



# برونى دارالسلام

## Brunei Darussalam

# Brunei Darussalam newsletter

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## Increase in self-employment contributes to the improvement of living standards

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 15** - 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 in a *titah* (royal speech) expressed happiness and was pleased to know that the living standard in the country has risen.

His Majesty stated the matter in a *titah* at the Audience and Investiture Ceremony in conjunction with His Majesty's 73rd Birthday Celebration which took place at the Istana Nurul Iman.

In the *titah*, His Majesty touched on the household income that has increased by an average of 4.3 per cent over the last five years based on the Household Expenditure Survey 2015-2016 report.

Such increase was also recorded for the monthly income per capita of 26.4 per cent. A contributing factor to this increase includes self-employment income from business activities.

However, His Majesty acknowledged that there is still room for improvement. For instance, the implementation of programmes under the National Development Plan should be improved in all sectors. The country also requires the



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 delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the Audience and Investiture Ceremony in conjunction with His Majesty's 73rd Birthday Celebration.

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## HIS MAJESTY'S 73<sup>rd</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



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 at the Grand Royal Birthday Parade.

## Grand Royal Birthday Parade full of tradition

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 15** - The 73<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Celebration 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 was celebrated gloriously beginning with the Grand Royal Birthday Parade.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to attend the traditional Grand Royal Birthday Parade at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien in the capital.

Accompanying His Majesty was His Majesty's son, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

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1. Increase in self-employment contributes to the improvement of living standards



8. Audience Ceremony with Special Guests



11. Banquet for uniformed organisations enlivens His Majesty's Birthday Celebration



12. Get-Together and *Junjung Ziarah* with citizens and residents in all four districts



16. His Royal Highness witnesses Jungle Warfare Demonstration RJWS 2019



17. Launching of Guidebook of Thai Restaurants in Brunei Darussalam



18. Brunei - Cambodia Defence Relations strengthen



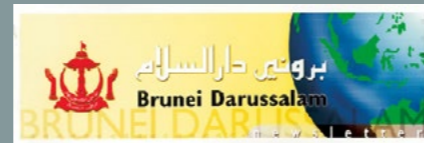
19. Brunei - Indonesia sign MoU on Health Cooperation



20. RB launches return flight to Brisbane & RB Link Flights



22. Celebrate people-to-people connections



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### BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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EMAIL US AT: [info.dept@information.gov.bn](mailto:info.dept@information.gov.bn)

#### EDITORIAL Advisory Board:

Mawardi Haji Mohammad  
([mawardi.mohammad@information.gov.bn](mailto:mawardi.mohammad@information.gov.bn))

Haji Shahrul Jeffri Dato Paduka Haji Ibrahim  
([jeffri.ibrahim@jpm.gov.bn](mailto:jeffri.ibrahim@jpm.gov.bn))

#### Chief-Editor:

Saadiatul Nur Aqilah Haji Jaman  
([aqilah.jaman@information.gov.bn](mailto:aqilah.jaman@information.gov.bn))

#### Sub-Editor:

Hajah Zaianit Haji Noorkhan  
([zaianit.noorkhan@information.gov.bn](mailto:zaianit.noorkhan@information.gov.bn))

#### Translation

Translation Unit

#### Layouter:

Amdelah Haji Tujoh  
([amdelah.tujoh@information.gov.bn](mailto:amdelah.tujoh@information.gov.bn))

#### Proofreader:

Azimatul Azimah Siti Rahmat  
([azimah.rahmat@information.gov.bn](mailto:azimah.rahmat@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 received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman:



His Excellency Dr. Dionisio Babo Soares, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste on July 3.



Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Dr. Mujahid bin Yusof, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department of Malaysia on July 8.

## Her Majesty receives audiences

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



Mrs. Afrah Faisal A A A Al Yaqout, the spouse of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Kuwait to Brunei Darussalam on July 4.



Her Excellency Wanthanee Viputwongsakul, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam on July 4.



## His Royal Highness receives audience

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received in audience at the Qashr Al-Meezan:



His Excellency Dr. Takeshi Kasai, Regional Director of the World Health Organization for the Western Pacific on July 11.

### His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send congratulatory messages to:

- Her Excellency The Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor-General Commander-in-Chief of Canada and His Excellency The Right Honourable Justin P.J. Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, as well as to the Government and people of Canada on the occasion of Canada Day on July 1.
- His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley, AC DSC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia following of his recent appointment as the 27<sup>th</sup> Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia on July 1.
- His Excellency President Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America, the Government and the people of United States on the occasion of its 243<sup>rd</sup> Independence Day on July 4.
- His Excellency Emmanuel Macron, President of the Republic of France, as well as to the Government and the people of the Republic of France on the occasion of Bastille Day on July 14.
- His Excellency The Right Honourable Boris Johnson, MP, following his recent appointment as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island on July 24.
- His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyachua, King of Thailand on the occasion of His Majesty's 67<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary on July 28.
- His Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah on the occasion of His Majesty's installation as the 16<sup>th</sup> Seri Paduka Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia on July 30.

### News

## Increase in self-employment contributes to the improvement of living standards (continued)

From front page

implementation of laws, regulations and excellent governance especially in relation to financial management.

Earlier, His Majesty said that in addition to special measures to improve the economy, efforts to improve and care for the welfare of the people are also being implemented, for example, the government will introduce a complete data base centre.

The centre will gather data from all involved agencies in channeling welfare aid. Through this system, the welfare aid assistance will be rendered more effectively to individuals who are really in need of such assistance.

"This effort has also been made to reduce reliance on welfare aid through a programme to empower recipients to become self-reliant and thus out of the cycle of the needy," His Majesty said.

His Majesty emphasised that government agencies are also required to improve the quality of their service, in line with the public's hope for good service.

His Majesty also said that civil servants must be prepared to play an effective role as facilitators and not just as regulators. His Majesty stressed that on international matters, the country will continue the policy of mutual respect among nations regardless of ideology.

His Majesty explained that what is important is that the policy guides the country to not intervene in the affairs and interests of other parties, in line with the concept of maintaining and respecting each other's respective sovereignty.

His Majesty also stressed that Brunei will remain committed and will not withdraw from working with the international community to address key current challenges such as climate change, environmental pollution, terrorism threats and extremism.

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"Brunei is proud to be an eco-friendly country that has never intervened in others' affairs, but rather has been consistent in leading a religious and commendable cultural life. Brunei has never neglected the privacy of anyone, unless its values are not respected or violated," said His Majesty.

His Majesty also consented to the establishment of the Digital Economy Council in order to explore the potential of digital economy.

"I understand that a Digital Economy Master Plan is being enacted, for the purpose of making this country a Smart Nation," said His Majesty.

His Majesty said the economic opportunities also continue to be seized, including generating potential in the creative industry. The industry will be expanded to gain benefits of not only strengthening its cultural heritage, but also enabling it to diversify its economy.

