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His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other APEC Leaders posing for journalists outside Bogor Palace before getting down to serious discussions.

His Majesty The Sultan Joins 17 Other Leaders In Second APEC Meeting

The Second Meeting of leaders of the 18-nation Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum wound up its session in the Indonesian city of Bogor on 15 this month after issuing a declaration.

Historic setting for Second AELM

The Asia Pacific Eco-

nomics Leaders Meeting (AELM) was held in the Garuda Room of the 230-year old Bogor Presidential Palace. After day-long discussions, the leaders adopted the Bogor Declaration, committing themselves to comprehensive trade liberalisation in the region by the year 2020.

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah

Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined the leaders of Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Hongkong, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Taiwan and the United States along with the leaders of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand

(which together with Brunei Darussalam make up the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN) at the meeting, hosted by Indonesia as Chairman of APEC 1994.

All the APEC forum members were represented by either their heads of state or government, except for Hongkong and Taiwan

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YOUR TURN

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APEC Declares Free Trade by 2020

The leaders of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum gathered in Bogor, Indonesia, for their second informal meeting earlier this month have had the number to their fold increased by one with the admission of the Central Latin American Republic of Chile as the latest member, bringing the total number of the forum membership to eighteen.

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the other 17 APEC leaders held the second meeting at the Bogor Presidential Palace, at the end of which they adopted the Bogor Declaration of Common Resolve, which promises to achieve trade liberalisation in the region by the year 2020.

Charting course of direction of economic vision

The APEC leaders met in Bogor to determine the direction of the economic vision they had adopted at their first informal meeting in Seattle in November last year.

APEC groups together some of the world's fastest growing economies in East Asia and the Pacific Rim comprising Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, the People's Republic of China, Hongkong, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States of America.

Last year these countries had a combined Gross National Product of US\$13 trillion, which is about half of the world's total annual output. They were also responsible for 41 percent of the world's total merchandise trade. Combined they have a total population of more than two billion people or 38.5 percent of the human race live in the region.

The resources to translate that (economic) vision in the reality are quite substantial, said President Soeharto, the 1994 APEC chairman.

Speaking at a press conference after closing the meeting, President Soeharto representing the leaders said: "The long term objective of intensifying closer trade and investment cooperation in the Asia Pacific is open and free trade and investment".

Timetables for industrialised and developing countries

"Advanced countries will achieve this objective no later than the year 2010, and the developing countries by the year 2020."

In their 11-point Declaration of Common Resolve, the APEC leaders said they had come together in Bogor to chart the future course of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation which will enhance the prospects of an accelerated, balanced and equitable economic growth globally, not just within the Asia Pacific region.

Said the leaders in the declaration, among others, "A year ago on Blake Island

in Seattle, USA, we recognized that our diverse economies are becoming more interdependent and are moving toward a community of Asia Pacific economies. We have issued a vision statement in which we pledge to find cooperative solutions to the challenges of our rapidly changing regional and global economy; to support an expanding world economy and an open multilateral trading system; to continue to reduce barriers to trade and investment to enable goods, services and capital to flow freely among our economies and to ensure that our people share the benefits of economic growth, improve education and training, link our economies through advances in telecommunication and transportation, and use our resources sustainably."

Principles of achieving economic vision

"We set our vision for the community of Asia Pacific economies based on a recognition of the growing interdependence of our economically diverse region, which comprises developed, newly industrializing and developing economies. The Asia Pacific industrialized economies will provide opportunities for developing economies to increase further their economic growth and their level of development. At the same time developing economies will strive to maintain high growth rates with the aim of attaining the level of prosperity now enjoyed by

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• *From page 2 (Bogor Declaration)*

the newly industrializing economies. The approach will be coherent and comprehensive, embracing the three pillars of sustainable growth, equitable development and national stability. The narrowing gap in the stages of development among the Asia Pacific economies will benefit all members and promote the attainment of Asia Pacific economic progress as a whole," the declaration further stated.

As the twenty-first century approaches, APEC needs to reinforce economic cooperation in the Asia Pacific region on the basis of equal partnership, shared responsibility, mutual respect, common interest, and common benefit, with the objective of APEC leading the way in strengthening the open multilateral trading system; enhancing trade and investment liberalization in Asia Pacific; and intensifying Asia Pacific development cooperation," the leaders further pledged in the declaration.

With respect to the objective of enhancing trade

and investment in Asia Pacific, the leaders agreed to adopt the long-term goal of free and open trade and investment in Asia Pacific. This goal will be pursued promptly by further reducing barriers to trade and investment and by promoting the free flow of goods, services and capital among our economies.

Time frame for complete achievement of free trade and investment in APEC region

"We further agree to announce our commitment to complete the achievement of our goal of free and open trade and investment in Asia Pacific no later than the year 2020. The pace of implementation will take into account the differing levels of economic development among APEC economies, with the industrialized economies achieving the goal of free and open trade and investment no later than the year 2010 and developing economies no later than the year 2020.

Determination to pursue open trade and oppose

trading bloc

The leaders emphasised their strong opposition to the creation of an inward-looking trading bloc that would divert from the pursuit of global free trade.

"We are determined to pursue free and open trade and investment in Asia Pacific in a manner that will encourage and strengthen trade and investment liberalization in the world as a whole. Thus, the outcome of trade and investment liberalization in Asia Pacific will not only be the actual reduction of barriers among APEC economies but also between APEC economies and non-APEC economies. In this respect we will give particular attention to our trade with non-APEC developing countries to ensure that they will also benefit from our trade and investment liberalization," the leaders said in their declaration.

The leaders said the goal is an ambitious one. But they are determined to demonstrate APEC's leadership in fostering further global trade and investment liberalization.

Our goal entails a multiple year effort. We will start our concerted liberalization process from the very date of this statement. We direct our ministers and officials to immediately begin preparing detailed proposals for implementing our present decisions. The proposals are to be submitted soon to the APEC economic ministers for their consideration and subsequent decisions. Such proposals should also address all impediments to achieving our goal. We ask ministers and officials to give serious consideration in their deliberations to the important recommendations contained in the reports of the Eminent Persons Group and the Pacific Business Forum.

Rotation of future APEC Leaders' meeting

The APEC leaders will meet again next year in Osaka, Japan, followed by the Philippines in 1996, Canada in 1997 and in Malaysia in 1998, in the concerted efforts to achieve the goals they had set in the Blake Island Economic Vision in 1993.

APEC Ministers urge priority in human resources development

Economic Ministers of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum have urged for continued priority to be devoted to developing human resources of the region.

The ministers made the call after noting that the people of the region were its most important asset and that the dynamism of the region is reflected in chang-

ing human resources needs.

This is among the contents of the Sixth APEC Economic Ministers' declaration issued at the end of their two-day meeting (11-12 November) in Jakarta which preceded the Second Asia Pacific Economic Leaders Meeting (AELM) which took place in Bogor, Indonesia on 15 November.

The Brunei Darussalam

delegation, which included the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dato Paduka Awang Lim Jock Seng and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ahmad as well as senior officials of both ministries, was led by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang

Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman.

