



His Majesty's State Visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Official Welcoming Ceremony and Bilateral Meeting

NAY PYI TAW, REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR, March 25 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to attend the Official Welcoming Ceremony in honour of His Majesty's State Visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Upon arrival at the compound of the Presidential Palace, His Majesty was welcomed by His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

His Majesty then proceeded to the special dais, accompanied by the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to receive the royal salute. Then, the national anthem of both countries were played and followed by a 21-gun salute. His Majesty then inspected the Royal Guard of Honour



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih 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 Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of Union of Myanmar during the bilateral meeting.

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Prime Minister of Timor-Leste's official visit to Brunei Darussalam

Bilateral Meeting

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 15 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih 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 hold a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Security of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. The bilateral meeting took place at the Istana Nurul Iman.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih 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 Excellency Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Security of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste during the bilateral meeting.

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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 Highness Al-Sayyid Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour Al-Said, Minister of Heritage and Culture of the Sultanate of Oman on March 11.



Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Dr. Mohd. Yusof Noor, President of Universiti Islam Malaysia (UIM) on March 22.

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:



Madam Magdah Ates, spouse of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Republic of Turkey to Brunei Darussalam on March 11.



Dayang Aminah binti Haji Abdul Rahman, spouse of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Cambodia on March 11.



Madam Manichanh Phouyavong, spouse of the Outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to Brunei Darussalam on March 11.

His Royal Highness audience ceremony

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 Pengiran Kasmirhan bin Pengiran Haji Mohammad Tahir, the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Cambodia and His Excellency Awang Haji Mulok bin Haji Jumat, the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Islamic Republic of Iran on March 1.



His Excellency Souvanna Phouyavong, the Outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Lao People's Democratic Republic to Brunei Darussalam on March 8.



Her Excellency Nurul Qomar, the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam on March 8.



His Excellency Nistor Constantin-Volodea, the Non-Resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Romania to Brunei Darussalam on March 22.

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His Excellency Christophe Ceska, the Non-Resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Austria to Brunei Darussalam on March 22.



His Excellency Major General (Rtd) Muhamamd Ijaz Hussain Awan, the Outgoing High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam on March 22.

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:

- Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as well as the Government His Excellency Mamnoon Hussain, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and His Excellency Muhammad and the people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the occasion of the Pakistan Day on March 22.
- His Excellency Mohammad Abdul Hamid, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina Wajed, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on the occasion of the Independence Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on March 26.
- His Excellency The Honourable Sir General Peter Cosgrove on the occasion of his recent appointment as Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia on March 28.
- Her Excellency The Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce, the Outgoing Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia on March 28.

His Majesty sends messages of condolences

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 has consented to send messages of condolences to:

- Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Laila Utama Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia following the recent loss of an aircraft involving Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 on March 9.
- His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China following the recent recent loss of an aircraft of Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 on March 9.

His Majesty's State Visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (continued)



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam being introduced to the State Dignitaries of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

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mounted by 37 military personnel comprising of the Navy, Army and Air Force of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

His Majesty was later introduced to the State Dignitaries of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was introduced to the Brunei Darussalam's delegation.

After the ceremony, His Majesty and the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar proceeded to the main building of Presidential Palace for the bilateral meeting.

Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar have established diplomatic relations on the 21st of September 1993.

The two countries have become closer and have achieved remarkable progress. The development include cooperation in several fields such as culture and sports, agriculture, tourism, health, employment, education, socioeconomics, defence and trade.

After the Official Welcoming Ceremony, His Majesty then consented to attend a bilateral meeting with His Excellency U

Thein Sein, President of the Republic of Union of Myanmar.

Upon arrival at the Presidential Palace, His Majesty was welcomed by His Excellency U Tin Oo Lwin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

His Majesty consented to sign the Guest Book at the Holding Room before proceeding to the Credential Hall.

At the Credential Hall, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was welcomed by the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

During the meeting, both Leaders exchanged views on mutual interest as well as international and regional matters.

After the meeting, His Majesty joined the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for a photo session before visiting the Defense Services Museum.

Accompanying His Majesty to the bilateral meeting was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, Second Minister of Finance at the Prime Minister's Office.

State Banquet

NAY PYI TAW, REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR, March 25 - His Majesty in a *titah* (royal speech) said that the people of Brunei Darussalam are ready to assist in the development of Myanmar's future by sharing experiences with senior official of Myanmar through technical assistance programmes that will continue in the future.

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His Majesty delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the State Banquet held at the Banquet Hall, Presidential Palace in honour of His Majesty's State Visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Also in attendance was His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.



Visit to Defense Services Museum

NAY PYI TAW, REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR, March 25 - His Majesty consented to visit the Defense Services Museum of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Upon arrival, His Majesty was welcomed by General Hla Htay Win, Chief of General Staffs, Ministry of Defense of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

First, His Majesty consented to visit the Army section, where the section features significant historical revelations on the development of the Myanmar Armed Forces from its inception to present. The museum displayed collection of wars that involved the armed forces of the country and honoured the contributions and celebrated the experiences of Myanmar's soldiers.

