



Participate in global networks, upgrade productivity and opportunities

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 31 - In the economic context, the forecast for growth in 2019 is predicted to be better. But we should not be complacent or satisfied easily, because there are still many challenges to face. Among the main concerns is the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam highlighted the matter in his *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with the New Year 2019.

His Majesty added, the effective measures to deal with the economy are our participation in the global network to increase productivity and opportunities, by ensuring that we are able to fulfil the prerequisites for standards and regulations, besides trying to adapt ourselves with digital technology.

This requires Brunei to enhance cooperation with other nations. In the global economic network, Bruneians have to take the existing opportunities, including in the ASEAN region, where the ASEAN e-trade has the potential to increase from USD 30 billion in 2016 to USD 200 billion by 2025.

"The technological advancement brought about by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, however, will challenge our conventional skills that require the development of our existing skills and lifelong learning," His Majesty stressed.

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with the New Year 2019.

Get-Together with Brunei citizens and residents in the UK and Ireland

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, December 22 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul 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 Mohamed Alam graced the Get-Together Ceremony with citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam, especially students who are currently in the United Kingdom (UK) and Ireland and the conferment of Universiti Brunei Darussalam Scholarship 'The Chancellor's Scholar'.

The ceremony took place at London Hilton on Park Lane, London, UK.

Accompanying Their Majesties at the ceremony were Their Majesties' sons and daughters, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkih and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkih.

Upon arrival at London Hilton on Park Lane, Their Majesties proceeded to the Wellington Ballroom for a High Tea Reception. Before proceeding for a photograph session, Their Majesties signed a commemorative parchment.

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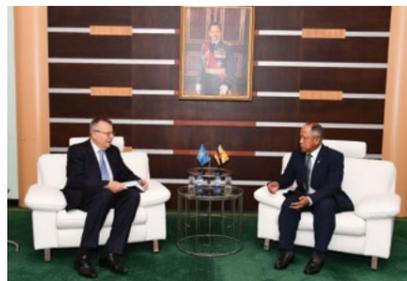
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EMAIL US AT: info.dept@information.gov.bn

EDITORIAL Advisory Board:

Mawardi Haji Mohammad
(mawardi.mohammad@information.gov.bn)

Hajah Noorashidah Haji Aliomar
(noorashidah.aliomar@information.gov.bn)

Editor:

Saadiatul Nur Aqilah Haji Jamain
(aqilah.jaman@information.gov.bn)

Sub-Editor:

Nor Hanizah Haji Abd Halim
(hanizah.halim@information.gov.bn)

Translation

Translation Unit

Layouter:

Khairul Shahrir Haji Abdul Ghafor
(shahrir.ghafor@information.gov.bn)

Proofreader:

Siti Faizahanisah binti Awang Mahani
(faizahanisah.mahani@information.gov.bn)

Photographs

Photography Unit of Department of Information

General inquiries

Tel: (673) 2383 400/ext English Publications
Fax: (673) 2382 012

Information Department

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His Majesty receives audiences

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, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman:



Yang Berbahagia General Tan Sri Dato' Seri Panglima Haji Zulkifli bin Haji Zainal Abidin, Chief of Defence Force of Malaysia on December 4.



Her Excellency Nagma Mohamed Mallick, the outgoing High Commissioner of the Republic of India to Brunei Darussalam on December 4.



Her Excellency Yang Jian, the outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam on December 4.

Her Majesty receives audience

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to receive in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman:



Her Excellency Yang Jian, the outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam on December 4.

His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

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 send congratulatory messages to:

- His Highness Sheikh Kalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates; and to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister, Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Defence, the United Arab Emirates, members of the Royal family and the Government as well as people of the United Arab Emirates, on the occasion of their National Day on December 2.

- His Excellency Bounnhang Vorachith, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; and His Excellency Doctor Thongloun Sisoulith, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Government as well as the people of the Democratic Republic on the occasion of their 43rd National Day on December 2.

- His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayarakun, The King of Thailand and to His Excellency Retired General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand as well as to the people of the Kingdom of Thailand on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand on December 5.

- His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan and His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan as well as the Government and People of Japan on the occasion of His Majesty Akihito's 85th Birthday Anniversary on December 22.

His Majesty sends message of condolences

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 has consented to send message of condolences to:

- His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia following a tsunami incident in Sunda Straits on December 23.

His Royal Highness receives audience

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah received in audience at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan:



Her Excellency Yang Jian, the outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam on December 4.

Participate in global networks, upgrade productivity and opportunities (continued)

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From such far-reaching economic effects, His Majesty said we need to provide appropriate policies for regional and international cooperation.

In the context of relations with ASEAN countries, His Majesty emphasised that it is for Brunei Darussalam to strive towards the process of building the ASEAN Community, by doing so, we will be able to ascertain the success of the present and future generations.

His Majesty added that the ASEAN region is moving fast towards economic growth. It is expected to be the fourth-largest economy globally by 2030. Towards this, we need to multiply the efforts to empower intra-ASEAN trade.

His Majesty stressed that the internal measures should not be neglected. We will continue to move forward to achieve our targets, in other words, the needs of the country and people are the highest priority.

"We see this with a broader perspective for the long-term. For instance, when we talk about 'green earth', what we mean is to achieve self-sufficiency in agriculture."

"This is our target or aspiration. We will uphold it until we succeed. The relevant parties in the government should understand this without any other reason to ignore it," said His Majesty.

His Majesty added we must be consistent to march forward and not step backwards. This is what we mean by developing with full spirit and determination. It is very crucial to ensure that the people are not plagued with 'lazy syndrome' and that it is important that Bruneians to not stray from decent values that have become our foothold for centuries, which is the Malay Islamic Monarchy (MIB) philosophy.

"In conclusion, to mark this New Year 2019, I urge citizens and residents to strengthen their determination and efforts to become a more proactive and productive society with integrity to face future challenges," said His Majesty.

His Majesty also expressed appreciation to all levels of staff in the public service, security teams and the private sector for their sincere efforts in executing their tasks and responsibilities throughout 2018.

"My family and I also wish a Happy New Year 2019 to all citizens and residents, including those working abroad, and we pray for Allah the Almighty to bless us all with strong faith, health, peace and prosperity for all," said His Majesty.

Get-Together with Brunei citizens and residents in the UK and Ireland



His Majesty delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the Get-Together Ceremony.

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Their Majesties and royal family members then proceeded to Grand Ballroom for the Get-Together Ceremony with citizens and resident of Brunei Darussalam especially students who are currently in the UK and Ireland, and the Chancellor's Scholar's students.

The ceremony began with the signing of national anthem of Brunei Darussalam, followed by recitation of verses from the Al-Quran and its translation. A *Doa Selamat* (thanksgiving prayer) was recited by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.

The ceremony continued with an opening remark by Awangku Mohammad Hisyam Al-Yura bin Pengiran Haji Zainal Abidin, President of Brunei Students Union in UK and Ireland. On behalf of the citizens and residents especially students currently studying in the UK and Ireland, he conveyed his pledge of unwavering loyalty and allegiance to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

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Their Majesties during the meet-and-greet with citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam.



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; Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah in a group photo with the scholarship recipients and their family members.

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His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) highlighting the need for students to return to Brunei Darussalam after completing their studies in shouldering together the responsibility of developing the country in which His Majesty was made to understand the some scholarship students have refused to do so.



