



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam newsletter

Published by the Department of Information
Prime Minister's Office

MARCH, 2013
VOLUME 28 ISSUE 3

His Majesty and Her Majesty attends Chinese New Year Celebration 2013

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 28 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamad Alam consented to attend the Chinese New Year Celebration 2013 event organised by the Tiong



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His Majesty and Her Majesty watching performances by the students of Chung Hwa school.

Brunei Darussalam – Lao People's Democratic Republic reiterate friendship



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha consented to receive in audience the Prime Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thongsing Thammavong and his spouse, Madame Bouathong Thammavong during his two-day official visit to the Sultanate.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 2 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended a four-eyed meeting with the Prime Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), His Excellency Thongsing Thammavong.

The meeting held at Istana Nurul Iman was in conjunction with the official two day visit of His Excellency Thongsing Thammavong to Brunei Darussalam from March 2 to 3, 2013.

Meanwhile in a joint statement released after the meeting states that, both leaders reiterated their commitment to further enhance the two countries' friendship for their mutual benefit as well as recognised steps that are being taken to strengthen and diversify existing cooperation.

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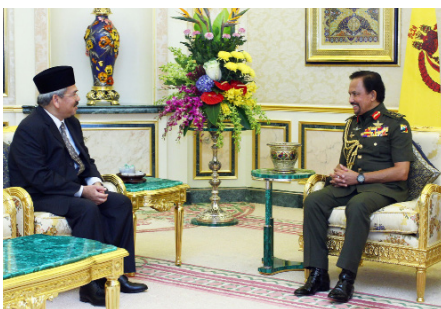
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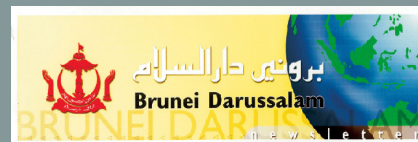
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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

is published monthly by the Department of Information. It reports on government, social and business events in the country. All money values are expressed in Brunei dollars \$, unless otherwise stated. Any information in this newsletter may be reproduced; a clipping of the publication would be appreciated. For free subscription (excluding postage) please write to the Distribution Unit, Department of Information, Prime Minister's Office, Old Airport, Berakas BB 3510, Brunei Darussalam.

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His Majesty awards state order to the Singapore Armed Forces Chief of Staff

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 5 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces consented to receive in audience His Excellency Lieutenant-General Neo Kian Hong, Chief of Defence Force, Singapore Armed Forces.

During the audience ceremony at Istana Nurul Iman palace, His Majesty awarded His Excellency the Brunei Darussalam State Order of 'Darjah Paduka Keberanian Laila Terbilang Yang Amat Gemilang Darjah Pertama (D.P.K.T.)'.

Also in attendance at the audience ceremony were the High Commissioner of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Jaya Ratnam and Commander of the 2nd Singapore Infantry Brigade, Singapore Land Force, Colonel Mark Tan.

Also attending were the Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Major General Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin; Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Paduka Haji Hamdan bin Haji Abu Bakar; and the Permanent Secretary (Defence Policy and Development), Ministry of Defence, Colonel (Retired) Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Azmansham bin Pengiran Haji Mohamad.

His Majesty Sultan The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces consented to award the Brunei Darussalam State Order 'Darjah Paduka Keberanian Laila Terbilang Yang Amat Gemilang (D.P.K.T.) to the Chief of Defence Force, Singapore Armed Forces, His Excellency Lieutenant-General Neo Kian Hong.

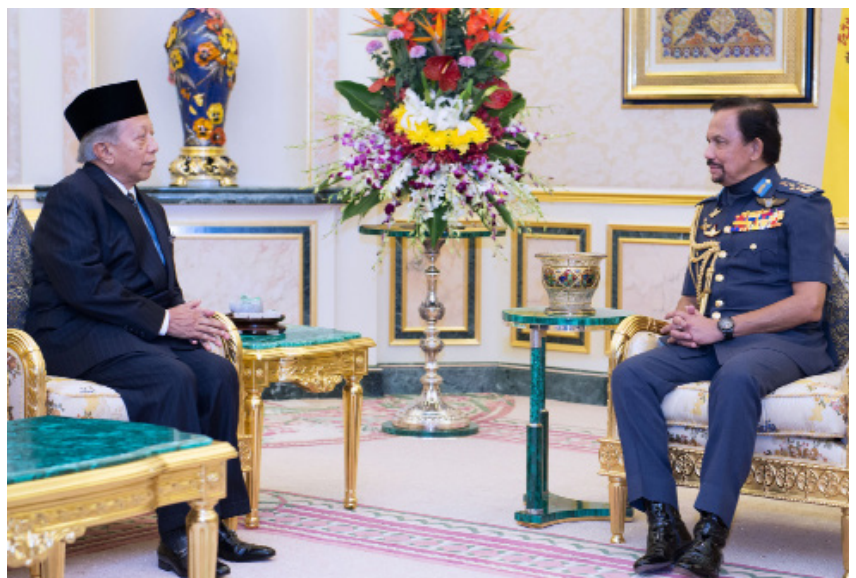


His Majesty receives audience from UIM Council President

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 5 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience President of the Malaysia Islam University Council (UIMC), Tan Sri Dr. Yusof Noor.

Also attending the ceremony was the Minister of Home Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman; the Permanent Secretary (Media and Cabinet) at the Prime Minister's Office, Awang Haji Mahrub bin Haji Murni; and the Permanent Secretary of Home Affairs, Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Affendy bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin.

