



# بروني دارالسلام

## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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### *Malaysian King on two- day visit to Brunei Darussalam*

**T**he already-strong and friendly  
relations between Brunei

*Continued on page 4*

*His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty The Yang Dipertuan Agong of Malaysia shake hands warmly as they met at the Istana Nurul Iman in Bandar Seri Begawan, reflecting the good and friendly relations between their countries.*



### *Higher levels of efficiency and management expected with quick pace of ASEAN's Development*



*His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah officially opened the Twelfth ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting on Energy Cooperation.*

**I**n the six years since Brunei Darussalam last hosted the Meeting of ASEAN Economic Ministers on Energy Cooperation, the pace of ASEAN's development has quickened, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah said at the opening of the 12th Meeting of ASEAN Economic Ministers on Energy Cooperation.

Representing His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the ICC on 2 April 1994, His Royal Highness further said.

"We now have many more partners, observers and even prospective new members to consider. We are part of a rapidly progressing APEC.

*• Continued on page 2*



## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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Senior Editor:  
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Editors  
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Asst. Editor/Layout  
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### YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 30 April 1994. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-225941 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.

• From page 1 (Efficiency)

We have our own free trade area. We have set up special growth areas and we are busy planning new initiatives in economics and security. While all this has been going on, the speed of global change around us has been even more dramatic."

"Things show no sign of slowing down, either. In the last few months, we have had calls for advanced target dates, faster growth rates and more and more ASEAN activities."

What all this means is that there are new demands on our energy resources, human, materials and natural. High levels of efficiency and management are expected, higher than ever before, His Royal Highness added.

"Meetings like this are therefore not just routine annual gatherings. They have a new and urgent purpose. In this sense, your meeting is not just about energy. It is also a meeting to supply energy. By this I mean the creative energy of ideas, proposals and strategies which will drive the ASEAN development dynamo. If this is to produce real benefits for the people, the output we require today is enormous and a great challenge to you all. Your efforts are central to the whole development process and therefore crucial for the well-being of our people."

In this respect, His Royal Highness continued, "I feel we are most

fortunate in ASEAN to be able to work from a cooperative standpoint. I congratulate you on what you have achieved so far and offer you my encouragement for the future."

"His Majesty and all of us in Government wish you much success in your meeting and look forward with great interest to studying the conclusions you reach and the policies you recommend" HRH concluded.

### Speech by current Chairman

In another speech, the current Chairman of the ASEAN Economic Ministers on Energy Cooperation, His Excellency Mr Preecha Musikul, Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Environment of Thailand, said that the meeting in Brunei would give them the opportunity to deliberate and to map out future action and direction for the consideration of the next ASEAN Summit.

Since the last Meeting of ASEAN Economic Ministers in Bangkok Thailand in January 1993, several activities have been carried out in energy cooperation projects.

The proposal for ASEAN contribution to the Phase 2 projects of ASEAN-EC Energy, Management, Training and Research Centre have been approved by the ASEAN Energy Ministers Ad-referendum for submission to the ASEAN Secretariat, the Chairman informed.

## Role of energy in economic development

**A**SEAN Economic Ministers on Energy Cooperation recognised the role of energy in economic development and the importance of power development in the overall growth of the energy sector in ASEAN.

In a joint press statement issued at the end of the 12th Meeting of ASEAN Economic Ministers on Energy Cooperation in Bandar Seri Begawan, 2 April 1994, the Ministers also agreed that concerted efforts

should be made towards the implementation of energy cooperation in the field of power generation and utilization. They agreed that power development be adopted as the theme for the Fifth ASEAN Summit in the area of energy cooperation.

The Meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan was preceded by the Twelfth Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Energy Coopera-

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Above: His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah flanked on the dais by ASEAN Economic Ministers at the opening of the Twelfth ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting on Energy Cooperation. Right: The Brunei Darussalam Minister of Development, Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail (4th from right) leading the country's delegation at the meeting.



• From page 2 (Role of energy)

tion held from 30 to 31 March 1994.

