



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

Published by the Department of Information
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

NUMBER 162

31 March 1995



Audience for Thailand's Foreign Minister

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Thai Foreign Minister, His Excellency Krasae Chanawongse greeting each other at Istana Nurul Iman when the ruler granted the latter an audience.

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has granted an audience to His Excellency Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, making his first visit to the Sultanate in his capacity as the Kingdom's Foreign Affairs Minister.

The audience took place at the Istana Nurul Iman on 16 March.

During the audience His Excellency who was leading a 10-member delegation on the one-day visit, exchanged views with His Majesty on bilateral and regional issues.

The visiting Thai Foreign

Minister was entertained to a luncheon by his Brunei Darussalam counterpart, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah at Istana Edinburgh (Edinburgh Palace).

They also exchanged views on matters of mutual interest to Brunei Darussalam and Thailand, which are neighbours in ASEAN.

Audience also for US Joint Chiefs of Staff's Vice Chairman

On 22 March, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, as Deputy Sultan,

granted an audience on behalf of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to Admiral William A. Owens, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the United States Military, who was on a two-day visit to Brunei Darussalam.

A Foreign Affairs Ministry press release said that during the meeting, His Royal Highness and the Admiral discussed issues of security and defence in the Asia Pacific region.

His Royal Highness also welcomed the continued presence of United States military in the Asia Pacific and stressed the importance of the US contribution towards peace and stability,

according to the press release.

Admiral William Owens also called on the Deputy Defence Minister, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General (R) Pengiran Haji Ibnu, who spoke of increasingly closer relations between the armed forces of the two countries.

He said this is reflected in the frequent visits by personnel of the US military to Brunei Darussalam.

During the courtesy call, the Deputy Minister of Defence and the high-ranking US official discussed the already-existing relations between the armed forces

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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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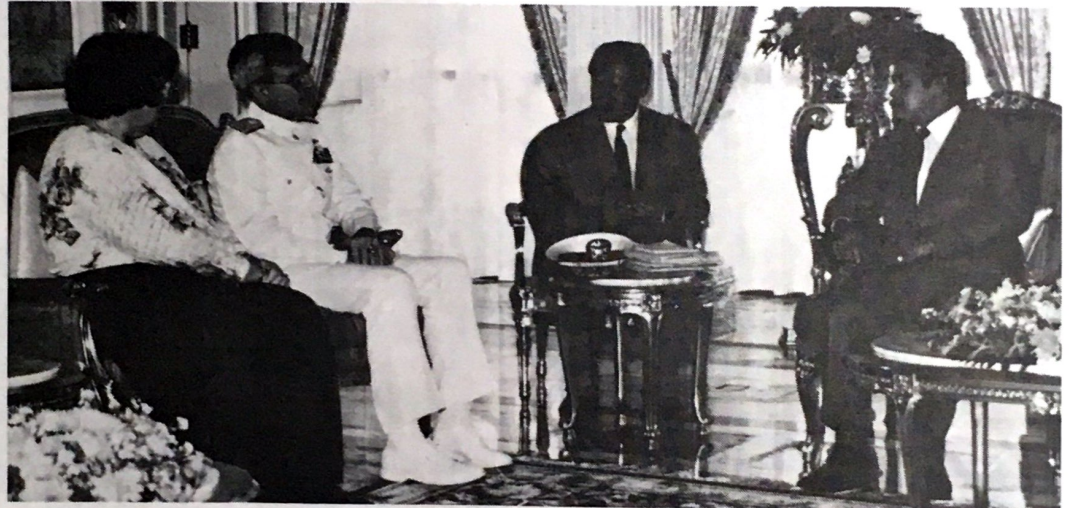
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YOUR TURN

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Above: His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and His Excellency Krasae Chanawongse seen in discussion during a luncheon hosted by His Royal Highness. Also present were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, Ambassador At Large, and Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd. Ali, Deputy Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, seated far right. Below: His Royal Highness converses with Admiral William Owens, with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dato Paduka Awang Lim Jock Seng (facing camera) and US Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, Her Excellency Teresa Anne Tull looking on.



Admiral William Owens during his courtesy call on the Deputy Defence Minister, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General (R) Pengiran Haji Ibnu.



