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Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam newsletter

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# Paddy project for self-sufficiency

**PANGKALAN BATU, April 27** – Brunei Darussalam's aim to achieve self-sufficiency in its rice production reached a high note with the launching of a project emphasising on paddy production and the declaration of a new local rice called 'Beras Laila'.

Present to launch the project and to declare the new local rice was His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at Wasan Paddy Farm in Kampong Wasan.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

After the launching ceremony, His Majesty visited the preparation plot for seedlings where His Majesty used a drum-seeder, a manual machine which reduces effort, time and costs of farmers to plant rice seeds.

His Majesty then visited several farm sites in Wasan used for rice cultivation; planted paddy using paddy transplanter; and observed closely an exhibition on food security. His Majesty also took a closer look on Wasan and Bebuloh's farming infrastructure and activities of the Philippine

Continue on page 9



His Majesty plants Beras Laila seedlings using the traditional method.



PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN

# New laws approved



PHOTOS: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

The Honourable Dato Paduka Haji Kifrawi bin Dato Paduka Haji Kifli delivering speech at the Opening of New Legal Year 2009.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 7** – Four new laws had been approved consisting of Criminal Registration Order 2008; Custom Order (Amendment) 2008; Islamic Bank Order 2008; and Takaful Order 2008.

The Attorney General, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Kifrawi stated the matter at the Opening of Legal Year 2009 at the High Court — Supreme Court Building.

Since the previous legal year, 10 more laws had been revised. They were Debtor Act (Section 195); Electronic Transaction Act (Section 196); Violence Eradicate Act (Financial and other measures) (Section 197), Tokyo Convention Act (Section 198); and Distress Act (Section 199).

The laws that were also revised were Sungai Liang Authority Act (Section 200); Asian Development Bank Act (Section 201), Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation's Act (Section 166); Internal Security Act (Procedure 1 from Section 133); and Legislative Council and Council and Ministers (Remuneration and Privileges) (Section 134).

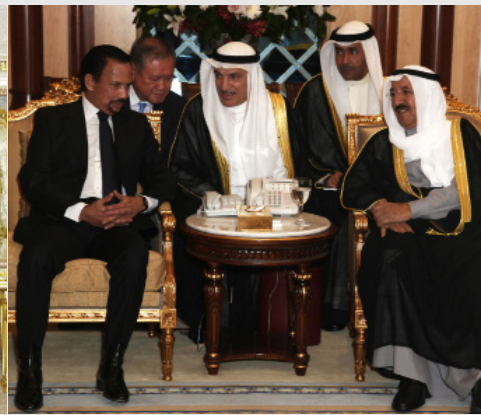
The laws of Brunei Darussalam could be accessed through Attorney General chamber official website [www.agc.gov.bn](http://www.agc.gov.bn)



**7** Paddy project for self-sufficiency



**2** His Majesty receives audience from Malaysian Prime Minister



**9** His Majesty's on state visit to Kuwait



**10** Royalty grace special gathering celebrate Maulud



**11** March 31 declared 'Hari Adat Istiadat'



**11** UNISSA forms Army Cadet Team



**13** HRH attends NAM meeting



**16** Brunei-Singapore sign MoU on cooperation



**17** World Autism Awareness Day celebrates every April 2



MARCH/APRIL 2009 | VOLUME 24 ISSUE 3/4

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# Brunei-Malaysia sign 'Exchange of Letters'



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

Their Majesties and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri receive in audience The Right Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah and wife, Datin Seri Jeane Abdullah.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 16** – An 'Exchange of Letters' was signed between His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and The Right Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah Haji Badawi, the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

This is a historic moment between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia as the document include maritime boundaries between both countries, the establishment of 'Commercial Arrangement Area' (CAA) in the oil and gas sector and ways to resolve issues on land boundary between the two countries.

Prior to the signing of the letters, the Malaysian Prime Minister and his wife were received in an audience to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang

Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty the Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri held at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present at the audience were His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and other members of the royal family.

After the audience, His Majesty and The Right Honourable held a meeting at another part of the royal palace.

To honour the work visit by The Right Honourable and his wife to Brunei Darussalam, Their Majesties and Her



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

His Majesty and The Right Honourable signing the 'Exchange of Letters' at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri hosted a luncheon right after the signing of the 'Exchange of Letters'.

The Right Honourable and his wife ended their two-day working visit to Brunei Darussalam on March 16.

**ISTANA NURUL IMAN, April 29** – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri received in audience The Right Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib and wife, Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah.

The audience took place at Cheradi Lalla Kenchana of Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Senior Minister, Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri and other members of the royal family.

Later in the evening, Their Majesties and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri hosted a dinner banquet in honour of the two-day work visit by The Right Honourable and his wife to Brunei Darussalam.

The audience and banquet were held at Cheradi Ratna Kenchana and Baitur Rahmah respectively of the Istana Nurul Iman.

The Right Honourable's itinerary included

## His Majesty receives in audience new Malaysian Prime Minister



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

Their Majesties and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri receive in audience The Right Honourable Dato' Sri Najib and wife, Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah.

a golf game at The Empire Hotel & Country Club in Jerudong. The Right Honourable and wife left Brunei Darussalam on April 30.

## Ways to enhance cooperation discussed

**ISTANA NURUL IMAN, April 29** – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Right Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib held a one-to-one meeting at the Cheradi Ratna Kenchana.

During the meeting, both leaders discussed matters related with the bilateral relationship between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia especially

the ways to enhance the cooperation between both countries including regional and international affairs.

Since the diplomatic ties in January 1984, cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia has been continuously in strengthened and expanded in various fields including trade and investment, education, culture, health, broadcasting and information, transport and defence.

At the highest level, the annual meeting between His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Prime Minister of Malaysia have been implemented since 1997.

The Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Right Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib and Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah were in the country for a two-day working visit.



PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH ①



PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH ②

**His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from:**

- ① The Secretary of Agriculture of the Republic of Philippines, The Honourable Arthur Cua Yap on March 4.
- ② The Foreign Minister of Republic of Singapore, The Honourable George Teo and delegation on March 14.
- ③ The Royal Thai Armed Forces' Chief of Defence, General Songkitti Jaggabatars on March 19.



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH ③

PHOTOS: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT, HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN



**His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on April 4 presented diplomatic accreditations to newly-appointed ambassadors at the Istana Nurul Iman:**

- ① His Excellency Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Abu Bakar bin Pengiran Seri Indera Pengiran Haji Ismail, the newly-appointed Brunei's Ambassador to Cambodia.
- ② His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Ishaaq bin Haji Abdullah, the newly-appointed Brunei's Ambassador to Egypt.



**His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on April 4 received credentials from newly-appointed foreign envoys at the Istana Nurul Iman:**

- ③ His Excellency Mark Douglas Sawers, the newly-appointed Australia's High Commissioner to Brunei.
- ④ His Excellency Boyko Hristov Mirchev; the newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador of Bulgaria to Brunei.
- ⑤ His Excellency Salaheddin Mohamed El Bishari, the newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador of Libya to Brunei.



PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR



PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

**Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from:**

- ❶ The wife of the Thai Chief of Defence Force, Madam Poranee Jaggabatara on March 19.
- ❷ The spouse of Brunei Darussalam’s newly-appointed Ambassador to Thailand, Datin Hajah Sialam binti Haji Metussin on March 19.
- ❸ The spouse of the newly-appointed High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam, Madam Momtaz Ahsan on April 20.
- ❹ The spouse of Brunei Darussalam’s newly-appointed Ambassador to Cambodia, Pengiran Anak Datin Hajah Morul Aiyun binti Pengiran Indera Mahkota Pengira Anak (Dr.) Kamaluddin Al-Haj and the spouse of Brunei Darussalam newly-appointed Ambassador to Egypt, Datin Hajah Mastura binti Haji Awang on April 20.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN



PHOTOS: MASRI OSMAN



PHOTOS: MASRI OSMAN

**His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:**

- ❶ Brunei Darussalam’s newly-appointed Ambassador to Cambodia, His Excellency Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Abu Bakar; and Brunei Darussalam’s newly-appointed Ambassador to Egypt, His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Ishaq on April 9.
- ❷ The newly-appointed High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mark Douglas Sawers on

**His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent congratulatory messages to:**

- The President of the Republic of Bulgaria, His Excellency Georgi Purvanov in conjunction with the 131<sup>st</sup> National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria on March 3.
- The President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency John Evans Atta Mills in conjunction with the 52<sup>nd</sup> National Day of the Republic of Ghana on March 6.
- The President of the Republic of Ireland, Her Excellency Mary McAleese in conjunction with St. Patrick’s Day on March 17.
- The President of Tunisia, His Excellency Zine el Abidine Bin Ali and Prime Minister Mohamed Ghannouchi on the occasion of the country’s 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Independence Day on March 20.
- The President of Pakistan, His Excellency Asif Ali Zardani and Prime Minister, His Excellency Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani on the occasion of 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pakistan Day on March 23.
- The President of the Republic of Greece, His Excellency Karolos Papoulias in conjunction with the 188<sup>th</sup> National Day of the Republic of Greece on March 25.
- The President of the Republic of Bangladesh, His Excellency Hossain Zillur Rahman and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina Wajed in conjunction with the 38<sup>th</sup> National Day of the Republic of Bangladesh on March 26.
- The Right Honourable Dato’ Seri Haji Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak in conjunction with his appointment as the new Prime Minister of Malaysia on April 3.
- His Excellency Bashar Al-Assad, the President of the Syrian Arab Republic on the occasion of the country’s Independence Day on April 17.
- Her Majesty Queen Koningin Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgard, Queen of The Netherlands in conjunction with “Queen’s Day” on April 30.
- His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf, The King of Sweden in conjunction with the birthday anniversary of King Carl XVI Gustaf on April 30.

# Religious education panacea for social ills



PHOTO: HERNE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

His Majesty delivers his *titah* at the Istana Nurul Iman.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 9** – It is important to look back on the examples set by Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) and his companions especially in today's world where it faces moral decadence and challenges.

This was said by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with a celebration to mark the birthday anniversary of Prophet Muhammad for the Islamic year 1430.

His Majesty further said, like an ill

person, we should not be silent but find the medicine. One example of the illness is weak religious knowledge. The medicine according to Prophet Muhammad's teaching is through lifetime learning. This is based on a hadith where Muslims are obliged to seek religious knowledge from the start to the end of their lives.

Brunei Darussalam celebrates the birthday anniversary of Prophet Muhammad where the main highlight will be a mass gathering held at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin in the capital.



PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joins the procession to mark the birthday anniversary of Prophet Muhammad around the capital.

## His Majesty leads Maulud march

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 9** – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam graced the mass gathering to mark the birthday anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-

Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Azim, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

Some 20,000 people joined this year's mass gathering for a 4.3km

procession around the capital. More than 150 teams comprising government ministries and departments, schools and the private sector took part in the procession. Similar events were held in other districts throughout the country.

The theme for this year is 'Kedewasaan Bernegara dengan Zikir'.

## Sustainability Fund established

**JALAN KEBANGSAAN LAMA, March 12** – A 'Sustainability Fund' has been set up under the supervision of the Ministry of Finance for a better management of the government's revenue effective March 11, 2008.

This was stated by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* (royal speech) at the opening of the First Meeting for the 5<sup>th</sup> of the State Legislative Council held at the Council's hall.

This fund, according to His Majesty, is vital as a result of government revenues received from the recent oil price hike that took place before the global financial crisis. It also aims to manage government spending either for those beyond our control or expectations like the extraordinary flash flood and landslides that recently happened throughout Brunei.

His Majesty further said that the recent flash flood and landslides had given an impact on a large number of

residents and citizens of this country. He said that besides the provided assistance, the way forward to update the nation's infrastructure should be looked into so that basic and main necessities would not be missed.

Hence an amount of \$30 million has been allocated for this purpose. This allocated budget would speed up efforts and steps taken to repair, maintain and elevate the infrastructure and other public facilities.

## \$4.9 billion approved for 2009 -2010 budget

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 23** – An amount of about \$4.9 billion has been approved by the State Legislative Council for the 2009-2010 fiscal year budget. The approved budget would take into effect on April 1, 2009.

According to the Minister of Finance II, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Rahman, the budget approved was for the 12 ministries and 34 National Development Projects.

Below is the detailed information of the allocated budget;

• Prime Minister's Office	-	\$519, 586,160.00
• Ministry of Finance	-	\$966, 819,193.00
• Ministry of Education	-	\$598, 797,630.00
• Ministry of Defence	-	\$292, 022,550.00
• Ministry of Development	-	\$342, 025,500.00
• Ministry of Health	-	\$286, 818,470.00
• Ministry of Religious Affairs	-	\$214, 393,100.00
• Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade	-	\$170, 638, 690.00
• Ministry of Home Affairs	-	\$149, 363, 745.00
• Ministry of Culture, Youth & Sports	-	\$79, 377, 820.00
• Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources	-	\$75, 116, 980.00
• Ministry of Communications	-	\$74, 490, 290.00



PHOTO: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN

**\$4.9 million budget provided for year 2009 – 2010. Photo shows: His Majesty delivers his titah on the first-day of the State Legislative Council meeting.**

## His Majesty attends ASEAN Summit

**PATTAYA, THAILAND, April 10** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam arrived in Pattaya, Thailand to attend the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit with Dialogue Partners.

The ASEAN Summit with Dialogue Partners (ASEAN Related Summits) is held from April 11-12 where it include separate summits for ASEAN and China; ASEAN and Republic of Korea (ROK); ASEAN and Japan; ASEAN+3 countries and India; ASEAN and the United Nations; and, East Asia Summit (EAS). The theme of the Summit was 'Acting Together to Cope with Global Challenges'. The Heads of State and Government will discuss ASEAN's cooperation and its future direction as well as exchange views on regional and international affairs with Dialogue Partners from the Asia Pacific and the UN.

The EAS brought together Heads of State and Government of ASEAN, Australia, China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea and New Zealand.

The 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Pattaya is a continuation of the Summit which was held in Cha-am Hua Hin in February 2009.

## His Majesty receives Malaysian Prime Minister

**PATTAYA THAILAND, 10 April** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience the Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Right Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib at the Hotel Royal Cliff Beach Resort.

At the meeting, His Majesty and The Right Honourable exchanged ideas on the bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia.

Prior to the meeting, His Majesty with other ASEAN leaders attended the 'Informal Working Dinner' at the Hotel Royal Cliff Beach Resort.

His Majesty and The Prime Minister of Malaysia are in Thailand to attend the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit which is held from April 10 to 12.



PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZI HAJI DURAMAN

His Majesty and The Right Honourable during the meeting.

## His Majesty attends funeral

**KUCHING, SARAWAK, April 30** – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam paid last respect to the late wife of the Chief Minister of Sarawak Yang Amat Berhormat Pehin Seri Datuk Patinggi

Dr. Haji Abdul Taib, Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Seri Amar Hajah Laila Taib.

His Majesty also joined others for a prayer which was led by Brunei Darussalam's State Mufti, Pehin Dato

Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz.

His Majesty then proceeded to the funeral ceremony based at Demak Jaya cemetery grounds where His Majesty sprinkled scented water and flowers over the tomb of the late wife of the Chief Minister of Sarawak.

