



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

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Unity important for Islamic Ummah: His Majesty

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has highlighted the importance of unity among the Islamic Ummah as a prerequisite to the resurgence of Islam and strength of the ummah and so as to ensure that Muslims, regardless of race, would not lag behind others. Such unity should not be manifested only during congregational prayers, he said. Most important, they should be united whole heartedly, only then the strength of the ummah could be attained.

Speaking in his recent 'titah' broadcast over radio and television on the eve of 'Idil Adha celebration or Hari Raya Korban (The great day of sacrifice) on May 20, His Majesty also hoped that the Hari Raya atmosphere would inspire Muslims to bring about truly united ummah. Such a spirit calls for the willingness to make sacrifices for religion, race and country, said the monarch.

His Majesty's remarks came amidst the continuing atrocities inflicted against Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the Arab-Israeli war which have resulted in many losses of Muslims' lives.

The ruler noted that the major

evidence of such incidence and turbulence occurred to the people in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where more than 200,000 lives had become victims, almost one hundred thousand injured and over three million people have become refugees.

His Majesty further stressed the



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam speaking to the nation over radio and television in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidiladha (Great Day of the Sacrifice) celebration.

atrocities inflicted by the Serbs against a Muslim-majority town in Gorazde, would definitely increase the number of Muslim victims.

Meanwhile, the Islamic ummah are still not united in handling these problems due to several factors such as non-existence of any kind of agreement which forces them to retreat or remain silent.

His Majesty also noted the victimisation and hardships experienced by the Arabs caused by Arab-Israeli wars since 1967, as well as the Hebron incident which has hurt the morale of the Islamic ummah.

The ruler later asked why Muslims continued to be overpowered and experience one humiliation after another.

One of the reasons is that the Islamic ummah is still divided and selfish. As long as this negative attitude remains, His Majesty pointed out, Allah, God the Almighty will not take their side. As a Hadith said, God helps those who are truly united, said the monarch.

When unity prevails, His Majesty said, the Islamic ummah made strides in the economic and political fields. But while the number of Muslims now exceeds more than

• Continued on page 2

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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YOUR TURN

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• From page 1 (Aidil Adha)

one billion people, they still lag behind others, and often become victims of others, His Majesty lamented.

While Hari Raya 'Idil Fitri signifies our victory after undergoing a month-long fast, Hari Raya 'Idil Adha focuses on the need to remain victorious among Muslims. That is why it is called Idil Adha or Hari Raya Korban as no victory will be possible without any sacrifice made, His Majesty pointed out.

Those who went for the haj travelled by all modes of transportation regardless of the difficulties and obstacles which they may encounter.

While in Mecca, they left their families, properties and homeland behind, all for the sake of performing the great haj, he said.

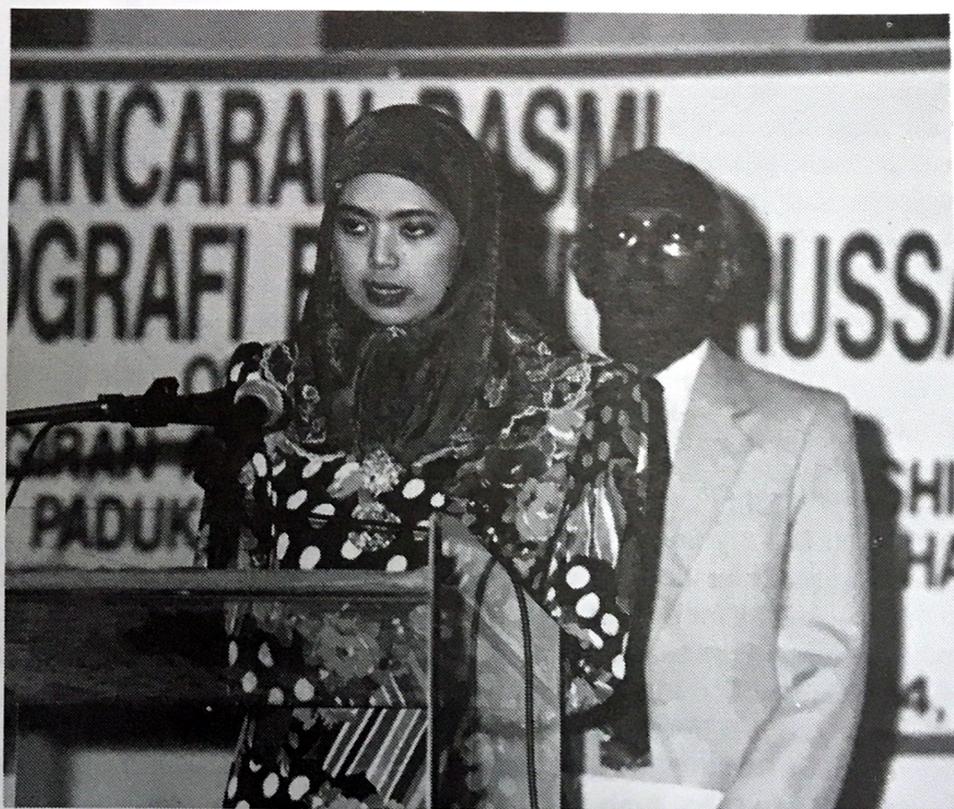
The monarch further emphasised that the spirit of sacrifice should be extended at all times, and not during the haj period alone. Victory and [a period of] glory have not yet been fully achieved by the Islamic ummah, only sufferings and devastation prevail.