Also present at the ceremony held at Istana Nurul Iman palace were the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Dato' Abdullah Sani Omar and several UIMC members.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive an audience from the President of Universiti Islam Malaysia Council, Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Dr. Yusof Noor.

His Majesty and Her Majesty attends Chinese New Year Celebration 2013

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Hwa Community of Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty and Her Majesty's arrival at Indera Samudera Hall, The Empire Hotel and Country Club, was greeted by advisors of the get-together ceremony led by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Kapitan Lela Diraja Dato Paduka Goh King Chin together with the Highest Committee of the Supreme Council.

Also attending were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince Jefri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; Her Royal Highness Princess Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and Her Royal Highness Princess Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.

Shortly after their arrival, their Majesties and other members of the royal family joined a photo session with the Highest Committee of the Supreme Council of Tiong Hwa Community Association of Brunei and was later greeted with a dragon dancing performance before proceeding to the Indera Samudera Hall.

The event started with the national anthem, followed by a Loyalty Pledge



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Saadul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamad Alam at the Chinese New Year Celebration 2013.

from the Tiong Hwa Community led by Council Committee Chairman, Dato Paduka Lim Beng Thai.

The Tiong Hwa Community pledged to be loyal to His Majesty and his government, defending the rights and sovereignty of the country based on the Malay Islamic Monarchy concept, supporting good moral values as well as the law, and increase the progress and prosperity of the country.

The event was also graced with several singing and dancing performances by the students of Chung

Hwa primary and secondary school, Bandar Seri Begawan.

Before leaving the event, His Majesty and Her Majesty as well as the other members of the royal family consented to witness an exhibition on traditional customs of the Tiong Hwa community and their way of life.

His Majesty and Her Majesty's presence in the event shows their care and concern towards the different communities in the country which includes the Tiong Hwa Community.

Brunei Darussalam – Lao People's Democratic Republic reiterate friendship

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His Majesty appreciated the significance of the visit of Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong at a time when Brunei Darussalam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

His Majesty also congratulated the Lao government for their important achievements in national development and renewal efforts and His Majesty is confident that the Lao PDR will achieve its long-term vision to successfully leave its status as one of the Least Developed Countries by 2020.

Towards the end, His Excellency conveyed his sincere appreciation towards the help and contributions extended by the government of Brunei Darussalam to the Lao PDR.

His Excellency praised His Majesty's leadership efforts in the development of Brunei Darussalam and expressed



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to attend a four-eyed meeting with the Prime Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic, His Excellency Thongsing Thammavong.

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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience the Prime Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thongsing Thammavong who is on a two-day official visit to the Sultanate.

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his strong belief that this country will succeed in realizing its Vision 2035 to be a developed and prosperous country with a main role in the regional and international scene. The leaders acknowledged with satisfaction the regular exchange of high level visits as well as at the senior officials level taking place over the years and agreed to encourage further exchanges in the future.

In recognition of the importance of enhancing people to people contacts, the leaders agreed to ensure the effective implementation of the Memorandum of Understandings on sports cooperation and cultural cooperation.

The leaders also agreed to strengthen cooperation in the area of youth development and welcomed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in this area.

Both leaders also stressed the need to enhance bilateral trade and encourage trade forum meetings as an important initiative for encouraging interaction between the business communities of both countries and as an opportunity for them to explore business opportunities in respective countries.

The leaders also exchanged views towards regional and international issues that have become mutual interests and agreed on the needs of increasing cooperation in regional and international settings.

His Majesty congratulated Lao PDR for their achievement in hosting the 9th Asia Europe Meeting Summit which took place from November 5 to 6 2012 in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic.

His Majesty also expressed confidence that the Lao PDR's recent

membership in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) will facilitate the country in its economic development efforts.

Both leaders reiterated their solid commitments to work closely with ASEAN members in building an ASEAN community and deepen the friendship between ASEAN and dialog partners.

In this regard, His Excellency affirmed Lao PDR's support in ensuring ASEAN year is a success under Brunei as the Chair in 2013.

In regards to the success, Prime Minister of Lao PDR, His Excellency Thongsing Thammavong expressed his deep appreciation before His Majesty's council for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to His Excellency and the delegations during the visit.



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha consented to receive in audience the Prime Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thongsing Thammavong's spouse, Madame Bouathong Thammavong who is on a two-day official visit to the Sultanate.

The 9th Session of the State Legislative Council officiated



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAM, March 7 - The Legislative Council (LegCo) members began the 1st Meeting of the 9th Session of the Legislative Council to discuss many issues in the interest of the country and well-being of the people.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to officiate the opening ceremony of the LegCo session which took place at the State Legislative Council Building.

Present at the opening ceremony was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, who is Ex-Officio Member of the State Legislative Council; His Royal Highness Prince

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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received the Royal Salute.





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Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ex-Officio Member of the State Legislative Council; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

Upon arrival, His Majesty was greeted by the Speaker of Legislative Council, Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Laila Utama Hj Isa bin Pehin Datu Perdana Manteri Dato Laila Utama Hj Ibrahim.

Shortly after, His Majesty consented to receive the royal salute, followed by inspecting the guard of honour, which comprised of about a hundred Royal Brunei Police Force personnel, led by Police Superintendent, Awang Haji Md. Hassan bin Pehin Penyurat Haji Awang Ahmad.



His Majesty was then ushered into the conference hall accompanied by the Speaker of the Legislative Council preceded by the royal mace carried by hall officials.

His Majesty then delivered his 9th Legislative Session titah (royal speech).

His Majesty and other members of the royal family as well as the Legislative Council members then proceeded for a group photo session.