Officially opening the meeting on 11 November at the State Palace in Jakarta, the President of the Republic of Indonesia His Excellency Mr. Soeharto stated, among other things,

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Monarch Grants Title To Malaysian Armed Forces Commander

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to bestow an honorary title to the Malaysian Armed Forces Commander, Yang Berbahagia General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Borhan bin Haji Ahmad. The ceremony took place at Istana Nurul Iman on 2 November.

His Majesty bestowed the Malaysian Armed Forces Commander the Darjah Paduka Keberanian Laila Terbilang Yang Amat Gemilang Darjah Pertama (D.P.K.T.), which carries the title Dato Paduka Seri.

Yang Berbahagia General Dato Paduka Seri Haji

Borhan began serving in the Malaysian army in 1953, and in 1959 he became a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Malay Regiment. He was also the first local Malaysian to be appointed Commander of the Commando Squad. He has previously served as defence adviser in Vietnam and Pakistan, and in February this year he was appointed Commander of the Malaysian Armed Forces.

After the ceremony, His Majesty granted an audience to the Malaysian Armed



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam pinning a medal on the Malaysian Armed Forces Chief, Yang Berbahagia General Haji Borhan, to whom the ruler bestowed the Bruneian title 'Dato Paduka Seri'.

Forces Commander. Also present at the ceremony were the Malaysian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Haji Salim bin Hashim, the Royal Brunei Armed Forces

(RBAF) Commander, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Harimaupadang Major General Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Awang Husin bin Ahmad and several senior officials of the RBAF.

Think Of Ways of Challenging Various Dimensions Of External Cultural Influences

Artists and those who are involved in cultural activities in the country were urged to think of ways of challenging the various dimensions of external cultural influences, and to encourage arts and cultural activities in the country to be kept in line with moral, cultural and social values which Bruneians have inherited.

In view of current globalisation situation, Brunei Darussalam as other countries in Asia, will face various dimension of challenges and external cultural influ-

ence on the national culture, said the Deputy Minister of Culture Youth and Sports.

In the coming years, countries in the world would become a borderless world as a result of the development in the information technology, which indirectly become the most important factor in influencing the perception and paradigm of international relationship of each country, he pointed out.

Officiating at the opening ceremony of "The Philip Morris Group of Companies Brunei Arts

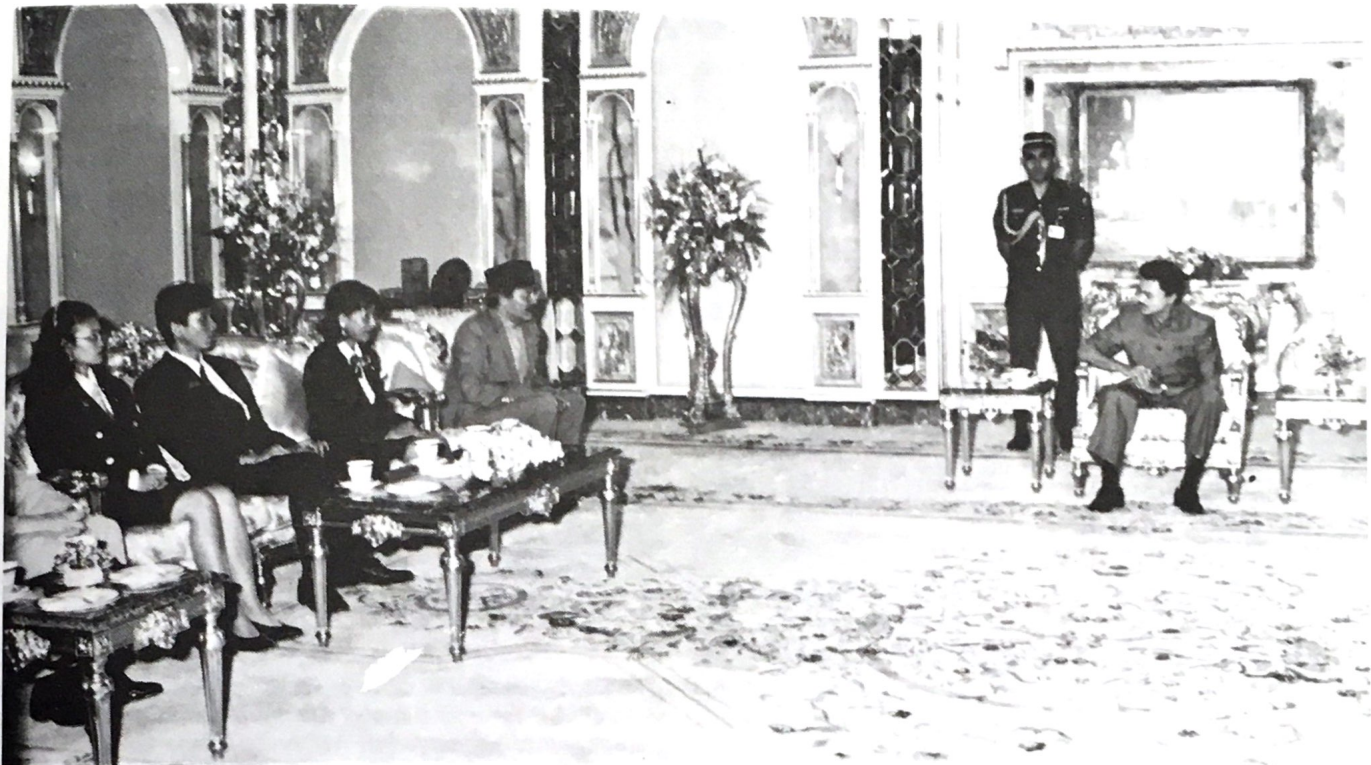
Award 1994" at the Brunei Museum on October 19, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Selamat bin Haji Munap was confident that artists in the country were capable of producing quality arts which could touch the sensitivity and upgrade human awareness.

Artists are those who have been given speciality to deliver message of arts in a creative way, he said, while adding that the ability to produce it, on the other hand, required sufficient discipline of knowledge, patience and sensitiv-

ity towards the surrounding world.

The Awards was sponsored by the Philip Morris Group of Companies with the cooperation of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, the Department of Brunei Museums and the Brunei Darussalam's Artists Association.

The deputy minister hoped that the Awards will be able to develop Brunei art in the country, which are not only displayed in the renowned art galleries in the region, but are also capable of entertaining art lovers.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah converses with the national leaders of the seven-nation contingents of the SSEAYP, whom he granted an audience at Istana Nurul Iman when the ship made its fifth stop in Brunei Darussalam, during which the youths enjoyed homestays with their Bruneian foster families besides other programmes.

HRH Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah Grants Audience To National Leaders Of SSEAYP

His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Majesty's eldest son, consented to grant an audience to the national leaders of the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Programme (SSEAYP) and the Chief Administrator of Nippon Maru at Istana Nurul

Iman on 31 October.

The ship's Chief Administrator, Mr. Kazhiro Hayashi and the national leaders were accompanied at the ceremony by the Director of Youth and Sports Department, Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Asmalee bin Pengiran Ahmad.

At the ceremony, His

Royal Highness consented to receive souvenirs presented by the national leaders.

