



# برونى دارالسلام Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam newsletter

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## Committed to Reduce Climate Change Impact



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 at the Retreat Session of the 24th APEC Economic Leaders Meeting (AELM).

**LIMA, PERU REPUBLIC, November 20** - 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 yesterday consented to attend the Retreat Session of the 24th APEC Economic Leaders Meeting (AELM) that was held at the Lima Convention Centre, Republic of Peru.

His Excellency Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, President of the Republic of Peru, welcomed the arrival of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Lima Convention Centre.

During the Retreat Session of the 24th APEC Economic Leaders Meeting, His Majesty consented to deliver a *titah* (royal address) which emphasised Brunei Darussalam's commitment towards reducing the impact of climate change and welcoming the enforcement of the Paris Agreement.

His Majesty was confident that by addressing the challenges of climate change, Brunei Darussalam will continue to maintain the national forest conservation policy

and committed to reduce the energy consumption within the region in 2035 as one of the APEC goals.

His Majesty hopes to achieve the APEC Diet System to be established by the year 2020 through the Lima Declaration on Food Security.

His Majesty welcomed the APEC Connectivity Blueprint 2015-2025 and further emphasised the importance of the Blueprint, which will serve as a complement to the efforts of the region.

His Majesty also stressed on the need to continue supporting each other through best practices and capacity building in terms of institutional network. His Majesty also highlighted on the exchange between people in regional integration, especially in education, as a way to encourage innovative ideas and equip youths.

His Majesty welcomed the students from APEC countries to study in Brunei Darussalam under the Global Discovery Programme.



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## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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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 receives in audience at Istana Nurul Iman from:



His Excellency Tan Sri Doctor Ali Hamsa, the Chief Secretary to the Government of Malaysia on November 26.



Ministers and heads of delegations from ASEAN member states and dialogue partners, as well as the Secretary General of ASEAN who were in Brunei Darussalam for the 16th ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministers Meeting (16th ASEAN TELMIN) on November 26. Also in attendance was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

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 receives in audience at Istana Nurul Iman from:



Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Musa bin Haji Aman, Chief Minister of Sabah and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Seri Panglima Datuk Hajah Faridah binti Haji Tussin on November 28.

**His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives diplomatic credentials from 17 newly-appointed envoys to Brunei Darussalam. The ceremony was held on November 28 at Istana Nurul Iman.**

They were:



**His Excellency Sylvestre Kouassi Bile, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.**



**His Excellency Khaga Nath Adhikari, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Nepal.**



**His Excellency George Dogoritis, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Hellenic (Greece).**



**His Excellency Ivan Hotek, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Republic of Czech.**



**Her Excellency Samkelisiwe Isabel Mhlanga, High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa.**



**His Excellency Abdulla Matar Khamis Al Mazrouei, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Republic of the United Arab Emirates.**



**His Excellency Issop Patel, High Commissioner of the Republic of Mauritius.**



**His Excellency Yazkuli Mammedov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Turkmenistan.**



**His Excellency Nimal Weeraratne, High Commissioner of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.**



**His Excellency Walubita Imakando, High Commissioner of the Republic of Zambia.**



**His Excellency Abubaccar Jah, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic of Gambia.**



**His Excellency Ronaldo Anibal Guevara Alvarado, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Panama.**



His Excellency Kreso Glavac, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Republic of Croatia.



His Excellency Petri Juhani Puhakka, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Finland.



His Excellency Dmytro Senik, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine.



His Excellency Rodolfo Solano Quiros, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Republic of Costa Rica.



His Excellency Slobodan Marinkovic, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Serbia.

## Royalty receives FAPW delegation



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, and the members of the Working Committee of the Friends of Asia Pacific World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (FAPW) in a group photo at the Istana Nurul Iman.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 12** – Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Head of the Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association consented to receive a visit from members of the Working Committee of the Friends of Asia Pacific World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (FAPW) at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Among the members of the FAPW Working Committee were Dr Juseon Byun, the FAPW Adviser from the Republic of Korea; Susan Locsin, Chairperson of the FAPW from the Republic of the Philippines; Helen Hargreaves, Deputy Chairperson of the FAPW from Australia; Junko Sato, a member from Japan; Peggy Lee Fook Tai, member from Hong Kong SAR; Sun Kyo Jung, member from the Republic of Korea; and Judge Marybelle Marinas, Chairperson

for the Asia Pacific Region from the Republic of the Philippines.

The delegation was in Brunei Darussalam to attend the Administrative Committee Meeting of the Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam (known locally by its Malay initials, PPPBD) for the preparation of the 5th General Assembly of the Friends of Asia Pacific World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (FAPW), which will be held in Brunei Darussalam in March 2017.

Also present were Dayang Hajah Siti Hafsa binti Haji Abdul Halim, the Head Commissioner of the PPPBD; Dayang Hajah Viviyanti binti Haji Ali, Deputy Head Commissioner of the PPPBD; Dayang Norazrina binti Haji Sarbini, International Commissioner of the PPPBD; and Dayang Aida binti Haji Abdul Rahman, the Honorary Commissioner of the PPPBD.

