



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

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His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam begins the official ceremony for the building of the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah.

Brunei ruler attended official ceremony for the building of Yayasan

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to attend the official ceremony for the building of the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah or Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation, October 7.

The ceremony held at the site adjacent to the country's most renowned landmark, the Omar Ali Saifuddien mosque at the centre

Sultan of Selangor made goodwill visit



The warm handshake between His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty The Sultan of Selangor Darul Ehsan, when His Majesty made a goodwill call on the Brunei ruler at the Istana Nurul Iman, before the royal visitors return home.

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam have received a goodwill visit from His Majesty Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Alhaj bin Ibni Almarhum Sultan Hishmuddin Alam Shah, the Sultan of Selangor

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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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Editorial Staff

Chief Editor:
Mahari Haji Ismail

Senior Editor:
Aishah Mohamed

Editors
Hanafiah Mohamad
Aisah Haji Piee

Asst. Editor/Layout
Zaianit Haji Noorkhan

Photographs

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YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 15 November, 1993. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-225941 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.

Results of researches at Kuala Belalong will benefit Brunei Darussalam and other countries

The results of the various researches conducted by Universiti Brunei Darussalam's field studies centre at Kuala Belalong in the Temburong District will not only benefit Brunei Darussalam but also other countries endowed with similar forests and flora and fauna.

At the centre, various researches such as the tropical rainforests are being carried out so that these forests can be protected and sustained, the Chairman of ASEAN-COCI (Committee on Culture and Information), Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mahmud Hj Bakyr told participants of the 5th ASEAN Exchange of Journalists, 6 October 1993.

During their five-day stay in Brunei Darussalam, the Information Department, which coordinated the programme, had drawn up an itinerary which included giving participants the insights to the country's achievements and developments in the socio-economic field, education and the country's endeavour to preserve its national culture, identity and heritage which for the past two decades showed significant progress, spiritually and physically, the Chairman said.

"We are also committed to deal with the problems of environmental protection, and to deal firmly with such global problems such as drug abuse and drug trafficking."

Differences in ASEAN

More than two decades ago, when ASEAN was launched as a body for regional cooperation, the foundation for such a cooperation was on mutual respect and trust for each other's institutions such as beliefs and cultures.

"We have our differences, as a big family should, but our traditional wisdom and tolerance dictate that 'blood is thicker than water'. We always re-

gard ASEAN as an entity of a big family where differences are resolved in the manner of 'Aseaness'. We all have our own 'sensitivity' and accordingly respected the guidance to deal with such 'sensitivity'."

The 21st century

The Chairman also noted that within a short time, we would be on the threshold of the 21st century. "It is our genuine hope that a brave new world will emerge: equitable, just and prosperous - a world free from terror, brutality and poverty or starvation."

"It is heartening to note that in the economic field as reported in the recent issue of the financial magazine, Euromoney, five members of ASEAN are in the top 15 most attractive countries in Asia and the Middle East for direct foreign investments. This is another indication as some have predicted that this part of the world will become the hub of intense economic activities come the 21st century."

Information Technology

The role of the media will be crucial with the advancement of information technology, the Chairman told participants.

Because of the globalisation of communications, the world is becoming a "global village" where the word "instant" is the key to almost every human activity. Speed is the essence in the Information Age, he said.

And as an ASEAN leader recently said, a few journalists and non-journalists who controlled the powerful media will control the mind, if not the world, the Chairman concluded.

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Welcoming speech by Director, Information

In another speech by the Director of the Information Department, Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, underlined the role journalists should play in bringing about and mobilising development and progress and in creating social, cultural and political awareness among societies.

Said the Director: "We have witnessed many changes taking place in our region as well as internationally resulting from the dissemination and spread of information and knowledge by the journalists through the print and electronic media. This role of the journalists is becoming more apparent as the world is now experiencing "information and knowledge explosion" on an unprecedented scale, rendering the world a "global village".

With this development in the field of information, we in ASEAN, the Director added, are now confronting competition with more advanced countries besides being faced with bias cultural, political and social subjugation from the countries concerned.

"An unbalanced flow of information and prejudices which come from the super and medium powers outside ASEAN could bring about negative and counterproductive impact to the development and progress of ASEAN in the long run."

"This would also indirectly affect the social and political solidarity and strength of ASEAN. It is therefore imperative that the information and knowledge on ASEAN covering its socio-politics and economy which are accurate and based on the ASEAN's perspective be disseminated to the ASEAN community constantly."