• From page 1 (Audience) of the two countries, as well as security issues and role of US military since the agreement on the stationing of US forces at two bases in the Republic of the Philippines ended.

After calling on the

Deputy Minister of Defence, Admiral William Owens was briefed on the developments of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces since its formation 30 years ago.

The Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Yang Dimuliakan

Pehin Datu Harimau Padang Major General Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Haji Husin bin Ahmad was present at both Admiral Owens' audience with the Deputy Sultan, and courtesy call on the Deputy Minister of Defence.

Sultanate's Far-Sighted Forestry Policy In Line With World Effort To Conserve A Stable Environment

The Minister of Development said that through its far-sighted forestry policy, Brunei Darussalam is fortunate that 80 per cent of its area is still covered with forest. Of these, 60 per cent is primary forest.

In some countries, he pointed, the depletion of forests has been so widespread that only between five and ten percent still remain.

The Government's policy of continuous conservation of the country's forest for the interest of future generation, he added, is in line with world effort to conserve a stable environment.

"Logging is strictly controlled to ensure the continuity or sustainability of forest," said the Minister.

The destruction of forests has brought about various environmental problems, such as global warming, floods, long dry seasons and the rise in sea-level, he pointed out.

Steps which we have undertaken in the conservation of our forest, even though they may seem small, have contributed to some extent towards overcoming environmental problems resulting from the destruction of world forests.

In a speech before launching this year's World Forestry Day, which was also held in conjunction with the ASEAN Environmental Year on 21 March, Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail spoke about the country's Policy on Forestry, high-



The Minister of Development, Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail (third from right) tours a site earmarked for reforestation at Sungai Mau in the Labi area of Belait district.

lighting the role of the forests in the country's development, particularly in maintaining the country's biogeocology.

The policy ensures the sustainability of the forest which is carried out by a systematic maintenance and preservation that would guarantee the country's forest as an outstanding tropical forest, he stressed.

The National Forestry Policy underlines, among others, the responsibility of the Forestry Department to maintain, develop and manage the forest resources such as in the aspect of maintenance.

This is also aimed at increasing the quality of forest life, encouraging the socio-economic growth of the people, development of the country's technology and providing the environmental facilities, and in the

long term, sustaining the ecology.

In a ceremony held at the Ex-Situ Forest Conservation in Sungai Lumut, 80 kilometres from the capital, the Minister further said that the Forestry Department is also now organising and conducting works to further extend and develop the potential of forests in the country.

In the 6th National Development Programme, a large budget was allocated for the funding of forestry projects. These included building biodiversity conservation centres, establishing facilities and sites for nursery, fields for forest trees and commercial rattans and bamboos.

The Ex Situ Forest Plants Complex, therefore, is another success as it is aimed at further enriching the forest plants in the Andulau

Forest Reserve, in which logging had begun since 1947.

"Efforts to increase species of forest trees should be encouraged so that research and studies on the country's biodiversity could be carried out, the Minister urged.

This is important because information and sources on biodiversity have wide potential for commercial products.

The Development Ministry also touched on the cultivation of forest which is being carried out by the Forestry Department to ensure sufficient supply of woods. To date, 700 hectares of 30,000 hectares earmarked have been cultivated, he said, adding that in the near future, about 1,000 hectares of land will

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Sarawak Minister has an audience with His Majesty The Sultan



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam granted an audience to the Minister of Industrial Development of the Malaysian State of Sarawak, Yang Berhormat Datuk Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari at Istana Nurul Iman on 27 March, picture above. The Minister's wife Yang Berbahagia Datin Hajjah Jumani binti Tuanku Haji Bujang was granted audiences separately by Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha, at Istana Nurul Iman, picture below left, and by Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam, at Istana Nurul Izzah, picture below right.



Minister's visit aimed at enhancing economic cooperation between the two immediate neighbours

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam granted an audience to the Minister of Industrial Development of the Malaysian State of Sarawak, Yang Berhormat Datuk Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Abang Haji Openg, at Istana Nurul Iman on 27 March.

