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Brunei Darussalam

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## Viet Nam's achievements as an inspiration for Brunei

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 27** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered a *titah* (royal speech) touching on how over the years, Viet Nam has enjoyed political stability and economic progress through the Socio-Economic Development Plan, ever since the establishment of the 'Doi Moi' policy in the 1980s.

The achievements of Viet Nam and its people are inspirations to Brunei Darussalam to achieve the goal of the Brunei Vision 2035.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered the *titah* at the State Banquet to welcome His Excellency Tran Dai Quang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and spouse, Madam Nguyen Thi Hien, who were on a state visit to the country. The event took place at the Banquet Hall of Istana Nurul Iman.

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam with His Excellency Tran Dai Quang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and spouse, Madam Nguyen Thi Hien. Also present at the State Banquet were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman.

## His Majesty bestows rank of Acting Captain to His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen

**BERAKAS, August 31** - His Royal Highness 920 Lieutenant Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah was promoted to Acting Captain, which took effect since the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2016.

Accordingly, the awarding of the new rank of the Acting Captain was bestowed by His Royal Highness' father, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), which took place at the Officers' Mess of Bolkiah Garrison.

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) granting the rank of Acting Captain to His Royal Highness 920 Lieutenant Prince 'Abdul Mateen which took effect since the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2016.







3. His Majesty receives audiences



5. Her Majesty receives audiences



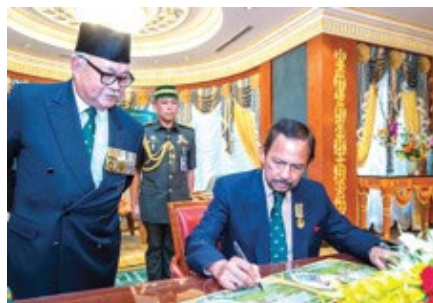
8. 235 receive State Decorations



9. Their Majesties receives *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from intending Haj Pilgrims



11. His Majesty graces Brunei Darussalam Regatta 2016



13. RBAF Retired Officers express gratitude



15. President of the National Olympic Council of Brunei Darussalam (BDNOC) visits Olympic Sports Village



15. His Royal Highness makes goodwill visit



20. Brunei - A new bird watching destination in Southeast Asia



22. Bandar Seri Begawan as ASEAN City of Culture 2016-2017



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EMAIL US AT: [info.dept@information.gov.bn](mailto:info.dept@information.gov.bn)

**EDITORIAL Advisory Board:**

Mawardi Haji Mohammad

([mawardi.mohammad@information.gov.bn](mailto:mawardi.mohammad@information.gov.bn))

Hajah Noorashidah Haji Aliomar

([noorashidah.aliomar@information.gov.bn](mailto:noorashidah.aliomar@information.gov.bn))

**Editor:**

Saadiatul Nur Aqilah Haji Jaman

([aqilah.jaman@information.gov.bn](mailto:aqilah.jaman@information.gov.bn))

**Sub-Editor:**

Khairunnisa binti Haji Johari

Siti Nur Shakina binti Alais

Aneesa Suhaila binti Mohammad

(UBD students)

**Translation**

Translation Unit

**Layposter:**

Amal Wahidah binti Adanan

(IGS attachment student, supervised by

Khairul Shaharim Hj Abdul Ghafor)

**Proofreader:**

Azimatul Azimah binti Siti Rahmat

([azimah.rahmat@information.gov.bn](mailto:azimah.rahmat@information.gov.bn))

**Photographs**

Photography Unit of

Department of Information

**General inquiries**

Tel: (673) 2383 400/ext English Publications

Fax: (673) 2382 012

**Information Department**

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## His Majesty receives audiences

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman:

## Heads of delegates of the Asia Pacific Rainforest Summit 2016 (APRS) on August 3



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office with Heads of delegates of the Asia Pacific Rainforest Summit 2016 (APRS).

At the Audience Ceremony, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience the heads of delegates from six states, namely; His Excellency Josh Frydenberg, the Minister of Environment of Australia; His Excellency Osea Naiqamu, the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry of Fiji Islands; His Excellency Dato Sri Dr. Haji Wan Junaiddi bin Tuanku Jaafar, the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Malaysia; His Excellency Ohn Win, the Minister of Environmental Conservation and Forestry; His Excellency Constâncio da Conceição Pinto, the Minister of Business, Industry and Environment of Timor-Leste; His Excellency Matai Seremaiah, the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity; and His Excellency Ham Lini Vanuaroora, the Minister for Climate Change of Vanuatu.

Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office. Also present at the Audience Ceremony was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism.