The 9th Legislative Council Session will discuss on the 2013-2014 budget allocated for government ministries and departments and approving the budget for national development.



His Majesty arrives in the United States for official visit



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam arriving at Andrews Air Force Base, Washington D.C. for a four-day visit.

WASHINGTON D.C., UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, March 10 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam arrived in Washington DC, the United States for a four-day official visit.

Accompanying His Majesty and Her Majesty were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah.

The history of Brunei Darussalam and the United States can be traced back to 1800s when the two countries signed a treaty on friendship, commerce and navigation. The agreement still remains to this day. The United States immediately welcomed Brunei Darussalam's full independence on January 1 1984 and followed by establishing an embassy in Bandar Seri Begawan. Therefore, Brunei Darussalam has also set up an embassy in Washington D.C. following the establishment of formal diplomatic



relations between Brunei Darussalam and the United States on March 10, 1984.

Bilateral relations between the two countries continue to be increased through cooperation in the fields of defence, education, trade and energy.

Brunei Darussalam has received many visits from high ranking US officials including former President Bill Clinton

and former Secretary of State, Warren Christopher.

Throughout the formation of bilateral relations between the two countries, His Majesty has also attended the 2nd ASEAN-U.S. Summit in New York as well as the 65th United Nations General Assembly.

His Majesty satisfied with Brunei Darussalam – United States bilateral cooperation

WASHINGTON D.C., UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, March 12

- His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, in a media statement on the last day of meeting with the President of the United States, His Excellency Barack H. Obama, expressed gratitude for the invitation to the United States.

His Majesty stated that the visit gave a good opportunity to renew the friendship that existed between Brunei and America; a form of friendship established since 1850 with the signing of Treaty of Peace, Friendship, Commerce and Navigation after the U.S.S. Constitution harbored in Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty stated this in a press statement at the end of the meeting with His Excellency that took place at the Oval Office, White House.

His Majesty in his speech also expressed his satisfaction with the meeting and with the development of bilateral cooperation between the two countries especially in the areas of energy, education, defence and trade.

Both leaders were satisfied with the Five-Year English Language Programme which started last year, with the aim at targeting the ASEAN community to increase the English language proficiency in the ASEAN region.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to meet with President of the United States of America, His Excellency Barack H. Obama at the Oval Office, White House.

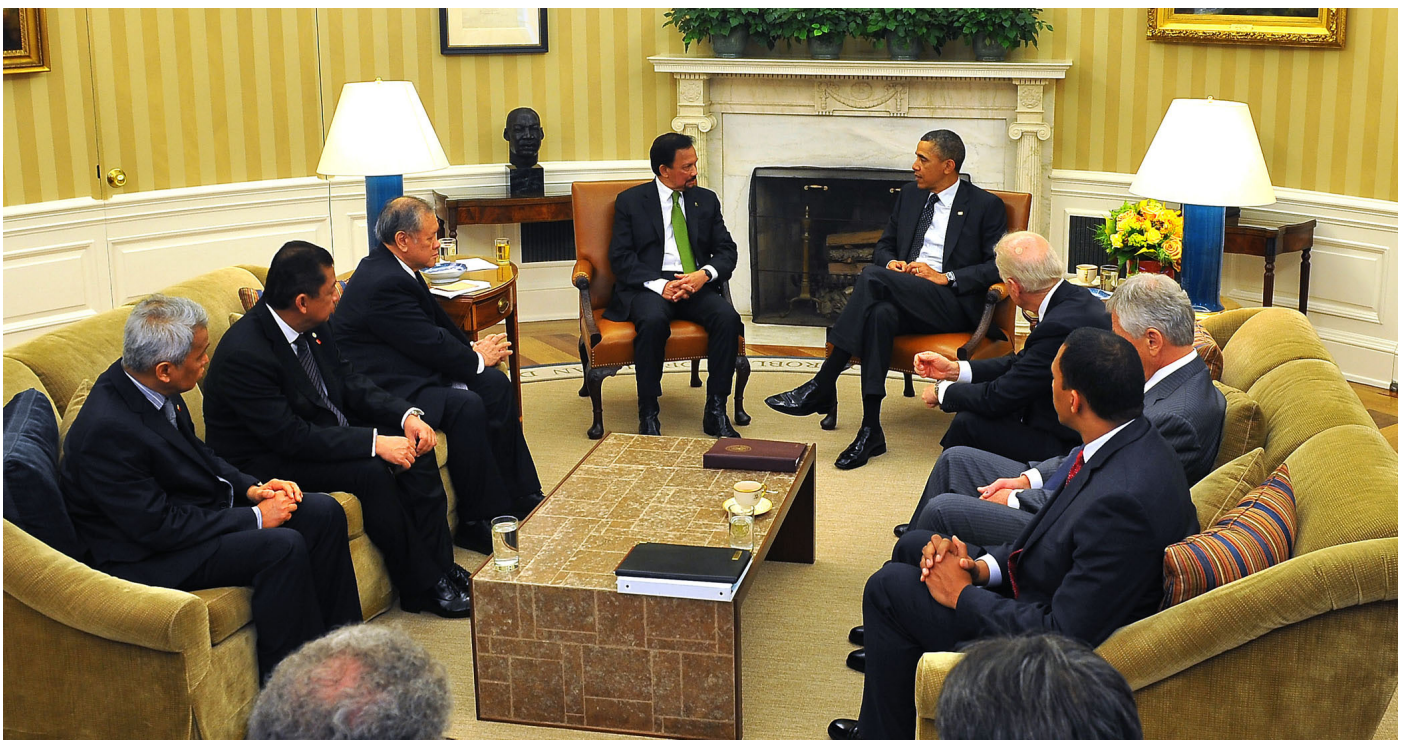
In areas of energy cooperation, His Majesty stated, several companies from United States have been active in the oil and gas sector in Brunei Darussalam in both upstream and downstream industries.

