



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam newsletter

Published by the Department of Information
Prime Minister's Office

MAY 2013
VOLUME 28 ISSUE 5

His Majesty receives in audience China's Foreign Minister



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 4. - 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 receive in audience His Excellency Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

Also present at the ceremony were; Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II (Second) and His Excellency Zheng Xianglin, Ambassador of The People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam.

The ceremony took place at Istana Nurul Iman.

Brunei - Canada signs agreement on tax information exchange

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 9. - Brunei Darussalam and Canada signed an agreement relating to the exchange of information on tax matters, which took place at the Conference Room, Ministry of Finance.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Hajah Ning Lela binti Dato Paduka Haji Mohamad, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Finance, while the Government of Canada was represented by His Excellency Marcel Gaumont, the Canadian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.

Darussalam's commitment to the implementation of international tax information exchange standards as established by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

In addition, the agreement will also facilitate the Government of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of Canada to exchange information relating to tax matters.

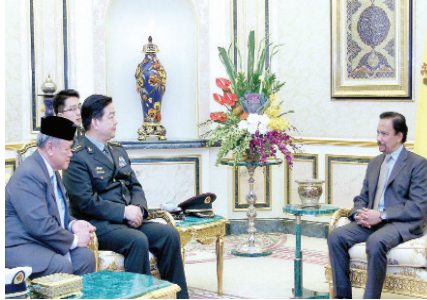
A total of 24 international treaties were signed between Brunei Darussalam and Canada which allows the exchange of Brunei Darussalam tax information with Canada.

With the signing of the agreement, it shows Brunei

Contents



1 His Majesty receives in audience China's Foreign Minister



3 His Majesty receives in audience China State Councillor and Minister of Defence



4 His Majesty receives in audience ASEAN Defence Ministers



5 Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri receives in audience spouses of ASEAN Defence Ministers



6 Exchange bilateral issues, regional and international matters



8 His Majesty and Her Majesty meets Emperor and Empress of Japan



9 Brunei appreciates Japan's support



11 Their Royal Highnesses attends Installation Ceremony of King of The Netherlands



12 Her Royal Highness launches BIBD ALAF Programme



13 His Royal Highness attends 13th Doha Forum Session



MAY 2013 - VOLUME 28 ISSUE 5

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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

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

EDITORIAL Advisory Board:

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

Editor:

Ruhil Amal Faridah binti Awang Yahya
(ruhil.yahya@information.gov.bn)

Sub - Editor

Dk Nur Effa binti Pg Hj Hamdani
(effa.hamdani@information.gov.bn)

Translation

Translation Unit

Layouter:

Syahi bin Haji Ludin
(syahi.ludin@information.gov.bn)

Proofread:

Haniza binti Abdul Latif
(haniza.latif@information.gov.bn)

Photographs

Photography Unit of Department of Information

General inquiries

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


Information Department


www.information.gov.bn


Information Gallery

www.infofoto.gov.bn

Follow us

 Instagram- [@infodept.bn](https://www.instagram.com/infodept.bn)

 Twitter - [@Infodept_bn](https://twitter.com/Infodept_bn)

