



His Majesty visits the People's Republic of China

BEIJING, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, April 5 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to attend the Official Welcoming Ceremony in Beijing, People's Republic of China.

Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

The arrival of His Majesty at the Eastern Plaza, Great Hall of the People, Tianemen Square in Beijing was welcomed by His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China.

His Majesty was then introduced to senior officers of the People's Republic of China followed by introductions of senior officers of His Majesty's Government to His Excellency the President of the People's Republic of China.

Shortly after, His Majesty was welcomed on to a special stage accompanied by His Excellency Xi Jinping. This was followed by the national anthems of both countries and a 21-gun salute.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam welcomed by His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, at the Eastern Plaza, Great Hall of the People, Tianemen Square in Beijing.



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His Majesty arrives in Beijing



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam upon arriving at the Beijing Capital International Airport and receiving a bouquet while being welcomed by His Excellency Gouping Cheng, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (responsible for Russia/Europe); and His Excellency Zheng Xianglin, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam as well as senior officers of the People's Republic of China.

BEIJING, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, April 4 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah

ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei

Darussalam arrived in the People's Republic of China for a state visit.

Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

His Majesty's arrival at the Beijing Capital International Airport was welcomed by His Excellency Gouping Cheng, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (responsible for Russia/Europe); and His Excellency Zheng Xianglin, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam, as well as senior officers of the People's Republic of China.

Also present at the airport welcoming His Majesty were Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Retired) Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar, Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office; and Her Excellency Datin Paduka Magdalene Teo Chee Siong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the People's Republic of China.

Since the establishment of diplomatic ties between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China in September 1991, the bilateral relationship between the two countries have steadily increased and grown closer.

His Majesty attends bilateral talks

BEIJING, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, April 5 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to attend a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Zhang Dejiang, Chairman of Standing Committee of the National People's Congress at the Great Hall of the People

The meeting was held at Tiananmen Square in Beijing in conjunction with the monarch's state visit.

Accompanying His Majesty was Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

Also accompanying His Majesty were Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, Minister of Finance II (Second) at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II (Second); Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Retired) Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar, Minister of Energy at the PMO; Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to attend a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Zhang Dejiang, the Chairman of Standing Committee of the National People's Congress at the Great Hall of the People at Tiananmen Square in Beijing in conjunction with the monarch's state visit to the republic.

Penggawa Laila Bentara Istiadat Diraja Dalam Istana Pengiran Haji Alauddin bin Pengiran Paduka Tuan Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar, Grand Chamberlain; Major General Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Abidin, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces; Her Excellency

Datin Paduka Magdalene Teo Chee Siong, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the People's Republic of China; His Excellency Zheng Xianglin, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam; and Permanent Secretaries at the PMO.

His Majesty visits Special Operations Brigade of Beijing Military Command



His Majesty consented to receive a pesambah from Colonel Jin Ming, Commander of Special Operation Brigade of Beijing Military Command.



His Majesty also consented to view an exhibition of military equipment showcasing vehicles and weapons.

BEIJING, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, April 5 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to visit the Special Operations Brigade of Beijing Military Command in the People's Republic of China.

Accompanying His Majesty was Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

His Majesty was welcomed by Colonel Jin Ming, Commander of Special Operations Brigade of Beijing Military Command.

His Majesty then consented to inspect the guard of honour. His Majesty then viewed a shooting performance as well as a free combat unarmed fighting performance.

His Majesty also witnessed exercises involving building climbing, para-shooting and static display as well as viewing an exhibition of military equipment such as vehicles and weapons.

At the end of the visit, His Majesty consented to receive a pesambah presented by the Commander of Special Operation Brigade of Beijing Military Command followed by a group photo session.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to inspect the guard of honour at Special Operations Brigade of Beijing Military Command in the People's Republic of China

His Majesty visits CNOOC Headquarters



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to visit the China National Offshore Oil Corporation Headquarters in Beijing, People's Republic of China.

BEIJING, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, April 6- His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to visit the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) Headquarters in Beijing, People's Republic of China.

Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin.

His Majesty's arrival was welcomed by Wang Yilin, Chairman of the CNOOC, who then introduced the senior officers of the company to His Majesty.

His Majesty was then ushered to a briefing room to receive a welcoming speech by the Chairman of the CNOOC followed by a briefing from the President of the CNOOC, Yang Hua.

Shortly after, His Majesty consented to receive a pesambah from the Chairman of the CNOOC and then join a group photo session.

