

# بروني دارالسلام

## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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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 (some not in photograph) at the formal announcement of the Manila Action Plan for APEC, MAPA 1996, during which they also held a dialogue with the APEC Business Advisory Council, at the Philippine International Convention Centre in Manila.

## Leaders of world's largest economic group meet at fourth APEC Summit

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other leaders of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) member economies met in the Philippines on 25 November for their fourth summit. APEC, which groups 18 Asian and Pacific Rim countries, makes up the world's largest economy.

Prior to the summit, the Brunei ruler stated that he was looking forward

to the meeting with keen interest and anticipated that it would strengthen the valuable process of discussion and exchange of views.

His Majesty added that he expected the discussion would cover a wide range of economic issues in particular those that would further promote and strengthen mutual understanding and cooperation between the APEC members.

His Majesty stressed that special emphasis should be given to human

resource development and transfer of technology, which will help promote people-to-people contact and contribute to the deepening sense of community.

The monarch also expressed the view that the meeting would certainly highlight economic relations between the members and was important for economies all over the world.

"It is essential for leaders to gain a close understanding of each other's views

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**BRUNEI  
DARUSSALAM  
NEWSLETTER**

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**Editorial Staff**

Chief Editor  
**Mahari Haji Ismail**

Editors  
**Aisah Haji Piee  
Hanafiah Mohamad  
Hajjah Zaianit Haji Noorkhan**

Layout/Design  
**Editorial Staff**

Photographs  
**Photography Unit of  
The Department of Information**

**YOUR TURN**

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 31 December 1996. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-383941 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.

# “We need APEC,” says Minister

**T**he Minister of Industry and Primary Resources has emphasised the importance of the Sultanate's participation in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman said: “There are a lot APEC can do. And one thing that APEC has done to us is the realisation of our being together with the other people around us.”

He said that we should not remain isolated, because if we do, our future will not be bright.

“The point that I want to put across here is that we need APEC more than APEC needs us,” the minister said in an interview in Manila during the APEC meeting.

He stressed that it may be alright for us to ignore APEC at the moment because we are still very prosperous.

“But in the years to come, we need friends, we need to shake hand with a lot of people, and we need to join with a lot of people.”

He added that in trade and even retail business in Brunei Darussalam with a market of 250 thousand we will not survive.

“But with a market of 150 million, that is a different scenario altogether.”

The minister pointed out, however, that the participation of Brunei community in business could not happen immediately because of the diverse levels of economic developments.

Liberalising for the sake of liberalising, will not make us survive as Brunei Darussalam is just a small community and that is why we need to safeguard their interests.

The smaller economies like us feel that we need to liberalise, but at the same time we must also take the steps to transfer the technology and also develop the infrastructure to ensure that the disparities between us could eventually be improved to enable us to play on a level playing field.



*The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman said APEC markets offer greater economic prospects for Brunei Darussalam.*

He said in Bogor, two out of the three pillars of APEC namely liberalising trade; and facilitating trade and investment were infact very well pronounced and concentrated on, but the other pillar on economic and development cooperation was a bit left out.

But at this meeting, the ministers have put a lot of emphasis on economic and development cooperation so as to ensure a win-win situation for all countries.

He said even the big economies need to internationalise, and more so Brunei Darussalam with a small business community.

However, there are small and medium scale enterprises that could benefit from their interactions with economic activities within the region itself. But it will take time for the Brunei business community to take the opportunity.

“We will continue to give such opportunity for our people,” the minister assured.

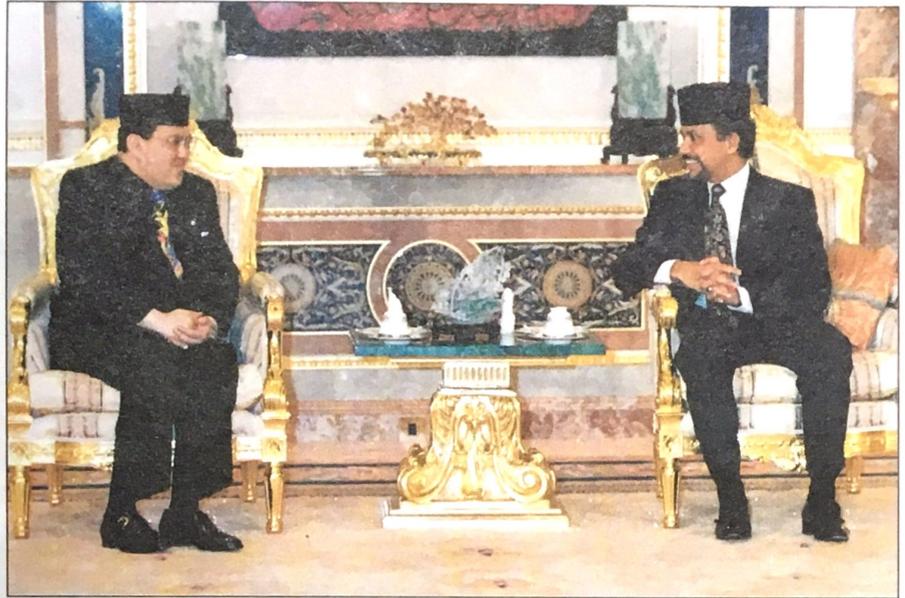
The minister was pleased to note the participation of 18 CEOs (chief executive officers) from Brunei Darussalam who took part at the APEC Business Forum (ABF).

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# Kelantan Sultan on Brunei visit

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam had received a courtesy call by His Majesty Tuanku Ismail Petra ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Yahya Petra, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negeri Kelantan Darul Naim and the Raja Perempuan Tengku Anis binti Tengku Abdul Hamid. The ceremony took place at Istana Nurul Iman on 28 October.

Also present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah; His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajjah Mazuin; Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Masna, Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran



Goodwill and friendship between Brunei Darussalam and the Northern Malaysian State of Negeri Kelantan are reaffirmed as their rulers, His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty Tuanku Ismail Petra, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negeri Kelantan meet during the Negeri Kelantan ruler's courtesy call on the Brunei monarch at Istana Nurul Iman.

Anak Puteri Hajjah Nor'ain, Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam and other members of the Brunei royal family.

Also present were members of Kelantan's royal family including Yang Amat Mulia Tengku Amalin 'Al-Ishah Puteri, daughter of the Sultan of Negeri Kelantan Darul Naim, Yang Berhormat Mulia Tengku Feissal ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Ibrahim; His Majesty's nephew, Tengku Raja Perkasa; Datin Nik Sharifah binti Nik Jaafar, Cik Puan Perkasa, and Yang Berhormat Mulia

Hajjah Azizah binti Tengku Mohd. Hamzah, mother of the Raja Perempuan of Kelantan.

His Majesty the Sultan of Kelantan and the Raja Perempuan, who were on a three-day visit to the Sultanate beginning 28 October, were welcomed on arrival at the Brunei International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and his wife, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah, representing His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

On 29 October, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri gave a banquet in honour of the Sultan and Raja Perempuan of Kelantan Darul Naim, at the Royal Brunei Polo Club in Jerudong. The banquet was attended by members of both royal households.

The royal visitors left the country on 30 October. Before leaving, the Sultan and Raja Perempuan of Kelantan made another courtesy call on His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri at Istana Nurul Iman.



Her Highness The Raja Perempuan of Negeri Kelantan Tengku Anis also made a courtesy call on Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam at Istana Nurul Iman.

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Above: The Negeri Kelantan ruler and his consort being entertained at a dinner by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri. The dinner was also attended by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and his wife, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah (picture second from top), His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah (picture second from bottom) and Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam (bottom picture), as well as by other members of the Brunei royal family and the Negeri Kelantan royal family.

Another sister of His Majesty, Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Nora'in at the dinner in honour of Kelantan's royal visitors.



• from page 3 (Kelantan Sultan on Brunei visit)

The farewell ceremony was also attended by other members of both royal families.

During the visit, His Majesty Tengku Ismail Petra and the Raja Perempuan toured the Royal Regalia building in the Brunei capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.