## His Majesty on state visit to Kuwait

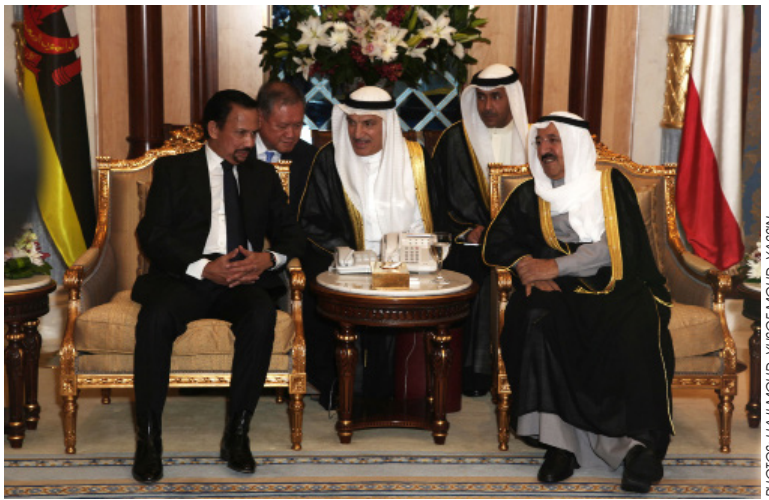
**KUWAIT, April 15** - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was in Kuwait City for a three-day state visit starting April 13.

On the first day, His Majesty attended a briefing on the economic development and investment in Kuwait. The briefing was held at Jahra 2, Bayan Palace. The briefing was given by the Managing Director of Kuwait Investment Authority, His Excellency Bader Mohd Al-Saad.

In the evening, His Majesty attended a banquet hosted by His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of Kuwait at Bayan Palace.

Prior to the banquet, an official meeting was held between His Majesty and Emir of Kuwait. Both leaders underlined the warm and friendly relations between the two countries and expressed commitment to further promote bilateral ties. Also discussed were international and regional issues.

On April 14, His Majesty visited 35<sup>th</sup> Al-Shaheed Armour Brigade located about 60 kilometers from Kuwait. At the Armour Brigade Al-Shaheed, His Majesty visited Training Section Building where His Majesty was briefed on the training facilities at the



His Majesty and The Emir of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during the official meeting.

Brigade.

His Majesty's visit to Kuwait was upon an invitation of His Highness The Emir of Kuwait. The visit serves to further enhance relations between the two countries. This is the second State Visit by His Majesty to Kuwait, where the first was in February 1994.



The signing of the Brunei-Kuwait Agreements and Memorandum of Understanding witnessed by His Majesty and His Highness The Emir of Kuwait.

## Brunei-Kuwait sign two agreements and one memorandum

**KUWAIT, April 13** - The government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the government of Kuwait signed two agreements and one Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The first document signed was the Agreement for the Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investment (BIT). This was followed by the Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income (DTA).

Meanwhile, the Memorandum of

Understanding for cooperation in the oil and gas sector was also signed.

Signing on behalf of the government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was The Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Major General (Rtd) Dato Haji Awang Mohammad. Meanwhile, the government of Kuwait was his counterpart His Excellency Mustafa Jassem Al-Shamali, the Minister of Finance and His Excellency Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Kuwait's Oil Minister.



His Majesty and His Majesty Sultan Qaboos during the official meeting at the Al-Alam Palace.

## His Majesty on state visit to Oman

**MUSCAT, April 15** - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was in Muscat for a two-day state visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

The highlight of the state visit was the official meeting between His Majesty and His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al-Said held at Al-Alam Palace soon after the official welcoming ceremony.

At the meeting, both leaders agreed to strengthen the bilateral relation between Brunei Darussalam and the Sultanate of Oman. Both leaders also expressed their satisfaction with the development ties between Brunei and Oman.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also paid a visit to the Sultan's Special Force Regiment at Al-Somoudh Garrison located in Halbaan on the second day of his state visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

In Oman, His Majesty also attended a state dinner hosted by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al-Said.

Brunei Darussalam and Oman established diplomatic ties on March 24, 1984. Brunei Darussalam established its embassy in Muscat on February 1, 1990 meanwhile Oman established its embassy in Bandar Seri Begawan on August 25, 1986.

For 25 years, Bandar Seri Begawan and Muscat has achieved an excellent relationship. The relationship has enhanced with the exchange of visits between leaders, both countries' cabinet ministers and senior officers. Within 25 years, Brunei Darussalam and Oman have achieved several cooperation ties comprising education; health; oil and gas and defence.



**\* from frontpage**  
**(Paddy project for self-sufficiency)**

Rice Research Institute (PhilRice).

His Majesty also planted paddy at the paddy farms managed by Koperasi Setia Kawan (KOSEKA) located at Plot 2 using the paddy transplanter; and proceeded to visit Mukim Pengkalan Batu Paddy Field based in Plot 3 to plant the paddy using the conventional method.

His Majesty also visited Plot 4 where it houses the Kampong Bebuloh Paddy Field where His Majesty planted the paddy seeds using a mist blower. His Majesty then officially launched the Imang Dam where its construction was completed in 1997 and has become the main dam to supply water to the paddy fields and Batumpu Agricultural Development Zone. The water supply to Bebuloh Paddy Field is expected to be ready by 2012.

His Majesty then visited Agriculture's Research Area where it is a cooperation between Brunei Darussalam's Department of Agriculture and Philippines' PhilRice in Wasan. The visit ended with a visit by His Majesty to Wasan Vocational School.

## Rice Production

The launching of the project called 'Cultivation of padi toward achieving self-sufficiency in rice production in Brunei Darussalam' by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam marks the start of activities for short and medium term programs in rice production based in Kampong Wasan.

Through its programs to increase

rice production in Brunei Darussalam, the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources through its short-term plan aims to increase rice production from 3.15 per cent self-sufficiency (982.9 metric tonnes per year) to 20 per cent



Planting the Beras Laila seedlings using paddy transplanter.

self-sufficiency (5,800 metric tonnes per year) in 2010; and through its medium-term plan which is to further increase to 60 per cent (about 18,000 metric tonnes per year) in 2015.

Currently 50.6 ha paddy field which are in Block 5 is managed by Mukim Pengkalan Batu Consultative Council. It is led by Awang Haji Ahmad bin Haji Momin who employs 61 farmers. In 2007/2008, an amount of 64.7 tonnes of paddy was produced.

## Beras Laila

A historic event also took place with the declaration of a new name for locally produced rice now officially



His Majesty launches the new local rice, 'Beras Laila'.

known as Beras Laila. It was formerly known as Brunei Darussalam Rice One (BDR1) where it has been cultivated in a large scale since 2006.

The name 'Beras Laila' was invented by Dayang Mardiah binti Haji Ramli, Historical Officer from the Brunei Historic Centre.

'Laila' according to the Historic Centre is a word that among others reflects justice, harmony, goodness and beauty. While 'Beras' is the Malay word for rice.

It has been found that Beras Laila consist of suitable level of micronutrients followed with low carbohydrate and fibre with high protein. This type of rice can be cultivated twice in a year and was originally from the 'International Rice Research Institute' in the Republic of Philippines where its original name is IR67406-6-3-2-3.

## Brunei and Oman ink pact on investment

**MUSCAT, OMAN, April 16** – Brunei Darussalam and Oman signed a Memorandum of Understanding to create a joint investment fund between the two countries. The signing ceremony was held at the Al-Alam Palace.

Signing on behalf the government of Brunei Darussalam was the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister Office, Pehin Major General (Rtd) Dato Haji Awang Muhammad; meanwhile on behalf of Muscat was the minister supervising the Ministry of Finance, His Excellency Ahmed Abdul Nabi Macki.

Under the MoU, a joint venture company, the Oman-Brunei Investment Co would set up to facilitate investments made in infrastructure, tourism, health, telecommunications, utility and other sectors in Brunei, Oman and in neighbouring markets.

## SPN21 result of continuous evolution

**BERAKAS, April 2** – The 'Sistem Pendidikan Negara Abad 21' or SPN21 is a result of a continuous evolution of the nation's education system where it has been shaped into a package which is from the lower to higher academic levels that include technical and vocational education.