 Facebook - Jabatan Penerangan
Jabatan Perdana Menteri
Brunei Darussalam

His Majesty receives in audience China State Councillor and Minister of Defence



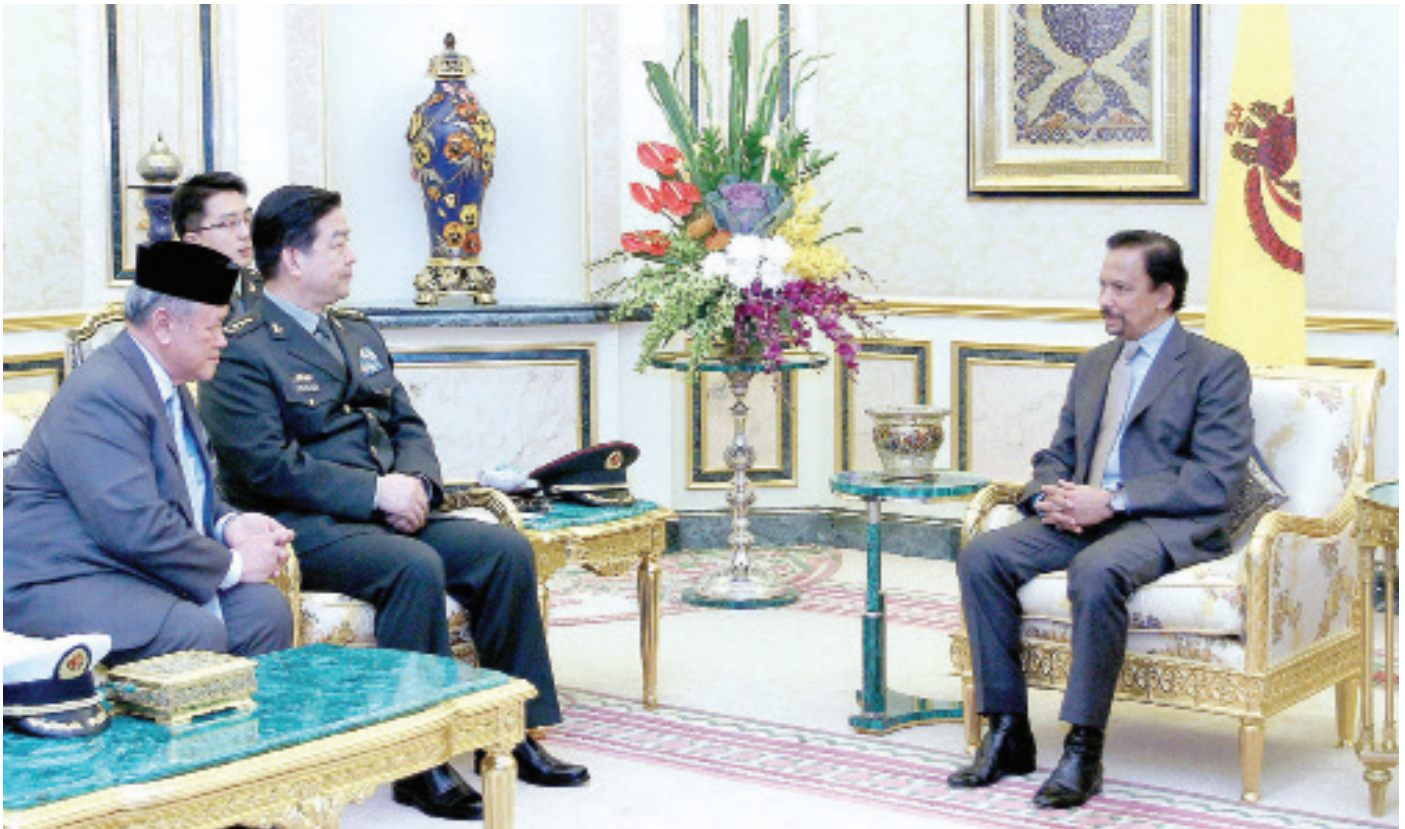
His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) and His Excellency General Chang Wanquan, State Councillor and Minister of National Defence, People's Republic of China.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 8. - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), consented to receive in audience His Excellency General Chang Wanquan, State Councillor and Minister of National Defence, People's Republic of China who was on an introductory visit to the country.

Present were Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II (Second); Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Retired) Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); Dato Paduka Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat, Deputy Minister of Defence; Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamdan bin Haji Abu Bakar, Permanent Secretary at PMO; and Colonel (Retired) Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Azmansham bin Pengiran Haji Mohamad, Permanent Secretary (Defence and Development Policy), Ministry of Defence.