The Kelantan ruler being briefed by a museum official as he toured the Royal Regalia building in the heart of the Brunei capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

## Fourth APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration: "From Vision To Action"

The Fourth Leaders' Summit of the 18-member APEC economies ended its session in the Republic of the Philippines with the APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration: "From Vision To Action."

At the end of their six-hour session in Subic on 25 November, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the other APEC leaders stressed that they came to Subic to strengthen their commitment and to reaffirm that the ultimate objective of their individual and collective endeavours is to "enrich the lives and to improve the standards of living of all our citizens on a sustainable basis."

Reading the four page declaration, His Excellency President Fidel V. Ramos, the Chairman of this year's APEC summit read: "At Blake Island three years ago, we committed ourselves to deepening our spirit of community based on our shared vision of achieving stability, security and prosperity for our peoples."

In Bogor a year after, the leaders began the process of realising this vision by committing themselves to the goals of free and open trade and investment in the region. Last year in Osaka, they agreed on the framework of their future work to reach their common goals built through trade and investment liberalisation, trade and investment facilitation, and economic and technical cooperation.

"Today in Subic, we have deepened the spirit of community in the Asia-Pacific region and have affirmed our commitment to sustainable growth and equitable development," the leaders declared.

The leaders declared that they have launched the implementation phase of free and open trade and investment agenda, delivered business facilitation measures, as well as agreed to advance common goals in the World Trade Organisation, WTO.

They have developed ways to strengthen economic and technical cooperation, and engaged the business sector as a full partner in the APEC process, the declaration stated.

The leaders further declared: "We have brought to Subic our individual and collective initiatives in the fulfillment of our voluntary commitment to implement the Osaka Action Agenda. We shall implement these initiatives, presented as the Manila Action Plan for APEC (MAPA), beginning 1 January 1997."

MAPA contains the first steps of an evolutionary process of progressive

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# APEC 'ECOTECH' Programmes support national effort to accelerate its economic diversification

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) on Economic and Technical Cooperation (ECOTECH) programmes support the Sultanate's effort to accelerate its economic diversification, the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources has said.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman, the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources made this remark in his statement at the end of the Eighth APEC Ministerial Meeting in Manila on 23 November.

The minister said: "Brunei Darussalam position that these work programmes as an important instrument for the country, in our effort to accelerate the economic diversification, especially programmes on human resources development, small and medium enterprises and technology development that takes into consideration the environmental concern."

However, he urged that the relevant APEC fora explore the possibility of establishing an ECOTECH network of government agencies, business firms and academic institutions, so as to ensure effective implementation of the programmes.

In considering the report of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), the minister said that the proposals and recommendations put forward by this council are practical.

He believed that such proposals have two important outcomes.

Firstly, he said, the existing networking cooperation that have already been established among themselves can speed up the evolution of economic cooperation.

Secondly, such networking among members of ABAC would evolve economic opportunities from the growth areas that already exist in ASEAN, through joint ventures, for instance.

In this regard, the minister urged that the future work of ABAC could perhaps put forward specific recommendations on how to link up the

various sub-regional growth areas within APEC and thus complement region-wide efforts to promote prosperity.

Touching on APEC agenda on membership, the meeting agreed to terminate the moratorium on membership as decided at the APEC meeting in Seattle.

In line with the APEC formation as a loose consultative forum, the meeting agreed to consider new membership based on the criteria to be formulated.

In this regard, the minister reiterated Brunei Darussalam's position to support the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the seventh member of ASEAN, to become a new APEC member.

The meeting also welcomed Brunei Darussalam's offer to host the APEC meeting in the year 2000. Next year, the 18-member economies will meet in Canada, in Malaysia the following year, and in New Zealand the year after that.

Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdul Rahman, the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources led the country's delegation at the two-day meeting held at the Philippine International Convention Centre (PICC) on 22-23 November.

The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Domingo L. Saizon Jr., Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Philippines.

His Excellency President Ramos who officially opened the meeting, among others stated that as this year's APEC Chairman, the Philippines has set three distinctive tasks for itself, namely, carrying out the Manila Action Plan for APEC 1996 (MAPA '96), strengthening economic and technical cooperation and engagement of the private sector in the APEC process.

He stressed that APEC has moved from the commitment-making phase of setting vision, goals and agenda to action phase of carrying out individual and collective initiatives.

He also emphasised the importance of economic and technical cooperation as an instrument of

deepening the spirit of community among APEC economies.

## Joint Statement of the APEC Ministerial Meeting

In a joint statement issued at the end of the meeting, the APEC ministers among other things reaffirmed their commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Osaka Action Agenda (OAA), which aims to achieve the APEC goal of free and open trade and investment by the years 2010 and 2020 in the developed and developing economies respectively, as well as to achieve the principles of comprehensiveness, World Trade Organisation's (WTO) consistency, comparability, non-discrimination, transparency, standstill, simultaneous start, continuous process and differentiated timetables, flexibility and cooperation.

The ministers also adopted the Manila Action Plan for APEC (MAPA '96) for endorsement by APEC Economic Leaders.

They also recognised the importance of strengthening economic and technical cooperation in the region as a means to attain sustainable growth and equitable development and, correspondingly, improve the economic and social-being of APEC citizens.

Towards this end, they endorsed the Declaration of an APEC Framework for Strengthening Economic Cooperation and Development. The declaration identifies the specific goals, priorities and guiding principles that will govern the character of strengthened economic and technical cooperation among APEC members.

The ministers agreed that economic and technical cooperation in APEC must be goal-oriented and that activities have specific milestones and performance criteria.

They also underscored the need for collaborative efforts between the private/business sector and the public

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## Minister of Foreign Affairs meets with new foreign diplomats

Seven countries have posted new envoys to Brunei Darussalam. They are among the more than 100 nations which have formal diplomatic relations with the Sultanate since it assumed full independence and sovereignty on 1 January, 1984.

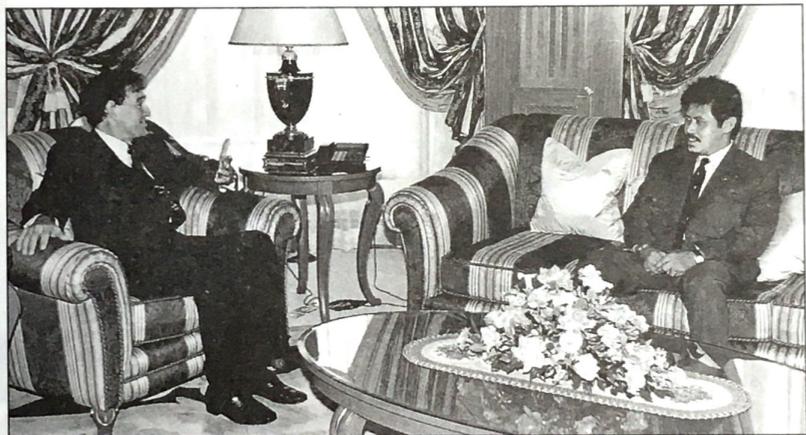
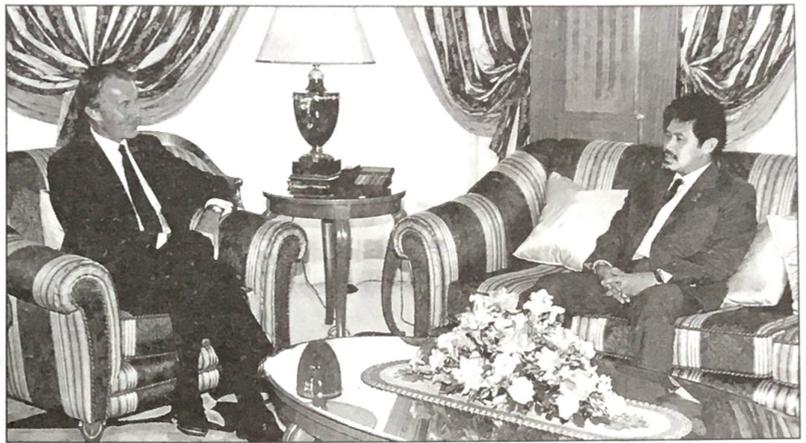
The new diplomats are from Sweden, Norway, Hungary, Belgium, Cyprus, Bangladesh and the Marshall Islands.