Earlier, His Majesty emphasised that all countries including Brunei are in a challenging era.

"The challenges are multifaceted and need to be addressed individually. The internal challenges for our country is to ensure the well-being of its citizen and residents can be achieved through a variety of programmes, such as the provision of better services and facilities which covers many areas, such as health, education, law, development and communications and more. All these are intended to ascertain a quality of lifestyle which is the right of the people to enjoy," said His Majesty.

His Majesty further said that Brunei had recently participated in

United Nation Human Rights Review in regard with the country's effort to protect human rights.

In this regard, His Majesty said that the United Nations member countries have given positive reviews and praised the efforts undertaken by our country.

"This is undoubtedly a great recognition, in which the international community welcomes the efforts that we've carried out, including eradicating poverty and disease, providing quality education, providing clean and safe drinking water as well as strengthening a fair legal system where the protection of rights of the family institution, women, children, the youth, senior citizens and people with different abilities was strongly emphasised," said His Majesty.

Before concluding the titah, His Majesty expressed appreciation and gratitude to the citizens and residents, civil workers, security personnel as well as those serving in the private sectors, including those working overseas for their support and contributions to His Majesty's government.

His Majesty also thanked all the members of the Celebration Committee at the national and district levels for their efforts in making the celebration a success. In addition to praying that the people and Brunei Darussalam will remain in peace and prosperity, and will always be protected and blessed by Allah the Almighty.

His Majesty also expressed his appreciation and thanks to His Majesty's special guests for attending the celebration and to all who've expressed their birthday greetings in conjunction with His Majesty 73<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Celebration this year.

## HIS MAJESTY'S 73<sup>rd</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION (continued)

### Grand Royal Birthday Parade full of tradition

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Also present were His Majesty's brothers, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

The arrival of His Majesty in the capital was greeted with 6,000 flag waving

students and the beating of *hadrah* by 500 students lined up the main road towards Grand Royal Birthday Parade.

Shortly after arrival, His Majesty received the Royal Salute, accompanied by the national anthem by the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) and Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) bands followed by a

21-gun salute.

His Majesty then inspected the parade comprised of personnel from the Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF), RBPF, uniformed organisations including Prisons Department; Royal Customs and Excise Department; Fire and Rescue Department; and Airport Fire Services Team as well as uniformed civilian organisations such as RBAF cadets, RBPF cadets, Brunei Darussalam Scouts Association and Girl Guides Associations of Brunei Darussalam, Fire and Rescue cadets and National Service Programme (PKBN).

This was followed by a march-past in front of the Royal Dais led by Lieutenant Colonel Mohd. Roasri Erwan bin Haji Tasrif, Commanding Officer First Battalion of the Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF).

The highlight of the ceremony was the three cheers of '*Daulat Kebawah Duli Tuan Patik*' by all the participating teams followed by the fly past of seven RBAirF's S70i helicopters.



Accompanying His Majesty at the parade were His Majesty's sons and brothers, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

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More than 7,000 people from all backgrounds and groups participated in the glorious Grand Royal Birthday Parade.

The ceremony was also attended by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran-pengiran Cheteria; Cabinet Ministers; Legislative Council members; Deputy Ministers; Pengiran-pengiran Peranakan; Pehin-pehin Manteri; and Manteri-manteri Pendalaman; Ambassadors and High Commissioners to the country as well as senior government officials and guests.

Also present to further enliven the event were His Majesty's special guests from neighbouring countries.

The Grand Parade marks the beginning of the festivities which include night bazaars that have been arranged in conjunction with His Majesty's 73<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Celebration including the Get-Together and Junjung Ziarah Ceremonies with citizens and residents in the four districts.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam inspecting the parade in conjunction of His Majesty's 73<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Celebration.



Also attending the event were Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran-pengiran Cheteria; Cabinet Ministers; Legislative Council members; Deputy Ministers; Pengiran-pengiran Peranakan; Pehin-pehin Manteri; and Manteri-manteri Pendalaman; Ambassadors and High Commissioners to the country as well as senior government officials and guests.

## HIS MAJESTY'S 73<sup>rd</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

### Audience and Investiture Ceremony

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 15** - 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 Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam graced the Audience and Investiture Ceremony in conjunction with His Majesty's 73<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Celebration that took place at Istana Nurul Iman.

The Audience and Investiture Ceremony held at the Balai Singgahsana Indera Buana began with a *titah* (royal speech) by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam followed by the conferment of State Decorations to 15 recipients.

Also present at the ceremony were His Majesty's children, brothers and sisters, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam conferring The Most Exalted Order of Paduka Keberanian Laila Terbilang (D.P.K.T) to Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Haji Mohammad Irwan bin Haji Hambali, Commissioner of the Royal Brunei Police Force.

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Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

Also present were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafzah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Nor'ain; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam as well as other members of the royal family.

Also in attendance were His Majesty's special guests. Among them were His Excellency Tun Dato Laila Utama Pehin Sri Dr. Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, Yang di-Pertua of Sarawak and wife; His Excellency Heng Swee Keat, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of the Republic of Singapore and wife; The Honourable Carlos Garcia Dominguez III, Secretary of Finance of the Republic of the Philippines and wife; Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Amar Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, Chief Minister of Sarawak and wife; Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin bin Ali, Minister of Economic Affairs, Malaysia and wife; Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Mohd. Shafie bin Haji Apdal, Chief Minister of Sabah and wife; and Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, Deputy Chief Minister for Industrial and Entrepreneur Development and Second Minister for Urban Development and Natural Resources, Sarawak and wife.

The ceremony was also attended by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran-pengiran Cheteria; Cabinet Ministers; Pengiran-pengiran Peranakan; Legislative Council members; Deputy Ministers; Manteri-manteri Pendalaman; Ambassadors and High Commissioners, Permanent Secretaries; Directors and senior government officials.

To bless the ceremony, a *Doa Selamat* was read by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.

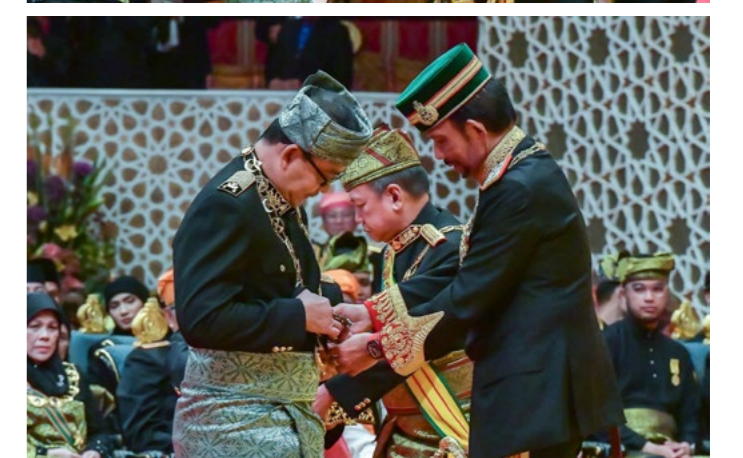
His Majesty first conferred The Most Exalted Order of Paduka Keberanian Laila Terbilang (D.P.K.T) that carries the title Dato Paduka Seri to two recipients, namely Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Haji Mohammad Irwan bin Haji Hambali, Commissioner of the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) and His Excellency Lieutenant General Melvin Ong Su Kiat, Chief of Defence Force of the Singapore Armed Forces.

