

بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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*Singapore's
Senior Minister
has audience
with HM Sultan*

*Discussion
on
developments
in ASEAN
and the Asia
Pacific*

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in discussion with His Excellency Lee Kuan Yew, Senior Minister of the Republic of Singapore whom the ruler granted an audience on 21 January.

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Senior Minister of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Lee Kuan Yew have held a discussion on matters of particular attention to the two countries, especially the current developments in ASEAN.

The Singapore Senior Minister had an audience with His Majesty at Istana Nurul Iman on 21 January, at the start of a three-day

visit to Bandar Seri Begawan.

They also discussed developments in the Asia Pacific, said a press release issued by the Brunei Darussalam Ministry of Foreign Affairs after the meeting.

His Excellency was accompanied by his wife. His delegation also included His Excellency RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean, Minister for Finance and Defence.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Paduka Seri

Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam hosted a dinner in honour of the Singapore Senior Minister and delegation, at Istana Nurul Iman in the evening the same day.

Present at the function were His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri

Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna.

Also present were the Special Adviser to His Majesty in the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Home Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa, the Minister of Law, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Haji Bahrin, the Minister of Communication, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Zakaria and the Singa-

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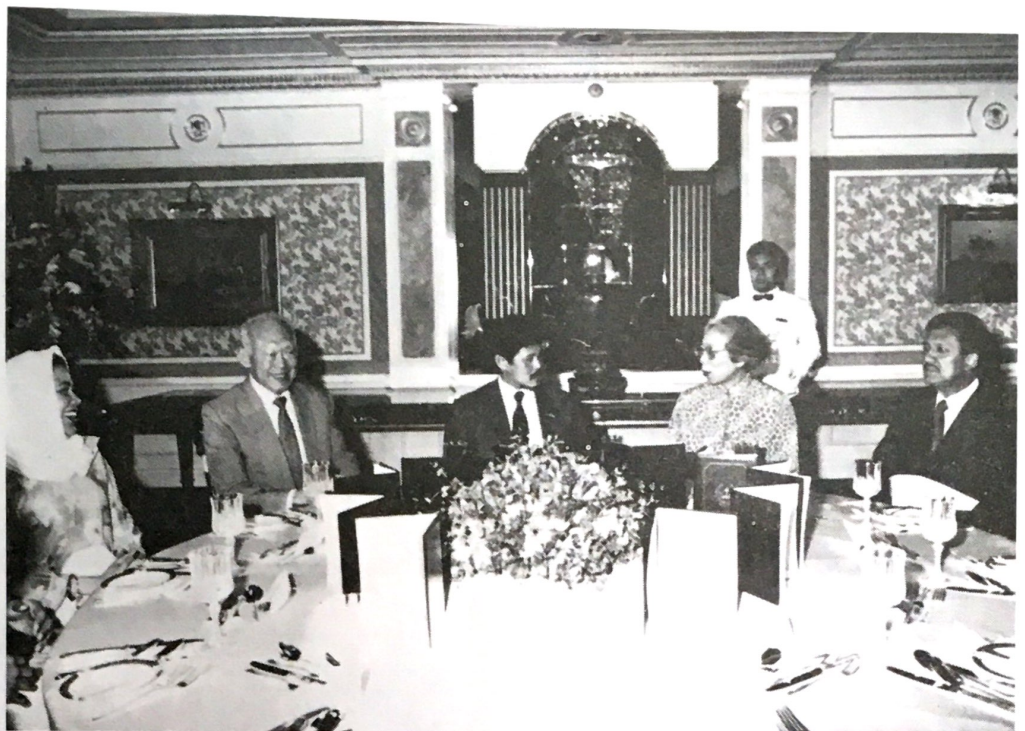
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YOUR TURN

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• From page 1 (S'pore Minister)

pore High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Anthony Chng and their wives.

The Singapore Senior Minister and delegation were also entertained to a luncheon by the Foreign Affairs Minister, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah and his wife, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah.

The luncheon, at Istana Edinburgh (Edinburgh Palace) was also attended by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna.