## AMCA's Foreign Delegation on August 25



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office with Foreign Delegation of the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (7<sup>th</sup> AMCA) and related meetings with Dialogue Partners.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience the ministers, delegation leaders, and Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN; His Excellency Prof. Felipe Mendoza De Leon Jr., Chairman of the National Commission for Culture and The Arts, Republic of the Philippines; His Excellency Samraing Kamsan, Secretary of State for Culture and Fine Arts, Kingdom of Cambodia; His Excellency Savankhone Razmouny, Deputy Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Lao People's Democratic Republic; The Honourable Datuk Mas Ermeyati binti Shamsudin, Deputy Minister of Tourism and Culture, Malaysia; and Her Excellency Sim Ann, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and Ministry of Finance, Republic of Singapore.

His Majesty also received in audience Her Excellency Dr. Chaweerat Kasetsoontorn, Vice Minister of Culture, Kingdom of Thailand; His Excellency Ding Wei, Vice Minister of Culture, People's Republic of China; His Excellency Hiroyuki Yoshiie, State Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan; His Excellency Young Duy Bien, Vice Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; His Excellency Bang Sun-gyu, President of Asia Culture Centre (ACC), Republic



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of Korea; His Excellency Dr. Hilmar Farid, Director General of Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Education and Culture, Republic of Indonesia; His Excellency Kyaw Oo Lwin, Director General of the Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library, Republic of the Union of Myanmar; and His Excellency Vongthep Arthakaivalvatee, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior

Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

Also present at the ceremony was Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports; Dato Paduka Awang Haji Muhammad Juanda bin Haji Abd. Rashid, Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office; and Dato Paduka Dr. Awang Haji Affendy bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.



His Excellency Dr. Ng Eng Hen, Minister for Defense of the Republic of Singapore on August 30.



His Excellency Mohammed Abul Hye, the Outgoing High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam on August 30.



His Excellency Takehiko Nakao, President of the Asian Development Bank (ABD) on August 18.



His Excellency Todd Mercer, the Outgoing High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam on August 18.



His Excellency Chhay Sokhan, the Outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Cambodia to Brunei Darussalam on August 18.



His Excellency Nguyen Truong Giang, the Outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to Brunei Darussalam on August 30.



Mr. Shaarik Zafar, United States Department of State's Representative to Muslim Communities on August 11.

## Her Majesty receives audiences

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to receive in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman:



Ms. Orieta del Carmen Ossio Andia, spouse of His Excellency Todd Norman Mercer, High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam on August 9.



Ms. Dyna Tan, spouse of His Excellency Chhay Sokhan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Cambodia to Brunei Darussalam on August 9.

## His Royal Highness the Crown Prince receives audiences

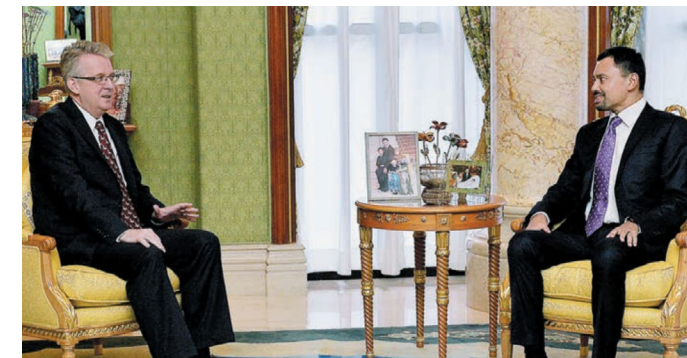
His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received in audience at the Qashr Al-Meezan from:



His Excellency Dr. Ng Eng Hen, Minister for Defense of the Republic of Singapore on August 30.



HHis Excellency Chhay Sokhan, the Outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Cambodia to Brunei Darussalam on August 10.



His Excellency Todd Mercer, the Outgoing High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam on August 10.



Newly appointed Ambassadors of Brunei Darussalam on August 20.



His Excellency Nguyen Truong Giang, the outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to Brunei Darussalam on August 20.



His Excellency Mohammed Abdul Hye, the Outgoing High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam on August 20.



## Viet Nam's achievements as an inspiration for Brunei (continued)



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam as well as His Majesty's children, brother and sister with His Excellency Tran Dai Quang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and spouse, Madam Nguyen Thi Hien before departing to the State Banquet to celebrate the state visit from the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

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First of all, His Majesty consented to congratulate His Excellency on his recent election as the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and congratulated the government and the people of Viet Nam on the 71<sup>st</sup> National Day Celebration which will take place in September.

His Majesty said that the visit of His Excellency marks as a significant event as both countries will commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2017.