## Youths urged to broaden horizons



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 presenting the Youth Association Excellent Project Award to Awang Mohammad Khairul Azmi bin Haji Mohd. Salleh, the Acting Chairman of SCOT (left) and the Excellent Youth Award to Dayang Siti Huzzaimah Yadey binti Haji Rosli, the Chairperson of the Kampung Junjungan Women's Association (right).

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 3** - Today's youth should continue pursuing bold endeavours such as entrepreneurship, and seize the vast opportunities available in many sectors by broadening their horizons. This was stated by 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 11th National Youth Day Celebration which was held at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

His Majesty, who was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, was greeted on arrival by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports,

His Majesty further urged in his *titah* (royal speech) delivered to thousands of youth from different backgrounds and organisations during the event. for the country's youth to be relentless in investing time and energy for their own progression.

In line with the theme 'Visionary Youth: Catalyst for Transformation', His Majesty said, "This should be embraced as a challenge. Transformation means bringing in an era of changes and opportunities for all, especially the youth, who are the agents of change."

Even at a young age, many of the youths today had triumphed in various sectors such as medicine, law, engineering, religion and entrepreneurship which was a testament to the youth's attitude for making rapid change, noted His Majesty.

"These achievements are a means for them to delve into shaping the country's future."

Calling the youth as 'pillars' of the nation's strength, His Majesty said that visionary and outstanding youths are what the country needs, while reminding them that weakness and giving up is never an option and are not the youth's nature, as they must be bold and courageous.

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### His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

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

- His Excellency Donald J Trump, the President-Elect of the United States of America, on his election victory on November 9.
- His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni, King of the Kingdom of Cambodia and His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia on the occasion of the kingdom's 63rd Independence Day Anniversary on November 9.

### Establish Diplomatic Relations

**NEW YORK, November 22** - The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas have decided to establish diplomatic relations which will be in effect from 21st of November 2016.

The signing of the Joint Communiqué took place at Brunei Darussalam's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York.

The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was represented by His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Ghafar bin Haji Ismail, Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations in New York whilst the Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas was represented by His Excellency Dr. Elliston Rahming, Permanent Representative of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas to the United Nations in New York.

## Youths urged to broaden horizons



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with the recipients of the Youth Awards 2016 in conjunction with the 11th National Youth Day celebration.

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Noting that many of the younger generation today have explored entrepreneurial opportunities that began from humble beginnings such as car wash services, fish rearing, creative industries and many others, His Majesty said that even from scratch, it can flourish into something great with hard work and perseverance.

His Majesty further said that this is a form of challenge that requires sacrifice and hard work that entails not only money and energy, but more essentially, time. "When time is used in the path of virtue, that is considered the most effective sacrifice," the Monarch added, while noting that this is a smart practice that is in the right and safe path.

His Majesty also highlighted that even Allah the Almighty has promised with time, that all mankind are in loss, except for those who spend their time with good virtues, as stated in *Surah Al-Asr* in the Al-Qur'an.

His Majesty further noted that time utilisation is a challenge for all and cautioned that if it is not being used wisely, one will plunge into a life-crisis, which he said must be overcome at once.

"With so much time and chance to continuously develop, the decision rests on the youths to grasp the opportunities," the Monarch said, while expressing hope that the country's youth will demonstrate these qualities.

His Majesty also cautioned the youths to always keep in mind their religion and cultural roots, by staying away from being too immersed in today's age of unrestricted technology in a world without borders, which could mess with people's minds, causing them to do the unthinkable.

"And then, there comes a group that glorifies freedom without restriction that sparks a new culture that no longer cares about tradition and religion. Usually this group is dominated by the youth everywhere," His Majesty said, while expressing hope that Brunei's youth will not be 'trapped in such free concept', but will remain as youths that are faithful to the religion and abide by national laws and traditions.

Earlier, in his opening speech, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi said that His Majesty's presence was a reminder to the country's youth of the important role they play in society by making a meaningful contribution to social development, as well as the progress of the nation and religion in order to face challenges in the era of globalisation.

The minister said that the theme was chosen to take into account the importance for youths to prepare themselves to be educated, skilled and successful citizens who can contribute towards creating a society that is of quality, and in generating a dynamic and resilient economy under the objectives of the Brunei Vision 2035. "Transformation is a must to achieve a developed country," he said.

His Majesty also consented to present awards to youths and youth organisations who were recognised through their services to the nation. The awards comprised of four categories - Excellent Youth Award, Youth Volunteer Award, Young Leader Youth Award, and Youth Association Excellent Project Award.

The recipient of the Excellent Youth Award was Siti Huzzaimah Yadey binti Haji Rosli, Chairperson of the Kampung Junjungan Women's Association; while the Youth Volunteer Award was won by Nurizzatul Izzah binti Haji Abdul Rahman from the Society of Human Development (KESAN); the Young Leader Youth Award then was won by Mohammad Anwar bin Haji Mohammad from the Society for Community Outreach and Training (SCOT); and the Youth Association Excellent Project Award was won by Green Xchange from SCOT.

All the recipients received a trophy, *Kain Tenunan* (woven fabric), a certificate of presentation and \$3,000 cash. The celebration brought together almost 1,000 youths who have answered His Majesty's call to utilise His Majesty's Government's youth development programmes and projects.