The Ship Nippon Maru arrived in the country taking 315 participants of SSEAYP 1994 from Japan, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand and Brunei

Darussalam. Brunei Darussalam was its fifth destination for the annual programme, which among other things is aimed at providing youths from those countries with insights into one another's cultures, ways of life as well as exchanging views while on their cruise.



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussein says that SSEAYP provides opportunity for youths to become responsible.

Participation in SSEAYP Allows Youth To Act In Roles Of Responsibility

Participation of youths in the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Programme (SSEAYP) does not necessarily mean fun or leisure. What is more important is that, the trip allows each and everyone to

act in roles of responsibility and experience which stand them in a good stead in the real world.

"For these reasons the Government of Brunei Darussalam has participated in this programme for the

past ten years," said the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

In a speech welcoming the participants of the 21st SSEAYP at Muara Port

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• From page 5 (SSEAYP Participation)

on October 31, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain highlighted that in evaluating its participation in any programme, Brunei Darussalam has to consider many factors.

Some programmes which at their outset appear unconstructive, may upon closer scrutiny prove to be valuable tools towards producing youths with calibre, he said, adding that the SSEAYP is one such programme.

The Minister said that Brunei Darussalam has benefitted much from the programme in the past decade, and look forward to many more years of participation along with other ASEAN colleagues.

SSEAYP has given the opportunity for participating youths to develop their character, to recognise the role they play as members of a community and to be aware of the interdependence of members of any community towards its development, he added.

Speech by Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports

In a speech at the farewell ceremony for the 21st Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Programme held at the Muara Port on November 3, the Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Selamat bin Haji Munap called on all Brunei participants and

alumni of the programme to reciprocate and contribute meaningfully to youth development programmes and community services of the country.

It is now time for the Brunei Alumni of SSEAYP to return the favour, which can be done through participation in community and other worthwhile youth development projects, he pointed out.

"It is realised that Alumni Association has come to being and has managed to activate and mobilise some of the ex-participants to take meaningful initiatives. But



The Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Selamat bin Haji Munap presenting souvenirs to participants of this year's SSEAYP on their departure from Muara Port to continue their voyage to the Philippines, and finally Japan.



Participants of the 21st SSEAYP wave from aboard the ship Nippon Maru as it sailed off from Muara Port after a four-day stay in the Sultanate.

the relatively small number of former participants involved in the Alumni Association is disproportionate to their total number which is increasing by the year," the Deputy Minister lamented.

The Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Programme is sponsored by the Government of Japan, and Brunei

Darussalam participated in the programme for the tenth time this year.

While in the country, the participants made educational and institutional visits to the Lapau and Parliament House, the Training and Guidance Centre at Kampong Pulaie, the Sultan Saiful Rizal Technical College, the

Brunei Arts and Handcraft Centre, the Lambak Kanan Vocational School, and the Sinaut Agricultural Training Centre and the Lambak Kanan Housing Resettlement Scheme; and had homestays with foster families in each of their stops comprising all the six ASEAN member countries as well as Japan.

• *From page 1 (Sultan-APEC)*

which were represented by ministerial level officials.

The leaders, all wearing Batik, arrived one by one at the Bogor Presidential Palace at two-minute intervals following the 50-minute motorcades from Jakarta, where they were staying in eight different hotels.

First to arrive was the Australian Prime Minister, followed by His Majesty - then the other leaders arranged in alphabetical, country order.

APEC Chairman, His Excellency President Soeharto was on hand to greet the leaders.

The Brunei monarch arrived several days earlier in Jakarta and prior to the APEC meeting, held separate bilateral talks with the Presidents of Indonesia and the Philippines, and visited Indonesia's aircraft manufacturing industry.

Discussed bilateral Brunei-Indonesian interest and APEC

His Majesty first held bilateral talks with His Excellency President Soeharto at the Istana Negara in Jakarta on 11 November. During the

meeting, at which His Majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah, the Finance Minister and President Soeharto by His Excellency Mr Moerdiono, Cabinet Secretary, the two leaders discussed bilateral and regional issues as well as matters pertaining to APEC.

After the meeting, His Majesty accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah and members of his entourage, joined thousands of Muslims in the Friday congregational prayer at Jakarta's Istiqlal mosque, hailed as being one of the world's largest.

Its construction taking 10 years, the mosque was officially opened by the Indonesian President in 1979.

Visit to aircraft manufacturing factory

Before holding his second bilateral talks - this time with His Excellency President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visited Indonesia's Nusantara Aircraft Manufacturing Industry, IPTN (Industri Pesawat Terbang Nusantara) at

Bandung, 200 kilometres from Jakarta on 13 November.

Accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah and other members of his delegation, the ruler was welcomed on arrival at the IPTN airstrip by Indonesian Minister for Research and Technology, His Excellency Mr. Habibie, who is also the President-Director of IPTN and the Governor of West Java, Mr. Nuryana.

The Brunei ruler first proceeded to perform the noon Zuhur prayer at the nearby Habiburrahman mosque which forms part of the IPTN complex before touring the aircraft factory, which included going inside the company's latest rolled out plane - the N250 passenger airliner.

East ASEAN Growth Area and bilateral Brunei-Philippines relations discussed

The following day, 14 November, His Majesty held bilateral talks at the Jakarta Convention Centre with the Philippine President, His Excellency Mr Fidel Ramos, during which they discussed bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest including the recently-

established East ASEAN Growth Area linking Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, BIMP-EAGA.

In the evening the same day, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the other APEC leaders attended a dinner at the Jakarta Convention Centre hosted by President Soeharto, at which he formally welcomed the leaders.

His Majesty and the other leaders were seated around one table during the dinner with President Soeharto in the middle.

World watches closely success of Second APEC Leaders Meeting

Speaking at the function, the Indonesian leader said, among other things that "the world will be watching us with a keen and interested eye" about the importance of their meeting in Bogor the following day.

"Whatever we decide will inevitably have a profound impact on the world economy which is becoming increasingly global and without borders", he stressed.

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• *From page 3 (Human resources)*

that the world situation now provides opportunities to all nations to work together in developing a new world order that is more equitable, stable, secure, and peaceful in order to enhance the prosperity and welfare of the

peoples.

"In this regard, the Asia Pacific region has achieved remarkable progress due to appropriate economic policies", he said.

The Indonesian leader expressed the view that APEC cooperation should be further developed in the

future and that the region should continue to promote and facilitate the flow of investment and trade.

He also called for the strengthening of consultation in the field of macro-economic policies, enhancement of the quality of economic infrastructure, human

resources development, quality and quantity of small and medium enterprises, and the acquisition and development of appropriate technology.

The Brunei Darussalam Industry and Primary Re-

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Nurses Play Pivotal Role On Health Care : Minister



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah officiating the opening of the First International Nursing Conference.

Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Health has highlighted that nurses play a pivotal role in the provision of health care, whether in the hospital or in the community setting. He said that the World Health Organisation gives emphasis for primary health care in the achievement of Health for All.