His Majesty also touched on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement that is still under negotiation, which can generate a more robust economic development.

His Majesty in the media statement also shared some national plans as chairman of ASEAN this year and invited His Excellency President Barack

Obama to the East Summit and First ASEAN-U.S. Leaders' Summit on October this year.

During the speech, His Majesty also appreciates The United State's role as a good companion to ASEAN, especially their active involvements in various ASEAN projects such as Comprehensive Energy Partnership and Expanded Economic Engagement Initiative ("E3" Initiative). His Majesty hopes that all these initiatives will expand further economic relations between ASEAN and United States.



His Majesty receives in audience the High Commissioner of Malaysia

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 20 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Dato' Abdullah Sani bin Omar.

His Excellency will be ending his service to Brunei Darussalam.

His Excellency delivered his letters of credentials to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on March 23 2011.

The ceremony was held at the Istana Nurul Iman.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Dato' Abdullah Sani bin Omar.

His Majesty receives audience from ASEAN Defence Ministries' Chiefs of Staff



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam photo with the nine Defence Chiefs of Staffs who are attending the 10th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting (ACDFIM).

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 20 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) consented to receive in audience nine Defence Chiefs of Staff who are attending the 10th

ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting (ACDFIM) held in the country on March 19 to 21 2013.

Also in attendance was the Commander of the RBAF, Major General Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin.

The ceremony took place at the Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty receives audience from ASCC Heads of Delegations



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience nine heads of delegations from ASEAN countries who are attending the 9th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Meeting.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 23 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience nine heads of delegations from ASEAN countries who are attending the 9th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Meeting.

Also attending the audience ceremony held at Istana Nurul Iman, were Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya

Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports; His Excellency Le Luong Minh, ASEAN Secretary-General; Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Adina binti Othman, Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports as well as the Permanent Secretaries of Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

His Majesty makes official visit to New Zealand

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND, March 25 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam arrived in Wellington, New Zealand for a four-day visit.

His Majesty's arrival at the Wellington International Airport was greeted by The Honourable Chris Tremain, Minister of Internal Affairs; Her Excellency Caroline Bikey, Chief of Protocol of New Zealand, and His Excellency David Pine, the non-resident High Commissioner of New Zealand to Brunei Darussalam.

Accompanying His Majesty were Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kema Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Education and Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng.

Brunei Darussalam and New Zealand established diplomatic relations on May 5 1984 and since then both countries share wide bilateral cooperation including trade, health, education and defence.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was welcomed by the Honourable Chris Tremain at the Wellington International Airport.

His Majesty attends get-together with Bruneian students in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND, March 25 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Saadul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to attend Get-Together Ceremony with the students and people of Brunei Darussalam who are staying in New Zealand.

The arrival of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was greeted by the non-residing High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam in New Zealand, Her Excellency Datin Paduka Tan Bee Yong at James Cook Grand Chancellor Hotel, Wellington.

His Majesty on this occasion also consented to deliver a *titah* (royal speech) which highlighted that students need to be highly ambitious to be specialists as this is needed by Brunei Darussalam. His Majesty also stressed the importance of aspirations to succeed in studies which is in line with Brunei Darussalam's Vision 2035, which aims to produce citizens who are educated and highly skilled.

According to His Majesty, it is an intention which needs to be realised and accompanied with hard work and will bear results and it is the responsibility of all students and citizens to understand this.

He also stressed that students should not be weak-willed and need to be highly motivated because it will be the catalyst which will decide their future to be successful or otherwise. His Majesty also advised students to be more inclined to two directions in strengthening spirit and will which is self-confidence and faith to Allah SWT, which His Majesty believes, everything would not be obtained without Allah's will once he is obeyed.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Saadul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the Get-Together Ceremony with students and people of Brunei Darussalam in New Zealand.



His Majesty consented to mingle with the students.

His Majesty also went on to advise students to seek the blessings from Allah SWT because without the blessing then all efforts would have no meaning and students should also not neglect this as they are studying, working and developing with the guidance of Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala.

A total of 86 Bruneians are studying in New Zealand, where 57 of them are students on government scholarships under the Ministry of Education; 23 students on government scholarships under the Human Resources Fund; two students on government scholarships under Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD); one government officer following in-service training; and three private students.



Brunei - New Zealand cooperate actively in various areas

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND, March 26 - As two small and peaceful countries, Brunei Darussalam and New Zealand cooperate actively in international bodies such as ASEAN, APEC, the Commonwealth and the United Nations.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Saadul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam highlighted this while delivering the *titah* (royal speech) at the State Banquet hosted by the Governor-General of New Zealand, His Excellency The Right Honorable Sir Jerry Mataparae during His Majesty's state visit to New Zealand.

His Majesty conveyed his appreciation for New Zealand as the oldest dialogue partner of ASEAN which plays an active role in international affairs.

His Majesty added that as Chairman of ASEAN this year, Brunei Darussalam will work closely with New Zealand to further enhance cooperation in the field of dialogue relations and the East Asia Summit (EAS) and acknowledge the continued support.

