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Flanked to the right by His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam listens to a welcoming speech by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Abdul Rahman.

Brunei Monarch visits the office of the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah and its housing project

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam recently visited the office of the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation) and the Yayasan's Housing Project at Kampong Buang Sakar, May 7.

Accompanying His Majesty during the visit was His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran

Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah, the Finance Minister.

Before the tour, His Majesty heard briefings; first by Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, who is the Managing Director of the Yayasan and then the Minister of Development, Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail, as well as a welcoming speech by the foundation's Board of Directors Chairman,

Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Abdul Rahman.

Briefing by the Managing Director of the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah

Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abu Bakar in his briefing underlined several activities carried out by the

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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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YOUR TURN

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Instil positive working values and ethics among Government officials and staff

The Special Adviser to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Prime Minister's office cum Home Affairs Minister, highlighted recently the importance of instilling positive working value and ethics among government officials and staff. This is important in order to create a competent and clean civil service, as well as one that is capable of providing an effective service to the public.

The needs of members of the public keep on changing with the times, and with this their "expectation" towards the civil service keep on rising.

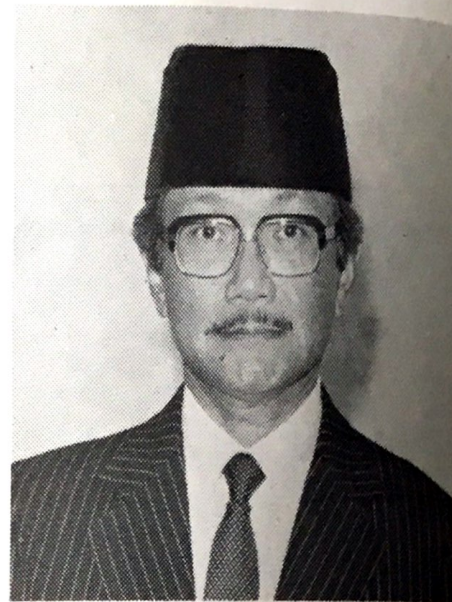
Those who provide the service should therefore continue to improve their level of competency and knowledge so they can better deal with any challenge, he stressed.

Officiating at the launching of a Seminar on Management Practice : Islamic Values and Ethics, at the Islamic Dakwah Centre, April 26, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa highlighted that His Majesty's Government has given due attention to human resources development. This includes keeping aside a huge amount of expenditure for the trainings of officials and staff, both locally and overseas.

Those who had undergone training should therefore do better at work and should not remain stagnant without showing any sign of improvement.

The Minister also urged the management to be "receptive" of any idea and view from their staff even if these come from the lowest level of the organisation. They should instead consider whether these ideas and views are relevant.

Management should not hinder officials and staff from contributing



The Special Adviser to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Prime Minister's office cum Home Affairs Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa.

their ideas and views, as this would mean wastage in Government's expenditure on trainings and courses.

Yang Berhormat further highlighted the importance of holding a consultation, one of the practices encouraged by Islam in dealing with human affairs. This practice could not only foster the exchange of ideas and views in the effort towards seeking the best solution to a problem but could also act as a "stimulus" to instilling feelings of friendship and brotherhood among members of an organisation.

These would in turn, promote mutual respect among officials and staff, he stressed.

When every official and staff feels that his or her contribution is appreciated, he or she would be encouraged to give off his or her best and so promote to the development [and progress] of an organisation.

Yang Berhormat said that consultation is similar to the modern system of management called QCC, whereby consultation is its underlying philosophy. It is evident that the

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methods of the modern system of management is not alien to Muslims, he added.

Yang Berhormat was confident that experts in the seminar would speak to them about other procedures or philosophy in Islamic management which are similar to the modern system of management, while differences in specific areas do exist.

Seeking out the differences between modern and Islamic management is not important; more significant would be how we could fully exploit what have been proven good and effective from the modern system of management and incorporate it with Islamic values and ethics, said Yang Berhormat.