Following that, three were conferred with The Most Gallant Order of Pahlawan Negara Brunei (P.S.P.N.B) that carries the title Dato Seri Pahlawan. They were Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Jefri bin Pengiran Haji Abd. Hamid, Deputy Commissioner of the RBPF; First Admiral Awang Haji Othman bin Haji Suhaili @ Suhaily, Commander of the Royal Brunei Navy; and Brigadier General (U) Awang Mohammad Sharif bin Brigadier General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Haji Ibrahim, Joint Force Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).

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His Majesty confers The Most Exalted Order of Paduka Keberanian Laila Terbilang (D.P.K.T) to His Excellency Lieutenant General Melvin Ong Su Kiat, Chief of Defence Force of the Singapore Armed Forces.



His Majesty conferring The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei (S.P.M.B), First Class to Yang Amat Arif Dato Paduka Steven Chong Wan Oon, Chief Justice of Supreme Court; Dr. Awang Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy; and Haji Marzuke bin Haji Mohsin, Deputy Minister of Development.



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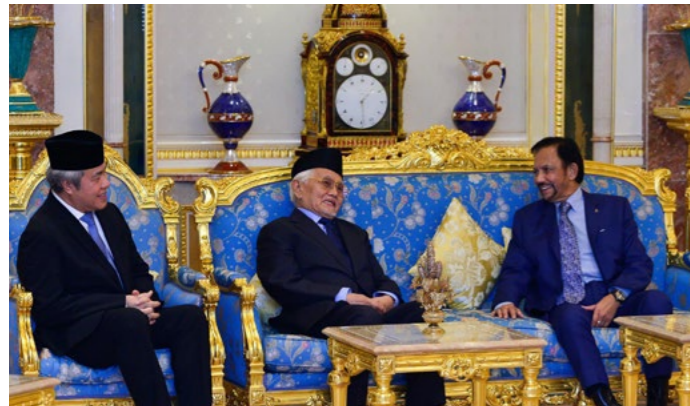
His Majesty then conferred The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei (S.P.M.B), First Class, that carries the title Dato Seri Paduka to four recipients, Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hairol Arni bin Haji Abd. Majid, Attorney General; Yang Amat Arif Dato Paduka Steven Chong Wan Oon, Chief Justice of Supreme Court; Dr. Awang Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy; and Haji Marzuke bin Haji Mohsin, Deputy Minister of Development.

Two were conferred with The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei (S.P.M.B), Second Class, that carries the title Dato Paduka to Razali bin Haji Badar, Senior Assistant Chief of Adat Istiadat Negara and Mr. Paul Laverty.

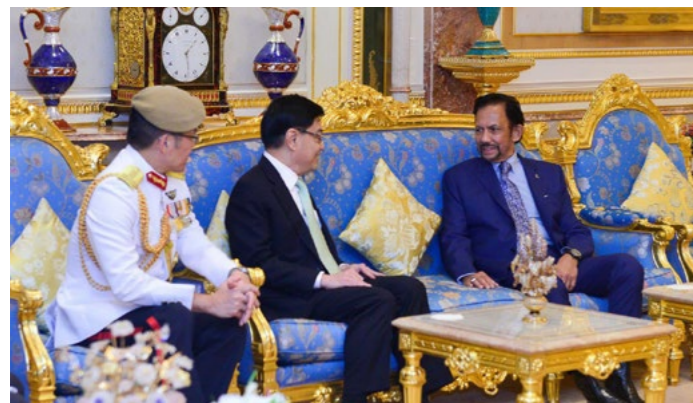
Then, His Majesty then conferred The Most Eminent Order of Islam Brunei (S.S.U.B), Third Class to Dayang Hajah Hamdiah binti Awang Haji Salleh, Superintendent of Religious Education, Islamic Studies Department, Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Three recipients were conferred with The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei (S.N.B), Third Class. They were Dr. Awang Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, Rector of the Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University (UNISSA); Dr. Awang Haji Zulaidi bin Haji Abdul Latif, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Professional at the Ministry of Health; and Pengiran Dr. Haji Mohd. Khalifah bin Pengiran Haji Ismail, Acting Director General of Medical and Health Services.

## HIS MAJESTY'S 73<sup>rd</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION Audience Ceremony with Special Guests



Their Majesties with His Excellency Tun Dato Laila Utama Pehin Sri Dr. Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, Yang di-Pertua of Sarawak and wife, Yang Amat Berbahagia Toh Puan Datuk Patinggi Hajjah Raghad Kurdi Taib; and Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah bin Ali Hassan, Deputy Chief Minister for Industrial and Entrepreneur Development and Second Minister for Urban Development and Natural Resources and wife, Yang Berbahagia Dato Hajah Dayang Morliah binti Datuk Awang Daud.



Their Majesties with His Excellency Heng Swee Keat, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of the Republic of Singapore and wife, Madam Chang Hwee Nee; and His Excellency Dato Paduka Seri Lieutenant General Melvyn Ong Su Kiat, Chief of Defence Force of the Singapore Armed Forces and wife, Datin Nicole Lynn McCully.



Their Majesties with The Honourable Carlos Garcia Dominguez III, Secretary of Finance of the Republic of the Philippines and wife, Madam Cynthia Andrews Dominguez.



**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 15** - In the afternoon, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, 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 Mohammed Alam received in audience His Majesty's special guests who were in the country to attend the Monarch's Birthday Celebration. The audience ceremony took place at Istana Nurul Iman.



Their Majesties with Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin bin Ali, Minister of Economic Affairs of Malaysia and wife, Yang Berbahagia Datin Seri Shamshida Tahirin.



Their Majesties with Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Mohd. Shafie bin Haji Apdal, Chief Minister of Sabah and wife, Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Seri Shuryani binti Shuaib.



## Royal Banquet

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 15** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah 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 a Royal Banquet with His Majesty's special guests in conjunction with His Majesty's 73<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Celebration. The Banquet took place at the Banquet Hall of Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present at the banquet were His Majesty's children, brothers and sisters; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah 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 graces a Royal Banquet with His Majesty's special guests in conjunction with His Majesty's 73<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Celebration.

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Their Majesties together with His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman at the Royal Banquet.

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Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Norhayati.

Also present were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Nor'ain; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam as well as other members of the royal family. Also in attendance were His Majesty's special guests.

Before the banquet began, Their Majesties and other members of the royal family consented to receive in audience from His Majesty's special guests.

The ceremony commenced with a singing of national anthem followed with a recitation of Doa Selamat read by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.