His Majesty and Her Majesty during the meet-and-greet with citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty also announced changes to the Scholarship Allowances for students studying in the UK and Ireland starting on the 1st of January 2019.

During the ceremony, His Majesty consented to confer the Universiti Brunei Darussalam's 'The Chancellor Scholar' for 2018/2019 session to Adeline Poh Wern Jihn (PhD in Organic Chemistry), University of Oxford and Siti Nurhazimah binti Awang Mahmud (MSc Advanced Mechanical Engineering), Imperial College London.

At the ceremony, Their Majesties received a *pesambah* (souvenir) from the President and the Vice-President of the Brunei Students' Union in the UK and Ireland. The ceremony also featured several performances presented by the Brunei Students' Union.

Their Majesties then consented to meet and greet more than 1,700 citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam who are currently in the UK and Ireland, comprising of students who also came from France, government officials as well and those on vacation.

The presence of Their Majesties at the ceremony reflects continuous attentiveness towards the welfare and well-being of the students as well as citizens and resident who are currently in UK and Ireland. It is hoped that this ceremony will provide an opportunity for them to interact closely with Their Majesties which will motivate them to succeed in their studies and at the same time preserve their identity as Bruneians who are rich in the culture of the Malay Islamic Monarchy concept (MIB).



Her Majesty during the meet-and-greet with citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam.



Launching of Brunei December Festival 2018



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 and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office participating in the cycling recreation.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 2 - The first Brunei December Festival (BDF) that was held last year has attracted over 90,000 visitors and became the starting point in organising the similar festival. This time, the festival will be enlivened with 60 events in hopes to make the school holidays livelier as well as to attract more tourists to Brunei Darussalam.

BDF this year is organised by the Brunei Tourism Board in cooperation with the Ministry of Home Affairs; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism; Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Religious Affairs; and Ministry of Communication, as well as foreign embassies and high commissions in Brunei Darussalam, strategic partners and event organisers which aimed to make Brunei Darussalam a first choice holiday destination for local and tourist.

Thousands of people from all walks of life flocked Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien to witness 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 officially launch the BDF 2018 and take part in the cycling recreation in the capital.

Accompanying His Majesty were His Majesty's sons and daughter, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah.



His Majesty taking a closer look at the longest braided rice during the exhibition tour.

His Majesty and members of the royal family led the 11.5 kilometre cycling around Bandar Seri Begawan. The route include Jalan Masjid Omar 'Ali Saifuddien, Jalan Kianggeh, Jalan Sekolah, Jalan Kumbang Pasang, Jalan Perdana Menteri, Jalan Haji Basir, Jalan Sultan and ended at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien.

After completing the course, His Majesty and members of the royal family toured the exhibition at the event – among others was the display of the longest braided rice (*Jalinan Kelupis Terpanjang*) in Brunei Darussalam, which measures over 212 metres, as an attempt to gain recognition in the Brunei Book of Records and Guinness World Records.

The launched marked the start of the BDF 2018 events which will be held in all four districts featuring various activities and sales.



His Majesty launching the Brunei December Festival 2018.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah during the cycling recreation.

1st ASEAN Rover Moot Opening Ceremony

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 12 - The Brunei Darussalam Scouts Association (PPNBD) for the first time in history is hosting the 1st ASEAN Rover Moot 2018 which begins today until the 17th of December.

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, who is also the Honorary Patron of World Scouting, officiated the 1st ASEAN Rover Moot at the Youth Centre.

Accompanying His Majesty were His Majesty's sons and sister, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office as the Chief of Scouts of the Brunei Darussalam Scouts Association; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



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, Honorary Patron of World Scouting, officiating the opening of the 1st ASEAN Rover Moot.



His Majesty presenting a token of appreciation to one of the head of contingents of the 1st ASEAN Rover Moot.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah interacting with regional scout leaders.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna.

The event which coincides with 85 years of scouting in the country and the Centenary celebration of the World Rover Scouts movement (1918 - 2018), gathered around 300 Rover Scouts between 18 to 26 years old from ASEAN countries and the Asia Pacific Region.

During the ceremony, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam conferred the Highest Decorations of the Brunei Darussalam Scouts Movement to several local and regional Scout Leaders, and Brunei International Friendship Award to several regional Scout Leaders from Asia-Pacific.

The gathering this year comprises Rover Scout members from seven ASEAN countries; Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Singapore, Republic of the

Philippines, Kingdom of Thailand and Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

The gathering aims to mould the personality and identity of the youth through community activities, foster and strengthen relations and friendship between the country Rover Scouts and their peers from the ASEAN and Asia Pacific Regions.

Other objectives include sharing knowledge and experience besides interacting directly among the Rover Scouts as well as introducing socio-culture of the countries and Brunei Darussalam as a tourist destination.



ASEAN Rover Scouts present at the 1st ASEAN Rover Moot Opening Ceremony.

Closing Ceremony of the 1st ASEAN Rover Moot



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah in his capacity as Chief Scout of the Brunei Darussalam Scouts Association presenting the Scouts of the World Award to recipients (above and below).

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 17 - The 1st ASEAN Rover Moot 2018 which successfully gathered youths from the ASEAN Scout Association and was held from the 12th of December carried out activities that benefit the participants, to broaden the mind and to provide knowledge on leadership that can build on their self-confidence.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Deputy Sultan, in his capacity as the Chief Scout of the Brunei Darussalam Scouts Association graced the Closing Ceremony of the 1st ASEAN Rover Moot which took place at the Youth Centre.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health as the Acting Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports and Awang Haji Metusin bin Orang Kaya Sura Haji Tuba, President of the Brunei Darussalam Scouts Association in his welcoming speech among other matters said that the activities carried out during the Rover Moot ran smoothly as planned.

Meanwhile, Haji Awang Badar bin Haji Awang Ali, Chief Commissioner of the Brunei Darussalam Scouts Association as the Camp Commandant in his 1st ASEAN Rover Moot report presented four categories of activities held, which aimed at Sustainable Development Goals as recommended by the United Nations (UN) and agreed by member countries in September 2015.

The four categories were exploration and physical; culture and arts; community service and environment.

The gathering with the Out Reach concept conducted simultaneously in the four districts has provided the participants and local communities to interact directly in various fields in country's community life.

At the ceremony, His Royal Highness presented the Sultan Scout Award, the Baden Powell Award and Scout of the World Award.

The Sultan Scout Award was presented to 12 Venture Scouts of the Brunei Darussalam Scouts Association. It is the highest award for Venture Scouts. Recipients of the Sultan Scout Badge are those who are eligible and recognised by the Brunei Darussalam Scouts Association after they have completed a course and tests among them Venture Scouts leadership, First Aid as well as carrying out more than 48 hours of community service.



His Royal Highness during the meet-and-greet session with the ASEAN Scouts Associations.

Eight members received the Baden Powell Award which is the first to be awarded to members of the Brunei Darussalam Scouts Association. The award recipient criteria are passes in four badges in the Rover Scout Training Scheme including the nationhood badge which is directed to the Malay Islamic Monarchy concept. Apart from that recipients need to obtain badges covering physical, scout and life skills, entrepreneurship and service.

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HRH Prince 'Abdul Wakeel takes part in Tree Planting activity

JERUDONG, December 6 - His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah took part in the Tree Planting activity at the Jerudong International School (JIS) Middle Years Garden with 14 students of year 7.