Also present were His Excellency Mr. Zheng Xianglin, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam; Vice Admiral Xu Hongmeng, Navy Deputy Commander of the People's Liberation Army (PLA); Lieutenant General Fang Jiangou, Deputy of Political Commissar and Head of Political Department for PLA Air Force; Lieutenant General Hou Jizhen, Chief of Shenyang Army Control Area; Major General Song Dan, Deputy Head of the General Office of the Central Military Commission; and Rear Admiral Guan Youfei, Head of the Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of National Defence Office, People's Republic of China.

The ceremony took place at Istana Nurul Iman.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), receiving His Excellency General Chang Wanquan, State Councillor and Minister of National Defence, People's Republic of China who was in the country for an introductory visit.

His Majesty receives in audience ASEAN Defence Ministers



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) mingling with ASEAN Defence Ministers, Representative and the Secretary General of ASEAN.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 7. - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of The Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) consented to receive in audience from ASEAN Defence Ministers, Representative and the Secretary General of ASEAN who are currently attending the 7th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM).

Present at the audience was His Royal Highness Prince General Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Wadaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and General of the RBAF.

Also present were Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Retired) Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar, Minister of Energy at the PMO; Dato

* Continue on page 5



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with the ASEAN Defence Ministers, Representative and the Secretary General of ASEAN.



* From page 4

Paduka Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat, Deputy Minister of Defence; Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamdan bin Haji Abu Bakar, Permanent Secretary at the PMO; and Colonel (Retired) Pengiran Dato Paduka Azmansham bin Pengiran Haji Mohamad, Permanent Secretary (Defence and Development Policy), Ministry of Defence.

The 7th ADMM was held from May 6 to 7 2013 and hosted by the Ministry of Defence, Brunei Darussalam.

The audience ceremony took place at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam being introduced to the ASEAN Defence Ministers, Representative and the Secretary General of ASEAN attending the 7th ADMM. Also present was His Royal Highness Prince General Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and General of the RBAF.

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri receives in audience spouses of ASEAN Defence Ministers



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam with the spouses of the ASEAN Defence Ministers and Representative.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 7. - Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to receive in audience the spouses of the ASEAN Defence Ministers and Representative held at Istana Nurul Iman.

Her Majesty received in audience Madam Dualismi Purnomo Yusgiantoro, wife of Minister of Defence, Republic of Indonesia; Madam Thanda Phichit, wife of Vice Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence, Lao People's Democratic Republic; and

Datin Sri Hajah Normah binti Karim, wife of Secretary General, Ministry of Defence, Malaysia.

The spouses of the ASEAN Defence Ministers and Representative were in the country to accompany their husbands who were attending the three-day 7th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting.

Also present was Datin Dayang Hajah Noryasimah binti Abdullah, wife of the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office.

Exchange bilateral issues, regional and international matters



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and The Honourable Julia Gillard MP, the Prime Minister of Australia during His Majesty's official state visit to Australia.

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA, May 3. – Bilateral issues of mutual interests as well as international and regional matters were discussed 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 and The Honourable Julia Gillard MP, the Prime Minister of Australia during a meeting that took place at The Lodge.

Earlier, the arrival of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was greeted by The Honourable Prime Minister of Australia.

His Majesty then consented to sign the Guest Book, followed with a photo session.

His Majesty and The Honourable Prime Minister of Australia then consented to proceed to the Drawing Room for a meeting.

After the meeting, His Majesty then consented to attend a luncheon hosted by The Honourable Prime Minister of Australia.



His Majesty and the Prime Minister of Australia discussing bilateral issues at the Drawing Room, The Lodge.

His Majesty attends 2nd APWS



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 delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit (APWS) held in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

CHIANG MAI, THAILAND, May 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 consented to attend the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit (APWS) held in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

His Majesty's arrival at Chiang Mai International Convention and Exhibition Centre was welcomed by His Excellency Surapong Tovichakchaikol, Deputy Prime Minister; and His Excellency Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department of Thailand.