Another aim of the celebration was to gather youths from across the country to participate in activities that are meaningful, and provide an opportunity for them to exchange views, especially on the development and progress of youths.

## Introduce relevant programmes to boost economic development



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*.

**BERAKAS, NOVEMBER 7** - HIS Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan dan Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam as the Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) urged UTB to increase its efforts to introduce relevant programmes to boost the economic development of the nation.

This was stated in His Majesty's *titah* (royal speech) during UTB Convocation Ceremony 2016 held at International Convention Centre, Berakas.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's arrival was greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, Minister of Education as the Chairman of the UTB Council; Profesor Madya Dr. Hajah Zohrah binti Haji Sulaiman, Vice Chancellor of UTB and Jannifer Hiew-Lim, Registrar and Secretary of UTB.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting the certificate to one of the graduates.

Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office as the Pro Chancellor of UTB.

His Majesty further acknowledged that UTB graduates are capable of meeting the demands of the job market, however, the involvement in entrepreneurship is still at a low level. His Majesty encouraged UTB to research and recreate their curriculum to ensure that the spirit, determinations and opportunities in entrepreneurship can be utilised at an early stage.

However, His Majesty reminded that anything that is planned and implemented should always be based on Melayu Islam Beraja (MIB) or Malay Islamic Monarchy.

At the same time, His Majesty highlighted that in order to address the global economic crisis, UTB and Higher Education Institutions (IPTA) should practice being cost-effective or thrifty and not entirely reliant on the Government.

His Majesty also acknowledged the establishment of the School of Applied Sciences and Mathematics, which offers a Bachelor of Science in Food Science and Technology, which among others, is intended to support the economic growth of the food industry in the country, in line with the government's efforts to diversify its economic resources through foreign direct investment.

His Majesty was also pleased to know that UTB's School of Computing and Informatics has been recognised by the British Computer Society. His Majesty believed that the recognition is very important in the uncertain global economic climate, where initiatives towards recognition of these programs can save on training costs for employers.

After the *titah*, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to present the Master Degree, Bachelors Degree and Higher National Diploma to a total of 599 graduates - 1 Master of Science (by research) graduate, 309 Bachelors Degree graduates, 119 Level 5 Higher National Diploma graduates and 170 BDTVEC Higher National Diploma graduates.

UTB has a vision of becoming one of the top 10 engineering and technology universities in the Southeast Asia region by 2018 and is committed to fulfilling four strategic aspirations: to produce 360 degree students who are capable, responsible for the society and economic development of the country, and having a strong MIB values; excellent in all areas, namely teaching and learning, research and involvement in the community; establishing strategic partnerships with important stakeholders and the provision of diverse and stimulating intellectual learning environments.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam greeted by one of the UTB Council members.

# His Majesty attends 24th APEC Economic Leaders Meeting

## ABAC Dialogue Session

**LIMA, REPUBLIC OF PERU, November 19** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to attend the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Dialogue Session with other Economic Leaders of APEC held at the Lima Convention Centre, Republic of Peru.

The arrival of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the 24th APEC Economic Leaders Meeting (AELM) was welcomed officially by His Excellency Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, the President of the Republic of Peru.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam subsequently attended the Plenary Session of the ABAC Dialogue together with the other Economic Leaders of APEC. The Plenary Session began with a speech delivered by the President of the Republic of Peru as Chairperson of the 2016 APEC Economic Leaders Meeting (AELM).

This was followed by the announcement of the ABAC Report delivered by the ABAC Chairperson, Mr Juan Raffo.

The Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation Business Advisory Council (ABAC) is the private sector arm of the APEC Cooperation Forum, which submits proposals to the APEC Economic Leaders through the annual dialogue and advises APEC officials on the business sector priorities and challenges.



**APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Dialogue Session held at the Lima Convention Centre, Republic of Peru with the attendance 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.**

## Gala Banquet

**LIMA, REPUBLIC OF PERU, November 19** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to attend the Gala Banquet held at the Parque de la Reserva, Lima.

The Gala Banquet was hosted by His Excellency Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, the President of the Republic of Peru to welcome the APEC Economic Leaders who were present at the 24th APEC Economic Leaders Meeting (AELM).

The arrival of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Parque de la Reserva was welcomed by the President of the Republic of Peru.

The Monarch subsequently entered the Banquet Hall with the President of the Republic of Peru and other APEC Economic Leaders.

The Gala Banquet began with a speech delivered by the President of the Republic of Peru to welcome the APEC Economic Leaders.

The event was enlivened by cultural and musical performances.



**His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was welcomed by President of the Republic of Peru, His Excellency Pedro Pablo Kuczynski.**

## His Majesty attends TPP Summit



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 Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Summit held at the Lima Convention Centre, Republic of Peru.

**LIMA, REPUBLIC OF PERU, November 19** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to attend the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Summit held at the Lima Convention Centre, Republic of Peru.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was welcomed by His Excellency Barack Obama, the President of the United States of America as the host of the TPP Summit.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Summit focused on the status report on the signatories' ratification and procedures. Another topic under discussion was the political development since the TPP Agreement was signed on February 4, 2016.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam thanked His Excellency President Barack Obama for delivering a briefing on the status of the TPP in the United States of America. The Monarch also shared information on efforts carried out by Brunei Darussalam to ratify the TPP.