During the visit, His Majesty was introduced to two officers from Brunei Shell Petroleum undergoing work attachment at the company.

His Majesty also viewed an exhibition on the history, development and daily operations of the CNOOC.

Also accompanying His Majesty



His Majesty speaking with two officers from the Brunei Shell Petroleum who are undergoing work attachment at the company.

were Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, Minister of Finance II (Second) at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II (Second); Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu

Singamanteri Colonel (Retired) Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar, Minister of Energy at the PMO; Her Excellency Datin Paduka Magdalene Teo Chee Siong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the People's Republic of China; and senior officers.

Brunei-China strengthens relations



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to meet His Excellency Li Keqiang, Premier of the People's Republic of China, at the Diaoyutai State Guest House Villa in Beijing.

BEIJING, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, April 6 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to meet the Premier of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Li Keqiang at the Diaoyutai State Guest House Villa in Beijing.

Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince

'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

His Majesty was welcomed by His Excellency Li Keqiang and then ushered to the Meeting Room.

During the meeting, His Majesty and His Excellency exchanged views regarding bilateral, regional and international issues.

After the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to attend a dinner banquet ceremony hosted by His Excellency Li Keqiang which took place at the Diaoyutai State Guest House, Beijing.

Also accompanying His Majesty were Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, Minister of Finance II (Second) at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II (Second); Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Retired) Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar, Minister of Energy at the PMO; Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Penggawa Laila Bentara Istiadat Diraja Dalam Istana Pengiran Haji Alauddin bin Pengiran Paduka Tuan Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar, Grand Chamberlain; Major General Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Abidin, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces; Her Excellency Datin Paduka Magdalene Teo Chee Siong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the People's Republic of China; His Excellency Zheng Xianglin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam; and Permanent Secretaries at the Prime Minister's Office.

His Majesty speaks at Boao Forum for Asia



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Plenary Session of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) at the BFA International Convention Centre.

BOAO, HAINAN PROVINCE, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, April 7 - As the Chair of ASEAN 2013, Brunei Darussalam has chosen the theme 'Our People, Our Future Together' which reflects the vision of ASEAN founders which understand that open conflict will only hinder the prospects

of national development and because of this must be committed to avoid from using any form of violence.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said this commitment continues to become the basic principle of interaction between ASEAN members and has been proven since 45 years of its existence that disagreement has never led to the level of conflict.

Speaking at the Plenary Session of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) at the BFA International Convention Centre, His Majesty emphasised that ASEAN has a role to promote peace and better cooperation amongst member countries.

His Majesty also spoke regarding the state of many countries in Asia which have successfully recovered from the global financial crisis and that the continuous economic success in Asia which has been further generated by the economic growth of the People's Republic of China that also contributed to the global economic recovery.

His Majesty explained that even though the success has brought Asia

forward, Asian countries will continue to face new challenges causing from uncertainty which continues to cover the global economic climate.

Global issues, His Majesty said, requires global response and this has made BFA as a valuable platform to share ideas on how to tackle these issues.

His Majesty spoke that because the current world is now interrelated, Asia's success will give a bigger contribution in the global arena and therefore Asian countries need to collectively share responsibilities in shaping a successful future.

His Majesty also explained that in the time countries efforts to develop together, they may face opposing political and economical priorities and this will test the perseverance of countries to share and live in harmony.

His Majesty also shared that among the issues faced by Asia and the world are climate change, global health and poverty eradication which demands a concerted effort.

During the session, His Majesty also congratulated His Excellency Ji Xiping on the appointment as President of the People's Republic of China and for the invitation for the State Visit and the BFA.

His Majesty holds bilateral meetings



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to hold separately bilateral meetings with The Honorable Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of Australia; and Her Excellency Christine Madeleine Odette Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, at the King Palm Room, Boao Forum for Asia International Convention Centre.

BOAO, HAINAN PROVINCE, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, 7 April - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to hold separate bilateral meetings with The Honorable Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of Australia; and Her Excellency Christine Madeleine Odette Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, at the King Palm Room, Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) International Convention Centre.

His Majesty first consented to hold a meeting with the Prime Minister of Australia where His Majesty and The Honorable exchanged views regarding bilateral, regional and international issues.

Shortly after, His Majesty consented to meet with the



Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund to discuss and exchange views regarding shared global and economic issues.

Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

Also accompanying His Majesty were Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, Minister of Finance II (Second) at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II (Second); Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Retired) Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar, Minister of Energy at the PMO; Her Excellency Datin Paduka Magdalene Teo Chee Siong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the People's Republic of China; and senior officers.