Theme

In the 5th ASEAN Exchange of Journalists Programme, the theme "Education, Heritage and Environment" is a reflection of the determination and commitment of ASEAN coun-



Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail, the Development Minister and the Director of Information, Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, during a session with participants of the Fifth ASEAN Exchange of Journalists (above), while picture below shows some of the journalists from ASEAN member countries who participate in the programme.



tries in enhancing the social development, upholding the heritage of member nations as the identity of the ASEAN countries as well as their observations on global issues such as the environment and drugs.

It is also hoped that the theme would enhance awareness and appreciation of ASEAN community on the objectives and aspirations of one another, Haji Hazair said.

An understanding of the policies of education, national heritage and environment among ASEAN members would further bring about the promote respect and appreciation of one another, he added.

Differences can be resolved

While many developments and progress have been achieved by

ASEAN, differences due to differing sensitivities and priorities still exist.

However these differences and misunderstandings can be resolved, the Director stressed, if they are managed in a polite manner, and with greater understanding and good regional knowledge among ASEAN nations. All these rest on the shoulders of journalists, said he.

The Director also hoped that the programme would bring about comradeship and understanding among ASEAN journalists of the important role they play in creating and strengthening the solidarity and fraternity of the ASEAN peoples by being aware of one another's sensitivities and prides, and not through sensational writing which will only give a negative impact to ASEAN and bilateral relations among countries.



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam listening to a briefing by Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail, the Development Minister, as His Majesty tours the site of the project (left).

From page 1 (Yayasan)

of Bandar Seri Begawan, marked the beginning of the building of the Yayasan.

His Majesty was greeted on arrival by the Chairman of the Board of the Yayasan, Yang Dimuliakan Lagi Dihormati Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Abdul Rahman and elected executive committee members and members of the Board of Directors of the Yayasan.

The ceremony began with the recital to the Surah Al-Fatihah (the first chapter of the Holy Quran), led by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Iman Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Hamid bin Bakal, the state's Chief Kadi.

The monarch later visited the site of the project and viewed an exhibition on the model of the Yayasan and the development of the project.

Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah is established as an "amal jariah" (charitable work) of His Majesty and his families. It is aimed at looking after the well-being of the rakyat by contributing donation for religious, welfare and educational purposes. Apart from housing its own offices, the Yayasan will also provide spaces to be rented out to various businesses.

The fund will help the Yayasan to operate as an independent commercial body by running its own business so that the Yayasan could finance its administration and management.

The construction work for the Yayasan began in April this year and is expected to be completed by mid 1995.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam views an exhibition on the development of the project (above), and on the model of the building (below).



Brunei ruler granted audience to Senior Minister of Singapore



The visiting Senior Minister of Singapore, His Excellency Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, in conversation with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam when the Brunei ruler granted him an audience at the Istana Nurul Iman on October 11.

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, granted an audience to His Excellency Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, the Senior Minister of the Republic of Singapore at Istana Nurul Iman, October 11.

During the audience, His Majesty and His Excellency exchanged views on bilateral relations, as well as regional and international affairs, a press release issued by the Prime Minister's Office said.

His Excellency Mr. Lee Kuan Yew was accompanied during the

audience by the High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Tan Keng Jin. The visiting Senior Minister was in the country for a three-day official visit.

His Excellency's delegation included the Minister of Information and the Arts and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Brigadier General George Yeo and Minister of State for Finance and Communications, His Excellency Mr. Teo Chee Hean.

His Excellency Mr. Lee Kuan Yew and his delegation were wel-

comed on arrival at the Brunei International Airport, October 11, by Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail, the Minister of Development.

Meanwhile, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam also granted separate audiences to His Excellency's wife, Mrs. Lee Kuan Yew, who accompanied him during the visit. The audiences took place at the Istana Nurul Iman and Istana Nurul Izzah respectively.

Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha (left) and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam (right) also granted separate audiences to the wife of the Senior Minister of the Republic of Singapore, Mrs. Lee Kuan Yew.





Above: His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Alhaj, the Sultan of Selangor Darul Ehsan in cordial conversation during a goodwill call at the Istana Nurul Iman. Looking on were Her Majesty The Raja Isteri, Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri and Yang Mulia Cik Puan Hajjah Siti Aishah.

From Page 1

Darul Ehsan and Yang Mulia Cik Puan Hajjah Siti Aishah, Yang Mulia Cik Puan Besar Selangor, from October 13.

A red-carpet welcome awaited them at the Brunei International Airport where they were greeted by His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Masna, as personal representatives of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Also present at the airport were Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam and other members of the royal family.