This year, the Forestry Department, Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism have contributed 166 trees to the school.

Eco-JIS, one of the school's proactive group which involves many aspects of environmental education, aims to inspire the younger generation to create a healthy sustainable future. The work of the team will be contributed to the school's Environmental Management Policies.

As part of the school's commitment towards education for sustainable development, Eco-JIS has set up the Award Winning Outdoor Discovery Centre (ODC) at the school. The ODC is an outdoor classroom, located in a tropical heath forest area managed by a group of students under the guidance of dedicated teachers.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah taking part in the Tree Planting activity.

The ODC is used by classes and co-curricular activities on a regular basis, which enables students to improve their knowledge about the natural environment,

to use concepts and skills that they learn from various subjects, as well as to enable students to practice their teamwork and leadership skills.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel in a group photo with other Jerudong International School students during the tree planting activity.

Closing Ceremony of the 1st ASEAN Rover Moot (continued)

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Five members received the Scout of the World Award which is also the first to be awarded to members of the Brunei Darussalam Scouts Association. The award is a World Scout Movement Programme focusing on Rover Scouts globally. Three core matters contained in the award are environment, development and peace.

The Scouts of the World Award is to encourage active involvement of rover scouts aged between 18 and 26 in community building by making them more aware toward current global issues, as well as to provide youths a platform to become global citizens.

His Royal Highness presented certificates of participation to

the contingents that took part in the 1st ASEAN Rover Moot in Brunei Darussalam.

His Royal Highness then officiated the closing of the 1st ASEAN Rover Moot.

The 1st ASEAN Rover Moot gathered about 350 participants from 18 to 26 years old from ASEAN Member countries and Asia Pacific region including Brunei Darussalam, Philippines, Republic of Indonesia, Cambodia, Malaysia, Republic of Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The gathering with theme of 'One ASEAN, One Community in Scouting' was held in conjunction with the 85th Anniversary of the Scout Movement in the country and the 100th anniversary of World Rover Scout Movement.

Road users should together be responsible in reducing road accidents



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the Royal Patron of the National Road Safety Council (MKKJR) presenting a certificate of appreciation to one of the main sponsors for the Road Safety Awareness programme (left) and (right) Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna touring the exhibition.

JERUDONG, December 1 - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the Royal Patron of the National Road Safety Council (MKKJR) in her *sabda* (royal speech) stated that 2010 recorded 26 road accident fatalities and this number increased to 29 in 2017, of which 19 people were aged between 19 to 38 years.

road safety action plans were launched.

In support of the UN initiative, Her Royal Highness said that Brunei Darussalam also launched the Blueprint Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020), an action plan which includes many initiatives implemented by the MKKJR with various parties, with one of its goal is the reduction of death rate by 35 per cent by 2020.

"I have been told that special road safety information dissemination sessions will be organised for the youth, seeing that we welcome nearly 7,000 new drivers every year, and most of them are youths," Her Royal Highness added.

Her Royal Highness further said, according to investigations by the MKKJR and related agencies, most of the accidents that occurred in recent years involve victims who do not use safety belts, which are the passengers in front and back. Thus, knowledge about 'preventable causes of injuries and fatalities' should be instilled among drivers and passengers.

Research from Centre for Transport Research (CFTR), Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB), in 2016 showed that only three per cent of rear passenger wears safety belts. This number decreases 11 per cent recorded from the previous year.

According to WHO, Her Royal Highness pointed out that wearing safety belts can reduce the risk of death from road accidents by up to 50 per cent for front passengers, and 75 per cent for rear passengers.

During the ceremony, Her Royal Highness presented the Road Safety Programme Contribution Appreciation Award to private companies and stakeholders. This includes the Brunei Shell Petroleum Sdn. Bhd.; Brunei



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna delivering her *sabda* (royal speech).

Shell Marketing; Brunei Insurance Takaful Association (BITA) and Brunei Darussalam Motorcycle Association (PEMODA).

Highlights at the ceremony include the launched of the 'Tell Everyone' campaign, which focussed on seven road safety aspects: Using seatbelt when driving; Do not use mobile phones while driving; Adhere to speed limits on the road; Do not drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs; Use appropriate helmets and suits for cyclists and motorcyclists while on the road; Be wary of road users who are vulnerable like runners and pedestrians; and Ensure that the vehicle's tyres are always in good condition and safe to use.

The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is celebrated on the 3rd Sunday in November every year, which aims to remember road accident victims and their families. This year's celebration carried the theme 'Roads Have Stories'.

Before leaving the event, Her Royal Highness toured an exhibition of various agencies involved in the Road Safety Week 2018.

Qatar National Day Reception

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 10 - The embassy of the Sultanate of Qatar held a reception in conjunction with the Sultanate of Qatar's National Day celebration at the Songket Ballroom, Rizqun International Hotel.

Representing the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as the guest of honour were Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs and spouse, Datin Hajah Nahriah binti Haji Hasbi.

The event commenced with the national anthems of both countries and recitations of verses from the Al-Quran by guest Qari, Mohamad bin Ali.

This was followed with a cake cutting ceremony by the Minister of Religious Affairs and Datin; Mr. Abdulla Majed A E Al-Jassim, the Qatar Charge d'Affaires; Mr. Mahmood Khamis Mohamed Al-Hinai, Charge d'Affaires of the Sultanate of Oman; and



The Minister of Religious Affairs and Datin with Mr. Abdulla Majed A E Al-Jassim, the Qatar Charge d'Affaires; Mr. Mahmood Khamis Mohamed Al-Hinai, Charge d'Affaires of the Sultanate of Oman; and Mr. Ali Al-Astad, Charge d'Affaires of Kuwait during the cake cutting ceremony.

Mr. Ali Al-Astad, Charge d'Affaires of Kuwait.

Darussalam and Qatar continues to strengthen with the establishment of cooperation agreements and memorandums of understanding.

The diplomatic tie between Brunei

Brunei - Korea, together in diversifying economy



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism delivering his speech at the seminar.



Her Excellency Yoon Hyun-bong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam delivering her welcoming remarks.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 5 - In addition to enhancing tourism products and identifying new tourism investment opportunities, Brunei Darussalam is also progressing in terms of enhancing connectivity to draw more tourists to the country.

For example, with the 145 per cent increases in Korean arrivals received in 2017, compared to 2016, Royal Brunei Airlines has introduced three times weekly flights to Incheon, Korea which will help further increase two-way tourism arrivals into Brunei Darussalam and Korea.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism shared the matter in a speech delivered at the Brunei - Korea Joint Economy Cooperation Seminar at the Design and Technology Building in Kampung Anggerek Desa.

According to the Minister, statistics for the month of January to August this year show that there have been 5,444 Korean tourists who came to visit Brunei Darussalam, giving a boost to the tourism sector, specifically for golfing at The Empire Hotel and Country Club. This is due to the promotion and hard work from travel agent, Sinar Tour Sdn Bhd.

Thus, the Minister hopes that with more connectivity and cooperation between the airlines, travel agents and hotels, we will be able to see further increase in Koreans visiting Brunei and with longer stays in the country to enjoy the attractive packages that Brunei has to offer.

Another area Brunei tourism made progress in was the establishment of duty-free shop at the Brunei International Airport, set up by SBC Sdn. Bhd. in May this year providing departing passengers at the airport a better shopping experience by offering variety luxury goods.