His Majesty expressed confidence that under His Excellency's leadership, Viet Nam will achieve its target to become an industrialised country by 2020.

His Majesty also mentioned that the long-standing ties between the people has demonstrated practical cooperation particularly in energy, agriculture and fisheries, education, labour, and defence.

In the field of energy, His Majesty expressed appreciation in Viet Nam's involvement in the offshore platform and welcomed the interest in building

the existing relationships through future project cooperation.

His Majesty also mentioned that the direct flight between Bandar Seri Begawan and Ho Chi Minh City has made it easier for people from both countries to visit each other.

His Majesty further expressed his appreciation towards Viet Nam's contributions in nation-building, especially teachers, workers and experts in the fields of agriculture and fisheries.

The growing number of student exchange under Universiti Brunei Darussalam's Discovery Year has helped to ensure that the shared friendship will last for generations to come.

"I believe that the signing of Memorandum of Understanding, in regards to the recent cultural cooperation will deepen the understanding and appreciation of the country's heritage and culture.

From a regional perspective, we will continue to work closely to improve overall

security, prosperity and development.

We face many challenges and it is important that we stand united as ASEAN in preserving the political and economic stability of our region.

The achievement of both countries in ASEAN has characterised a solid foundation for strengthening their second partnership in the Asia-Pacific region," said His Majesty.

His Majesty hopes to bridge the involvement in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the timely conclusions for Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnerships (RCEP).

His Majesty took the opportunity to record full support to Viet Nam's Chairmanship for APEC in 2017 and hope that the preparation will go well.

"My government and my people hopes that His Excellency will continue to succeed, and hopes to strengthen the long-standing goodwill relationship and have the same purpose," concluded His Majesty.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha bestowing a *pesambah* (souvenir) to His Excellency Tran Dai Quang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and spouse, Madam Nguyen Thi Hien.

## His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send congratulatory messages to:

1. His Majesty Al-Sultan Almu'tasimu Billahi Muhibbuddin Tuanku Alhaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah, Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, Her Majesty Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Hajah Haminah, and the Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Honourable Dato Laila Utama Dato 'Sri Mohd. Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, in conjunction with Malaysia's Independence Day Anniversary on August 31.
2. His Excellency Dr. Tony Tan Keng Yam, President of the Republic of Singapore and His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, as well as the Government and people of the Republic of Singapore on the occasion of the Republic's 51<sup>st</sup> National Day on August 9.
3. His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia, as well as the Government and people of the Republic of Indonesia on the occasion of the anniversary of the 71<sup>st</sup> Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia on August 17.



## 235 receive State Decorations



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam awarding State Decorations of Brunei Darussalam to recipients in conjunction with His Majesty's 70th Birthday Celebration.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 4** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to award State Decorations to a total of 235 recipients in conjunction with His Majesty's 70th Birthday Celebration. The ceremony took place at Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present were the children and brothers of His Majesty, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

Also present at the ceremony were Pengiran-Pengiran Cheteria, Cabinet Ministers, Pengiran-Pengiran Peranakan, Members of the Legislative Council, Deputy Ministers, representatives from neighbouring countries, Permanent Secretaries, heads of departments and senior government officers.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness 'Abdul Malik.



Leading the ceremony was the awarding of the *Darjah Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei Yang Amat Mulia Darjah Ketiga* (S.M.B) or The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei 3rd Class to 42 recipients, led by Haji Dennie bin Haji Abdullah, Senior Istibat Officer of the State Mufti Office.

Meanwhile, other recipients included officers and staff of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MoFAT), the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), the Ministry of Education and private sectors.

The ceremony was followed by the awarding of the *Darjah Seri Ugama Islam Negara Brunei Yang Amat Bersinar Darjah Keempat* (S.U.B) or The Most Eminent Order of Islam Brunei 4th Class to seven recipients from the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA), led by Dr. Awang Haji Adanan bin Haji Basar, the Acting Ra'ees of Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPU SB).

A total of 169 recipients received the *Darjah Setia Negara Brunei Yang Amat Bahagia Darjah Keempat* (P.S.B) or The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei 4th Class, preceded by the Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Mohammed Saifullah bin

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## Their Majesties receive *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from intending Haj Pilgrims

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 8** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam were pleased to receive a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from intending Haj Pilgrims of the country separately at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received a *junjung ziarah* from a total of 194 males intending to perform the Haj pilgrimage.

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

Meanwhile, in another room at the Istana Nurul Iman, Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri received a *junjung ziarah* from a total of 206 females intending to perform the Haj pilgrimage.

Also present was Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman.

