



# بروني دارالسلام

## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

Published by the Department of Information  
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

15 APRIL 1999

### *Government to ensure all development and construction projects are correctly and accordingly managed: HM Sultan*



*His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam giving a salute upon arriving at the royal dias during the 15th National Day anniversary celebration.*

The government will ensure that all development and construction projects are managed correctly and in accordance with the requirement of modernization and professionalism apart from meeting the required quantity and quality.

This has been stressed by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his 'titah' (royal address) in conjunction with the 15th National Day Anniversary of Brunei Darussalam.

In his titah, His Majesty said Brunei Darussalam has implemented various development projects which were visible through the changes in the infrastructure and landscapes both in the urban and rural areas.

"Nevertheless, my government will not only be satisfied by merely providing facilities alone, but will also ensure that everything has been managed in accordance with the requirements of

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### **Sultan on goodwill visits to Malaysian states of Kelantan and Terengganu**

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made goodwill visits to the Malaysian states of Kelantan Darul Naim and Terengganu Darul Iman last month.

Accompanying the Brunei ruler were his consorts, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam. Also in the royal entourage were His Majesty's son, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, the ruler's eldest sister.

His Majesty began his four-day visit to Kelantan on 6

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*His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam arrives at the Sultan Ismail Petra airport for a four-day goodwill visit to Kelantan. Greeting the Brunei ruler was His Highness Tuanku Ismail Petra, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negeri Kelantan Darul Naim (seen behind His Majesty).*



## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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### YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 30 April 1999. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-383941 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.



*His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving the credential from His Excellency Hajime Tsujimoto, the new Ambassador of Japan to the country.*

## New envoys to Sultanate

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has received the credentials of three newly-appointed ambassadors to the country, namely from Japan, the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of Benin. The ceremony was held at Istana Nurul Iman on 18 March 1999.

Their Excellencies Hajime Tsujimoto of Japan and Mr. Enrique A. Zaidivar of the Republic of the Philippines will be resident in Bandar Seri Begawan, while Ambassador Mr. Michel Adechian of the Republic of Benin is a non-resident envoy.

Prior to their current appointments, Ambassador Tsujimoto was the Japanese Consul-General in Toronto, Canada; and Ambassador Zaldivar was Managing Director of the Philippines National Bank. Ambassador Adechian is a career diplomat and is currently based in Beijing.



*His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving credentials from Ambassador Zaldivar of the Republic of the Philippines (picture above) and Ambassador Adechian of the Republic of Benin (below)*





# Sultanate hosts first Pan-Commonwealth Forum

**Crown Prince stresses importance of information and knowledge, and their dissemination technology**

Brunei Darussalam has hosted the first-ever Pan-Commonwealth forum on open learning, bringing together more than four hundred delegates from within and outside the country who included several ministers of education of the Commonwealth countries.

The four-day forum was officially opened by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah at the International Convention Centre on 2 March. The forum was jointly hosted by the Ministry of Education, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), an international agency based in Vancouver, Canada.

Speaking before the delegates, the Crown Prince among other things, emphasised the importance of the advances in the technology of dissemination of information and knowledge which benefitted mankind especially in entering the new millennium.

The Crown Prince also hoped that more people from all walks of life throughout the world would be able to have better access to quality learning and education, not only from primary to secondary education, but also to the highest possible level.

His Royal Highness added that teachers and educational institutions, too, should be empowered in the sense that they are suitably qualified, trained and motivated to impart the necessary knowledge and skill to students far more quickly, effectively and even cost-effectively.

Also present at the ceremony was His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim. The Ministry of Education was represented by Dato Seri Laila Jasa Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad, the Deputy Minister while UBD was represented by its Vice-Chancellor, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Putera Maharaja Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Awang Abu Bakar.

The forum examined distance education and open learning in world-at-large applications ranging from the macro to the micro level.

The agendas addressed included basic literacy to postgraduate and professional education. The forum featured keynote and plenary presentations by speakers from many fields. About 500 people also participated in a series of pre-forum 'virtual' conference through the Internet.