Earlier, His Majesty also highlighted that New Zealand is an important trading partner and expressed satisfaction with the progress that moves beyond existing agreements such as P4 and the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area on a more comprehensive participation such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which has the potential to build bridges and open new business opportunities in the private sector in East Asia and the Asia Pacific Region.

In this regard, His Majesty expressed his desire to explore potential areas such as agriculture, technical education and the environment which has become New Zealand's expertise.

Before ending his speech, His Majesty conveyed his appreciation to the people of New Zealand for the contribution to the development of Brunei Darussalam where New Zealand is remembered as a teacher, mentor, friend and colleague. He believes in the spirit of friendship between the two countries will always be linked with relations between communities.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam further expressed his appreciation to the



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered a *titah* (royal speech) at the State Banquet Ceremony at Government House, Wellington.

government and people of New Zealand for their hospitality and extended an invitation to the Governor-General and the Prime Minister of New Zealand to Brunei Darussalam.



His Majesty at the State Banquet Ceremony.



Her Majesty Raja Isteri receives audience

**BANDAR SERI
BEGAWAN, March 5**

- Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to receive separately in audience the wife of Chief of Defence Force Singapore Armed Forces, the wife of the Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Brunei Darussalam.

The ceremony was held at Istana Nurul Iman palace.

Her Majesty first received in audience wife of the Chief of Defence Force Singapore Armed Forces, Madam Jane Ng Geok Hoon.

Her Majesty then received in audience Akiko Suganuma, the wife of the Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Kenichi Suganuma.

Her Majesty also received the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Brunei Darussalam, Her Excellency Daw Yin Yin Myint.



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamad Alam consented to receive in audience wife of the Chief of Defence Force Singapore Armed Forces, Madam Jane Ng Geok Hoon; the wife of the Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam, Madam Akiko Suganuma; and the Ambassador of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Brunei Darussalam, Her Excellency Daw Yin Yin Myint.

Deputy Sultan officiates National Conference on Empowering Reading Culture 2013



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Deputy Sultan officially opened the National Conference on Empowering Reading Culture 2013.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 13 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Deputy Sultan, the Deputy Sultan consented to officiate the National Conference on Empowering Reading Culture 2013.

His Royal Highness' arrival at the conference was welcomed by the

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah.

The minister in his welcoming remarks explained that reading culture has to be developed and nurtured among citizens and residents, since reading is one of the building blocks

that is very fundamental in learning and reading culture also can upgrade the quality of life of a community and nation.

He explained that it is the first time that the conference is being held, which combines three ministries and an association that is organised jointly with Language and Literature Bureau, Department of Schools, Ministry of Education and Islamic Education Department, Ministry of Religious Affairs as well as the Brunei Darussalam Library Association.

The conference is targeted to all layers of society in the country which consist of government agencies, higher institutions, schools, private sector and the public.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Hazair explained further that the aim of the conference is to carry out the titah or commands of His Majesty The Sultan about the importance of knowledge in developing the nation as well as the realisation of Brunei Vision 2035 and support the implementation of SPN21 to a higher quality of educated life, and a dynamic and resilient economy.

The two-day conference presented 17 papers which were delivered by five overseas speakers from Singapore, South Korea, New Zealand, Australia and Japan as well as 12 papers from local speakers including the Minister of Education's keynote address.



Participants at the National Conference on Empowering Reading Culture 2013.

His Royal Highness Deputy Sultan visits NDP projects in Belait District



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Deputy Sultan officially opening the building of the Sungai Liang Tropical Forest Biodiversity Centre Project.

KUALA BELAIT, March 23 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Deputy Sultan as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the 10th National Development Plan (NDP) consented to a working visit to the NDP in the Belait district.

His Royal Highness consented to visit and officiate the Kargu Dam which was built to increase the water supply capacity for the Belait district and to reduce the risks of scarcity during the drought season.

During the visit, His Royal Highness who is also the Royal Patron of the Brunei Darussalam Heart of Borneo Initiative also officiated the Sungai Liang Tropical Forest Biodiversity Centre Project, which is one of the projects under the 9th and 10th NDP under the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.

His Royal Highness was given a tour of the laboratory and briefing on the research works regarding microbes which exist in the country's jungle biodiversity and also the school holiday programmes for students of Sultan Saiful Rijal Technical College.

The establishment of the centre is at the right time as the landmark of the rich biodiversity in the area of Borneo Island for research and development, education, and learning programmes and ecotourism.

His Royal Highness also consented to visit several



His Royal Highness given a tour of the laboratory and briefed on the research works being carried out at the centre.

other projects; the Upgrading and Renovation of Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah Secondary School, the Building of Lumut Secondary School and the National Housing Development Project in Lumut.



His Royal Highness was briefed on the Lumut / Sungai Liang National Housing Development and visited one of the completed houses. The Lumut National Housing Development consists of 1,788 houses under the 10th National Development Plan.



Deputy Sultan attends CIPTA Awards 2013



His Royal Highness consented to present prizes to the winners of the CIPTA Awards 2013.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 25 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Deputy Sultan today consented to attend the presentation ceremony of the Creative, Innovative Product and Technological Advancement Awards (CIPTA) 2013 at the Songket Ballroom, Rizqun International Hotel, Gadong.

Acting Vice Chancellor of Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB), Associate Professor, Dr. Hajah Zohrah binti Haji Sulaiman as chairperson of CIPTA 2013, in her speech explained that forty-three projects have been accepted to enter the CIPTA competition and the amount of registered participants have increased from previous years.

One of the main objectives of the competition is to encourage and recognise the talent and innovation of the invention by individuals or groups other than being a platform for talented individuals or groups to go to the next stage which is to produce products that can penetrate the regional and international markets.