The Minister added that Korea is one of Brunei's major trading partners, with transactions concentrated mainly in oil and gas exports from Brunei to Korea, adding that Brunei would like to welcome more prospective Korean investors in the area of tourism; ICT and manufacturing; agriculture and fisheries.

According to the World Bank's Doing Business Report 2018, the Minister explained that Brunei has been named as the most improved economy in the world for three consecutive years in the Ease of Doing Business.

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Brunei - Korea, together in diversifying economy (continued)



The Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism and Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with other officials at the seminar.

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The significant improvement in these ranking reflects the serious commitment of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam towards creating a pro-business environment that will enable the diversification of the country's economy.

The combination of Brunei's strategic location, decent infrastructure, political stability, highly educated workforce, preserved forest, low pollution and business environment reforms, enables Brunei to thrive as a competitive investment destination in the ASEAN region.

Meanwhile, Her Excellency Yoon Hyun-bong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam in her welcoming remarks, said that

economic cooperation between Brunei and Korea is dominated by oil, gas, machinery such as cars and smartphones, and believe it is time for both countries to work together and try to diversify the economy.

In addition, the understanding of each other's culture and economic climate makes it feasible to promote new businesses.

The one-day seminar was organised by the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism with the cooperation of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, the Brunei Economic Development Board and Darussalam Enterprise.

The seminar aimed to promote business exchanges between Brunei and Korea, enhance cooperative businesses and facilitate the joint venture between the two countries.

Share pilot projects for agriculture productivity



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism during the bilateral talk between the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism of Brunei Darussalam and Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative of the Kingdom of Thailand (left) and (right) His Excellency Dr. Wiwat Salyakamthorn, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand during the bilateral talk.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 19 - Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) said Brunei Darussalam and the Kingdom of Thailand have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism of Brunei Darussalam and the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative of the Kingdom of Thailand effective until March 24, 2020.

According to the Minister, the MOU covers a broad scope of cooperation which includes Brunei Halal Initiatives in Agri-Business and Agriculture (animal, fisheries, plant, irrigation, land management and cooperatives development, cooperation and coordination) with the relevant international and regional organisation and other related areas of interest that are mutually agreed by both parties.

"I hope with His Excellency Dr. Wiwat Salyakamthorn's visits to some local rice field (Wasan, Batang Perhentian and Limau Manis); and Sibongkok and Imang Dam agricultural sites, it would

give a glimpse of the development and challenges that Brunei Darussalam currently face in the efforts to increase agriculture production through improvement of crop productivity," said the Minister during a bilateral talk between MPRT and Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative of the Kingdom of Thailand held at Dewan Setia Pahlawan, MPRT.

The Minister also hope that they will be able to identify and determine possible projects that both countries can focus under the MoU.

According to the Minister, through this bilateral talk will be able to share plan to develop a 500 hectares rice production area at Kandol, Belait District and hoped that Kingdom of Thailand, may consider participating in the Kandol rice production project, through a business-to-business arrangement.

At the discussion, Government of Thailand was led by His Excellency Dr. Wiwat Salyakamthorn, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand.

Courtesy call from UNODC's Director



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence and Chairman of the National Security Committee with Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Director - General of the United Nations Office in Vienna.

BERAKAS, December 5 – Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence and Chairman of the National Security Committee received a courtesy call from Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Director - General of the United Nations Office in Vienna, holding the rank as Under-secretary

General of the United Nations.

During the meeting, the Second Minister of Defence welcomed Mr. Yury Fedotov to the country and both parties exchanged views on issues related to UNODC's mandates and activities in Southeast Asia, including combating drug and human trafficking, cyber crime, corruption and other violence.

Malaysia's Chief Defence Forces pays courtesy call

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 4 - Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence received courtesy call from Yang Berbahagia General Tan Sri Dato' Seri Panglima Haji Zulkifli bin Haji Zainal Abidin, Chief of Defence Forces of Malaysia, who is in Brunei on a three-day introductory visit.

Upon arrival at Bolkiah Garrison, the Chief of Defence Forces was accorded with a guard of honour comprising of the Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF) personnel.

During the courtesy call, the Second Minister of Defence highlighted both defence establishments' extensive cooperation over the decades and praised the close and long-standing bilateral relationship bolstered through regular exchange of visits, dialogues, meetings, military exercises, courses, defence exhibitions and various interaction and development programmes.

The Second Minister of Defence also congratulated His Excellency on his appointment and expressed hopes to progress both countries' defence relationship further.

Yang Berbahagia also made a call to Major General Pengiran Dato Paduka Seri Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).

Both armed forces have held various interactions through various platforms of cooperation, such as high-level visits, bilateral and multilateral exercises, professional exchanges, and training courses, which have resulted in their close professional relationships and camaraderie.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, Second Minister of Defence (right) and Yang Berbahagia General Tan Sri Dato' Seri Panglima Haji Zulkifli bin Haji Zainal Abidin, Chief of Defence Forces of Malaysia (left) during the courtesy call.

Yang Berbahagia also delivered a lecture session at the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies titled 'Leadership Leading the Change'.

Yang Berbahagia was appointed as the 20th Chief of Defence Force of Malaysia on 20th of June 2018. Prior to his appointment, he was the Vice-Chancellor of the National Defence University of Malaysia.

Brunei - Japan strengthens bilateral ties

JERUDONG, December 3 – The close ties between Brunei Darussalam and Japan is not only limited in economy and culture exchange, but also between the royal family of Brunei and Japanese Imperialist family as one of the foundation that strengthens the bilateral ties between the two countries.

The Emperor and Empress of Japan attached great importance to the close ties between Brunei and Japan by showing their support at the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam in Tokyo to write a congratulatory message to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's Accession to the Throne on the 5th of October 2017.

His Excellency Motohiko Kato, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam spoke at a dinner reception to celebrate His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of Japan's 85th birthday at the Indera Samudera Grand Hall, The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

His Excellency also shared the development of Japanese companies that actively contribute to the diversification of the Brunei's economy in various sectors including in energy, methanol, biotech and fish processing.

According to His Excellency, the positive relations between Brunei and Japan can be continued with the involvement of Brunei's youth in cultural and sports exchange through the JENESYS programme.

With direct flights from Brunei to Tokyo which began in March 2019, His Excellency hopes that Brunei will be able to visit Japan to enjoy the beauty and hospitality provided by the country.

Representing the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the reception was



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy and spouse, and His Excellency Motohiko Kato, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam during the cake cutting ceremony in conjunction with His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of Japan's 85th birthday anniversary.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy, and spouse.

The highlight of the event was the cake cutting ceremony in conjunction with His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of Japan's 85th birthday anniversary by the Minister and His Excellency Motohiko Kato.

The event was enlivened with a video promotion of the Tokyo Olympics 2020, a performance by the National Judo Federation of Brunei Darussalam and a traditional dance 'Sorani Bushi' from the Brunei Japan Friendship Association UTB Chapter.

The exhibition of products from Japan's companies based in Brunei Darussalam was also held.

Singapore Food Festival brings Kampung-Style Singaporean Cuisine

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 1 - In conjunction with the Brunei December Festival (BDF), Royal Brunei Catering (RBC) through Horizons Seafood Restaurant brought back the Singapore Food Festival which offers a variety of culinary dishes from invited chefs from the Republic of Singapore.