Carry out development hand in hand with nature conservation

Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkliah has stressed that in the efforts to achieve better development in the economic and social fields, we should also

take heed of any adverse consequence brought about by development projects to the environment and natural resources in the country.

• Continued on page 3



Yang Teramat Mulla Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkliah urged that developments should take place hand in hand with the conservation of nature and protection of the environment.



Yang Teramat Mulla Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkihah ceremonially conducting the official launching of Brunei Darussalam's Geography Association, of which she is patron.

• From page 2 (Development/Nature)

Development should be carried out hand in hand with conserving nature.

The resources of nature are the basis for a stable and continuous economic and social development, she stressed. Proper planning and wise management of these resources could help avert or at least minimize most of the adverse consequences.

Her Royal Highness expressed this concern at the launching of Brunei Darussalam's Geography Association at the Universiti Brunei Darussalam Auditorium on May 27. Her Royal Highness was appointed Patron of the association.

She further pointed out that planning and management alone are insufficient if the community does not have the knowledge, understanding and awareness of the

functions, features and role of natural resources in the socio-economic development of the country.

The problems of nature arise due to the habits of mankind whether directly or indirectly, she said. She urged that any activity aimed at protecting the environment should therefore take into account the behaviours and the activities of the people themselves.

The role of the Geography Association therefore lies in cultivating and instilling care and concern towards the environment among the younger generation in particular, and all levels of the community in the country, in general, Her Royal Highness further stressed.

She said that the formation of the Geography Association is timely, as the country is undergoing a rapid pace of economic and social deve-

lopments.

Even though the population of the country is small compared to many countries in the world, she said, the growth rate is quite high and the population distribution according to area is not proportionate.

This means the need to open up new areas for housing is increasing, she said, adding that this also leads to the need to promote, widen and diversify the country's economy so as to create job opportunities for the citizens.

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has carried out various social and economic development projects to meet this need.

Her Royal Highness concluded by expressing the hope that teachers and students would gain from the activities carried out by the association.

Impress the importance of family life

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain recently urged relevant authorities to stress the importance of family life to the people in the country.

As time has brought about various changes to the system of values and views of life held by the community, said the minister, our community faces the challenge of how a family, particularly parents, could play their role towards creating a happy family life.

The minister also highlighted the need for the community to be sensitive towards all forms of changes which influence family life. They should equip themselves with various knowledge and skills – spiritual, economic and social – so as to be able to face to the these challenges.

Officiating at the launching of this year's International Day of the Family on May 15, the minister further spoke of the need for official agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to work together to help bring about "Keluarga Bahagia" or "Happy Family".

Activities at the grassroots level

should be planned and carried out in a more organised manner so as to motivate each family to work towards that goal, the minister pointed out.

He said that the extended family institution in Brunei Darussalam could still be maintained. A research on family ties carried out by the ministry in 1992 showed that the community is still keen in keeping the values of the extended-family.

This however, would change with the emergence of the nuclear family, where family members now live separately or do not have to work in their hometown anymore, he said. The process has been made easier with the infrastructure provided by the government. The emergence of the nuclear family could not be avoided, especially with the quick pace of economic development, he added.

The minister further stressed that changes in the family structure need not necessarily be bad, if members of the family still place emphasis on the importance of family life and communication among them.