Before the audience ceremony and *junjung ziarah*, the Haj Pilgrims of the country performed the Zuhur prayer, followed by a luncheon.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam receiving a *junjung ziarah* from intending Haj Pilgrims separately. Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman.

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Pengiran Indera Setia Diraja Sahibul Karib Pengiran Anak Haji Idris, Police Superintendent.

Other recipients were officers and staffs from PMO, the Ministry of Defence, MoFAT, MoHA, the Ministry of Education, MoRA, the Ministry of Development, the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Health and private sectors.

The ceremony proceeded with the awarding of *Bintang Darjah Seri Ugama Islam Negara Brunei Yang Amat Bersinar Darjah Kelima* or The Most Eminent Order of Islam Brunei 5th Class (P.U.B) to 17 recipients from MoRA, led by Awang Haji Sahrin bin Kadih, Syariah Subordinate Judge.

The Government of Saudi Arabia still maintains a 400-Haj quota for haj pilgrims from Brunei Darussalam, to ensure the safety and comfort of the pilgrims as the upgrading works is being implemented in the holy city of Mecca and Madinah Al-Munawarah.

Of the total quota of the pilgrims, this pilgrimage group also included seven recipients of '*Kurnia Tabung Haji bagi Saudara-Saudara Baharu*' (His Majesty's personal gift for *mualaf* or Muslim converts).

Male pilgrims each received an *ihram* (Haj attire) and female pilgrims each received a pair of *telekung* (prayer robes).

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving a *junjung ziarah* from one of the intending male Haj Pilgrims.



Some of the guests present at the ceremony.

The ceremony was concluded with the recitation of *Doa Selamat*, led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.



Some of the guests present at the ceremony.





## His Majesty bestows rank of Acting Captain to His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen (continued)

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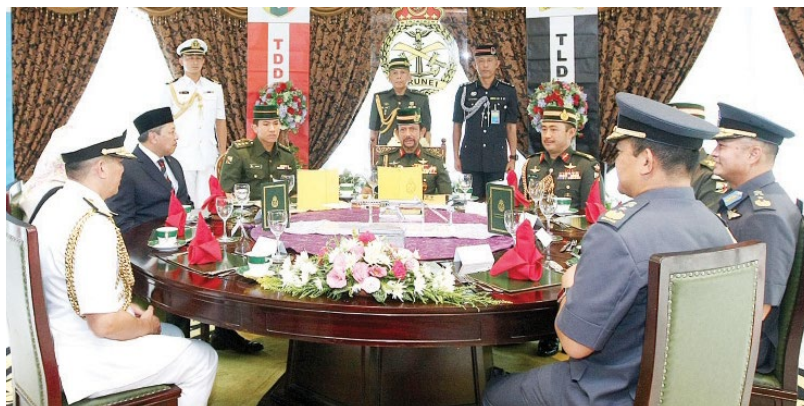
The arrival of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the event was welcomed by First Admiral (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Abdul Aziz bin Haji Mohd. Tamit, the Deputy Minister of Defence, and Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Mohd. Tawih bin Abdullah, Commander of RBAF.

Earlier, His Majesty received the Royal Salute and inspected the guard of honour consisting of 111 members of the First Battalion of the Royal Brunei Land Force led by Major Moza Syaffiarizal bin Haji Mohammad.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) with His Royal Highness 920 Lieutenant Prince 'Abdul Mateen.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness receiving a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from RBAF officers present at the event.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness during the Banquet at Bolkiah Garrison Officers' Mess.

Prior to leaving the event, His Majesty and His Royal Highness took a group photo with members of the Defence Executive Committee and commanders of the RBAF. Subsequently, His Majesty and His Royal Highness signed the Royal Parchments.

Also present at the ceremony were

Defence Executive Committee, service commandants, directors, commandants, senior officers, and officers of the Ministry of Defence and RBAF.

His Royal Highness began his course as a Military Cadet at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) in Surrey United Kingdom, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2010

and completed the course on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2011. Upon completion and with consent of His Majesty, His Royal Highness was promoted to Second Lieutenant on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2011 and subsequently promoted the rank of Lieutenant at the Officers' Mess of Berakas Garrison on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2012.

## Their Majesties receives *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from intending Haj Pilgrims (continued)

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The first flight of Haj Pilgrims is expected to leave the country from the 18<sup>th</sup> of August and to be followed by the second flight which is expected to leave on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August.

Before leaving, the Haj Pilgrims of the country had followed and completed several preparatory courses of the commandment

and compulsory obligations of Haj, as well as other preparatory preparations for the pilgrimage.

A total of 20 medical officers and five Administrative Officers of the Haj Affairs Medical Office will join the pilgrims to manage the health matters and Haj related matters for the pilgrims.