These were stated by the Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Rahman in his briefing for His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during a work visit made by His Majesty to the Ministry of Education.

The briefing also touched on the implementation of SPN21 which was delivered by the Permanent Secretaries at MOE, Awang Haji Mohd Daud bin Haji Mahmud and Datin Paduka Dayang Apsah binti Haji Abdul Majid.

After the briefing, His Majesty then proceeded to visit an exhibition on SPN21 where various items were exhibited that included the items for teachings, text books, and scheme of work.

His Majesty also visited the Media Unit and Academic Resources and a library available at the Department of Curriculum.

MOE officially launched SPN21 on January 5, 2009 for Year 1 to 4 students. The implementation is carried out in phases where SPN21 is expected to be fully implemented by 2011 for all of its primary and secondary schools.



His Majesty during the visit to Media Unit and Academic Resources.

**BERAKAS, March 18** - Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar attended a Special Gathering for Women in conjunction with the birthday anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Also present were Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bulqiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bulqiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bulqiah and Her Royal

Highness Princess Hajah Masna.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of Bakti Hijrah Special Award by Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri.

The recipient were Datin Dayang Hajah Masni binti Haji Mohd Ali; Pengiran Hajah Salmah binti Pengiran Haji Ismail; Yang Dimulikan Pehin Manteri Bini Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Aminah binti Haji Md Yassin and Datin Dayang Hajah Salmah binti Pehin Dato Imam Haji Mokti.

Each recipient received \$10,000, a certificate, a memento and complimentary first class medical services at any government hospital in Brunei Darussalam.

## Royalty grace special gathering celebrate Maulud



Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri at the Special Gathering for Women in conjunction with Prophet Muhammad's birthday anniversary.

PHOTO: HERNIE SULLANA HAJI OTHMAN

## Her Majesty attends final badminton tournament

**BERAKAS, April 5** - Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha attended the final match and prize presentation ceremony for the 9<sup>th</sup> Brunei Darussalam Women Council's Patron Trophy Championship. The event took place at the Indoor Stadium of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex in Berakas.

Also present were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bulqiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna.

Six teams participated in the tournament, Girl Guides Association; Kampung Lambak Youth Association (PERBEKAL),

PERTIWI, Brunei Malay Teachers Association (PGGMB), Women Graduates Association (PSW) and Women's Institute (WI).

The overall winner was the Women Council, the first runner-up was PERTIWI Associations and the second runner-up was PGGMB.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Brunei Darussalam Women Council Patron's Trophy Championship was organised by the Welfare Body of Wives of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (BAKTI) to enhance the quality of the badminton sport and to bring forth potential players to represent the council at championships, locally and abroad.



Competing teams are introduces to Her Majesty The Raja Isteri.

PHOTO: HASTRAL HAZMI ABD. HAMID

## HRH presents prizes to CIPTA winners



One of the winners receive a trophy from His Royal Highness The Crown Prince.

**JERUDONG, March 14** - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah presented prizes to Crown Prince's Creative, Innovative Product and Technological Advancement (CIPTA) Award 2009, held at the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

In category one for New Products, processes or technologies was won by the 'Autonomous Six-Legged Robot Education Kit' project. Second place was won by 'Design of a Structural Testing Frame' project and the third place was 'Smart Tool'.

Meanwhile, in category two for Improvements or New

Variations on Existing Inventions was won by the 'Double Trap' project. Second place was won by 'Tele-Safe Home Security System' and the third place was won by '12 inches portable Pneumatic for Hazardous Area.

The winner in each category received \$6,000.00, a trophy and certificate. First runner-up received \$4,000.00, a trophy and certificate and third place received \$2,000.00, trophy and certificates.

The Crown Prince CIPTA Award scheme is held biennially and first held in 2005 with the full support of the Ministry of Education as well as other educational institutions.

## Aberdeen Brunei Senior Masters

**JERUDONG, March 1** - Mike Cuning from the United States of America emerged as the overall champion for the 'Aberdeen Brunei Senior Masters' golf tournament held at one of Brunei's renowned hotel, The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

Mike Cuning received US\$60,000

while Jimmy Heggarty from the Republic of Northern Ireland came in second place followed by Bob Cameron from the United Kingdom.

Present to award the prizes was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Deputy Sultan.

A total of 74 golf masters from Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Republic of Northern Ireland, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, US, and the UK participated in the three-day championship which offered a total cash prize of US\$400,000.00.

## March 31 as 'Hari Adat Istiadat'



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince receives *pesambah*.

**BERAKAS, March 31** – By the consent of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, March 31 has been declared as 'Hari Adat Istiadat' or Customs and Traditions Day.

This was announced by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah in his *sabda* at the official opening of the 'Buku Adat Istiadat Diraja Brunei' or a book on Royal Customs and Traditions held at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas.

Also present at the launching was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince also officially opened an exhibition on Brunei's Royal Customs and Tradition held at the Press Conference Hall of the ICC.

Among the objectives of publishing this book are to ensure that the customs and traditions would be known and practiced by citizens and residents of this country as a way of life that would passed down through generations; and Brunei's beautiful and unique culture would be preserved.

The book is sold at \$40.00 and available during the exhibition.

## 1,948 bestowed a honorary medals

**ISTANA NURUL IMAN, March 23** - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office presented state decorations to the civil servants in conjunction with the 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of His Majesty's birthday anniversary.

The ceremony was held for three days starting from March 19 to 23. A total of 653 people received their honorary medals on March 19; another 670 recipients received on March 21 and 625 recipients on March 23.

The medals, categorised as the Meritorious Service Medal (*Pingat Jasa Kebaktian*), Long Service Medal (*Pingat Kerja Lama*) and Excellent Service Medal (*Pingat Indah Kerja Baik*) were distributed among recipients from government agencies.

## HRH joins Cadet Pioneer Competition

**KUALA BELAIT, April 5** - Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah won third place in the individual female special category in the Cadet Pioneer Competition held at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Lumut Camp. First place went to Dayang Nor Seri Dewi binti Awang Haji Md Yunos, while second place went to Hanifu Norfizah binti Md. Salleh.

In the male category, the championship title went to Alimin bin Haji Taib followed by Ahmad Farhan bin Haji Md Saifulizan and Abd. Qadirulisyam bin Mustafa.

The competition was participated by 22 teams from secondary schools, colleges and universities. Among the aims of this competition were to test the participants' map reading skills, physical fitness, mentality as well as to promote the enthusiasm in sports and healthy activities.

## UNISSA forms Army Cadet Team



Her Royal Highness attends the launching of UNISSA Army Cadet Team.

**TUNGKU, April 22** – Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) became the second university to form the Army Cadet Team at the higher education institution that involves women platoon.

The UNISSA Army Cadet was launched by Permanent Secretary (Higher Education) of the Ministry of Education, Awang Haji Mohd. Daud bin Haji Mahmud. The ceremony was held at Chancellor Hall, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

Present at the ceremony was Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah.

The involvement of the graduates in the uniform personnel is one of the co-curriculum course offered by UNISSA, in line with the Ministry of Education's desire in producing role model with the character building in line with the National Education System (SPN21).

## Her Royal Highness joins netball tournament

**TUTONG, March 8** - Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah joined the Open Netball Tournament organised by KLZ in conjunction with the Brunei Darussalam's Silver Jubilee National Day 2009.

Her Royal Highness' team 'Comets Netball Team' emerged the champion after defeating JADE team.

The tournament was participated by 18 teams and divided into three categories. The tournament was held at the Dewan Gerak Badan, Penanjong Garrison, Tutong.

## HRH attends birthday celebration

**JERUDONG, April 12** – Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah attended Her Royal Highness' birthday celebration hosted by Brunei Ladies Golf Association (BLGA) held at the Jerudong Polo & Riding Club.

