educating all children, including those with special needs, is not new in the country. It is based on the belief that all children can learn and succeed, that those with special needs will be known and cared about the same way as any other normal child.

"An inclusive society," the minister added, "means that we as parents and educators would want all our chil-

dren, including those with special needs, to be educated for life so that they can become productive and contributing adults in our society."

"It is important that our education system takes on the challenges of making an inclusive society a reality in Brunei Darussalam, and that it is able to instill in the young generations the appropriate values to become part of a caring and gentle society that accepts diversity,"

Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Aziz further pointed that the Sultanate is only beginning to pave the way towards an inclusive education. He said that an inclusive education has placed a demand for change to the country's education system.

As with any other education system, he said, change comes slowly when that change requires a reform to previous systemic principles, standards and practices.

"One of those principles that has undergone reform is the idea that edu-

cation is a right not a privilege. It is a necessity for national development and survival of a society in a competitive and complex world. This means that all children, including those with special needs, have a right to education," he asserted.

He pointed that his ministry is aware that educating children with special needs necessitates reform to curricular programmes as well as educational and social services. This would require educators, parents and society to adapt to change.

Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Aziz also emphasised that an inclusive education and an inclusive society require collaboration, cooperation and contribution, in terms of time, effort and energy, at various levels in order to take children with special needs from education to entry into adult society.

He said this will require a collective commitment and determination

• *Continues on page 20*

• From page 19  
(Sultanate hosts first International  
Conference on Special Education)

from all concerned, from the decision makers at the ministry level right down to the school levels, as well as those from other ministries. Such commitment will be the basis for making inclusion operational at all levels.

He added that from the curriculum to the examinations to the inspecting of teachers and approaches, collaboration is the key element to the development, delivery and monitoring of programmes for children with special needs.

To accomplish this, the minister pointed, the Ministry of Education is determined to establish a good education system that is in tune with educational issues and concerns at the national and international levels. It must be able to respond to the ever-changing needs of our society.

### Creation of Special Education Unit

Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Aziz went on to say that the creation of the Special Education Unit in the country's Education Ministry three years ago, has enabled the ministry to coordinate and deploy the necessary specialists and resources needed to develop and implement programmes and services to meet the challenge.

It is committed to the training of learning assistance teachers, and to the development of special programmes to meet individual student needs. It has also planned for in-service for regular teachers who are not in the Learning Assistance programme but who must teach mixed-ability groups.

The ministry is also aware of the education of children with special needs and has policies in place that are designed to answer the educational needs of special children whether they are slow learners, learning disabled, intellectually and physically challenged or gifted and talented, the minister said.