His Majesty Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah was accompanied on the visit by an entourage that included Yang Amat Mulia Tengku Ismail Shah Alhaj, Tengku Besar Putera Selangor; Tengku Sulaiman Shah Alhaj, Tengku Penglima Diraja Selangor; Yang Amat Mulia Tengku Abdul Samad, Tengku Penglima Besar Selangor and Yang Amat Mulia Tunku Abdillah bin Tunku Adnan and other members of Selangor Darul Ehsan's royal Family.

His Majesty Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah and Cik Puan Hajjah Siti Aishah and members of the entourage then proceeded to the Istana Nurul Iman for a goodwill call on His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri. The royal visitors made a similar call before they returned home on October 15.

Their Majesties and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri also attended a dinner, hosted in honour of the royal visitors, at the Baitur Rahmah of Istana Nurul Iman.

The dinner was also attended by His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah, Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Masna, Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Nor'ain, Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam and other members of the royal family.





Above: His Majesty The Sultan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri with His Majesty The Sultan of Selangor Darul Ehsan and Yang Mulia Cik Puan Hajjah Siti Aishah at a dinner in honour of the royal visitors.

Left: His Majesty The Sultan of Selangor Darul Ehsan being introduced to members of the royal family at the Istana Nurul Iman, while the Brunei Ruler, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri, Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri and Yang Mulia Cik Puan Hajjah Siti Aishah look on. Picture bottom left, shows the royal visitors being greeted on arrival by cabinet ministers and their deputies, while HRH Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah looks on.



Above: HRH Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah and HRH Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah with members of royal families of Brunei Darussalam and Selangor Darul Ehsan at a goodwill call.



Left: Also present were YTM Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, YM Tunku Abdiyah Tunku Adnan, YTM Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Masna, YTM Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Nor'ain and YTM Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.

Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha cuts her birthday cake at a ceremony organised by the Girl Guide Association.



Provide young with knowledge in various fields: Her Majesty



Above: Her Majesty with YTM Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Masna and YTM Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam at the ceremony, while picture below shows Her Majesty presenting a prize to one of the Brownies.



Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha highlighted recently the need to provide the young with knowledge in various fields in order to develop the country.

Her Majesty pointed out that the younger generation would be responsible to promote the prosperity of the country in the future and maintain the peace and harmony which we have been enjoying. Her Majesty stressed.

Speaking at a Girl Guide Day which was also held in conjunction with her birthday, October 10, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri also stressed the need for the younger generation to place due attention to the importance of integration in the country. This sense of unity need to be instilled and preserved so that it becomes the norm in the country, she said.

At a ceremony held at the Hassanal Bolkiah Stadium in Gadong, Her Majesty further pointed out that one of the ways to promote this sense of unity and cooperation is to encourage such activity to be carried out by voluntary associations, such as the Girl Guide.

Her Majesty hoped that leaders of the association at all levels would be able to make use of the available opportunities to achieve this objective.

She also expressed the confidence that this would not be a problem for the association, as it has been established since 1951 and the leaders had been exposed to similar association at the international level, since it was accepted as an allied member of the World Girl Guide and Girl Scout Association in 1987.

Continue efforts to create awareness about importance of welfare work

Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam stressed that efforts should continue to create awareness about the importance of welfare work among members of the public in the country.

They should realise that giving due attention to the well-being of the community should not be taken as a burden, but a responsibility which [should become] a part of life and the norm in the country, said Her Royal Highness.

In a "sabda" (speech) during a Charity Night held on October 16, Her Royal Highness spoke about the increased involvement of women in welfare work. This has been due to the role played by women's associations and encouragement given to members and indirectly to their families and the society, she said.

Her Royal Highness also said that society's involvement in welfare work, has been encouraging of late. These included giving due care and support to those who are less fortunate or those involved in misfortune. At the same time, the involvement of women at various levels on matters concerning the well-being of the society has also been increasing in the country, she said.

Her Royal Highness further expressed her sympathy for the victims of the recent fire which gutted four villages in Kampong Air. She later called on all members of the society

in the country to support them by sincerely giving contribution to the victims.

The Charity Night at the International Convention Centre in berakas was organised by the Brunei Darussalam International Women's

Club as an effort to raise contribution to the country's handicapped children's association (KACA).

Her Royal Highness noted that the International Women's Club has been active in many welfare and charitable work in the country, both carried out by the club or jointly with "Majlis Wanita Negara Brunei Darussalam" (Brunei Darussalam's Women Council).