The envoys, all of whom are non-resident in Bandar Seri Begawan but are based either in the Republic of Singapore, Bangkok, Beijing or New Delhi, were granted separate audiences by the Brunei Darussalam Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah on 5 October and 6 October, at the Balai Penghadapan Bukit Kayangan in the Brunei Darussalam capital.

In welcoming the diplomats, His Royal Highness expressed satisfaction at the good bilateral relations between the Sultanate and each of the seven countries, and he hoped that cooperation will continue to be upgraded.

His Royal Highness also discussed and exchanged views on regional and international issues with each envoy.

Brunei Darussalam currently hosts more than 20 foreign missions in its capital, Bandar Seri Begawan and likewise the Sultanate itself has as many diplomatic missions in major capitals abroad.



*Brunei Darussalam's Foreign Affairs Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah receiving in audiences Sweden's new ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Karl Olof Krister Isaksson, top, the ambassador of Belgium, His Excellency Patrick Van Haute, second from top, Norway's ambassador, His Excellency Knut Solem above, and the ambassador of Hungary, His Excellency Andras Szabo, left.*

*Pictures overleaf show the Brunei Darussalam Foreign Affairs Minister granting audiences to the new High Commissioner of Cyprus and Bangladesh, Their Excellencies Stavros Epaminondas and Asfaqur Rahman, top and centre pictures respectively; and to the new ambassador of the Marshall Islands, His Excellency Carl Heine, bottom.*

• from page 6 (APEC 'ECOTECH' Programmes support national effort to accelerate its economic diversification) sector in the development and implementation of APEC's economic and technical cooperation activities.

They took note of the recommendations of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), which has been providing high-level private/business sector advice to the APEC process.

On the issue of membership and participation, the APEC ministers ended the moratorium on membership with the view of admitting a limited number of new members.

The ministers agreed to refine and update the set of criteria for evaluating application to APEC in Vancouver, Canada, next year's APEC host. New members will be announced based on the adopted criteria the following year in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Meanwhile, other economies which have expressed their intention to join APEC are India, Macao, Mongolia, Pakistan, Peru, Russia, Colombia, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Panama and Ecuador.

## APEC Business Forum (ABF) benefits Brunei businessmen

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Forum (ABF) will benefit Brunei Darussalam especially its businessmen, observed Mr. Timothy Ong, a leading Brunei businessmen.

Mr. Ong who is Chairman of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) on Economic and Technical Cooperation pointed that the forum gives an opportunity for Brunei businessmen to meet business people from all over the Asia-Pacific to learn and even do business with each other.

"There is a very good representation here, where there are a lot of business people from all over the Asia-Pacific — big and small. And this creates and gives us opportunity, and opportunity is something we must look for: so our people must go and talk to

people, maybe they can find out things that they can do together and then have joint-ventures," Mr. Ong told the 'Newsletter' in an interview in Manila after the official opening of the ABF by President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines, on 22 November.

He said that a business venture invariably starts with encounters; and then if there are mutual interests, "we can create mutual effort for mutual benefits."

He pointed that Brunei Darussalam has a small economy, and some of the business people have ideas but they do not have the resources to implement these ideas.

"So when it comes to such a

situation, we try to identify partners, and even if we can not do business with them, we can still learn from them," said Mr. Ong.

"Business nowadays is different from what it was in our grandfathers' time. In our grandfathers' time we can do business without worrying about the world outside. Nowadays the world has become connected, importing from all over the world and we can actually invest all over the world."

The private sector in Brunei Darussalam is very small with over 90 percent of the businesses being small and medium enterprises, and very few



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## Foreign envoys present credentials

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has received the credentials of new foreign envoys to Brunei Darussalam. The ceremonies took place at Istana Nurul Iman.

On 6 November, His Majesty first received the credential of the new High Commissioner of Cyprus, His Excellency Stavros A. Epaminondas.

He is 44 and a graduate in Public Law and Political Science from the Law School of the Athens National and Kapodistriako University.

His Excellency joined the diplomatic service in 1969, and he has served the European Community Desk and Bilateral Relations Department of his country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and as Consul in Canberra, Australia. He also served the Economic Affairs Department and Department for Overseas Cypriots at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and as Consul at the High Commission in London and Consul General in Thessaloniki, Greece.

Since 1993, His Excellency is the High Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus to the Republic of India and non-resident High Commissioner to Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Singapore. He is also accredited to

• *Continued on page 10*



*His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving the credentials of the Swedish ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Karl Olof Krister Isaksson, top, the Hungarian ambassador, His Excellency Andras Szabo, above, and the Norwegian ambassador, His Excellency Knut Solem.*



• from page 9 (Foreign envoys present credentials)

Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam.

His Majesty also consented to receive the credential of the non-resident High Commissioner of Bangladesh, His Excellency Ashfaour Rahman.

His Excellency, 52, has previously at Bangladesh's embassies in Tehran, Stockholm and Moscow. At present, His Excellency is also the Director-General (International Organisation) since 1995.

Also presenting his credential to His Majesty was the new Ambassador of the Marshall Islands, His Excellency Carl L. Heine.

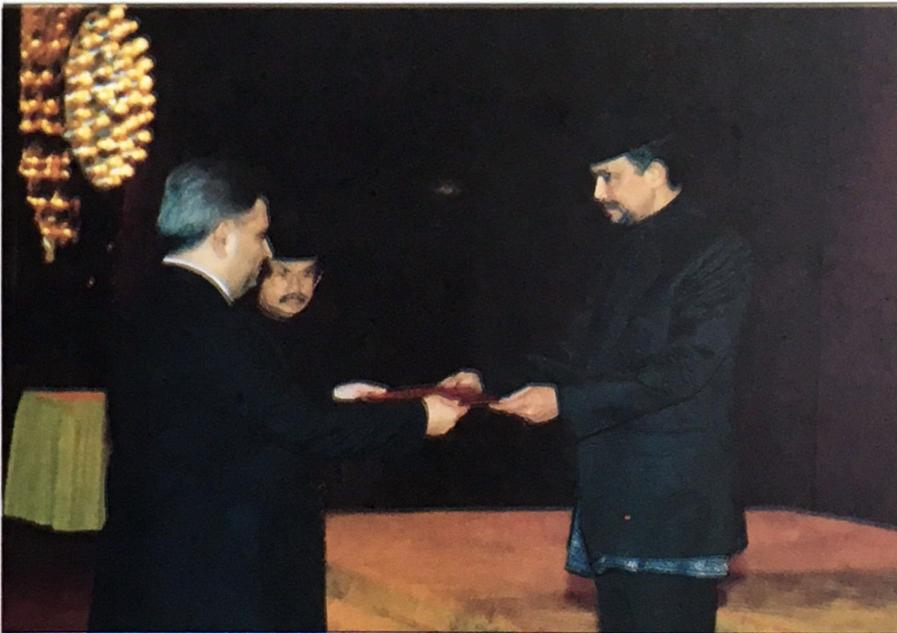
His Excellency is 58. He is a PH.D. degree holder in Political Science from the University of Hawai. He is also presently the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the People's Republic of China in Beijing.

On the previous day, 5 November, four new foreign ambassadors to Brunei Darussalam presented their credentials to the Brunei monarch.

The first to present his credential was the Ambassador of Sweden, His Excellency Karl Olof Krister Isaksson. His Excellency, who is a Bachelor of Law and Arts graduate was the Assistant Under-Secretary (Legal Affairs) at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Stockholm and Consul General at the Swedish Embassy in Milano.