### ASEAN Energy Cooperation

The Ministers also noted the significant progress achieved in the implementation of energy cooperation projects in the areas of coal, power utilities/authorities, new and renewable sources of energy, and energy conservation.

In this respect, the joint statement added, emphasis would be given towards the realisation of the ASEAN Power Grid and on regular information exchange on power supply and demand situation among member countries.

The Ministers also reiterated their support of the ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement.

The joint statement further said

that the Ministers agreed to review the Agreement on ASEAN Energy Cooperation to take into consideration the changes of ASEAN economic cooperation priorities and the prevailing regional and international economic scenario.

### ASEAN-EC Energy Management, Training and Research Centre (AEEMTRC)

The Ministers also noted with satisfaction the progress achieved by AEEMTRC and welcomed the decisions of the EC to support Phase II of AEEMTRC as well as providing funds for the study of Master Plan on Natural Gas Development and Utilisation in ASEAN.

In view of the strategic nature of Phase II of the AEEMTRC project and the fact that project activities would benefit all member countries,

the Ministers firmly reiterated their support for the project which they had approved in December 1993. The Ministers strongly urged ASEAN decision making bodies to favourably consider the utilisation of the ASEAN Fund to finance the project especially as the EC had made it known that it could only provide partial support for the project.

### Energy projects in cooperation with dialogue partners of ASEAN

The Ministers also reviewed the progress on energy projects in cooperation with dialogue partners of ASEAN and agreed that all future project proposals should mutually benefit the dialogue partners and ASEAN particularly in relation to the promotion of trade.

• Continued on page 6





Left: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty The Yang Dipertuan Agong of Malaysia share a light moment when the Malaysian paramount ruler made a courtesy call on the Brunei monarch at the Istana Nurul Iman shortly after his arrival on April 4 for a two-day visit. Below: His Majesty The Yang Dipertuan Agong is greeted by Brunei dignitaries and foreign diplomats while His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah, who led the welcoming party, walks alongside the ruler.

• From page 1 (Malaysian King)

Darussalam and Malaysia have been further boosted with the latest visit to Bandar Seri Begawan of His Majesty The Yang Dipertuan Agong of Malaysia, Sultan Azlan Muhibuddin Shah, from April 4 to April 5.

The Malaysian paramount ruler was accompanied by a 41-man entourage that included his son, Yang Amat Mulia Raja Dato' Seri Ashman Shah.

Shortly after his arrival, His Majesty The Yang Dipertuan Agong made a courtesy call on His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. The ceremony was also attended by Their Royal Highnesses Paduka Seri



Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah, Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja

Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Paduka Seri

• Continued on page 11

Their Royal Highnesses Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah, Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah (from left to right in picture at right below) were present at the courtesy call, as was Yang Amat Mulla Raja Dato' Seri Ashman Shah, son of the Malaysian King (picture left below).