His Majesty then visited the Navy section, where in this section displayed the uniforms, insignias and flags of the Myanmar Armed Forces from the past to present, as well as the equipment used by the military such as radios and weapons.

After, His Majesty visited the Air Force section, which also showcases old vessels that was used by the Air Force

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It is important as both countries have enjoyed a close relationship over the last 20 years. Teachers from Myanmar have taught the people of Brunei Darussalam at schools, while the doctors are giving treatment at hospitals.

His Majesty stated the matter at the State Banquet held at the Banquet Hall, Presidential Palace in honour of His Majesty's State Visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

His Majesty further said that the people of Brunei Darussalam expressed appreciation for the contributions and hoped the relations between the people of both countries will flourish in health, education and technical assistance.

His Majesty also noted that the changes in Myanmar were clear and impressive since His Majesty's last visit in 1998 and believed that regional counterparts also shared similar sentiments.

His Majesty further said that for the hard work and persistent efforts of its people, Myanmar has achieved rapid economic growth within the last two years.

In this regard, His Majesty congratulated the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and hoped that Brunei



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 during the visit at the Defense Services Museum of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

besides displaying the weapons used in the Air Force. A video about the Air Force was also shown.

The Defense Services Museum was built on the 15th of May 2010 and was opened to public since the 18th of March 2012. The museum has a total land area of 603.28 acres.

Darussalam would continue to sustain the friendly ties with Myanmar.

Looking forward, His Majesty said that a potential field of cooperation is the energy industry in which he expressed his delight that senior officials from both countries have begun cooperation in the field. His Majesty also took into consideration that both countries are expanding into new areas such as agriculture and fisheries and suggested that it is more appropriate for senior officials to conduct regular meetings to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

His Majesty further recalled the vision of Myanmar for the ASEAN region that was shared by the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the previous meeting in Brunei Darussalam. His Majesty further said that the view is no different from what Brunei Darussalam has shared.

"Similar to Myanmar, Brunei Darussalam emphasised the need to build a people-centered ASEAN community, educate youths, encourages small enterprises and narrow the development gaps," said His Majesty.

Thus, Brunei Darussalam has full confidence in the capability of Myanmar

Prior to leaving the museum, His Majesty signed the Guest Book and received *pesambah* (souvenir) in the form of a *Momento* presented by General Hla Htay Win. In return, His Majesty presented a plaque as a commemoration of His Majesty's visit to the museum.

as the Chairman of ASEAN this year.

His Majesty also expressed positivity that under the guidance of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, ASEAN will move closer to realising the goal of building a community.

To achieve the goal, His Majesty also stated that Brunei Darussalam is ready to work closely with Myanmar to advance regional interests for peace and prosperity of the people.

In concluding the *titah*, His Majesty once again expressed gratitude to the Government and people of Myanmar for their friendly hospitality and appreciates the goodwill friendship that has coexisted for many years between the two countries.

His Majesty also thanked His Excellency U Thein Sein for his warm hospitality and compliments to Brunei Darussalam. His Majesty congratulated the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Government as well as the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and expressed delight to visit Myanmar again and further hoped that the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will continue to enjoy peace, advancement and prosperity in the future.

His Majesty's State Visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (continued) Visit to Integrated Farm



His Majesty taking a closer look at a sample of rice produced from Integrated Farm.

NAY PYI TAW, REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR, March 25 - His Majesty then consented to visit an Integrated Farm in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Upon arrival at the main building of the Integrated Farm, His Majesty was greeted by His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

At the farm, His Majesty visited the fruit and vegetable section with the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Accompanying the two leaders was His Excellency U Myint Hlaing, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

His Majesty then viewed the fruits and vegetables exhibition on the farm at the main building of the Integrated Farm.



His Majesty viewing the fruits and vegetables exhibition on the farm at the Integrated Farm.

Prime Minister of Timor-Leste's official visit to Brunei Darussalam (continued)

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At the meeting, His Majesty and His Excellency discussed issues related to bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, as well as exchanged views on regional and international matters of mutual concern.

Also present at the meeting were 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 and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum

Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Joining the delegation of the Prime Minister were His Excellency Jose Luis Guterres, Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste; His Excellency Bedito Freitas, Minister of Education; His Excellency Alfredo Pires, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources; and Her Excellency Idelta Rodrigues, Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality, as well as senior officers.

Prime Minister of Timor-Leste's official visit to Brunei Darussalam (continued)

Brunei supports Timor-Leste joining ASEAN

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 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) stated that the country will continue to support the desire of Timor-Leste to become a member of ASEAN.