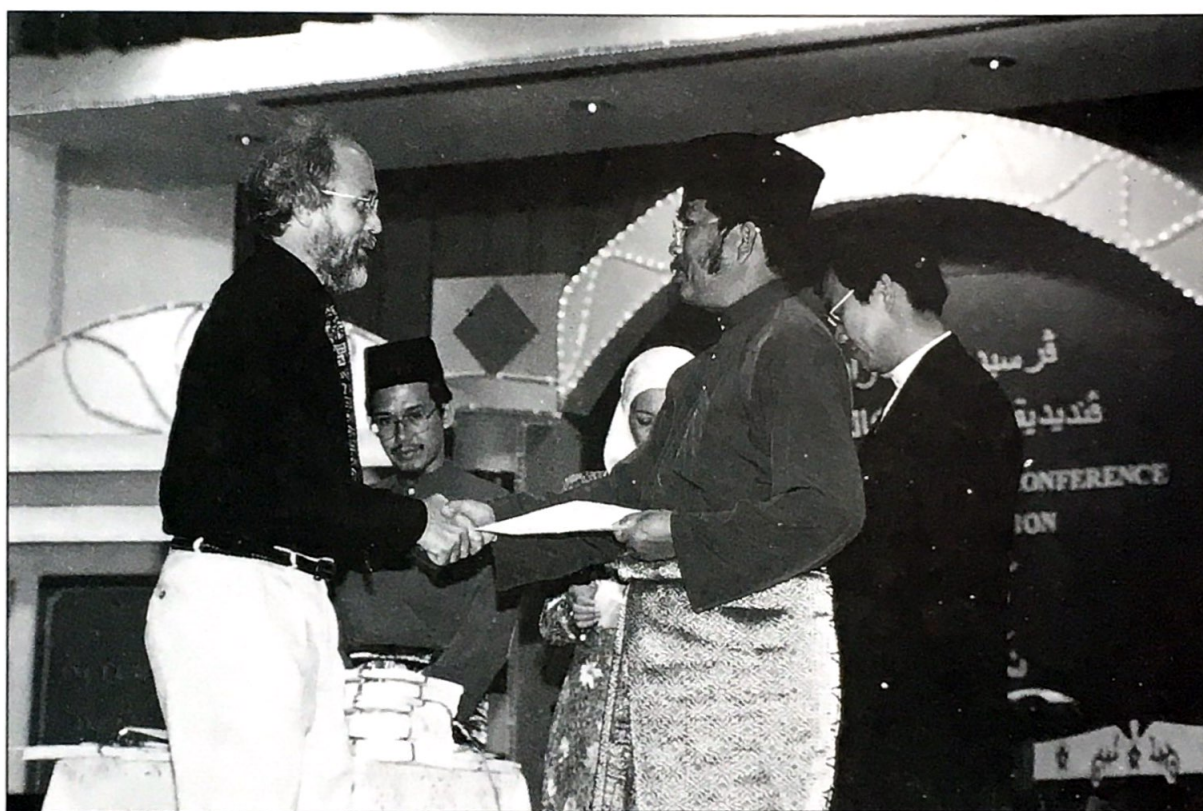
More than 500 participants from 24 countries from as far as South Africa, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States attended the five-day conference, ending on 25 July.

It was organised by the Special Education Unit of the Education Ministry and the Brunei Darussalam Special Education Association, aimed at sharing the latest research and successful strategies in the education of children with special needs and highlight directions for the future.

Other objectives of the conference

are also to share international expertise and findings on: classroom programmes and strategies; leadership skills for educators and administrators; preparation of children with special needs for the world of work; raising public awareness of children with special needs and their impact on the community.

## Sultanate's education policies, philosophies geared towards betterment of every Bruneian



Deputy Education Minister Dato Seri Laila Jasa Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad presents certificates to participants at the close of the first international conference on special education which Brunei Darussalam hosted from 21 July to 25 July in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

Brunei Darussalam's Education policies and philosophies are anchored on building quality in every Bruneian so that every single plan and action for the future of an individual and society has to be focused on human betterment, the Deputy Minister of Education has said.

Dato Seri Laila Jasa Dr. Haji Ahmad made the remark at the end of the first international conference on Special Education, "Inclusive Education: Inclusive Society" held in Bandar Seri Begawan, 21 - 25 July.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, the deputy minister said that the quality of human life in all its perspec-

tives has to be continuously refined by an integrated and balanced approach and the move towards this end is very challenging.

"By understanding our present situation and what is expected of the future, we can take necessary action to achieve success. Under these circumstances, if Bruneians intend to improve by leaps and bounds, we need effective leadership at all levels of society," he stressed to the more than 500 participants from within and outside the country.

• Continues on page 21

• From page 20  
(Sultanate's education policies,  
philosophies geared towards  
betterment of every Bruneian)

Dato Dr. Haji Ahmad outlined the country's educational policies. He said that after independence in 1984, Brunei Darussalam embarked on three fundamental policies in Education; firstly the Bilingual Education Policy, introduced in 1985; secondly, the challenge of implementing the concept of a Malay Islamic Monarchy; and thirdly, the challenge of establishing Scientific and Progressive Society, innovative and forward looking contributing to the scientific and technological civilization of the future.