His Majesty also received the credential of the Ambassador of Hungary, His Excellency Andras Szabo. His Excellency joined his country's Diplomatic Corps in 1982, and became the senior desk officer for East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

He was previously the First Secretary at the Hungarian Embassy in Warsaw and has also served in the



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Also at Istana Nurul Iman to present their credentials to His Majesty were the new Belgian ambassador, His Excellency Patrick Van Haute, top, the High Commissioner of Cyprus, His Excellency Stavros Epaminondas, centre, and the High Commissioner of Bangladesh, His Excellency Ashfaour Rahman, bottom.



Above: His Excellency Carl Heine, ambassador of the Marshall Islands, presented his credential to the Brunei monarch on 6 October.

• from page 10 (Foreign envoys present credentials)

International Organisations Department and the International Economic Relations Department.

Also presenting his credential on 5 November was the Ambassador of Norway, His Excellency Knut Solem. His Excellency, 50, was previously the Ambassador of the Royal Norwegian Embassy to Abu Dhabi, Doha, Kuwait and Manama. His Excellency is also presently ambassador to Singapore.

His Majesty then received the credential of the Ambassador of Belgium, His Excellency Van Haute. His Excellency previously held various positions at his country's embassy in Washington D.C.

His Majesty later consented to grant separate audiences to the new high commissioners and ambassadors, all of whom are non-resident envoys.

## Audiences also for IMF's Managing Director and Oman Minister

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has granted an audience to the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, IMF, Mr. Michel Camdessus, at Istana Nurul Iman on 5 November.

He was accompanied at the audience by the Director of the IMF for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Kunio Saito and the Executive Director of the Southeast Asia Group IMF, Mr. Zamani.

Brunei Darussalam joined the IMF as its 180th member in October last year. The IMF currently has 181 members.

Also at Istana Nurul Iman for an audience with the Brunei monarch was the Minister of Justice, Wakaf and Islamic Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, His Excellency Hamoud bin Abdullah Al-Harith.

Present with the minister at the audience, on 29 October, was Oman's ambassador to Brunei Darussalam.

The Oman Minister was in Brunei Darussalam to sign a memorandum of understanding on cooperation between the two sultanates.



Right: The Minister of Justice, Wakaf and Islamic Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, His Excellency Hamoud bin Abdullah Al-Harith during his audience with His Majesty.

Below: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in conversation with the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, IMF, Mr. Michel Camdessus.





His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and 17 other APEC leaders wave their hands jubilantly during a photo session in front of the Leaders' Hall building in Subic before they got down to serious business during their recent summit which among other things, aimed at achieving open and liberal trade. Below: The Brunei monarch and the other APEC leaders being entertained to dinner by Philippines' President Fidel Ramos on the eve of their summit meeting.

• from page 1 (Leaders of world's largest economic group meet at Fourth APEC Summit)

so that the international affairs could be conducted in a spirit of cooperation." His Majesty said in a statement upon arrival in Manila, on 23 November.

Accompanying His Majesty was his youngest brother, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah, the Finance Minister.

His Majesty and delegation were

welcomed at Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport by Philippine Vice President Joseph Estrada.

Prior to the 4th APEC Economic Leaders' Summit, His Majesty and the 17 other leaders of the APEC member economies had an informal meeting at the Philippine International Convention Centre (PICC). They also held a dialogue session with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) before being entertained to a dinner by President Ramos, Chairman of this year's summit.

The next day, His Majesty flew to Subic, the former US naval base, which is now a freeport and the venue where all the 18-member economic leaders approved the final four-page draft of the Manila Action Plan for APEC (MAPA '96), which set the stage for full liberalisation and elimination of tariff barriers beginning 1 January 1997, and to be completed by the year 2020.

On arrival at Subic International

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Below: His Majesty and President Fidel Ramos, happy and smiling, wave to journalists during a break of the APEC Leaders' Summit. During the summit, the Brunei ruler also led his delegation in separate bilateral talks with the Philippines led by President Fidel Ramos, at the Coconut Palace in Manila, above, and with the Singapore Prime Minister, Mr. Goh Chok Tong, bottom of page.

• from page 12 (Leaders of world's largest economic group meet at Fourth APEC Summit)

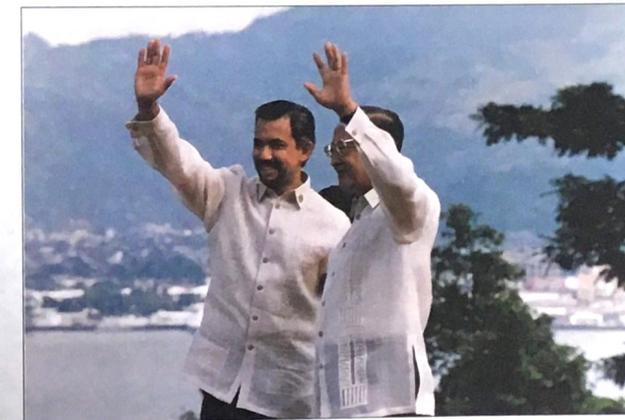
Airport, His Majesty proceeded to one of the 21 presidential villas built by the host for the APEC summit, which brought together the leaders of Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, the United States of America and the host country - Philippines.

The opening ceremony began with the 'Lowering of the Time Capsule' which contains the leaders' respective statement and souvenir items of member countries which will be kept in a treasure chest, and only to be opened in 2010, the year when the first phase of the APEC goal of free and open trade and investment would have been achieved.

The 4th APEC Economic Leaders' Summit ended its session with the announcement of the Leaders' Declaration: "From Vision to Action", read by President Ramos.

In Subic, His Majesty also consented to hold a bilateral talk with the US President, His Excellency Bill Clinton.

In Manila, the previous day, the monarch had separate bilateral talks with the President of the Philippines and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore.



# Play role in preventing and overcoming child abuse

**H**er Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam has stressed that the family institution should play an important role in the prevention of and overcoming any abuse of children in the country.

Physical abuses and neglect of children will not occur if the family institution is strengthened through harmonious, loving and caring relationships among the family members, she stressed.

Within the family institution itself, she added, there must be some degree of tolerance and respect in parent-children relationships, feelings and opinions, while at the same time, less authoritarian approach on the part of the parents in their interaction with their children need to be practised.

Officiating at the Regional Consultative Meeting on Convention on the Rights of the Child: The Challenge of Implementation, held at a leading hotel near the Brunei capital, Bandar Seri Begawan on 4 November, Her Royal Highness pointed out that children are a most important asset of any nation.

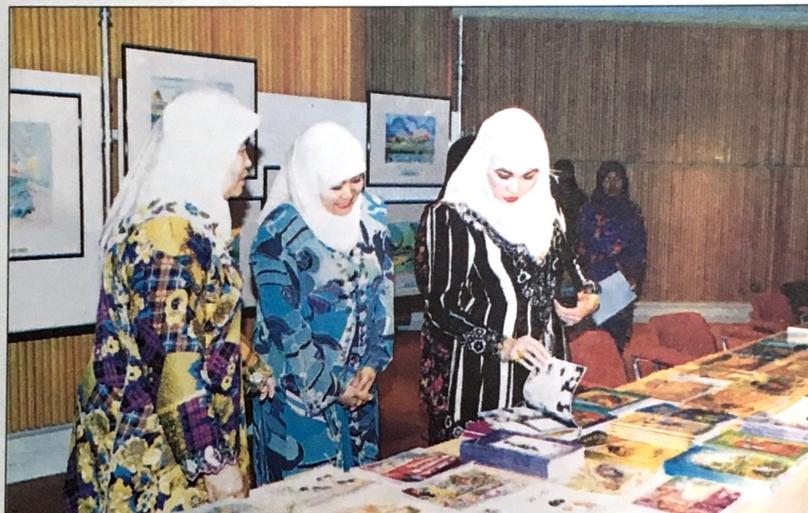
“And toward ensuring the healthy growth and development of children, we too recognise the importance for children to be fully protected from abuses, exploitation and any other form of victimisation,” she added.