Also present were YTM Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Masna, YTM Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Nor'ain, YAM Pengiran Bini Hajjah Mazuin, YTM Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam and YTM Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Norinsan (left).



Top picture: Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam welcomed on arrival at the ICC by members of the KACA Association, while picture above shows Her Royal Highness with her daughters, YTM Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah and YTM Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah at the Charity Night.



Supplement and complement other trade-liberalising measures: Deputy Finance Minister to Asean insurance authorities

As the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) is recognised as top priority of ASEAN, which is in the preliminary stage of implementation, ASEAN insurance authorities should waste no time in its endeavour to supplement and complement other trade liberalising measures already in force:

In doing so, the Deputy Minister of Finance said today, ASEAN insurance authorities could play a significant role in the collective responsibility to dismantle unnecessary economic barriers to trade, investment and transfer of technology, in line with the aspiration to make ASEAN the prime location for foreign investment.

The Deputy Minister of Finance, Dato Paduka Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Ahmad Wally Skinner made this call shortly before officially opening the 19th Meeting of ASEAN Insurance Commissioners, Tuesday 26 October 1993 at the ICC in Bandar Seri Begawan.

"As members of ASEAN," he said explaining how ASEAN insurance authorities could play a role to dismantle unnecessary economic barriers to trade, investment and transfer of technology, "we can take pride in the fact that ASEAN has achieved considerable economic growth in the 1990s. The ASEAN economies have out-performed every other developing region, in socio-economic progress and in managing structural adjustment. These encouraging performances are attributed to liberal and outward looking policies of ASEAN countries."

While this trend is expected to continue in the near future, the long term prospects still look uncertain, he warned.

"ASEAN economies are free

marketeers. Member countries of the associations rely heavily on trade with the rest of the world and are looking forward to the successful conclusion of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations. The delay in concluding an agreement will have serious implication for this region since our economics are basically export-oriented."

"It is obvious, that notwithstanding the importance of markets in this region, the exports of the region is still heavily dependent on access to markets in Europe and the United States of America. The fortresses which have been erected across the globe may in fact reduce these opportunities."

This development, coupled with information and technological progress presses the need for more co-ordinated and integrated regional cooperation, the deputy minister said.

"We must seek greater interaction to be in the main stream of new ideas, and to keep abreast with recent development."

The last twelve months have seen considerable steps being taken by the ASEAN countries towards greater economic cooperation.

A major step in this direction was the establishment by the 4th ASEAN Head of State Summit of a programme for bringing about the ASEAN Free Trade Area which aims to create a free market of over 300 million people within 15 years. This of course is a turning point to ASEAN economic cooperation, added the deputy minister.

Cooperation in insurance

The deputy minister also congratulated the ASEAN Insurance Commissioners and the ASEAN Insurance Council for their contri-

butions in enhancing cooperation in insurance.

A number of tangible results have been achieved over the last 18 years with the successful implementation of some of the initiatives undertaken by both the regulatory bodies and ASEAN Insurance Council.

One notable example was the establishment of the ASEAN Reinsurance Corporation 1989 which since 1992 has started to underwrite the ASEAN oil and gas insurance risks. This initiative seeks to contribute to the development of ASEAN insurance capacity and is a timely response to the disarray in the global insurance markets.

These initiatives, he stressed, must however, be actively supported to avoid becoming token symbols of regional cooperation.

"On our part, Brunei Darussalam was one of the founding members of ASEAN Reinsurance. Our participation, while modest, signify our commitment to ASEAN as well as to regional economic co-operation."

There is of course considerable scope for cooperation beyond these initiatives. In an increasingly inter-dependent world, national regulators will need increasingly to have an international perspective and to work with their counterparts in others countries.

Through the annual ASEAN Insurance Commissioners meetings, he added, our respective regulatory authorities have much to learn from each others experience in developing and implementing policies for orderly domestic markets.

There is also an increasing need for regulators to communicate and work closely with their counterparts in the private sector.

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"In this light, I am pleased to learn that strong co-operation between the Commissioners, on the one hand and their private sector counterparts, namely the ASEAN Insurance Council, on the other hand has been further intensified."

Change in the global insurance industry

We cannot however, afford to be complacent with all these positive developments, the deputy minister advised. While the efforts of the ASEAN Insurance Commissioners and the ASEAN Insurance Council show commendable dynamism, great challenges loom ahead as the shape of the global insurance industry change.

These developments provide ASEAN regulators and insurers with much to think about. Thus ASEAN Insurance Commissioners should no longer confine its activity to the usual exercise of updating exchange of information and professional expertise among each other.