The deputy minister also spoke on the importance of human resources. He said human resources are a nation's most valuable resources, more valuable than any other mineral resource, including oil and gas.

He added that human resources, unlike oil and gas, are not exhaustible.

In this regard, he pointed that His Majesty's Government is always consciously aware of the need to ensure

the provision of a relevant educational infrastructure of high quality for the people of Brunei Darussalam.

"It is a high priority investment. Our educational infrastructure, may it be physical or intellectual, is geared to prepare our human resources to meet the needs of the 21st century and beyond to enable us to continue to maintain our social, political and economic prosperity and stability."

The deputy minister further pointed that the people, through their efforts, skills and expertise are largely responsible for the development and prosperity of our nation, especially in giving the edge of competition with other developing nations.

He went on to say that the country also strives to produce people who are equipped with scientific and technological knowledge, people who are confident and comfortable with their personalities and values shaped and strengthened by the the national Malay Islamic Monarchy ideology which makes them complete Bruneians.

"In time, some of our natural resources may be depleted, but with our future pool of educated human resources we are optimistic that viable

alternatives can be found to maintain prosperity and stability."

As a result of our foresightedness and vision, we will not collapse like dilapidated buildings. Thus our huge expenditure on education is a very worthwhile investment, Dato Dr. Haji Ahmad said.

He pointed that the quality of our human resources will determine how well we can cope with future challenges. Human resources of quality can only be produced by quality education systems and the provision of ample opportunities for the people to have access to quality education.

"Brunei, being a small nation in both size and population, cannot afford to be complacent especially in educating its citizens. Likewise people must not be complacent in their attitude and outlook. A complacent mentality hinders development and may even cripple a prosperous society."

"We are aware that present economic prosperity may have caused some youths to take life for granted. As this is undesirable for a small nation like ours, we are taking steps to rectify this situation," Dato Dr. Haji Ahmad concluded.

## Universiti Brunei Darussalam and University of Auckland sign MOU

Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and New Zealand's Auckland University have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on developing academic exchange and cooperation in teaching and research in the furtherance of the advancement and dissemination of learning. The ceremony took place at UBD in Tungku about 11 kilometres from Bandar Seri Begawan, the Brunei capital on 1 July.

Signing for UBD was its Vice-Chancellor, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Putera Maharaja Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, while the University of Auckland was represented by its own Vice-Chancellor, Professor W.G Carson.

The signing of the MOU is a follow-up of the visit of the Brunei Darussalam Education Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila

Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz to several educational institutions in New Zealand in 1995.

Besides forging a closer relationship between the two universities, the MOU will facilitate academic ex-

change which include both their teaching staff and students, and cooperation in teaching, training and development of administrative and library staff, as well as cooperation in research.



Universiti Brunei Darussalam's Vice-Chancellor Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Putera Maharaja Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong and Vice-Chancellor of Auckland University, Professor W.G. Carson signing memorandum of understanding on cooperation between the two universities.



Left : The Permanent Secretary of the Defence Ministry, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Perkerma Jaya Dato Paduka Awang Haji Judin, fourth from left, front row, who was chief guest for the Prophet Muhammad birthday celebrations in Tutong district, standing to the doa's with members of the organising committee before they led a procession around Tutong town. Below: Scene of some of the processions around the country.