The forum marked the 10th anniversary of the formation of COL,



*His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah addresses delegates at the opening of the Pan-Commonwealth Forum on open learning.*

which was created by Commonwealth Heads of Government to encourage the development and sharing of open learning and distance education resources and technologies.

## Brunei Darussalam Economic Council receives seven reports

The Brunei Darussalam Economic Council has received seven reports from the various Committees' Chairmen, individual members of the Economic Council and the President of the country's Chambers of Commerce. The reports were submitted at the 2nd meeting of the Council which was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 2 March.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Foreign Affairs Minister, chaired the meeting, attended by members of the council.

The reports received were the First

and Second Reports of the Committee to Review the Current Economic Conditions in Brunei Darussalam, Report of the Working Committee on Finance and Banking; Report by the Working Group Committee on the Facilitation of Economic Policies Finance and Credit, Infrastructure, Labour and Immigration, Tourism and Trade; the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Overview of the Economic Downtown; Report of Brunei Darussalam Crisis and Proposals; Proposal to the Secretariat of the National Economic Council; and Aim

and Policy of Brunei Darussalam's 21st Century Development.

The meeting also heard a briefing from Mr. Timothy Ong, the Chairman of the Committee to Review the Current Economic Situation. The report identified the reasons behind the current economic problems faced by the sultanate and offered short and long-term measures to tackle these problems.

The next meeting of the Council will consider reports from the other committees.





His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to inspect the guard of honour mounted by the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and the Royal Brunei Police Force, left.

Oath reading ceremony by some 300 participants pledging loyalty preceded the day's programme, below.

• From page one  
(15th National Day)

modernization and managed professionally", His Majesty emphasised.

His Majesty also stressed that it is of prime importance in every aspect to balance the physical development and mental strength. "Both will be nurtured until they take root and grow."

His Majesty in his titah also brought into attention that this was our way of developing our nation, a way that Allah's ( God Almighty) commandment above all else.

His Majesty also pointed out that as an independent nation we have also fulfilled our international obligation and have associated ourselves with and actively involved in regional and international bodies such as the United Nations, ASEAN, OIC, the Commonwealth, NAM and APEC.

His Majesty said internationally we have joined a most favourable status. We are on equal footing with others by equally contributing to the world stability.



His Majesty also said that by the grace of Allah, we have carried out our commitment in contributing aid to needy nations according to our capability as we could. In return we also have benefited in terms of technical and educational assistance from various foreign organisations.

In his titah, His Majesty said that what is apparent is that

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Flag bearers march pass carrying the National colour with pride and dignity, above left. Military contingent depicting their warriorship marching with their tools of defence, above right.



the 15 year period that we have passed is not a short term.

In this context, His Majesty urged the people to look back and reassess whether the development carried out over the period sufficient to bring us forward to the future.

His Majesty further said that the development of this nation largely depends on both domestic and foreign factors.

Regardless of what the factors are, he said what is important is for us to learn some lessons from what we have experienced during the last 15 years of independent. We make this experienced as our guide in our effort to explore and face an ever challenging future.

This year's National Day celebration began with a mass parade in centre of the capital staged by 17,000 participants representing various ministries and departments including youth associations and private sectors. The parade was preceded by an oath read-



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam consented to receive a salute from the participants marching pass the royal dias.

ing ceremony by some 300 participants. This year's National Day celebrations format has been changed by organising a mass parade and for the first time ever was to held in front

of the 'Lapau' (Royal Ceremonial Hall). This year's celebrations also featured a colourful display depicting aspects of achievements and development of the nation.

Also attending were, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateem and other members of the royal family.

Brunei Darussalam celebrates its National Day on 23 February each year.

Aerial formation by helicopters was amongst the colourful events featured during the celebration, left.



The defence forces with their armoured vehicles also one of the interesting features of the day's celebration, left. Age is not the limit. The children scout also joins the mass parade in an effort to culcate the spirit of patriotism amongst them, below.