At the end of the *titah*, the Monarch thanked the President for his leadership and dedication to the TPP initiatives, and expressed his appreciation of the long standing close link between Brunei Darussalam and the United States of America.

The TPP Summit was attended by the 12 signatory states: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Republic of Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Republic of Peru, Republic of Singapore, the United States of America and Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

## His Royal Highness the Crown Prince visits Singapore

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 Prime Minister's Office, greeted by His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore, during a luncheon hosted by the Prime Minister.



**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, November 27** - 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, was in Singapore for a six-day official visit from November 27 to December 2 at the invitation of His Excellency Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Coordinating Minister for National Security.

His Royal Highness was on a visit to Singapore for the 4th Singapore-Brunei Darussalam Young Leaders' Programme (YLP). The YLP is a key bilateral platform launched in 2013 to strengthen the close ties between young leaders from Brunei Darussalam and Singapore.

His Royal Highness was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman, and their children, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim ibni Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah binti Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman ibni Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.

During the visit, His Royal Highness and members of his delegation attended a luncheon hosted by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong as well as to Coney Island Park, Punggol Waterway and a welcome dinner for Their Royal Highnesses hosted by Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean.

His Royal Highness also made visits to the Home Team Tactical Centre and Singapore Armed Forces' Armour Simulation Centre at Sungei Gedong Camp. His Royal Highness also received briefings on the work of the Committee on the Future Economy and the role and functions of the Strategy Group at the Prime Minister's Office.

His Royal Highness' visit reaffirms the excellent and long-standing ties between Brunei Darussalam and Singapore, and will further strengthen the deep and multi-faceted cooperation.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman during a welcome dinner hosted by Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean and spouse.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah and their children, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah at Coney Island Park, Punggol Waterway.

## Charity Golf Tournament



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 presenting a mock cheque for Fund for Orphans (DANA).

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 6** - 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 graced the 11th Challenge Trophy for Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda Mahkota Al-Muhtadee Billah Fund for Orphans (DANA) Charity Golf Tournament 2016 prize presentation ceremony at the Royal Brunei Golf and Country Club.

His Royal Highness also presented a mock cheque amounting \$43,800 to the Pengiran Muda Mahkota Al-Muhtadee Billah Fund for Orphans (DANA).

Awang Suhaimi bin Haji Ibrahim won the 11th Challenge Trophy for Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda Mahkota Al-Muhtadee Billah Fund for Orphans (DANA) Charity Golf Tournament 2016 in the overall-gross title after carding a score of 72.

This year, over 268 golfers took part in the Charity Golf Tournament 2016 that was held from October 28 to October 30.

## Brunei-France Art Festival

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 20** - Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman consented to grace the France-Brunei Art Festival held at the Rotunda of the Empire Hotel and Country Club in Jerudong on November 19.

Also present were Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim ibni Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah binti Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.

In her welcoming speech, Her Excellency Loan Forgeron, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of France to Brunei Darussalam said the event was held to enhance the long-standing bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and France. The involvement of arts enthusiasts from the two countries enhances co-operation, tolerance and peace.

Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah consented to view a solo piano performance by Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah binti Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, who also performed in a group singing French songs.

The arts festival that began since November 12 was also participated by arts enthusiasts from Brunei Darussalam and France.

The festival featured the works of art by local artists, French movie posters and Brunei traditional costumes. Historical French films, the "Gaumont 120 years of cinema" displayed 15 posters of classic French films and three French films were also shown.

Also present at the event was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apang, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism.

# Malay Islamic Monarchy key to prevent social ailments

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 1** – Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman consented to attend the launching of the National Anti-Drug Association of Brunei Darussalam (BASMIDA) seminar which was held at the Indera Kayangan Ballroom, The Empire Hotel and Country Club, Jerudong.

The theme of the seminar, ‘Prevention of Misuse of Drugs through Malay Islamic Monarchy (MIB) Values’ was in line with the challenges of globalisation and social development, particularly with the movement for legalisation of drugs that has been gaining momentum in some western countries.

The current social developments were at a worrying state and such disturbing developments require specific responses in order to defend the country’s stance of zero tolerance against the abuse of drugs and controlled substances.

This was in line with the ASEAN spirit of mutual respect for the sovereignty of each member state to determine and implement the best policies towards the region’s development and to create a drug-free society pursuant to values and norms respectively.

This was stated by Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab.Rahaman in her *sabda* (royal speech) at the launching of the seminar.

In Brunei Darussalam, the MIB concept is very much relevant and has a significant role towards empowering the capabilities and resilience of the community to prevent any causes of social ailments, which includes the misuse of drugs and its harmful effects to an individual’s identity, community and country.

Her Royal Highness noted that as one of the objectives of BASMIDA, Preventive Drug Education (PDE) is one of the effective and cost efficient methods in tackling drug abuse.

With programmes which aim to strengthen awareness and knowledge on the dangers of misuse of drugs and drug addiction among society, PDE is able to build a respectful identity and integrity among individuals.