Children also need to be given love and care by their families as well as opportunities in education, health and

• *Continued on page 23*



*Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam calling on all concerned to prevent abuses and exploitation of children.*



*Her Royal Highness views exhibits on display and left: a colourful display by youngsters at the opening ceremony of conference.*





## Be equipped with education, attitude and discipline

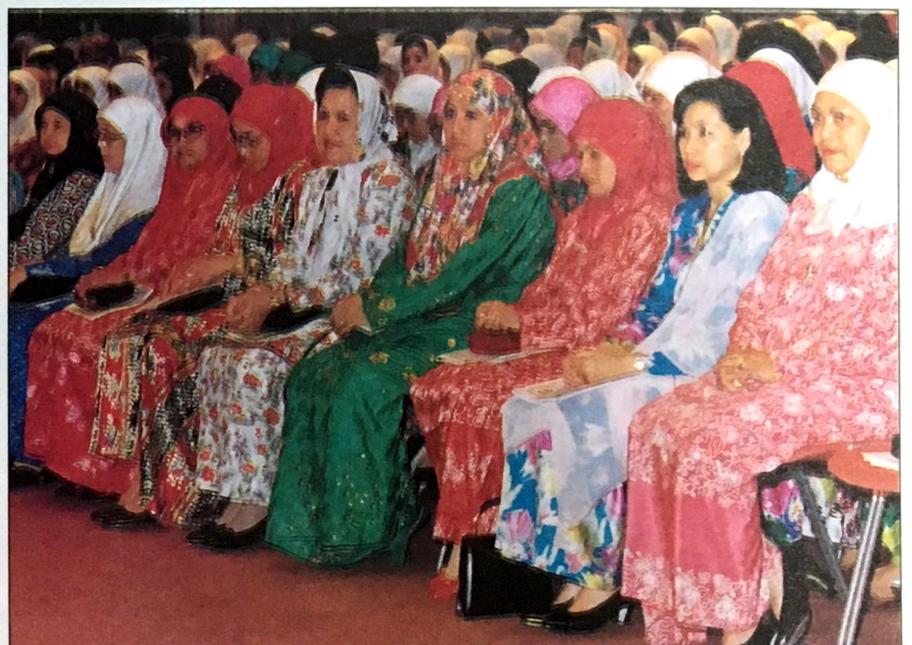
Women in the country need to equip themselves with good education, attitude and discipline in facing the sophisticated and highly-technological 21st century, stressed Datin Paduka Hajjah Jusnani binti Haji Lawie, the founder of Brunei Darussalam's Women Council.

By so doing, they will not be left behind and will be able to make a wise choice in carrying out their duty as wives, mothers, workers and members of society and citizens of the country, she said.

She said that women's role will be more challenging towards the 21st century, and with the government's policy of indiscrimination in education between men and women, the country has now more educated women in all fields.

Datin Paduka Hajjah Jusnani was speaking before Her Majesty Paduka

• Continued on page 17



Top picture: Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri at the start of the celebration, and centre, viewing some of the exhibits put up by the Women's Council. Bottom: Some of the Council's members at the gathering.

# Training to emphasise on quality care and attention towards patients

**H**er Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah has stressed the need to constantly give the highest priority to training in human resources development, particularly that which emphasises on quality care and attention to patients.

Such training, she said, will be able to improve nurses' working performance and outlook, in carrying out their duties, aspirations and responsibilities as nurses, a dynamic and challenging career.

Wherever medical and health is concerned, stressed Her Royal Highness, it does not simply mean being able to acquire the latest equipment and facilities, or to have the most modern hospital, rather it is the ability to give due care and attention to the patient.

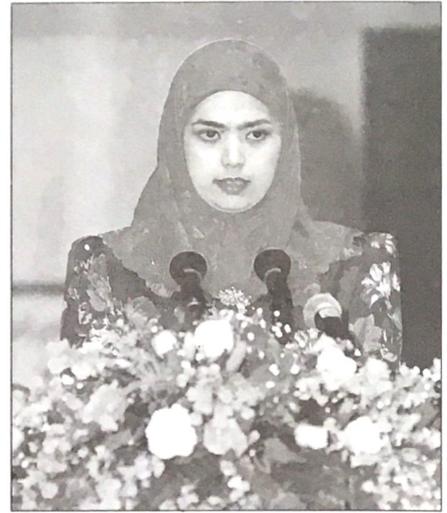
"In my view, no equipment and facility can provide the special feeling and peace that the patient would experience from the human touch, that is, when he or she is well-looked after, cared for and attended to with dedication and commitment.

Her Royal Highness, who is Patron of the Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah College of Nursing, highlighted the matter before she officially declared open the 2nd International Nursing Conference at the International Convention Centre on 3 November.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah had earlier said that countries in the world are doing their utmost to achieve growth and balanced development in order to enhance the quality of life of their people.

Such quality of life would certainly take into account the enhancement in education and training, housing and environment as well as welfare and health, she pointed out.

Brunei Darussalam has made substantial allocations in the National



*Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah stressed that in nursing, quality care and attention towards patients come first.*



*The Princess being greeted by guests and delegates at the Second International Nursing Conference, above; and below — viewing some of the exhibits which included food sources with high nutritional contents.*



• *Continued on page 17*

• from page 15 (Be equipped with education, attitude and discipline: call to women)

Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam at a ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of the formation of the Brunei Darussalam Women's Council, at the International Convention Centre on 1 November.

Her Majesty The Raja Isteri is the patron of the Women's Council, while Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri is its advisor.

Within ten years between 1981 to 1991, the number of women who work and contribute to the country's economic development has increased from 15,000 to 34,000, which shows that the participation of women in the economic field has increased from 33 to 48 per cent.

However, the number of working female citizens was only 10,000 in 1981, 20,000 in 1991 and about 25,000 this year, which are still low, compared to the number of foreign workers which has doubled from 22,000 in 1981 to 44,000 in 1991.

Datin Paduka Hajjah Jusnani pointed out that the contribution from Bruneian women in employment would help reduce the dependency on foreign workers and the out flow of the Brunei currency.

The country's involvement in the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines — East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) has opened up more opportunities for women in the economic field, especially the private sector, business and industries.

Women in the country should grab these opportunities to upgrade their contribution towards the country's

development, she stressed.

She also underscored that as citizens and residents of the country, women too have the responsibility to together develop the country. However, they should not ignore their responsibility as wives and mothers.

She also expressed concern over the problem of unemployment, 60 per cent of whom are females. This is because many locals prefer to work with the government and private firms have no confidence in the local workers.

She said that we should change these attitudes.

Datin Hajjah Jusnani called on the Women Council to play its part to encourage women to be aware and do their responsibility for the society and the country. She also urged members of the council to work together.

To date, nine women's organisations in the country have joined the council.

• from page 8 (APEC Business Forum (ABF) benefits Brunei Businessmen)



Mr. Timothy Ong, who is Chairman of the ABAC, spoke of the opportunities APEC can offer Brunei businessmen.

companies are becoming large businesses. One of the challenges is to strengthen and develop the private sector, he said.

APEC is very useful for them because there is a programme for supporting small and medium enterprises or SMEs".

He added that the APEC Business Council is also encouraging APEC governments to have special programmes for supporting the development of small and medium enterprises.

However, he reminded, success in business does not depend on other people. It must come from ourselves. Other people can provide support and we cannot expect APEC to do everything for us.

The key to success is that we must seize this opportunity and make use of what APEC has given to us, he stressed.

Mr. Ong also stressed that ASEAN is equally important as APEC is to Brunei Darussalam.

He said that there are now already a number Brunei-ASEAN joint ventures. There are a lot of ASEAN people doing business in Brunei Darussalam and some Brunei businessmen, too, are already beginning to invest in other ASEAN member countries.

The difference between ASEAN and APEC, he said, is that ASEAN is like a small neighbourhood, then we have the larger neighbourhood in APEC.

"Both are important but in different ways. The immediate neighborhood is ASEAN and the reason why we should involve with APEC is because the largest economies of the world are in APEC and not in ASEAN, like Japan, the United States and now increasingly China," Mr. Ong explained.

The ABF as described by President

Ramos in his opening speech, aims "to locate business in its rightful place within the region —and that place is shoulder-to-shoulder with our peoples and governments in the pursuit of the vision we all share of the Asia-Pacific community."