His Majesty confers upon Her Highness Tengku Anis the 'Darjah Kerabat Laila Utama Yang Amat Dihormati' (D.K) Negara Brunei Darussalam (picture above), while Her Majesty the Raja Isteri (picture below) and Her Royal Highness the Pengiran Isteri (below right) receive Kelantan state title from His Highness Tuanku Ismail Petra. (Picture right) The Brunei ruler being accompanied by the Crown Prince of Kelantan at a special welcome ceremony held at the courtyard of Istana Kubang Kerian.



Above: His Majesty, Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness attending a banquet hosted by His Highness Tuanku Ismail Petra and Her Highness Tengku Anis at a leading hotel in Kota Bharu.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam bestows His Highness Al-Wathiqu Billah Al-Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negeri Terengganu Darul Iman with Brunei Darussalam's honorary title (left). His Majesty, Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness at a banquet given in honour of the Brunei royal guests by His Highness and Her Highness the Permaisuri of Terengganu (above).

• From page one  
(Sultan on goodwill visits to Kelantan and Terengganu)

March. The Brunei ruler and the royal entourage left Kelantan for Terengganu on 9 March. Before leaving Kelantan, the monarch stated that he was pleased with the warm reception and hospitality extended to him and his entourage by members of the royal family, the government and people of Kelantan during his visit there.

His Majesty, Her Majesty the Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness the Pengiran Isteri were greeted on arrival by His Highness Tuanku Ismail Petra, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negeri Kelantan Darul Naim and his consort, Her Highness Tengku Anis, the Raja Perampuan of Kelantan at the Sultan Ismail Petra airport.

A special welcome ceremony was held afterwards at the courtyard of the Istana (Palace) Kubang Kerian witnessed by thousands of people from all walks of life. His Majesty, Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness proceeded to the royal dais when both countries' national anthems were played. From the royal dais, the royal guests watched a colourful display which included traditional and cultural dances, songs and self-defence martial arts presented by members of the communities and school children.

In the evening, His Majesty and entourage were entertained to a banquet by His Highness the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Kelantan at the Diamond Puteri Hotel. At the dinner the royal guests watched a cultural show entitled 'Kelantan Heritage'. Prior to the dinner, the Brunei ruler exchanged mementos with His Highness Tuanku Ismail Petra while Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness did likewise with Her Highness Tengku Anis.

On the second day of the visit, His Highness

Tuanku Ismail Petra of Kelantan bestowed state title 'Darjah Kerabat Yang Amat Dihormati' (D.K) on Her Majesty the Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness the Pengiran Isteri. In return, His Majesty the Sultan consented to confer Her Highness Tengku Anis with the 'Darjah Kerabat Laila Utama Yang Amat Dihormati' (D.K) Negara Brunei Darussalam' (The Most Esteemed Order Laila Utama). The ceremony was held before a luncheon given by His Highness Tuanku Ismail Petra at the Kubang Kerian State Palace.

In the morning, the Brunei ruler along with His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen visited the Kelantan Islamic Religious Council building where they were briefed on Kelantan state's development and on matters pertaining to the country's Islamic Religious Council.

His Majesty together with his consorts toured the Royal Museum at Istana Batu and the Royal Customs Museum at Istana Jahar in the afternoon. Both museums, among others, exhibit the genealogy of the Sultans of Kelantan as well as traditional regalias used during royal ceremonial events in Kelantan.

The Brunei monarch also led members of the royal family to a dinner jointly hosted by the state's Ad-

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ministrative Officers' Association and the Kelantan's Royal Family Organisation. Also present were His Highness Tuanku Ismail Petra and Her Highness Tengku Anis.

His Majesty accompanied by His Highness Tuanku Ismail Petra continued his visit to a military camp in Bukit Cina the next day. Known as 'Kem Desa Pahlawan' or the Warrior's Village Camp, it is home of eight brigades of the Malaysian Royal Armed Forces since 1972. A year later it was entrusted to look after the security of the state of Kelantan and its neighbouring state of Terengganu.