A stable family could still play an important role in promoting the well-being of the family especially if it exists amidst neighbours who are

helpful, mutually respectful and cooperate with one another.

Close ties among family members is the key towards strengthening a happy and peaceful family relationship, he added.

The minister also spoke about the increasing number of working women in the country and its social implications on the family institution.

While working women help to supplement the family income and increase their 'purchasing power', it also means a rise in the need to look after the children at home. Maids now take over the role of transmitting social and cultural values to children, he said.

With the rising number of career women, there is also a need for more kindergarten teachers, he pointed out.

He said that if this trend were to continue, the way we work has to be adapted into one that is "family friendly" by taking into consideration family interests and needs. This is important as the family institution needs to be strengthened in facing more complicated social and economic targets of the future.

This is even more important with the quick pace of social development and in view of the existing social problem caused by a weak family institution which could jeopardise the country's development.

It is therefore appropriate for us in the country to adopt core family values such as caring, giving due importance to harmony, love, commitment and dedication, mutual respect, proper parenting and the strengthening of the extended family.

He called on the people to further promote awareness on the importance of the family institution and reinforce their relationship with family members, relatives, and neighbours.

He also urged them to ensure that the family institution that is based

• *Continued on page 11*



Above: Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain, The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, urged government agencies and non-governmental bodies to work together towards achieving 'happy family' state of affairs in Brunei Darussalam.

Free Trade Zone at Muara Port to speed up East ASEAN growth area

A free trade zone at the Muara Port has been declared as the first free trade zone in Brunei Darussalam.

The Communications Minister, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Awang Zakaria, in his speech at the official launching of the Free Trade Zone at Muara Port or the Muara Export Zone (MEZ) on May 16, said that the establishment of the MEZ is an important step in the economic development of the country as it would create a more conducive climate for business.

The opening of the MEZ signifies the commitment of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam towards accelerating economic growth through an active private sector participation, he added.

"Today, we have taken a small yet significant step by establishing the Muara Export Zone by offering facilities and other incentives for business. This means that the Muara Port not only functions as an 'interface' for cargoes, but will also provide services where a minimum fee will be levied on services and customs procedure for re-exported goods." This would help promote the country as regional trading centre, he added.

The establishment of the MEZ which offers a variety of services and incentives constitutes a step towards the economic development of the country, a responsibility shared by the Government and the private sector.

The Government on its part would continue to further upgrade the infrastructure and facilities. Establishing the MEZ is another step towards making Brunei a regional trading centre in the East



Brunei Darussalam could become regional trading hub: Minister of Communications, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Zakaria.

ASEAN Growth Area (EAGA) which has just been set up.

The Minister later urged the private sector to seize this opportunity so as to further promote the country's economy in order to ensure that it remains stable and strong.

Transportation and communications play a pertinent role in this age of free trade and open economic policy. Air, sea and land transport, too, have a significant role in facilitating the flow of goods entering a country. All these call for greater efficiency in transportation and cargo handling, stressed the Minister.

In this new economic era, we see the emergence of various regional cooperation such as the European Common Market, the Northern American Free Trade Area (NAFTA), the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) and the recent East ASEAN Growth Area involving Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines (BIMP-EAGA)

The BIMP-EAGA is a close cooperation in the economic field including infrastructure, standardisation of procedures and policies to facilitate the flow of goods or other related matters entering a country's border. The success of BIMP-EAGA depends on transportation and communications as these would pave the way for communications providing greater mobility to the peoples in this region. It will also encourage investors to locate their business in this 'sub-region' apart from the main cities as well as boost investment and trade among the countries.

Compared to Sabah, Sarawak, South Philippines, Sulawesi and Kalimantan, Brunei Darussalam has a better means of communications and transportation. The country has direct air links with Europe, Middle East, Taiwan, Australia and other destinations through Singapore. Port facilities which are now being upgraded provide cargo handling including containers. The Minister also said that Brunei Darussalam has easy access to East Malaysia with a good land transportation system and he expressed the confidence that there are new facilities which could be offered to the EAGA.

The EAGA has opened new doors for the economic development of the country. Launching the MEZ is the first step towards introducing the Muara Port and the facilities it could offer for the prosperity of the country and the region, he said.

Brunei Darussalam is now facing challenges and opportunities which could be explored in the BIMP-EAGA. The MEZ could make it easier for the private sector to explore to make Brunei Darussalam a regional trading hub in EAGA, the Minister concluded.

