



Will and wisdom : key to progress

Multiply our efforts

HM The Sultan

In this age when the world is highly-competitive and full of challenges, only determined and wise races will advance forward and develop, said His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his New Year 1994 titah (royal address) to the nation, broadcast over radio and television on New Year's eve.

The monarch told his subjects and people of Brunei Darussalam that with full determination and wisdom, developed nations have tirelessly intensified their efforts in various fields.

"As such, this could serve to motivate us to multiply our own efforts so that we will not be left behind by others", His Majesty said.

The ruler invited his subjects and people of the country to evaluate the extent their efforts had been implemented during the past year and make it a basis for better organised preparations in facing the future. The ruler also emphasised that time goes by fast and that only those who value their time by carrying out various activities will make beneficial gains.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam went on to say that there are times, however, when the challenges and competitions appear in negative forms and do not help to the development of trade and investment, such as the various trading blocs. On the contrary, pointed the monarch, these could weaken the world's multilateral trading system and would bring about various conflicts or, even worse still, lead to a war, let alone bring benefit to anyone.

"This could well happen because a race that feels itself oppressed might easily lose all sense of considerations and resort to undesirable actions", explained the ruler.

In this respect, ASEAN has established its Free Trade Area, AFTA, which demonstrates that ASEAN is a regional organisation that genuinely supports free trade not only among its member countries, but with other regions as well, His Majesty stressed while adding that, apart from being beneficial to all, it will also



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering his New Year 1994 address to the nation over radio and television on New Year's eve.

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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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YOUR TURN

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enhance economic cooperation.

Brunei Darussalam has also involved itself in the various international fora in the efforts towards coping with the issue more effectively. Nevertheless, he stressed, individual efforts by the various parties concerned within the country should also be developed.

"We must improve the quality and production of goods which we can trade in the international market, and not merely import foreign goods".

Added the ruler: "Only in this way we will together be able to enjoy the benefit of an international free trading system".

The Brunei monarch regretted that the past year had exhibited many tragic events in all corners of the world while describing the suffering of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Moslems and the conflict in Somalia as very serious and still escalating by the day.

"These and many other world problems are truly testing the credibility of the United Nations, whose charter stresses determination on preventing the destruction of mankind from the horrors of war and cruelty".

His Majesty continued that on the brighter side, however, we have witnessed the peace agreement bet-

ween the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel, the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa and a settlement to the Cambodian conflict.

Brunei Darussalam too had its own share of misfortune during 1993, said His Majesty, when fires destroyed more than 100 houses on Kampong Ayer (water villages). This was not the first time for such an occurrence.

While the Government views seriously their safety, the villagers themselves must also change their attitude for their own good, even though it may be as little as keeping their villages clean, so as to keep bad elements at bay, the ruler urged.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also called for an all-out effort to stamp out such crimes as thefts, robberies and infliction of physical injuries to members of the public.

"We should not sit back and take lightly such matters but eradicate them to the roots".

"The authorities concerned must prove their capability, efficiency and firmness by successfully fighting and apprehending the criminals", His Majesty stressed.

The ruler concluded by wishing a Happy New Year to his subjects and people of Brunei Darussalam.

Foundation and Government act in aid of fire-stricken villagers

New houses for affected residents

Residents left homeless after a major fire swept two villages on the Brunei river last September sighed with relief following announcement last month that they are to be provided with new houses.

The Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation and the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang

Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is building some 226 houses for the 190 families whose houses at Mukim Peramu and Kampong Saba Darat B, which form part of the cluster of Brunei's renowned and historical Kampong Ayer (Water Village set-

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tlement) in the capital Bandar Seri Begawan, were destroyed by the fire.

Some of the houses will also be for families who lost their houses in smaller fires at two other nearby villages.

As various forms of public donations continue to come in aid of the affected families totalling about 1,000 people, the foundation and the government announced on December 20 that new houses to relocate them would be built at Kampong Buang Sakar, not too distant away from their former homes.

The Minister of Development, Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail made the announcement during a gathering

with the affected families, some of whom are now accommodated in temporary homes as allocated by the government through the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, while others are staying with relatives.

Construction of the first 30 houses is underway and expected to be ready next month, while the rest would be completed by June this year.