During the more than one-hour visit, the Brunei monarch who is also the Sultanate's Minister of Defence and the Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces consented to inspect a guard-of-honour mounted by 103 personnel of the 16th Malaysian Royal Malay Regiment.

His Majesty also heard a briefing by the Commander of the eight brigades, Brigadier-General Hashim, who among other things, touched on the background and responsibilities of the eight brigades.

His Majesty was also shown static weaponry, sky-guard radar as well as radar from the Royal Artillery Radar Battery and watched demonstrations of parachuting, infantry warfare and mobilization of military tanks.

In the afternoon, His Majesty took time off to play a friendly badminton match with members of both countries' royal families who included His Highness Tuanku Ismail Petra who partnered His Majesty in the doubles match.

Meanwhile, in separate itineraries, Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness visited a handicraft exhibition at the Handicraft Village and watched demonstrations of traditional cooking and also visited the Darul Aitam Puteri Orphanage House and a flora festival at the Tengku Anuis Orchid Garden in Pengkalan Chepa. Accompanying

Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness during the visits was Her Highness Tengku Anis.

His Majesty and the royal entourage left Kelantan Darul Naim for the Malaysian state of Terengganu in the afternoon on 9 March 1999 for a one-day visit.

While in Terengganu, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to confer His Highness Al-Wathiqu Billah Al-Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Terengganu with Brunei Darussalam's honorary title the 'Darjah Kerabat Mahkota Brunei, D.K.M.B' (The Royal Family Order of the Crown of Brunei) during a brief ceremony held before a banquet hosted in His Majesty's honour at the Istana (Palace) Maziah.

Present at the ceremony were Her Majesty the Raja Isteri, Her Royal Highness the Pengiran Isteri, Her Highness the Permaisuri of Terengganu and other members of the royal families of both countries.

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## Sultanate sets up Law Review Committee

**B**runei Darussalam has set up a Law Review Committee to look into the country's existing laws and regulations, especially those relating to services, welfare and wellbeing of the general public.

The chairman of the committee is the Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa, the Special Adviser to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in the Prime Minister's Office and Home Affairs Minister.

In a meeting on 2 March in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, the chairman, among other things, emphasised that its formation is to aid the effective implementation of the Government's services to members of the public, besides smoothening the country's development plans and progress through necessary amendments and revision of the laws.

The minister pointed out that the responsibility of the committee will not include matters relating to the country's constitution, religion,

economy and business, as these are already under the responsibilities of entrusted bodies.

Pehin Dato Haji Awang Isa said that the committee is empowered to make recommendation for the revision or amendments to old laws and regulations or make plans to introduce new laws, which are deemed necessary for the Sultanate.

When each recommendation for amendment and revision of the laws have been identified, the committee will submit its recommendations and proposals to the Attorney-General, who is responsible to the task of making amendments and in revising the laws, said Pehin Dato Haji Awang Isa.

He added that the committee will again review the completed recommendation for amendment or revision of the laws before it is presented to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for his consent.

Meanwhile, during a press conference held shortly after the meeting, the Honourable Pehin explained that

the committee will review and study the existing laws in accordance to priority, particularly those involving services to the public. Among other things, he said, were matters on the issuance of licences, regulations on land, labour, immigration and environment.

Pehin Dato Haji Awang Isa further stressed that the amendments and revisions of the laws will be made by comparing the laws applied in the neighbouring countries and which are considered appropriate and applicable in the Sultanate.

He said a sub-committee, which will be chaired by members of the main committee will be formed so as to ensure that the task will be carried out immediately.

Pehin Dato Haji Awang Isa also welcomed constructive suggestions from members of the public either individually or through certain bodies on any matters they thought relevant for the committee to review and consider in order to meet the objective.





Above: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and members of the Brunei royal family posing for a photograph with His Majesty and Her Majesty the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and other members of the Selangor royal family at the Istana Negara. On left, the Crown Prince converses with His Highness the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Terengganu prior a banquet at the Istana Maziah.