## His Majesty graces Brunei Darussalam Regatta 2016



His Majesty the Sultan Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen, participating in the Brunei Darussalam Regatta 2016 for the 15-Rower Special Fibreglass Boat Race.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 21** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to participate the Brunei Darussalam Regatta 2016.

The regatta took place at the Royal Wharf in Bandar Seri Begawan and was held in conjunction with His Majesty's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration.

Also present at the event were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince

'Abdul Wakeel; and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah.

Upon arrival at the Royal Wharf, His Majesty and members of the royal family were greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism; and Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja (Rtd) Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports; in their capacity as Co-Advisers of the Regatta 2016 Executive Committee.

The event was enlivened with His Majesty's participation in the 15-Rower Special Fibreglass Boat Race. His Majesty led the Regatta Committee 'A' Team which also included His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen. The

team's boat was named 'Raja Wali'.

Meanwhile, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office led the Regatta Committee 'B' Team whose boat was called 'Punai'. His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad Bolkiah led the Penghulu Mukim and Ketua Kampung Team in a boat named 'Belais' while His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik led the 'Sampariding' boat, leading the Permanent Secretaries and Deputy Permanent Secretaries Team.

The race was won by the Regatta Committee 'A' Team led by His Majesty. The runner-up was the Regatta Committee 'B' Team led by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, while the Penghulu Mukim and Ketua Kampung Team led by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad Bolkiah won third place.

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The Putera Kuala Lawas Team from Sarawak, Malaysia rowing ahead the other team in the 30-Rowers Traditional Marathon Boat Race.



## His Majesty graces Brunei Darussalam Regatta 2016 (continued)

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Shortly after completing the race, His Majesty witnessed the 25-Rower Traditional Boat Race among Ministries, the 25-Rower Open Traditional Boat Race and the 15-Rower Private Companies and Institutes of Higher Learning Invitational Fibreglass Boat Race.

His Majesty and royal family members then proceeded to view the Brunei Darussalam Regatta 2016 Exhibition at the Art Gallery at the Royal Wharf in the capital.

His Majesty was then ushered to the Royal Dais to present prizes to the winners of boat races in each category before leaving the event.



His Majesty with Putera Kuala Lawas team from Sarawak, Malaysia, the champion of the 30-Rowers Traditional Marathon Boat Race.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office leading the Regatta Committee 'B' Team whose boat was called 'Punai' in the 15-Rower Special Fibreglass Boat Race.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad Bolkiah leading the Penghulu Mukim and Ketua Kampung Team in a boat name 'Belais' in the 15-Rower Special Fibreglass Boat Race.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik in a boat called 'Sampariding', leading the Permanent Secretaries and Deputy Permanent Secretaries Team in the 15-Rower Special Fibreglass Boat Race.

## His Majesty's Birthday Celebration Reception Ceremony



Their Majesties and other members of the royal family in a group photo with the resident Heads of Diplomatic Missions in Brunei Darussalam with their spouses, in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration.

**JERUDONG, August 6** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, consented to attend a Reception Ceremony in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration, held at the Royal Berkshire, Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club in Jerudong.

Accompanying Their Majesties were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman.

Also present were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul

Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar.

Upon arrival, Their Majesties were greeted by the High Commissioners and Ambassadors of friendly nations to Brunei Darussalam led by His Excellency Chhay Sokhan, Ambassador of the Royal Embassy of Cambodia to Brunei Darussalam as the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

Shortly after arrival, Their Majesties were ushered to take a group photo with the resident Heads of Diplomatic Missions in Brunei Darussalam with their respective spouses.

His Excellency Chhay Sokhan in his welcoming address expressed the gratitude of the Diplomatic Corps for His Majesty's leadership and the harmonious relationship that the members of Diplomatic Corps continue to enjoy.

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## RBAF Retired Officers express gratitude



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Defence, and the Supreme Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) in a group photo with retired officers of the RBAF.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 1** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and the Supreme Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) attended a ceremony with the retired officers of the RBAF, in conjunction with the celebration of His Majesty's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The arrival of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Royal Berkshire Hall in Jerudong, was greeted by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General (Rtd) Pengiran Haji Ibnu Basit bin Pengiran Datu Penghulu Pengiran Haji Apong; Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Dewa Major General (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Mohammad bin Haji Daud; and Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Harimau Padang Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Husin bin Ahmad, as the Celebration's Chairman.

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## His Majesty's Birthday Celebration Reception Ceremony (continued)

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His Excellency also conveyed the deep respect and appreciation of the envoys to Their Majesties as well as the royal family, the government and the people of Brunei Darussalam for the good hospitality, respect and friendship received.