The Minister, accompa-

nied by his wife, was leading a 20-member delegation for the two-day visit on 27-28 March, aimed at enhancing bilateral economic relations between the two countries, especially in trade and investment.

Meanwhile, the Minister's wife, Yang Berbahagia Datin Hajjah Jumani binti Tuanku Haji Bujang was granted separate audiences the same day by Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri

Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and by Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam. The audiences took place at Istana Nurul Iman and Istana Nurul Izzah respectively.

Included in the Minister's delegation was Sarawak's Assistant Minister for Tourism, Yang Berhormat Dr. James Masing. Bruneians currently make up the largest number of tourists into Sarawak from a single country.

be cultivated with forest trees each year.

On ecotourism development, several measures have also been undertaken to develop recreational and ecotourism facilities, including the formation of a national park in Temburong, biodiversity researches, work on documentation and information record as well as wide publicities.

These are aimed at creating an industry on ecotourism, which can attract not only foreign scientists and intellectuals to visit the country for research, but also citizens and people of the country to enjoy all the natural beauties that are still stable and only available in the country, the Minister said.

He was confident that the positive National Forestry Policy and wide forestry programmes and projects would give citizens of the country the opportunities to engage in economic activities based on forestry. These opportunities are not only in the aspect of logging, but also in the cultivation of forests, wood and biodiversity resources manufacturing, and ecotourism.

Brunei Darussalam observed the World Forestry Day together with other countries to show its seriousness and commitment in supporting the people of the world to maintain the earth, he added.

In pursuit of the rapid economic growth, the Minister stressed, we should be aware of the need to give serious attention to environmental maintenance.

"We should always put serious efforts so that the community of all levels would be aware and value the benefits of beautiful tropical forests by encouraging more citizens to become close to the forests," he said.

Visits to forest recreational parks in the country should be encouraged, while at the same time ensuring that visitors and users of forest recreational parks would not pollute the environment by throwing rubbish everywhere or create fire risk that may ruin our forests, he reminded.

He expressed confidence that with the determined efforts of the Forestry Department, our vision of making Brunei Darussalam as an excellent centre for tropical forests with its citizens and people

appreciating its value, would be achieved.

Brunei Darussalam observed World Forestry Day for the 13th year, with the theme this year 'Ke Arah Kecemerlangan Hutan Tropika' or 'Towards Splendours of Tropical Forest'.

Establishment of Ex Situ Conservation, Collection of Important Forest Plants

Established on 12 January 1994, the Ex Situ includes a Rattan Garden as part of a national rattan inventory project and the ex situ collection site for forest plants.

The main objectives for this project include the establishment of facilities and sites for establishing living repositories and demonstration collections of forest plants for horticultural, economic and conservation interest.

These will ensure the conservation of important plant groups in a secure and accessible site, in order to support the screening and development of plants of economic importance, education, research and an increase in awareness of the richness and value of wild forest resources in the coun-

try.

The Ex Situ Collection Sites have been established around the Brunei Forestry Centre at Sungai Liang and these are the Bambusetum, Palmetum and Introductory Arboretum. Due to lack of space at the Brunei Forestry Centre, a new site has been proposed at Jalan Labi, within the Andulau Forest Reserve covering an area of about 100 hectares to serve as a beginning of yet a more ambitious Biodiversity Centre which has been proposed for the Seventh National Development Plan.

The conservatories of living wild plants serve many functions, the most important of which is that they secure holdings of genetic materials of wild plant species that can support the improvement of many useful plants (including those which are already domesticated and well-known), through breeding and development of better strains.

The Ex Situ is an important project for the nation as it serves as a living Scientific Resources Centre, provides useful facility for education and training, and helps encourage the public to value Brunei's natural heritage.

Emphasise On Facilitating An Enhanced Development Of Science And Technology Capabilities And Capacities

Member countries of ASEAN have been urged to emphasise on facilitating an enhanced development of Science and Technology capabilities and capacities through a high level of Intra-ASEAN cooperation, so as to achieve the directives set by the

ASEAN Heads of Government in their 1992 Summit.

To fulfill such objectives, said the Minister of Development, it may be necessary therefore, for ASEAN to adjust their approach for the programmes and activities, and focus more on identifying, developing and

managing collective and cooperative activities.