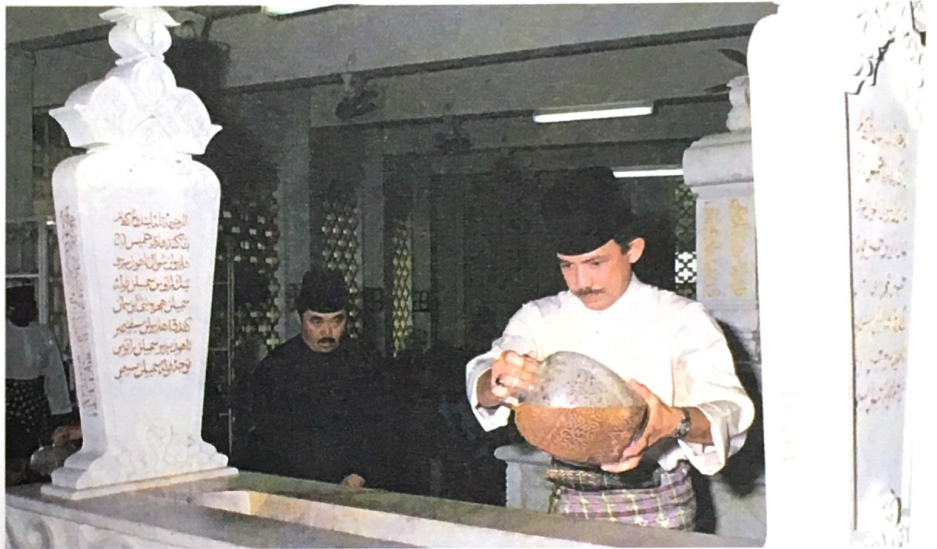
## Prayers at royal mausoleum

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has led the male members of the royal family in a bertahlil ceremony (prayers and recital of Koranic verses) at the royal mausoleum at Jalan Tutong, just outside the capital.

The ceremony, on April 6, was in remembrance of His Majesty's late father and mother, Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, who passed away in 1986 and Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit, who passed away in 1979.

With His Majesty were his eldest son, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and three brothers, Their Royal Highnesses Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah, Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisua Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah. Also at the ceremony were dignitaries and religious and government officials.

After the prayers and recitals, His Majesty sprinkled the "ayeng asah-asahan" (scented water) on the graves of his parents, followed by other members of the royal family.



*His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam flanked to the right by His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah, Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisua Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah raise their hands to the "do'a", which was followed by the sprinkling of the 'Ayeng asah-asahan' led by His Majesty on the graves of his father and mother. Dignitaries, religious and senior government officials were present at the ceremony, below.*





His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam granted an audience to the six ministers attending the Twelfth ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting on Energy Cooperation hosted by Brunei Darussalam. The ministers were joined at the audience by the Secretary General of the ASEAN Secretariat, Dato Alji Singh, whose wife, Datin Enid Singh was granted audiences by Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha at the Istana Nurul Iman (picture at left, below) and by Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam at the Istana Nurul Izzah.



• From page 3 (Role of energy)

#### Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Regional Energy Cooperation

The joint statement further said that the Ministers reiterated that member countries should continue to participate in the meetings of APEC Energy officials and coordinate their positions on matters addressed at these meetings.

#### Other matters

ASEAN Ministers attending the meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan were also briefed by His Excellency Mr I B Sudjana, Minister of Mines and Energy of Indonesia, on development

within OPEC (The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries).

The joint statement said the Ministers noted the progress of activities of ASEAN Council on Petroleum.

They also noted the decisions of the 25th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting held in Singapore in October 1993 and the implications on ASEAN cooperation in the energy sector.

In view of the new priorities in economic cooperation, the Ministers agreed that the programme of action on energy cooperation be revised.

The Ministers agreed to hold the next meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Energy Cooperation in Denpasar Indonesia in August 1995, the joint statement said.

While meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan, the ministers who represented all the six member countries of ASEAN comprising host Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, along with the Secretary General of the ASEAN Secretariat, had an audience on April 2 at the Istana Nurul Iman with 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 granted audiences separately to Datin Enid Ajit Singh, wife of the Secretary General of the ASEAN Secretariat, the same day.

The Education Minister recently launched a book entitled: "Belalong: A Tropical rainforest" at Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

The 400-page book written by the Earl of Cranbrook and Dr David Edwards, both biologists, incorporates many of the results of the expedition undertaken by over 50 scientists who took part in the Brunei Rainforest project 1991-92, giving accounts of their studies.

It is however far more than a straightforward account of scientists' discoveries, said Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, in his address at the launching ceremony, at UBD on 7 April 1994.

"At the request of the Ministry of Education, the authors have taken the opportunity to broaden the scope of the book so as to include an overview of the rainforests of Brunei, and to make the book suitable for use in secondary schools and colleges, both within and elsewhere."

The book which is richly illustrated with many attractive photo-

## The book "Belalong: A Tropical Rainforest" launched

graphs, drawings, maps and diagrams, will therefore serve as a rich source of information on the environment and the forests of Brunei Darussalam.

The Minister further hoped that geography and biology teachers will use the book to extend and upgrade their teaching of these subjects.

The book, though is not and was never intended to be a textbook, rather a supplementary reading material, the Minister stressed.