During the event, Their Majesties received a *pesambah* (gift)

in the form of a Silver Platter etched with the names of the 29 diplomatic nations to the country, presented by resident Heads of Diplomatic Missions in Brunei Darussalam in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration.

## RBAF Retired Officers express gratitude (continued)

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Also present was Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Upon arrival, His Majesty mingled cordially with the retired officers

of the RBAF and consented to sign the *lembaran keberangkatan* (commemorative parchment), before heading to the Royal Berkshire Hall.

His Majesty then proceeded to the cake cutting ceremony and received a *pesambah* (souvenir) in the shape of

a boat and the country's map from the Organising Committee. The souvenir carries the meaning of achieving an improvement, prosperity and well-being of Brunei Darussalam, with the result of the upbringing and leadership led by the Brunei's sultanate institutions.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam signing the *lembaran keberangkatan* (commemorative parchment).



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from officers of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with officers, guests and retired officers of the RBAF.

## President of the National Olympic Council of Brunei Darussalam (BDNOC) visits Olympic Sports Village

**RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL, August 3** - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) consented to visit the Olympic Sports Village in Barra de Tijuca for the Get-Together Ceremony with the Brunei contingent for the 2016 Olympics.

In the event, His Royal Highness consented to deliver a *sabda* (royal speech) of sound advice to the athletes representing the country, and toured and viewed the available facilities at the Olympic Sports Village.

During the visit, His Royal Highness consented to sign the Olympic Message Board.

The contingent of Brunei Darussalam will participate in two sports event namely athletics and badminton. Mohd. Fakhri bin Ismail and Maizurah binti Abdul Rahim will represent in athletics and Jasper Woon Chai Yu will represent in badminton.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) signing and writing on the Olympic Message Board during his visit to Olympic Sports Village in Barra de Tijuca.



The arrival of His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of BDNOC being brought around the Olympic Sports Village by Ummi Kalthum binti Haji Abdul Karim, Chef de Mission of Brunei Darussalam Contingent.



His Royal Highness mingling with athletes participating in the 2016 Olympic in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

## His Royal Highness makes goodwill visit



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah with His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, Madam Ho Ching.

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, August 15-18** - On August 15, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah made a goodwill visit to the Home Team Tactical Centre (HTTC) of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Singapore.

Upon arrival, His Royal Highness was greeted by Mr. T. Raja Kumar, Deputy Secretary (International) at the Ministry of Home Affairs and Chief Executive of the Home Team Academy.

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## His Royal Highness makes goodwill visit (continued)

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His Royal Highness then went on to listen to a briefing and was ushered to take a closer look at the facilities available at HTTC.

His Royal Highness then proceeded to a group photo session and signed the centre's Visitor Book.

In the afternoon, His Royal Highness made another goodwill visit to the Police Operations Command Centre of the Singapore Police Force.

The arrival of His Royal Highness was welcomed by Mr. Lau Peet Meng, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Operations) of the Singapore Police Force.

His Royal Highness then proceeded to listen to a briefing before touring the facilities at the operation centre and signed the visitor book.

On August 16, His Royal Highness and Yang Amat Mulia consented to attend the Afternoon Tea with His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, Madam Ho Ching.

Upon arrival, His Royal Highness and Yang Amat Mulia was welcomed by Mr. Chng Kai Fong, Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister of Singapore.

Shortly after arrival, His Royal Highness and Yang Amat Mulia consented to sign the visitor's book and took part in a group photo session with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, before proceeding to the Istana Lounge for an Afternoon Tea.

In the afternoon, His Royal Highness consented to attend a Luncheon with His Excellency Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore.

The goodwill visit continued with a visit to \*SCAPE Co. Ltd, where His Royal Highness was greeted by Mr. Christopher Pragasam, Executive Director and Mr. Daniel Lim, Senior Manager of \*SCAPE Co. Ltd.

During the visit, His Royal Highness was given a tour of their facilities after a briefing on the youth programmes conducted by the organisation and took part in a group photo.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik signing the visitors' book.

Late morning of August 17, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik consented to meet His Excellency Dato Paduka Seri Ng Chee Meng, Acting Minister for Education (School) and Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Transport for a goodwill visit.

Upon arrival, His Royal Highness was greeted by His Excellency Dato Paduka Seri Ng Chee Meng, the Acting Minister for Education (School) and Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Transport and Mr. Lam Yi Young, Deputy Secretary (Policy) of the Ministry of Education.