In collaboration with the Singapore High Commission in Brunei Darussalam, Singapore Tourism Board and Baiduri Bank Berhad, Singapore Food Festival this year introduced the cuisine of Hajah Maimunah Restaurant, one of the Singapore's renowned restaurants.

The Singapore Food Festival held at Horizons Seafood Restaurant was launched by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy.

Awang Haji Jeff Hadiman bin Dato Paduka Haji Danial, General Manager of RBC in his welcoming remarks said that this is the second year RBC joined BDF by bringing culinary dishes from famous Malay restaurant in Singapore.

The Singapore Food Festival is one of the initiatives to promote 'staycation' in Brunei and to attract tourists from aboard to this year's BDF.

Locals and tourists can expect sumptuous spreads of both



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy launching the Singapore Food Festival.

traditional and contemporary Singaporean Malay flavours at the festival.

From the 1st to the 16th of December, diners can enjoy over 80 authentic Kampung-Style Singaporean Cuisine such as the Nyonya Curry Laksa, Nasi Lemak Singapore with sambal sotong, Singapore Hainanese Chicken Rice and many more.

Brunei - China expand economic cooperation



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy delivering his speech at the event.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 18 - The establishment of the Brunei-China One Belt One Road Association (OBOR) is another effort to expand economic cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and People's Republic of China.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy explained the matter at the Swearing-in ceremony for the Brunei-China OBOR 2019-2021 session held at Tarindak D'Seni.



Her Excellency Yang Jian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam delivering her speech at the Swearing-in ceremony for the Brunei-China OBOR 2019-2021

The Minister explained, over the recent years, Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China have taken many steps forward in strengthening the bilateral cooperation. Such as, the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between both countries on the establishment of a Joint Steering Committee which has put in place a mechanism for regular consultations at the Ministerial level.

Jackson Ting Jack Hing, President of the Brunei-China Belt and Road Association in his remarks pointed out Brunei-China OBOR's vision is to make a positive contribution through OBOR Initiatives to promote Brunei's socio-economic development.

Therefore, OBOR's mission is to establish a platform in order to encourage and foster business, trade, investments and cultural exchanges between Brunei and China, he added.

Meanwhile, Her Excellency Yang Jian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam said the establishment of the Association represents another effort of the private business community in Brunei Darussalam to expand economic cooperation and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries.

29 new committee members of Brunei-China OBOR were sworn in at the ceremony witnessed by the Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy, and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam.

The ceremony proceeded with the signing of seven MoUs and Cooperation Agreements, namely, the Cooperation Agreement between E-Oceanic Products Sdn Bhd and Guangxi Nanyang Marine Technology Co Ltd; the signing of the Scholarship Agreement from Guanxi Beibu Gulf University and Brunei-China OBOR Association; an MoU for the International Kids Week between Beijing Haixiu International Conference and Exhibition Company Limited with D'Sunlit Sendirian Berhad; an MoU between the China Educational Channel (CECTV) and the Brunei-China OBOR Association, for the establishment of the Brunei Office and International Communication University; an MoU for CECTV to award scholarships to Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam; an MoU on the Brunei-China Tourist Strategic Cooperation between New Element (Beijing) International Travel Company Limited and Brunei-China OBOR Association; and an MoU between Block Chain Technology and Halal Product Platform.



The signing of the Cooperation Agreement between E-Oceanic Products Sdn Bhd and Guangxi Nanyang Marine Technology Co Ltd.

10th BIMPNT-EAGA Friendship Games 2018 Opening Ceremony



Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports declaring the opening of the 10th BIMPNT-EAGA Friendship Games 2018.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 7 - The 10th BIMPNT-EAGA Friendship Games 2018 opened its curtains with the Opening Ceremony which took place at the Indoor Stadium of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex.

Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports attended the event as the guest of honour.

The ceremony began with the march-past of all contingents taking part in the 10th BIMPNT-EAGA Friendship Games accompanied by the marching band of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).

The first march-past was from contingent of the Republic of Indonesia which consisted of South Sulawesi and West Sulawesi; followed by contingent from Malaysia comprising Sabah, Sarawak and the Federal Territory of Labuan; contingent from the Philippines consisted of Mindanao and Palawan; contingent from Northern Territory, Australia; contingent from Brunei Darussalam comprising Brunei Darussalam 'A' and Brunei Darussalam 'B' and followed by technical officers.

Datin Paduka Dr. Hajah Norlila binti Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Jalil, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports as the Chairman of High Committee 10th BIMPNT-EAGA Friendship Games 2018 in her welcoming remarks said it is a privilege for Brunei Darussalam to host the 10th BIMPNT-EAGA Friendship Games 2018.

The highlight of the ceremony was the opening of the 10th BIMPNT-EAGA Friendship Games 2018 declared by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

The Minister was then introduced to the heads of contingent and exchanged

souvenirs, followed by the BIMPNT-EAGA Flag Hoisting Ceremony which was brought in by six athletes who excelled in past BIMPNT-EAGA Friendship Games.

The ceremony proceeded with the reading of the sports oath led by Awangku Rafidi Adi Hamizal bin Pengiran Nasir. He represents taekwondo and won a gold medal in the Poomsae event in the 8th Princess Cup Championship in Thailand and gold medal in the Individual Poomsae event in the 5th Annual Poomsae Championship 2018 Brunei Darussalam.

Meanwhile, the reading of the technical officers' oath was led by Harjimey bin Haji Zainal, representative from the Brunei Amateur Swimming Association (BASA) and also a FINA swimming official.

The ceremony was further enlivened with the Welcoming Athletes and Martial Arts performance by a group of Brunei Darussalam's youth.

The edition of the BIMPNT-EAGA Friendship Games this time features eight sports events – aquatics, lawn bowl, karate *do*, *athletics*, pencak silat, sepak takraw, taekwondo and wushu.

The total number of athletes, officials and coaches from 10 contingents are 795 participants and there are 272 medals up for grabs which include 87 gold, 87 silver and 98 bronze.



The contingent from Brunei Darussalam during the march-past.

Brunei-Thailand bilateral relation remains strong and thriving



Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youths and Sports and spouse together with other Heads of ASEAN Member States during the cake cutting ceremony in conjunction with the Kingdom of Thailand's National anniversary.

JERUDONG, December 5 - The close relationship between Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand is reflected with the exchange visits made by the royal families of the two countries, in which the latest was the arrival of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, the Princess Royal of the Kingdom of Thailand in Brunei Darussalam in November.

The matter was highlighted by Mr. Rooge Thammongkol, Charge d'Affaires of the Royal Thai Embassy in Brunei Darussalam at a reception on the occasion of the Kingdom of Thailand's National Day, held at the Indera Samudera Grand Hall of the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

According to Mr. Rooge Thammongkol, Brunei Darussalam and the Kingdom of Thailand share common attributes especially in terms of respect for the monarchy and 2019 will become the 35th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the two countries.

For citizens of Thailand, the 5th of December is a very special day for remembering three important events; the birthday anniversary of His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand, and Thailand Father's

Day.

The Charge d'Affaires also touched on the bilateral relationship between Brunei Darussalam and the Kingdom of Thailand, which continues to remain strong and thrive through cooperation for mutual benefits in several areas such as agriculture, education, halal food, culture and tourism.

Present on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youths and Sports and spouse.

The Minister and spouse were subsequently invited to join a cake cutting ceremony in conjunction with the Kingdom of Thailand's National anniversary together with other Heads of ASEAN Member States.