“More importantly, PDE emphasises on efforts towards building good individuals with spiritual, religious, political, moral, cultural, and social attitudes and values.”



**Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman delivering her *sabda* at the launching of the seminar.**

“The instilling of these values starts from early childhood education through the dissemination of best practices, in a conducive social environment,” said Her Royal Highness.

Her Royal Highness added that the noble values in the MIB concept aim to strengthen the personality and mental strength of each individual from the misuse of drugs and other controlled substances.

Aside from being visionary, positive and ethical while adhering to Islamic values to achieve Brunei Vision 2035, the involvement of society through holistic drug prevention education is the key to the success of eradicating the drug abuse threats, said Her Royal Highness.

The success of this seminar will not only be seen through the dissemination of knowledge and ideas, but we also need to prepare ourselves to ensure the development of the country and the ASEAN Community are free of drugs.

In that direction, BASMIDA as the local NGO that has received the ASEAN People’s Award should move further forward to increase their role and contribution to ensure that the dynamic and progressive development aspirations of the ASEAN region.



**Her Royal Highness touring the exhibition held during the occasion.**



**A section of the participants during the seminar.**

## Brunei hosts ARDEX 2016



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs, delivering his opening speech.



The Minister of Home Affairs launching the ARDEX 2016.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 29** - The 'One ASEAN One Response' Strategy, in handling disaster, portrays ASEAN's continuous commitment in protecting its people.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs at the Official Opening of the ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise 2016, ARDEX-16, said that the strategy is one of ASEAN's significant achievements in its effort to ensure fast response and immediate resource mobilization so that relief assistance reaches the affected population.

The minister said that the organising of ARDEX 2016 at this juncture was very timely as a follow-up and was able to put the 'One ASEAN One Response' into action. He added that the exercise will explore the co-ordination of regional response to Brunei Darussalam following the impact on super-typhoon.

The minister explained that one of the significant achievements was the strategy of 'One ASEAN One Response' to show its continued commitment to maintain the ASEAN community.

As high as 30 per cent of the number of deaths due to catastrophic events were from the ASEAN region. ASEAN remains committed to ensuring prompt response and mobilisation of resources immediately to enable aid to the affected population.

ARDEX-16 aims to test ASEAN regional mechanism and joint response to disasters, which would be in line with the 'ASEAN Standby Arrangements and Standard Operating Procedures', ASEAN SASOP. This was co-organised by Brunei Darussalam through the National Disaster Management Centre and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management, AHA Centre.

Tabletop training is also expected to examine the role of the Secretary-General of ASEAN as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator as well as coordination between ASEAN sectoral bodies.

The minister further stated that ARDEX was formed for us to be ready for any kinds of disaster, and it also could help the poor countries that were affected.

"Most importantly, ARDEX was set up to show how we have prepared and how committed we are to help each other in times of crisis," he said.

More than 150 participants from Brunei Darussalam and foreign countries including the ASEAN member countries, regional and international bodies and related government agencies attended the three days training.

## Brunei GAP awarded to successful farmer



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism presenting the BRUNEI GAP certificate to the co-owner of Eco Nadi Agrobiz.

**KIARONG, October 31** - ECO Nadi Agrobiz, which is a local agricultural company, has gained BRUNEI GAP (Good Agricultural Practice Brunei) recognition from the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood in May 2016.

The presentation of the BRUNEI GAP certificate of recognition was delivered by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism to the co-owner of the company, Haji Mohd. Ayub bin Awang Suhaili and Khairuddin bin Mohamad.

By following the BRUNEI GAP recognition programme, the agricultural system run by the enterprise has been enhanced by the farm itself and become more systematic through the conscious use of chemical pesticides correctly and safely, harvesting and post-harvest handling a greater focus on food safety and product quality. Such recognition is not only carried out in Brunei Darussalam, other ASEAN countries have also implemented it to facilitate regional trade.

Apart from Eco Nadi Agrobiz, Syarikat Tunas Harapan Farm was also granted the BRUNEI GAP for the second time on December 7, 2015 for vegetable crops in sheltered housing system based on Si Bongkok Farm, Kampung Masin, Brunei-Muara District.

## Brunei Career Fair 2016

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 27** - The economic challenges faced by the country at present, gives an opportunity for all parties to be more proactive and integrated, as well as to work even harder to improve the unemployment situation at the moment. The ministries and government agencies such as the Department of Energy and Industry; Foreign Direct Investment Steering Committee; Ministry of Home Affairs; Ministry of Education; and other agencies need to work together and seek with determination through the whole of government approach to reduce the unemployment rate by as much as possible.

This was stated by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Rtd) Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar, Minister of Energy and Industry at the Prime Minister's Office at the launch of Brunei Career Fair 2016, which was held at Hall 1, BRIDEX International Conference Centre, Jerudong.

He added that the efforts and responsibilities in reducing unemployment and the generation of employment opportunities are not placed solely on the government alone, but definitely involves parties that are important such as the private sector (including the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises - MSME), organisations and so on.

The minister said that among the challenges faced was getting the real unemployment data, and so actions by all parties to address the issues of unemployment can be implemented in full.