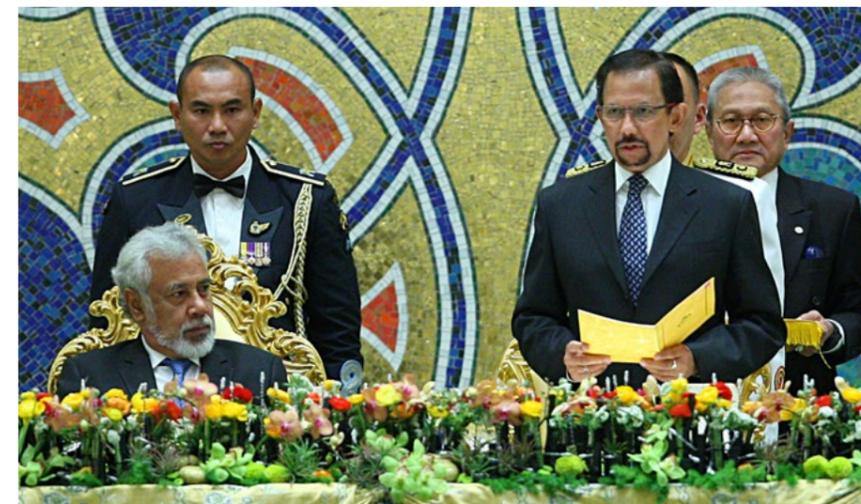
"12 years ago, the Government of Timor-Leste was present as a guest when Brunei Darussalam hosted the 35th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting for the first time. Today, Timor-Leste has steadily shown interest in joining ASEAN," said His Majesty during the Official Banquet held in honour of the Official Visit of His Excellency Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Security of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and delegation to the country.

His Majesty expressed appreciation for the commitment and efforts of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste in further strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries, and welcomed the setting up of its embassy in Bandar Seri Begawan.

His Majesty is also convinced that the visit of the His Excellency Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao to Brunei Darussalam will pave the way for greater cooperation between the two countries.

"Brunei Darussalam hopes to work with Timor-Leste in areas of education, tourism and energy to benefit the people of both countries and regions for the whole," said His Majesty.

His Majesty said that His Excellency's



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 Official Banquet in honour of the Official Visit of His Excellency Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Security of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to Brunei Darussalam.

visit to the country gives an opportunity to enhance both the personal friendship and the warm bilateral ties between the two countries and people and as one of the world's newest nation states, Timor-Leste has developed into an exemplary nation and a valued member of the international community.

"The prudent leadership of His Excellency has made Timor-Leste a promising level in development and achieving positive economic growth behind the global crisis," added His Majesty.

His Majesty also congratulated His Excellency and the Government of Timor-Leste on the country's effort to enhance the people's livelihood through the implementation of the Timor-Leste

Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030. Timor-Leste is now enjoying the structure of progress in regional and international affairs.

According to His Majesty, in 2013, Timor-Leste has taken over to chair the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and this year Timor-Leste will become the President of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP).

The establishment of the Timor-Leste cooperation agency is to provide assistance to conflict affected countries illustrates the willingness of Timor-Leste and the people to assist through the difficult experiences they have ever experienced and such effort should be given praise.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Security of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste during the Official Banquet held at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Brunei Darussalam Regatta 2014



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 taking part in the Special 15-man Fibreglass Boat Race.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with members of the royal family viewing the Brunei Darussalam Regatta Commemorative Exhibition at the Royal Wharf Art Gallery.



His Majesty presenting a trophy to the representative of one of the winning teams.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 2 - Thousands of citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam as well as foreign visitors thronged the capital to witness the Brunei Darussalam Regatta (BDR) 2014 which took place at the Royal Wharf, Bandar Seri Begawan.

The event was more joyful with the presence and participation 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 in a special boat race and subsequently consented to present prizes to the winners.

Also in attendance 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 Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah.

The highlight of the regatta was enlivened with the participation of His Majesty leading the Regatta Organising Committee Team 'A' in the Special 15-man Fibreglass Boat Race, who successfully won the title using a boat named 'Rajawali'.

The race which started at the waters of Kampung Tamoi Tengah also witnessed the participation of His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah who led the Regatta Organising Committee Team 'B' using 'Punai' boat who won second place.

Meanwhile, the Titled Persons Team using 'Belais' boat, led by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar won third place.

His Majesty later consented to view the Brunei Darussalam

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Regatta Commemorative Exhibition at the Royal Wharf Art Gallery which boasts the nostalgic history and the glory days of boat racing in the past which was renowned as a popular sport since the early 1930s to date. The exhibition also displayed memorable photographs of His Majesty's father's participation in boat racing, newspaper clippings of past events and trophies as well as models of racing boats.

His Majesty then witnessed the 20-man Invitational Fibreglass Boat Race, the 6-Lap Open SST-60 Class Speed Boat Race and the 12-round Open 4-Roundabout Jet Ski Race and then consented to launch the 30-man Traditional Boat Marathon race.

The Brunei Darussalam 'C' team won first place after beating Brunei Darussalam 'E' team won second place and Malaysia 'A' team won third place.

The Nanjing China team won fifth place despite its first time ever to take on a prestigious race known internationally.

Participants of this year's BDR comprised of teams from neighbouring countries, Nanjing Province of the People's Republic of China, extending across the South China Sea and passing the Borneo archipelago.

Earlier that morning, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah consented to launch the opening of the BDR 2014 at the Royal Wharf, Bandar Seri Begawan.

Also in attendance was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

At the event, His Royal Highness boarded a special boat to launch the 25-man Inter-Ministry Traditional Boat Race at the waters off Kampung Tamoi Ujong

Proclamation of Pre-eminent Figures in Customs and Traditions Throughout the Ages Ceremony

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 31 - 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



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with one of the winning teams.