Speaking at the official closing ceremony of the First International Nursing Conference on 9 November, Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Johar bin Dato Paduka Haji Noordin, the Health Minister said: "Equitable distribution of resources which includes nursing manpower particularly in rural areas is an essential component for the attainment of this goal."

Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Johar also stressed that nursing education should have been orientated earlier towards the provision of primary health care.

"Nursing is actually not only about the caring of the sick, disabled, young, elderly and all those in need

to return to a status of a full physical, mental and social wellbeing. Nurses should learn not only to care for the sick, but also to provide compassionate and emotional support to the patients and their families," the minister said.

The minister pointed out that nurses and midwives,

as front-liners, have a wealth of knowledge of health needs of the community, and in partnership with the users and would be users of the services, they must be able to play a more active role in improving the overall health status in the community.

"They are in a critical

position as a link between practitioners and community members and having the privilege of intimate knowledge of their neighbourhood aspirations, their needs, their hopes and fears, and therefore, can play an important role in the plan-

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Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah viewing an exhibition soon after declaring the conference open.

ning and delivery of health care in the community and indeed can influence or guide the community towards a better practice of better living for better health."

The minister said: "Education for caring is preparing the nurses for fulfilling this vital role. This calls for greater dedication and sacrifice on the part of the nurses."

Sultanate enjoys high standard of living and health care

Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Johar also stressed that the people in Brunei Darussalam enjoy a high standard of living and health care as His Majesty's Government has spent an enormous amount of money over a period of time to provide a comprehensive health system for Brunei Darussalam.

The minister said that all the health indicators pointed that the country is one of the fortunate countries right on target to achieve the goal 'Health For All by the Year 2000 and beyond' as set by the World Health Organisation.

"Our low infant morta-



The Minister of Health, Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Johar bin Dato Paduka Haji Noordin

lity rate and maternal mortality rate and the high life expectancy indicate the quality of care provided in the country. Most of the communicable diseases are eliminated or have been drastically reduced to insignificance."

He added that though we have a strong health infrastructure, we are still short of medical, nursing and technical manpower, while adding that the ratio of nurses to population is roughly one to 240.

Towards the strengthening of manpower, the Ministry of Health has given special attention to education and training of nurses based on needs and services oriented and continued throughout their careers, he pointed out.

"Presently, the Nurses

Training Centre and Community Health Nurses Training have been established by the Ministry of Health, while the College of Nursing is administered by the Ministry of Education."

He said that every opportunity is given for those who are able to go for the post-basic and specialised nursing training abroad, and there are regular seminars and workshops organised locally to improve nursing and managerial skills and quality assurance in nursing.

Earlier in his speech, the minister spoke about the conference. He said that the conference has brought the fraternity of the nursing professionals from different countries and diverse cultures, for the specific purpose of deliberating on the chosen theme of the conference.

He added that this has also given the opportunities for the nursing care providers to interact with each other, to learn from the experiences of others and also form friendship and find understanding.

The conference

The four-day conference was organised by the

Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatol Bolqiah College of Nursing, Ministry of Education in cooperation with the Ministry of Health. The theme was 'Education for Caring.'

It was attended by more than 400 participants from Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Pakistan, United Kingdom, the United States, South Korea and host Brunei Darussalam.

About fifty working papers were presented by local and overseas speakers on issues related to research, education, management and practical clinics.

Opening ceremony

The conference was officially opened by His Majesty's eldest daughter, Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatol Bolqiah on 6 November. It was held at the International Convention Centre (ICC). Also present was Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Majeedah Nuurul Bolqiah.

The recital of "Surah Al-Fatihah started the ceremony. It was followed by a reading of the Al-Quran.

Aims of the conference

The Chairperson of the Conference Organising Committee, Hajah Rokiah binti Haji Zakiah, in her welcoming speech among others pointed out that the conference provides opportunity to explore the spiritual dimensions of education for caring across cul-



Some of the participants from thirteen countries who took part in the conference.

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tures; emphasising clinical care within the essential components of nursing curricula; to identify and analyse key issues in the development of Nursing Education for Caring in the recent past; and to explore implications for the future, and to investigate the issues of responsibility and accountability in education for caring.

Hajah Rokiah who is the Principal of the Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah College of Nursing added that the conference also aims at

providing an opportunity for nurses in Brunei Darussalam to investigate the spiritual dimension of caring and its application in the context of Malay Islamic Monarchy; to establish links with international scholars and institutions for the purpose of exchanging views; cooperating in research and fostering understanding of problems encountered in professional nursing education through networking, and contribute to the advancement of nursing in Brunei Darussalam.

It is also aimed at exploring the concept of lifelong learning for personal

and professional development.

Recommendations at the end of conference

At the end of the conference, delegates recommended that participants should commit themselves to appraisal of their life and work in the light of the delegates' resolutions that they will take forward from the conference, a view of caring, illuminated by the Islamic perspective of living, which epitomises holism. They will draw experience from their research and practice, so that they are

able to meet the challenges of providing and managing quality caring services in a realistic and appropriate way.

The delegates also recommended that the Organising Committee of the College of Nursing, reconvene as soon as practical, to organise a Second International Nursing Conference in November 1995.

They recommended that the nurses in Brunei Darussalam investigate in depth the spiritual dimension of caring and its application in the context of Malay Islamic Monarchy.

Cooperate In The Control Of AIDS Epidemic

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health recently highlighted the importance for neighbouring countries to cooperate in the control of the AIDS epidemic, which is presently sweeping through the world and rapidly spreading in Asia.

Apart from general strategies for prevention and control, countries facing special situation need to develop strategies that may appear unconventional, he stressed.

Speaking as a personal representative of the Minister of Health shortly before he declared open the 3rd Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Singapore Border Health Conference on 28 November, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Chuchu bin Penglima Asgar Dato Paduka Haji Abdullah pointed out that around 45 per cent of the work force in the country is foreigners, among whom the HIV



Permanent Secretary of the Health Ministry, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Chuchu bin Penglima Asgar Dato Paduka Haji Abdullah

seroprevalence is disproportionately high.

Brunei Darussalam has had to enforce HIV screening of foreign workers since September 1993.

"Out of the total 182 persons detected living with HIV as of 31st August 1994, 163 are found to be foreign workers," he disclosed. Seven prisoners and eight others detected among the screened were also foreigners.

Routine screening of

blood donors and antenatal mothers who are mostly of local origin did not detect any positive case, the Permanent Secretary said, adding that such situation has forced the ministry to introduce blood screening of all foreign workers before they are permitted to work in the country.

Touching on the number of locals detected infected with HIV, the official said that so far only four are infected, two of whom are Hemophiliacs, having contracted the infections from blood products received before heat-treated safe products were available.

"One of them developed full-blown AIDS and succumbed to it recently. Earlier, an AIDS case living overseas had returned and died in Brunei Darussalam. This leaves just two HIV carriers in the country at present," he told.

The Permanent Secre-

tary further stressed the importance of informing the health authorities of the country of origin of a person living with HIV when they returned to their own countries for reasons of medical follow-up and receiving social benefits.

He hoped that the conference might discuss the issue and work out the procedure for passing on the information without violating the person's right to medical confidentiality.