Neighbours enjoy longstanding relations

Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore

The Foreign Affairs Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah converses with Mrs. Lee Kuan Yew during the luncheon he and his wife, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah hosted in honour of the visiting Singapore Senior Minister, His Excellency Lee Kuan Yew and delegation. The function was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, in picture above, and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah, picture below.



established formal diplomatic relations soon after the Sultanate became a fully independent nation on 1 January, 1984, with both countries setting up a high commission in each other's capital.

However, as with its other ASEAN neighbours, Brunei Darussalam had enjoyed close, long-standing relations with the Republic of Singapore through trade,

various fields of cooperation and personal contacts between their leaders long before this.

Exchanges of visits reaffirm relations

These relations were further strengthened through exchange of visits of leaders and senior officials of both

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'Be honest and trustworthy' call to bank employees

Fraudulent practices by a bank can destabilise the financial system of a country not to mention the misery they can cause to depositors who stand to lose their deposits in the bank, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Law, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abas bin Haji Serudin has stated.

He said this after calling on officials and employees of banks in Brunei Darussalam to be honest and trustworthy so as to live up to the trust and expectation of depositors.

The Law Ministry's Permanent Secretary was speaking at a symposium on Economic Bank Fraud organised jointly by the Royal Brunei Police Force and the Association of Banks of Brunei Darussalam, held in the police officers' mess near the capital for two days starting 18 January.

To stress his point on honesty and trustworthiness, the official said: "People have faith in a bank and its employees to look after their money and to benefit from it by having savings accounts, etc. The benefit is or should be mutual, i.e. a depositor will have all his banking needs attended to by his bank or to look forward to profit or dividend on his savings or fixed deposit account, while the bank can make use of the depositor's money for its commercial purposes although it is under an obligation to account for the



The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Law, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abas bin Haji Serudin stressed on the important role played by banks in the daily lives of the people. To his left is Assistant Police Commissioner, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Abdul Hamid, joint chairman of the symposium. The Commissioner of Police, Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Awang Besar, extreme left facing camera, spoke of increases in commercial crimes in the region.

depositor's money.

He said such is the importance of the role the bank plays in the everyday life of people and a nation, while adding "a bank also makes the commercial life of a nation ticks through its lending or other supportive transactions".

Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abas pointed that unfortunately it has become more and more common for a bank or its employees to breach the trust and expectation of depositors through various types of crime and fraud, resulting in the loss of money of its depositors and loss of confidence by the public on its banking or financial sector.

He cited the collapse in 1986 of the National Bank of Brunei Berhad, NBB, as

an example to show how a fraud can be committed easily by officials of a bank in order to enrich themselves.

The NBB case is a lesson to the authorities of Brunei Darussalam, he said, and it resulted in the Treasury to set up a supervision unit which was recently upgraded into a full pledged department known as the Financial Institutions Department placed under the Ministry of Finance.

He urged the authorities to be alert as "the case showed that there is the need for constant vigilance by the relevant authorities in the operations of financial institutions".

A great expense was spent in the investigation and prosecution of the case, he added.

The Permanent Secre-

tary went on to say that the Brunei experience is not unique, as similar wrongdoings also occur in many countries including neighbouring ASEAN countries.

"All these show the need for us to share experience and exchange notes on how such illegal activities can be prevented, investigated and prosecuted".

He further stated that some countries are more advanced in their fight against such crimes, and that others can learn from them.

In this context, the symposium is timely and beneficial, while further pointing that the methods used in committing bank fraud are getting more sophisti-

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Audience with HM Sultan for Brunei students and officials in Britain

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam smiles as he extends his hand to a child during an audience ceremony for Brunei students and officers currently overseas.



Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha (picture, right) and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam (picture, far right) joined His Majesty during the gathering with Bruneians currently either studying or on tours of duty in London.



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam granted

an audience on 23 December to more than 1,600 Brunei students studying in Britain and officials on duties and undergoing training and courses there.

Also present at the ceremony which took place at one of London's leading hotels, were His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Duli

Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda Haji 'Abdul Azim and His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Malik and several other members of the royal family.

His Majesty and his family were in London on a pri-

vate visit.