The Career Fair Brunei 2016 is one of the government's efforts to involve all sectors of industry in the country as a whole in one place and this is the starting point of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for Brunei Job Centre.



The exchange of documents between Darussalam Enterprise (DARE) and SME Corporation Malaysia. The exchange was witnessed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Rtd) Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar, Minister of Energy and Industry at the Prime Minister's Office.

A total of 222 companies participated in the Career Fair Brunei 2016 (including 112 companies that participated online). The festival showcased as many as 2,565 jobs from the sectors of energy; construction and engineering; banking and finance; IT and creative; education and health services; hospitality and tourism; manufacturing and sales; and transportation and logistics. Also participating were foreign direct investment partners and young entrepreneurs, higher education institutions and uniformed agencies.

## Leadership Conference 2016

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 6** - Globalisation and technological advancement have made the world smaller and more sophisticated, and competition for talents will be more obvious.

According to Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, the deepening and enhancement of financial knowledge and skills in Brunei Darussalam was of utmost importance so that the industry would stay robust and competitive as financial services is one of the economic clusters to be further developed in this country.

The minister stated the matter at the Leadership Conference (LeadCon) 2016 and added that, the Continuous Professional Development PD framework by Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD) and Centre For Islamic Banking, Finance and Management (CIBFM) would help build and enhance the individual's skills and expertise in the financial services industry, including leadership.

The conference involved 131 locals and foreign participants including government officers, chief executive officers, senior executives and managers from the private sector attended the conference.

Also present was Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Mohammad Roselan bin Haji Mohammad Daud, Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism delivering his speech during the launching of the LeadCon 2016.

The conference was aimed at providing a platform for the locals and global leaders to share their experiences and provide new perspectives on leadership and innovation.

Themed 'Leadership and Innovation in a changing Global Environment', the conference discussed leadership issues that was faced globally.

Organised by CIBFM and supported by AMBD, the LeadCon 2016 also offers local and international delegates opportunities to build and strengthen their business network.

## Relationships important to reduce ASEAN digital divide



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat, Minister of Communications, (right) during the 16th TELMIN hosted by Brunei Darussalam.

**BERAKAS, 25 November** - Relationships are one of the most important requirements for ASEAN to reduce the digital divide and narrow the development gap to achieve the collective goals of the ASEAN Economic Meeting. The Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministers of ASEAN Meeting (16th TELMIN) is hoped to provide the leadership necessary for the progress of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan (AIM2020) initiative in order to become a community ASEAN in respect.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat, Minister of Communications stated the matter at the 16th TELMIN held at the International Conference Centre.

In his speech, the minister highlighted on the theme of the meeting, 'Connected and Innovative Community' which are relevant and applicable, focused on connecting the community and also enhance creativity and innovation as the backbone for economic development.

Previous meetings began with the appointment of Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat, Minister of Communications, as Chairman of 16th TELMIN.

The two-day meeting discussed, among others, on the implementation of the ASEAN 2020 Masterplan and the use of key performance indicators as a tool to measure the progress of ICT master plan.

The ministers also reviewed the projects for work cycle 2017 and welcomed the progress that has been made especially in the ASEAN Framework for Personal Data Protection and also the ASEAN Framework for International Mobile Roaming.

At the meeting, the ministers also discussed about the cyber security and welcomed the progress and development within the framework of Cooperation Cyber Security Strategy.

The meeting also unanimously approved the 'Declaration on Connected and Innovative Community Brunei Darussalam' which among other things outlines the commitment of ASEAN to enhance relations in ASEAN and promote innovation as a key driver to development and enhance competitive advantage.

ICT and Telecommunications Ministers of ASEAN also held consultative meetings with China, Japan and Republic of Korea to review the Progress Programme 2016 and 2017 New Work Programme for the next cycle in the field of cyber security, human resources development and new technologies.

## New history galleries open to public



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports officially opens the History Exhibition Gallery.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 26** - Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, launched the History Exhibition Gallery and 'Getting Close with History and Learning of Archives Programme' at the Brunei History Centre in collaboration with the State Archive and Department of Museums.

Pengiran Hajah Mahani binti Pengiran Ahmad, Acting Principal of the Centre noted in her speech that reminiscing the glory of the golden Brunei monarchy in the 15th Century and learning about the nation's victory during those times can be motivating towards driving the development of the nation.

The History Exhibition Gallery includes an exhibition showcasing early Brunei history, while the Glory Era Gallery features sub-sections; such as the history of the discovery of travellers' path to Southeast Asia, Brunei as a trade hub, Brunei's relations with the western powers, Kampong Ayer as the ruling centre, ports and trade including important events in Brunei history from the 15th to 16th centuries.

There is also the Interactive Gallery which lets visitors view, listen, touch, smell and generate thoughts. The concept was used at exhibition galleries overseas to diversify the exhibition, making it more interesting, informative, educational and fun, the acting principal said.

The galleries were established with the consent of 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 to introduce Brunei's fame in history to the public.

The galleries were open to members of the public as part of the efforts to promote Bandar Seri Begawan as the ASEAN City of Culture 2016-2017 and 'Bandarku Ceria'.