Brunei Darussalam – Philippines leaders discuss bilateral ties

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILLIPINES, MANILA, April 16 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to meet with His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino III, President of the Republic of the Philippines, to discuss bilateral ties as part of His Majesty's two-day visit to the republic.

Both leaders exchanged views regarding bilateral, regional and international issues. The bilateral meeting was held at the Music Room, Malacanang Palace in Manila.

Accompanying His Majesty were Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, Minister of Finance II (Second) at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II (Second); Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Retired) Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar, Minister of Energy at the PMO; and Her Excellency Malai Hajah Halimah binti Malai Haji Yussof, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of the Philippines.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to meet with His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino III, President of the Republic of the Philippines to discuss bilateral ties as part of His Majesty's two-day visit to the republic.

His Majesty inspects ASEAN Summit preparations



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to sign the plaque to officially open the Prime Minister's Office building.



His Majesty consented to look closer at the meeting facilities used for the summit

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 20 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to visit the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) building to inspect preparations being

undertaken to host the ASEAN Summit 2013.

Accompanying His Majesty were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the PMO and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

During the visit, His Majesty consented

to look closer at the facilities for the summit such as the meeting halls for the BIMP-EAGA meetings and the IMT-GT Summit, Press Conference Hall as well as the hall for the retreat.

His Majesty also visited the press working area for media personnel covering the event.

Maintain peace and stability of ASEAN



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with other ASEAN heads of states and governments at the 22nd ASEAN Summit held at the Prime Minister's Office building in Brunei Darussalam

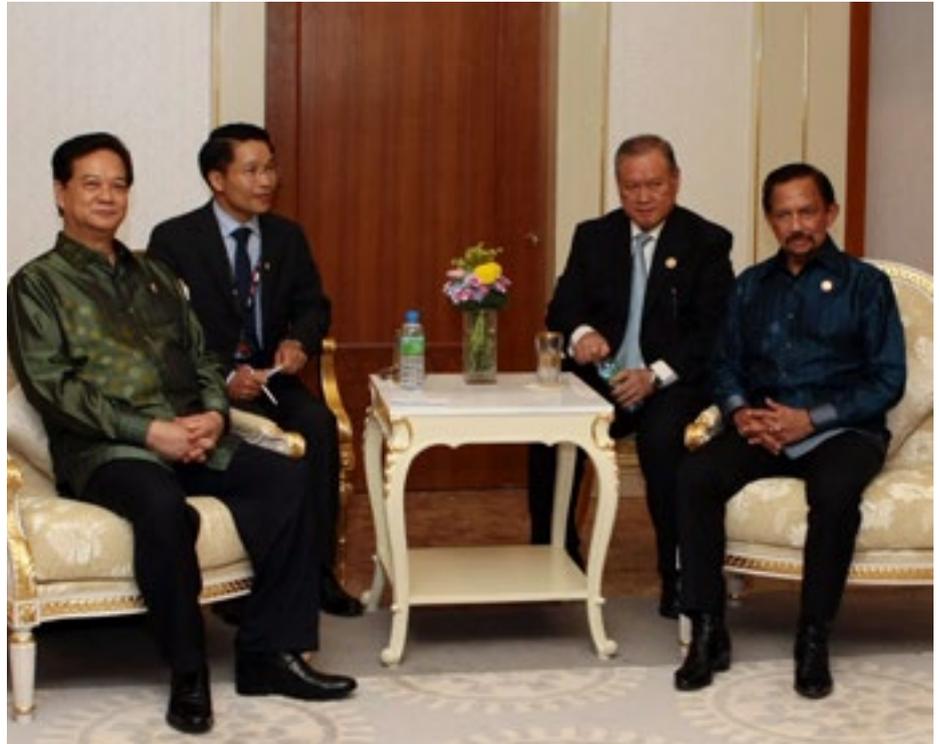
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 25 - The 22nd ASEAN Summit ended today with highlights on regional peace and stability, strengthening economic cooperation and developing relations between nations so that the future generation will be able to inherit a peaceful and prosperous ASEAN Community.

During the two-day summit, ASEAN heads of states and governments reexamined the development of the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community and discuss regional and international issues as well as exchange views regarding the direction and future of ASEAN.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as Chairman of the 22nd ASEAN Summit highlighted this during the press conference for the summit which was held at the Media Conference Hall, Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

His Majesty also shared that the ASEAN heads of states and governments felt satisfied on the development of the relations between ASEAN and its dialogue partners and outside parties, especially on their support and contribution towards the efforts of community development.