The ceremony was also attended by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran-pengiran Cheteria, Cabinet Ministers, Members of Legislative Council, Deputy Ministers, Pengiran-pengiran Peranakan, Pehin-pehin Manteri and Manteri-manteri Pendalaman, Ambassadors and High Commissioners as well as directors and senior government officials.

The banquet was further enlivened with a fireworks display at the open area of Istana Nurul Iman.

The ceremony not only provides an opportunity for the special guests to meet and greet with the beloved monarch and other members of the royal family, it was also an opportunity for the guests to foster friendship with other people, and further enlivened the ceremony.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and sons mingle with His Majesty's special guests before proceeding to the Banquet Hall.



Also present at the Royal Banquet were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

## HIS MAJESTY'S 73<sup>rd</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

### Banquet for uniformed organisations enlivens His Majesty's Birthday Celebration

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 17

- His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah 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 a Banquet for security forces, uniformed organisations as well as uniformed civilian organisations in conjunction with His Majesty's 73<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Celebration held at Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present were His Majesty's children, brothers and sisters; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and sons receiving a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from officers and personnel of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces at the Banquet.

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Also present were His Majesty's children, brothers and sisters, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Norhayati, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Nor'ain; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.





His Majesty 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 during a Banquet for security forces, uniformed organisations as well as uniformed civilian organisations in conjunction with His Majesty's 73<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Celebration held at Istana Nurul Iman.

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Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Norhayati binti Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman.

Also in attendance were Her Royal Highness Princess 'Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam as well as other members of the royal family.

At the banquet, His Majesty mingled and received a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from officers and personnel of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF), Gurkha Reserve Unit, Royal Customs and Excise Department, Fire and Rescue Department, Marine Department, Department of Immigration and National Registration and Prisons Department.

His Majesty also received a *junjung ziarah* from uniformed volunteer organisations such as the RBAF cadets, RBPF cadets, Fire and Rescue cadets, Brunei Darussalam Scouts Association and Girl Guides Associations of Brunei Darussalam, Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society as well as National Service Programme (PKBN).



Officials from Royal Customs and Excise Department, amongst who attend at the banquet for security forces, uniformed organisations as well as uniformed civilian organisations.

The banquet for officers and uniformed civilian organisations aimed to recognise their important role and responsibility in safeguarding the safety and security of the nation, the people and residents of the country.

Also attending the banquet was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran-pengiran Cheteria, Cabinet Ministers, Members of Legislative Council, Deputy Ministers, Pengiran-pengiran Peranakan, Pehin-pehin Manteri, Manteri-manteri Hulubalang and Manteri-manteri Pendalaman, Ambassadors and High Commissioners, Permanent Secretaries as well as directors and senior government officials.

## HIS MAJESTY'S 73<sup>rd</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

### Get-Together and *Junjung Ziarah* with citizens and residents in all four districts

#### Belait District

**KUALA BELAIT DISTRICT, July 20** - The Get-Together and *Junjung Ziarah* (meet and greet) with citizens and residents in Belait District was a moment that all the people were waiting for in a closer fellowship between 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 the people.

The citizens and residents in the Belait District were clearly reflects their enthusiasm for meeting and *junjung ziarah* with His Majesty and His Majesty's sons and



His Majesty together with His Majesty's sons and brothers in a group photo with the performers for the Belait District.

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Accompanying His Majesty to the event were 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 Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

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brothers, 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 Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

His Majesty consented to witness a performance with the theme, '*Raja Berwawasan, Memperkaya Negara Progresif*' or Visionary Monarch Enriches a Progressive Nation from 475 participants comprising of students from primary and secondary schools, IBTE as well as government and private higher education institutes, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and private sectors in Belait District.



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 at the Get-Together and *Junjung Ziarah* with citizens and residents of Belait District that took place at Padang Bandaran, Kuala Belait.

#### Temburong District

**TEMBURONG DISTRICT, July 22** – The Get-Together and *Junjung Ziarah* Ceremony with the citizens and residents in the Temburong District strengthened solidarity through the close relations between 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 subjects.

Almost all residents of Temburong District were present at the event in conjunction with His Majesty's 73<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Celebration that took place at the Temburong Civic Centre Complex Field in Bangar Town.

Also in attendance were His Majesty's sons and brothers, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal

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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 together with His Majesty's son attending the Get-Together and *Junjung Ziarah* Ceremony in Temburong District.





His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Majesty's sons and brothers in a photo group with the performers during the Get-Together and *Junjung Ziarah* Ceremony in Temburong District.

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Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

Mukim and Kampung Consultative Council.

His Majesty consented to witness a performance with the theme, '*Raja Bertaqwa, Negara Sejahtera*' or Pious Monarch, Prosperous Nation comprised of 498 students from primary and secondary school; Heads of Units; government officials and staff; Penghulu of Mukims, Head of Villages and members of the

His Majesty received the get-together and *junjung ziarah* from the performers as well as Temburong district residents consisting of senior citizens, Khatam Al-Quran participants, uniformed organisations, Neighbourhood Watch members, non-government organisations (NGOs) as well as residents of Mukim Bangar, Mukim Bokok, Mukim Batu Apoi, Mukim Amo, Mukim Labu and private sectors.

**Tutong District**

**TUTONG DISTRICT, July 24** - Tutong District was the third district to welcome 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 for the Get-Together and *Junjung Ziarah* Ceremony with citizens and residents in conjunction with His Majesty's 73<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Celebration.

The ceremony's itinerary which was full of tradition and colour took place at the Tutong District Civic Centre Complex Field in Tutong Town.

Also present at the ceremony were His Majesty's sons and brothers, 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 Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

At the ceremony, His Majesty and other members of the royal family witnessed the special performance with the themed,



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 together with His Majesty's sons during the Get-Together and *Junjung Ziarah* Ceremony with citizens and residents of Tutong District.

Sovereign Monarch, Beloved of the People by a total of 573 participants comprising of civil servants and private sector employees in Tutong District primary and

secondary school students, members of mukim and village consultative councils as well as volunteers of Tutong District.



Some of the performances during the Get-Together and *Junjung Ziarah* Ceremony in Tutong District.

**Brunei-Muara District**



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 with His Majesty's sons during the Get-Together and *Junjung Ziarah* Ceremony with citizens and residents of Brunei-Muara District.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN DISTRICT, July 28** - The last district to welcome 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 for the Get-Together and *Junjung Ziarah* Ceremony with citizens and residents was Brunei-Muara District. The ceremony was held in conjunction with His Majesty's 73<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Celebration which took place at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali

Saifuddien.

Also present were His Majesty's sons and brothers, 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 Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

'*Daulat Raja, Julangan Rakyat*' was the theme for this year's special performance. The theme revolved around the people's appreciation towards His Majesty's sovereignty as the nation's pioneer. The dance performed by the country's youth raised the curtain for the special performance that portrayed the people's loyalty towards the Monarch.