His Majesty then joined other Heads of State and Government and Heads of Delegation for a group photo before attending the Plenary Session of APWS. The Plenary Session began with a welcoming speech by His Excellency Dr Plodprasop Suraswadi, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand who is also Chairman of the Thailand Water and Flood Management Commission, which touched on the key focus of the summit and the formulation of

technical workshops sessions.

This was followed by the opening ceremony and speech by Her Excellency Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand, entitled 'Disaster and Response: Thailand's Action and Commitment to Water and Flood Management for the Future'.

During the plenary session, His Majesty also consented to deliver a *titah* (royal speech). Other Heads of State, Heads of Government and Heads of Delegations also delivered their remarks.

Following the Plenary Session, His Majesty along with other leaders attended a luncheon hosted by Her Excellency Yingluck Shinawatra.

Accompanying His Majesty were Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, Minister of Development; and Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Awang Lim Jock Seng, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II (Second).

His Majesty and Her Majesty meets Emperor and Empress of Japan



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's arrival at the Imperial Palace was welcomed by His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito of Japan.

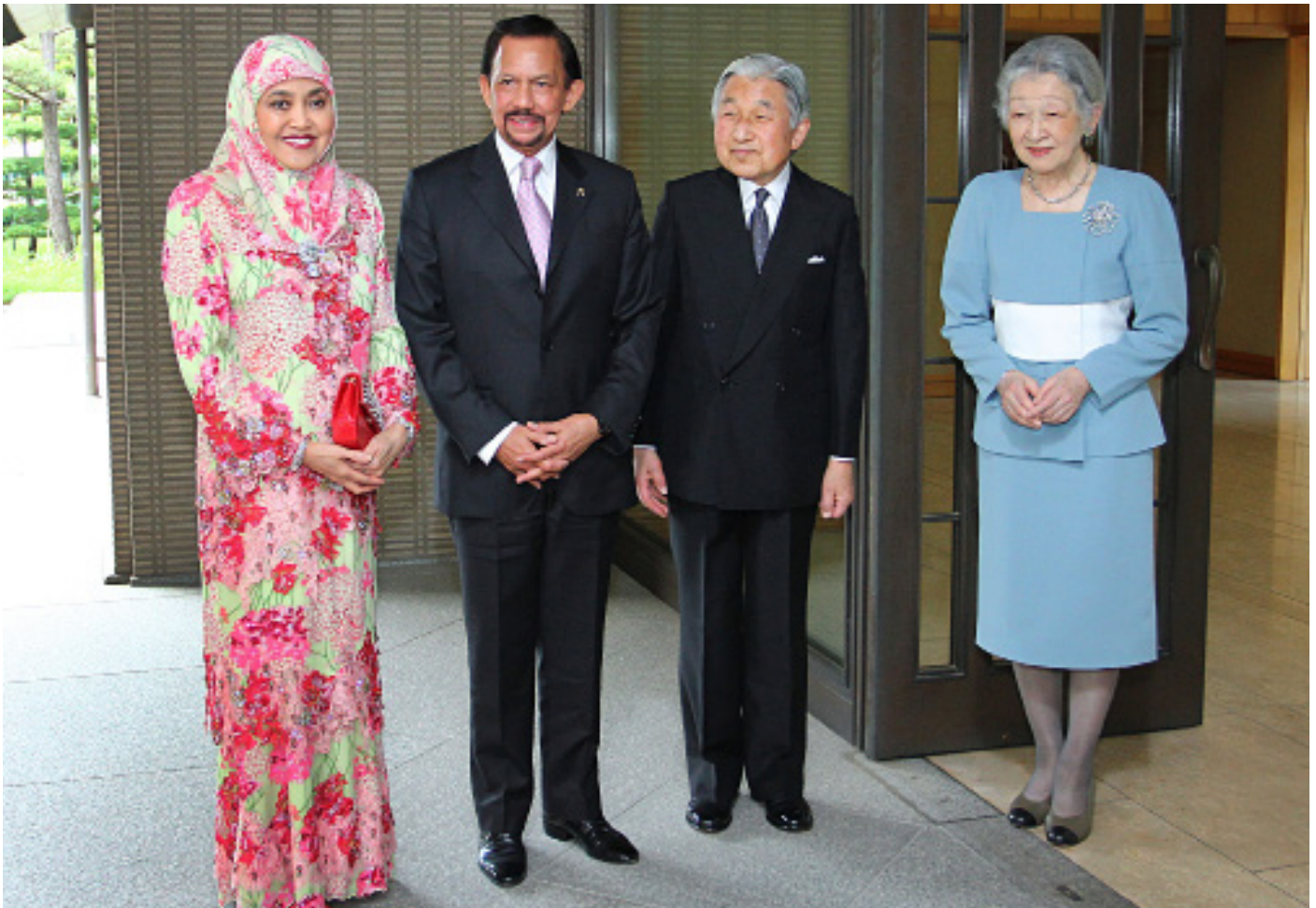
TOKYO, JAPAN, May 13. - The long and friendly relations between Brunei Darussalam and Japan continues to be strengthened from year to year in various fields including economy, culture and the exchange visits of leaders and citizens.