In the discussion during the Working Dinner Banquet held to mark the start of the 22nd ASEAN Summit, His Majesty with the Heads of ASEAN states and governments focused on the work under



His Majesty also consented to hold a Bilateral Meeting with His Excellency Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to exchange views regarding bilateral, regional and international issues.

the fields of the three pillars of the ASEAN Community namely ASEAN Political-Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.

After the working dinner banquet, His Majesty consented to hold a Bilateral Meeting with His Excellency Nguyen Tan

Dung, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to exchange views regarding bilateral, regional and international issues

Meanwhile during the Retreat Session, the ASEAN Heads of State and Government discussed issues related to ASEAN Community 2015 including ASEAN Political-Security Community; ASEAN Economic Community; ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community; ASEAN Integration Initiative; Masterplan for ASEAN Connectivity; the Main Role of ASEAN and Regional Architecture; and the direction of the ASEAN Community after 2015.

The retreat session is to discuss issues related to the theme 'Our People, Our Future Together' with emphasis towards the community and future of ASEAN after 2015.

While chairing the 9th Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines East Asian Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Summit, His Majesty explained that sub-regional cooperation is still relevant as it can give added value to the works of leaders in ASEAN.

His Majesty added that last year, leaders agreed on the BIMP-EAGA 2012 Implementation Action Framework, which lists several important projects to be implemented in the coming years and ensure the development continues to flourish in the region.

Therefore, His Majesty welcomed the reports of achievements since the blueprint was approved and to find out how the ASEAN member counties can improve efforts to increase cooperation in the sub-regional level.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with the other BIMP-EAGA leaders at the 9th BIMP-EAGA Summit held in Bandar Seri Begawan.

His Majesty receives in audience ASEAN Finance Ministers



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience the ASEAN Finance Ministers, heads of ASEAN delegations and ASEAN Central Bank Governors Troika who are in Brunei Darussalam attending the 17th ASEAN Finance Ministers Meeting.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 3 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience the ASEAN Finance Ministers, heads of ASEAN delegations and ASEAN Central Bank Governors Troika who are in Brunei Darussalam attending the 17th ASEAN Finance Ministers Meeting.

Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Also present at the audience ceremony were Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, Minister of Finance II (Second) at the PMO; and Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Bahrin bin Abdullah, Deputy Minister of Finance.

Also attending the ceremony was His Excellency Le Luong Minh, ASEAN Secretary-General.

The ceremony took place at the Istana Nurul Iman in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Brunei Darussalam is hosting the 17th ASEAN Finance Ministers Meeting from April 3 to 4 2013.



His Majesty awards prizes to Quran reading competition winners



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to award prizes to the winners of the adult level National Al-Quran Reading Competition for the year 1434 Hijriah corresponding to the year 2013.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 18 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to award prizes to the winners of the adult level National Al-Quran Reading Competition for the year 1434 Hijriah

corresponding to the year 2013.

First place qari and qariah went to Awangku Haji Mohammad Adibul Amin bin Pengiran Haji Marjuki and Dayang Hajah Maidah binti Haji Abdul Rahman. Runner-up winners for the qari and qariah were Awang Haji Ismail and Dayang Nurfaezah binti Haji Emran while second runner-up winners for the qari and qariah went to

Awang Muhammad Zul Hafiz bin Haji Tengah and Dayang Hajah Nur Akmalina binti Haji Yahya.

The two Quran reading competition winners who each won BND 7,000; trophies and certificates will be representing Brunei Darussalam at the International Reading Competition, which will be held in Kuala Lumpur.

Read the Quran before starting daily duties



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office consented to deliver a sabda (royal speech) which reminded all regarding His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan's titah for the year 1412 Hijriah which called for all government officers and staff to read the Quran before starting their daily duties.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 16 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office consented to attend the finals of the adult level National Al-Quran Reading

Competition for the year 1434 Hijriah corresponding to the year 2013.

His Royal Highness' arrival was welcomed by Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Religious Affairs as the chairman of the executive committee of the competition and other members of the committee.

Accompanying His Royal Highness was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah then consented to deliver a sabda (royal speech) which reminded of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan's titah for the year 1412 Hijriah that encourages all government officers and staff to read the Quran before starting their daily duties.