In the afternoon, His Royal Highness made a goodwill visit to SPRING and was welcomed by Mr. Ted Tan, Deputy Chief Executive of SPRING.

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His Royal Highness in a group photo with the members of the Home Team Tactical Centre (HTTC) of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Singapore.

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His Royal Highness proceeded to listen to the briefing and witness the start-up companies as well as the facilities provided at the SPRING.

The goodwill visit in the afternoon then continued with a visit to the Economic Development Board of Singapore.

The arrival of His Royal Highness was welcomed by Mr. Koh Jin Hoe, President of the ASEAN, South Asia, Middle East and Oceania Operations, Economic Development Board of Singapore, before proceeding to listen to a briefing on the history and background on the development of Singapore's economy.

Early in the morning of the same day, His Royal Highness and Yang Amat Mulia consented to join the Morning Walk at the Gardens by The Bay with Her Excellency Josephine Teo, Senior Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Transport.

The arrival of His Royal Highness and Yang Amat Mulia was welcomed by Her Excellency Josephine Teo and Mr. Felix Loh, Chief Operating Officer of the Garden by The Bay.

Shortly after arrival, His Royal Highness and Yang Amat Mulia strolled the gardens and signed the visitor book.

Furthermore, on August 18, His Royal Highness and Yang Amat Mulia consented to attend a Dinner hosted by His Excellency Teo Chee Hean, the Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security and spouse, Mrs. Chew Poh Yim.

The arrival of His Royal Highness Prince and Yang Amat



His Royal Highness with His Excellency Dato Paduka Seri Ng Chee Meng, Acting Minister for Education (School) and Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Transport.



His Royal Highness with His Excellency Tan Chuan-Jin, the Minister for Social and Family Development.

Mulia was welcomed by the Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security and spouse before proceeding for Dinner.

In the morning of the same day, His Royal Highness made a goodwill visit to His Excellency Tan Chuan-Jin, Minister for Social and Family Development, after being greeted by the His Excellency Tan Chuan-Jin upon the arrival.

After the goodwill visit, His Royal Highness attended a Luncheon with Her Excellency Sim Ann, the Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and Ministry of Finance.

Upon arrival, His Royal Highness was greeted by Her Excellency Sim Ann and then preceded for a Luncheon.

In the afternoon session, His Royal Highness made a goodwill visit to the National Security Coordination Secretariat, Prime Minister's Office of Singapore, where he was greeted upon arrival by Mrs. Goh Soon Poh, Deputy Secretary (Security Coordination) at the Prime Minister's Office of Singapore.

His Royal Highness was then given a briefing and signed the secretariat's visitor's book.

His Royal Highness then proceeded to the Strategy Group of the Prime Minister's Office of Singapore and was greeted upon arrival by Mrs. Tan Gee Keow, Deputy Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office of Singapore before given a briefing on the roles and functions of the strategy group.



His Royal Highness with Mr. Ted Tan, Deputy Chief Executive of SPRING, during the visit to SPRING.



His Royal Highness and Yang Amat Mulia joining the Morning Walk at the Gardens by The Bay with Her Excellency Josephine Teo, Senior Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Transport (right).



## Indonesia - Brunei continue to foster strong relationship

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 19** - In conjunction with the 71<sup>st</sup> National Day of the Republic of Indonesia, the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Brunei Darussalam held a reception at the Rizqun International Hotel, Gadong.

Present to represent the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Reception Ceremony was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, Minister of Education and Datin Hajah Asmah binti Haji Abdul Rahman.

Her Excellency Nurul Qomar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam, in her welcoming address stated that the declaration of independence marks the end of Indonesia's long battle in achieving independence from the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Her Excellency further added that, the Independence Day for Indonesians is a celebration and would produce renewed commitment to face the next challenges as a stronger united nation, comprising more than 17,000 islands, with 300 ethnic groups using 700 local languages.

"During the 71 years of independence, Indonesia has gone through many political divisions, economic upheavals and undergone both economic and political reforms," said Her Excellency.

Her Excellency also added that Indonesia is now the third largest democracy in the world, the fourth-largest country with more than 250 million people, and the top-ten largest economy based on power parity and G-20 members and under the leadership of His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Joko Widodo, the President of the Republic of Indonesia, it is clear that Indonesia has been actively developing infrastructure, enhancing social assistance programs in education and healthcare, as well as enhancing business reform and investment infrastructure.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, Minister of Education (fifth, left) during the cake cutting ceremony with Her Excellency Nurul Qomar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam (fifth, right), in conjunction with the 71<sup>st</sup> National Day of the Republic of Indonesia.