It will also be necessary for the Association to better manage processes of cooperation in Science and Technology that would enhance capabilities and capacities that are self-sustaining, the Minister added.

In a speech before he declared open the 31st Meeting of ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology on March 22, Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail underlined the directives

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Brunei Darussalam and the U.S. sign agreement on cooperation in civil aviation

Brunei Darussalam and the United States have signed an agreement that will see to the enhancement of cooperation in civil aviation between the two countries.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communications, Dato Paduka Malai Ali, while the US Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, Her Excellency Teresa Anne Tull signed for the United States Trade and Development Agency.

A press release issued by the Ministry of Communications said the agree-



The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communications, Dato Paduka Malai Ali and US Ambassador, Her Excellency Teresa Anne Tull signing agreement on cooperation in civil aviation between Brunei Darussalam and the United States.

ment aims at facilitating and enhancing training and other cooperation between Brunei's Civil Aviation Department and the United States Federal Aviation Administration.

The training would include training in planning, development and management for airport technical staff and study tours by senior civil aviation officials to major airports in the

United States to study and learn the technical and administrative systems there.

The signing, on 14 March, took place at the Ministry of Communications in Berakas near the capital.

• From page 5 (Science-Technology)

which have been set in the 1992 Summit in Manila. These include to achieve a high level of Intra-ASEAN cooperation in Science and Technology that is synergistic and self-sustaining and having the active participation of the private sector.

ASEAN members also need to achieve a network of Science and Technology infrastructure and programmes for public and private sector's human resources development, an active, economically-beneficial institution-industry technology transfer, an enhanced state of public awareness of the importance of science and technology to ASEAN's economic de-

velopment and an expanded science and technology cooperation with the international community.

The Minister reiterated that in spite of the different levels of development amongst member states of ASEAN, the trend of favourable economic growth enjoyed will continue as ASEAN diversify and industrialise their economies.

Such trend, he said, is expected to continue as the implementation of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) gets underway, and in such development, science and technology will play a pivotal role.

"It can be identified that for ASEAN to maintain a competitive edge in the global economic arena, it is crucial that the development of Science and Technology

is actively promoted," the Minister further stressed.

Brunei Darussalam, therefore, believes that ASEAN should begin to identify and develop more programmes that would facilitate cooperation efforts, facilitate complementation in both capabilities and capacities that would be self-sustaining, he added.

The Minister continued to say that Brunei Darussalam has been importing technology and using it for the betterment of the people. These include technology in Health Care, Medical Services and the Construction Industry.

He further spoke about the establishment of the country's National Scientific Laboratory aimed at providing diagnostic and analytical services for the

construction industry, ensuring the integrity of buildings, and facilitating the manufactures of building materials for the construction industry, and for various agencies especially in the area of health care and environmental safety.

In the development of service infrastructure especially in telecommunication and civil aviation, said the Minister, Brunei Darussalam is at par with the latest available technology in order to ensure the quality of service and safety.

He later touched on the recent establishment of Universiti Brunei Darussalam and the Technical College that provides the country the foundation for the building up of Science and Technology indigenous resources.

Doing away with red tape or bureaucracy towards provision of swift and effective services

The Special Adviser to His Majesty The Sultan in the Prime Minister's Office and Home Affairs Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa has reminded officials and staff of government departments of the need in their constantly having to improve and make more effective the services they provide.

He said this is especially so with those departments which deal with the public, because people will judge the effectiveness of a department through their own experience in their dealings with the department concerned, he pointed.

The Minister was speaking during the launching of the computer system and innovation exhibition of the Department of Immigration and National Registration on 28 March.

The Minister pointed



The Special Adviser to His Majesty The Sultan in the Prime Minister's Office and Home Affairs Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa called for smoother services provided by departments, in particular those which deal with the public.

that an inefficient and slow administration and execution of duties will not only blemish the image of the department and ministry concerned, but eventually the image of the government as well.

"Often we hear of public

services everywhere being faced with the problems of red tape or bureaucracy which frequently dampen the smoothness of the services of the government.

"I hope this problem of red tape can be reduced as soon as possible and eventually dropped from our administrative system altogether", he stressed.