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 on the 'Punai' boat.

(1,000 meters) from the Royal Wharf and followed with the launch of 6-Lap Open SST-60 Class Speed Boat Race.

The 25-man Inter-Ministry Traditional Boat Race was won by Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, second and third

place were won by Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Defence respectively.

At the event, His Royal Highness also consented to present prizes to the winners of the race in the morning, where each received a trophy, cash prize and medals.

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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 delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the Proclamation of Pre-eminent Figures in Customs and Traditions Throughout the Ages in conjunction with Adat Istiadat or Royal Customs and Traditions.

Proclamation of Pre-eminent Figures in Customs and Traditions Throughout the Ages Ceremony (continued)

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Mohamed Alam consented to attend the Proclamation of Pre-eminent Figures in Customs and Traditions Throughout the Ages Proclamation of Pre-eminent Figures in Customs and Traditions Throughout the Ages in conjunction with Adat Istiadat or Royal Customs and Traditions which took place at the International Convention Centre.

The arrival of Their Majesties at the International Convention Centre was greeted by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar, Co-Chairmen of the Committee for the Proclamation of Pre-eminent Figures in Customs and Traditions Throughout the Ages.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah 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 attending the Proclamation of Pre-eminent Figures in Customs and Traditions Throughout the Ages in conjunction with Adat Istiadat or Royal Customs and Traditions which took place at the International Convention Centre.

Also in attendance at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, 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 Mohamed Bolkhiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkhiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkhiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

Also in attendance were His Majesty's children and sisters Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkhiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Majeedah Nuurul Bolkhiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkhiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkhiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkhiah; Her Royal Highness Princess



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam officiating the launching of two special books.

Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Nasibah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Jefriah.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office then delivered a *sabda* (royal speech) at the ceremony.

In the *sabda*, His Royal Highness highlighted that in the context of Brunei Darussalam, the customs and traditions are unique and proven to be a solid core that supports the monarchy system. To this date, it has ensured peace, safety, well-being and prosperity of the people, which will be enjoyed further in the future.

His Royal Highness further said that as a country that exists and supports the Malay Islamic Monarchy (MIB) concept for over 600 years, the strengthening and practise of customs and traditions

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Their Majesties together with other members of the royal family joining a photo group session.

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are essential in ensuring the continuity and existence of Brunei Darussalam as an MIB nation.

His Royal Highness also stated that only through a deep understanding will we be able to enhance the appreciation and realise the importance of preserving precious heritage.

In conjunction with the proclamation, a special exhibition was organised to promote and increase the understanding on the authenticity of Brunei Darussalam's customs and traditions among youth, and their roles in the state and society.

His Royal Highness expressed gratitude for the efforts of Al-Marhum, who is also known as the Architect of Modern Brunei, continued by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to this date.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also consented to deliver a *titah* (royal speech) at the ceremony, underlining that under Al-Marhum's wise leadership and administration, Brunei currently inherits both sublime and dynamic customs and traditions.

History also witnessed that Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien has worked diligently to ensure that the people were well-educated while enjoying prosperity and leading the people towards a noble life goal by adhering to the teachings of Islam.

"With a firm hold on the teaching of Islam, Al-Marhum reformed

the customs and traditions of the country based on Islamic laws," said His Majesty.

His Majesty further stressed that with the close ties of the monarch and the people, Brunei is able to perpetuate its monarchy which further reinforces the custom. Al-Marhum was known for his strong belief that customs can be renewed without having to compromise its original form.

His Majesty said the revamped customs is what had determined the shaping and arrangement of Monarchical rule to what it is now, where the monarch sovereignly led the country and the government.

"The monarch has councils or advisory board according to the scope and function with the qualified members," said His Majesty.

His Majesty also said that a monarch reign integrates with all government networks to bring people to peace, well-being, prosperity and security. An administration based on trust built on the relationship between the monarch and the people, was what has been recorded by Al-Marhum into the first written constitution in history which became the basis of the modern Brunei rule that we continue to develop to this day.

"In developing the modern Brunei, we are certainly not only following the lead of Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, but are also learning from Al-Marhum's experiences that were full of challenges and that made Brunei remain sovereign," said His Majesty.

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Their Majesties together with other members of the royal family witnessing the Pre-Eminent Figure in Customs and Traditions throughout the Ages Exhibition organised by the Office of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.



His Majesty visits PKBN training camp



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 receiving the royal salute and then inspecting guard of honour mounted by 245 PKBN trainees during the visit to National Service Scheme Programme (PKBN) training camp.



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 18 - 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 consented to visit the second intake of the National Service Scheme Programme (PKBN) at the Sports Village at the Sultan Hassanal Bolkih Sports Complex, Berakas.

Upon arrival at the PKBN training camp, His Majesty was welcomed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

The event commenced with the royal

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His Majesty listening to a briefing presented by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.



His Majesty in a group photo with the second intake of the PKBN.

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salute followed with the national anthem of Brunei Darussalam sang by the PKBN trainees.