On arrival at the hotel for the audience ceremony, His Majesty and his family were greeted by Brunei Darussalam's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, His Excellency Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Mohd. Kassim bin Haji Mohd. Daud and his wife.

PRC's National Council Secretary General granted audience by HM

The Secretary General of the National Council of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Luo Gan has had an audience with His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The Brunei monarch granted the audience to H. E. Luo Gan, who was on a three-day visit, at Istana Nurul Iman (Nurul Iman Palace) on 12 January.

During the audience, His Majesty and His Excellency exchanged views on bilateral relations.

The Chinese official, who was leading a 12-member delegation of high officials, also had an audience with the Foreign Affairs Minister, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah, at Istana Edinburgh (Edinburgh Palace) the same day.

His Royal Highness later hosted a luncheon for His Excellency and they exchanged views on matters pertaining to bilateral relations of the two countries.

Formal relations set up in 1991

Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China established formal diplomatic relations in 1991, which was soon followed by the opening of diplomatic missions in each other's capital.

The relations have since been further enhanced through a state visit to the republic in November 1993 by His Majesty The Sultan

and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam, and an official visit in June that year by His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar

Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Desire for cooperation in oil and gas, and agriculture

During the visits, the

Chinese voiced their interest to having a cooperation with Brunei Darussalam in matters related to the oil and gas industry, as well as to buy Brunei's agriculture produce, local fruits in particular.



A warm handshake between His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Luo Gan, Secretary-General of the National Council of the People's Republic of China who had an audience with His Majesty on 12 January.



The PRC's National Council's Secretary General at a luncheon with the Foreign Affairs Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah.

Right : His Majesty and His Excellency Lee Kuan Yew hold discussions before dinner given by the ruler in honour of the Singapore Senior Minister and his wife. As with her husband, Mrs Lee Kuan Yew had audiences separately with Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha (Left below), and with Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam.



The Brunei Court of Appeal becomes final appeal court in criminal matters

The Brunei Court of Appeal has effectively become the final appeal court in criminal matters as of 31 January, and, says the Brunei Minister of Law, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Haji Bahrin: "no appeal in any criminal matter will from that date lie to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council".

The Law Minister made the announcement at the official opening of the Legal Year on 16 January, which was followed by the signing of the Exchange of Notes between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the British Government which took place at the Law Ministry in Bandar Seri

Begawan on 19 January.

Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Haji Bahrin and the British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Ivan Callan signed on behalf of the respective government.

Speaking at the opening of the Legal Year in his capacity as Attorney General,

Pengiran Haji Bahrin spoke of the long standing judicial arrangements with Hongkong which came to an end two years ago. He said judges in the Supreme Court are now directly appointed by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and no longer through

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(S'pore Minister)

countries. His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha made a state visit to the republic in 1991.

His Excellency Lee Kuan Yew himself has made several visits to Brunei Darussalam, both while still Prime Minister and now as Senior Minister. The republic's present Prime Minister has also made visits to the sultanate.



Mrs Lee Kuan Yew in conversation with Her Majesty the Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness the Pengiran Isteri before proceeding to the banquet hall for dinner.

• From page 3 (Bank)

cated.

He urged banks to devise rules and regulations to prevent fraud from being committed so as not to breach or abuse the trust of their depositors and also for the bank to treat its directors, managers, officers and employees well by giving them commensurate remuneration, while saying they are human beings and are subject to temptation.

Be on guard against dirty money

He also advised banks to be on alert for dirty money, the ill-gotten gains of drug dealers, fraudsters, smugglers, kidnappers, arms dealers, terrorists, extortionists and tax evaders.

Increase of commercial crimes in the region

Assistant Commis-

sioner of Police, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Abd Hamid who was joint chairman of the symposium said in his welcome speech that commercial crime cases in the region have significantly increased both in the number of incidents and the level of sophistication, and the need to combat them exists.

Aimed, among others, at ensuring an integrated working partnership between police, regulators and banks, the symposium was attended by 13 police officers from the six member countries of ASEAN, two each from the Department of Financial Institutions, and Anti-Corruption Bureau, 16 officers from Brunei's local banks and 26 observers.