The three-day ABF was attended by more than 500 business people from the 18-member economies of APEC.

• from page 16 (Training to emphasise on quality care and attention towards patients)

Development Plan and the Annual Budget in an effort to ensure that due regard and attention is given to medical and health.

The conference, with its theme 'Caring in Practice', was organised by the Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatol Bolkliah College of Nursing, Ministry of Education in cooperation with the Ministry of Health.

It was to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the college's establishment and intended to serve as a developmental benchmark in the college's ten-year history

More than 600 delegates, including some 200 delegates from the ASEAN region, attended the conference.

# Uphold values and ethics for effective public service

**T**he Minister of Religious Affairs has stressed that officials in the Public Service should understand and put into practice the values and work ethics of the Public Service because they are included in the institution of society, embracing religion, education, the family and social environment, all of which are the rational basis for an effective Public Service.

He said they should utilise these values and ethics in determining the direction and giving meaning to thoughts, action and behaviour in order to fulfil their responsibility as “workers of the nation”

Values and ethics, he went on, should also motivate them to provide integration and coordination among members of the Public Service which is a major institution that contributes to the development of society, and to work sincerely and effectively.

In a speech at this year’s Public Service Day gathering held at the International Convention Centre on 3 October, Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Haji Mohd Zain pointed that value is defined as a belief which encourages man or an institution to act according to a choice based on the main value of the society which are founded on knowledge, wisdom, justice and temperance. Ethic, on the other hand, is the responsibility and result of one’s action on profession.

Responsibility should be carried out professionally, efficiently and effectively, he urged. Each member of the Public Service, therefore, should be knowledgeable and have sufficient skills in order to carry out his or her duty and responsibility.

The Minister explained that one would be responsible if one does one’s work perfectly, does not expect others to do one’s work, and



*The Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Haji Mohd. Zain officially launches a guide book on the ethics of public service, during which he also presented the 1996 Public Service Awards.*

feels guilty when one does not carry out the duty entrusted as expected.

Meanwhile, one is less responsible when one does not put efforts in one’s work and has to be helped by others, work results cause anxiety and difficulties among members of the public or consumers, and does not try to improve the quality of service. He pointed to the six foundations the Public Service should uphold. These are religion, ruler, overall justice, peace, sustainable growth and high hope and ambitions.

Religion is essential for containing and controlling lust in order to prevent one from evil-doings. A ruler can provide the needs of the people, prevent evils and cruelty which can be brought about by lusts and whims; and protect and maintain the interests of the people.

Justice, he went on, can create love and unity as well as loyalty to superiors, and make the country more prosperous. Peace can ensure peace of mind for the people and freedom to pursue their ambitions and interest without interference or fear. Whereas sustainable growth may make a country richer and more

prosperous with its economy developing in an organised way, thus providing the people with all their needs.

Hope and ambition will drive the people to pursue life’s wellbeing, thus, helping to contribute to the nation’s development which can be inherited by future generations.

Touching on work result that falls short of expectancy and without quality, the minister said these are due to among others, the weakness of the worker, absenteeism, misunderstanding among workers, disobedience, untrustworthiness, indiscipline, anti-management attitude and personality conflict and stress within a person.

Improper management of time can also lead to additional cost and wastage of resources, and tarnish the image of the agency. Time can be wasted, the minister further pointed, if meetings of officials are unwisely conducted, unproductive and ineffective.

The highlight of the gathering was the presentation of the 1996 Public Service outstanding award, with the presentation made by the minister.

# Change and upgrade image to attract more locals in construction industry

The construction industry needs to change and upgrade its image so as to attract more locals, the Minister of Development has urged.

These can be achieved by consistently producing works of high quality, such as beautiful buildings which are of great pride to the nation. Secondly, by having a high safety record that may encourage parents to allow their children enter the industry, and thirdly by having exemplary quality management in the industry that are promising and ensure high income.

In a speech at a ceremony marking World Standard Day at the Dewan Bertabur of the Ministry of Development on 14th October, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Wijaya Pengiran Dr. Haji Ismail pointed out that the involvement of new local entrepreneurs in the industry is important to fill up the vacuum left by entrepreneur who have successfully established themselves overseas and internationally.

As with foreign entrepreneur who are active in the international market, said the minister, these local entrepreneurs also need support for success.

These aspects, he added, required the discipline which must be accompanied by skill, knowledge and the desire to improve as well as far-sightedness.

Touching on the Government's effort to encourage contractors to produce quality work, the minister stressed that this is not only to ensure that customers, such as the Government, gets 'value for money' products in its investment for

*The Minister of Development, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Wijaya Pengiran Dr. Haji Ismail said the construction industry should upgrade its image.*



buildings and public facilities, but also in a wider scope to ensure that consultants, suppliers and all parties involved are using the work and projects opportunity as preparation towards self-discipline towards producing a quality work, in order to achieve higher goals, especially in a more competitive world of business.

He further urged entrepreneurs to equip themselves with capability and understand the customers' expectation, because as the 21st century looms nearer, the region will develop rapidly and the issue on quality will certainly become a focus of concern.

There will also be more opportunities, as the countries in this region will need to provide infrastructural facilities to meet the needs of the population, industrial and economic growth, he added.

Should local entrepreneurs wish to grab the profit from these opportunities, they should from now adopt a strategy to enter external market apart from relying upon domestic opportunities alone", stressed the minister

One of the strategies, he pointed out, is building up one's capability so as to be able to produce guaranteed quality of work that can

be readily accepted by customers in the international market.

The minister cited Galfar Construction and Entrepreneurship (Brunei) Co. Ltd as an exemplary consultant with the insight and commitment, as well as being the best consultant in safety and cleanliness for four successive years.

The Company has in recent years carried out 16 projects compared to only five in 1992, with a turnover of B\$80 million compared to only \$19 million in 1992, and now employs 1,700 workers compared to 640 in 1995.

With the achievement, the company has proved that skilled management combined with special attention given to cleanliness may help a company to further progress, he pointed out.

The Minister also congratulated the Interline roofing (Brunei) Ltd Company for its administration in implementing Total Quality Management System (TQM), which constantly gives attention to quality management. The company was the first to obtain recognition for ISO 9000, and the implementation of the TQM was a proof their commitment on quality management.

## Sultanate needs healthy citizens with sense of values

**B**runei Darussalam needs healthy citizens with a well-built sense of values in facing the world and as the country faces the challenges of development, said the Minister of Communications.

"To achieve the goal, we need citizens who are not only highly-educated academically, but are also well-disciplined, with high morals and non-indulgent in activities that are contradictory to the norms of social life", he said.

Students and young people in the country, therefore, should appreciate the government's effort towards making the development of the citizens and people of the country a priority, he stressed.

Officiating at the sixth National Zikir Competition for Secondary Schools and Colleges on 30 September, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Zakaria pointed out that social elements resulting from the emerging sophisticated technology such as the electronic media,



*The Minister of Communications, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Zakaria told students to live in accordance with the norms life — one with a firm sense of values.*

especially in today's world, frequently influence young people particularly students.

The involvement and participation of students in a well-organised and scheduled activities either by the Department of Curriculums, schools and organisations will help avoid students from being involved in activities contradictory to the norms of life, society and laws of the country, he said.

The Minister hoped that all parties will make effort in instilling moral education in the students. In Islam, moral education is the building of souls of children towards producing

characters that are advocated by the teachings of the Al-Quran, characteristics which ensure peace and harmony of a family and society, he said.

Zikir (choral recitation of religious verses) is a way of praising the greatness and the life history of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and has become the culture of Muslims in the country.

The Minister hoped that students who learn the zikir will become inheritors of this culture, so that zikir will not disappear with the pace of development and presence of other cultures.

## IBB introduces EFT-POS Service

**T**he Islamic Bank of Brunei Berhad (IBB) has introduced the Electronic Fund Transfer Point Of Sale (EFT-POS) Service, the first of its kind in the country.