His Majesty also received a *junjung ziarah* from participants and committee members as appreciation for their contribution in making the performance a success. Over 500 participants comprising government and private school students as well as various government agencies and private sector employees were involved in the special performance.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Majesty's sons and brothers joining in the group photo session with the performers during the Get-Together and *Junjung Ziarah* Ceremony in Brunei-Muara District.



## His Royal Highness witnesses Jungle Warfare Demonstration RJWS 2019

**TUTONG, July 1** - To improve regional and wider collaboration in Jungle Warfare Capacity Building, the Information Sharing and Research and Development at the Operational and Tactical levels, the Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF), Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF) as well as the Second Battalion of the Royal Gurkha Rifles (2RGR) held the Jungle Warfare Demonstration for the Regional Jungle Warfare Symposium (RJWS) 2019.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office consented to visit and observe the RJWS 2019 which took place at the Golden Jubilee Dam, Ulu Tutong.

Accompanying His Royal Highness was His Royal Highness 920 Captain (U) Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

Upon arrival at the Golden Jubilee Dam, Ulu Tutong, His Royal Highness was welcomed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yusoff, Second Minister of Defence; and Major General Pengiran Dato Paduka Seri Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).

His Royal Highness was then briefed by Major Rudie Asmawi bin Haji Abidin, Chief Instructor of Training Institute, RBAF (TI RBAF) and later consented to mount onto the Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) to take a closer look at the Field Jungle Warfare Demonstration.

Upon disembarkment, His Royal Highness received a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from the 37 delegates taking part in the RJWS along with His Excellency Richard Stephen Lindsay, British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam and the Defence Advisor/Attachés for the countries involved.

His Royal Highness then received a *pesambah* (souvenir) from the event's co-chairs, TI RBAF and British Forces Brunei (BFB) and then attended a Royal Reception.

Prior to departure, His Royal Highness signed the Royal Parchment and proceeded to a group photo session.

The Regional Jungle Warfare Symposium 2019 carried the theme, 'What are the ends, ways and means for delivering Joint and Inter Agency effects within the Jungle Environment' and is organised by TI RBAF and BFB, the third since its inception in 2017.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office at the Regional Jungle Warfare Symposium (RJWS) 2019 which took place at the Golden Jubilee Dam, Ulu Tutong.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and His Royal Highness 920 Captain (U) Prince 'Abdul Mateen onboard the Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) to take a closer look at the Field Jungle Warfare Demonstration.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and His Royal Highness 920 Captain (U) Prince 'Abdul Mateen receiving a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from 37 delegates taking part in the Regional Jungle Warfare Symposium.

## Launching of Guidebook of Thai Restaurants in Brunei Darussalam

**KIARONG, July 3** - In an effort to promote Thailand-Brunei relations through Food Diplomacy as well as recognition for quality Thai restaurants in Brunei Darussalam, the Royal Thai Embassy in Brunei Darussalam held a launching ceremony for the Guidebook of Thai Restaurants in Brunei Darussalam. The event took place at the Royal Thai Embassy's chancery in Jalan Elia Fatimah, Kampung Kiarong.

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 consented to launch the Guidebook of Thai Restaurants in Brunei Darussalam.

Also present at the ceremony was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar.

Her Excellency Wanthanee Viputwongsakul, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam delivered a welcoming speech at the event.

The Guidebook of Thai Restaurant in Brunei Darussalam is one of the Royal Thai Embassy's project in conjunction with the celebration of the



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 signing the visitor's book. Also present was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar.

35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Kingdom of Thailand and Brunei Darussalam.

The guidebook features 13 selected

Thai restaurants and their signature dishes, such as Tom Yum Kung, Pad Thai and Som Tum. At the event, guests also had the opportunity to taste the dishes from the 13 selected Thai restaurants.

## Protect and preserve forest resources



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism at the 11<sup>th</sup> Flora Malesiana Symposium held at the Chancellor Hall, Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

**TUNGKU LINK, July 1** - Brunei Darussalam was ranked second place in the South East Asia in the Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific of the Asian Development Bank with 72.1 per cent forest covered after Lao People's Democratic Republic with 81.3 per cent, which has long been protecting and conserving forest resources.

Knowing the importance of biodiversity and conservation of forests, Brunei Darussalam has led to the sustainability of these resources.

At the 11<sup>th</sup> Flora Malesiana Symposium, which was held at the Chancellor Hall, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism expressed his belief

that the outcome of this event will influence the ability to identify the area that hold economic potential.

"We have been a strong supporter of biodiversity conservation, and the importance of protecting the natural heritage. This is the right time to highlight our interests and identify the potential of economic alternatives in our conservative action," said the Minister.

According to the Minister, we have identified and studied the rare threats and special plants in the past. It is logical to continue to develop both 'In-situ' (conservation in natural habitat) and 'Ex-situ' (a biodiversity conservation technique beyond the natural habitat), and generate economic returns to continue its development.

The Minister emphasised the need for more research on the findings or outcomes and looking at the possibility of commercialising tropical orchids for horticulture or the findings that may lead to significant developments in medicine or ingredients for cosmetics.

"We have to consider this as a challenge. We are in time to develop a business model to showcase sustainable biodiversity conservation and other related initiatives. It is time to generate resources to support our advocacy and at the same time increase our contribution to our economy," said the Minister.

The Minister further added that perhaps some business development experts or economic managers should be invited to appreciate advocacy and to develop appropriate economic portfolios to sustain efforts as parallel initiatives, we need to

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understand our challenges and advocacy issues.

“We need to identify the threats and limitations of economic activity to ensure the sustainability of our operations. We need strong reduction measures to maintain undesirable conditions that will endanger our natural resources,” said the Minister.

The Minister also stated the need for a new strategic approach in the management of natural resources as well as the need to change and constantly update the strategy for the current state of affairs and technological development.

The five-day symposium started from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July and will be

participated by participants from 22 countries, focusing on the themes of taxonomy and ecology through discussions.

The symposium held for the first time in Borneo, was jointly organised by the Environmental and Life Sciences Programme of the Faculty of Science and the Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research at UBD sponsored by Flora Malesiana and Brunei Shell Petroleum Company.

The organisers hoped that this symposium will help to foster future collaborations among local and international botanists, and will further serve as a global platform to showcase Brunei’s commitment to the conservation of the country’s natural resources.

## Brunei - Cambodia Defence Relations strengthen



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence (right) with His Excellency Lieutenant General Hun Manet, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) and Commander of the Royal Cambodian Army (left).

**BERAKAS, July 25** - Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence received a courtesy call from His Excellency Lieutenant General Hun Manet, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces

(RCAF) and Commander of the Royal Cambodian Army. The courtesy call took place at Bolkiah Garrison.

At the call, the Second Minister of Defence expressed satisfaction on the cordial defence relationship between Brunei Darussalam and Cambodia that

has been fostered at a bilateral and regional level.

After the call, His Excellency Lieutenant General Hun Manet then proceeded to visit Major General Pengiran Dato Paduka Seri Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).