His Royal Highness called for the efforts to increase the habit of reading the Quran before starting daily duties so that it will become a culture among government officers and staff.

His Royal Highness explained that His Majesty's wish is clear that with the blessings of the Qur'an, any task and service of the government officer and staff will always be led by the guidance from Allah SWT.

His Royal Highness also spoke of His Majesty's determination to emphasise the importance of religious education with the formulation of the Compulsory Religious Education Order 2012 to ensure there will be no child left behind from understanding and learning the basics of Islamic knowledge.

Twelve participants took part in the final level of the competition. The competition themed 'Al-Quran the Light of the Hereafter' was held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Dinner Banquet to welcome ASEAN leaders' spouses



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to attend a dinner banquet held to welcome the spouses of ASEAN Heads of states and governments.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 24 - Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to host a dinner banquet to welcome the spouses of ASEAN Heads of states and governments.

Her Majesty also received in audience the wife of the Prime Minister of Singapore, Mrs. Lee Hsien Loong and the wife of the president of the Republic of Indonesia, Datin Ibu Ani Bambang Yudhoyono.

The event took place at Istana Darul Hana.

Also attending were Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatulk Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.

Also in attendance were the wives of cabinet ministers and deputy ministers, the wife of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces commander and the wife of the Royal Brunei Police Force commissioner.

His Royal Highness attends DPMM FC vs Woodlands Wellington FC match



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office consented to watch the S-League Tournament match between DPMM Football Club against Woodlands Wellington Football Club.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 31 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office consented to watch the S-League Tournament match between DPMM Football Club against Woodlands Wellington Football Club.

Accompanying His Royal Highness was Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Salleh Ab Rahaman.

Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul 'Aleem as well as other royal family members.

DPMM FC won 1-0 and manage to collect three points and move to the fifth position.

His Royal Highness officially launches 60th Anniversary of the National Housing Plan Celebration



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office launched the 60th Anniversary of the National Housing Plan held at the BRIDEX International Defence Exhibition Centre in Jerudong.

JERUDONG, April 1 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office consented to officially launch the

60th Anniversary of the National Housing Plan Celebration held at the Brunei International Defence Exhibition (BRIDEX), the Ministry of Defence, Jerudong.

Accompanying His Royal Highness was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

The ceremony began with the recital of Surah Al-Fatihah and doa selamat. This was followed by welcoming remarks by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, Minister of Development.

The ceremony continued with His Royal Highness delivering a sabda (royal speech) and then consented to open the capsule marking the launch of the the 60th Anniversary of the National Housing Plan Celebration.

Symbolically, the opening of the capsule symbolises the direction of the National Housing Plan in implementing housing programmes across the country to increase the development of housing to meet the needs of people in the country in line with Brunei Darussalam's Vision 2035 to ensure the welfare of the people and the country will always be guaranteed.

Guests were entertained with a choir performance from the Housing Development Department entitled 'Rumahku Syurga Impianku'. His Royal Highness then proceeded onwards to launch the book 'Tiang Sari' special edition issued by the Housing Development Department and visited an exhibition organised to celebrate the 60th National Housing Plan.

His Majesty's government committed to providing housing for citizens

JERUDONG, April 1 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office said that families who are happy and complete will be able to produce a harmonious society that practices moral values in religion, as a community and a state.

His Royal Highness stated that upbringing from home will be able to produce citizens who obey Allah the Almighty, loyal to the king, love the country and are devoted to their parents and family.

When this becomes a reality, His Royal Highness explained, a country, which is peaceful and prosperous, and gain blessings and pleasure of Allah the Almighty will exist and this is the vision and true target that we wish to attain and achieve by the National Housing Plan.

His Royal Highness added that it is because of this rationale that the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam wants to see citizens owning houses which are suitable according to the needs and affordability of each of them.

His Royal Highness said that the national housing is a gift with very high

value for the beneficiaries because a house is not just a physical asset to its owners and not just a shelter from the heat and rain. It is a place where we can build and grow the welfare and harmony for family. With a conducive environment, the home is where we can take care of and teach our family members. We want every family member to become a wholesome and honourable person.

Thus, His Royal Highness urged for house-owners to take full advantage of the house allocated to them by not leaving it empty and unoccupied, or rented.

In addition, His Royal Highness said, neighborliness, tolerance and respect must be present and become the cultural practices of the community for so long and also be strengthened by the residents of the National Housing Plan.