"The main theme of the book is really the incredibly rich biodiversity of our country, Brunei Darussalam, as revealed in a case study of the Temburong Rainforest. There are many impressive facts and figures quoted, amongst which the figure of 231 different species of trees in a single hectare (that is within a square of 100 metres by 100 metres) at Belalong stands out."

That figure constitutes nearly seven times as many as in the whole of a temperate country such as Britain. Almost nothing is known about these 231 trees, except for their names which have been given to them. This reflects our ignorance over the tropi-

cal rainforest not only in Brunei but also throughout the world in general, the Minister noted.

"The extreme richness of our rainforest at Belalong is clearly illustrated in the pages of this book - many different groups of plants and animals are covered, some in fascinating detail."

"We must be proud that the work carried out at the Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre, as reported in the pages of this book, has made a significant contribution to lifting this veil of ignorance, at least to the extent that we can now realise the limits to our knowledge."

#### Support from the private sector

Generous support for the research activities of the Centre continues to be forthcoming from the industrial sector. (It is now nearly six years since the first tentative proposals to establish a field studies centre for UBD were first put forward).

The construction of the Field

• Continued on page 10





*His Majesty granted audiences to Brunei Darussalam's first ambassador to the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdullah bin Haji Mohd. Jaafar (left), and received the credentials of Malaysia's new High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Haji Salim bin Hashim (below), Singapore's new High Commissioner, His Excellency Anthony Chng Chye Tong (picture second from bottom) and the new ambassador of the Republic of Korea, His Excellency Choi Koang Sik (bottom picture).*

## *His Majesty appoints Brunei's envoy to Beijing and grants audiences to several foreign diplomats*

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has appointed the country's first resident ambassador to the People's Republic of China, presenting the diplomat his letter of appointment at a ceremony at the Istana Nurul Iman on 29 March.

He is Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdullah bin Haji Mohd. Jaafar, 54, whose previous postings were as Brunei Darussalam's High Commissioner to the Republic of Singapore and Australia.

Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdullah joined government service in 1960 and has held such posts as Assistant District Officer, District Officer and Commissioner of Lands. He began his diplomatic career on joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1984.

He holds a diploma in social public administration.

### **Taking up postings in Bandar Seri Begawan**

On the previous day, the Brunei monarch received the credentials of three incoming envoys - the High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Mr. Anthony Chng Chye Tong, the High Commissioner of Malaysia, His



• Continued on page 9



**The Brunei monarch granted audiences separately to the outgoing British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Dato Seri Paduka Adrian John Sindall (right) and the Saudi Arabian ambassador, His Excellency Fouad Mohamed Hassan El-Faqy, (below).**



• From page 8

Excellency Haji Salim bin Hashim and the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, His Excellency Mr. Choi Koang Sik.

The envoys who presented their credentials during separate ceremonies, were also granted audiences by the ruler.

#### **Audiences for out-going envoys**

Meanwhile, four foreign envoys who are at the end of their posting to Brunei Darussalam have had farewell audiences with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

They are the British High Commissioner, His Excellency Dato Seri Paduka Adrian John Sindall, who took up his posting in Bandar Seri Begawan in April, 1991; His Excellency Mr. Fouad Mohamed Hassan El-Faqy, who has been Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Brunei Darussalam since 1988; His Excellency Mr. Alan Ine'eoaisa, Papua New Guinea's High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam since 1993 and the New Zealand High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr. Michael Chilton.

With the exception of the British High Commissioner, the other three envoys have been their countries' non-resident representatives in Bandar Seri Begawan.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam conferred the title "Dato Seri Paduka" on His Excellency Adrian John Sindall during the monarch's state visit to the United Kingdom in November 1992.

**His Majesty also granted audiences to Papua New Guinea's High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Alan Ine'eoaisa (picture second from bottom) and to the New Zealand High Commissioner, His Excellency Michael Chilton, left.**







**The Education Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wajaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz.**

Studies Centre has been made possible not only by a grant from His Majesty's Government and Brunei-Shell Petroleum Sendirian Berhad, but also with the full support of other government departments, which responded admirably to the challenge of building and equipping such a high-class facility in the depths of the Temburong Forest.