The victims can choose one of the two types of houses being provided, categorised as class B costing B\$33,000, and Class A at B\$26,000, repayable through monthly installments over a twenty-year period.

Initially facilities to be provided along with the houses will include a school, shophouses and a children's playground.

The Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah

Foundation (Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah) was established in October 1992 as an independent, commercially-operated body, to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the accession to the throne of His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. The ruler had personally contributed the initial grants of the foundation.

Among its functions is to handle all applications for financial assistance which are not included in government's schemes. These include assistance for religious, welfare and educational purposes.

Shortly after the fire, the foundation stepped in with substantial cash assistance to help the villagers.

Commonwealth's new scheme to protect cultural heritage

A new scheme to protect any item deemed important for the preservation of the cultural heritage of a country - to be known as the Mauritius Scheme, has been adopted at a Commonwealth Ministers of Law Meeting, a press release issued by the Ministry of Law said, on 25 November 1993.

The Scheme ensures the return by a Commonwealth member, an item of cultural significance and value, which is found within its authority and has been exported against the law of the country. The scheme could be accepted in Brunei Darussalam without any complication, as most of the provisions already exist in the country's legislation, the release said.

The new scheme is an important measure towards the protection of items which are considered vital and invaluable to the country's history, archaeology, culture and in terms of their spiritual significance.

The Meeting of the Commonwealth Ministers of Law also discussed the need to strengthen the independence of the judicial system, the duties and responsibilities of an

Attorney-General in providing advice to the government and related problems on the supervision of the norms of international laws.

During the meeting, the Law Ministers welcomed positive measures which needed to be undertaken to enhance cooperation to facilitate the administration of legislation among commonwealth countries. Such cooperation has long been given serious attention by the meeting, the release added.

The meeting also discussed matters which were raised during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), held in Limmasol, Cyprus last October. These included 'Money Laundering' and the legislation needed to combat those crimes.

The five-day meeting in the Republic of Mauritius beginning 15 November, was attended by 43 Ministers of Law and Attorney-Generals. The meeting also discussed several matters which were discussed at the Meeting for Commonwealth Senior Legislative Officials held in Singapore from 30 March to 2 April



Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Haji Bahrin bin Pengiran Haji Abas, Minister of Law

last year.

Brunei Darussalam was represented by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Haji Bahrin bin Pengiran Haji Abas, the Law Minister and Attorney General. Several Counsels from the Ministry of Law and an official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also attended the meeting.

Prior to Mauritius, the Commonwealth Ministers of Law met in New Zealand in 1990.

Sukmaindera – a new vision

Radio Television Brunei goes international

Brunei Darussalam's sole broadcasting station, the government-owned Radio Television Brunei, RTB, has entered the world of satellite broadcasting service.

As from 1 January 1994, RTB began telecasting a special daily one-hour programme via Palapa B2P Satellite starting at 1300 hours Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), nine in the evening Brunei local time.

Launching the new service on New Year's day, His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said: "Starting today, television service of this country has entered a new era with broadcast via satellite. Audiences outside the country, most especially in areas within the reach of the Palapa satellite or Palapa 'footprint' will have the opportunity to watch Brunei television broadcast called 'Sukma Indera Channel' for one hour every night between 9 and 10 p.m."

The ruler said that because of the short broadcasting time, the contents of the programme in the new service will be limited to news and current affairs as well as a few selected programmes during this initial stage.

"However, I am hopeful that it will become a meaningful contribution from Brunei Darussalam towards efforts in strengthening regional and international understanding".

The Brunei monarch further said that the rapid development in telecommunication technology has opened up many possibilities in the field of broadcasting, with various parties already having made full use of such development to broaden their television audience.

He urged that such development and expansion be viewed from its positive aspects for the benefit of mankind and to strengthen both bilateral and international understanding.



سوقما ايندرا
SUKMAINDERA

Above: The "Sukmaindera Channel" logo: a symbol that Radio Television Brunei's regional and international viewers will become familiar with following the introduction of the station's nightly hour-long broadcast via satellite on 1 January.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said this broadcast via satellite is the result of the close cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore. Both sides he added, particularly the respective broadcasting authorities, RTB and SBC (Singapore Broadcasting Corporation), have agreed to use the same transponder at the Indonesian Palapa Satellite.