The event was enlivened with stage performance by citizens of Thailand residing in the country and a mini gallery of photo exhibition, which displayed the close relations between the royal families of Brunei Darussalam and Kingdom of Thailand.

AG receives Director of UNODC

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 5 – Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hairol Arni bin Haji Abd. Majid, Attorney General received a courtesy call from Mr. Fury Fedotove, Executive Director of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Director - General of the United Nations Office in Vienna at the Law Building.

During the meeting, the Attorney General and Mr. Yury Fedotov exchanged views concerning the combating of transnational crime as well as discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in addressing the phenomenon.

Yang Berhormat Attorney General Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hairol Arni bin Haji Abd. Majid presenting a token to Mr. Fury Fedotove, Executive Director of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Director - General of the United Nations Office in Vienna at the Law Building.



Conferment of RBAirF Honorary Pilot Wing

RIMBA, December 3 – Air Chief Marshal Chaiyapruk Didyasarin, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF), has been conferred with the Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF) Honorary Pilot Wing. The conferment was with the consent of 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, the Minister of Defence and the Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).



Air Chief Marshal Chaiyapruk Didyasarin and Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence during the courtesy call.

The award was presented by Major General Pengiran Dato Paduka Seri Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, Commander of the RBAF presenting the Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF) Honorary Pilot Wing to Air Chief Marshal Chaiyapruk Didyasarin, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF).

The conferment of the award was in recognition for his service in advancing the ties between the RBAirF and the RTAF.

Upon arrival at the RBAirF Base, Air Chief Marshal Chaiyapruk Didyasarin was received with the honorary salute by a guard of honour comprising personnel from the RBAirF.

Whilst in Brunei Darussalam, Air Chief Marshal Chaiyapruk Didyasarin also

paid a courtesy call to Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence. During the courtesy call, both parties welcomed the good defence relations between the two countries. The relations fostered through regular bilateral interactions such as exchange of visits, military exercises, training and courses as well as multilateral interactions such as those under the framework of ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM).

Air Chief Marshal Chaiyapruk Didyasarin was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the RTAF on the 1st of October 2018.



Major General Pengiran Dato Paduka Seri Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, Commander of the RBAF presenting the Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF) Honorary Pilot Wing to Air Chief Marshal Chaiyapruk Didyasarin, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF).

Brunei's universities explore utilising Panasonic's patented technology

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 6 - The Embassy of Japan in Brunei Darussalam hosted a Statement of Intent (SOI) signing ceremony between Panasonic Corporation, a Japanese leading electronic consumer appliances company, and two local higher education institutes, Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) and Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

His Excellency Motohiko Kato, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam said that Panasonic and the universities will commence the pilot project immediately, hoping to find the best scheme for collaboration to boost the competitiveness of Bruneian start-ups and contribute to the empowerment of SMEs in the country.

The signing ceremony that was held at the Embassy of Japan were signed by



Mr. Yoshiaki Tokuda, Director Intellectual Property Centre, Panasonic Corporation and Haji Ady Syarmin bin Haji Md. Taib, Assistant Vice-Chancellor of UTB during the signing ceremony.

Mr. Yoshiaki Tokuda, Director Intellectual Property Centre, Panasonic Corporation; Pengiran Dr. Mohamad Iskandar bin Pengiran Haji Petra, Assistant Vice-Chancellor of UBD; and Haji Ady

Syarmin bin Haji Md. Taib, Assistant Vice-Chancellor of UTB. The signing ceremony was witnessed by His Excellency Motohiko Kato.

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JPMC receives ARROW Award



The awardees in a group photo at the 2nd ASEAN Red Ribbon for Outstanding Workplace (ARROW) Award ceremony and Forum.

KUALA LUMPUR, December 7 - The Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC) was one of seven ASEAN private companies recognised and awarded at the 2nd ASEAN Red Ribbon for Outstanding Workplace (ARROW) Award ceremony and Forum for their remarkable actions to prevent and control HIV in the workplace, raise HIV awareness of workers and promote non-discriminatory policies and environment for workers with HIV and AIDS.

The ARROW Award is an initiative under ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Plan of Actions 2016 – 2020. The Award gives recognition to companies in every ASEAN member state for their remarkable initiatives to create a safe and healthy working environment through HIV/AIDS awareness, corporate social responsibility (CSR) and prevention programmes for their employees.

The 2nd ARROW Award Ceremony 2018 was hosted by the Malaysian Ministry of Human Resources at Kuala Lumpur on the 21st of November 2018. The Arrow Award Ceremony 2018 launched with an opening remark by His Excellency Kung Phoak, Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio Cultural Community, followed by another opening remark by His Excellency Kula Segaran, Minister of Human Resources of Malaysia.

His Excellency Kula Segaran and His Excellency Kung Phoak then presented certificates and trophies to the awardees.

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Under the pilot project, Panasonic and the two universities will explore the possibility of utilising Panasonic's patented technology to develop product prototypes for local start-up companies.

The underlying idea is to combine the profitable business models of Bruneian entrepreneurs, the developing potential of the universities, and the advance technology of the Japanese company to create new and competitive products.

The pilot project will also consider ways to create an innovation ecosystem in Brunei, and to understand the elements necessary for such ecosystems.



Mr. Yoshiaki Tokuda, Director Intellectual Property Centre, Panasonic Corporation and Pengiran Dr. Mohamad Iskandar bin Pengiran Haji Petra, Assistant Vice-Chancellor of UBD during the signing ceremony.

The award to JPMC was received by Dr. Muhammad Hiza Wardy bin Haji Abdul Halim, General Practitioner at JPMC. He was also invited to share his experiences in implementing policies and programmes on HIV/AIDS prevention and control in their workplace.

Prior to the awarding ceremony, Brunei Darussalam presented its national BCA and local cases on HIV/AIDS during the first meeting of the ASEAN-Business Coalition on AIDS (BCA), held on the 22nd to 23rd of November 2018. The programmes and activities that involve the national BCA includes raising awareness, charity work and World AIDS Day campaigns.

In the light of raising awareness on HIV/AIDS, the involvement of stakeholders in Brunei, gathered to combat HIV/AIDS as the funding for supporting various awareness campaigns, were mostly raised by local communities.

The 2nd Arrow Award Ceremony and Forum was later followed with a closing speech by the Malaysian ASEAN-BCA Coordinator, and was concluded with dinner.

The Jerudong Park Medical Centre is widely renowned for being the only private specialist hospital and the first hospital to be accredited by the Joint Commission International (JCI) in the Sultanate since 2014. JPMC has been awarded their second accreditation in 2017 by the Joint Commission International, the 1st for any health institution in the country.

RB launches flight to Taipei



Mr. Karam Chand, RB's Chief Executive Officer and other officials during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 3 – Royal Brunei Airlines (RB) held an official launch of its inaugural flight to Taipei with a blessing ceremony at the Brunei International Airport. The flight was operated with a special livery A320neo aircraft which showcased the very best of Brunei Tourism.

The national carrier of Brunei Darussalam will operate the new route with China Airlines (CI) on a codeshare basis. The RB and CI codeshare flights will allow both airlines' guests to purchase their flights to and from Brunei and Taipei with the route operated by RB under both RB and CI flight number for seamless travel connections.

Mr. Karam Chand, RB's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) said, RB is very pleased to have CI as codeshare partner to operate new route. Through this code share partnership, RB and CI guests will be able to enjoy the convenience of a seamless travel experience between both cities.