The friendship is clearly shown when 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 consented to attend a High Tea Ceremony hosted by His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito of Japan and Her Imperial Majesty Empress Michiko.

The ceremony took place at the Imperial Palace.

The arrival of His Majesty and Her Majesty was welcomed by His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito of Japan and Her Imperial Majesty Empress Michiko at the main entrance.

Before proceeding for the High Tea Ceremony, His Majesty and Her Majesty as well as His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito of Japan and Her Imperial Majesty Empress Michiko took a group photo.



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 at the High Tea Ceremony hosted by His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito of Japan and Her Imperial Majesty Empress Michiko.

Brunei appreciates Japan's support



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Japanese Prime Minister.

TOKYO, JAPAN, May 13. – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* (royal speech) expressed delight in seeing economic relations between Brunei Darussalam and Japan grow in strength, with Japan being one of Brunei's main foreign investors and also the most important customer for oil and gas.

Bilateral cooperation, His Majesty added, has also extended to the fields of education, agriculture and health. There is also an increase in exchange visits between people-to-people especially amongst youths and a good level of interaction between officials of both countries.

His Majesty highlighted this during a meeting with His

Excellency Shinzo Abe, Japanese Prime Minister, held at His Excellency's official residence on the second day of His Majesty's visit to Tokyo, Japan.

His Majesty also said that ASEAN and Japan this year will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN-Japan Dialogue Partners and is confident that this relationship will continue to grow.

His Majesty concluded the *titah* by welcoming His Excellency the Prime Minister of Japan to visit Brunei later this year.

Both leaders then exchanged views during the meeting on bilateral issues of mutual interests as well as regional and international matters.



Both leaders of Brunei Darussalam and Japan exchanging views during the meeting on bilateral issues of mutual interests as well as regional and international matters.

Brunei – Singapore strengthens friendship



Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam highlighted this in a *titah* (royal speech) at the State Banquet held in honour of His Excellency Tony Tan, President of the Republic of Singapore's State Visit to Brunei Darussalam.

The mutual respect and trust have enabled the two countries to widen the long-standing cooperation in the areas of defence, health, education, trade and commerce.

His Majesty said the presence of 700 Singaporeans who are currently rendering their services in various sectors for the development of Brunei Darussalam is also much appreciated.

Ever since 1976, His Majesty added, there is a close cooperation in the field of defence between the two countries spanning for almost 30 years.

In concluding the *titah*, His Majesty said that Brunei Darussalam and Singapore have shared many interests in working towards regional peace and stability so that ASEAN nations can develop further towards greater economic prosperity.