The Special Adviser and Home Affairs Minister went on to say that what he would like to see is a swift and efficient service but without ignoring regulations and laws.

And, he added, should the regulations and laws be found to be unsuitable any longer with the requirements of an efficient and effective administration, then they should be re-evaluated and up-dated so the aspired goal can be achieved.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Haji Awang Isa welcomed the move taken by the Department of

Immigration and National Registration to having a computer system in its endeavour to provide smoother and more effective services.

He urged operators of the system to always make the efforts towards making themselves expert so that full benefit can be gained from it.

"Sophisticated equipment such as computers alone are not enough because the main factor that determines the effectiveness of the execution of duty still lies in the part played by the operators, in other words the human input", he further pointed.

He reminded officials and staff of the importance of cooperation and working together as a group because the performance of any department is not determined by individuals but by the collective efforts of its

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Standards to emphasise on quality and safety in designs and construction introduced

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is constantly giving serious attention to and making efforts towards improving the quality and safety of constructions.

"The growth of intensive development does not mean acceptance of low-quality designs and construction that take 'short-cuts', especially those which

could endanger the public", stressed the Minister of Development, Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail when he officially opened a forum on Brunei Darussalam Standardisation PBD: 12-Guidelines and Construction Requirements, on 15 March.

He said among the measures towards achieving quality and safety in construction have been the

enforcement by the Development Ministry through its Planning and Construction Research Unit of some 21 Brunei Darussalam standardisations which cover construction and management quality to date, with more to follow.

The Minister regretted that in spite of these efforts, there are still "evidences of low-quality construction or methods of construction all around us, whereby short-

construction periods are used as excuses for carrying out such low-quality works".

He pointed to the need of Government departments, consultants, contractors and suppliers to have not only professional staff for overseeing their projects, but also cooperation among their workers.

"High-quality projects

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Towards Creating A Competitive, Fast, Safe, Secure Port : Government Continues To Study, Evaluate, Introduce New Measures

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam will continue to study, evaluate and introduce new measures to make Muara Port a competitive, fast, safe and secure port.

These measures are beneficial not only to the country itself, but also for the development of the region, said the Minister of Communications, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Zakaria.

Speaking at the launching of transshipment service at Muara Port on 27 March, the Minister expressed confidence that Brunei Darussalam can become a

'Gateway for International Trade for the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines - East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA).

Towards this end, His Majesty's Government will continue to improve facilities available in the port, which includes broadening and extending a container handling capability. When completed, the port will have two container berths with better handling facilities.

The Minister said that with the rapid development in the Pacific Rim, the countries in the BIMP-EAGA have expressed their commitments to conduct growth area in the region, in which services and goods could

move and be distributed freely across national borders.

The BIMP-EAGA, therefore, should now develop air linkages, shipping routes and road networks in order to achieve the objectives, he stressed, while pointing this to be a challenge to the BIMP-EAGA.

The Minister also spoke about the Government's efforts to make Muara Port as a competitive port, and the establishment of the Muara Export Zone (MEZ) was a positive development. Other efforts include the introduction of a two-shifts service and the implementation of a Container Freight Station by a private sector,

which also shows a new positive development.

The launching of a transshipment service by holding a 'dedicated Mother/Feeder operation' based in Muara, by Dal Zhun Shipping Pte. Ltd. of Sarawak and Archipelago Development Corporation Pte. Ltd. of Brunei is a step towards providing services to Sandakan, Tawau, Labuan and Tarakan via Muara, said the Minister.

Such event was a major step towards making Muara Port as a 'Hub' for the BIMP-EAGA area and reflects the development of close cooperation among private sectors in the region, he further stressed.

• *From page 7 (Standards)*

should not only be limited to large budgets, but low-cost projects, too, must be of high quality", he emphasised.

The Minister went on to say that among the most obvious examples of low quality works are cracks in various parts of buildings, bumpy roads and many more.

"Perhaps there are people who view lightly those problems I have mentioned, or others who, because we have not experienced such disasters as collapses of buildings or landslides that claim many lives, then regard why should we provide these measures and standards aimed at preventing these

happening?" the Minister wondered.