"We warmly welcome CI guests on board our flight which will be operated using one of our game-changing A320neo aircraft. Both RB and CI guests can look forward to the cabin features from the aircraft, including our signature RB service known for our Bruneian warm hospitality and unmatched level of in-flight entertainment (IFE) with more than 1,000

entertainment content to enjoy on demand at every seat.

We recently welcomed our seventh A320neo aircraft this November, allowing us to operate largely new technology aircraft and giving us the benefit of having one of the youngest fleet in the world with average age of just two years. We hope to delight our guests with an enhanced journey experience whenever they step on board our modern aircraft," he said.

RB first flew to Taipei in 1986, and RB is excited to re-connect Bandar Seri Begawan with the vibrant city of Taipei once again. Taipei is projected to be a key tourism and trade market for Brunei as well as a major contributor to RB's network.

With this new route, RB have strengthened its regional network and enable increased connectivity options for its guests through the marketing of their single and dual destinations packages in all the cities they serve, including new destinations such as Kuching which will operate effective on the 28th of December 2018.

Su-Chien Hsieh, President of China Airlines said that the carrier has a longstanding partnership with RB and had previously been RB's ground handling agent for airports in Taiwan. CI and RB

will now start code-sharing for the first time on non-stop flights between Taipei and Bandar Seri Begawan, a move that will help boost ties between the two regions.

The partnership between CI and RB will take advantage of Brunei's development potential and help build a more comprehensive global network. Travellers from Southeast Asia and Northeast Asia are likely to make Taiwan their new transit hub as well. The boost in product coverage and competitiveness will provide travellers with a greater range of flight options.

RB earlier held a promotion event in Taipei on 1st and 2nd of December this year with RB's International Brand Ambassador, Wu Chun, in conjunction with the new TPE flight. The event included a Destination Brunei marketing campaign where Wu Chun took part in activities with thousands of fans and visitors at the event venue to promote and attract new tourists to Brunei Darussalam.

The inaugural flight from Brunei landed in Taipei Taoyuan International Airport at 1.45 p.m. hours and the delegation was led by Mr. Martin Aeberli, RB's Chief Commercial Officer which included a group of 48 Bruneian students who will be attending the 2018 Compatriot Youth Taiwan Tour to explore the local culture.

Exercise Mallee Bull enhance Brunei-Australia military cooperation

TUTONG, December 15 - Exercise Mallee Bull 2018 was concluded with a closing ceremony at Benutan Tutong. The exercise took place from the 7th to the 17th of December 2018 and involved total of 28 personnel from the 2/30th Training Group, Australian Army led by Lieutenant Mark Vincent Vele, and 60 personnel and three officers from B Company, 2Bn of the RBLF led by Captain Abdul Hakim bin Arifin.

The exercise was conducted at Kampong Benutan and in three phases, with the first phase being the administration and the Force Integration Training; the second phase, the Search and Destroy Operations; and the last phase, Administration and Recreation.

Exercise Mallee Bull 2018 continues to be a significant platform for strengthening defence diplomacy and enhancing the military-to-military cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Australia. It also allows for the integrated deployment of ground troops from both armies to enhance interoperability, and provides an opportunity for the training and improvement of the skills of military personnel of both countries in the planning and implementation of infantry operations.

The closing ceremony was officiated



Colonel Khairil bin Haji Ismail, Royal Brunei Land Force Chief of Staff and Brigadier Peter Moore, Commander of the 13th Brigade Royal Australian Army releasing arm bands to mark the conclusion of the exercise.

by Colonel Khairil bin Haji Ismail, Chief of Staff RBLF and Brigadier Peter Moore, Commander of 13th Brigade Royal Australian Army. Also present during the ceremony was Miss Carol Allnut, Deputy Head of Mission, Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Hauser, Assistant

Defence Advisor and Lieutenant Colonel Pengiran Mohammad Shamsul Reza bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Tengah, Commanding Officer of 2Bn RBLF. The previous Exercise Mallee Bull was held in 2010.



Personnel from the RBLF and Australian Army at the closing ceremony of Exercise Mallee Bull 2018.

Darat Gas Project expected to produce up to 2 million m³ gas per day



The Darat Gas Project team celebrating the significant achievement of producing the first gas three months ahead of schedule.

KUALA BELAIT, December 26 - Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn. Bhd. (BSP) recently completed a new onshore Darat Gas Project three months ahead of schedule. This is a significant milestone in the further development of this mature onshore asset which has still large potential based on our current subsurface studies incorporating the latest 3D seismic results acquired recently. The gas will be piped offshore to the AMPA09 gas processing platform and exported to Brunei LNG plant in Lumut.

“Darat Gas is expected to supply around 5 per cent of Brunei LNG’s feedstock in coming years - it is a major step towards growing our gas production from onshore fields,” said Norsalina Wati Haji Abidin, Darat Asset Manager.

This project incorporates the results of the state of the art Rasau 3D Seismic Survey, acquired in 2015 to provide a good

assessment of the complex geology of the field. The project is expected to produce up to 2 million m³ per day of gas through a new gas processing facility located near the existing Rasau production station.

Strong coordination and meticulous preparation across teams in BSP and business partners – as well as engagements with the local community - helped make it possible to produce first gas earlier than planned. In total around 300 BSP staff and contractors worked on the project.

“We are really grateful for the cooperation from the residents of Kampung Sungai Teraban and government agencies in Belait District who have been supportive from day one of the project but also the day to day operations in Rasau,” said Suffian Zainal, Senior External Relations Advisor from BSP.

Global economy expected to grow 3.7 per cent

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 24 - Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD) published its bi-annual policy statement for the second half of 2018. In its Policy Statement 2/2018, AMBD noted that the global economy is expected to grow 3.7 per cent in 2018 and 2019. The domestic economy declined by 0.05 per cent year-on-year in the first half of 2018. AMBD’s inflation forecast for 2018 is maintained within the lower half of the 0 per cent to 1 per cent range. AMBD inflation forecast for 2019 is in the range of 0 per cent to 1 per cent with potential downside risks to the forecast if global inflationary pressures remain weak.

AMBD also highlighted that licensed financial institutions continue to have strong fundamentals underpinned by high levels of capitalisation, strong liquidity and improved profitability. AMBD issued a number of Notices this year to enhance investor protection and confidence in capital markets.

AMBD as the depository for the Brunei Government Sukuk Al-Ijarah, was appointed by the Association of National Numbering Agencies (ANNA) as the National Numbering Agency (NNA) for Brunei Darussalam. AMBD issued Notices on

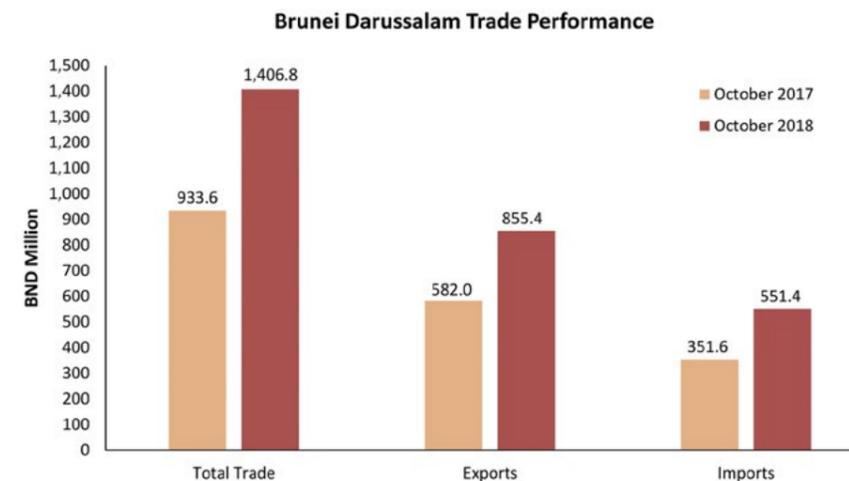
Conventional and Syariah-compliant Overnight Standing Facilities to support effective and efficient liquidity management for the banks. The instruments and operations in relation to the framework are strictly consistent with the Currency Board principles as Brunei Darussalam remains fully committed to the Currency Board Arrangement, and the Currency Interchangeability Agreement with the Republic of Singapore.