Closing the symposium, the Commissioner of Police Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Awang

Besar pointed that international criminals recognise no territorial boundaries, nor do they have the slightest respect towards legislations.

"With the advancement in technology, this also help to enhance the betterment of their greeds at the expense of the innocent parties such as the banks and financial institutions", he stated.

He was confident, however, that incidents relating to attempts to defraud financial institutions in Brunei Darussalam can be prevented or at least minimised through concerted efforts, awareness, cooperation and collaboration between the banking industry and authorities concerned, the Royal Brunei Police in particular.

He called on all parties concerned to maintain and further improve rapport among them so as to suppress and prevent these incidents

from occurring in Brunei Darussalam.

He acknowledged that the menace of money laundering and fraudulent activities relating to banking and financial system is not an easy task and that the law enforcement agencies should not be left alone to deal with it, rather it is a shared responsibilities for both the law enforcement agencies and the banking industry.

He urged the latter to provide the law enforcement agencies with all the relevant information.

The Police Commissioner emphasised that it was essential for the law enforcement agencies to receive good cooperation from the banking community in order to achieve a successful investigation, and without such cooperation - it will only become a fruitless investigation exercise.

Hongkong.

"We are fortunate to have former judges who have retired but who continue to serve in our Supreme Court", he said. He added that at the same time the training of local lawyers for high judicial and legal appointments continues to be an important undertaking and this has been further enhanced by the recent arrangements whereby senior members of the judiciary and of the Attorney General's Chambers are appointed as Acting Intermediate Court Judges in which capacity they are able to sit in the High Court as additional judges when the High Court tries capital cases.

Like the former judicial arrangements with Hongkong, he pointed, the existing arrangements whereby appeals from the Supreme Court lie to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London are invaluable to Brunei in the development of her legal and judicial system. These arrangements have operated smoothly to our great benefit.

"Without in any way diminishing the importance of those arrangements, His Majesty's Government has considered that at the present stage of development in our system it is now appropriate that in criminal matters the Brunei Court of Appeal should be the final appeal Court and that the existing arrangements whereby appeals in civil and criminal matters are referred to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council would be modified to that extent."

He explained that the modifications are in line with the position that it is for Brunei to determine what class of cases may be the subject of appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council and to give effect to it in her domestic legislation. This modification affects only criminal matters. With regard to civil matters the present arrangements will continue to be in full force and effects.

The Law Minister cum Attorney General outlined some important legislations which were introduced during the past year.

He said that the Misuse of Drugs Act was amended to give effect to some provisions of certain international conventions relating to drugs and psychotropic substances. Under these amendments, a new Class D drug has been introduced together with their punishments.

A new law of arbitration enacted last year, provides up-to-date procedure for the conduct of arbitration cases, which gives effect to the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards adopted by the United Nations Conference on International Commercial Arbitration in New York on 10 June 1958.

The Minister also pointed that the amendment of Legal Profession Act was to provide for contingency fees and to enable the making of appropriate rules to implement the introduction of this new provision. New laws on Bills of Exchange, Sales of Goods and Unfair Contract Terms were also introduced, and the Brunei's Proclama-



The Minister of Law, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Haji Bahrin and the British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Ivan Callan signing the Exchange of Notes.

tion of an Exclusive Economic Zone was also published in the Gazette last year.

Speaking on the Revised Edition of the Laws, the Attorney General said consideration had been given for the problems in this areas to be dealt with by computerisation. The computerisation hardware system will be installed in the next few months, coupled with the training of staff to operate the system so that the computerisation project can be implemented.

Concluding his speech, The Attorney General said that incidence of crimes in the country had increased by 14.9 percent in 1994 over the previous year, with 2,988 reported cases compared to 2,601 in 1993, according to statistics compiled by the Royal Brunei Police Force, he said.

From a breakdown of this figure, there has been a decrease only in the number of statutory offences, i.e. other than penal code offences from 960 cases in 1993 to 748 cases last year, a reduction of 22 percent.