"The period of 60 years implementing the National Housing Plan is a long time. It clearly shows the vigorous commitment of His Majesty's Government to provide housing for the people. The goal is very clear, which is to meet the people's needs in terms of quality and duration of owning a home. In the context of our country, I want to see housing applicants under the National Housing Plan to be able to own a house within a period not exceeding five years in 2021. I am fully confident that the



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office delivering a sabda at the 60th Anniversary of the National Housing Plan held at the BRIDEX International Defence Exhibition Centre in Jerudong.

target of not more than five years is a goal that is practical and can be achieved," said His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness spoke at the ceremony celebrating the 60th anniversary of the National Housing Plan held at the BRIDEX International Defence Exhibition Centre in Jerudong.

Her Royal Highness PAIPA Sarah attends Birthday Celebration



Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman consented to cut the cake to celebrate Her Royal Highness' birthday which was presented by the Brunei Ladies Golf Association.

JERUDONG, April 14 - Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman consented to attend a ceremony to celebrate Her Royal Highness' birthday, presented by the Brunei Ladies Golf Association.

The event took place at the Tarindak d'Polo Restaurant, Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club in Jerudong.

Her Royal Highness' arrival was welcomed by the Chairperson of BLGA, Yang Dimuliakan Seri Laila Pengiring Diraja Datin Seri Utama Dayang Hajah Rosnah binti Abdullah.

The event was filled with a group photo session, a cake-cutting session as well as performances from members of the BLGA.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah receives in audience Ambassador of Mongolia

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 4 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, received in audience Her Excellency Delgermaa Banzragch, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to Brunei Darussalam.

During the audience ceremony, His Royal Highness and Her Excellency discussed regarding bilateral relations.

Her Excellency presented Letters of Credence to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in October 2012 and is based in Singapore.

The audience ceremony took place at the Balai Penghadapan at Bukit Kayangan.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, received in audience Her Excellency Delgermaa Banzragch, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to Brunei Darussalam.

Dinner banquet for ASEAN Foreign Ministers



The ASEAN Foreign Ministers during the dinner banquet held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

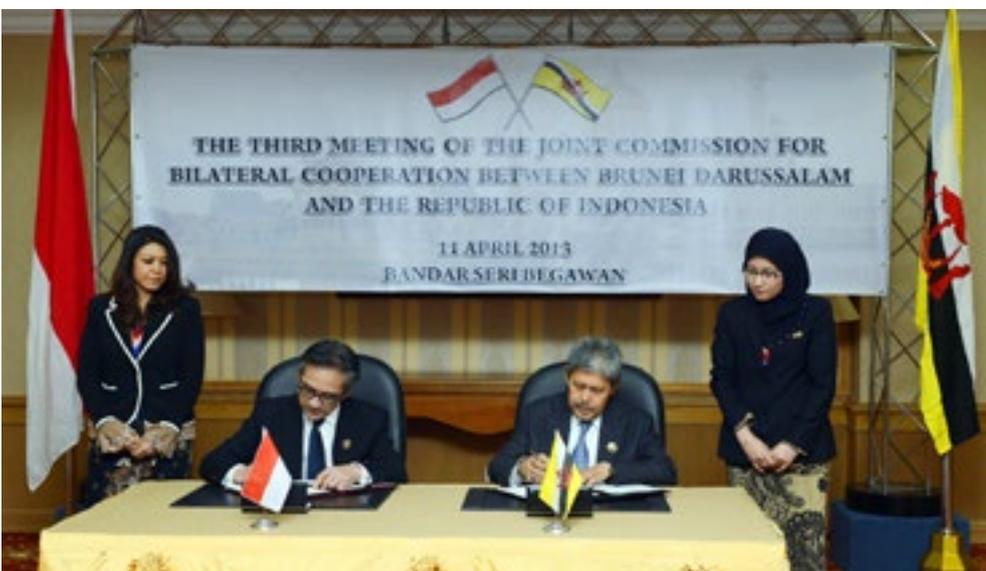
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 10 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade as the Chairman of the 22nd ASEAN

Foreign Ministers Meeting, hosted a dinner banquet for the ASEAN Foreign Ministers at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

During the banquet, His Royal Highness informed the ASEAN Foreign

Ministers and His Excellency Le Luong Minh, ASEAN Secretary General, regarding the preparations for the 22nd ASEAN Summit which will be held in Bandar Seri Begawan on April 24 to 25, 2013

Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia strengthen bilateral ties



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Dr. Marty Natalegawa signing the meeting minutes for the Third Meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation Between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Indonesia.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 11 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and His Excellency Dr. Marty Natalegawa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, co-chaired the 3rd Meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation Between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Indonesia.