Meanwhile, the programme themed 'Loving History and Archives' serves to localise history, and archive it for all levels of the community, particularly the younger generation, in order to raise awareness of the importance of history and archive resources towards the nation's development.

It also invites the community, particularly the historical artifacts and archives collectors, to showcase and share valuable materials of historical heritage that they own as education and learning materials.

The programme also aims to provide knowledge to the public and government agencies on the state archive's role as the research centre which keeps the national heritage in various record sources which needs to be maintained and preserved for future generations.

## Literary authors important in society



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports launching the 6th Brunei Laureate Meeting 2016.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 29** – Literary authors are an important segment of the society. Through writing, they found a myriad of thoughts, opinions, criticism, ideas and new knowledge in together developing Brunei Darussalam.

Speaking at the Opening Ceremony of the 6th Brunei Laureate Meeting (PSB VI) 2016 held at the Balai Sarmayuda, Language and Literature Bureau (DBP), Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports further added that the writers needed an area to come together to share experiences and look at the development of literature in Brunei and therefore, the cooperation between the authors is necessary especially in uniting to write.

According to the minister, ASTERAWANI is more than half a century old and whose members are made up of writers and lovers of literature who are mature, experienced, and knowledgeable.

Therefore, he urged ASTERAWANI to continue to assist and produce young writers, so that they will be able to engage and be aware of their role as successors in this association, because they are aware that the development of literature and language in particular will be able to help the society in shaping and appreciating their identity as Bruneians and would not be ashamed to admit that they are Bruneian.

“The loss of our old people and people with merit will be felt causing a continuity gap of this important role,” explained the minister.

Furthermore, literary works in this country can be spread throughout the world, namely by translating the works into foreign languages such as English, French, Arabic, Chinese and other languages. This effort is indeed not a simple matter because it requires expertise in these languages, but it can be done systematically or in stages, with the lively and evolved language and our literature.

In the meantime, the minister was also proud of the translated works such as the works from Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti (Adi Rumi)’s collection of poems ‘*Jendela Dunia*’ has been translated into English, namely ‘Window on the World’.

The minister suggested that the written works by recipients of the S.E.A. Write awards are given priority for translation. The cooperation of all stakeholders in the fight for the field of literature and language are highly expected and welcomed to realise this goal, he said.

Before that, the minister said that citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam are thankful to Allah the Almighty for the gift of grace from Him, and have been able to enjoy all this while, namely through the wise and visionary leadership of 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.

This was clearly suitable with the theme chosen by ASTERAWANI for the meeting this time, ‘*Semarak Sastera Era Kebawah Duli*’, which in this context, the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam always encourages the writers in the country to continue to be active in the field of literary writing, whether creative or non-creative, as long as the work maintains the harmony of the people and the country that they love.

The minister also expressed that he was proud, happy and grateful to DBP as a department under the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports for working with voluntary associations such as ASTERAWANI, which is in accordance with the function and purpose of its establishment to uphold the Malay Language and literature. He further hoped that continued cooperation will be maintained in organising the Brunei Laureate meeting.

# Islamic Fintech potential for collaboration and investment



Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd Daud, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs (middle), as the guest of honour at the seminar.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 10** - Islamic Fintech (financial technology) is an area through which Brunei Darussalam can find fresh avenues for international collaboration and investment.

This was highlighted by Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd Daud, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs, while delivering a keynote speech at a seminar on 'Exploring Islamic Fintech' at the Banquet Hall of the Prime Minister's Office.

The seminar was organised by the Energy and Industry Department of the Prime Minister's Office, with the cooperation of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, and supported by Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam.

"Islamic Fintech is a good example, for which we can find avenues for international collaboration and investment that will enhance and strengthen our niche," he said.

"It promotes the importance of Aqad or mutual agreement, which is clearly understood by users in order to validate the process. Most importantly, it provides security, transparency, a Syariah-compliant system and adopts the principality of Syariah's higher objectivity that is the preservation of wealth," he continued. This can, in turn, create and generate capital, spinoffs in the local market such as employment opportunities and, ultimately, diversify and boost the Brunei economy. We are delighted by the favourable reception from various industrial players from the Republic of Korea in exploring these areas and encourage close cooperation and engagement."

Reflecting on the topic of the seminar, he noted that it unites together two unique concepts - financial technology or 'Fintech' and Islamic values.

"The growing cashless society is built on the foundations of Fintech advancements. With the surge in demand from consumers for cheaper, faster and efficient financial solutions and services, it is no wonder that Fintech has sparked global interest, Brunei Darussalam included."

He cited a recent Accenture study, which showed that global investments in Fintech ventures in the first quarter of 2016 had reached \$5.3 billion - a 67 per cent increase over the same period last year. Investments going to Fintech companies in Europe and Asia-Pacific 'nearly doubled' to 62 per cent.

He shared the Accenture and also reported that ASEAN will play host to the next wave of growth in the global Fintech investment in 2016.

The deputy minister then went on to highlight that significant growth has been seen in Islamic financial services in recent years. This growth is expected to continue at a rapid pace, particularly in the Middle East and Asia Pacific regions as there has been an increase in the number of Islamic financial institutes being established, with over 600 operating in about 75 countries across the globe, he said.