"Even though the objective of its launching differs in accordance with our respective priorities, the joint broadcast service by the two governments to be viewed by audiences outside our countries, is an indication of our desire to make a wider use of communication technology in the field of broadcasting".

The ruler went on to say that both countries will be able to reflect their respective national interest from the content of their contribution so that they will always be able to project their own good identity, because only in this way can they perpetuate their good name in the eyes of the world.

Sukmaindera offers locally produced programmes in Malay targeted at audiences in the Malay Archipelago. However, it is also receivable to audiences from Southern China in the east to the Maldives in

the west and from Indochina in the north to Darwin in the south.

Brunei nationals overseas including those members of the diplomatic corps posted in the ASEAN capitals will now be able to follow events back home through half-hour news bulletins, current affairs programmes and documentaries which make up the hour-long package each evening, alongside cooking programmes, a selection of entertainment shows and local sports.

Through Sukmaindera, Radio Television Brunei is committed to pass on the world that Brunei Darussalam is a progressive and dynamic nation which is proud to project its cultural heritage.

Radio Television Brunei officially launched its television service on 9 July 1975. RTB's television service started in full colour at a time when other television stations in the region were still broadcasting their programmes in monochrome.

In the early days, broadcasts were between four and five and a half hours daily, whereas today the station transmits from four in the evening to midnight from Monday to Thursday, and on Saturday; with transmissions on Fridays and Sundays and public holidays commencing at eight in the morning through to midnight.

Pay special attention to conserving and promoting values in pursuit of development

spiritual, societal, familial, educational and occupational values

The Minister of Education, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, highlighted recently the need to pay special attention to conserving and promoting spiritual, societal, familial, educational and occupational values in pursuit of development.

"In particular, without the countervailing influence of spiritual values, there will definitely be the danger that development will be seen only in terms of accumulating material wealth by whatever means," he stressed.

Spiritual values will help us to relate more sympathetically and more empathetically with our fellowmen, which after all is a pre-condition for living in peace and harmony. Harmony in turn is a pre-requisite for development, he pointed out.

In his speech before declaring the 15th ASEAN Council of Teachers Convention (ACT) open, Dec 11, the minister highlighted the changes brought to the global geo-political landscape over the last few years, with which came fundamental and major adjustments to political, economic and social systems.

ASEAN will continue to be affected by all these developments which will no doubt influence the direction and pace of our development priorities, he pointed out.

"We cannot but be alert, pragmatic and responsive, if not proactive, to all these changes if we are to meet 'the needs of development'," the Minister warned.

He further highlighted that over the years, ASEAN has continued to mature and is now seen by the international community as a model of what regional cooperation should be, and is united in its outlook and com-

mitment in terms of the importance of inter-dependency, even though the member countries are so vastly different in terms of size, population and socio-cultural backgrounds.

ASEAN has given priority to socio-economic and human resources development, he said, adding that this in turn is dependant on the maintainance and continuance of a stable government so that the growing economy can be sustained for the benefit of all strata of society.

"We are now, therefore, witnessing concerted efforts towards diver-



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, Minister of Education

sification and enhancement of the economies in each of our countries, and through this improve both national cohesiveness and international peaceful co-existence," he said.

The Minister urged that education systems are geared not only towards the production of adequate and appropriate manpower for development, but that they are also of the right quality and well-rounded.

The Education Minister also spoke about special problems faced by Brunei Darussalam arising out of the challenges of scale. Because of the constraint of size, he said, the country cannot train all the manpower it needs for all sectors of the economy locally, and would for quite some time to come, continue to send some of its students overseas for training in specific professions and would also continue to require foreign workers in several sectors, including the teaching profession.

He urged the convenors to give attention to issues, problems and possible solutions that face micro states like Brunei Darussalam.

The Minister further spoke about the importance of conserving cultural values in our quest to achieve development. These values, he said, must be transmitted effectively through the family and the educational system to the younger generation.

"Indeed, even the adults and the polity makers must have a clear knowledge and firm commitment to our own cultural heritage and positive values, for in these days of the globalization of the mass media, the erosion of indigenous cultural values is certainly of grave concern," said the Minister.