The organisation by UBD and the Royal Geographical Society of London, of the expedition to the Belalong Forest Known as the Brunei Rainforest Project 1991-92 was but the first stage in the ongoing development of the Centre. (The results of the expedition form a central focus to the book launched by the Minister).

The donation from the Hongkong Bank will ensure that research of the highest quality continues to be undertaken at the Centre, the Minister added.

**HM's Government committed to preservation and sustainable development of natural resources**

His Majesty's Government is fully committed to the preservation and sustainable development of Brunei's natural resources.

However, the Minister stressed, such a policy depends on developing within the younger generation, a responsible and caring attitude to-

wards the natural environment. And it is within this area of environmental education that the Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre has another important role to play, he added.

Since the end of the Brunei Rainforest Project in March 1992, parties of secondary schoolchildren have been visiting the Centre to learn about the forest and spend a few days in the peace and tranquility of the Belalong Forest.

Forty five groups, that is over 700 pupils had visited the Centre so far. A welcomed trend is the visits by overseas school parties and it is clear that the facilities at Belalong are becoming known internationally.

The Ministry of Education is fully supportive of these developments and has provided the Univer-

sity with the services of trained teachers to take charge and lead the school visits.

The development of the Batu Apoi Forest Reserve as the first national park in Brunei will heighten the importance of the area for educational purposes.

The book therefore provides a unique guide to the physical environment, the flora and fauna of the northern part of the Batu Apoi Forest Reserve.

Coupled with the series of Leaflets which has been produced by the UBD with the support of Brunei-Shell Petroleum Sdn Bhd, the book should provide schoolchildren and interested tourists with a wealth of information to enhance their visits to the national park, the Minister said.

## *Five-Year Research Plan for Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre*

**U**niversiti Brunei Darussalam is now in the process of drawing up a five-year research plan to provide a focus for work at the Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre. Experts from overseas have been invited to help in this task.

The University will, for a long time to come, require the assistance of the international scientific community in organising and carrying out research at the Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre.

Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Abu Bakar Haji Apang, the Vice Chancellor of UBD, in his welcoming remarks at the launching of the book "Belalong, A Tropical Rainforest", 7 April 1994, also said:

"I am pleased that the Royal Geographical Society has offered to continue to assist us, and we look forward to a continuing close relationship with the Society. We are also exploring the possibility of links with other institutions, such as the CRC Centre for Tropical Forest Research in Queensland, and hope our programmes can be linked to

those of the Centre for International Forest Research, the only international agency with a world-wide mandate for research on tropical forests."

The Vice Chancellor also expressed the confidence that the Field Studies Centre will continue to build on the firm foundation developed through the University's collaboration with the Royal Geographical Society, and will take its place amongst the leading institutions in tropical rainforest research in general and in studies of biodiversity in particular.

On the launching of the book, Dato Haji Abu Bakar said it marked another outcome of the long-standing and highly successful collaboration between UBD and The Royal Geographical Society in the development of the Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre.

"The research which was carried out during the Brunei Rainforest Project 1991-92 has already borne

• Continued on page 11



• From page 10 (Research)

fruit, in that many of the scientific results were presented at the International Conference on Tropical Rainforest Research which was held at UBD almost a year ago."

"The proceedings of that conference are now being prepared for publication, thanks in part to a grant of B\$25,000 from Brunei Shell Petroleum Sendirian Berhad."

The highly technical nature of the proceedings will make it inaccessible, if not unintelligible to most laymen, he added, and it is therefore fitting that the book should present an overview of the results of the expedition in a more user-friendly manner.

The book however is not just a catalogue of scientific projects and their results. The authors have expanded the book's coverage so as to include an overview of the geography and natural history of the Belalong area, and place this in a regional and natural context. Thus making the book highly relevant to both geography and biology syllabi at A and O levels.

Research did not stop at the end of the expedition and scientific study of the forest in the Batu Apoi



**Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abu Bakar Haji Apong, the Vice Chancellor of UBD**

Forest Reserve will continue for the foreseeable future.

The University, he added, attaches great importance to the on-going development of the Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre and has made resources available to extend and enhance the work being carried out there.