There is nothing wrong for Muslims to make the most of the methodology from the modern system of management so long it is not contradictory to Islamic laws.

Yang Berhormat also spoke about the objective of the Seminar in providing Government officials and staff with the understanding on Islamic management and the role of Islamic values and ethics in management.

The Seminar is a "complementary" step towards efforts that had been already carried out to instil positive values and work ethics among Government officials and staff, said the Special Adviser to His Majesty and Home Affairs Minister.

Welcoming speech by Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office

The Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Ustaz Awang Haji Badaruddin, in his welcoming speech highlighted the need to instil and develop religious awareness among officials and staff.

This awareness should be incorporated in management practice and in carrying out one's duties and responsibilities, he said.



The Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Ustaz Awang Haji Badaruddin

Since its establishment 17 years ago, the Civil Service Institute, formerly known as the Training Unit of the Establishment Department, had exposed Government officials and staff through various workshops, seminars and courses with various theories, concepts, methods, techniques, principles and management practice based on the western and Japanese approach.

He hoped the two-day seminar would further strengthen the understanding of Government officials and staff on Islamic values and ethics in management.

The Senior Assistant Director-General of the Public Service Department, Pengiran Haji Yusof bin Pengiran Kula, in an interview with members of the media, held at his office, April 24, said the seminar on Management Practice is a follow-up to the visit to the Institut Kefahaman Islam Malaysia (IKIM) or the Institute of Islamic Understanding of Malaysia by a group of Senior Officials from the Prime Minister's Office, Civil Service Institute and the Public Service Department.

The visit is aimed at studying the possibility of cooperation with IKIM in the effort to instil Islamic values in civil service training in Brunei Darussalam.

The Seminar are conducted in two stages, the first, being organised on 26 April is meant for Permanent Secretaries, Heads of Depart-

ment and their deputies, as well as Senior Officials from Divisions I and II. The second stage to be conducted in September this year is for officials in Division III, IV and V, as well as members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and the Royal Brunei Police Force.

The Seminar is also aimed at instilling noble Islamic values and work ethics in the management of the civil service in the country. This is important in order to bring about a competent, quality and disciplined service which could effectively look after the peace, security and development of the country, said Pengiran Haji Yusof.

By putting into practice the values and work ethics which are consistent with Islamic teachings, the efforts of creating positive attitude among Government officials and staff, Insya-Allah (God willing), could be carried out more quickly and effectively, he said.

It is hoped that the seminar would help improve the management practices, the attitude, quality [of service] and the competitive edge of officials and staff so they could provide an excellent service. The seminar is also organised to support the Government's effort in putting into practice Melayu Islam Beraja (MIB) or the Malay Muslim Monarchy philosophy.

Through various planned courses and workshops, the Civil Service Institute with the cooperation of the Prime Minister's Office hoped that officials and staff could gain knowledge and skills by using methods and techniques of Islamic management in various areas such as finance, staff and time management, leadership and organisation.

The Seminar on 26 April was conducted by Dato Dr. Ismail bin Haji Ibrahim, Head of IKIM, who presented two working papers on 'Work ethics' and 'Working towards Excellence'. Dr. Syed Othman Al-Habshi, Deputy Head of IKIM, presented working papers on 'The Principle of Administration and Islamic Management' and Financial Management in dealing with Future Challenges'.



Left: Briefed by the Minister of Development, Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail, His Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah look at an exhibit on display as part of an exhibition on the foundation and the Kampung Buang Sakar Housing project, which the monarch later toured (picture below).



His Majesty also visited the site of a fire which destroyed more than 70 houses in three villages on Kampung Ayer two days earlier (bottom picture). There the ruler met some of the fire victims.



Yayasan.

Since its inception a year and five months ago, the Yayasan had given financial support to a mosque and 'surau and balai ibadat' (places of worship for Muslims) for the purpose of holding the 'khatamal Al-Quran' or 'a ceremony marking the completion of reciting the holy book of the Quran'. It also gave donation to fire victims in several villages.