The meeting was held at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

Both ministers delivered statements which emphasized the great development in bilateral relations between both countries and emphasised the commitment to strengthen bilateral, regional and international relations.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah chairs 12th ACC Meeting



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade as the Chairman of the 22nd ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting chaired several meetings including the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat, the 9th APSC Meeting and the 12th ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC). Also attending the meeting was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-At-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 11 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade as the Chairman of the 22nd ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting chaired several meetings including the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat, the 9th ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Council Meeting and the 12th ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) Meeting.

The meetings were as preparations for the 22nd ASEAN Summit, which will be held in Bandar Seri Begawan from April 24 to 25.

Also attending the meeting was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-At-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the ASEAN Foreign Ministers.

The meeting among others discussed ASEAN development since the previous ASEAN Summit including political and security cooperation, Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, efforts in publishing the ASEAN Security Outlook as well as receiving several reports to be submitted to the heads of ASEAN states and governments.

Besides this, the meeting also exchanged views regarding various regional and international issues shared by member countries.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah chairs 9th APSC Meeting



The ASEAN Foreign Ministers at the 9th Meeting of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Council held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 11 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade as the Chairman of the 22nd ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting chaired the 9th ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Council Meeting.

The meeting, which was held at the International Convention Centre, Berakas is the preparatory meeting for the 22nd ASEAN Summit which will be held in the country from April 24 to 25.

Also attending the meeting was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-At-

Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and ASEAN Foreign Ministers.

The meeting among others discussed ASEAN development since the previous ASEAN Summit including political and security cooperation besides receiving reports to be submitted to the heads of ASEAN states and governments.

His Royal Highness graces National Athlete Evaluation and Selection Meeting



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) consented to attend the National Athlete Evaluation and Selection Executive Committee Meeting.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 30 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) consented to attend the National Athlete Evaluation and Selection Executive Committee Meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohammad Hamid bin Haji Mohd. Jaafar, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

The meeting was held to evaluate athlete nominations

submitted by the National Sports Associations to participate in the 3rd Islamic Solidarity Games in Riau, Indonesia, the 4th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games and the Asia Youth Championship in Nanning, China.

Also attending the meeting was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports; and the Director of Youth and Sports Department as well as other members of the Executive Committee.

5th Youth Dialogue



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul 'Azim ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah consented to attend the Fifth Youth Dialogue held at the Main Hall of the Tutong District Community Hall.

TUTONG, April 11 - His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul 'Azim ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah consented to attend the 5th Youth Dialogue held at the Main Hall of the Tutong District Community Hall.

The arrival of His Royal Highness was welcomed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

The Youth Dialogue is held as a platform for youth to voice out ideas, views, hopes and wishes in facing the challenges and contributions that they can give to the community and country.

More than 200 youths aged from 15 to 40 years comprised of students from secondary schools in the Tutong District, Youth Associations from all districts; Brunei-Muara, Belait, Temburong; 'Belia Cinta Tanah Air' group; former participants

of the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Programme and the Tutong Youth Council.

Also attending the dialogue were Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Adina binti Othman, Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports; members of the Legislative Council; Permanent Secretaries; senior government officers as well as officers and staff of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

HRH Prince 'Abdul Azim officially launches ASEAN Autism Network Congress



His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah consented to launch the 2nd ASEAN Autism Network (AAN) Congress which was held in Brunei Darussalam.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 12 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah consented to launch the 2nd ASEAN Autism Network (AAN) Congress which was held in Brunei Darussalam.

Welcoming His Royal Highness to the congress were Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports; Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Adina binti Othman, Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports; and Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yusoff bin Haji Ismail, Deputy Minister of Education.

In his welcoming remarks, Malai Haji Abdullah bin Malai Hj Othman, President of SMARTER Brunei and Chairman of AAN said the congress which is held in April coincides with the month held to spread awareness of autism, which aims to raise awareness of advocating families who have children with autism in efforts to support and promote an inclusive community based on the rights of individuals with autism in accordance with UNESCAP Incheon Strategy which is 'Make the Right Real' for individuals with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific 2013-2022.