Prevalence of HIV infection, the official said, goes parallel with that of sexually transmitted diseases (STD) because of the common risk factors. Getting accurate data is a first step to study trends and formulate control measures, he added.

"I was informed that the situation in Brunei Darussalam has improved somewhat after the officials

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While attending the APEC Leaders' Meeting, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held bilateral talks with His Excellency President Soeharto of Indonesia (above), at which they discussed bilateral and regional issues and issues pertaining to APEC, and with His Excellency President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines (below) to discuss issues of bilateral and regional interest, including the recently established East ASEAN Growth Area, EAGA.

• From page 7
(Sultan-APEC)

Urgent need for trade liberalisation

His Excellency President Soeharto reaffirmed the urgent need for trade liberalisation, saying "all APEC economies can benefit from freer trade and increased economic integration".

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam left Jakarta on 16 November at the



His Majesty joined Muslims in the Friday congregational prayer at the Istiqlal mosque in Jakarta. He is flanked to the left by Indonesian Religious Affairs Minister, His Excellency Dr. Haji Tarmizi Tahir and to HM's right is the Chief Imam of the Istiqlal mosque, Kiyai Haji Mokhtar Nasir.



• Continued on
page 13



Above: His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the leaders of 17 other member countries of the APEC Forum at the start of their summit in the Garuda Room of the 230-year old Bogor Palace. The Indonesian President who is the Chairman of APEC 1994, formally welcomed the APEC Leaders during a dinner he hosted at the Jakarta Convention Centre on the eve of the Bogor Summit (top picture at far right). Left: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Malaysian Prime Minister, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohammad (back to camera) greet each other while the President of the People's Republic of China (extreme left) and the Chilean President (extreme right) look on.



After day-long discussions, the APEC leaders gave a press conference, with His Excellency President Soeharto as spokesman (picture above). Far left: The APEC leaders taking a walk-about in the grounds of Bogor Palace during a break of their discussion. Left: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah, the Finance Minister, joined His Majesty and other delegates at the dinner hosted by President Soeharto to welcome the APEC leaders.

• From page 11 (Sultan-APEC)

end of the APEC meeting.

Red carpet laid out for arrival and departure

As with his arrival at the Halim Perdana Kusumah airport, the ruler was accorded a red-carpet send off,

headed by Indonesia's Minister for Defence and Security, His Excellency Edy Sudrajat and other Indonesian dignitaries as well as officials of the Brunei Embassy in Jakarta including His Excellency Pengiran Setia Jaya Pengiran Haji Abdul Momin, the Sultanate's Ambassador to Indonesia.

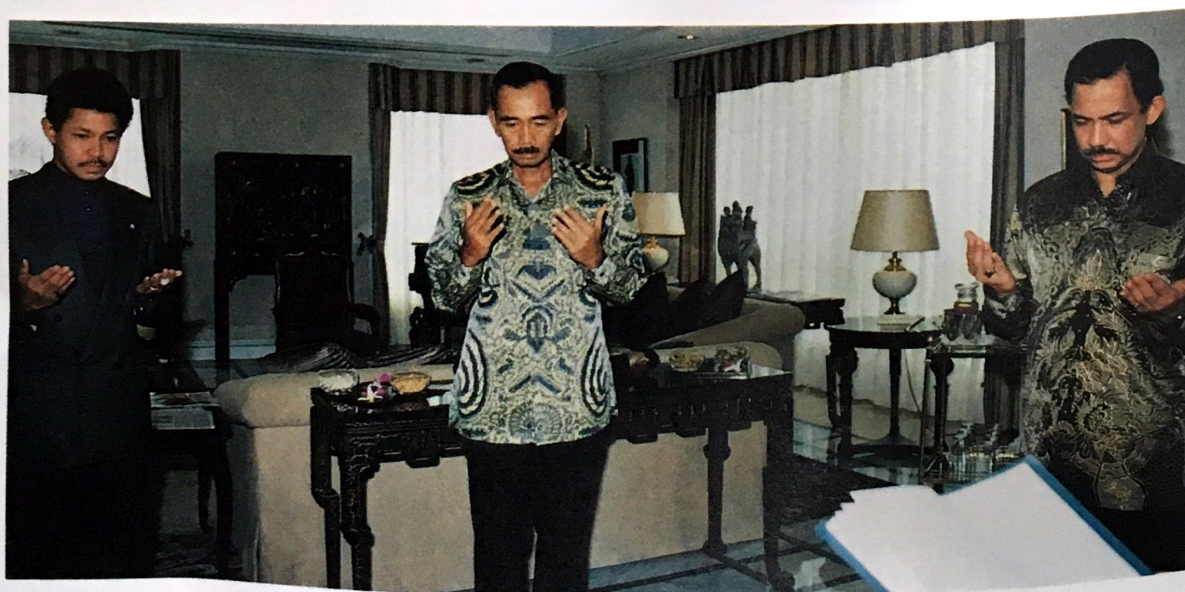


Left: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam being briefed by an IPTN official on various aspects of the aircraft industry as he stands besides a model of IPTN's recently rolled out N250 aircraft.



Above: The Brunei monarch and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah joined other Muslims for the late afternoon Zuhur prayer at the Habiburrahman mosque, which is part of IPTN's complex.

Right: His Majesty flanked by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah and Indonesia's Minister of Defence and Security, His Excellency Edy Sudrajat raise their hands in homage of the do'a selamat which was read by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Tuan Imam Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Awang Haji Abdul Aziz bin Juned shortly before the ruler and delegation left his hotel on departure from Jakarta at the end of the APEC Summit.



• From page 7 (*Human resources*)

sources Minister said in an interview at the end of the meeting that they (APEC Economic Ministers) had focused, among other issues, on human resources development and the role of the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), which he described as the cornerstones of efforts in ensuring prosperity and economic advancement within the economies of the region.

To Brunei, he said, the development of human resources is a very critical issue. With a small population, Brunei's economic development depends largely on how to channel the right man for the right job.

"After Indonesia prepared the declaration, we found that it was much to our expectation and it goes with Brunei's aspiration," said the minister.

According to him, the United States came up with a very good suggestion on HRD and so did Japan which suggested a partnership for development on such issues.

"All in all, it brings to us that everybody is conscious of the fact that each particular economy, no matter how big or small, can play and should play a role in the wellbeing of the region," said Pehin Rahman.

He stressed that APEC will not go beyond being an economic cooperation, and that ASEAN would like to see it remain as a loose consultative forum whereby all decisions are made on consensus and compromises.

Objective

The objective of human resources development in

APEC, said the declaration, is to promote the well-being of all people in the region through economic growth and development. This is to be achieved by advancing the design, development, and delivery of practical and appropriate education and training for current and future managers, entrepreneurs, and workers in both the public and private sectors to contribute to economic growth, trade and development in the Asia Pacific region. In appropriate cases, the objective is to be achieved through the medium of policy recommendations for the consideration of APEC Ministers.