Home from the holy land

Grand welcome for beloved ruler

State dignitaries comprising Spengiran cheteries, cabinet ministers and their deputies, foreign diplomats and senior government officials lined up on the tarmac, while thousands of flag-waving schoolchildren and citizens at large lined the main roads from the airport to the Istana Nurul Iman: this was just part of the scenes of the grand welcome accorded to His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on his return on May 26 from the holy city of Mecca after performing the haj.

The monarch was accompanied on the pilgrimage by one of his brothers, His royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

At the head of the homecoming reception for the ruler, returning from his fifth pilgrimage, was His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda Haji 'Abdul 'Azim and His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Malik and other male members of the royal family.

As soon as the ruler stepped down from his special aircraft, the do'a selamat (thanksgiving) was recited, accompanied by a 21-gun salute.

The ruler greeted each and every one of the well-wishers lining the tarmac and waved to schoolchildren and citizens at large who had lined

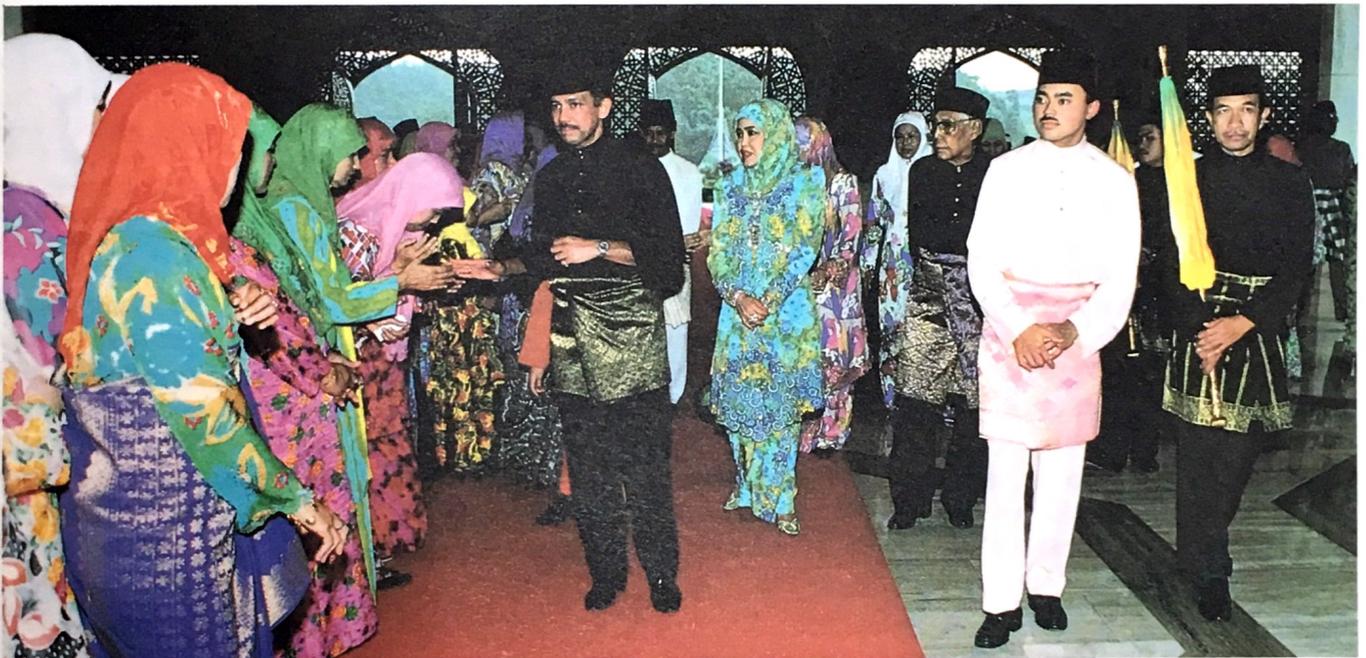
• Continued on page 7



Top picture: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stands in homage of the do'a shortly after alighting from his aircraft during his homecoming reception at the Brunei International airport after performing the haj in Mecca. His Majesty's eldest son, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah (to HM's right) led the welcoming party. Above: The ruler being greeted by state dignitaries who lined the tarmac, while thousands of schoolchildren lined the route from the airport to the Istana Nurul Iman to give their monarch a warm homecoming.



Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam (picture above left and above right respectively) kiss His Majesty's hand on the ruler's arrival at the Istana Nurul Iman after his flight from Mecca to perform the haj. His Majesty's daughters and other female members of the royal family did likewise as the ruler walked along the red carpet past each one of them, picture below.



• From page 6 (HM Sultan's home-coming)

the routes from the Brunei International airport to the Istana Nurul Iman as his motorcade drove past them.

Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam were the first to greet His Majesty as he arrived at the Istana Nurul Iman, followed by other female members of the royal family.

Haj: Islam's fifth tenet

The ruler left for the holy land to fulfill Islam's fifth pillar on May 14. More than 3,000 Brunei Muslims

had gone to the holy land this year, and the first group of more than 200 returned home one day after the ruler. The pilgrims are being ferried in some 13 flights operated by the national flag carrier - Royal Brunei Airlines.

Thanksgiving for safe return

Following the ruler's return, religious functions were held at both the Istana Nurul Iman and the Istana Nurul Izzah, attended by members of the royal family, state dignitaries, government and religious officials.

Likewise, similar functions are also being held in private homes in thanksgiving for the safe return of family members from the holy land.

Diplomatic relations with the Lebanese Republic

Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Lebanon have established diplomatic relations, with effect from 18 May.

A press release issued by the Brunei Darussalam Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the two governments have agreed to enhance the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries on the basis of the principles enshrined in the United Nations' Charter.

ASEAN-EC Management Centre

The ASEAN-EC Management Centre (AEMC) was officially opened on 11 May 1994 by the Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Ahmad bin Dato Paduka Matnor.

Formally established on 23 July 1991, with its registered office in Brunei Darussalam, the ASEAN-EC Management Centre is the product of an inter-regional cooperation between ASEAN and the European Union. It focuses on strategic issues relevant for the development of both the private and public sectors of the regions.

Below is an interview by the Daily News Digest of Brunei Darussalam / Brunei Darussalam Newsletter with the Director of the ASEAN-EC Management Centre, Pengiran Haji Ismail bin Pengiran Haji Mohamed, who gave details of the Centre's main objectives, strategies and immediate and long-term programmes and activities.

Q: What is the ASEAN-EC Management Centre about? How

Has sight on becoming a centre of excellence in human resource development

did it come about and when is it operational and what are the objectives of the Centre?

DIR: I must stress that the ASEAN-EC Management Centre is a regional institution. It is not a national institution as some people thought it was. By this we mean that the Centre is meant for ASEAN and the European Union. We at the Centre are not involved in training. The Centre is unique as it brings together executives, professionals and managers from different cultures to work together on relevant issues affecting the two regions. The issues are to be brought up in activities such as conferences, seminars and

workshops. The Centre will also be involved in research work.

The Centre is not a training institution. There are already numerous and well-established business and management institutions in this region which are providing and teaching basic skills of administration, management and business. So rather than having competing activities, we want to develop activities which do not focus on training. Where the education and training end in these institutions, we would like to go on and continue from there with emphasis on developing new innovative ideas and concepts, rather than just focusing on classical theories in doing things.

How the Centre came about

As to how the Centre came about, it took 10 years from the time the idea of such a centre was first mooted until it is finally and formally operational. The Centre is actually the product of the dialogue between

• *Continued on page 9*



The ASEAN-EC Management Centre, opened officially on 11 May, is the product of an inter-regional cooperation between the Association of South-East Asian Nations, ASEAN, and the European Union. It is situated at Gadong, about three kilometres outside the Brunei Darussalam capital of Bandar Seri Begawan.



The Director of the ASEAN-EC Management Centre, Pengiran Haji Ismail bin Pengiran Haji Mohamed speaking shortly before the official opening of the centre on 11 May by the Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Ahmad bin Dato Paduka Matnor (seated extreme left, facing camera).

• From page 8 (ASEAN-EC)

ASEAN and the European Union. During the 5th ASEAN-EC Ministerial meeting in May 1984, the Foreign Ministers of both regions discussed the potential of enhancing cooperation in human resource development and management. After further discussion and deliberation on the issue, two important documents were signed which are instrumental in the realisation of the Centre: the Establishment Agreement on the ASEAN-EC Management Centre signed in 1991 on 23 July in Kuala Lumpur and the Financing Memorandum, signed in Davao city in the Philippines on 19 January 1994 during the ASEAN-EC Joint Consultative Committee Meeting.