## Crown Prince first official visit

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah recently made his first official visit abroad. His Royal Highness first made a visit to Malaysian state of Terengganu to attend the coronation of His Highness the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negeri of Terengganu Darul Iman and Her Highness Permaisuri Terengganu.

During this visit to Terengganu on the 2nd-5th March, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince was accompanied by his brother, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim.

During the visit, the Crown Prince and Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim had the opportunity to join Muslims in

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His Royal Highness the Crown Prince made a courtesy call on the Malaysian Prime Minister, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad at his office in Jalan Dato Onn in Kuala Lumpur (picture above).

Right: His Royal Highness watches a handicraft demonstration during a visit to the Penang Cultural Centre at Telok Bahang.





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(Crown Prince first official visit)

Terengganu in performing the Friday congregational prayer. They were also entertained to a state banquet hosted by His Highness Al-Wathiqu Billah Al-Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negeri Terengganu Darul Iman, the newly crowned ruler.

Meanwhile on the 6th March, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah continued his visit to Pulau Pinang (Penang Island), situated at the northern part of Peninsula Malaysia.

During the visit to this island, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince saw the Penang Bridge, the longest cable stay bridge in Asia stretching 13.5 kilometres from Seberang Perai on the Malaysian mainland to Gelogor in Pulau Pinang across the South Strait. The bridge was constructed at a cost of 900 Million Malaysian ringgit (dollars) and completed in 1985.

In Pulau Pinang, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah also visited the Penang Cultural Centre, which portrays cultural village and Malaysian multi-racial culture and customs. His Royal Highness the Crown Prince also attended a private dinner hosted by Yang DiPertua Negeri Pulau Pinang, Tun Dr. Hamdan Sheikh Tahir and his wife, Toh Puan Siti Zainab Baharuddin. His Royal Highness the

Crown Prince was in Pulau Pinang for a one-day visit. Accompanying His Royal Highness the Crown Prince to Pulau Pinang was his brother, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim.

From Pulau Pinang, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah went to visit the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur. The visit was held on 6-10 March.

During his first day in Kuala Lumpur, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince took time off by touring the Malaysian Badminton Academy in Cheras. There he consented to hold a friendly badminton match pairing with Yong Hock Kin, one of the world's leading players.

On the second day in Kuala Lumpur, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince visited two important organisations under the Malaysian Prime Minister's Office, namely the Economic Planning Unit and The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations.

In the afternoon, His Royal Highness made a courtesy call on the Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Dato Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince later in the afternoon was granted an audience by His Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia Tuanku

Jaafar and Her Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah at Istana Negara. The audience ceremony was followed by a luncheon in honour of the Crown Prince's official visit to Kuala Lumpur.

The following day, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah had another busy schedule. In the first programme of the day, His Royal Highness made a courtesy call on the Malaysian Premier, the Right Honourable Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad at his office in Jalan Dato Onn. A luncheon followed hosted by the Malaysian Prime Minister at the nearby Carcosa Negara.

Earlier, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince also made a courtesy call on the Malaysian Minister of Education, the Honourable Dato Seri Mohd. Najib. Also in the day's programme was His Royal Highness the Crown Prince making a courtesy call on the Speaker of the Malaysian Senate, the Honourable Senator Tan Sri Dato Haji Mohamad Yaacob.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah in his visit to Kuala Lumpur also had an opportunity to view the Kuala Lumpur city from the top of the Petronas 452 metres high Twin Towers.

Joining His Royal Highness the Crown Prince throughout the visit was his younger brother, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim.

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## *The 'I Love Brunei' campaign launched*

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A local firm in Brunei Darussalam has organised a campaign dubbed 'I Love Brunei' aimed at generating, fostering and developing a sense of belonging and patriotism, and strengthening the people's love for their country.