The competition is hoped to have a positive impact on the efforts to support Vision 2035 for Brunei Darussalam to be



His Royal Highness viewing one of the CIPTA Awards 2013 participants' projects.

known around the world as a country that has educated and highly skilled people.

For the 1st Category (Product Invention, Process or New Technology) Stroke Meter Project created by Dayang Fatima Shad Kaneez and Dr. Hajah Fazean Irdyati binti Haji Idris won first place with a score of 84.8 percent.

While in the 2nd Category (Product Modification, Process or Existing Technology) with a score of 80.8 percent

was won by the Incubator Project with Changeable Egg Tray created by Awang Azmi bin Haji Awang Haji Ja'afar and Awang Haji Ja'afar bin Awang Besar.

While in the 3rd Category (New Creation or Product Modification, Process or Existing Technology For Young Inventors) first place with a score of 80 percent was won by the Multifunction Study Table Project, created by Awang Mohammad Aminuddin bin Ariffin of Katok Sixth Form Centre.

Overall, the projects that took part in the competition this year did not achieve an average score of 90 percent which the panel of judges unanimously ruled that there was no winner that was eligible to receive The Crown Prince CIPTA Award for 2013.

CIPTA Awards 2013, which is biennial, is the fourth competition organized by ITB in partnership with Brunei LNG Sdn. Bhd. where the first competition was held in 2005.

The theme for CIPTA 2013 is 'Achieving an Innovative Society for a Sustainable Future' in line with global efforts to address the issues of sustainability through innovative approaches.



His Royal Highness viewing one of the CIPTA Awards 2013 participants' projects.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah meets with Japan's Foreign Affairs Minister

TOKYO, JAPAN, February 28 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hjh Zariah binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam arrived in Tokyo, Japan.

His Royal Highness held an informal bilateral discussion with The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Japan, His Excellency Fumio Kishida at the Ministry of Affairs Japan building.

Also attending were His Royal Highness' daughter, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Mansurah Izzul Bolkiah; Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd. Yusof; and the High Commissioner of Brunei in Japan, His Excellency Awang Haji Mahamud bin Haji Ahmad.

Brunei Darussalam established diplomatic relations with Japan since 2 April 1984. Since then, Bandar Seri Begawan-Tokyo relations have become stronger and closer where both countries have exchange visits at the highest level including ministers and senior officers.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and His Excellency Fumio Kishida, Foreign Affairs Minister of Japan.

In addition to that, both countries also maintain cooperation in different areas which covers trade, investment, business, politics, economy, agriculture, education and culture.

Japan is Brunei Darussalam's biggest and main importer of oil and natural liquid gas since 1973 until today.

Besides this, both countries also conducted a Brunei-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (BJEPA) on 18

June 2007 which was signed by both leaders of the country, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Prime Minister of Japan at the time, His Excellency Shinzo Abe.

The aim of the BJEPA agreement was to open up more new market opportunities for products and services, while also attracting more investments between the two countries.

Goodwill visit strengthens bilateral relations between Brunei-China

BEIJING, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, February 27 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade held a goodwill visit to the Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), His Excellency Jia Qinglin.

The Meeting Ceremony took place at the Great Hall of the People, Beijing, People's Republic of China.

With this goodwill visit it further strengthens the bilateral relations between the two countries that have been long established and enhanced more with the signing of diplomatic relations that was recorded in history in 1991.

With the establishment of diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and China, it has entered a new era in the overall development and continues to expand in recent years in various fields based on understanding and respecting one another.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and His Excellency Jia Qinglin, Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

For more than 20 years, Brunei Darussalam and China have also established a close partnership in various areas including energy sector, agriculture, defense, culture and tourism.

This partnership is tightened even further through leaders and officials' visits as well as the people from both

countries.

With the existence of these special relations, it will continue to be stepped up in the future as China is an important partner to Brunei Darussalam.

Last year in April, His Excellency Jia Qinglin held a 3-day visit to Brunei Darussalam.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah meets with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Timor Leste

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 14

- His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade held a meeting with His Excellency Dr. Jose Luis Guterres, Senior Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, at Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan.

At the meeting, His Royal Highness and His Excellency discussed about bilateral issues, regional and international, including ASEAN-Timor-Leste relations when Brunei Darussalam became the chair of the regional organisation.

His Royal Highness also hosted a luncheon for His Excellency.

Also in attendance at the luncheon was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

His Excellency was in the country for a three-day visit starting from March 13 to 15 2013.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and His Excellency Dr. Jose Luis Guterres, Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste.

His Highness Prince 'Abdul 'Azim officiates the opening of Activity Centre for Elderly

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 12

- His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Wadadulah consented to officiate the Pusat Kegiatan Warga Emas (PKWE) or Activity Centre for Elderly.

His Royal Highness' arrival was greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

His Majesty's government through the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports continuously prepare the appropriate infrastructure, facilities and services for the sake of the people's well-being and welfare including the elderly.

The construction of PKWE costs as much as BND 73,068, includes two activity rooms, one multipurpose room, a kitchen, male and female toilets with ablution area, as well as a therapeutic garden on the outer area of the centre for the elderly to do their outdoor activities safely, all the aspects of the building were built according to elderly-friendly



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul 'Azim officiating the Elderly Activity Centre.

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characteristics and for easy access.

The main goal of the centre's establishment is to provide a community support center for the elderly so that they could follow activities that foster welfare, recreation and sports to encourage active ageing.