He explained that cultural values refer to the standards and principles adopted and sometimes adapted, by a particular society for judging what is correct or incorrect behaviour. Whether these values are taught or inculcated, a person's education will not be complete if he or she acquires only knowledge and skills, but not the values of his or her culture.

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His Majesty flanked to his right by His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah (HM's eldest son) and two brothers, Their Royal Highnesses Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah and Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah on the dais along with pengiran-pengiran cheteria, cabinet ministers and other state dignitaries during the celebration.

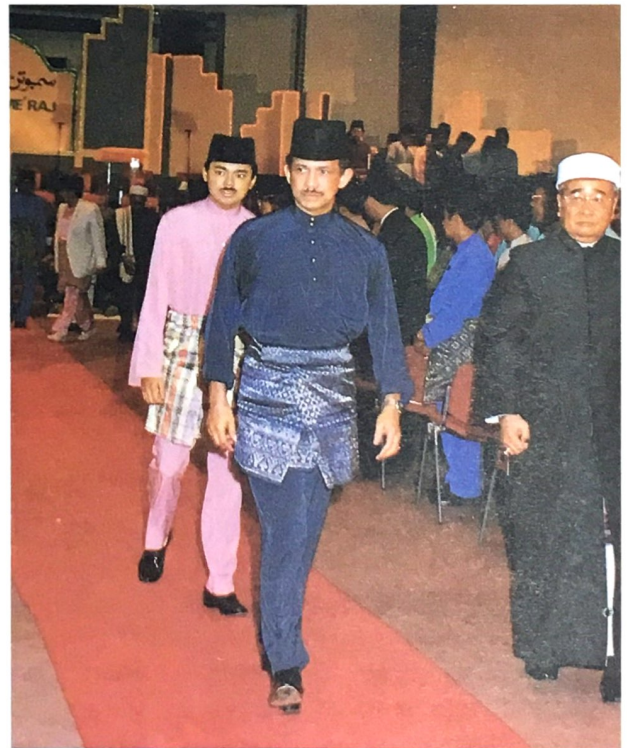
Pursuit of development along Islamic moral and ethical values

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has again reminded that efforts to develop the country should be carried out along Islamic values. As a new emerging independent country, His Majesty said, we need to give more attention to moral and ethical values.

The Brunei monarch also emphasized that people should not become "fanatic" in the pursuit for progress and neglect ethical and moral values.

Speaking during celebration marking "Isra' Me'raj" (Prophet Muhammad's, peace be upon him, journey to heaven), on January 9 at the International Convention Centre, His Majesty

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Above: The ruler leaving the International Convention Centre with His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah after the celebration accompanied by the Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd. Zain, whose ministry organised the celebration. Left: The headmaster of one of the four winning Islamic religious schools receiving this year's outstanding award from the Brunei monarch.



Proposal on formation of Business Council between Brunei and Malaysia



Malaysia's Minister of International Trade and Industry, Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz in discussion with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during her audience with the ruler at Istana Nurul Iman on January 11. At far left is Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman.

A joint Brunei Darussalam-Malaysia Business Council is being planned aimed at further strengthening the economic relations between the two countries.

The proposal to establish the council was agreed during discussion between the two sides earlier this week.

Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri

Rafidah Aziz, Minister for International Trade and Industry of Malaysia and delegation were in the country on a trade mission. Brunei Darussalam was the first country to be visited by the delegation in a series of visit to members of ASEAN.

The Malaysian delegation was in the country for three days from 10 to 12 January 1994. The delegation

included the Development Minister of Sarawak, Yang Berhormat Dato Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Dato Haji Openg, seven senior officials from various state development corporations as well as 73 members of the Malaysian business community.

The objective of the visit is to

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The Malaysian International Trade and Industry Minister also had separate audiences on January 11 with Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha at Istana Nurul Iman (picture above left), and with Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam at Istana Nurul Izzah.

A person's complete submission and his orientation towards Allah (God the Almighty) and through His teachings towards his nation, society, the family, the world of learning and the world of work is of paramount importance, added Yang Berhormat.

Brunei Darussalam has given deep and serious consideration to the need for a development underscored by an appropriate value system, he pointed out.

For the benefit of present day Bruneians, he stressed, we need to intellectualize the philosophy and concept of the Malay Islamic Monarchy which has been a way of life since the 14th century, so that the populace at large will be imbued with appropriate yet relevant values in whatever they do.