His Majesty then inspected the guard of honour mounted by 245 PKBN trainees.

At the event, the trainees performed several performances such as the recitation of *Surah Al-Hasyr*, the singing of patriotic songs, demonstration of martial arts and PKBN cheer, as well as a marching parade.

His Majesty then took a closer look at the Leadership Arena and Multitask Elements (command task) and the Climbing Tower Arena (rock climbing and abseiling).

These two arenas were the newly introduced programmes as part of the enhancement of training programmes in increasing the trainees' endurance and durability in overcoming challenges.

His Majesty then proceeded to the Administration Block of the Sports Village where he viewed a photo gallery



His Majesty witnessing the Leadership Arena and Multitask Elements (command task) of the PKBN.

of the PKBN.

Prior to leaving the event, His Majesty consented to sign on a commemorative parchment to mark his visit to the PKBN training camp and then consented to receive a *pesambah* (souvenir) and *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet).

His Majesty then consented to attend a banquet with the trainees followed with a group photo session.

The second intake of the PKBN began on the 22nd of December 2013 and is expected to end on the 24th of March this year with 245 youths comprising of 151 males and 96 females aged 16 to 21.

Proclamation of Pre-eminent Figures in Customs and Traditions Throughout the Ages Ceremony (continued)

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His Majesty welcomed and appreciated the support shown by the Adat Istiadat Council in choosing the pre-eminent figure in customs and traditions to be made the foundation and highest beacon of the country's customs and traditions, and acknowledged that the glimmering beacon is Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien.

His Majesty was then invited by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkih, Chairman of the Adat Istiadat Council, to officiate the launch of two special books titled, '*Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien Tokoh Adat Istiadat Sepanjang Zaman*' (Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien - The Pre-eminent Figure in Customs and Traditions) and '*Bandar Seri Begawan Menagih Berkah Dari Langit dan Bumi*'.

Their Majesties together with other members of the royal family then consented to watch a video presentation entitled '*Tokoh Adat Istiadat Sepanjang Zaman*' (Pre-eminent Figure in Customs and Traditions).

Prior to leaving, Their Majesties together with other members of the royal family joined for a group photo session and then witnessed the Pre-Eminent Figure in Customs and Traditions throughout the Ages Exhibition organised by the Office of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The exhibition among other is to promote and to enhance the understanding of the young generation on the authenticity of the customs and traditions of the country and its role in the nation and the community.

The Proclamation of Pre-eminent Figures in Customs and Traditions throughout the Ages in conjunction with Adat Istiadat or Royal Customs and Traditions was a reflection of the thought of Adat Istiadat Council which has carefully considered the significance of proclaiming a pre-eminent figure in customs and traditions, particularly in commemorating the service of an individual who is no longer with us.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) at the event.

Launching of Energy Week 2014



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 taking a closer look at the exhibition during the launching of Energy Week 2014.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 24 - 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 consented to launch the Energy Week 2014, Brunei Darussalam Energy White Paper and the Brunei Oil and Gas book. The ceremony took place at the BRIDEX International Conference Centre, Jerudong.

Upon arrival, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was welcomed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Rtd) Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin Haji Umar, Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office.

The ceremony commenced with a recitation of *Surah Al-Fatihah* and *Doa Selamat* led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.

Before proceeding to BRIDEX Exhibition Hall 1 and 2, His Majesty consented to receive a *pesambah* (souvenir) and was introduced to the members of the Brunei National Energy Research Institute (BNERI) International Advisory



His Majesty riding one of the bikes displayed at the Energy Week 2014.

Board as well as speakers for the conference.

The Energy Week brought together stakeholders from Brunei Darussalam and abroad to exchange ideas and experiences including building a partnership towards the future of

sustainable energy for Brunei Darussalam.

Carrying the theme, 'Sustainable Energy for Brunei Darussalam Prosperity', the Energy Week showcased its commitment and contribution in making changes

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to the greener and cleaner world by moving forward in the areas of energy efficiency, energy conservation efforts and renewable energy.

The Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office in the preface of the Energy Week Programme Book said that the Brunei Darussalam Energy White Paper provides a study on the future development of the energy sector of Brunei Darussalam towards Brunei Vision 2035.

The Energy White Paper combined strategies towards strengthening and advancing upstream and downstream oil and gas activities; ensuring the safe and reliable supply and consumption of energy; and to maximise the economy from the oil and gas industry.

Meanwhile, the Brunei Oil and Gas Book featured individuals from oil and gas companies with a variety of backgrounds and qualification and what made them equate was hard work, dedication and fortitude.

The Energy Week which is held until the 29th of March will be hosting international conferences, seminars, forums and youth energy dialogues, as well as exhibitions and events that offer a unique platform to interact and discuss energy initiatives and technologies.

The BNERI International Annual Conference will provide a comprehensive view of the global energy environment from leading experts and authorities of

Chinese New Year 2014 Get-Together Ceremony

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 3 - 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 consented to attend a Get-Together ceremony held in conjunction with the Chinese New Year 2014, organised by the Brunei Darussalam Tiong Hwa Community.

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His Majesty observing a demonstration of one of the displayed vehicles that participated in the Shell Eco-Marathon 2012.