He stressed that it is better to take such measures before any such disaster, and not after. Furthermore, he explained, these problems have to be kept in check from now as they will worsen because there are parties who take no consideration of the safety of their workers, consumers and the public seriously.

Hence, we hear of collapses of buildings, bridges and the likes elsewhere in various parts of the world as a result of non-quality works.

Until now the attention on quality and safety has much been focused on safety during the construction period only, in particular the safety of workers, explained

the Minister.

In the light of this, the Ministry of Development has now issued regulations on the safety of construction site, including regular inspection of heavy equipment and vehicles, and the base-site of buildings.

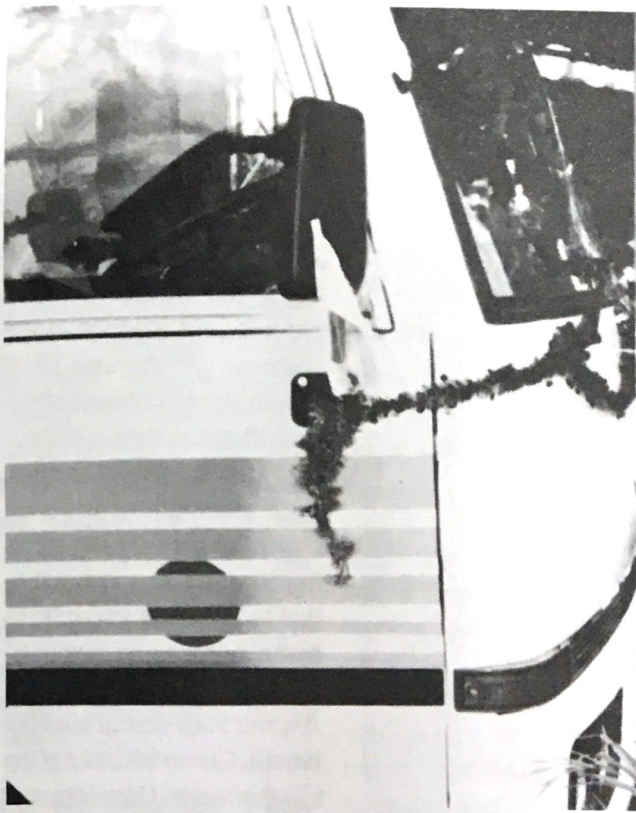
And with this forum on Standardisation PBD 12.1994 - Guidelines and Construction Requirements, it is hoped that further emphasis can also be given to the aspects of design, quality and safety of buildings as well as to the environment inside and around them such as from aspects of health, fire control, air circulation and so on.

The Brunei Darussalam Standardisation PBD 12, explained the Minister, is in line with international stand-

ards, and was drawn up jointly by the Ministries of Development, Home Affairs, Health and various departments.

The Minister also advised that all applications from contractors and developers made to the Ministry of Development must satisfy the conditions of the Brunei Darussalam PBD 12-Guidelines and Requirements from 1 January next year.

The Minister reminded, in conclusion, that the existence of standards alone cannot guarantee quality in any area, but what is more important is the understanding of all parties involved towards such standardisation and its subsequent application.



The Minister of Communications, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Zakaria unveils plaque at the official launching of a campaign on communications, marked by inauguration of a new bus service in and around the capital.

Minister calls on private sector to play positive and constructive role in communications and transport services

The Minister of Communications has called on the private sector engaged in the communications and transportation services industry to play positive and constructive role in carrying out their responsibility to make Brunei Darussalam a centre for exported/imported trade and tourism within the zone of BIMP-EAGA (Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area).

The participation of private sector is important because the provisions of service will be emphasised towards public's interest as consumers, and this directly gives the private sector opportunities to engage fully in the industry, he said.

"This will enable Brunei Darussalam to compete with other countries in the

region by emphasising the 'look-outward' concept, said the Minister.

In a speech shortly before he launched this year's Campaign on Communications and a Round-About Bus Service on March 16, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Zakaria said, in this competitive global economic era in which economic barriers have been opened up and the policy of open market is accepted all over the world, the sector of communications and transportations plays very important role, he stressed.