Rather, ASEAN Insurance Commissioners or whatever association it may assume later, should begin to focus its attention to new areas within its ambit that could provide added impetus to existing efforts towards enhancing ASEAN economic consultation and cooperation.

The deputy minister late encouraged delegates to further explore new avenue and deepen the existing cooperation with the purpose of translating these initiatives into reality.

The three-day meeting first held in Brunei Darussalam is aimed at enhancing regional cooperation in the field of insurance. Efforts undertaken by the ASEAN Insurance Commissioners and the ASEAN Insurance Council have shown good results and professional expertise and these have intensified development, discussions and cooperation in the field of insurance and the economy.

Importance of human resources programme: Development Minister

The need for more skilled manpower, especially in the technical field to ensure rapid and sustainable economic growth in the region, was highlighted recently by a Cabinet Minister in the country.

A comprehensive human resources programme, he said, especially, in the field of vocational and technical education is necessary to meet the particular demand for skilled manpower to man or service the industry, regardless of the level of economic development of the individual country.

Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail bin Pengiran Haji Damit, the Minister of Development made the remark at the opening of the SEAMEO-VOCTECH fourth Governing Board Meeting on October 11 in Bandar Seri Begawan.

The minister said, "We in Brunei Darussalam are well aware of the importance of human resources development. This issue is given strong emphasis in our current Sixth National Development Plan, together with other objectives such as widening our economic base through industrialisation, and improving our public facilities, housing, infrastructure. Indeed, the success of our economic diversification programme relies heavily on our ability to serve the need of the industry, particularly in terms of human resources."

Brunei Darussalam will require more skilled workers such as in the field of services sector, construction and other technical fields as Brunei Darussalam's economy gets more sophisticated.

The Development Minister also pointed out that there will be chal-

lenges ahead and VOCTECH will have to work hard in realising its objectives and helping member countries to promote and implement an effective and relevant vocational and technical educational programmes.

To ensure the direction in which VOCTECH takes will meet the aspirations and requirements of its member countries, strong linkages and collaboration with relevant government and non-government institutions, as well as the private sector will be required, the Minister said.

He said the rapid economic development will also mean rapid changes in the needs of the countries. This means not only will VOCTECH have to be able to respond quickly and adapt to meet these changes, but through consultations with the various institutions, VOCTECH needs to be able to predict any changes for its efforts to be effective to meet the requirement of the job market for the future.

He added: "The setting up of this Regional Centre for Vocational and Technical Education is a realisation of one of our projects in our Sixth National Development Plan. We are confident that the establishment of the SEAMEO VOCTECH Regional Centre in Brunei Darussalam will no doubt provide benefit to all member countries especially in human resources development."

Continued support is necessary to ensure VOCTECH's success especially from member countries, as well as from associate Member Countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Canada, France and Belgium, the minister concluded.

SEAMEO Regional Centre for VOCTECH



This new building, with its imposing structure is the premise of SEAMEO (Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation) Regional Centre for Vocational and Technical Education (VOCTECH), based in Bandar Seri Begawan. Voctech is one of the 12 regional centres under the flagship of SEAMEO.

Phase 1 of this \$1.5 million building was completed on July this year under His Majesty's Government expenses while Phase 11 will include renovations to the topmost floor, land-

scaping and the installation of lifts. It is expected to be opened by next year.

This Regional Centre was established on 28 August 1990 with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Brunei Darussalam and SEAMEO.

The centre will identify and help solve common problems within SEAMEO member countries in the field of vocational and technical education and focus its activities on addressing national, regional and local challenges in developing the

competencies required of labour forces to achieve and implement economic, industrial, business and labour market goals and strategies through vocational and technical education and training.

To date, SEAMEO has nine member countries comprising Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam while its associate members are Australia, Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, France, New Zealand and the Netherlands.

Brunei in Brief

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan
Land size : 5765 sq. km
Population : 260,000 (1991)
Official Language : Malay
Official Religion : Islam
September rainfall : 177.8mm
(annual 2,818mm)

PRIME LENDING RATE

September 5.75%
(quoted by Bankers' Association)

Brunei Malay in a minute

Each fortnightly we introduce our readers to a new Brunei Malay word.

As the name suggests, the word is only exclusively used in Brunei Darussalam.

We now introduce the word **lusir**.

Lusir (balusir) is to run and in standard Malay it is berlari.

In a sentence: Dia terpaksa **balusir** untuk mendapatkan bas itu.

He had to **run** to catch the bus.

**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.**