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 delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the State Banquet held in honour of His Excellency Tony Tan, President of the Republic of Singapore's State Visit to Brunei Darussalam.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 28.
– The State Visit from His Excellency Tony Tan, President of the Republic of Singapore has allowed both Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore to renew and strengthen their

personal friendship as well as the existing relationship between both countries at all levels.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni



His Majesty and Her Majesty in a group photo with His Excellency Tony Tan and wife, Madam Tan Keng Yam accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman.

Their Royal Highnesses attends Installation Ceremony of King of The Netherlands



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 Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman attending the Installation Ceremony of His Majesty Willem-Alexander, King of The Netherlands in Nieuwe Kerk, Amsterdam.

AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS, April 30. – 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 Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman consented to attend the Installation Ceremony of His Majesty Willem-Alexander, King of The Netherlands in Nieuwe Kerk, Amsterdam.

After the ceremony, Their Royal Highnesses together with royal guests from other countries attended a reception hosted by His Majesty King Willem-Alexander and Her Majesty Queen Maxima at the Council of Wars Room at the Royal Palace of Amsterdam.

During the reception, Their Royal Highnesses conveyed congratulations to King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima on His Majesty's installation as the King of Netherlands, on behalf of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and his people.

Brunei Darussalam and the Netherlands enjoy warm and long-standing bilateral relations in many areas, particularly in the oil and gas industry and culture.

Her Royal Highness launches BIBD ALAF Programme



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman launching the Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD) Advocating Life-Long Learning for an Aspiring Future (ALAF) Programme.

JERUDONG, May 11. - Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman consented to grace the launching of Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD) Advocating Life-Long Learning for an Aspiring Future (ALAF) Programme at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

Her Royal Highness was greeted upon arrival by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources as Chairman of BIBD.

The ceremony began with the recitation of the Doa Selamat by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Setia Raja Dato Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Suhaili bin Haji Mohiddin, Deputy State Mufti, and the recitation of the holy verses of the Qur'an by Hajah Nurul Akmalina binti Haji Yahya.

This was followed by a speech from the minister. Her Royal Highness then consented to deliver a *sabda* and officiated the launching of the BIBD Alaf Programme.

The programme is part of BIBD's corporate social responsibility initiative which aims to give education scholarships, focusing on orphans and underprivileged children in Brunei Darussalam. Towards this, BIBD successfully hosted the Charity Expedition in October last year (the first fundraising event for ALAF). This programme received strong support from the public and raised more than BND300,000 involving more than 6,000 participants and 800 volunteers from the government sector, non-government organisations and the public.



Her Royal Highness receiving a bouquet of flowers from Dayang Wardina Iwana binti Sharul a Year 4 student from Raja Isteri Fatimah Primary School upon arrival at the Indera Samudera Grand Hall.

His Royal Highness attends 13th Doha Forum Session



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade (center) consents to attend the Opening Ceremony of the 13th Doha Forum in Doha, Qatar.

DOHA, QATAR, May 20. – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade consented to attend the Opening Ceremony of the 13th Doha Forum held at the Ritz-Carlton

Hotel.

The 13th Doha Forum Session held for three days, was participated by 600 participants from over 60 countries and organisations from the Middle East, Africa, Europe and South America.

This will be Brunei Darussalam's first participation at the forum by the invitation from His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr Al-Thani, the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar.

His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, among others, in his speech explained about the world order that have witnessed constant changes not only in politics but also in general, the field of economic, social, intellectual and humanitarian.

The forum agenda consists of eight sessions with the topic of discussion among others highlight the perspective of global peace; stability and development; global economy; digital media and several other titles.

In addition, participants also had the opportunity to attend workshops conducted during the three-day forum.

Doha Forum was set up to discuss democracy, development and free trade in the Middle East, Arab countries and the world.

Her Royal Highness Ambassador-At-Large meets China's National People's Congress Deputy Chairman

BEIJING, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, May 17. - Her Royal Highness Princess 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 consented to hold a meeting with Her Excellency Shen Yueyue, Deputy Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China and President of All-China Women's Federation. The meeting took place at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

During the meeting, Her Royal Highness and Her Excellency exchanged views on the development of bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China. Both sides noted and expressed satisfaction with the frequency of exchange of visits between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China at various levels. This has contributed to greater ties and strengthening cooperation in various fields between the two countries. Both parties also shared the same plans and priorities of each country's development.