In respect of offences under the Penal Code there has been an increase. Offences against the person increased from 271 in 1993 to 363 cases in 1994 and relating to properties increased from 1,105 in 1993 to 1,503 in 1994. There were 346 housebreakings compared to 190 in 1993, while car thefts and damage to cars also increased from 273 to 326, the minister added.

The Royal Brunei Police Force, the minister further said, have also prepared separate statistics on traffic offences. These show that in 1994 there were altogether 3,130 cases which represent a reduction of 19 percent from the 1993 figure of 3,864 cases. There were 56 deaths on the road in 1994 compared to 53 in 1993.

In 1994 the Narcotics Control Bureau made 508 arrests compared to 681 in the previous year. There were 251 convictions in 1994 compared to 333 in 1993. The Royal Customs and Excise dealt with 46 cases in 1994.



1995

ASEAN Environment Year

With environment already becoming a mainstream issue on the international agenda, the Association of South-East Asian Nations, ASEAN, for its part has declared 1995 as the ASEAN Environment Year, AEY 1995, in a concerted effort to preserve and protect the environment.

In Brunei Darussalam, a ceremony was held on 26 January in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan to officially launch AEY - throughout which various activities at national level are being planned.

The agreement to declare 1995 as the ASEAN Environment Year was reached between ASEAN Ministers for the Environment when they met in Bandar Seri Begawan in April last year.

Foremost in their minds was the need to maintain the momentum of commitment to sustainable development and environmental protection, to transform it into policies and practice, and to give it effective and widespread popular support.

Indeed environment ranks high in the priority of ASEAN leaders and officials. Since 1981, ASEAN has made no less than seven ministerial declarations and resolutions and implemented three major programmes of regional cooperation on the environment.

Significant progress in environmental cooperation have been made among ASEAN member countries.

The progresses made show that ASEAN member countries have the determination and will to carry out the pledges to save the environment so that future generations are able to enjoy sustainable growth and development.

ASEAN is now implementing its fourth environmental programme, the 1994 ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment, which includes as one of its strategic thrusts the promotion of regional activities that strengthen the role of major groups in sustainable development. In line with this strategic thrust, the multifarious activities to be implemented at both the regional and national levels in connection with ASEAN Environmental Year are aimed to broaden the participatory process by all sectors in the field of environmental management.

The Sixth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME) held in Bandar Seri Begawan in April 1994, formally declared 1995 as ASEAN Environment Year (AEY) with the theme "Green and Clean" ASEAN Environment Year 1995 proposes to highlight ASEAN environmental issues and cooperative programmes in order to stimulate awareness on these issues among the ASEAN populace and the world at large; broaden the participatory process in the envi-

ronment in ASEAN with emphasis on the private sector; and stimulate regional activities in the environmental area.

Apart from promoting awareness and broadening the participatory process in the environment, ASEAN Environment Year is also a celebration of ASEAN's achievements in environmental cooperation as well as achievements made by individual ASEAN member countries in the field of environmental protection and management. For this reason various regional and national activities will be organised by all ASEAN member countries during the year so as to meet the objectives of ASEAN Environmental Year 1995.

ASEAN Environment Year 1995 objectives:

1. To highlight ASEAN environmental issues and cooperative programmes in order to stimulate awareness on these issues among the ASEAN populace.
2. To broaden the participatory process in the area of the environment in ASEAN.
3. To stimulate regional activities in the environment area.

With regards to the implementation of the activities pertaining to the ASEAN Environment Year 1995, each ASEAN member country has made firm

commitments to carry out its own national activities under the ASEAN Environment Year theme.

The following are expected to be implemented as regional level activities during the year.

- Meetings/Seminars/ Training Workshops as:
 - ASEAN meetings/ workshops with participation from NGOs (non-Governmental Organisations) and private sectors.
 - Environmental Camp(s) for ASEAN Youth.
- Campaign/Exhibitions: Emphasis will be given to the theme of AEY 1995: Green and Clean.
 - International trade fair for environmentally sound and friendly products and technologies.
 - Exhibitions of various ASEAN wide photo, art, essay competition.
- Public Relations
 - Exchange of publicity materials such as videos, pamphlets, radio clips etc., among ASEAN member countries.
 - Dissemination, as widely as possible, of publications on ASEAN countries achievements and future directions in environmental management.