The Establishment Agreement and the Financing Memorandum

The Establishment Agreement basically stipulates that the Centre will have its headquarters in Brunei Darussalam. This Agreement also spells out that the funding of the Centre will mainly come from two sources, from Brunei Darussalam on

behalf of ASEAN, and the European Union.

How funds are to be used and disbursed, particularly the European funds, are the important ingredient of the Financing Memorandum. The grant from Brunei Darussalam covers the infrastructure, such as the building of the ASEAN-EC Management Centre, the salaries of staff and operations and maintenance costs.

The grant from Europe is to be used for supporting an Adviser to the Centre, for financing activities of the Centre, and for the purchase of professional equipment.

Objectives of the Centre

The Centre has four to five long-term objectives. Basically our ultimate aim is to become a centre of excellence in human resource development. Secondly it is aimed at enhancing management efficiency and effectiveness in both private and public sectors and in helping to develop the capacities of management training throughout the region. The AEMC (ASEAN-EC Management Centre) also strives to facilitate

the development and evolution of new ideas, concepts, strategies and policies relevant to ASEAN long term needs; develop public administration and business management skills existing within institutions and corporations in ASEAN and EC and to strengthen the cooperation links between ASEAN and the EC and to establish links with other areas covered by ASEAN-EC cooperation, through the instruments of management.

In simple terms, the objective is to develop a centre of managerial excellence with special competences in strategic issues of relevant mutual interest to the ASEAN and EU COEs.

Q: How does the Centre intend to achieve these objectives?

We have several strategies to achieve these objectives. We want to decentralise our activities; we will be building up an inter and intra regional network quickly. AEMC becomes the Secretariat and coordinating centre for the network. We want institutions within and outside

• Continued on page 10

this region to be actively involved in the Centre.

Co-financing is another strategy whereby our activities will be marketed and run on a strictly commercial basis. For instance when we run seminars and conferences, participating fees will be charged; they will have to pay for their own flights and accommodation.

We will also be involving other institutions and network to form a consortium for our activities; they will be the key player in implementing our activities, like seminars or workshops.

Another strategy is to establish an independent body, a non-profit foundation that will accommodate the network and act as an executing agency for AEMC.

We want to open the Foundation for membership to other institutions. Membership is open to management training and research institutions and to relevant private and public sectors.

Q: What is the governance structure like and to whom does the Centre report to?

As to the governing structure, there is the Management Board which sets and determines policies of the Centre, approves budgets for the running of activities and acts as a custodian to the grants from Europe and Brunei Darussalam.

Members of the Board consists of representatives from each ASEAN country who are nominated by their governments, two representatives from the European Union and three representatives from the ASEAN and European Union business community. The Director of AEMC is the Secretary of the Board.

We also have an Advisory Council, which advises the Management Board and the Director of AEMC on the current market needs and on the potential programmes, projects and activities of importance to the public and private sectors and to which they feel the Centre can be involved in.

Members of the Advisory Council numbering from six to 22 comprise executives of corporations, academic and research institutions and prominent figures of the business communities.

Q: What are the Centre's immediate programme and activities?

DIR: The Centre being a regional institution, will cater to the market needs of the region in particular with equipping executives of the private and public sectors. At the moment, there is a lot of economic activities in the Asia Pacific Rim, ASEAN, Indo-China and China and the time is appropriate with the establishment of the AEMC in Brunei Darussalam, which is situated in this growth area. Companies and multinationals, are paying particular attention to this region.

The Management Board Meeting on 11 and 12 May 1994, had agreed on three programmes to initially start our activities: two seminars and a conference or forum. The seminars would focus on the role of the governments in promoting private sector development and the challenges of estate management tentatively scheduled for October and November respectively. The forum will be on the challenges of ASEAN and EU managers in a global economic environment tentatively planned for March 1995. This will be a big event with prominent people as speakers.

We have several other ideas for programmes in the first two years. We are thinking of running a seminar on the theme of the small and medium scale enterprises, (SMEs). The seminar will focus on the success and failures of SMEs which have been compiled through research and experiences of these companies.

In addition, we hope to hold a conference with the theme of Multi-Cultural Management Development. The conference will highlight problems confronting managers of MNCs (multinational companies) and SMEs should they want to go global

or expand their business. There are a lot of companies outside this region which are keen to do business here. They may not have the know-how and the cultural sensitivities, so the conference will be timely as it covers the cross-cultural aspect of business.