The campaign is in the form of a contest only for consumers of Nestle products in the Sultanate. It is organised by Jasra Harrison Sdn. Bhd. with the cooperation of Nestle, a leading supplier and trader of foodstuff products of Malaysia. Jasra Harrisons Sdn. Bhd. is the distributor agent of Nestle products in the country.

The campaign which began on 1

March through 30 April this year, requires a consumer to re-arrange the available list of reasons provided in the contest form on why he or she is happy of being a Bruneian. A total of \$10,000 cash prize is being offered to winners.

The launching ceremony was held on 4 March in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan by the Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Speaking at the function, the minister among other things, high-

lighted that the theme of the campaign is timely and appropriate, while adding that "the love for our country is a continuous process."

The minister was hopeful that the campaign would become permanent. He said that in order to achieve the objective of the 'I Love Brunei' campaign, various plans and measures could be undertaken either by individuals, organisations or the country as a whole.

He believed that any attempt which benefitted oneself, family, community, race and religion portrays an effort of one's love for the country.



# Forum held on challenges of the new millennium and ways to face them

Brunei Darussalam has held a special forum on the challenges of the new millennium and ways of confronting them. The forum was organised as part of the activities of the country's 15th National Day anniversary celebrations entitled 'Ready For the New Millennium'.

The more than one-hour long forum brought together a panel of four top government officials who voiced their views and concerns on a number of issues.

The chief guest was the Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Paduka Haji Awang Hussain, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports. It was attended by hundred of guests ranging from government officials, members of the public and students from institutes of higher learning including undergraduates of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). The forum was also telecast nationwide over radio and television from the International Convention Centre on 6 March 1999. It was chaired by Dr Awang Haji Hashim of the Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

The first panel was Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Jawatan Dalam Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama Dr Haji Awang Mohd Jamil Al-Sufri, the Director of the History Centre. He among other things stressed on the importance of knowledge in achieving development and progress so as to ensure the prosperity of the people especially in facing challenges in the new millennium.

He pointed out that in order to compete with other people around the world, Bruneians should be equipped with vast knowledge which are in line with the nation's aspiration.

Pehin Dr Haji Awang Mohd Jamil Al-Sufri said: "Even though the Sultanate has already achieved progress in education but when compared to countries which are already developed, there are rooms yet for further improvements because during this competitive climate, we are still far

behind others."

Pehin Dr Haji Awang Mohd Jamil Al-Sufri explained this was because whenever we get closer to these people, they would yet advance further and leave us behind."

In this regard, he stressed that in order to enhance the education sector, infrastructure, finance and expertise in education are needed for learning, both within and outside the country, and that students too should be directed to specialise in areas truly needed by the Sultanate.

The director further urged that local specialists in respective areas should be placed at appropriate agencies in accordance with their expertise.

The other panel, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Seri Setia Ustaz Awang Haji Badaruddin, the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office believed that the Sultanate will continue to have a future based on the measures and plans implemented by the government since the past few decades.

He however argued that it was not the new millennium which ensures the prosperity and wellbeing of the people, but rather what we are doing now in facing the future.

Brunei Darussalam, he said, is small in terms of size, population and economic resources, yet it is financially stable. Such situation, he added should make the people feel confident and regard it as a mere challenge for self-evaluation, and not to feel inferior.

"An important factor to ensure the future is to have a sound policy which could be implemented towards achieving what is needed, besides good leadership," stressed Pehin Ustaz Awang Haji Badaruddin.

"Sound policy and strong leadership will ensure stability in politics, social as well as others," the permanent secretary added.

Professor Dato Seri Setia Dr Awang Haji Mahmud Saedon, an Is-

lamic Jurisprudence Expert, the third panel of the forum emphasised that the country's economic strength and position should be dealt with and carried out sincerely and diligently.

He said that although we are optimistic with the future because of our financial position, we should also be prudent with our spending in line with the revenue of the country, in order to avoid over spending which may lead to deficits.

The professor also urged that unemployment issue in the country should be dealt with seriously and the people too should be brave enough to make changes.