EFT-POS services will directly debit the account by using the IBB Gold Card with the confirmation through personal identification number, which is far different from other credit cards.

In a speech before he officially launched the "Electronic Fund Transfer Point of Sale" Service using the IBB Gold Card at the Multi-purpose Hall of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Complex on 17th October,

the Law Minister, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Haji Bahrin, who is also the Chairman of the IBB, expressed pride over the determination and sensitiveness of the IBB on the development of modern and increasingly sophisticated information technology.

With the introduction of the EFT-POS, he said, the IBB has stepped forward in upgrading the quality of banking service in the country.

The project is conducted using the expertise of local officials and staff of the IBB.

The success of the project, said the IBB



*The Minister of Law who is also the Chairman of the Islamic Bank of Brunei, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Haji Bahrin at the bank's EFT-POS Service launch.*

Chairman, reflects the capability of an excellent quality of production and "in-house" implementation.

Prior to the launch, a signing ceremony was held between IBB and Hua Ho Superstore, which is the first to use the service. The service will be offered and extended to other superstores, supermarkets, restaurants and shops, he said.

# Give due concern to products of local industries

The Minister of industry and Primary resources has called on all parties in the country to give serious attention to products of local industries.

He said they will be neglecting their responsibilities to the nation if they allow the potential to slip by as the result of their ignorance of their national responsibilities.

He pointed out that the goal of the country's economic diversification process can be achieved through the activities of the small and medium industries implemented by the private sector.

However, it is still too early for us today to think about the small and medium industries being capable of penetrating the international market because they can only survive if they can first dominate the local market", the minister stressed.

This can only happen with the support from consumers in the country to enable such industries to firmly establish themselves and develop to become more competitive.

In a speech before he declared open the new Chinese Chamber of Commerce Complex in the Belait District on 8th October, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman stressed that members of the Chamber have a vital role in assisting the development of local industries.

Most agents for goods distribution and supermarkets in the country are owned by Chinese entrepreneurs and members of the Chamber, whose role is an important factor in marketing which is the pulse in the penetration and widening of the local markets.

Producers and distributors in the country, therefore, should seek methodological and operational approach towards achieving excellence of local industries by way of mutual support between the races.

He was confident that such cooperation would upgrade the performance of local entrepreneurs towards strengthening the country's



The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman called for the promotion of local industrial products.

economic development.

The Government through the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, has provided several fora as a linking mechanism between the Government and the private sector, he pointed.

At the operational level, for instance, a consultative committee of the business chambers has been formed to help solve problems of the private sector. At the policy level for the implementation of the economic diversification efforts, the Government

has also appointed a representative in the Business and Commerce Council.

The minister hoped that these mechanisms would enable the private sector to concentrate on efforts to strengthen the country's economic development through diversification of economic activities.

He also hoped that the new permanent building will serve as a stimulus to further upgrade efforts for the benefit of members of the chamber in particular, and the business community in general.

## BINA establishes body to promote meeting and consultation

The Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources through the Brunei Industrial Authority (BINA) has established a body called Badan Perundingan dan Konsultasi Kompleks Perindustrian.

The body will encourage meeting and consultation between the ministry and concerned parties in the private sector on specific fields.

The interaction will be conducted in the form of consistent consultation to handle issues and seek measures to improve entrepreneurship in the country. It is hoped to create understanding and integration to together handle with full responsibility any initiative of common interest.

Disclosing the effort before he declared open a course on Food Packaging and Quality Control on 7 October, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of

• Continued on page 22

• from page 21 (Bina establishes body to encourage meeting and consultation)



The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Danial launches a new body aimed at increasing interaction and consultation towards promoting the country's industrial activities.

• from page 5 (Fourth APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration: "From Vision To Action")

and comprehensive trade and investment liberalisation towards achieving the Bogor goals by the year 2010 and 2020, in accordance with the Osaka Agenda.

The leaders also declared that they are determined to sustain the dynamism of their plans through a continuous process of review and consultations. They are committed to build on MAPA, and to improve the individual actions plan, including their comparability and comprehensiveness, the declaration added.

To this end, they welcomed the decision of ministers to meet in 1997 to review the individual action plans, taking into account the views of the private sector.

They also declared that they will further instruct their ministers to identify sectors where early voluntary liberalisation would have a positive impact on trade, investment, and economic growth in the individual APEC economies as well as in the region, and submit to them their recommendations on how this can be achieved.

The leaders also declared that they reaffirmed the primacy of an open, multilateral trading system based on the

Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Danial bin Haji Hanafiah stressed that meeting and consultation have become the basis and principle of the ministry in together supporting the country's aspiration to improve the economy, for which the private sector should always play their part as the engine of economic progress.

It has been the policy of His Majesty's Government through the ministry, he said, to give encouragement and relevant support to improve local entrepreneurs. The formation of BINA on 1 April this year, he added, was an advanced step to further update assistance service for entrepreneurs in the country, particularly locals.

Touching further on BINA, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Danial said that it is also hoped to be able to support entrepreneurs in matters relating to company's registration, service on

WTO.

They said: "We consider it essential that regional and multilateral trade and investment should support and reinforce each other. We applaud the efforts of APEC members which extend to all economies the benefits derived from sub-regional arrangements."

The leaders are determined that the far reaching liberalisation measures to which they have voluntarily committed themselves in APEC, and the significant opening already underway in all the economies, "will serve as a catalyst for further liberalisation of the multilateral trading systems."

They endorsed initiatives for freer and non-discriminatory trade in goods and services.

Recognising the importance of information technology in the 21st century, the APEC leaders called for the conclusion of an information technology agreement by the year 2000, recognising the need for flexibility as negotiations in Geneva proceed.

The leaders also noted the importance of economic and technical cooperation which helps APEC members to participate more fully in and benefit from an open global trading environment, thus ensuring that liberalised trade contributes to sustainable growth and equitable

production's quality test and quality recognition both inside and outside the country.

In the formation process of entrepreneurship project, BINA is also required to assist entrepreneurship both in making evaluation on the suggestion of project and to help develop ideas of new suggestion, he added.

This will be carried out through a networking which can provide technical data and further information on various kinds of industrial activities, through which small entrepreneurs will be assisted in their effort, said the official.

The course on Food Packaging and Quality Control was organised by BINA with the cooperation of Technonet Asia Singapore who funded the course, and Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI) who provided three experts to conduct the course.

development and to a reduction in economic disparities.

"This year, we have advanced our work on economic and technical cooperation significantly. To give it further impetus, we endorse the declaration of a framework of principles for economic cooperation and development in APEC adopted by ministers," the declaration stated.

They also directed ministers to work in partnership with the private sectors in order to identify ways to encourage such participation by all APEC economies. In addition, they also ask that they put special emphasis on the full participation of women and the youths.

In their 26-point declaration, the leaders also affirmed the central role of the business sector in the APEC process.

"We thank ABAC for its valuable work and ask our ministers to work closely with the business sectors next year to examine ways of implementing ABAC's recommendations," the declaration further stated.

The declaration also noted that the leaders commit themselves to foster great public-private sectors partnership in APEC and place great value on promoting more people-to-people linkages, particularly those in education and business.

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• from page 14 (*Play role in preventing and overcoming child abuse*)

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welfare care, and the freedom to express their feelings and emotions, she stressed.

Her Royal Highness earlier expressed regret over incidents concerning children being abused indiscriminately for purposes of child labours, sexual exploitation and physical abuses by their parents, as well as getting involved in drug abuse and left to wander about aimlessly without shelter.

"There are also those who are abducted from their natural parents and subjected to numerous forms of hardships and sufferings," she pointed out.

Her Royal Highness stressed that it would not be a simple task for all countries to overcome and resolve these problems due to their varying geographical sizes, economic capability and social structures.

"Nonetheless, these are problems that urgently need to be addressed and given due attention for immediate effective solution by all signatory countries of the United Nations Children Rights Convention," she further pointed.

Brunei Darussalam is fortunate that these problems are still negligible, Her Royal Highness said. Nevertheless, we should not be complacent, but should adopt measures to monitor any violation of the rights of children in the country.