The growth of Islamic finance is evident with a move by large international banks and other private sector financial institutions are now offering various Islamic financial services and products, ranging from banking, Islamic insurance (Takaful) to capital markets that comply with the basic principles of Syariah. Market interest in Islamic bonds or *Sukuk* has also risen, with many being issued and bought even outside the Islamic world.

"Brunei is in a unique position to leverage these developments. Not only is Brunei a gateway into the ASEAN and TPP market, but Brunei Darussalam has continued to make great progress in its Islamic finance industry," he said.

He further stated that with its strong Islamic values coupled with growth of Islamic insurance Takaful and Islamic bonds Sukuk, Brunei has carved out a niche for itself in the international Islamic financial services.

"This presents an excellent competitive platform for the country to offer itself as an Islamic financial hub within the region. Brunei's reputation for strong Islamic values also provides a good foothold across the Islamic world, including the Middle East. As consumers become more sophisticated, our Islamic financial sector too must be able to match the growing complexity and sophistication of the market. Innovation and technology, as key enablers for future business development, becomes more paramount," he asserted.

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## Brunei-Oman Exhibition



**Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, the Minister of Religious Affairs (right) launching the 'Tolerance, Understanding, Coexistence: Oman's Message of Islam' Exhibition at the Jerudong International School Art Centre Auditorium.**

**TUNGKU LINK, November 29** - Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman with cooperation of the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA), Brunei Darussalam organised the "Tolerance, Understanding, Coexistence: Oman's Message of Islam in Brunei Darussalam" exhibition at the Jerudong International School Art Centre Auditorium.

The guest of honour was Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs. Also present was His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed bin Hashil bin Rashid Al-Maskari, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam.

In his speech, Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Aziz bin Orang Kaya Maharaja Lela Haji Yussof, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Religious Affairs as the Chairman of the Joint Working Committee, among others touched on the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious

Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman in collaboration with MoRA, Brunei Darussalam which was signed on October 28, 1996 with a view to strengthen relations between the two countries, towards building the *Ummah* (Muslim community) as the best and united community.

"Through the exhibition, we can see the lifestyle of the Muslim community in the Sultanate of Oman, which is geared at contemporary Oman community and the role of women in society," said the Permanent Secretary.

He also stressed on the importance of tolerance, understanding and coexistence, which became a source of public debate in Oman and Brunei for the creation of peace.

The ceremony was enlivened with sand art performances by Shayma Ahmed Mohamed Al-Mughairy and songs by Anwar Salim Hamod Al-Asmi. The exhibition was held from November 30 to December 1, 2016.

## Islamic Fintech potential for collaboration and investment

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He cited the Gulf Times, which earlier this year declared Fintech to be a game changer for Islamic finance, and further reported that new ventures are combining Syariah-compliant financing principles with new technologies, such as web-based Islamic crowd funding; peer-to-peer lending; as well as other forms of IT-based financing options, such as Bitcoin-based and Syariah-compliant micro-lending.

"Hence, from this angle, we are mindful of Fintech solutions that can revolutionise our Islamic financial services and leverage on the so-called 'Fourth Industrial Revolution', which is the movement towards combining everyday aspects of our lives, such as finance, into the digital realm that will help increase speed, efficiency and convenience. Technologies that will help drive this change include the Internet of things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI) and data analytics," he continued.

"We hope that our digital startups, companies and ventures recognise that there are great opportunities to be explored by enhancing and reshaping traditional Islamic financial services with these technologies."

"The merging of the two into a single field of Islamic Fintech is a symbolic of where our aspirations for Brunei Darussalam lie, that is to hold fast and to enrich our lives with Islamic values while also being unafraid of taking strides forward in an ever-advancing global society."

He noted that developments in Fintech have taken the financial industry by storm, covering the field of disruptive technologies that deliver innovative financial products and services, adding that it includes the novel payment methods and financial software and hardware services that are seen today.

## Thanksgiving Ceremony for Tutong Courts



Among those present during the Thanksgiving Ceremony, to mark the moving of operations to the new Tutong District Courts building.

**TUTONG, November 24** - The State Judiciary Department of the Prime Minister's Office, together with the Civil and Syariah Courts, held a Thanksgiving Ceremony in conjunction with the moving of operations to the newly completed Tutong District Courts building.

The construction of the new Tutong District Courts building was carried out under the 10th National Development Plan, at a cost of approximately \$16,410,949. The building is equipped with seven courtrooms, two office areas and separate counters for the Civil and Syariah Courts.

At the thanksgiving ceremony, recitation of the Surah Yaasin and the Doa Kesyukuran were led by Pengiran Haji Shahril Azman bin Pengiran Haji Metussin, a judge of the Syariah Subordinate Court.

Among those present were Yang Amat Arif Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Kifrawi bin Dato Paduka Haji Kifli, the Chief Justice of the Brunei Supreme Court; Yang Amat Arif/ Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Awang Haji Salim bin Haji Besar, the Chief Syar'ie Judge; the High Court Chief Registrar; the Court of Appeals Chief Registrar; judges from the Syariah and Civil High Court; and representatives from related agencies, including judiciary officials.



The new Tutong District Courts building