One full-time Research Fellowship has been reserved for the Field Studies Centre, and the University has been exploring ways to attract additional funding for scientific exploration. Hongkong and Shanghai

Bank Group has offered to assist through the provision of bursaries to support short-term visits by overseas scientists. This will allow up to four scientists each year to visit the Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre for four to six weeks at a time, and so allow a number of specific, focused studies to be completed within the three-year period.

The Vice-Chancellor also thanked other private sector organisations for their contributions and their continued support to the Field Studies Centre.

**Speech by the Deputy Director, RGS**

In his speech, Mr Nigel Winsor, the Deputy Director of the Royal Geographical Society of London, said that the book contains contributions from many participants and presents information from Belalong as a case study of a humid tropical rainforest.

He also spoke, among others on the various programmes initiated by RGS and about Brunei's part in ensuring the conservation and sustainable management of a biodiversity resource of global importance.

• From page 4 (Malaysian King)

Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's three brothers and Yang Amat Mulia Raja Dato Seri Ashman Shah.

The Brunei monarch hosted a dinner at the Royal Brunei Golf and Country Club at Jerudong about 11 kilometres from the capital in honour of the Malaysian King, who during the brief visit led his team in a friendly golf tournament against His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's side. The Brunei monarch's team won and walked away with a trophy donated by His Majesty The Yang Dipertuan Agong himself. This was the third successive victory for the Brunei side in the tournament.

## **Body to deal with oil spills formed**

**B**runei Darussalam has set up a national body of action to deal with oil spills in its waters.

This was disclosed by the Director of the Marine Department, Awang Haji Othman bin Haji Momin, who said that the body will tackle any incident of oil spill systematically and in a well-organised way.

He was speaking during a signing ceremony held at the department on March 30, at which the Japanese Government donated some 80 million Yen (B\$1 million) worth of equipment used in controlling oil spills as well as related computerised information system which links Brunei Darussalam with Japan as well as the ASEAN member countries.

The Marine Director signed on

behalf of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's Government while the Managing Director of Japan's Marine Accident Prevention Organisation, Mr. Katsumi Matsuzaki signed for Japan.

The official said that although Brunei Darussalam is not within the route of international oil tankers, the possibility of an oil spill occurring exists as it is an oil producing country.

He also revealed that the Marine Department has completed a contingency plan at national level designed to cope with oil spills.

At regional level, the country has already signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ASEAN member countries on cooperation in dealing with such occurrences.



## New houses give village face lift

The ancient Kampong Ayer (Water Village) of Brunei Darussalam which is one of the most popular attractions for tourists visiting the country, is being given a face lift with the construction of new, well-arranged rows of houses. They are being built by the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation to relocate families displaced by fires which destroyed large number of houses in the Water Village last year. In all, more than two hundred houses are being provided. As with houses built under the Government's National Housing Programme and the Housing Scheme for Landless Citizens built some 14 sites on land throughout the country, the houses on the Brunei river at Kampong Buang Sakar will be repayable through low-rate monthly in-



stalments stretched over a minimum repayment period of 15 years to 30 years as opted by the respective owner.

*Below and above: Some of the houses at Kampong Buang Sakar nearing completion with the first ones scheduled to be ready for occupation by June this year.*



### Brunei in Brief

Capital	: Bandar Seri Begawan
Land size	: 5765 sq. km
Population	: 267,800 (June 1992)
Official Language	: Malay
Official Religion	: Islam
March rainfall	: 121.5mm
(annual 2,818mm)	
<b>PRIME LENDING RATE</b>	
	March 5.75%
(quoted by Bankers' Association)	

### Brunei Malay in a minute

In each edition of the Brunei Darussalam Newsletter we introduce our readers to a new Brunei Malay word that is used only in Brunei Darussalam.

For this edition we have selected the word **takiding**.

**Takiding** is a type of back-

pack basket made of bamboo, rattan or bemban (*donax arundastrum*) used to carry goods such as fruits, vegetables etc.

It is carried on one's back by means of strapping it on either side of the shoulder.

**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.**