In this regard, Her Royal Highness called for the formation of a Children's Council in the country, which will directly assume the role of co-ordinating the implementation of the provisions of the Children's Right Convention in Brunei Darussalam.

She said that effectiveness in the implementation of the provisions of protection and care for children as advocated by the Children's Rights Convention require political and financial commitment as well as strong willingness, close cooperation and concerted, unified actions by member countries.

"Member countries need to find effective monitoring measures and take appropriate action to halt children's rights violations. Hence perpetrators

would be deterred and hesitate from repeating their evil-doings," she said.

Her Royal Highness hoped that the meeting would produce resolutions, contributing to the effective implementation of the contents and provisions of the Children's Rights Convention that would ensure comprehensive protection, welfare and well-being of children in countries in the Asia Pacific Region, particularly.

### **Speech by Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.**

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain, in a welcoming remark touched on the problems and the declining moralities of most of the societies in the world, both East and West, and the slow but steady decaying of institutionalised family binding where respect for parents and the elders is of great concern.

"Statistics of the unmarried young people has grown to an alarming proportion. If I may, I am attributing this negative phenomenon in our society to the fact that we have not done enough to inculcate in our children and youths the cultural and religious values," he stressed.

In Brunei Darussalam, His Majesty's Government is fully committed to safeguard and upgrade these values by making religious studies as part and parcel of the national educational curriculum.

The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports has also been entrusted to develop and implement programmes toward producing a caring society, and instil such values as respect for parents and elders, and gratitude to those who extend help and assistance.

It is the duty of the parents, he said, to give due attention to the welfare of the children and the family as a whole.

The most challenging is the bringing up and upgrading of moral quality of a child, especially at the age when the child is exposed to the outside surrounding and the society at large, said the minister.

The five-day meeting was aimed at assisting countries which recently became state party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the

process of monitoring and reporting under the convention, and interchanging information on reports which have been submitted on the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and to identify strategies and responses to the committee's reviews of the reports.

It was also aimed at assisting in identifying priority areas for CRC implementation and monitoring, and evolving CRC perspective for situation analysis.

The meeting was organised by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports with the cooperation of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Child's Rights Asianet Bangkok, and Human Rights Centre Ateneo Law School, Philippines. It was attended by delegates from countries of the Asia Pacific region.

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• from page 2 (*"We need APEC." says Minister*)

"Obviously, they are business people, they may have made contacts, they may have made friends, they may well have reached some business arrangements," he added.

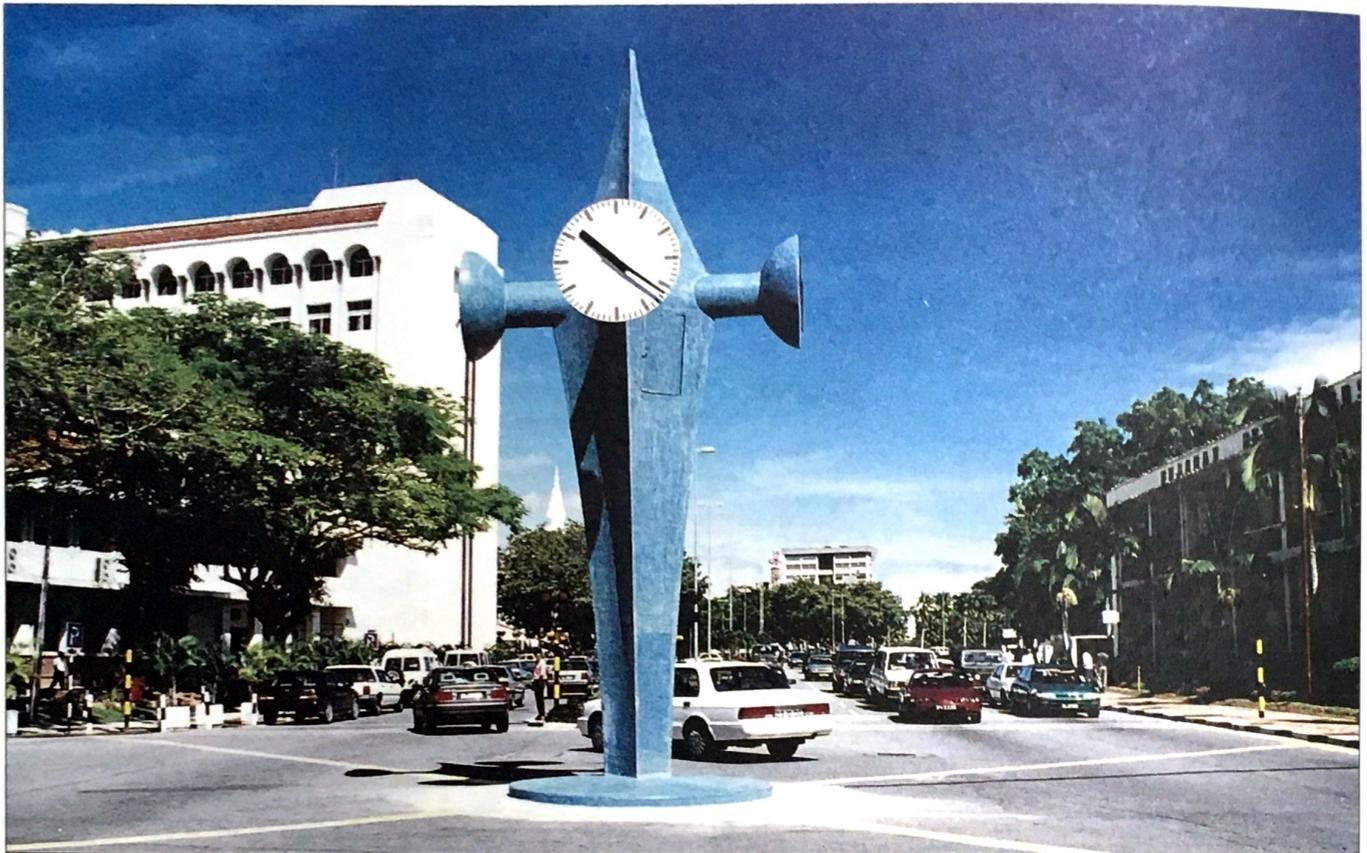
The minister also urged the Brunei business community to be aware of what is going on, and to have an open mind about the opportunities that may arise from the liberalisation process of APEC.

He pointed that positively there will be great opportunities for our business people to participate in. They may not necessarily happen in Brunei Darussalam, they can happen outside.

On the efforts to develop the Sultanate's business community, the minister pointed there will be more programmes to develop further the business people when the government starts to implement its plan next year.

He said that the government is very conscious of the fact that our small-time business people need help in terms of finance and technology know-how.

He pointed that the government has already implemented a number of programmes in the past years to assist these people, and very recently the Ministry of Finance has come up with the Development Bank, and the Ministry of Development itself has started a number of projects to help educate Brunei's business people.



## An old, familiar face is back in town

The Brunei Darussalam capital, Bandar Seri Begawan has retained one of its old looks with the reinstatement of the old clock (shown in picture). The clock which has stood in the heart of the town

since 1959, was replaced by a newer one for several years but sentimentality perhaps, has brought it back, much to the delight of many people. Standing at the junction where Jalan Sultan and Jalan Elizabeth 11

converge, the clock does not only keep time — but distances from the capital to other major towns in the country are also measured from it. Indeed, as the phrase goes, it is a pleasure to see an old, familiar face back in town!

### *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 : 317.5mm

(annual 2,818mm)

### *Brunei Malay in a minute*

Each edition of this newsletter introduces readers to a common Malay word used only in this country. This edition brings the word **uras**.

**Uras** simply means litter or rubbish as in anti-litter laws. The standard Malay word for uras is sampah sarap.

Let us use our new word in a sentence:

Jagalah kebersihan negara dengan membuang **uras** di tempat yang dihaskan.

Keep our country clean by throwing rubbish in the proper places of disposal.

**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.**