The Yayasan has also given scholarship to three students who went for further studies at the Master degree level at the Islamic International University in Islamabad Pakistan.

The Yayasan had also received applications for assistance from members of the public, which were personally delivered to His Majesty or sent directly to the Yayasan's office. Five applications so far have been considered, said the official.

Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abu Bakar pointed out that in the initial stage of its establishment, the Board of Directors looked into the various needs of the Yayasan's office, the recruitment of staff, including the scale of salaries and the scheme of service. All members of the Board of Directors interviewed applicants for the first intake for all posts from June to August last year. Seven members of the staff began their work between September and December, 1993, while others started their employment early this year, he said. Permanent staff were recruited at the end of September last year.

Presently, the Yayasan has 22 posts, of which 14 have been filled up and two have just been advertised, said Dato Seri Laila Jasa.

The Yayasan, he reiterated, is an "amal jariah" (contribution for religious purposes) of His Majesty and members of his family. It also reflects His Majesty's love and concern for his citizens who are loyal to His Majesty and his government. The Yayasan also signifies the shaping of a peaceful and pro-

sperous community and country, as well as symbolises the harmonious living of mankind, as enjoined by Allah (God the Almighty).

The Managing Director further highlighted the main objectives of the Yayasan, which among others, is at enhancing Islamic "dakwah" (missionary work). These would be carried out through the provision of scholarships for religious education and financial assistance for the building, management and maintenance of religious schools and mosques.

It is also aimed at upgrading the quality of life of the rakyat, enhancing the involvement and participation of youths in the development of the community, as well as cultivating and instilling the need to achieve excellence in the socio-cultural and socio-economic fields of the rakyat.

In education, the Yayasan would provide scholarships for needy students, provide assistance for research and development carried out by the high institutions of learning for scientific, technological and social purposes.

The Yayasan also takes part in appropriate development activities as well as commercial and industrial entrepreneurship. It also buys and guarantees stocks and shares and forms a company or body to carry out a project, scheme or entrepreneurship.

Briefing by Minister of Development

The office of the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah is situated at Jalan Kumbang Pasang in the capital. The renovation of the 520 sq. metre building began in mid July last year and was completed in January this year.

The Minister of Development, Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail in his briefing, also spoke about the housing project of the Yayasan at Kampong Buang Sakar.

Two hundred and twenty-six houses are being built in the project for fire victims of Kampong Ayer in

September last year. Twenty-one two-bedroom units, each having an area of about 130 sq. metres are of the A type, while the rest are four-bedroom B type houses, with an area of 160 sq metres each.

At present, one hundred and twenty houses have been completed, 38 units are almost completed, while another 68 units are now 20 to 50 per cent completed. The houses are expected to be handed over to the fire victims in June or July this year.

The houses are built six metres apart from each other, to facilitate any emergency work such as in the event of fire. It is also aimed at providing proper and comfortable living environment for residents.

The basic needs of the people, such as water and electricity supply and telephone services are also provided.

Yang Berhormat further touched on other public facilities to be built such as a school, a mosque and a site for commercial activities for the convenience of the people. The Ministry of Development also plans to build a civic centre, a multi-purpose hall and other facilities.

Yang Berhormat said that besides housing the fire victims of Kampung Peramu, Kampung Setia Pahlawan, Kampung Lorong Sekuna, Kampung Pekilong Muara and Kampung Saba, the housing project provides a model for the re-organisation of the Kampung Ayer, with the emphasis on retaining the family life within a clean and comfortable environment, with sufficient public amenities.

The Minister later informed His Majesty about the recent fire disaster at Kampong Saba, involving more than 200 families and the need to build more houses for the victims.

After the briefings, His Majesty and His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah toured the office of the Yayasan, the housing project of the Yayasan at Buang Sakar and the site of the 5 May fire at Kampong Saba which was recently gutted by fire.



Left: Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam at the start of the competition.

Royal presence graces women's Koran reading competition



Above left and above right: Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness presenting prizes and souvenirs to the winners and other participants of the competition.

Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam have attended a Koran reading competition among associations affiliated to the Brunei Darussalam Women's Council.

The competition, held in conjunction with the Hari Raya Aidilfitri, took place on April 17 at the Brunei International Convention Centre, just outside the capital, Bandar Seri

Begawan.

Seven readers competed in the event, which also featured various religious presentations and a short address by the council's president.

Her Majesty presented the prizes to the first, second and third winners, while Her Royal Highness presented souvenirs to the other participants.

Other female members of the royal family were also present at the competition, which is one of the annual projects of the council.

In her speech, the council's president, Datin Hajjah Masni binti Haji Mohd. Ali said among other things that one of the aims of the competition is to encourage members to keep themselves close the Koran by reading, understanding and absorbing its contents and teachings.

She said the competition is timely especially as Muslims had just gone through the fasting month of Ramadan.

More diplomats present credentials to HM Sultan

The Republic of Albania appointed a non-resident ambassador to Brunei Darussalam last month, just four months after the two countries established diplomatic relations, on January 27, 1994.

The diplomat, His Excellency Mr. Ferid Riza Hoti, 50, was one of four foreign envoys who were at the Istana Nurul Iman on April 28 to present their credentials to His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

His Excellency is a graduate of the University of Tirana's Faculty of Medicines and is also his country's ambassador in Kuala Lumpur, where he is currently based.

The People's Republic of Bangladesh also has a new High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Mahboob Alam, 49, who is also the country's ambassador to Malaysia and presently

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Top picture: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving the credential of the ambassador of the Republic of Albania, His Excellency Mr. Ferid Riza Hoti; and above, the ruler shaking hand with the High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, His Excellency Mr. Mahboob Alam, shortly after the envoy presented his credential.

Mexico's non-resident ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Juan di Villafranca Andrade was also at the Istana Nurul Iman to present his credential to the Brunei monarch (above), as was Turkey's ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Ahmet H. Ermlisoglu, right.





Above left: Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha granting an audience at the Istana Nurul Iman to Mrs. Helen Chng, wife of Singapore's new High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam. Mrs. Helen Chng also had audience at the Istana Nurul Izzah with Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam, picture above right.

• *From page 7 (diplomats)*

based in Kuala Lumpur.

His Excellency is a History graduate from the University of Dhaka and has been with Bangladesh's foreign affairs service since 1968.

Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of Bangladesh established diplomatic relations in 1984.

Mexico, which established diplomatic relations with Brunei Darussalam in October 1991, has appointed His Excellency Mr. Juan

di Villafranca Andrade as its ambassador to the Sultanate.

His Excellency, who is 40 years old, is a law graduate of the University of Iberoamericana, where he later held the post of Professor of International Law, from 1984 to 1986.

He was also personal secretary to the Mexican Foreign Minister from 1991 to 1993. His Excellency Mr. Andrade is currently also Mexico's ambassador to the Republic of Singapore.

The other diplomat who presented

his credential to the Brunei monarch on April 28 was the Turkish ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Ahmet Ermisoglu, 57.

His Excellency is a graduate of Ankara University in political science, and had served as his country's ambassador to the People's Republic of Bangladesh previously.

Brunei Darussalam and Turkey established diplomatic relations in June 1984.

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Mrs. Phan Zheng Xiu, wife of the ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam in conversation with Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha who granted her an audience at the Istana Nurul Iman (above left), and with Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam at the Istana Nurul Izzah.



Above left: Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha granted an audience at the Istana Nurul Iman to Mrs. Choi Hee Yoon, wife of the ambassador of the Republic of Korea. The diplomat's wife was also at the Istana Nurul Izzah for an audience with Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam, above right.

• From page 8 (diplomats)

The envoys presented their credentials to His Majesty during separate ceremonies.

Meanwhile, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam have also been granting audiences to the wife of the High Commissioner of the Republic of

Singapore and wives of the ambassadors of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea.

Her Majesty granted them audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman, while Her Royal Highness granted the audiences at the Istana Nurul Izzah.