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agement.

- Promotion of the theme "ASEAN ENVIRONMENTAL YEAR" in all ASEAN and National Activities in the Environment.

The following are recommended for implementation as national level activities during the year.

- Organisation of EXPO(s) on environmentally friendly products.
- Exhibition of environmentally sound technology and equipment.
- Organisation of various competitions including art, essay, photo etc. on environmental topics.
- Production of stamps, souvenirs, coins, telephone cards on AEY theme.
- Participation of the public and private sectors in AEY activities.
- Organisation of campaigns such as clean water campaign, nationwide battery collection campaign, collection of hazardous waste from domestic sources campaign, intensive environmental education and awareness campaign, clean up campaign, tree planting campaign, waste minimisation and recycling campaign.
- Leadership training of environmental volunteers.

ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action On The Environment 1994-1998

The Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment

(ASOEN) held in July 1993 in Bangkok, agreed that a new ASEAN Action Plan should be developed taking into account new developments following the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, UNCED, or Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 which adopted Agenda 21. Subsequently the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment, (AMME) held in April 1994 in Bandar Seri Begawan, adopted the ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment 1994-1998. The new plan takes into consideration the need to harmonise the ASEAN's working groups' objectives, strengthen the existing institutional arrangements, identify priority regional issues including environmentally related implications of the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA), as well as establish ASOEN's position in international fora such as Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and the Inter-Governmental Committee on the Convention on Biological Diversity (ICCBD).

The Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment has the following five objectives:

- to respond to specific recommendations of Agenda 21 requiring priority action in ASEAN;
- to introduce policy measures and promote institutional development that encourage the integration of environmental factors in all developmental processes both at the national and regional levels;
- to establish long term

goals on environmental quality and work towards harmonised environmental quality standards for the ASEAN region;

- to harmonise policy directions and enhance operational and technical cooperation on environmental matters, and undertake joint actions to address common environmental problems; and
- to study the implications of AFTA on the environment and take steps to integrate sound trade policies with sound environmental policies.

To attain the above objectives, the following strategic thrusts and actions will be pursued.

Strategy 1: Support the development of a regional framework for integrating environment and development concerns in the decision making process by continuing support in the documentation of regional EIA experiences towards the harmonisation of procedures; initiating activities that will make use of natural resource and environmental accounting studies and approaches; and establishing procedures that would initiate the integration of environmental concerns in the various ASEAN programmes and activities.

Strategy 2: Promote government-private sector interactions that lead towards the development of policies that mutually support the thrust of each sector through initiation of studies on development of environmental and trade policies which are supportive to the principles of sustainable development; establishment of mechanisms that encourage government and private sectors

to adopt appropriate environmental standards backed up by sufficient economic incentives; and setting up of government-private sector information linkages/network to include information on technology, expertise and facilities for environmental management.

Strategy 3: Strengthen the knowledge and information data base on environmental matters by pursuing the establishment of basic environmental quality standards leading to the setting up of harmonised quality standard in the region; identifying centres of excellence for environmental R& D and eventually build them as focal points of environmental networks; and establishing a mechanism of the preparation of periodic reports on the state of the region's environment.

Strategy 4: Strengthen institutional and legal capacities to implement international agreements on environment by undertaking a comparative study on the institutional structure and legislation on environmental management; establishing capabilities to support regional effects to implement international agreements and participate effectively in the negotiation of new or revised agreements; and enhancing collaboration with international bodies overseeing the implementation of international agreements and cooperation.

Strategy 5: Establish a regional framework of biological diversity conservation and sustainable utilisation of its components through the promotion of the development of a framework for the protection and con-

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(Environment)

servation of heritage areas and endangered species, and strengthening of capacities for R&D to enhance biodiversity conservation in the region.

Strategy 6: Promote the protection and management of coastal zones and marine resources by improving the regional marine and coastal environmental coordination and developing a framework for the integrated management of regional coastal zones.