The philosophy is to provide, among others a common basis for a Bruneian world view, and as a comprehensive way of life and to provide for the development of a society which is harmonious based on an effective and just system of administration, economy and development.

It is also to provide a basis for all activities which have an important bearing on the nation and its people in areas like religion, language, culture, socio-economic, administration and development, as well as to provide the norm for a Brunei way of life, and the basis and guide in the formation of our Malay character and identity. This in turn will contribute to national unity, a Brunei identity as the underpinning to education, government, economy, society, defence and development.

With its theme "Meeting the Needs of Development, Conserving the Values of Culture", the 15th ASEAN Council of Teachers Convention hoped to provide an outcome that can bring about a meaningful balance between development and cultural values, which will in the long run ensure peace, stability and well-being for ASEAN as a whole.

said this reminder is necessary as a result of prevailing negative signs such as deviation and greed overwhelming mankind in the pursuit of progress and development, which could eventually bring about adverse consequences to the country.

One way to instil moral values which we can learn from Isra' Me'raj, is through guidance and the education system which should run simultaneously in line with the country's aspiration."

In order to influence public opinion, His Majesty stressed, the missionary work should be made clearer, more intensified and [presented in] a more intelligent manner so as to ensure that the message could effectively and successfully shape the good character of the ummah.

These need to be carried out concurrently. They also need a strong objective, His Majesty added.

His Majesty noted the significance of commemorating the Isra' Me'raj. One of the aims is to draw lessons from this historic event, such as on the importance in the shaping of the Islamic character enjoined to those who are steadfast in their faith.

The ruler also underlined the importance of avoiding behaviours and attitudes contrary to Islamic teachings because committing them would only bring about retribution from Allah, God the Almighty.

A community that is able to withstand all kinds of trials and tribulations, with a long history, is one which has a high moral value, while a community that is exposed to disaster is one with a low moral value, pointed the monarch. This is no longer mere theory or just a forecast; it has become fact.

Many civilizations had collapsed in the past due to their neglect of moral values, His Majesty added. Today, there are countries heading for destruction and experiencing a decline due to their neglect of moral values.

A recital of the holy Al-Quran started the celebration. It was followed by a special religious talk on

the significance of Isra' Me'raj by the Director of the Syariah Affairs Department of the Religious Affairs Ministry and a welcoming speech by the Religious Affairs Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd. Zain.

Awards

The celebration's highlight was the announcement of the Exemplary Religious Schools' Awards, which was divided into four categories.

The Pengiran Anak Puteri Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam Religious School was adjudged the best in category A, which is for schools housed in their own permanent building, while the award for category B, for schools in temporary buildings, went to the Beribi Religious School. The Begawan Pehin Udana Kahtib Awang Haji Umar Religious School won the award for category C, for school on Kampong Ayer (Water Village), while the ward for category D, for religious schools using school buildings of the Ministry of Education or the Defence Ministry, went to the Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Science College Religious School.

The Religious Affairs Minister, in his speech, among other things, noted that the awards are aimed at upgrading the quality of education in Brunei Darussalam, making religious schools an institution in seeking knowledge in an orderly and a comfortable atmosphere, encouraging headmasters and teachers to upgrade schools' development and reputation, and instilling a responsible attitude towards maintaining and protecting religious schools.

The minister also said that the judging was carried out in two stages, at district level which began in October 1993, and at national level which began in November 1993.

The evaluation and judgement involved the overall aspects of the school including examination results, administration, school activities, discipline, cleanliness, learning atmosphere, implementation of religious practices and involvement in any form of religious practices and activities.



US has new envoy in Bandar Seri Begawan

The United States' new ambassador to Brunei Darussalam has presented her credential to His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. Her Excellency Theresa Anne Tull presented her credential at a ceremony which was followed by an audience with the ruler on 6 January at Istana

Nurul Iman. Her Excellency, 57, a graduate of the Universities of Maryland and Michigan, has previously served in the Philippines, Vietnam and Belgium. Her Excellency has a wide knowledge in South-East Asian Affairs and was Director of Regional Affairs and East Asia Bureau at the State Department.