In the evening, Her Royal Highness attended a dinner reception hosted by Her Excellency Li Xiaolin, President of the Chinese People's Association of Friendship with Foreign Countries at the association's headquarters in Beijing.

Both sides recognise the importance of ties between friendship associations and the peoples of Brunei Darussalam and China in enhancing bilateral ties between the two countries as a whole.

Accompanying Her Royal Highness throughout the visit was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar.

Brunei, China strengthen bilateral relations

BEIJING, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, May 18. - Her Royal Highness Princess 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 consented to hold a meeting with His Excellency Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

At the meeting, Her Royal Highness and His Excellency discussed the development of bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China and exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Later, Her Royal Highness left Beijing for Huangshan City, Anhui Province.

In the evening, Her Royal Highness attended a dinner reception hosted by His Excellency Wan Yixue, Huangshan City's Deputy Chief Executive.

At this ceremony Her Royal Highness and His Excellency exchanged views on the relationship between the two countries. Her Royal Highness also received a briefing on the progress of Huangshan City.

Her Royal Highness was accompanied by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar.

Brunei - Viet Nam signs MoU on Agriculture and Fisheries cooperation



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources (left) and His Excellency Cao Duc Phat, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Fisheries was held between the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

JERUDONG, May 17. – Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Cao Duc Phat, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

During the meeting, both sides discussed on the proposal to implement a pilot project of rice production in Brunei Darussalam.

Prior to the meeting, a signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Fisheries was held between the Government of His Majesty

the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

With the signing of the MoU, both government agencies have agreed to enhance, strengthen, facilitate, promote and establish cooperation in agriculture and fishery.

Among the areas of cooperation identified to be implemented in the agreement are cooperation in improving agricultural and fisheries production; halal development initiatives; exchange of genetic resources of plants and animals and fisheries; sharing of preservation technology and processing agricultural and fisheries products.

Meanwhile, His Excellency Cao Duc Phat together with five members of the delegation made up of senior officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam paid a working visit to the Paddy Project Site at Wasan and Batang Perhentian Paddy Plantation Area.

The visit to the proposed areas aimed to review the pilot project of rice production between the two government agencies concerned through the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

Brunei Darussalam supports UNESCAP commitment

BANGKOK, THAILAND, May 1. – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam supports the commitment undertaken by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in promoting community cooperation in this region, especially against economic shocks and natural disaster.

This was highlighted by Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Wahab bin Juned, Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), while delivering Brunei Darussalam's statement at the 69th Session of UNESCAP held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok.

He further stated the serious responsibility of Brunei Darussalam's government to ensure the safety and quality of its people by establishing a National Disaster Council, chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Senior Minister at the PMO.

The statement also underlined the establishment of the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) involving various agencies and stakeholders to drive the framework, as well as emphasize the importance of social safety net as a

response mechanism that is important, designed to help protect investments and human capital income of the poor and weak in times of crisis.

He also stressed the importance of the 69th UNESCAP Session to cooperate in establishing a mechanism to equip the countries in the region with the resilience to deal with disasters and economic crisis that is greater, as well as combined efforts among the leaders at the highest level in addressing related issues together continuously will encourage socio-economic development that is sustainable and of high quality.

The 69th UNESCAP Session started on April 29 with the theme 'Building Resilience to Natural Disasters and Major Economic Crises'.

Among the policy issues discussed for the Asia Pacific region include the major challenge to economic and social development that is inclusive and sustainable in Asia and the Pacific.

The commission sessions are divided into two segments which are the senior officials' segment and the ministerial segment, where each held their meetings from April 25 to 27 and April 29 to May 1 2013 respectively.