"In view of the importance of the country's relations with foreign countries in commercial fields, we acknowledge that communications and transportation are the basis for a country's progress."

In order to develop these sectors successfully, we therefore, should concentrate our energy and determination to support the Government's policy towards the development of both sectors, stressed the Minister, while adding that citizens of the country should be responsive towards the current needs and development.

The Minister further underlined several projects identified by departments under the Communications Ministry which are being and will be carried out, all of which are geared towards progress in regional communications and mobility of the people.

He hoped that this, in turn, would promote the country as a centre for imported/exported trade and tourism. The Minister, how-

ever highlighted the need for close and substantial joint effort from all parties, both from the Government departments and private sector, in order to achieve success.

This year, the Ministry of Communications will emphasise on project which promote facilities for citizens, including that for the management of cargo and communications.

The launching of the Communications Campaign 1995 was marked by the launching of a Round-About Public Bus Service for areas around the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan by local companies. With the operation of the service, citizens and people of the country will have an alternative means of travelling to main

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Official Urges Revival of Parents - Teachers Associations



The Commissioner of the Cooperative Department, Awang Haji Harun bin Haji Ismail presenting prize to one of 92 students who received prizes for outstanding performance.

A senior government official has urged colleges and schools to form parents and teachers associations, (PTA) and those which already have such associations to revive them.

"In developed countries, such associations have become the networking information and support activities to colleges and help to make lighter and responsibilities of teachers, said Awang Haji Harun bin Haji Ismail, Commissioner of the Cooperative Development Department.

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destinations in Bandar Seri Begawan and Berakas.

The Minister pointed out that the successful implementation of a new bus service should not have to be shouldered by the Land Transport Department alone, but bus entrepreneurs should also be responsible and play their positive part in obeying rules and keeping to schedules. The service, if successful and getting support from members of public, Insya-Allah (God-willing), will be extended to other areas for the interest of the citizens and people of the country, he added.

Postal Services

Touching on services provided by the Department of Postal Services, the Minister said that it will continue its effort to further

improve and upgrade the quality of service, such as by adding more outlets for selling stamps, first day covers as well as several postal products in departmental stores and shophouses.

The Postal Services Department will also continue its effort to make the department as "One Stop Business Centre".

Port

On the Department of Ports, the Minister highlighted the Government's continuous effort to further extend Muara Port, in line with the Government's need and objective to make it as a main port in the region. New efforts such as the formation of Muara Export Zone, a Container Freight Station and cargo management will be extended to enable Muara Port compete with other ports in the region.

Civil Aviation

The Minister also spoke about the importance of the Department of Civil Aviation as an international 'interconnectivity' centre. The Air Traffic Control Centre, which will soon be in operation, will further upgrade the capability of the department in observing the security of airlines and passengers at the Berakas International Airport.

Future planning of the airport includes making it an important 'hub' in the region.

Marine

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Zakaria also highlighted the important role of the Marine Department in the communications of regional and international maritime, as well as in upgrading safety and pollution control in the

country's water.

The responsibility of Government departments and citizens of the country is important in ensuring that the country's water is safe, he said.

Telecommunications

The Department of Telecommunications is planning and giving serious attention towards the development of telecommunication infrastructures, so that the intention of making the country a 'regional communications hub' can be achieved.

The Minister said the department's mission is 'Towards Participation in Global Information Super-highway', which emphasises on services for all through competitive, efficient and reliable rates of service fees.

officials and staff.

Department to implement various innovations

In his welcoming speech, the Acting Controller of Immigration and National Registration, Awang Haji Adnan disclosed that the department is currently and will carry out various innovations aimed at further achieving smoother and more efficient operations of the department, and going computerised in stages was one of such moves.

Machine Readable Passport (MRP)

He said the department has already implemented steps to change the conventional Brunei Darussalam and Diplomatic passports to Machine Readable Passport (MRP). To date, some

53,000 of such MRP type passports had been issued in the 18 months since the move was begun on 2 August 1993.

New Identity Cards

He also announced the department is about to issue new identity cards for citizens and permanent residents to replace existing ones. The new identity cards, to be smaller in size than those presently, would be of high quality, and having various safety features.