Above: Her Excellency Theresa Anne Tull in conversation with His Majesty shortly after she presented her credential.

Also new Japanese ambassador

Japan has also appointed a new ambassador in Bandar Seri Begawan. He is His Excellency Shigenobu Nagai, who has been with his country's Foreign Affairs Ministry since 1953. Aged 60, His Excellency has served in several countries including Papua New Guinea, Australia, The United States of America, Tanzania and as Japan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Right: The new Japanese ambassador H.E. Shigenobu Nagai (centre) introduces one of his officials to the Brunei monarch during his audience on 6 January.



China's first envoy to Brunei Darussalam

The People's Republic of China, which formally established diplomatic relations with Brunei Darussalam in 1991, has now a non-resident ambassador to the Sultanate. His Excellency Liu Xinsheng, 56, presented his credential to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on 6 January at Istana Nurul Iman. He was also granted an audience the same day by the ruler. Prior to his posting to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency, who is a graduate of the University of Beijing, has served in several countries including Indonesia, The Philippines and India.



Above: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives the credential of His Excellency Liu Xinsheng, The People's Republic of China's first ambassador in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Brunei Darussalam exports LNG to the Republic of Korea

Brunei COLDGAS Sendirian Berhad, the marketing arm of the Brunei LNG Operation has recently signed a Letter of Intent for the sale of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to Korea Gas Corporation.

Under the terms of the letter, Brunei Coldgas and Korea Gas agree to negotiate towards the supply of small volume of LNG in 1994 and for up to 700,000 tonnes in each of the years 1995 and 1996. The possibility of continuing supply from 1997 to the year 2000 will also be discussed.

A first cargo is expected to be delivered next month.

The ability to supply the extra LNG is the result of recent developments within the operations of the Brunei Shell Companies.

Exploration success by Brunei Shell Petroleum Co. Sdn. Bhd has increased confidence that additional natural gas can be produced while at the same time maintaining the nations' policy of carefully managing its natural resources to meet foreseeable future inland demand and for the benefit of future generations. At the same time recent operational measures have increased

Brunei Shell's ability to produce additional gas in the short term.

As a result of considerable investment by Brunei LNG in rejuvenation at its liquefaction plant in Lumut there is capacity to produce more LNG from the additional available natural gas.

Next month a major limitation on increased exports by Brunei LNG will be removed when a new side loading berth will be commissioned. In the past the existing stern loading berth has meant that only the existing fleet of LNG carriers owned by Brunei Shell Tankers can load at Lumut, and these vessels are fully committed to supplying existing Japanese customers. Now other vessels can be used. The planned supplies to South Korea will be delivered in a vessel specifically chartered for the purpose, the LNG Port Harcourt, owned by Bonny Gas Transport Ltd, the shipping arm of Nigeria LNG.

To date all Brunei Darussalam's LNG has been sold under one contract to three customers in Japan. This contract was recently renewed for a further 20 years for a greater volume.

Commenting on the Letter of Intent, Mr. Ron van den Berg, Chief Executive of Brunei Coldgas said: "The sales envisaged by the Letter of Intent over the next three years will provide a major impetus for the Brunei Shell Companies to further strengthen their reserves and production capability."

Under the new 20-year contract (1st April, 1993 to 31st March, 2013) the Brunei Coldgas Sendirian Berhad will supply 5.54 million tonnes of LNG each year to three customers in Japan.

This boils down to 3.72 million tonnes per year to the Tokyo Electric Power Co. Inc., 1.14 tonnes to the Tokyo Gas Company Limited, while the Osaka Gas Company Limited is purchasing 0.68 tonnes per year.

The annual export to Japan under the present contract is an increase of 0.40 million tonnes over annual export under the previous 20-year contract with the three Japanese companies which ended on 31st March, 1993.

Oil and gas together make up about 64 percent of Brunei Darussalam's gross domestic product (GDP).

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enhance bilateral economic cooperation which included increasing the flow of trade and investment between the two countries, particularly involving the private sector.

A dialogue session with the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources was held on 11 January 1994 at the Conference Room of the Ministry.

Several issues of bilateral interest as well as regional and international economic developments were discussed.

With regard to bilateral trade, both sides have taken appropriate atten-

tion in the efforts to further strengthen their economic relations especially involving entrepreneurs exploring the potential in trade and investment between both countries.