Strategy 7: Promote environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals and hazardous waste, and control of transboundary movement of hazardous wastes by establishing regional guidelines for assessing highly pollutive industries and safe handling of potentially harmful chemicals entering the ASEAN region, and strengthening the information network on the transboundary movement of toxic chemicals and hazardous waste.

Launching of AEY 1995 in Brunei Darussalam

In Brunei Darussalam, the AEY 1995 was officially launched on 26 January by the Minister of Development, Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail, who is chairman of the Brunei Darussalam National Committee for the Environment.

The Minister stressed in his speech at the ceremony that all our actions do have their consequences on the environment, thus its preservation requires the contribution of everyone.

He said the AEY 1995



Left: Trees planting effort in progress and below, a voluntary clean-up campaign. These are just some of the efforts which involve everyone aimed at preserving, protecting and keeping the environment clean in Brunei Darussalam.



which aims, among other things, to create awareness among the ASEAN people about the state of environment in the region, provides opportunity for everyone to interact and raise questions about one's responsibility towards protecting the environment.

He pointed out that the step ASEAN is taking to control the quality of the environment must be maintained because in the wake of its rapid physical and economic development, the grouping is often accused by the developed countries of neglecting its environment to the point that they are linking environmental

issues to trade.

ASEAN, he emphasised, has to be united and show that amid its rapid physical and economic development, it is also giving as much attention to the protection and preservation of the environment.

"ASEAN must oppose any proposal to link trade issues to those of the environment because such a move is purely 'protectionism' in disguise contrary to free trade", said the Minister.

He went on to say that although AEY reflects ASEAN's collective effort on the environmental issue, it is also realised that the focus and emphasis of tackl-

ing the environmental problems differ from one member country to another.

The Minister pointed to the fact that Brunei Darussalam has not yet reached the uncontrolled level of industrial pollution that is experienced by some countries, while stating that the major problem in the country at present is the disposal of solid waste and domestic waste. Likewise, the pollution of rivers is not caused by industrial activities, but by the indiscriminate dumping of garbage, and construction activities which cause erosion.

"All these arise from the
• Continued on page 12



• From page 11
(Environment)

lack of awareness and ignorance among ourselves of the consequences of these negative actions on the environment. That is why activities and programmes on environmental preservation in this country in the past had been focused on tackling these local issues", he said.

The Minister assured, however, that pollutions from other sources such as motor vehicles' carbon dioxide emission and industrial wastes would be watched closely for appropriate action.

priate action.

He urged all members of the community regardless of whether they are in the private sector, youths, village residents, businessmen, academicians, parents, teachers and others to together help instill the love for the environment because its future depended upon the role each of us plays.

The Minister called on all parties not to regard the end of AEY 1995 as the end of efforts to preserve and protect the environment, moreover, these efforts should be continued and be further intensified.

Above : Bandar Seri Begawan, capital city of the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam seen from the air. High-rise buildings, office blocks and other modern facilities intertwine with the greenery of the tropical vegetation in a show of careful management of the country's natural environment. Bottom left and bottom right : The beauty of nature that so many authorities are trying to protect and preserve so they can be enjoyed by future generations and help to maintain the natural balance.



Brunei in Brief

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan
Land size : 5765 sq. km
Population : 267,800 (Mid-1992)
Official Language : Malay
Official Religion : Islam
January rainfall : 179.1mm
(annual 2,818mm)

PRIME LENDING RATE

January 5.75%
(quoted by Bankers' Association)

Brunei Malay in a minute

Readers are introduced to a new Brunei Malay word through each edition of the Brunei Darussalam Newsletter.

The word is peculiar to Brunei Darussalam only, and for this edition the word **kidum** has been chosen.

Kidum or **takidum** is to smile, and in standard Malay it is senyum.

In a sentence, for example :
Dia **takidum** melihat telatah anak kecilnya.

She smiled at her child's behaviour.

**THE TRAFFICKING IN AND THE ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF
CONTROLLED DRUGS ARE VERY SERIOUS OFFENCES IN
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM AND THE PENALTY
FOR SUCH OFFENCES IS DEATH.**