These new identity cards would also be capable of being inspected by machine to ensure their genuineness and for obtaining details of the individual or holder.

Length of time for application processing to be shortened

Another innovation, according to the Acting Con-

troller, was the introduction of the Immigration and National Registration Customers' Charter, designed to provide more convenient and faster service to the public.

Introduced on 1 September 1994, the charter, among other things, determines the length of time for the processing of various applications such as for passports, visas, visit passes' extension and identity cards.

"The objective of the charter is to inculcate the spirit of commitment and responsibility within those officers who dealt with the processing of various applications so that they can process such applications as soon as possible within the certified time frame", Awang Haji Adnan said.

He added that the charter would be up-dated from time to time, whereby while at present an application for a passport takes 14 days, for instance, this duration would

be shortened to 10 days as from 1 May, 1995.

Outlining other progresses, the Acting Controller also revealed that with the close cooperation of the Attorney-General's office and the Royal Brunei Police Force, the Department of Immigration and National Registration now has four senior officers appointed to carry out prosecution in immigration and national registration-related cases, having assumed their responsibilities on 20 October 1994. Prior to this, such duties have had to be carried out by the police, he explained.

In the four months between October 1994 and February this year, 100 people had been brought before the court and penalised for various offences.

Procedures and inspections at immigration posts are also being improved and up-dated, he concluded.

Speaking at a thanksgiving and prize presentation ceremony, the Co-operative Development Commissioner pointed that such an association would at least help students and the college or school to act as a complementary unit by involving parents in various areas, including in overcoming and controlling problems faced by students while at the same time keep them away from various social scourges.

He advised students to keep away from social diseases and matters that can blemish their good names as well as from morality

destruction, which he said have already afflicted their small number today.

"Whether it is realised or not, he said, "some students have fallen to drug abuse, vandalism, truancy, crimes, smoking and others".

The country places high hopes in its student population but they will not be able to contribute positively and beneficially if they are involved in these social problems, the official pointed.

He advised students to make full use of the opportunity made available to them in pursuing their ambitions, and hold to the vision of 'wanting to move

ahead or progress'. It is not impossible, he stressed, for students being able to meet the hopes of the country, only if accompanied by determined efforts and positive attitude.

"The shape of the society rests in the hands of students", he went on, while adding, "if the society progresses, it is due to the students themselves".

Awang Haji Harun reminded the students that the Government has been allocating huge sums in 'educational investment' because it realises that only through education can the country compete with others and students should repay by contributing in whatever are of

national interests.

A total of 92 outstanding students received prizes at the ceremony - made up of 18 lower secondary one and 16 lower secondary two students; 22 who had obtained best results in the Brunei Junior Certificate of Education (BJCE) examinations and 17 lower secondary four students.

Other prizes went to 10 students for obtaining excellent results in their 'O' level examinations and nine in the 'A' level examinations.

The ceremony took place on 18 March at the Paduka Seri Begawan Science College Kampong Tungku.



Muara Port growing in importance and capability

The Muara Deep Water Port, situated at the estuary of the Brunei river about 15 kilometres from the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, is steadily growing not only in capability but also in importance, especially in the wake of efforts towards implementing various economic programmes of the BIMP-EAGA or the Brunei Darussalam - Indonesia - Malaysia - Philippines - East ASEAN Growth Area. Already capable of handling hundreds of thousands of tonnes of cargo each year, the port is constantly being improved and provided with new facilities. One day, it may well become the 'gateway for international trade for the BIMP-EAGA'. (See Page 8)



Pictures clockwise: General view of Muara Port, cargo handling and loading and unloading of cargoes.

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 : 90 mm
(annual 2,818mm)

PRIME LENDING RATE

January 5.75%
(quoted by Bankers' Association)

Brunei Malay in a minute

Our readers have the opportunity to learn a new Brunei Malay word that is particularly peculiar to the country, through each edition of the Brunei Darussalam Newsletter.

The word **jajal** has been selected for this issue. **Jajal** is

naughty or mischievous. In standard Malay it is nakal.

Let's use the word in sentence: Anak jiran kami itu **jajal**.

Our neighbour's child is mischievous.

**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.**