He said that Brunei Darussalam's small population is an advantage for the people and the country as long as its resources are wisely and beneficially utilized. Therefore, strategic planning is essential to attract people to fill up employment especially in the private sector, he added.

Professor Dr Awang Haji Mahmud Saedon went on explaining that the country's development required wise financial management and administration, and not just by spending in a thrifty manner but also to spend them according to priorities.

The Deputy Director of the Youth and Sports Department, Awang Haji Mustafa who was the fourth panel member in the session among other things agreed that matters related to youth development was under the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. However, he expressed the hope that such responsibility should be shared too by parents, government agencies, non-governmental organisations as well as rest of the communities.

He said youth development programmes should be integrated between one agency and another.

He urged that all sectors should make joint efforts towards youth development activities in making use of their time beneficially and make great contribution to the country in the upcoming century.





## 114 days to go to SEA Games



**Awang Budiman**

**Brunei Darussalam hosts the last regional Games of the millennium -**

### **20TH SEA GAMES BRUNEI DARUSSALAM 1999**

**B**runei Darussalam is to host the 20th Southeast Asian Games 1999 (SEA Games 1999), one of the biggest sports events in the region: from 7 until 15 August this year.

More than four thousand athletes and officials from the participating countries comprising Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia are expected to be in Brunei Darussalam for the Games, held once in every two years.

Brunei Darussalam was selected to host the Games at the closing ceremony of the 19th SEA Games in Jakarta, Indonesia in 1997 with the traditional handing over of the SEA Games flag to the next host country. On hand to receive the SEA Games flag was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, who is the President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Committee. The prince himself is now the Chairman of the 20th SEA Games Organising Committee.

Brunei Darussalam is indeed hopeful

that the forthcoming Games, which she is hosting for the first time, would be as successful as the previous ones hosted by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Burma (Myanmar). Since being entrusted to host the Games, the Sultanate has undertaken concrete measures and planning ranging from upgrading the existing sports facilities to providing services that would involve nationwide involvement towards making the Games a success.

A total of 21 events are to be competed throughout the Games namely athletics, badminton, basketball, billiards and snooker, bowls, boxing, cycling, football, golf, hockey, karate-do, pencak silat, sepak takraw, shooting, squash, swimming, diving and water polo, table tennis, tae kwon do, tennis, tenpin bowling and traditional boat race.

There will be a total of 789 medals to be won during the Games. Out of these 235 gold and silver medals each are to be awarded to the winners and 319 for the bronze medals.

Brunei Darussalam, too, has specially designed an official logo and mascot for the upcoming Games, selected through best entries in competitions that had of-

fered a car each as prize to the winners.

The 20th SEA Games winning logo was designed by Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah himself. His logo (above left of the page) depicts a burning flame in bright red, yellow and green to symbolise the key tradition of the SEA Games, a new beginning to yet another memorable event to bring countries closer together. A closer look of these expressive strokes reveal the cleverly hidden number '20' (the 20th SEA Games). Beholding the flame is the torch which is made up of two '9's for the year 1999. The ten interlinked gold rings represent the nations competing in the SEA Games. The gold is a symbol of quality, achievement and victory.

Meanwhile, Brunei Darussalam's official mascot (above right of the page) was designed by Awang Haji Idris bin Haji Abbas entitled 'Awang Budiman', a child figure. As a child, the mascot represents energy, joy and faith in the future as Southeast Asia prepares to enter the next millennium. 'Awang Budiman' wears traditional Malay dress and holds the national flag in welcoming all visitors to Brunei Darussalam.

'Awang' is a name specific to the host country Brunei Darussalam, while 'Budiman' encapsulates all the attributes of a gracious host with openness, hospitality, courtesy and wisdom.

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### ***Brunei in Brief***

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Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan

Official Language : Malay

Land size : 5765 sq. km.

Official Religion : Islam

Population : 296,000 (1995)

March rainfall : 169.2 mm (annual 2,818mm)

**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.**