Also present during the call was Brigadier General Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Khairul Hamed bin Awang Haji Lampoh, Commander of the Royal Brunei Land Forces and the Chief of Staff of the RBAF.

The RBAF Commander emphasised the importance of maintaining and enhancing cooperation between RBAF and RCAF, and also expressed appreciation on RCAF’s active participation in programmes organised by RBAF such as the English Language courses.

RCAF also attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Jungle Warfare Symposium (RJWS) which was held from the 27<sup>th</sup> of June to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2019.

## ADI Phase 1 successfully adopted



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence attending the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM).

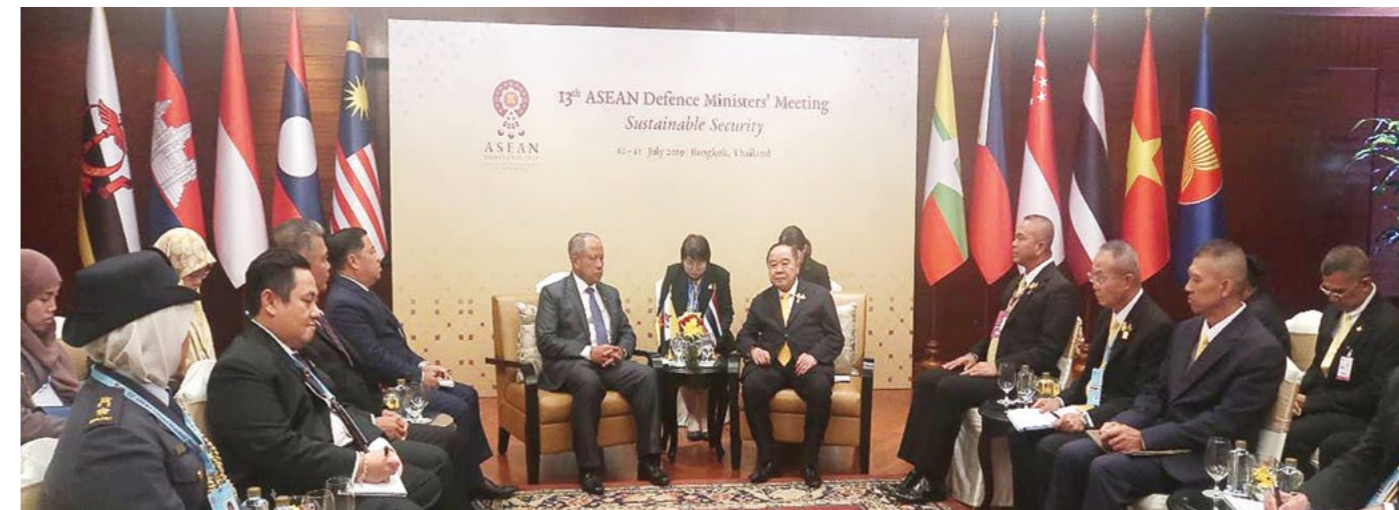
**THAILAND, July 12** - The 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM) concluded on an excellent note in Shangri-La Hotel Bangkok, Kingdom of

Thailand on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July 2019.

The ADMM Meeting this year was chaired by His Excellency General Prawit

Wongsuwon, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, Kingdom of Thailand.

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The Second Minister of Defence together with other ASEAN Defence Ministers during the courtesy call to His Excellency General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Rtd), Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand.

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Representing the Ministry of Defence of Brunei Darussalam at the ADMM was Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence.

Also present were Brigadier General (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Shahril Anwar bin Haji Ma’awiah, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, in his capacity as Brunei Darussalam ASEAN Defence Senior Officials’ Meeting (ADSOM) Leader, and Haji Adi Ihram bin Dato Paduka Haji Mahmud, Director of Defence Policy, in his capacity as the Leader of Brunei Darussalam ASEAN Defence Senior Officials’ Working Group Meeting (ADSOM-WG).

The meeting also successfully adopted the Expansion of ASEAN Direct Communications Infrastructure (ADI) Phase 1 to Plus Countries, which is spearheaded by Brunei Darussalam.

The 13<sup>th</sup> ADMM is a culmination of all the consolidated efforts from ADSOM-WG and ADSOM. The ADMM also deliberated on several new ADMM initiatives and briefed on the recent developments in ASEAN, ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Meeting (ACDFM), as well as the progress of ongoing and existing ASEAN defence cooperation.

The ASEAN Defence Ministers also signed a Joint Declaration on Sustainable Security.

Prior to the convening of the 13<sup>th</sup> ADMM, the Second Minister of Defence joined other ASEAN Defence Ministers for a joint courtesy call to His Excellency General (Rtd) Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the Second Minister of Defence also had a bilateral meeting with His Excellency General Prawit Wongsuwon. The ASEAN Defence Ministers was also feted with a Gala Dinner on the occasion of the 13<sup>th</sup> ADMM.

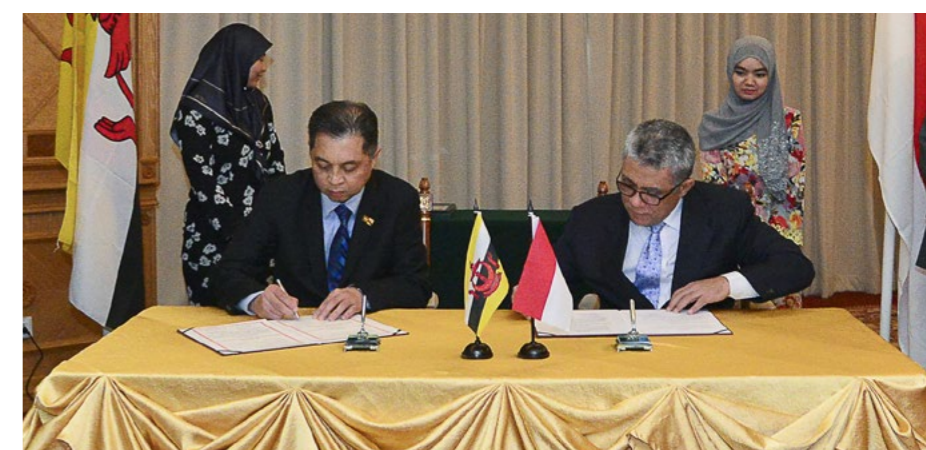
Thailand will also be chairing the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) as well as the ADMM Retreat in November 2019.

## Brunei - Indonesia sign MoU on Health Cooperation

**GADONG, July 9** - The Ministry of Health (MOH) of Brunei Darussalam and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia held a signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of health to strengthen close cooperation between the two countries. The signing ceremony took place at the Rizqun International Hotel.

Singing on behalf of Brunei Darussalam was Haji Abdul Manap bin Othman, Permanent Secretary of MOH and signing on behalf of Republic of Indonesia was Drg. Oscar Primadi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Health of Indonesia.