• From page 24  
(Sultan tells subjects to achieve economic progress alongside spiritual development, at rally marking prophet's birthday)

ism and characters are also important. He said during the Prophet's time there were no moral or social crises because the Prophet built within the people noble and pious values. "The ways shown by the Prophet are the right and appropriate ways to

be emulated by people eternally, because by following his examples, we will be safe as the Prophet is always guided by Allah (God) the Almighty." His Majesty further emphasised: "We must not have doubts, we must accept and put to use whatever we have derived from the Prophet in whatever situation, whether in good or bad times, in our social mixing, work and while we perform acts of worship." The ruler went on to say that should the economic progress and success

achieved fall outside the bounds of moral, halal (permissible for Muslims' indulgence) and haram (not permissible for Muslims' indulgence), and outside the laws based on Islamic teachings, then such a development may not bring well-being necessarily, but rather, destruction. The gathering also heard a special talk on aspects of the life of the Prophet and various religious presentations

• Continues on page 23





Left: His Majesty and other members of the royal family as well as members of the executive organising committee of the celebrations marking the birthday anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) lead the four-kilometre procession around the streets of the capital.

• From page 22  
(Sultan tells subjects to achieve economic progress alongside spiritual development, at rally marking Prophet's birthday)

such as dzikir, Koran reading and nasyid.

His Majesty and other members of the royal family later led the procession on a 4-kilometre route around the capital.

In Belait district, some 11 thousand Muslims converged on Kuala Belait town for the rally and procession, and as many also converged on Tutong town in Tutong district. A further 4.5 thousand people gathered at Bangar town in Temburong district to observe the event.

They, too, heard chief guests speak on the relation between the noble examples set by the Prophet and economic progress endeavours, and watched various religious presentations before going on processions around the respective towns.

Celebrations to observe the anniversary of Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) birthday is one of the biggest events in the Islamic calendar and observed throughout the Islamic world with rallies and processions.

In Brunei Darussalam, as also in other Islamic countries, the gatherings and processions were preceded by twelve nights of Dzikir (recital of the Koranic verses) at mosques and prayer halls throughout the country.



The Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Putera Maharaja Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abu Bakar, above, and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Saman, below, meeting heads of teams before they led the processions in Temburong and Belait districts where they were the respective chief guest, at Prophet Muhammad's birthday celebrations.



## Sultan tells subjects to achieve economic progress alongside spiritual development, at rally marking Prophet's birthday



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam meeting heads of the more than 250 teams taking part in Prophet Muhammad's birthday anniversary gathering and procession in the Brunei capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

Nearly 70 thousand Muslims have taken part in rallies held simultaneously in Brunei Darussalam's four districts marking the anniversary of the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) on 17 July.

In the Brunei Muara district, the more than 40 thousand Muslims who descended on the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddien in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, heard His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam renew his call to Muslims to always uphold the prominence of Islam so that its teachings would be more widespread and

practised in-depth even more.

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said that the teachings of Islam must not weaken or wither, because to do so will only give way to phenomena and human activities associated with evils.

"Even at this very moment," the ruler explained, "human lives are being shrouded by various undesirable

scourges and ills. People are being hypnotised by slogans of progress and prosperity, not only in the non-Islamic world but also Muslims themselves."

He pointed that while there is nothing wrong in pursuing economic progress, it must also be remembered that economic success alone is not enough, but as demonstrated by the Prophet, the development of spiritual-

• Please turn over to page 22

### Brunei in Brief

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan

Land size : 5765 sq. km.

Population : 296,000 (1995)

Official Language : Malay

Official Religion : Islam

July rainfall : 294.7 mm

(annual 2,818mm)

### Brunei Malay in a minute

Each month we introduce readers to common word as used in this country. This month the word selected is **damit**.

**Damit** means not large or smaller than usual. The word damit is equivalent to 'kecil' in standard Malay.

In Brunei Darussalam an infant is called 'anak **damit**' and not 'bayi' as in standard Malay.

The word 'bayi' in Brunei Darussalam means 'pig' for which the standard Malay word is 'babi'.

Let us now use the word **damit** in a sentence:

Brunei Darussalam is a small nation which is peaceful and prosperous.

Brunei Darussalam ialah sebuah negara **damit** yang aman dan makmur.

**THE TRAFFICKING IN AND THE ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS ARE VERY SERIOUS OFFENCES IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM AND THE PENALTY FOR SUCH OFFENCES IS DEATH.**