The audiences with Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness were for Mrs. Helen Chng, wife of Singapore's ambassador, Mrs. Pan Zheng Xiu,

wife of China's ambassador and Mrs. Choi Koang Sik, wife of the Republic of Korea's ambassador.

Their diplomat husbands themselves were granted audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam after they had presented their credentials to the ruler (story and pictures carried in previous issues).

Brunei Darussalam establishes diplomatic relations with Costa Rica, Bulgaria and Romania

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has agreed to the establishment of diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level with the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria effective April 14, 1994.

The signing of the joint communique for the diplomatic relations was held in separate ceremonies at the office of Brunei Darussalam's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Signing on behalf of His Majesty's Government was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Dipa Negara Laila Diraja Pengiran Haji Abdul Momin bin Pengiran Haji Ismail, the Sultan-



Brunei Darussalam's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, Yang Amat Mulla Pengiran Dipa Negara Laila Diraja Pengiran Haji Abdul Momin bin Pengiran Haji Ismail signed joint communiques for the establishment of diplomatic relations.

ate's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York.

Signing on behalf of the Government of Costa Rica was His Excellency Mr. Cristian Tattenbach, while His Excellency Mr. Slavi Zh. Pashovski signed on behalf of the Government of Bulgaria. Both Their Excellencies are Permanent Representatives of their countries to the United Nations.

Another joint communique was also signed on April 15, 1994 for the establishment of diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of Romania.

Twelfth ASEAN-US Dialogue

The Twelfth US-ASEAN Dialogue was held at the US Department of State in Washington, D.C. on May 9-10, 1994.

Delegations from the governments of the United States and members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) participated in the meeting, which was co-chaired by Ambassador Winston Lord, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, leader of the United States Delegation, and His Excellency Dato Paduka Lim Jock Seng, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, leader of the Brunei Darussalam delegation. His Excellency Dato Ajit Singh, Secretary General of ASEAN was also present.

The private sectors of the United States and ASEAN also participated and were represented by the United States and ASEAN Sections of US-ASEAN Business Council. To underscore the central importance both sides accord to the private sector and the United States and ASEAN desire to integrate the private sector more extensively in the Dialogue, the private sector participated fully in the entire economic agenda of the Dialogue.

Acting Secretary of State Mr. Strobe Talbott welcomed the ASEAN participants and observed that the dialogue provides an opportunity to discuss a broad range of economic and political issues, including issues outside the Asia-Pacific region. The US attaches special importance to the new ASEAN Regional forum. Communications and transportation technologies are bringing the world closer together in time and space, enabling us to forge new links among peoples and joint approaches to shared problems. The communications revolution also encourages a global consciousness, and a global conscience. ASEAN, and the US-ASEAN dialogue, can play a leading role in magnifying the positive features of our growing interdependence and in controlling the



The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dato Paduka Awang Lim Jock Seng co-chaired the 12th ASEAN-US Dialogue

negative ones. Far more important than any differences among us are the interests and values that bind us together. The Acting Secretary noted the value in having the Trade and Investment Coordination Committee (TICC) deliberations within the framework of the Dialogue process, thereby engaging the private sector in all aspects of the economic agenda. He extended a special welcome to the business leaders participating in the dialogue.

ASEAN Secretary General Dato Ajit Singh emphasized in his opening remarks the importance of the now 17 year-old ASEAN-US Dialogue process, noting our substantial trade and investment ties and our shared political and security interests. He described the Dialogue process as a dynamic one, pointing to the role of the private sector, the Dialogue's elevation to the senior officials level, and the inclusion of political and security issues. The Secretary General stressed ASEAN's commitment to free trade and the opportunities for US joint ventures with ASEAN counterparts. He said ASEAN looks to enhanced regional security consultations to foster trust and confidence so matters can be peacefully resolved. The Secretary General concluded that ASEAN considers the United States an im-

portant partner in the region.