At the event, Her Royal Highness presented a prize presentation to the winner of the Charity Golf Tournament. The tournament was held from April 10 to 12 at the Royal Brunei Golf and Country Club with more than 250 golfer enthusiasts.

Her Royal Highness also received a mock cheque of \$23,460.46 for charity fund and launched the organisation's website [www.bruneilga.com](http://www.bruneilga.com).

The event was also highlighted by a music performance from students of International School Brunei (ISB).

## Did you know that...

- The permanent campus of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) is situated at Jalan Tungku Link, Gadong, first used in 1995. Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) is the first university in the nation.
- Brunei Town (Bandar Brunei) was renamed as Bandar Seri Begawan on October 4, 1970.
- Brunei Darussalam host Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) for the first time in 1999 that was the 20<sup>th</sup> SEA Games.
- Brunei Museum Department was established in 1965.

## >> BRUNEI IN BRIEF

- Official name is Negara Brunei Darussalam.
- Capital is Bandar Seri Begawan.
- It is located on the north-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia.
- Land size is 5765 sq. km
- Population is estimated at 398,000 people (2008).
- It is divided into four districts – Brunei Muara, Tutong, Kuala Belait and Temburong.
- Malay is the official language but English is widely spoken.
- Islam is the official religion and it allows other religions to be practiced.
- National carrier is Royal Brunei Airlines.
- It has an equatorial climate, a uniform temperature, high humidity and heavy rainfall.

**Public Warning:** The trafficking of controlled drugs carries the death penalty in Brunei Darussalam

## >> HOW TO GET TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM?

### There are a number of ways to reach Brunei.

- By air - Brunei's national carrier, Royal Brunei Airlines travels to more than 20 destinations around the world. The airline also has worldwide office for you to book a return flight to Brunei (to know the nearest RBA's office at your place, please log to: [www.bruneiair.com](http://www.bruneiair.com))
- International airlines such as Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and Thai Airways also fly frequently to Brunei. Beginning July 2006, Air Asia, the Malaysia's lowest airfare carrier also has direct flight from Kuala Lumpur to Brunei.
- Arrival by plane would land you to Brunei International Airport (BWN), the sole airport in the nation.
- For those who enjoy journey by sea, you can reach Brunei by boat or ferry. The main ferry terminal in Brunei is the Serasa Ferry Terminal at Muara. You can catch a ferry from Labuan, Sabah or Lawas and Sundar, both in Sarawak, a state of the neighbouring country, Malaysia. Another option is via a boat from Limbang, Sarawak which will arrive at the jetty around Jalan Residency area in the Capital.
- You would have two options of entry point to Brunei by land transport. You can enter through the Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post in Belait District or the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post in Brunei Muara District. The Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post in Belait is the entry point for those from Miri, Sarawak. While the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post is the entrance for those coming from Limbang, Sarawak; Kota Kinabalu; and Kalimantan.

## HRH visits Brunei Shell Petroleum

**SERIA, March 23** – Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah conducted a visit to Brunei Shell Petroleum.

The visit was a part of an education visit organised by Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). During the visit, Her Royal Highness with other 27 under graduates year three and four from Public Sector Management, Public Strategic Management and Public Policy Strategic Management of UBD were briefed on the BSP and its operation.

A briefing on Follow-up Action Plan/Operational Purposes towards BSP's vision was also held. Her Royal Highness and the delegates also visited Galleria Exhibition at the Oil and Gas Discovery Centre (OGDC).

OGDC was officially opened by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on September 14, 2002.



HRH takes a closer look at one of the exhibits at the Oil and Gas Discovery Centre.

## His Royal Highness attends NAM meeting

**HAVANA, April 29** - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended the Opening Ceremony and the General Debate of the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau for the Non-Aligned



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade delivers his *sabda*.

Movement (NAM) at the International Convention Centre, Havana, Cuba.

The highlight of the opening ceremony was the keynote address delivered by President Raul Modesto Castro Ruz of Cuba. The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba and current chairman of NAM His Excellency Bruno

Rodriguez Parrilla.

His Royal Highness delivered a statement during the general debate emphasising the need for member countries to continue working together to redress the adverse effects of the current international economic situation.

Bilateral meetings with the new Malaysian Foreign Minister, His Excellency Datuk Anifah Haji Aman, and with the Foreign Minister Bosnia and Herzegovina, His Excellency Sven Alkalaj were also held.

In the evening, His Royal Highness joined other ministers at the official welcoming reception in honour of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the NAM.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah arrived in Havana, Cuba on April 28. His Royal Highness was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah.



Group photo of ministers attending the Non-Aligned Ministerial Meeting.

## Sayyidina Umar Al-Khattab win PRYNSA



Representative from Sayyidina Umar Al-Khattab Secondary School receives the champion trophy from Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah.

**LUMAPAS, April 16** - Sayyidina Umar Al-Khattab Secondary School won the 11<sup>th</sup> Princess Rashidah Young Nature Scientist Award (PRYNSA). The ceremony was held at the Rizqun International Hotel.

Titled 'An assessment of stream qualities in Mukim Lumapas using macro-invertebrates as bio-indicators', the project undertaken by the secondary school explored the reduction in qualities of some of the more accessible forest streams caused by recent demographic growths, as well as increased development in terms of infrastructure.

The champions received \$3,000. Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Secondary School won the second prize, while Menglait Secondary School came the third place.

Organised annually by the Forestry Department at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Prynasa was held to foster awareness on the importance of conserving and protecting forests among the younger generation.

Presenting the awards to the winners was Patron of PRYNSA Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah. Also present was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bulqiah.

## Call for PUJA to be more accountable and sustainable



PHOTO: HERMIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

Her Royal Highness at CLEX 2009.

Her Royal Highness presents the warrant card and Tenderfoot badge to one of the girl guides.



PHOTO: MOHD. ZULIZI HAJI DUGAMAN

## Girl Guides members receive badges and cards

**KILANAS, April 26** – Several members of the Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association received Tenderfoot badges and warrant cards where of the total, 46 Girl Guides and 418 Girl Guides Leaders received their warrant cards.

Present to award the badges and cards was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, the association's president held at Sayyidina Hassan Secondary School.

Her Royal Highness also officiated a study garden located in this school which has been named after Her Royal Highness.

While on March 1, Her Royal Highness attended a celebration to mark 'Thinking Day 2009'. 'Thinking Day' is a worldwide celebration for girl guides associations as it is to commemorate the two founder of scouts and girl guides association, Lord Baden and his wife, Lady Olave Baden Powell where their birthdays fall on February 22. This date has been acknowledged as Thinking Day for both associations.

## 34 tour guides receive certificates and badges

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 2** – Various measures have been taken to ensure a positive progress with the local tourism industry. One such measure is by providing trainings to the tour guides to ensure that they provide quality services to the tourists.

At the end of the two-week intensive training, the tour guides were certificate of acknowledgement and acknowledged as a licensed tour guide.

Hence, a certificate and badge presentation ceremony was held at Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR). Present to award the certificates and badges was the Deputy Minister of MIPR, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamdillah.

From the 34 tour guides, six were awarded with a 'Instructor Grade II' certificate from the World Federation of Tourist Guide Association (WFTGA).

This course was organised by MIPR with cooperation from the Brunei Tour Agencies Association which was assisted by two instructors from the United Kingdom and WFTGA.

**BERAKAS, April 9** – Various measures have been taken by the Brunei Institution of Architects, Engineers and Surveyors (PUJA) in making the institution to be more accountable and sustainable for a long period of time.

The Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdullah said at the official opening of the Construction and Lifestyle Expo and Conference (CLEX 2009) held at the International Convention Centre.

The minister also said that one of PUJA's aims is to revise PUJA's board by taking into account professional acts where its revision would enable PUJA to play its role as a custodian in ensuring that its professionalism is at an accepted standard.