For the first time, the MOH of Brunei hosted a two-day 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Working Group (JWG) between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Indonesia. The meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> until the 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2019 and is participated by 50 participants comprising senior officers of the MOH from both countries.



Haji Abdul Manap bin Othman, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health signing an Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of Brunei Darussalam and Drg. Oscar Primadi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Health signing on behalf of Republic of Indonesia.

The Plan of Action (PoA) on Health was part of the implementation of the MoU on Health Cooperation between both countries. The PoA include several implementations in the MoU which focuses on seven main agendas in the health cooperation, among them are

exchanges of information on public health; traditional medicines; medical products and health technology regulations; exchange of information on traditional and complementary medicines; and training programmes for specialised health professionals in expertise.



## French National Day celebration

**JERUDONG, July 12** - The Embassy of the Republic of France in Brunei Darussalam held a reception in conjunction with the French National Day, which took place at the Indera Kayangan Ballroom of The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

Present to represent the Government of Brunei Darussalam at the event was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Md. Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health and spouse.

Also present at the event were representatives from foreign Diplomatic Corps, senior government officials as well as special guests.

His Excellency Christian Ramage, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of France to Brunei Darussalam in his speech among others stated that 2019 is the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Eiffel Tower.

According to the Ambassador, the Eiffel Tower is a symbol of the country and one of the tourist attractions of the country, receiving seven million visitors in 2018.



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Md. Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health and spouse, Datin Hajah Noraslinah binti Haji Ramlee attending the reception in conjunction of the French National Day held at the Empire Hotel & Country Club.

The Ambassador further said that since the opening of Eiffel Tower, 250 million people have visited the tower that was designed and built by Gustave Eiffel.

Earlier, the reception commenced with the singing of national anthems of both

countries by students of Stella School.

Diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and France were established on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 1984 by collaborating in various fields including energy, defence, education and culture.

## RB launches return flights to Brisbane & RB Link Flights

**BERAKAS, July 10** - Royal Brunei (RB) Airlines celebrates another milestone in its flight service network with the return of its non-stop services to Brisbane, Australia and introduced RB Link flights with services connecting Brunei and new cities in Borneo Island in partnership with Malindo Air of Malaysia. The event took place at the RB Campus.

Present to launch the event 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, as the Chairman of RB Board of Directors.

"This is a very significant milestone that we are incredibly proud of and continues our measured and strategic growth objective that started in 2018," said Mr. Karam Chand, RB Chief Executive Officer in his welcoming speech at the event.

He further added that the new direct link will no doubt benefit RB guests with a seamless travel connection where RB has very good connections from United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia to and from Brisbane.



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, as the Chairman of Royal Brunei (RB) Board of Directors (second, right) together with Mr. Karam Chand, RB Chief Executive Officer (second, left) during the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the launch of the RB Link Flight at the Brunei-Brisbane services and RB Link Flights.

"With one the youngest fleet of any airline in the world, our guests will also experience the very best of Bruneian hospitality on-board our all-new game changing A320neo aircraft," Mr. Karam Chand added.

With the latest route, it also opens new

markets especially to Australians to use RB for non-stop flights to London which is now popular and London customers will have the opportunity to use the new route to travel to Australia with various tourist attractions and activities offered in Brisbane city and its surrounds.

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RB has aligned its business plans to support Brunei's economic diversification strategy in line with the Brunei Vision 2035 with an increase in tourist arrivals of 7.4 per cent with a record of 258,955 tourists in 2017 to 278,136 tourists in 2018.

In 2018, the number of tourist arrivals from Australia increased by 12.8 per cent and with the reintroduction of RB's non-stop service to the third largest city in Australia, it is hoped to help RB achieve the national objective of delivering 500,000 visitors to Brunei by 2021. RB's four times weekly flights to Brisbane will be operated using RB's new fleet of A320neo aircraft and will start on 10<sup>th</sup> of July.

In regard to the RB Link Flights, the Minister stated that RB will launch a regional aircraft operation, initially with

two brand new ATR aircrafts.

The regional aircraft operation will be a key enabler of increased tourism, trade and movement of people within BIMP-EAGA and will further strengthen Brunei's economic ties with the many cities of Borneo.

The Minister further said that RB's investment in developing air traffic in BIMP-EAGA also shows the commitment of Brunei to contribute to regional development and allows the movement of people who today is extremely challenging between the different cities on the Island of Borneo.

RB Link is the latest RB innovation in improving its products and services by taking advantage of the potential customers available on Borneo Island, estimated at 21 million people.

RB Link flights that will be operated by Malindo Air will initially connect five new and two existing cities across Borneo Island and link them to 25 international destinations via Brunei International Airport hub. The RB Link flight will give passengers a faster, easier and smooth ride.

RB Link is also part of the RB project in its network development to achieve the national objective of delivering half a million visitors to Brunei by 2021 and to increase the country's revenue through the tourism sector.

RB Link will be operated by Malindo Air by using two new ATR 72-600 aircraft configured in all economy 72 seats layouts as well as RB's signature service, food and drinks, Muhibah in-flight magazine and personal electronic devices for entertainment.

## ASEAN Connectivity increases investment

**SEOUL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, July 10** - The ASEAN connectivity will enable ASEAN to achieve competitive economic growth, increase greater opportunities for investment, trade, employment and narrow development gaps.

Rapid urbanisation and migration of people from rural areas to cities has increased demands for ASEAN to plan and develop infrastructure for connectivity, housing and utilities supply as well as seamless logistics.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Ir. Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar, Minister of Development stated the matter in his key note speech at the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Connectivity Forum held on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2019 in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

The Minister also outlined the importance of ASEAN connectivity and implementation challenges in achieving regional connectivity. He cited that in the process of development for greater connectivity, ASEAN faces challenges such as shortages of semi-skilled and skilled workforce with limited mobility within ASEAN.

Limitation in funding resources, human capacity and increasing effects of climate change and risk of cyber-security associated with advancement in information technology and Internet of Things (IoT) are challenges that ASEAN needs to address with multi-dimensional policies frameworks and strategies.

The ASEAN Connectivity Forum was first held in 2013 and served as a useful platform in deepening collaboration on connectivity-related infrastructure initiatives between ASEAN and Korean business communities.

Since 2016, there has been a steady increase of 15.9 per cent in annual trading activities, marking Korea as the third largest investment destination and second largest trading partner for ASEAN. As co-organisers of the forum, the Korean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and the Construction Association of Korea (CAK) has lend credence by organising business related meetings solely focused on exploring potential areas of cooperation that can be jointly ventured together.



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Ir. Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar, Minister of Development delivering a key note speech at the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Connectivity Forum held in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Korea has expressed support for the rolling pipeline projects under the Masterplan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 in enhancing a seamless regional connectivity.

The ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit and the Mekong-ROK Summit scheduled for November this year celebrates the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of relations and continues to underscore a fruitful and comprehensive regional partnership.