His Excellency Dato Paduka Lim Jock Seng, in his opening remarks, stated that the Dialogue is a relationship between friends who feel confident enough to talk frankly, and that we have made progress in the Dialogue relationship. He emphasized the need for mutual understanding and sensitivity in conducting relations. He pointed to the importance of a balance within the Dialogue relationship to ensure that all aspects of our joint efforts - political, economic, cultural, and development cooperation - are given equal consideration.

The Meeting reviewed the US-ASEAN Dialogue relations since the last US-ASEAN Dialogue in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on May 15-16, 1993. Both sides emphasized the importance of the Dialogue process as a key element in our relations, recognizing the breadth of United States and ASEAN links and the areas where the United States and ASEAN can work in partnership, and emphasizing the role of the Dialogue in reviewing shared economic and political issues.

The representatives of the US and ASEAN private sectors called on governments to nurture a healthy and strong economic and commercial relationship. The US-ASEAN Dialogue and the Trade and Investment Coordination Committee should be used not only to identify and solve problems, but also to enhance cooperation for mutual growth. Governments should continue bilateral and regional efforts to lower barriers to trade in goods and services, to reduce subsidies, protect intellectual property rights, facilitate economically sound investment, and to avoid taking unilateral actions and linking non-trade issues to trade matters. Such measures are consistent with, and complementary to, the recently completed Uruguay Round. Both private and public sector representatives welcomed private sector participation in the Dialogue.

ASEAN-EC Management Centre's role in regional economic growth

The ASEAN-EC Management Centre which was officially opened on Tuesday 11 May 1994, could play an important role in the region's economic activities and growth. Being a regional institution with professionals and academicians, it is in a better position to provide answers and implement programmes that are mutually beneficial to ASEAN and the European Union.

In his speech at the official opening ceremony, the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Ahmad bin Dato Paduka Matnor said he hoped that through its established inter and intra regional networks, the Centre would be able to bring together the vast experiences and researches of some countries to be shared with others.

The opening of the Centre, he added, signifies the close coopera-

tion between ASEAN and European Union. "It demonstrates the strong interest of ASEAN and the European Union to have a centre of managerial excellence with special competence in strategic issues of mutual concern to managers of ASEAN and the European Union particularly in the field of human resource development and management."

Of late, the Asia Pacific region is recording a very healthy economic growth. And naturally it is the focal point of business communities from around the world, for multinationals and smaller companies who obviously desire to be on the competitive edge of the market.

As part of Asia-Pacific communities, we in ASEAN are also striving to take due advantage of this tremendous potentials and opportunities, the Permanent Secretary said.

"The opening of the ASEAN-EC Management Centre is very timely

especially so when the world sees the rapid development in the field of international economics. The ASEAN Free Trade Arrangement, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation and the newly established World Trade Organisation, to name a few, provide new challenges to the managers of today. ASEAN member countries have long realised this and therefore support programmes that encourage the transfer of technology and managerial skills. It is a positive contribution if the ASEAN-EC Management Centre is able to prepare and equip managers to face these challenges."

The Permanent Secretary later urged members of the Management Board who met for two days for their first meeting, to set the Centre on the right path from the start and to establish policies to address the real situation.

Special Senior Officials Meeting of ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry

Cooperation in agriculture and forestry should incorporate business-action programme and should be private-sector driven. As such the ASEAN-Chamber of Commerce and Industry which represents the private sector will continue to be invited in future meetings of the Senior Officials to discuss agenda directly relevant to them.

The joint press release issued at the end of the three-day Special Meeting of Senior Officials for the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry, 28 to 30 April 1994, in Brunei Darussalam, also said the Meeting endorsed the programme to study and determine the size of ASEAN Rice Reserve and the mechanism for stocking and supply.

The Meeting held at the ICC discussed several important agenda and a total of 24 working papers and reports.

The joint press release further said that the Meeting noted the tremendous progress made by ASEAN in food handling and post-harvest sector and the important role played by ASEAN Food Handling Bureau in enhancing the successful implementation of projects in this sector. The Senior Officials endorsed a proposal to establish a Management Board for the ASEAN Food Handling Bureau which will comprise members from ASEAN to strengthen the operation and administration of the bureau.