Principles

The development of human resources in APEC is to be based on the following principles:

- a. The people of the Asia Pacific are the most important resource in economic growth and development, one of whose goals is to enhance the quality of life and well-being of our peoples;
- b. The development and protection of human resources contribute to the attainment of such fundamental values as the alleviation of poverty, full employment, universal access to primary, secondary and vocational education, and the full participation of all groups in the process of economic growth and development;
- c. Human resources development requires cooperative action by public, and business/private sectors, educational and training institutions;

- d. In designing regional approaches to human resources development attention must be given to the diversity of experiences and situations in the region.

Priorities

1. Provision of quality basic education for all.
2. Analysis of the regional labour market to allow sound forecasting of trends and needs in human resources development.
3. Increasing the supply and enhancing the quality of managers, entrepreneurs, and educators/trainers in areas of the economy central to fostering economic growth and development. Such areas include training in small and medium-sized enterprises, entrepreneurship and in the management of sustainable growth incorporating economic and environmental considerations.
4. Reducing skills deficiencies and unemployment by designing industrial and other training programmes for applications at all stages of a person's working life.
5. Increasing the quality of curricula, teaching methods and instructional materials relating to the education and training of managers and other workers.
6. Increasing the opportunities in the region for people who seek to gain skills required for the economic growth and development of member economies and the region as a whole.



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

7. Preparing organizations and individuals to remain productive in the face of rapid economic and technological changes in member economies, the Asia-Pacific region and the global economy.

A work plan for human resources development in APEC

The APEC Human Resources Working Group shall prepare an annual work plan for human resources development in APEC. The work plan is to define the priorities for HRD activities in APEC and set out the means for their realization in the immediate and longer terms. In the preparation of this plan, the Working Group shall be guided by the objective, principles and priorities set out in this Declaration and by the decisions of APEC Leaders and Ministers. The Working Group may take into account the views of appropriate expertise from within APEC and its observer organisations.



On the dais before delivering her address, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha, flanked by other members of the royal family. Left, below: Her Majesty presented medals and warrants to members of the Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association before going around to view some of the exhibits put up by the association in conjunction with the Girl Guides Day.

Make Organisations A Foundation To Instil Values Within Members: Her Majesty Raja Isteri



Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha has recently urged leaders of voluntary organisations in the country to make their organisations a foundation to instil noble values within their members, particularly children and youths.

Their thoughts should be

guided and developed so that they would grow as citizens with noble characters, capability and insight, Her Majesty said.

Such measure, according to Her Majesty, is a valuable contribution to the country, towards ensuring that the future community would continue to live a peaceful and harmonious



life, as well as be able to carry out their responsibility of developing and improving the country.

In a titah (royal address) at a ceremony marking the Girl Guides Day, at the International Convention Centre (ICC) on October 7,

Her Majesty said that the continuity and success of both governmental and non-governmental organisations rely a lot upon their leaders and the quality of leadership.

As a voluntary organi-

• Continued on page 18



Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam on the dais with her daughters sitting on either side of her at the start of the celebration. After presenting the prizes (below), Her Royal Highness took a close look at various items which were put on display for the occasion.

Women In Brunei Darussalam Have Shown Much Progress : Her Royal Highness

Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam has said that women in the country have shown much progress in various fields of career. This could be viewed from the increasing number of women involved in challenging professional fields, such as medical, engineering, legal, architecture, business and entrepreneurship, both in the public and private sectors.

At the same time, women's involvement in the social and welfare fields is also encouraging, Her Royal Highness said.

The progress and development achieved by our women have placed them in line with women in other countries, particularly among ASEAN, she added.

Her Royal Highness said that these achievements also reflect that women in the country have come forward, hand in hand with men, to support the government so that they could together play their part to develop the people and the country.

In a sabda (speech) at a Domestic Science Exhibition held at the Civics Centre in Temburong, Her Royal Highness called on young women in the country, particularly those who are still in school, to exemplify the determination and success shown and achieved by women before them.

• Continued on page 18



• *From page 16 (Girl Guides)*

sation, the Girl Guides Association which gives contribution without rewards, should certainly need sincerity from all members to contribute their service to

the general community, said Her Majesty.

The Girl Guides Association which has reached its 40 years of establishment in the country, has proven the existence of leadership characters and spirit of de-

votion.

Her Majesty hoped that future leaders of the association would always keep such leadership characters and commitment to ensure continuing contribution to the general community in

the country.

At the ceremony which was also held in conjunction with her birthday, Her Majesty consented to present long service medals and the association's warrant cards to members.

• *From page 17 (Women)*

This could become an incentive towards achieving further success and giving more contribution for the country's development.

Her Royal Highness further reminded that amid the progress and development they have achieved, citizens and people in the country should not turn away from the role and important contribution of family institution and household towards creating a dynamic, disciplined, united and responsible community, which is a main foundation for the development and progress of a nation.

"Only with the establish-

ment of an effective and harmonious family and household can the progress and development be lasting and bring about benefits and blessing," she said.

Women, therefore, should give due concern to efforts towards strengthening and upholding the family institution and household, stressed Her Royal Highness.

Touching on the participation of multi-racial groups in Temburong in the exhibition, organised in conjunction with His Majesty's birthday by the PERTIWI Women's Association in the district, Her Royal Highness said that it did not only exhibit various creativity and skills in

household management, but also reflected the unity and harmony of the people in the district.

She hoped that the existing spirit of unity and harmonious environment among the people would continue to be instilled and enhanced as these would ensure peace, security and progress of the people and the country.

Speech by Temburong District Officer

The District Officer, Awang Talib bin Haji Berudin in his welcoming speech, stressed the need for leaders of women associations in the country to ex-

pose their members in district branches to all activities and matters of associations both at the national and international levels.

In this way, he said, women in every district would always get the opportunity to gain knowledge for the achievement of progress in all fields, but taking into account that their involvement in the association would not impair their household management, particularly their concern to children and family.

"Leaders of associations should train and lead all members so that they could go hand in hand to motivate the association," the official said.

Upgrade Efforts In Improving Qualification, Performance, Productivity And Efficiency

The Director of Economic Planning Unit, Datin Paduka Hajjah Jusnani binti Haji Lawie has called on women in the country to upgrade efforts in improving their qualification, performance, productivity and efficiency so that they would be more prepared to face the future, particularly the 21st century which would be more challenging.

At present, the number of women who hold high posts in the Government has increased, but only seven

hold the post of Head of Department, a figure which has remained unchanged for the past ten years. However many Government Department today have women Assistant and Deputy Directors, she said.

In a speech before she declared open the Conference on the Glass Ceiling in Gadong on November 27, Datin Paduka Hajjah Jusnani highlighted that the people in Brunei Darussalam are fortunate because the country has been able to provide free

education to male and female citizens.

Unfortunately, before the 1960's, girls were not encouraged to study at higher level, resulting in fewer number of educated women compared with men, she said.

However, the situation has changed and the number of educated women has increased year by year, she added.

Statistics published in the Brunei Report 1981 and 1991 showed that the total

• *Continued on page 21*



The Director of Economic Planning Unit, Datin Paduka Hajjah Jusnani binti Haji Lawie

• *From page 10 (Border Health)*

of the Ministry had dialogue with the private practitioners in June this year. It is a fact that most STD patients seek treatment in private clinics," he said.