Among the goals of the centre are to meet the country's strategy to enable the elderly to continue leading an active lifestyle and being able to fill their time with beneficial activities, besides being a place for a source of activities for the elderly as well as one of the symbols of appreciation for the them.

Apart from that, it also aims for the younger generation to gain knowledge and understanding through the experience of the elderly while at the centre, in addition to helping the needs of the elderly in various aspects such as social interaction and networking and health as well as promoting their confidence to share and encourage self-help among themselves.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul 'Azim viewing the exhibition (top right) and taking a closer look at the activities done at the Elderly Activity Centre (right).



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul 'Azim arrival was greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports at the Elderly Activity Centre.

HRH Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim attends Outstanding Women Seminar



His Royal Highness Prince Abdul 'Azim ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah at The Outstanding Women Seminar held in conjunction with International Women's Day (IWD) 2013.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 26 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah attended

The Outstanding Women Seminar held in conjunction with the International Women's Day (IWD) 2013 at the DiGadong Hall, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

IWD is celebrated globally on March 8 every year in many countries as a tribute to the progress and achievements of women and to raise awareness about the importance of gender equality in the development of the nation.

The seminar was held to support the enhancement of women's roles and responsibilities in guiding, educating and developing the family and society towards a better life.

For this year, the theme for IWD 2013 in Brunei Darussalam is 'Gender Agenda: Gaining Momentum'.

Over 500 participants comprising of government officials, the Women's Council of Brunei Darussalam (MWNBD), Social Welfare Council (MKM), Women's Business Council (WBC) and the public were involved in the one-day Outstanding Women Seminar.

The Outstanding Women Seminar talk was delivered by an invited speaker from Malaysia who explained the elements of motivation intended to help women recognise their potential and build self-confidence in order to strengthen their identity as a community with quality and high integrity.

The seminar organised by the Department of Community Development is a continuation of the first stage of the celebration which was held on March 9.

Her Royal Highness attends 'Thinking Day' celebration 2013



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah during the celebration of 'Thinking Day' 2013.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 24 - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, as President of the Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam consented to attend the celebration of 'Thinking Day' 2013 at the Girl Guides

Association Headquarters in Kampung Anggerek Desa.

Also attending was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Deputy President of the Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam.

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Pengiran Hajah Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Kamaluddin, Assistant Chief Commissioner of the Girl Guides Association in her welcoming remarks said that every year Girl Guides Association and Girl Scouts around the world gather to celebrate International 'Thinking Day'.

This celebration she explained, is a special day of international friendship where Girl Guides 'think' of others.

According to her, a total of 7.6 million children worldwide die each year from illnesses such as pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria or inadequate access to health care.

"In 2013, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) will focus on five countries where Girl Guides and Girl Scouts have a long term beneficial impact in their communities. Among these countries are Ireland, Jordan, Malawi, Pakistan and Venezuela as it provides the opportunity to learn more about children and mothers survival care theme," she said.

The ceremony began with the national anthem of Brunei Darussalam, followed



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah binti Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah during the celebration of 'Thinking Day' 2013.

by an aerobic exercise, singing and skits performance, as well as a choral speaking performance.

Her Royal Highness also consented to view the Ministry of Health exhibition.

NEBARA now owns Archery Centre

JERUDONG, February 27 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, through the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) will continue to provide suitable facilities for any activities which uphold sports in this country.

In this regard, members of the Brunei Archery Association (NEBARA) can now carry out archery activities at Archery Centre Sports Complex in Jerudong.

The opening ceremony of the new Archery Centre Sports Complex was officiated by Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Adina binti Othman, Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

At the ceremony, Pengiran Haji Ali Hassan bin Pengiran Dato Haji Abas, Senior Vice President of NEBARA, in his speech said, archery is a sport with the potential in gaining medals because it is a type of sport that requires individuals' skills depending on their adequate leadership and training.

Archery, he explained, is also a favourite sport of the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam and is encouraged by Islam, even more so to Muslims.

He added that archery is not just a sports which is prestigious, but also a necessity and a capability as well as the backbone of war during the period of Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam which means that



Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Adina binti Othman, Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, at the opening ceremony of the Archery Centre at Jerudong Sports Complex.

archery requires physical and mental strength.

Through this type of sports as well, he explained, it is very suitable to be made a side leisure and with proper facilities and equipment, archery can be made into a competition.

NEBARA was established 18 years ago on 14 October 1995 with the objective to increase and encourage

archery at national and international level, alongside advancing, developing as well as raise the standards of archery in Brunei.

With the availability of this permanent Archery Centre venue, it is also hoped that NEBARA can do archery activities for the sake of advancing and developing archery in Brunei Darussalam.

Brunei Book Festival 2013 launches 48 books

Forty-eight prominent local and overseas bookstores Brunei, Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Jordan and Iran joined the festival and a total of 106 stalls were prepared by the Language and Literature Bureau as the organiser of Brunei Book Festival 2013.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, officiating the exhibition and stalls of the Brunei Book Festival 2013.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 28 - The Brunei Book Festival 2013 (BBF13) in conjunction with 29th National Day Anniversary of Brunei Darussalam with the theme 'Books Are The Future', will be held for 11 days until March 10.

The festival offers many types of books sold with discounts of up to 70 percent such as educational books, general knowledge, language, children storybooks, computers and many more.

Forty-eight prominent local and overseas bookstores from Brunei, Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Jordan and Iran took part in the festival and a total of 106 stalls were prepared by the Language and Literature Bureau as the organiser of Brunei Book Festival 2013.