ASEAN also agreed to have a

common position through joint approach and common stand on organisation programmes and marketing of agriculture and forest products.

In this regard, a draft Memorandum of Understanding on "ASEAN Cooperation and Joint-Approaches in Agriculture and Forest Products Promotion" was completed and endorsed. The draft will be tabled for approval by Ministers at the 16th Meeting of ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry scheduled to be held in Malaysia, 25 to 27 August this year.

The next Senior Officials' Meeting will be held on 22 to 24 August 1994 prior to the Ministers' Meeting, the joint press release concluded.

Royal Brunei Airline's regional services upgraded

Royal Brunei has announced a number of new and upgraded services to its regional network effective from 14th May.

The airline's newly delivered Fokker 50 aircraft is scheduled to commence daily services to Miri departing Bandar Seri Begawan at 10.20 am landing at 11.00 am with the return flight leaving Miri at 11.30am and arriving in Bandar Seri Begawan at 12.10pm. A new F50 Labuan service leaves Bandar Seri Begawan at 4.00pm arriving Labuan 4.30pm. The return flight leaves Labuan at 5.00pm arriving in Bandar Seri Begawan at 5.30pm.

Services to Kota Kinabalu are to be upgraded to 14 times a week (twice daily) leaving at 7.20am and 7.45pm. Landing in Kota Kinabalu at 8.10am and 8.35pm respectively. The return services depart Kota Kinabalu at 8.40am and 9.05pm arriving Bandar Seri Begawan 9.30am and 9.55pm respectively.

Royal Brunei's services to Denpasar (Bali) have also been in-

creased to three times a week, Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Monday flight departs at 10.30am arriving in Bali at 1.00pm. Tuesday and Friday services leave 3.20pm and 5.00pm arriving in Bali 5.30pm and 7.30pm respectively.

The thrice weekly services to Kuching have been rescheduled to Monday, Tuesday and Friday. Monday's flight departs 11.20am with Tuesday and Friday services leaving 4.20pm. Return flights to Bandar Seri Begawan depart Kuching at 1.10pm on Mondays and 6.10pm on Tuesdays and Fridays arriving Bandar Seri Begawan at 2.20pm and 7.20pm respectively.

The airlines celebrated the arrival of its first Fokker 50 on Monday 9 May 1994. The aircraft arrived in Brunei at 4.35pm on Sunday, 8 May 1994 after a delivery flight from Amsterdam.

In a speech, the Managing Director Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Tengah said that on 14 May 1994, the

new aircraft "inaugurates two new Royal Brunei destinations - providing daily services to Labuan and Miri as well as fourteen services weekly to Kota Kinabalu, exactly 19 years after the first scheduled flight to Singapore using a Boeing 737."

This, the opening of new sales, reservations and ticketing offices in Miri and Labuan fulfils Royal Brunei's aims to offer a higher frequency of service, convenience and flexibility for the regional traveller while maintaining high standards of passenger comfort, service and reliability.

Another Fokker 50 aircraft with a similar 56 seating capacity is due for delivery in July to operate services to Kuching and a planned expansion to other coastal routes within Borneo.

Such airlinks should enhance trade and tourism between East Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam as well as with the coastal towns in the Philippines and Indonesia, the Managing Director said.

Brunei in Brief

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan
Land size : 5765 sq. km
Population : 267,800 (Mid-1992)
Official Language : Malay
Official Religion : Islam
April rainfall : 256mm
(annual 2,818mm)

PRIME LENDING RATE

April 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, used only in the country.

For this edition we have chosen the word **pundul**.

Pundul is a bird used as a decoy or bait to attract and snare birds of the same kind. In stand-

ard Malay **pundul** is denak or umpan.

In a sentence: Apabila digunakan sebagai **pundul**, burung punai itu diletakkan di atas pokok yang tinggi.

When used as a decoy or bait, the pigeon is left on a tall tree.

**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.**