America, Europe and Asia. Meanwhile, the seminar for the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) - BNERI will facilitate discussions in various phases of market integration and the level of renewable energy technology.

More than 300 youths are expected to participate in the Youth Energy Dialogue to discuss their ideas and insights to achieve sustainable energy for the prosperity of Brunei Darussalam.

In accordance with the priority to the local business development (LBD) component in oil and gas, the LBD forum hopes to stimulate thought and dialogue on challenges and practical knowledge to get key enablers as well as critical success

factors towards maximising local content.

Meanwhile, the energy exhibition provides an interactive platform for networks with over 100 local and international exhibitors including the School Energy Club and higher education institutes showcasing the latest green technology, appliances and products in Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EEC) and Renewable Energy (RE).

The Energy Week brings together employers from different industries, institutions and youth, Energy Industry Competency Framework (EICF), Brunei Maritime Academy (BMA), as well as providing prospects of job opportunities for students and job seekers in various careers.



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 viewing the exhibition in conjunction with Chinese New Year 2014 Get-Together ceremony, organised by Brunei Darussalam Tiong Hwa Community.

Chinese New Year 2014 Get-Together Ceremony (continued)

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Upon arrival at the International Convention Centre, Their Majesties were welcomed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Kapitan Lela Diraja Dato Paduka Goh King Chin, Honorary Advisor to the Executive Committee for the Chinese New Year Get-Together and Ting Jack Hing as the Chairman of the Committee as well as the members of the executive committee.

Also in attendance were His Majesty's children, brothers and sisters; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir; His Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna and His Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.

Shortly after arrival, Their Majesties and members of the royal family joined a group photo session with members of the executive committee of the Brunei Darussalam Tiong Hwa Community.

The Get-Together Ceremony commenced with the singing of the national anthem and was further enlivened with performances by students of Chung Hwa Middle School as well as a Wushu performance by members of the Wushu



Their Majesties being briefed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Kapitan Lela Diraja Dato Paduka Goh King Chin, Honorary Advisor to the Executive Committee for the Chinese New Year Get-Together.

Federation of Brunei Darussalam.

Prior to leaving the event, Their Majesties and members of the royal family viewed an exhibition showcasing the customs and traditions of the Tiong Hwa Community.

The presence of Their Majesties at the event reflects the high level of attention towards the diversity of ethnic communities in the country, including the Tiong Hwa community.

The Tiong Hwa community residing in

the country not only plays a role in the development of the nation in various fields, but is also known to always work hand in hand with other community groups in making welfare-oriented contributions to members of the diverse society.

Chinese New Year is the largest event for the Chinese community and this year is the year of the Horse, which is a symbol of prosperity, well-being and strength in life and career, as well as joy and good fortune in business.



Their Majesties and members of the royal family in a group photo with members of executive committee of the Brunei Darussalam Tiong Hwa Community.

President of NFABD holds meeting with FIFA and AFC officials

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 12 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (NFABD) held separate meetings with FIFA and AFC officials.

Upon arrival at the NFABD House, His Royal Highness was welcomed by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Indera Sugara Brigadier General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd. Yusoff bin Abu Bakar, Deputy President of NFABD as well as members of EXCO NFABD.

Shortly after arrival, His Royal Highness joined a photograph session with FIFA and AFC officials.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (NFABD) in a meeting with Director of Member Associations and Development AFC.

His Royal Highness then held a meeting with Mr. Sanjeevan Balasingam, Director of Member Associations and Development AFC and followed with a meeting with Mr. Domeka Garamendi, FIFA Development Officer of Kuala Lumpur.

At the meeting, His Royal Highness with two officials from FIFA and AFC among others discussed issue on Goal Project, in addition to reviewing the action plan last year.

White Cane Charity Run

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 9 - More than 2,600 participated in the White Cane Charity Run which began and ended at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium, Berakas.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah consented to join the charity run, in the 5-kilometre run category.

The flagging off of the charity run in conjunction with the International White Cane Day, which consisted of seven categories, was launched by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah also consented to receive a certificate and medal of participation at the event.

The charity run was jointly organised by the Department of Community



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah at the White Cane Charity Run held at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium.

Development (JAPEM), Brunei Darussalam National Association of the Blind (BDNAB) and Armtrix Enterprise, with the aim to pave open opportunities for the public and corporate sector to donate to the BDNAB fund that will

be used to assist BDNAB's future operational programmes such as counselling, career training and rehabilitation for the special needs of vision under the association.

World Thinking Day 2014



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanul Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, President of the Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam (PPPBD); Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Mejeedah Nuurul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanul Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and 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 and Trade (MoFAT) at the World Thinking Day 2014 celebrations at PPPBD headquarters in Kampung Anggerek Desa.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 9 - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanul Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, President of the Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam (PPPBD) consented to attend the World Thinking Day 2014 celebration at PPPBD headquarters in Kampung Anggerek Desa.

Also in attendance were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Mejeedah Nuurul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanul Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and 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 and Trade (MoFAT).