In order to realise this effort, both sides agreed on the need to create a mechanism which could channel the needs of both countries and resolve any matter for mutual interest. An agreement has been made on the proposal to set up a Business Council between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia. It is hoped that the private sector of both countries would be the forerunner of this council. The Government on its part will continue to play its role to facilitate the process

and operation of the Council.

Both sides also realise the potential in enhancing economic cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Sarawak. Brunei Darussalam welcomes the Government of Malaysia in its efforts on exploring the potential in trade and tourism for mutual benefit.

On regional relations, both sides agreed that APEC has a potential as a dynamic and global economic power and that ASEAN will play a key role in contributing to a dynamic economic pacific region. In relation to this, both see the need for ASEAN to speed up the implementation of the CEPT Scheme for AFTA."

Direct foreign investment welcomed

Brunei Darussalam, recognising the positive role of foreign direct investment in economic development, welcomes foreign investment. Hence, the Government, in its efforts to increase the inward flow of investments, is prepared, in principle, to consider the possibility of equity participation in joint ventures with foreign investors.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, made these statements in a keynote address at the opening of a seminar "Doing Business with the United States", at the ICC on 11 January.

Bilateral trade with the United States

Bilateral trade between Brunei Darussalam and the United States of America amounted to an estimated B\$330 million in 1992. The United States enjoys a growing trade surplus and ranks as a major trading partner, said the Minister.

"American firms are well represented in our oil-supporting industry, whilst American technology is recognised and appreciated, as reflected by the statistics showing that machinery and transport equipment constitute the bulk of our imports from the United States."

US investment in Brunei Darussalam

US investment, however, in Brunei Darussalam's non-oil industrial sector is unfortunately, negligible and lags behind its growing investments in our ASEAN neighbours, the Minister said.

This seminar should go some way towards closing the gap. Participants should take full advantage of the speakers' expertise and the many opportunity for "Doing Business with the USA", he stressed.

Opportunities for investment abound in such sectors as export-oriented manufacturing, natural resources development, ecotourism, technical support services and transshipment, the Minister continued.

Brunei now member of GATT

The Government is also committed to enhancing our international com-

petitiveness, he stressed.

"My ministry has thus expedited and streamlined the process for starting up business ventures. We have also undertaken several steps and will continue to improve our investment climate. Furthermore, our physical infrastructure is continuously upgraded."

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stated in his new year message that Brunei Darussalam is prepared to play a role in international trade.

"We are therefore assuming a higher profile in international economic fora. Brunei Darussalam is now a member of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, or GATT, and closely follows various important developments such as the long-awaited conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and the Asia Pacific Cooperation Leaders' Economic Conference in Seattle."

Meanwhile, ASEAN has begun the implementation of the Common Effective Preferential Tariff Programme for the ASEAN Free Trade Area. These recent economic events represent challenges and opportunities for Brunei Darussalam.

Hence, a global outlook is vital in order to remain competitive, particularly for smaller nations. We must also take full advantage of Brunei Darussalam's strategic location at the centre of the dynamic and fast growing ASEAN region, the Minister said.

The PITO (Private Investment Trade Opportunities) project can play a major role in helping our business community to internationalise, among others, by acting as a bridge between them and their United States counterparts, the Minister continued.

In this respect, PITO Brunei should utilise the network of the ASEAN-US Business Council to assume a match-making role as well as organise other trade and investment promotion activities such as business missions and "market" seminars like this. Our business community, he said, should, on their part, avail themselves of the many opportunities for joint ventures identified through PITO projects.

Previous PITO projects in Brunei Darussalam were seminars or workshops organised in collaboration with Technonet Asia. However, the third component of the PITO project is the East-West Centre in Honolulu. The



Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman.

Centre should be utilised to carry out research and search for technical expertise in various fields of interest to our entrepreneurs.

"I thus look forward to seeing "PITO" Brunei play a bigger role in expanding business links between firms in Brunei Darussalam and the United States of America."

The Minister also expressed his belief that the PITO project can contribute immensely to Brunei Darussalam's economic diversification programmes. He urged PITO Brunei to step up its programmes of activities for 1994 and beyond.