Earlier in the speech, Dato Paduka touched on the outbreak of plague in India, which provided an example of how neighbouring countries could cooperate with each other to check a public health menace.

"Cross border travels for business and leisure have increased tremendously in recent times. Health authorities in border countries need to be extra vigilant as the possibility of transmission of communicable diseases becomes greater," he

said.

The Permanent Secretary also spoke about the Legionnaires' Disease, the first case of which was diagnosed in the country this year. This has alerted the country to monitor the water in the cooling towers and hot water system and take measures against bacterial contamination.

Touching on the exact case of the many sudden deaths among young Thai workers experienced in the neighbouring countries, which still remain a mystery, Dato Paduka stressed that this is an area of joint research to find the solution to save the precious lives.

He also touched on the enactment of the Food Safety Act and Food Regu-

lations which is in its final stages of preparation. Lack of specific legislation pertaining to food is our biggest hindrance for enforcing food safety in the country, he lamented.

"Necessary clauses are included in the regulations to label the correct ingredients and their sources on the food packets so that our people will be guided to distinguish what is religiously acceptable and what is not," the Permanent Secretary said.

He also raised the shortage of medical professional and technical manpower, which is a constant problem in the country.

"Our formal training facilities are limited to basic training in nursing. We de-

pend on outside countries for all other professional and technical training," he said.

Dato Paduka was pleased that Singapore and Malaysia had been very supportive in the country's manpower development, and hoped that this would continue and enhanced.

He said that the conference is an important forum to discuss the current issues effecting public health which are common concern to countries bordering each other and to share the wealth of experience and expertise.

The topics discussed included communicable diseases, vector-borne disease, food and drug control, manpower development and training.



Participants of the Border Health Conference attending the conference's opening ceremony.

Second Phase Of Scheme Of Charges For Medical Services Implemented

The Ministry of Health has implemented on 1 November, 1994 the second phase of its recently introduced Scheme of Charges for medical services in the country.

The new scheme affects foreign workers and visitors with Brunei Darussalam Identity Cards. His Majesty's subjects and permanent

residents and those on Government service, however, are charged for registration, private wards admission and certain dental treatment procedures.

Registration fee for citizens is \$1.00, \$3.00 for government servants and permanent residents and \$5.00 for others.

General Out-Patient Consultation during normal working hours carries a charge of \$15.00, and \$5.00 for subsequent consultation/review; and \$25.00 for consultation given outside working hours.

A specialist consultation referred from General Out-Patient Department carries

no charges for the first consultation, but for subsequent consultation/review, the patient will be imposed a charge of \$15.00.

The first phase of the scheme was implemented on 1 December 1992 in all government hospitals, health centres and clinics in the country.

Assessment Examination For Lower Secondary Education Beginning 1997

The Ministry of Education will introduce a system of assessment examination for students at lower secondary level in the country, in replacement of the Brunei General Certificate of Education, beginning in 1997.

The Ministry will also re-identify the lower secondary education syllabus so that it meets the 'O' level requirements.

These were disclosed by the Permanent Secretary of the Education Ministry, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali Hashim bin Haji Daud at a briefing on the coordination of the lower secondary educational syllabus towards 'O' level at the Department of Curriculum Development on November 7.

The Curriculum Development Department with the cooperation of related parties has been able to carry out the revision and coordination of seven educational syllabus, which include English and Malay Language, Mathematics, Geography, History, Science and Domestic Science.

The steps were taken following the unsatisfactory result of the 'O' level examination in the country. Several studies and researches have also been carried out to identify the reason for the unsatisfactory examination result.

"Any programme designed towards improvement, such as the change of curriculum and examination format, however, would only be successful if effectively carried out, particu-



The Permanent Secretary of the Education Ministry, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali Hashim views books exhibition on teaching and learning.

larly by teachers," he stressed.

The Permanent Secretary hoped that principals would observe and supervise their teachers to ensure effective teaching. These include revising teaching preparation, observing class teaching, examining their homework and schoolwork and always being sensitive towards ways of improving learning and teaching conditions in school.

With such coordination, it was hoped that more students in the country would pass their 'O' level examination, he said. Such effort would also help to upgrade the quality of students' achievement in the examination, added the official.

"If students have low standard of knowledge, they would certainly be left behind and could not compete with the condition of the present world and could not contribute to the country's development," he said.

The Permanent Secretary also hoped that teachers would upgrade their teaching quality so that it would be more effective, interesting and stimulating for the students by using the teaching methods relevant to their capability, background and environment.

Teachers should be responsible for their teaching and willing to assist student's learning by improving their knowledge in the subjects they taught and upgrading their pedagogic skill by using effective teaching strategy, he added.

Ministry introduces special education in schools

The Permanent Secretary also spoke about the introduction of a special education for children in schools, which is aimed at providing all children at school-age the opportunity to succeed in learning, by

using teaching system and technique relevant to their capability.

Towards this end, the Special Education Unit of the Education Ministry is now preparing two programmes to help student who faced learning problem in schools. These are Learning Assistance Programme and Specialist Assistance Programme.

The Learning Assistance Programme is for children with normal intellect and who are not sensory-handicapped to upgrade their academic and social skill. It is aimed at identifying unsuccessful children, seeking the underlying reasons and thus helping the children, guardians and teachers to upgrade students' achievement.

The Specialist Assistance Programme, though having the same objective, is designed for those who

• *Continued on page 21*

• From page 20 (Syllabus)

require intellectual needs and are sensory-handicapped. The group, though small, need more attention.

With such efforts and the implementation of the educational syllabus coordination, we hope that more students would pass the 'O' level examination. This

would also enable the country to reduce its dependency on qualified foreign manpower, said the Permanent Secretary.

Teaching schemes for teachers

Touching on teaching schemes for teachers, the Permanent Secretary re-

minded teachers to be cautious when using the schemes as these are merely guidelines which should be kept in line with students' capability, environment and the existing facilities.

The outcomes following the change of examination system and the implementation of educational syllabus in upgrading better

standard of achievement in the 'O' level examination will only be seen at the soonest within three years, he said, while adding that it could also be influenced by several factors, such as teachers' teaching, support from parents as well as the students' determination and willingness.

• From page 18 (Glass ceiling)

number of women holding degrees within a period of ten years increased seven times, from 113 persons in 1981 to 788 persons in 1991, a development which is very encouraging, she said.

Within the same period, the number of working women citizens has also increased from 9,719 or 27.1 per cent of the number of

working citizens to 19,877 or 36.4 per cent. Another more encouraging development is that the total number of women citizens who hold positions at the management and administration levels has also increased from only 81 persons (6.8 percent) in 1981 to 592 persons (20.8 per cent) in 1991, she pointed out.

Touching on the average monthly salary for male and female workers

in the management and administration levels, the Director of EPU said that it does not show much difference for the first ten years of working period. However, the average salary for women is higher than those for men in the public sector.

The one-day Conference on Glass Ceiling was organised by the Women Graduates Association of Brunei Darussalam. The EPU Director hoped that the

association would always gear towards progress and be able to discuss and seek solution on women-related issues.

The Glass Ceiling is a women's issue widely discussed at present by women organisations in several countries both in the east and west.