AMBD will introduce a registration framework for all life insurance/family takaful agents carrying out insurance/takaful agency business with effect from the 1st of January 2019. AMBD issued a Notice on Syariah Governance Framework to ensure that the operations and financial instruments offered by financial institutions are Syariah-compliant and follow international best practices in Islamic finance.

Finally, in the recent Doing Business Report 2019, the World Bank acknowledged the implementation of the national credit scoring system, known as Bureau Credit Score, by the Credit Bureau of AMBD. Brunei Darussalam achieved the full score and ranked first out of 190 economies in the Getting Credit indicator, sharing the top spot with New Zealand.

Total trade increased 50.7 per cent in October 2018

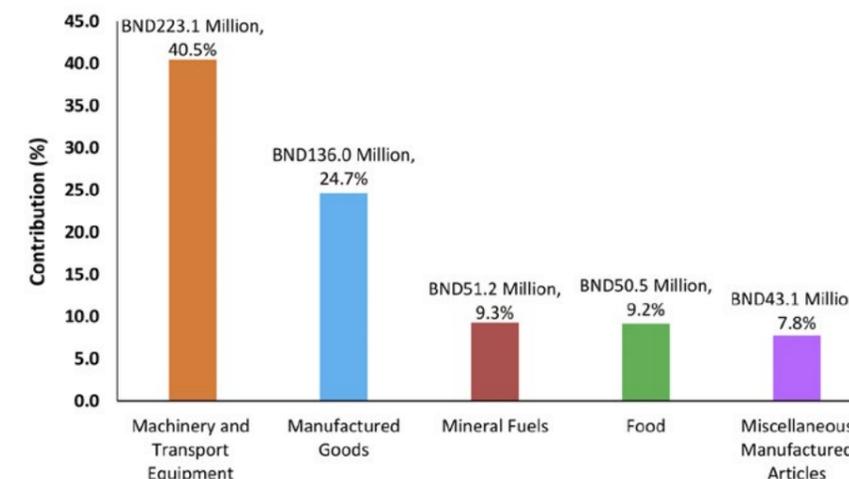
Total trade in October 2018 increased to BND1,406.8 million compared to BND933.6 million in October 2017, representing an increase of 50.7 per cent year-on-year.



Total exports increased by 47.0 per cent year-on-year to BND 855.4 million (October 2018) from BND 582.0 million (October 2017). This was mainly attributed to the increase in the exports of Crude Oil and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). Exports of Crude Oil rose by 28.9 per cent year-on-year due to an increase in the average price from USD 59.52 per barrel to USD 82.49 per barrel. Meanwhile, exports of LNG rose by 60.7 per cent year-on-year due to an increase in export volume from 861,566 MMBtu per day to 877,559 MMBtu per day and an increase in the average price from USD 7.30 per MMBtu to USD 11.38 per MMBtu.

Total imports of goods increased by 56.8 per cent year-on-year to BND 551.4 million (October 2018) from BND 351.6 million (October 2017). The five main import commodities were Machinery and Transport Equipment (40.5 per cent), followed by Manufactured Goods (24.7 per cent), Mineral Fuels (9.3 per cent), Food (9.2 per cent), and Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles (7.8 per cent).

Five Main Imports Commodities, October 2018

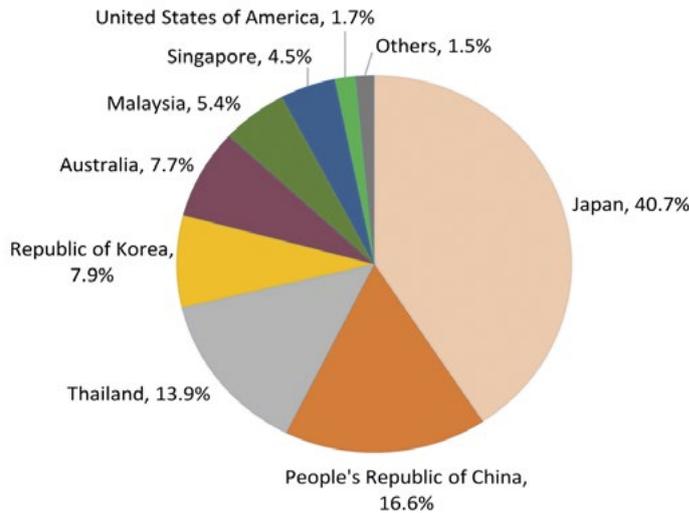


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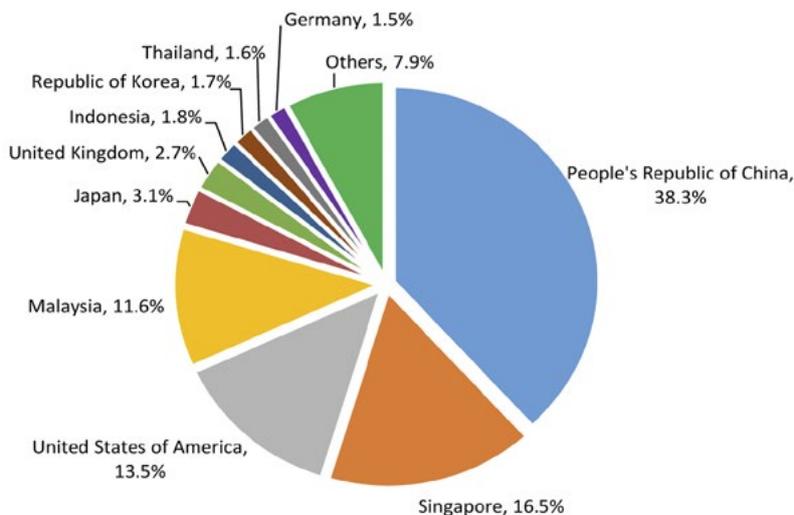
In October 2018, the largest export market was Japan with 40.7 per cent, followed by the People's Republic of China (16.6 per cent) and Thailand (13.9 per cent).

Percentage Share of Exports by Country of Destination, October 2018



For imports by country of origin, the highest share came from the People's Republic of China with 38.3 per cent, followed by Singapore (16.5 per cent) and the United States of America (13.5 per cent).

Percentage Share of Imports by Country of Origin, October 2018



The International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) for Brunei Darussalam adopts the General System for recording trade statistics, which covers imports, domestic exports, and re-exports. The IMTS full report for October 2018 is available from DEPD's website at www.depd.gov.bn.



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