The PITO project is of mutual benefit to ASEAN and the United States. Indeed, said the Minister, we appreciate the United States as an important trading partner and encourage the deepening of our commercial relationship. In view of this, the third meeting between the ASEAN Economic Ministers and the United States Trade Representative in Seattle last November, agreed to develop the "Alliance for Mutual Growth" Programme.

The AMG Programme is still at the early stage, but should be utilised in tandem with and supplementary to the PITO project to generate economic growth through harnessing both government and private sector resources with several components including infrastructure development, trade and commercial development, investment and technology and small and medium enterprise development.

The Minister further reaffirmed his ministry's support for the PITO Project and offer their full cooperation. It is only through a close government-business partnership that the PITO

• Continued on page 12

project can be successful in achieving its objectives. A similarly close relationship between the private sectors of Brunei Darussalam and the United States of America is also equally important. The Minister further urged the private sector to actively pursue the investment and trade opportunities offered through both PITO and AMG.

Doing Business With The US

In a speech at the seminar, the United States Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, Her Excellency Theresa A. Tull, said that President Clinton has asked all of his ambassadors to give high priority to the promotion of trade and investment.

A number of global, regional and local trends are under way, Her Excellency added, which can make 1994 a uniquely propitious year for expanding trade and investment between the United States and Brunei Darussalam.

At the recent APEC Meeting in November 1993, the US President observed that Asia is America's largest trading partner and noted that "much of Asia's needs to continue on its growth pattern are goods and services in which we are strong: aircraft, financial services, telecommunications, infrastructure."

In fact, there are many American manufacturers of consumer products, providers of services and producers of foodstuffs who also have much to offer Asian customers, the ambassador added.

At the recent APEC Meeting in Seattle, President Clinton also said that APEC could become a forum for considering development priorities in Asia. It could help build connections among economies to promote economic growth such as in telecommunications by setting up common standards, in civil aviation through an open skies agreement, and environmental protection efforts, just to name a few possibilities.

"Not long after the successful APEC meetings, the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was successfully concluded. This was a major positive development in terms of further opening markets and removing barriers to free trade, from which all countries will benefit."

With ASEAN taking steps to implement its own free trade arrangement, globally and regionally, it is a good time to be doing business, particularly with the United States, Her Excellency concluded.

PITO PROJECT

The PITO project is a programme of a joint ASEAN-US Government and private sector participation and is designed to generate growth through expanded ASEAN and US trade and commercial ties and in particular for the creation of business opportunities to the people of ASEAN and the US.

In another speech, the President of the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Haji Razali Haji Johari said US investment in ASEAN surged

to US\$3.5 billion in 1992, according to the US/ASEAN Business Report July/August 1993. A jump of 200 percent over the 1991 figure of US\$1.8 billion.

The increase in the investment sector reinforces the close relationship that the US and the ASEAN nations have enjoyed since the organisation's inception. Close economic liberalization bring about benefits to workers and businesses.

The GATT-consistent AFTA that sheds barriers to trade and investment within the region, without erecting new obstacles to outside trade, will promote higher growth among its members and trading partners, Haji Razali added.

Just as ASEAN economies stand to gain from the wealth-generating effects of NAFTA, he said, so we believe that the US economy will benefit from higher growth rates resulting from AFTA.

"As AFTA and NAFTA develop, we stand ready to explore potential linkages between them in pursuit of a more open global trading system. The successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round on GATT on December 15, 1993, guaranteed a more stable and predictable world trading system for the 117 countries" he concluded.

The one-day seminar was organised by Brunei PITO with the co-operation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ASEAN Department, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Embassy of the United States of America, National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, US-ASEAN Business Council, and the US Agency for International Development.

Brunei in Brief

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan
Land size : 5765 sq. km
Population : 267,800 (June 1992)
Official Language : Malay
Official Religion : Islam
November rainfall : 410mm
(annual 2,818mm)

PRIME LENDING RATE

December 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 in Brunei Darussalam only.

As the name suggests, the word is only exclusively used in Brunei Darussalam.

We now introduce the word

ampalus.

Ampalus is a bag-like part of bird's throat where food is stored and broken up for digestion before passing into the stomach.

Ampalus simply means crop and tembolok in standard Malay.

**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.**