Glass Ceiling is considered when women feel frustrated for being unable to achieve higher position.



Speaker of the Seminar on Glass Ceiling presenting her working paper.

Students urged to equip with knowledge to fulfill nation's needs: minister

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports has called on religious students to equip themselves with all forms of knowledge in ful-

filling the country's needs and aspiration at present and for the future. This is because their progress and outstanding achievement

from higher Islamic institutes of learning represent development and excellence in religious educational system.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Paduka Haji

• Continued on page 23

Sultanate has high percentage of literate population: Minister

The high quality of educational facilities provided by the wise leadership of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam towards ensuring that all the 'rakyat' (subjects) in the country receive basic education, and in providing every child in the Sultanate with free education for at least twelve years, has given Brunei Darussalam one of the highest average of literate populations.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Aziz, the Education Minister, made the remarks at the prize presentation ceremony to outstanding and best students for primary schools in the country. The function was held on 13 October, at the Pengiran Dipa Negara Pengiran Jaya Sengkarai Primary School in Tutong.

The minister said that

fifty percent of the population in some countries are illiterate as a result of their countries' low economic level and income which are imbalance with the population. These countries are only capable in providing educational services to small number of the population, while most are unable to learn even reading and writing.

Out of these number, there could be children who are genius and needed assistance, but due to poverty they are unable to attend school and are left behind in facing the future, the minister said.

With Brunei Darussalam's high income and small population, the minister said, His Majesty's Government is able to divide educational facilities to all the people in the country regardless of their income, high or low.

The minister further urged that such specialities



The Education Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz presenting prize to a pupil.

should be utilized appropriately and to strengthen the aspiration towards upgrading the quality in all aspects of life.

Touching on the development of knowledge, the minister urged teachers in particular to continue learning. He said that the Government of his Majesty has provided various in serv-

ice courses programmes in and outside the country, and many teachers also have the opportunity of undergoing these courses at the Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

Six pupils received the outstanding prizes while 144 were presented with the best pupils' prizes for primary schools.

Brunei Darussalam enjoys economic growth from economic cooperation

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources has highlighted that Brunei Darussalam enjoys a dynamic economic growth as a result of its participation in the Asia Pacific and ASEAN economic cooperation which has placed the country in a regional trade community group. The minister said that in order to

continue prosperity and excellence, it is therefore important for us to step forward so that we would not merely enjoy growth but could plan and determine the direction of our involvement in regional and world economic development.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang

Abdul Rahman, the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources made the remarks when he officially opened a meeting between national committees for Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-the Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) with local entrepreneurs held at the Pusat Da'wah Islamiah on 3 November.

The minister stressed that due to the present sophisticated and challenging economic situation, Brunei Darussalam should create a wider scope of development opportunities based on interdependent principle between regional and world economics.

• *Continued on page 23*

• *From page 22 (Economic growth)*

The cooperation of BIMP-EAGA in uniting the strength of the sources and the incentive of respective countries for mutual benefits reflect as the formation of a joint venture aimed among others to overcome the weaknesses such as finance, expertise in management, technology and marketing sectors.

The minister added through BIMP-EAGA cooperation, the country would not merely be able to cater for the needs towards marketing, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled manpower, technology and finance, but could also utilize the country's existing

specialty in a meaningful way through uniting and utilizing together respective specialties/

The minister noted that the development of infrastructure and communications consisting of modern facilities in the fields of international air transportation, deep sea port, telecommunications and supportive services could be utilized beneficially, including the richness of the natural resources in the form of bio-diversity of tropical rain forest which has been preserved.

These natural resources could attract international researchers who acknowledge the richness and uniqueness of flora and

fauna in our tropical rain forest.

All these have a bright prospect for industrial fields involving air linkages, tourism development, shipping linkages, and cooperation of fisheries sector, which have been identified for immediate development in the early stage by BIMP-EAGA.

The minister further urged local entrepreneurs to plan a strategy on how to utilize the existing strength and specialties which could in turn create a potential sectors in the country.

The minister also emphasised the importance for private sectors and the government to be united towards implementing

beneficially on the BIMP-EAGE.

Firstly, he said that His Majesty's Government has full confidence on the potential of BIMP-EAGA which could contribute towards the country's economic diversification process and the government commitment towards utilizing this economic cooperation.

The minister also noted that the private sector should become the base towards this BIMP-EAGA cooperation, while adding that the success of such cooperation is dependent on the perception and farsightedness of the private sector towards the future of the BIMP-EAGA.

• *From page 21 (Religious Knowledge)*

Awang Hussain, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports made the remarks at the Third Convocation of the Institute of Islamic Studies at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas, on 22 November.

The minister also stressed that students who are qualified from the higher Islamic centres of learning, especially with the Arabic language as their medium of studies, are needed by the community and the country in administering the fields of religious education, Islamic judiciary, Islamic affairs management as well as to serve in various government departments.

The minister added that they are the country's assets who would lead and contribute to the country's de-

velopment in future, based on the Malay Islamic Monarchy (MIB) concept.

The minister also noted that learning is a life-long process. Knowledge acquisition especially in the religious field is broad, and even though the graduates have achieved their diploma from the Institute of Islamic Studies, they should not consider that the process of learning has ended. Besides, it should be considered as the first step to go even higher, as the key and base to widen and deepen the Islamic knowledge.

The minister further urged students to be cautious and sensitive towards current world affairs by taking information and lessons so that they would become educated people, open minded and not negligent and get carried away with the delights of today's



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain presents award to one of the recipients.

modern world.

The wide knowledge in religion would become valuable and useful if it serves others beneficially and lead the community towards living in a country and in a religious way, the minister said.

The ceremony began with the recitation of the verses of the Al-Quran and

followed by a speech of the Acting Director of the Institute of Islamic Studies, Pengiran Dr. Haji Mohammad bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports later presented diplomas to seventeen graduates, of whom thirteen were female students.



A wonderland at Jerudong

People flock to it by day and by night.....that's the new playground and recreational park at Jerudong, just 11 kilometres from the Brunei capital of Bandar Seri Begawan.

At night it glitters in multi-coloured lights, thus indeed giving it the appearance of a wonderland. It is as popular a spot among the tourists as it is among the local people.

Brunei in Brief

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan
Land size : 5765 sq. km
Population : 267,800 (Mid-1992)
Official Language : Malay
Official Religion : Islam
November rainfall : 288.5mm
(annual 2,818mm)

PRIME LENDING RATE

November 5.75%
(quoted by Bankers' Association)

Brunei Malay in a minute

Each fortnight, our readers have the opportunity to learn a Brunei Malay word, which we publish in this newsletter. As the name suggests, the word is used only in Brunei Darussalam.

We have selected the word **panat** for this issue. **Panat** is

unable to feel anything or simply numb. In standard Malay **panat** is **kebas**.

In a sentence: Tangan saya **panat** kerana kesejukan.

My hands are numb with cold.

THE TRAFFICKING IN AND THE ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS ARE VERY SERIOUS OFFENCES IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM AND THE PENALTY FOR SUCH OFFENCES IS DEATH.