Another theme on a workshop will be in the tourism area including air travel. As we noted earlier, this region is the playing fields of business activities - thus air traffic and tourism play a central role in moving people from places.

In brief, these cover the corporate issues which are important for the sustainability of organisations if they want to survive in this age of dynamic environment. They must be able to manage changes and capitalise on opportunities.

We will also be developing a databank on institutions in ASEAN and the European Union as well as those outside these two regions. These are institutions which are active in human resource development and management.

Q: I am impressed with the furnishing of the building. What facilities are available here?

We are very fortunate that the Brunei Government is furnishing the Centre to a corporate finish. We have excellent facilities to host conferences, seminars, meetings and training programmes. Our conference hall can easily accommodate 100 people. We have meeting rooms for 15 to 25 people, class and syndicate rooms and also accommodation area with 24 air-conditioned bedrooms. Of course the standard pedagogical equipment is available.

For further information

Anyone who is interested to know more information about the Centre is welcome to call the Director at ASEAN-EC Management Centre at (673-2) 445851/2 or write to the Director at Simpang 37, Jalan Kiulap, Gadong 3186, Brunei Darussalam or fax no (673-2) 445856. (Aishah Mohamed)

• From page 4 (Happy family)

on the norms of the community and religious values, continued to be the foundation towards maintaining unity, peace and progress of the country.

Since many years ago, Bruneians, the minister added, have already adopted noble values and virtues of family life which are founded upon the concept of Melayu Islam Beraja (MIB) or Malay Muslim Monarchy.

The word Malay in the first instance indicates the importance of modesty, concern and cooperation, respect for the elderly and close ties with family members. The word Monarchy on the other hand, denotes the significance of loyalty, leader and sovereignty, while Muslim incorporates the importance of knowledge, faith, [being] clean, and honest, trustworthy, mutually respectful [of one another] and numerous other traits, the minister stressed.

In a nutshell, these are the values upon which the family institution and community life are built upon.

Even though many changes have taken place in the community which have altered the role and functions of the family, it will continue to provide the structure as a source of comfort and financial support, [two of many contributing factors] that are necessary for the growth of children in particular, and family members in general. The family is also a proper place for providing the [necessary] care and concern for parents, the elderly, disabled and less fortunate, he added.

The family also constitutes an important agent for imparting moral values and instilling the importance of a noble character.

The declaration of the International Day of the Family by the United Nations on May 15 each year, the minister pointed out, reflects the commitment and support of the international community towards the significance of the family institution as an agent for constructive development and change in society.



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports exchanges words with a youngster from one of the large number of families taking part in activities marking the International Day of the Family on 15 May.



Above left and above right: Families watch from the grandstand as some of their children perform various presentations in conjunction with the International Day of the Family.

Forward to meeting skilled manpower needs



A general view of the Tanjung Bunut Secondary, which is one of many opened recently. Inset: the large assembly hall is among the school's prominent features.

Brunei Darussalam's efforts towards meeting its skilled manpower requirements have been intensified, particularly since it assumed full responsibility as a fully independent and sovereign nation on 1 January, 1984.

So much so that during the first decade of independence, the country has recorded one milestone after another in various fields of development,

including education which witnessed among other events, the birth of Universiti Brunei Darussalam at the end of 1986.

The education system is largely geared towards human resource development, thus many secondary schools, such as the Tanjung Bunut Secondary School shown in picture above, vocational and technical schools and colleges have been

built in the past ten years to provide better and improved standard of education with the ultimate aim of meeting the manpower needs in the professional, vocational and technical fields needed for the country's development.

Many more of such schools and colleges are being planned under the present Sixth Five-Year National Development Programme.

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 : 256 mm
 (annual 2,818mm)

PRIME LENDING RATE

April 5.75%
 (quoted by Bankers' Association)

Brunei Malay in a minute

Each fortnight through the Brunei Darussalam Newsletter, we introduce our readers to a new Brunei Malay word used only in the country.

We introduce the word **pungsu** in this edition.

Pungsu is ant-hill, and it's

busut in standard Malay.

Let's use the word **pungsu** in a sentence.

Pungsu ini telah ditimbun-kan oleh anai-anai, which translates as: This ant-hill has been made by termites.

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.