Brunei Darussalam, he explained, is honored to become the second host of the AAN Congress for three days starting from 27 April to 29 April 2013, organised by SMARTER Brunei Association in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture,



His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim also consented to view the exhibition which showcased several agencies including the Child Development Centre, Ministry of Health.

Youth and Sports, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education.

He said the congress aims are, among others, to serve as an effective forum for the autism community in the ASEAN region and serve as an important platform for networking among participants with the purpose of sharing knowledge, information, skills and strategies.

During the three-day congress themed 'Towards Autism Friendly, ASEAN Community', participants will have the

opportunity to hear presentations from professional speakers from abroad and AAN members that also support the issues and related fields were also invited.

SMARTER Association was established in September 2001 and it aims to provide and use real-life activities in a real-life environment in a seamless journey toward self-reliance. Apart from that also to educate, build and develop individuals with autism in matters of social, training, education and psychological achievement.

'Happy with Us' Day Celebration

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 31 - The Child Development Centre and Health Promotion Centre of Ministry of Health in cooperation with the Down Syndrome Association organised the Happy with Us Celebration in conjunction with World Down Syndrome Day 2013.

The activity held at the Silver Jubilee Park was officiated by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mohd. Yusof, Minister of Health.

The event started with a warm-up aerobic session, a walk around the park and viewing an exhibition by the Down Syndrome Association.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mohd. Yusof, Minister of Health at the Happy with Us Celebration in conjunction with World Down Syndrome Day 2013.



Apps for Divers launched



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources launching the 'Discover Brunei Diving App'.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 28 - Diving enthusiasts and iPad users in the country can now explore under water to locate diving areas with the launching of 'Discover Brunei: Diving App' for iPads.

By downloading the app, users and diving enthusiasts will be able to find diving locations conveniently.

The launching ceremony took place at the iCentre Office by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji

Bakar, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources.

Also at the launching ceremony were Keeran Janin, MeSixty Chief Executive Officer; Yves Grosjean, Total E&P Borneo General Manager; and His Excellency Jean Yves Berthaud, Ambassador of France to Brunei Darussalam.

Among the app contents are latest information on diving locations which is useful and beneficial for divers as well as information on visiting Brunei Darussalam especially for divers.

Women achievements increases in various fields

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 26 - Women's achievement in the country is the result of the continuous effort of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with the support of the private sector and the civil community.

Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Adina binti Othman, Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, highlighted this during the Seminar Wanita Hebat (Great Women Seminar) held at the Digadong Hall, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

The Deputy Minister explained that according to the population statistics in 2011, women form 48 percent of the whole population.

According to her, the literacy rate for the whole country has risen to 96.7 in the year 2011 and for women it has reached 95.4 percent compared to 91.5 percent in the year 2001 and only 8.3 percent in the year 1947.

In education, she mentioned, female students are on par with male students in the rate of primary school registration whereas in tertiary education, female students exceed the amount of male students.

Besides this, she added, the rate of UBD graduates in the year 2011 have shown female graduates are twice more than the amount of male graduates whereas female graduates also make up



Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Adina binti Othman, Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, delivering a speech at the Seminar Wanita Hebat (Great Women Seminar) held at the Digadong Hall, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

65 percent of the total amount of graduates from UBD, Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali and Institut Teknologi Brunei in the same year.

"In this country, 40.9 percent of the workforce is made up of women. Women also make up 51 percent of the civil service where they fill 29 percent of the

total number of senior posts in Division 1 and 60 percent in Division 2. Women also play an important role in the business sector", the Deputy Minister added.

The seminar was held in conjunction with the 2013 International Women's Day celebration with the theme 'Gender Agenda: Reaching a Momentum'.

Charity Walkathon for Gaza, Palestine and Bopha, Philippines Humanitarian Fund

BERAKAS, March 27 - Efforts to collect financial donations for the Gaza, Palestine and Bopha, Philippines Humanitarian Funds are continuously being held.

The members of the Defence Executive Committee, Ministry of Defence and Bolkiah Garrison held a charity walkathon to collect both humanitarian funds.

The walkathon, which was participated, by 250 men and 250 women was led by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Brigadier Jeneral Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Mohd. Tawih bin Abdullah, Acting Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

Among those who joined were Awang Haji Azhar bin Haji Ahmad, Acting Permanent Secretary (Defence Policy and Development) Minister of Defence; directors and army and civilian officers.



Acting Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Brigadier General Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Mohd. Tawih bin Abdullah leading the walkathon to support the Gaza, Palestine and Bopha, Philippines Humanitarian Funds.