At the ceremony, Their Royal Highnesses consented to sign a commemorative parchment for the World Thinking Day 2014.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah also consented to present prizes to the winners of the competition held in conjunction of the World Thinking Day 2014.

Pengiran Hajah Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Kamaluddin, Assistant Chief Commissioner of PPPBD as the Chairman of the event in her welcoming remarks among other said that the theme, 'Education Open Doors for All Girls and Boys' was in line with the importance of education as an effort to build human capital of a country.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah presenting a prize to one of the winners of the competition held in conjunction of the World Thinking Day 2014.

The annual event of the PPPBD and World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) is celebrated every 22nd of February with the aim to commemorate friendships and fundraising for the less fortunate girls around the world.

Such events can also indirectly educate members to be more aware of their surroundings and to care for people who need assistance, as well as to instill self-reliance, love for welfare activities as contained in the provisions and laws of PPPBD.

Strengthen cooperation in education

JERUDONG, March 16 - Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Education held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Bendito Freitas, Minister of Education of the Republic Democratic of Timor-Leste.

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Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Education and His Excellency Bendito Freitas, Minister of Education of the Republic Democratic of Timor-Leste during the bilateral meeting.



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At the meeting, both ministers shared views, experiences and best practices pertaining to education in both countries.

The Minister of Education also shared an overview on the National Education System for the 21st Century (SPN21) of Brunei Darussalam as well as discussions on programmes such as the School Leadership Programme (SLP) for school leaders conducted by Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

Both ministers also discussed on training programmes and teachers' development, student educational

exchanges, technical and vocational education, scholarship programmes and higher institutional linkages.

The Minister of Education further shared the initiative undertaken by Brunei Darussalam in revamping its technical and vocational education landscape including outlining the key components of SPN21's multiple pathways that equally cater to both technically and academically inclined students.

His Excellency Bendito Freitas is in the country joining the delegation of His

Excellency Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Security of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste for a three-day official visit.

Also joining the delegation of His Excellency Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao were His Excellency Jose Luis Guterres, Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste; His Excellency Alfredo Pires, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources; and Her Excellency Idelta Rodrigues, Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality.

Enhance pedagogy of Mathematics teachers

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 3 - The Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam and Marshall Cavendish Institute Singapore signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Numeracy Initiative Project Enhancing Pedagogy of Primary and Secondary Mathematics Teachers.

The signing ceremony was held at the Musyawarah Hall of the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Haji Zulkifli bin Haji Muhammad Yusuf, Acting Director of the Curriculum Department signed the MoU on behalf of the Ministry of Education, while Ms. Lee Fei Chen, Head of Publishing of the Times Publishing Group of Singapore signed on behalf of Marshall Cavendish Institute Singapore.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Education.

The numeracy initiative project aims to enhance the pedagogy of primary and secondary mathematics teachers.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Education witnessing the exchange of Memorandum of Understanding on the Numeracy Initiative Project Enhancing Pedagogy of Primary and Secondary Mathematics Teachers between the Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam and Marshall Cavendish Institute Singapore.

Among the objectives of this programme is to determine the level of knowledge competency of primary and secondary mathematics teachers thus enhancing their pedagogical skills.

It also aims to improve teachers' professional skills to enable them to be dynamic, creative and proactive towards effective mathematical teaching and learning in the classroom to improve students' achievement.

The programme is also aimed to increase the level of teachers' proficiency in the key performance indicator (KPI)

of mathematical teaching to allow the students to attain better grades.

The four essential elements included in the programme are the effectiveness of study on head teachers, teachers and students; professional development of primary and secondary mathematics teachers; curriculum development material for Year 1 to Year 6; and discussions on the curriculum.

The programme targeted 550 primary education teachers and 150 secondary education teachers as well as relevant officers.

Prime Minister of Timor-Leste visits Kampong Ayer



His Excellency Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao, Prime Minister and Minister for Defense and Security of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste in a group photo with the Minister of Communications as the Minister-in-Attendance and the Minister of Home Affairs at the Royal Wharf in the capital.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 16 - His Excellency Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao, Prime Minister and Minister for Defense and Security of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and his delegation continued their official visit with a visit to Kampong Ayer.

Upon arrival at the Royal Wharf, His Excellency and delegation were greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, Minister of Home Affairs.

Also present to welcome His Excellency and delegation were Permanent Secretaries and Deputy Permanent Secretaries of the Ministry of Home Affairs; Brunei-Muara District Officers and the Chairman of Bandar Seri Begawan Municipal

Board.

During the visit, His Excellency and delegation were brought to board a river cruise along the Brunei River to view a picturesque of Kampong Ayer followed with a visit to the Kampong Ayer Cultural and Tourism Gallery (KACTG).

His Excellency and delegation also had the opportunity to visit the Kampong Ayer Upgrading Pilot Project and was briefed by the Brunei-Muara District Officer about Kampong Ayer's affairs as well as a talk on the upgrading of the Kampong Ayer pilot project delivered by the Ministry of Development.

His Excellency and delegation are in the country for a three-day official visit.

Brunei - Oman strengthen cooperation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 10 - The relationship between Brunei Darussalam and the Sultanate of Oman in the field of culture and arts will be preserved and enhanced from time to time.