The Minister was invited by the ASEAN-Korea Centre, accompanied by senior officials from the Ministry of Development also attended various presentations on national development strategies and experiences on energy, smart cities

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The Minister of Development in a group photo with other officials during the 7th ASEAN Connectivity Forum.

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and connectivity by participants of the forum.

The Minister also received courtesy calls from IPP Development Team of Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. Ltd and GS Engineering

and Construction Company Ltd to discuss construction industry trends in Brunei Darussalam and to exchange information on capacity (best practices) and worldwide engineering experiences of Korean companies.

## Celebrate people-to-people connections

**JERUDONG, July 3** – Formal relations between Brunei Darussalam and the United States of America began in 1950, with the signing of a Treaty of Peace, Friendship, Commerce and Navigation. The treaty is still in effect today, almost 170 years later.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries in the modern era, relations that now encompass cooperation across a full range of diplomatic, economic and security issues.

The matter was highlighted by His Excellency Matthew J. Matthews, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of United States of America to Brunei Darussalam at a reception in conjunction with the 243rd Independence Day of the United States of America celebration, which took place at the Royal Berkshire Hall of the Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club.

According to the Ambassador, the celebration was particularly to celebrate the many people-to-people connections that has created special meaning in the growing relationship between Brunei Darussalam and the United States.

Present on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the event was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Education and spouse.

Also present were senior government officials, foreign representatives, members

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Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Education and Datin during the 243rd Independence Day of the United States of America celebration, which was held at the Royal Berkshire Hall of the Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club.



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Education touring the exhibition.

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of the diplomatic community, business executives and other invited guests.

At the event, His Excellency Matthew J. Matthews presented a memento from the State University of New York at Albany to the Minister of Education.

The event included a special exhibition on Bioinspired Sensing

Technologies, a collaborative project between Universiti Brunei Darussalam and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in the United States.

With the theme 'People-to-People Connections', the celebration illuminates the professional, educational, and cultural ties between Bruneians and Americans.

## BGC receives Document of Compliance

**JERUDONG, July 5** - Brunei Gas Carriers Sdn Bhd (BGC) received a Document of Compliance from the Maritime and Port Authority of Brunei Darussalam (MPABD) by being the first blue water shipping company to receive the documents.

Present to witness the official hand over of the Document of Compliance and also as the guest of honour was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications.

The Document of Compliance was handed over by Haji Mohd. Salihin bin Haji Aspar, MPABD Chief Executive to Captain Mohammad Shahbrin bin Haji Ibrahim, Designated Person Ashore (DPA) of BGC.

The Managing Director of BGC in his welcoming remarks touched on the significance of BGC's achievement that further demonstrates its commitment to realise its mission of developing the nation's resources for safe, reliable and sustainable maritime transportation.

The Managing Director also expressed thanks and sincere appreciation for the tireless efforts of BGC and Shell International Trading and Shipping



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications at the official hand over of the Document of Compliance from Haji Mohd. Salihin bin Haji Aspar, MPABD Chief Executive to Captain Mohammad Shahbrin bin Haji Ibrahim, Designated Person Ashore (DPA) of BGC.

Company Ltd. (STASCO) personnel both onshore and offshore, as this significant milestone could not have been achieved without them.

He also added that this achievement would also not have been possible without the continuous support from BGC's shareholders and directors, past and present. Following the successful audits by Bureau

Veritas on behalf of MPABD, BGC is now officially recognised as a fully-fledged ship manager, with BGC's A-Class vessel, S.S Abadi being the first vessel to be managed and operated exclusively under BGC's safety management system.

BGC was established in 1998 and since its establishment, BGC aspires to develop its services and expand beyond the delivery of LNG.

## Youths play a significant role in ASEAN's development

**VIENTIANE, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, July 19** - ASEAN youths have always and will continue to play a significant role in ensuring the development and sustainability of this region.

In this regard, it is important for the youth to be equipped with a clear understanding of their roles and contribution in achieving sustainable development and regional integration.

The matter was emphasised by 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 of Brunei Darussalam in his statement at the 11th ASEAN

Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY XI) held in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The Minister highlighted that the youth makes up almost half of the ASEAN population, and as the most energetic and dynamic resource, the youth are a valuable asset to their respective country, the region as well as the globe.

Whilst lending support to the AMMY XI's theme of 'Enhancing the Role of Youth in ASEAN for Sustainable Development and Regional Integration', the Minister stressed the important role of AMMY in ensuring that the youth, far from being mere beneficiaries of these two areas, will continue to become active architects in ASEAN's development and ultimately its

implementation. In this regard, investing in the youth means we are investing in the future of ASEAN.

The Minister also informed that the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is highly committed to engaging and recognising the achievements of our youths through the Whole of Nation approach and outlined a number of initiatives amongst many others undertaken by the public and private sectors in Brunei Darussalam which include: empowerment and engagement of youths; encouragement of youth entrepreneurship; and high quality education that is constantly aligned to the

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## Youths play a significant role in ASEAN's development (continued)



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 of Brunei Darussalam during the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY XI) held in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic.

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global climate.

In this regard, the Minister stated that it is the country's hope that by harnessing and nurturing its energetic and highly-spirited youth, Brunei Darussalam will continue to see significant progress in achieving sustainable development in Brunei Darussalam and ultimately ASEAN.

At the same time it is imperative that the youth remain steadfast in facing technological advances in the context of the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution by upholding our National Philosophy of Malay Islamic Monarchy (MIB) as balanced individuals.

The AMMY XI that was chaired by His Excellency Alounxai Sounnalath, Secretary General of the Lao Youth Union was officially opened by His Excellency Sonexay Siphandone, Deputy Prime Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The meeting was attended by ASEAN Ministers of Youth and Heads of Delegation as well as the Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio Cultural Committee.

The Minister also attended the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Minister Meeting on Youth. The meeting was preceded by the Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting for the AMMY XI and the Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting for the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN+3.

On the sideline of the AMMY XI, the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Youth Day Meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Youth Award and 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Youth Expo 2019 were also organised. Brunei Darussalam's recipient of the ASEAN Youth Award was Awang Md. Iqbal Fakhri bin Awang Damit while Hajah Noor Monasliena bte Haji Md. Salleh and Hajah Kartini Dewi Abdullah represented Brunei Darussalam at the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Youth Expo 2019.

The Minister also had the opportunity to call on His Excellency Alounxai Sounnalath, Secretary General of the Lao Youth Union and Chairman of AMMY XI and Her Excellency Grace Fu, Minister of Culture, Community and Youth of the Republic of the Singapore. During the respective calls, bilateral cooperation especially in the areas of Youth Development as well as other issues of mutual interest were discussed.

Accompanying the Minister at the meeting was Pengiran Mohammad Amirrizal bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, Permanent Secretary (Administration, Finance and Estate) Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and Haji Abdul Rashid bin Haji Damit, Charge d'Affaires at the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam to Lao People's Democratic Republic as well as Senior Officials from MCYS.





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