CLEX 2009 saw 70 booths provided where it exhibits the culture of construction through latest technologies and environmental friendly materials. Four invited speakers would be delivering their working paper during the conference which focused on 'Green Building'.

## Brunei-Philippines strengthen cooperation

**PENKALAN BATU, March 4** – Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Philippines are making strong efforts to strengthen its bilateral cooperation especially in the fields of industrial and economy.

To achieve these, the Secretary of Agriculture for the Republic of Philippines, The Honourable Arthur Cua Yap was in the country for a three-day working visit.

During the visit, The Honourable was received in an audience to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held at Istana Nurul Iman.

The Honourable also conducted a courtesy visit to Brunei's Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya where they discussed on development cooperation and the production of rice industry between both countries.

The Honourable also visited the Wasan Paddy Fields in Kampong Wasan and agricultural sites under MIPR's supervision.

The Philippines have an expertise in the rice industry where it could assist Brunei Darussalam in expanding its rice production industry.

## Brunei gives free health services

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 7** – Brunei Darussalam would continue to practice its free health services principle which is comprehensive, universal and fair to its people.

The Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Setia Haji Awang Suyoi stated the matter at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Islamic Minister of Health Conference held in Tehran from March 3 to 4.

The meeting was attended by Health Ministers and representatives from 57 members of Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

The theme for this year's conference is 'Health Equality in the Islamic Ummah'. Among the objective is to set up one proposal in tackling health issues through OIC's health vision besides evaluating the implementation and the progress achieved from decision and recommendations including the Kuala Lumpur Declaration 2007.

The OIC's ministers also endorsed six resolution related with health which focused on Senior Officers Meeting agenda.

The ministers also signed 'Tehran Declaration' which focused on several recommendations to be monitored by the steering committee including the proposal to form an Interim Operational Secretariat.

The next meeting will be held in 2011 in Kazakhstan.



Minister of Communications delivers his speech.

PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

## Security aspect not only depends on sophisticated equipments

**BERAKAS, March 10** – Aspects on Safety and Security not only depends on sophisticated equipments but also on humans competence to act in emergency cases.

The Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar stated the matter at the officiating of Live Fire Aircraft Training Simulator held at the Fire and Rescue training centre, Brunei International Airport (BIA).

The 'Live Fire Aircraft Training Simulator' project is one of the projects under National Development Plan 2007-2012 with a cost of \$1 million.

The main objective of the project is to create an infrastructure and a facility which is more realistic especially for the fire personnel of BIA to increase knowledge and competence in rescue that involves an aircraft.

'Live Fire Aircraft Training Simulator' is a framework of Boeing 767 complete with 'External and Internal Fire Scenarios' as engine fire, undercarriage fire, tail engine fire, fuselage fire, cockpit fire and toilet fire, breathing apparatus training gallery.

With this simulator aircraft, the role of fire training centre can be expanded in diversifying the type of courses or training not only to Fire and Rescue personnel but also to other government agencies and private sector whom have a duty in rescue and fire fighting.

## \$21 million on medicines and chronic diseases

**BUNUT, March 28** – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has spent nearly \$21 million on medicines and chronic diseases in 2008 with 51 per cent of the mentioned amount were for medicines alone.

These however do not include cost of medical treatments, cost of intensive treatments, cost of surgeries and cost of sending a patient to undergo medical treatment abroad.

These were stated by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi at the launching of the National Health and Nutritional Status Survey (NHANSS) 2009-2011 held at the Jubli Emas Health Clinic in Kampong Bunut Perpindahan.

Speaking on NHANSS, the Minister hoped that the findings from the survey would be able to help identify the cause of health problems from unhealthy food consumptions and way of life. It is also hoped that the findings would help organise suitable strategies to overcome the chronic diseases which has become a challenging health issue to not only on the patient but also to the nation's expenditure.

This survey is expected to take three years to complete with first phase is for newly born children to aged five years old; while phase two would concentrate on children aged from six to adults aged not more than 75 years old.

## Centre for seafood storage, handling and processing

**MUARA, March 5** – The fisheries sector will soon have its own centre for seafood storage, handling and processing with the construction of an estimated \$4.8million facility.

A ground-breaking ceremony was held at the Muara Fish Landing Complex in the presence of the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd Hamid.

The seafood storage, handling and processing centre is a project under the National Development Plan 2007-2012. Some of the facilities expected to be available at this centre include a two unit cold storage with 100 metric tonnes capacity and furnished with two metric tonnes blast freezer in each unit; three units of cold storage with 20 metric tonnes capacity and furnished with a two metric tonne blast freezer in each unit; five processing units for downstream industry; and a factory for smoke fish with a capacity of one metric tonne per day.

One of the main objectives of setting up this centre is to provide and enhance the development of the seafood downstream industry as the centre to process raw materials from the capturing and aquaculture industries.

## e-Government: B-Heritage and Archive System

**JALAN KEBANGSAAN LAMA, March 11** – The e-Government initiatives continue to expand in Brunei Darussalam with the latest – B-Heritage and Archive System.

The project B-Heritage is one of the projects under the National Development Plan 2007-2012 with a cost of \$3,983,805.26 where it is a flagship project by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports with the Department of Brunei Museums as the leading agency.

This project will enable the public to access the cultural and heritage of Brunei Darussalam via online. It will also enable searching for family origins; a system to purchase the family origins through online; create own family origins; and to apply for research services.

While the Archive System project is valued at B2,555,474.00 where it provides and manages various media for archives and records including conventional records, audio visual, cartography, oral history, archives of photographs and other collections available in the National Archive.

This system will also be managing public records that are 25 years below which will enable departments and ministries to access the documents which had been handed over the National Archive.

## \$950 million for e-Government projects

**JALAN KEBANGSAAN LAMA, March 17** – An amount of \$950 has been allocated to implement e-Government projects which are made available through the National Development Plan 2007-2012.

This was stated by the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office at the State Legislative Council meeting. He said that the government hoped to speed up the implementation of these projects however it has its own challenges.

One of the challenges is the lack of personnel who lacks IT skills to implement e-Government projects.

According to the Minister too, the Prime Minister's Office had established several short, medium and long term plans to overcome the challenges. One short and medium term plan is by hiring both foreign and local expertises. For a long term plan, locals would be recruited and given a specific training and experience as \$20 million has been applied for ICT trainings. The government would also be prioritising critical projects to implement.

## e-Health to be implemented

**JALAN KEBANGSAAN LAMA, March 21** – The Ministry of Health would soon be implementing one of its e-government initiatives which is e-Health.

This was disclosed by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi at the State Legislative Council's meeting.

According to the Minister, the project would be implemented soon and expected to be fully functional in two years time.

He also further said that the system would be able to track medicines which are low in stock where then purchases could be made either from local or foreign vendors.

## MOU for the development of sandalwood

**BERAKAS, March 21** – A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Brunei Darussalam's Aswad Aroma Plantation and Taiwan's Ming Dato University was recently signed for the development of sandalwood based on biotechnology.

Through the MoU, cooperation between both parties have been established to develop the farming and processing of sandalwood using the latest technology.

Present as signatories to the agreement was the Operational Director of Aswad Aroma Plantation, Pengiran Fakhrudeen bin Pengiran Anak Abdul Rahman; while his counterpart was the university's president, Dr. Da-Yung Wang.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 14** – Brunei Darussalam and Singapore signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on food, agri-technology, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and nature conservation and biodiversity held at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources. (MIPR)

Signing on behalf of Brunei Darussalam was the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya. Meanwhile signing on behalf of Singapore was the Minister of National Development, His Excellency Mah Bow Tan.

Under the MoU, Brunei's (MIPR) and Singapore's National Development will provide and increase the cooperation through

## Brunei-Singapore sign MoU



PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR

**Brunei's Minister of Industry and Primary Resources and Singapore's Minister of National Development signing the Brunei-Singapore cooperation MoU .**

information network exchange, capability development, human resource development, promotion, trade, investment and research.