The relationship was further strengthened with the Bilateral Meeting between Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports and His Highness Sayyid Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour Al-Said, Minister of Heritage and Culture of the Sultanate of Oman.

In the meeting, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports and the Minister of Heritage and Culture of the Sultanate of Oman held a bilateral discussion and exchanged views on issues of mutual interest in both countries.

Also present at the meeting was Datin Paduka

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Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports with His Highness Sayyid Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour Al-Said, Minister of Heritage and Culture of the Sultanate of Oman.

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Dayang Hajah Adina binti Othman, Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports; Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd Hamid bin Haji Mohd Jaafar, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS); Directors, senior officers and officers of MCYS.

His Highness Sayyid Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour Al-Said and delegation then visited the ongoing Book Fair held at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

At the fair, His Highness had the opportunity to interact with the book fair participants. A representative from the Sultanate of Oman also participated in the fair to introduce books published by the Sultanate of Oman.

Brunei Darussalam and the Sultanate of Oman have inherent traditions that have existed since long ago.

Various areas of cooperation have been identified in areas such as trade and investment; oil and gas; education; air services; municipalities; religious, agricultural and fisheries; culture and information.

The close cooperation is based on mutual respect, transparency and understanding as a catalyst for the relationship.

Both countries formed diplomatic ties on the 24th of March 1984 and the relation will be further strengthened through collaboration between the two counties, as well as exploring new areas of mutual interest.

37 new books launches at the 15th Book Fair

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 1 - A total of 47 companies and stores participated in the 15th Book Fair 2014 comprising bookstores both local and abroad and filling up more than 100 stalls provided by the Brunei Language and Literature Bureau.

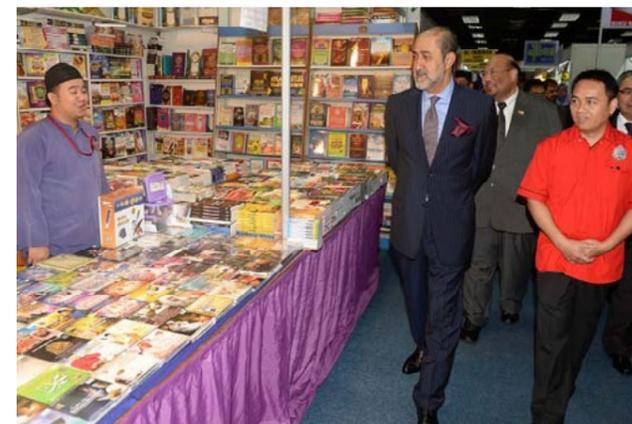
Present as the Guest of Honour to launch the 37 new book titles and bestseller presentations was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

The launching took place at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

Among the titles of the new books were, 'The Golden Warisan Brunei Darussalam Volume 11', 'Barat-Timur dan Bom Atom'; 'Cetusan Minda Sarjana Sastera dan Budaya'; 'Himpunan Penyelidikan dalam Pendidikan Bahasa Melayu'; 'Kumpulan Puisi Cahaya di Balik Luangga'; 'Kumpulan Drama Radio Terminal Rindu'; 'Sang Semut dengan Sang Papatung'; 'Coco yang Cerdik'; 'Zoy Topeng Sakti Siri 3 dan 4'; 'Estetika dan Keunikan Pola Penamaan Masyarakat Melayu Brunei: Dari Sudut Pandangan Budaya dan Linguistik' and 'Selera Warisan Brunei'.

The Minister said in his speech that the reading level among the people needs to be taken into consideration and it is an indicator and measure to determine the quality of life of a society and nation.

The fair provides the opportunity for visitors to purchase various books at a discount of up to 70 per cent and the books sold are from various genres such as scientific books, general, languages, dictionary, comics, cuisines, encyclopedias,



His Highness Sayyid Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour Al-Said, Minister of Heritage and Culture of the Sultanate of Oman touring the Book Fair 2014 at the International Convention Centre.

Also present at the visit and meeting were His Excellency Sheikh Hamed Hilal Ali Al Mamari, Undersecretary for Cultural Affairs; Al Sayyid Faisal Hamood Nasar Al-Busaidi Head of Highness, the Minister Office; Khamis Abdullah Ali Al Shamaki, Director of Cultural Relations; Mubarik Mahmood Lashkaran Al-Zadjaly, Director of Coordination and Follow-Up Office of the Minister; Raiya Mohamed Abdullah Al Kindi, Director of the Museums Department and Huda Khamis Nasser Al-Wahaibi, Historical Studies Researcher – Second.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, as the guest of honour launching the new 37 book titles at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

terminology, children's story books, computer guides and more.

Among the main objective of the fair was to introduce and sell books as well as to provide opportunities and interactions for dealers, publishers, librarians, book lovers and the public to increase the appreciation of books.

Additionally, it also provides opportunities and allows the public to obtain these books as gifts of knowledge in places that are convenient, comfortable and fosters business collaboration and as a consensus on strategies for expanding the book publishing industry regionally and internationally.

Also present were Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Adina binti Othman, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports; Permanent Secretaries; Directors and Head of Departments.