Various activities will also be held throughout the festival such as Book Festival Quiz, Bruneian Words Stage Quiz, Kedayan Dialect Quiz, Get to Know our Writers Programme, Adapting Short Stories to Theatre Workshop, Cartoon Drawing Workshop and many more.

The opening ceremony of the festival was held at Indoor Stadium Hassanal Bolkiah officiated by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, who also launched 48 books and a magazine issued by the Language and Literature Bureau and a book published by the State Mufti Department.

Starting this year, Language and Literature Bureau also gives appreciation and recognition to the books produced by local writers by holding 'Hadiah Buku Terlaris' (Prize for Best Selling Book) which are published by government, private and personal publishers whether it being published in or out of the country and these are judged from the sales in 2012.

The books which were launched consist of 25 general book titles, 11 literature book titles and 12 children book titles which include the '*Syair Pertabalan Sultan Ahmad Tajuddin*' (Poem of the Coronation of Sultan Ahmad Tajuddin) and '*Integriti dan Kewibawaan dalam Perkhidmatan Awam* (Integrity and Authority in Public Service).

Starting this year, the Language and Literature Bureau will give appreciation and recognition to books produced by local writers by organizing a '*Hadiah Buku Terlaris* - HBT' (Prize for Most Books Sold) which are published by government, private and personal publishers whether it is published locally or overseas and these are judged from the sales in 2012.

With the prizes given it hopes to encourage more new writers who are more creative, and at the same time increase a more competitive book industry, the quality of writing

and publishing, encourage writers to promote and sell their books, thus support the strengthening of reading culture in this country.

This year, two best-selling books published by individuals that reached sales of 800 to 2000 copies in 2012 was chosen to receive the HBT with the title '*Amalan Rahsia dan Kehebatan Ayat Al-Quran*' (The Secrets and Greatness of the Al-Quran) by Awang Haji Mohd. Sahri bin Haji Sulaiman and '*Kampung Ayer Kenangan Abadi*' (Kampung Ayer a Living Memory) by Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Abd Latif bin Haji Ibrahim.

Among others, BBF13 aims to introduce and sell books by and for suppliers, publishers, librarians, book lovers and the general public a chance to meet under one roof and to increase appreciation towards books.

Besides that, it also gives a chance and allows people to get various book titles to be treasured as knowledge in a more simpler and comfortable place, tighten closer cooperation, business relations, and strategic planning discussions for expanding the book publishing industry in national and international level as well as being able to sharpen the mind through reading and involvement of various side activities such as talks, forums, workshops and dialogue.

The books which were launched consist of 25 general book titles, 11 literature book titles and 12 children book titles which include the '*Syair Pertabalan Sultan Ahmad Tajuddin*' (Poem of the Coronation of Sultan Ahmad Tajuddin) and '*Integriti dan Kewibawaan dalam Perkhidmatan Awam* (Integrity and Authority in Public Service).

ASEAN members to strengthen defence cooperation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 18 - Brunei Darussalam hosted the 10th ASEAN Military Intelligence Informal Meeting (AMIIM) and 3rd ASEAN Military Operations Informal Meeting (AMOIM) held concurrently at a leading hotel in Jerudong.

The meeting aims to further strengthen military cooperations between the countries of Association of Southeast Asian nations (ASEAN).

The three days of AMIIM and AMOIM is the initial stage in preparation for the 10th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting scheduled on March 19 2013.

With the theme "Securing Our People, Our Future Together", both AMIIM and AMOIM is attended by heads of Military Intelligence and Operations of the ASEAN countries.

AMIIM 2013 is the tenth series that have been carried out and this year's meeting was headed by Colonel (Navy) Haji Abd. Rahman bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji

Bakar, Director of the Intelligence Ministry of Defence of Brunei Darussalam.

Founded in 2002, AMIIM serves as an important platform in the region for military intelligence chiefs from ASEAN countries to interact and strengthen networks for sharing important information to further expand defense and security cooperation.

In addition, AMIIM also serves as the secretariat for the ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting (ACDFIM).

Meanwhile AMOIM, headed by Joint Force Commander, Royal Brunei Armed Forces, First Admiral Dato Seri Pahlawan Abdul Aziz bin Haji Mohd. Tamit was also held in separate venues to review the ASEAN military activities in the past year in terms of humanitarian operations and to establish an action plan for the years to come.

ASEAN consists of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

ASEAN Defence Ministers arrive for the 10th ACDFIM Meeting

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 19 - The Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) will host the 10th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ACDFIM) from March 19 to 21 2013 with the participation of ASEAN Defence Ministers.

Brunei Darussalam will be led by Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Commander of RBAF.

ACDFIM is a forum of transparent discussion for ASEAN Defence Ministers in showing goodwill towards enhancing further ties of friendship and sharing experiences and achievements of each country with the aim of increasing multilateral military cooperation in maintaining regional peace, safety, stability and development, humanitarian assistance,

relief operations and many more related interactions.

Organised every year, the three-day meeting is an informal meeting, preceded by the 10th ASEAN Military Intelligence Informal Meeting (AMIIM) and 3rd ASEAN Military Operations Informal Meeting (AMOIM) held on March 18 2013.

The conclusions of this meeting are expected to be finished by the continued commitment at regional cooperation level in line with this year's theme, 'Securing Our People, Our Future Together'.

The first ACDFIM was held in the Republic of Indonesia in 2001 and each of the ASEAN countries has hosted this annual meeting in a rotation.

Brunei hosted the 2nd ACDFIM for the first time in 2003.