The MoU is important to assist MIPR to implement its mandate to speed-up its efforts in diversifying the economy through providing facilities, develop and enhance trade, competitive industries and dynamic entrepreneurs.

## Brunei host MASTERA meeting

**GADONG, March 23** - Brunei Darussalam was given the honour to host the Southeast Asian Literature Council Secretariat Meeting or MASTERA since it was formed in 1996.

The meeting was held at The Rizqun International Hotel and was attended by representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Indonesia.

It was chaired by Hajah Aminah binti Haji Momin as the Brunei Darussalam's MASTERA chairman and also the Acting Director of the Language and Literature Bureau.

The two-day meeting among others was to check the general conclusion of the 14<sup>th</sup> MASTERA's Summit apart from discussing MASTERA's Programme

for the year 2009-2010.

MASTERA is a council which plans and monitor the development of Malay/Indonesia Literature in this region which has been agreed by the three countries comprising of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia during the World Malay Language Congress on August, 25 1995.

## Climate change is threat to environment

**JERUDONG, March 21** – Climate change is a serious threat to environment which is experienced globally. This issue is not only based upon scientific in fact it destitutes to several issues such as politics, social and borderless economy and further sustainable its impact to future generations.

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya stated the matter in the World Forestry Day 2009 held at the Bukit Shahbandar Recreation Park.

Yang Berhormat explained that climate change is relates to economy activity in modern age, including forestry, energy source use, transport, agriculture, manufacturing, industrial and etc.

The climate change inseparable from basic human need, national economy plan, public administration and quality of individual life, family, society and its beyond the bounds of science and technology which converge to ethical issue.



**Minister of Industry and Primary Resources plants a tree to mark World Forestry Day 2009.**

PHOTO: ABDUL KADIR MD. TAHIR

In this regard, the minister proud with the government's effort in tackling this issue and made Brunei Darussalam is one of the countries that don't contribute to the greenhouse gases because the sultanate's pristine forests act as an effective carbon sink. Brunei's peat swamp forests have been cited by numerous scientists as capable of storing carbon in its ecosystem.

At the event, the minister presented the prizes to the winner of the World Forestry Day Logo 2009 competition, Dayang Rafidah binti Haji Omar, form 5 students of Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Science College.

## BRUDIFA launch

**GADONG, March 25** – The relations between Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia was further strengthened with the official launching of the Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia Friendship Association (BRUDIFA). It was launched in conjunction with the 25 years of diplomatic relations between both nation-states.

It was officially launched by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad held at The Rizqun International Hotel.

BRUFIDA this year will organise several programmes and activities with collaboration of government institutions and companies from Indonesia and also the Indonesian embassy in the country. Among the programmes and activities include an Indonesia-Brunei Darussalam business meeting in July and the Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia tourism seminar in August.



## Ministry of Home Affairs signs e-Government project

**JERUDONG, April 1** – The Ministry of Home Affairs has signed a project for the commissioning and installation of its e-government project where a network infrastructure would connect the ministry with all of its departments to the EG-Centre. The system would also be providing e-services to members of the public.

Thus a signing ceremony was held between MOHA and Aria Enterprise. Present as signatories to the agreement were Dato Paduka Haji Serbini bin Ali, the Permanent Secretary at MOHA; and his counterpart was Pengiran Hajah Noorafizah binti Pengiran Haji Damit who is the chairperson of Aria Enterprise.

This commissioning and installation of this project is expected to be complete in 21 months with a cost of \$25,889,493.80.

## Internal audit should be impartial

**RIMBA, April 8** – Permanent secretaries, heads of departments, senior officers and staff members who have been elected as a member of their respective internal auditing team should be impartial. They are detached from being influenced when carrying out auditing, detached from threats or pressures from any parties.

These were said by Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Haji Omar bin Haji Abdul Rahman at the official opening of a briefing and workshop on the implementation of internal auditing for Prime Minister's Office and its departments.

According to Haji Omar, internal auditing are given the authority to investigate and obtain any documents or records from the audited ministry or department besides summoning a personnel to provide clarification and information needed. They are also allowed to carry out unscheduled checks when needed.

The workshop was organised in the bid to leave a mark on the implementation of internal auditing to other ministries and departments. It was also an initiative by the Department of Auditing to prepare a guideline and used it as reference to ease the implementation of internal auditing.



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

## RECEPTION

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad and wife with the High Commissioner of Bangladesh, His Excellency M. Shameem Ahsan and wife at a reception to mark the 38<sup>th</sup> National Day of the Republic of Bangladesh on March 27.

## BJFA celebrates friendship's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary

**BERAKAS, March 27** - Brunei Japan Friendship Association (BJFA) held a cultural exchange night to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the association's established. The event took place at an Orchid Garden Hotel.

BJFA was formed on March 14, 1985 with the aim to strengthen Brunei Darussalam and Japan relations through economic ties, technical and cultural exchange apart from to enhance bilateral ties between two countries. BJFA play a role to help the entrepreneurs from Japan to explore business opportunities in Brunei Darussalam.

Present to witness the performance was the Patron and Advisor of BJFA, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Setia



PHOTO: HERNIE SULLANA HAJI OTHMAN

The guest of honour, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Jemat, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports receives a token of appreciation from Wakayama's head of delegation.

Negara Pengiran Dr. Haji Mohd. Yusof; the Deputy Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamdillah as the first President of BJFA; and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Jemat bin Haji Ampal.

## Plan and manage country's forest effectively

**KIULAP, April 7** – Strengthening policies and legal framework is a priority and an effective strategic roadmap to ensure the implementation of forestry management in Brunei Darussalam.

These were said by the Deputy Director of Forestry, Awang Mahmud bin Haji Yusof at a Technical Discussion Session on ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for Legality of Timber and Chain of Custody Guidelines for Legal Timber and Sustainable Timber.

He also said that the Heart of Borneo initiatives for Brunei Darussalam and its partners must plan and manage the country's forest effectively.

The working group for a Pan ASEAN Timber Certification Initiative aims to fulfil the target set in ASEAN Economic Community blueprint and to support step-by-step approach towards Sustainable Forest Management.

The discussion was attended by ASEAN representatives – Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Brunei as the hosting country.

## World Autism Awareness Day celebrates every April 2

**TUNGKU, April 2** – Some 400 children have been diagnosed with autism through the Child Developmental Centre (CDC), Minister of Health since 1994.

The Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi stated the matter at the launching of World Autism Awareness Day 2009.



PHOTO: AKAMIRULIZAM PG-HAJI MOHD. ALI

Minister of Health takes a closer look at some of the activities of autistic children.

The minister said, lack of knowledge and expertise are major barriers to improving the health and well-being of the children. This limits access to care and early intervention and impedes the development of appropriate public health programmes that can improve the quality of life for individuals with Autism Spectrum

Disorders and their families.

These challenges are further complicated by a shortage of experts and trained professionals. The minister, however, praised the collaboration between the ministry and SMARTER in addressing these challenges by engaging governments, stakeholders and grassroots organisations to help bring about the necessary changes to benefit affected families and societies.

Themed 'Giant Steps to Build a Brighter Future,' the World Autism Awareness Day was jointly organised by SMARTER Brunei and Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

## New products introduced to enhance services



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

Minister of Home Affairs launches the three new enforcement products.

**JALAN KEBANGSAAN LAMA, April 9** – Three new products equipped with modern technologies have been launched in the bid to enhance services to members of the public. The new products are SMS Services for E-Passport, Visa and Passes Application and Mobile PC for Enforcement.

The products were officially launched by the Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan at the Department of Immigration and National Registration's headquarters.

Through the SMS Services for E-Passport, those applying for passports would be notified via SMS once their passports are ready to collect.

While the Visa and Passes Application is a system that is used by the Division of Foreign Workers, Division of Diplomatic and Visiting Visas. It is to enhance the current system that has been available since 1984.

The Mobile PC for Enforcement would be used by the Enforcement Division where the laptops provided are heavy duty, water proof and handy to be carried around.

## Marine eco-tourism has vast potentials

**BERAKAS, April 21** – The private sector are urged to explore the opportunities and to be more active in making good use of the potentials provided by marine eco-tourism.

The call was made by the Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR), Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamdillah who is also the chairman of the Brunei Tourism Board at the official opening of a seminar on 'Marine Biodiversity of Brunei Darussalam : Potentials and Opportunities for Eco-Tourism Development'.

According to the deputy minister, the seminar is timely as it creates awareness on what is available in our waters that can assist tour operators to launch their products in promoting tourism both domestically and abroad.

However, he reminded that business should be run with minimum negative impact and contributes positively to sustaining the eco-system and the environment. This is particularly to protect the coral reefs and its habitat.

The seminar is a one-day event where five speakers delivered their papers concerning various aspects of the theme.

The seminar took place at the Orchid Garden Hotel.



PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

Some of the delegates attending the meeting.

## Brunei hosts 30<sup>th</sup> ALA

**JERUDONG, April 11** – A number of issues were discussed at the 30th ASEAN Lawyers Association (ALA) Governing Council Meeting ranging from judicial cooperation, international law, legal profession, business law, legal education, legal information and alternative dispute resolution.

The two-day meeting are participated by representatives from Indonesia, Malaysia Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam and held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

## Halal Product Expo 2009

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 16** – As a continuous effort by the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) in promoting local halal products, the ministry once again will be organising International Halal Product Expo.

In this regard, the signing of agreement to appoint the manager of IHPE 2009 and 2010 was held at the Department of Agriculture.

Signing on behalf of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources is the Director of Agriculture, Dayang Hajah Normah Suria Hayati as a Secretariat of IHPE meanwhile the Manager of IHPE, Sunlit Advertising Sendirian Berhad was represented by its Chairman, Pengiran Salleh Ab Rahman.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Secretariat of IHPE, Dayang Hajah Aidah binti Haji Mohd. Hanifah and representatives from Sunlit Advertising, Jackson Ting.

The expo will be held from July 30 to August 2 at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

## BIBD and MIHE signs MoU

**JERUDONG, April 14** – Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD) and Markfield Institute of Higher Education (MIHE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Programme or Workshop in organising Finance Management according to Islam held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

Signing on behalf BIBD was the Acting Director of BIBD Management, Javed Ahmad bin Haji Kamil Hassan meanwhile MIHE was represented by its Rector, Dr. Muhammad Manazir Ahsan.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdullah as the chairman of BIBD.

MIHE is an institution in Leicestershire, United Kingdom which have expertise in Islamic Education and Islamic Banking. The three-day programme is participated by officers and staff members of BIBD.



PHOTO: DK SITI REDZANI PG. HAJI AHMAD

Exchange of the document witness by the Chairman of Bank Islam Brunei Berhad (BIBD).

## Tax to be imposed on buildings

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 3** – Effective April 1, 2009 all buildings based within the area of Bandar Seri Begawan would be imposed with commercial building tax (CBT). This is according to Chapter 12 of the Municipal Board Act Paragraph 57 whereby all commercial buildings and apartments would be charged with CBT.

These were announced by the Acting Chairman of the Bandar Seri Begawan Municipal Board, Awang Haji Mansor. He also said that assessments on the tax rates had been completed according to chapter 17 of the same regulation.

A notice would be issued for building owners and should there be any complaints or discrepancies, it should be forwarded to the department not later than March 21.

The total land area of Bandar Seri Begawan was officially expanded on August 1, 2007 where it is now 100.35sq km. It was formerly 12.87sq km wide.

## Bruneian joins The Commonwealth Women's Antarctic Expedition

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 4** – Eight women from the commonwealth countries of Cyprus, Ghana, India, Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, New Zealand, Jamaica and the United Kingdom were selected to join the Commonwealth Women's Antarctic Expedition.

The expedition will be launched on March 10 at Commonwealth Club, and will proceed to Antarctic in November before arrive in South Polo early next year.

Marking the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Commonwealth, the expedition aims to demonstrate the potential of greater intercultural understanding and exchange, while at the same time highlighting the achievements of women across the world.

The expedition team of 8 women from the Commonwealth countries were selected from over 800 applicants. The women from Brunei Darussalam represented by Najibah Era binti PAM Al-Sufri, 25; Cyprus; Ghana; and Jamaica will be the first person from their nation to ski to the South Pole. Those from India, Singapore and New Zealand will be the first women from their country to do so.

## ITB : Degree programs in August 2009

**TUNGKU, March 7** – Degree programs will soon be introduced by Institute Teknologi Brunei (ITB) in August this year.

The programs to be offered are 'MEng/BEng ITB-QUB Twinning Degree Program in Civil Engineering' which is a four-year program (two years in Brunei Darussalam and another two years in Queens University, Belfast, Ireland).

ITB will still be offering Higher National Diploma programs in 'Engineering, Computing and Business'; and six new programs will also be introduced in August.

The new programs offered are B.Eng (Hons) in Petroleum Engineering, and B.Eng (Hons) in Chemical Engineering which are articulation programs with University of New South Wales, Australia.

Other programs to be offered are B.Eng (Hons) in Electrical and Communication Engineering, B. Eng (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering, Bachelor (Hons) in Internet Computing and Bachelor (Hons) in Business

Information Technology. All of these programs will be implemented in Brunei Darussalam.

ITB is one of the leading higher academic institutions in Brunei Darussalam. It was recently upgraded to a university level by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam whilst still retaining its name as an institute.

## Aquatic Centre established soon

**TUTONG, March 11** – The local sports industry received a further boost with the setting up of an aquatic centre in the Tutong district.

A ground breaking ceremony to mark the construction of the centre was held near the Youth and Sports Complex in the Tutong district. Present as guest of honour was the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Dr. Haji Awang Ahmad bin Haji Jumat.

The setting up of this centre is one of the projects under the National Development Plan 2007 – 2012 with a cost of nearly \$5 million.

The centre would be equipped with two swimming pools for adults designed based on international standard and one swimming pool would be for young children. Some of the facilities expected to be available are a grandstand that could accommodate 1,000 spectators, changing rooms, prayer hall, administration room, and a ticket booth.

It is hoped that the residents of this district would make full use of the facility provided and hoped that this centre would be able to produce talented swimmers that not only could presenting the national level but also the regional and international arena.

Construction works for this centre is expected to be complete by October 2010.

## Brunei-Philippines sign MoU on agricultural cooperation

**JERUDONG, April 27** - Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Philippines initiated a partnership agreement by sealing both Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Memorandum of Agreement in further strengthening bilateral cooperation between two countries.

The signing ceremony took place at The Empire Hotel and Country Club, Jerudong.

The MoU on Agricultural Cooperation, signing on behalf of His Majesty's government was the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya. While on behalf of the Republic of Philippines was its Secretary of Agriculture, His Excellency Arthur Chua Yap.

Under this memorandum, His Majesty's Government will engage in bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture for the purpose of fostering sectoral development and with a view of enhancing agri-related trade and investment.

Meanwhile a Memorandum of Agreement was made between two companies, Coco Green Enterprise from Brunei Darussalam presented by Awang Haji Mohammad bin Talib; and Coco Technologies Corporation from the Philippines represented by Dr. Justino R. Arboleda.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by Brunei's Minister of Industry and Primary Resources and Philippines' Secretary of Agriculture.



PHOTOS: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

Agriculture statistic 2008 on Rice Industry shows that Brunei Darussalam has a total consumption of 32,880 metric tonnes of rice per year. But local production only amounted to 911.30 metric tonnes per year that is about 3 per cent. Responding to the called made His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on towards self-sufficiency in rice production, Department of Agriculture made various initiative to increase the production; among others is the introduction of BDRI or *Beras Laila*.