Her Excellency further described that since the independence, Indonesia's foreign policy has always sought an active role in bilateral, regional and multilateral relations. She then explained that in terms of bilateral relations, Indonesia promotes friendship and cooperation with other countries, including Brunei Darussalam.

"Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam foster strong ties in bilateral relations and cooperation, for all areas of early diplomatic relations between the two countries, since 1984," Her Excellency reiterated.

Her Excellency further added, in addition to strong cooperation in politics, economics, defence, socio-cultural and educational fields, Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam have succeeded in enhancing wider cooperation and understanding through academic cooperation, scholarship programmes, cultural exchanges and reciprocal visits of government officials at all levels, as well as in the private sector.

Her Excellency further stated that educational cooperation between Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam has shown continuous progress, especially in the field of higher education through project-based cooperation such as joint academic research and exchange of education programmes.

At present, Her Excellency revealed that a total of 52 Brunei students participated in science and social exchange and learning programmes at Indonesian leading universities. She also added that currently there are 28 Indonesian students undergoing undergraduate and post-graduate studies at Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB), Seri Begawan Religious University Religious College (KUPU SB) and Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University (UNISSA).

Her Excellency said that efforts to enhance the relations between the people of Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam have also grown, especially among the youths, through culture and sports.

Her Excellency hopes that in enhancing mutual learning and interaction among the younger generation, it will further strengthen the friendship between Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam, and provide closer cooperation, not only at government level but also at an individual level.

Earlier, the national anthems of both countries were played, followed by a *Doa Selamat*. The Minister of Education and Her Excellency proceeded to the cake cutting ceremony in conjunction with the 71<sup>st</sup> National Day of the Republic of Indonesia.

Trade of Viet Nam.

Present to witness the event was His Excellency Tran Dai Quang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

The MoU will further enhance efforts carried out under the existing Trade

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## Signing of MoU in Economic Cooperation and Trade

**JERUDONG, August 28** - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MoFAT) and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam created another history with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Economic and Trade Cooperation. The event took place at Indera Kayangan Ballroom, Empire Hotel and Country Club.

The signing of the MoU, on behalf of MoFAT, was signed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade while His Excellency Tran Tuan Anh, the Minister of Industry and Trade signed on behalf of the Ministry of Industry and

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Agreement between the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam which was signed on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2001.

The signing of the MoU was held in conjunction with the State Visit of His Excellency Tran Dai Quang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to

Brunei Darussalam.

Prior to the signing ceremony, His Excellency Tran Dai Quang attended a morning breakfast hosted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Rtd) Dato

Seri Setia (Dr.) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar, Minister of Energy and Industry at the Prime Minister's Office.

Also present at the event was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, Minister of Education.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam, while His Excellency Tran Tuan Anh, Minister of Industry and Trade signing on behalf of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam, witnessed by His Excellency Tran Dai Quang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

## Brunei continues to optimise benefits from rainforest



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism in a group photo with the Ministers at the launching of the Asia-Pacific Rainforest Summit (APRS) 2016.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 3** - Brunei Darussalam will continue to optimise the benefits of the rainforest that is covering more than half of the country's land area.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism explained the matter in his keynote address at the launch of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Pacific Rainforest Summit (APRS) 2016, which took place at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

According to the Minister, the initiatives of economic diversification include the forestry sector with focus on forest industry, non-timber forest products, biological prospecting, carbon trading and efficiency in forest product processing and utilisation.

The Minister added that the ministry is currently reviewing the national forestry strategies to promote own forest-based downstream industries and to improve the forestry industry

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## Brunei continues to optimise benefits from rainforest (continued)

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environment to encourage further private investments on technologies and new machineries to increase efficiency and manufacture of value-added forest products.

“Aside from the environmental attributes, we believe that the country’s forests have great economic potential. The high biodiversity index of Brunei forests is an indication of the variety of non-timber forest products that are yet to be discovered. The exploration and research of these new and indigenous forest products are jointly conducted by the government and the academic sectors. Forests are renewable resources and with the proper conservative technologies, it can provide endless goods and services to our society,” said the Minister.

The forest economic diversification initiative is also in line with strategies provided for by Brunei Vision 2035, which state that the long-term development plan is a plan that emphasises on the ongoing efforts to conserve remarkable biodiversity, rainforest and natural habitat as part of the environmental strategy.

The Minister also stressed the development of forest resources, conservation and protection, and ecotourism as the main focus of the forestry sector. Almost half of the country’s

total land area is part of the National Forest Estate, and as part of their commitment to further enhance environmental integrity, and intend to increase the forest area to 55 per cent of Brunei’s land area.

Therefore, it is evident that they need the entrepreneurial and creative minds of the private sectors in developing forest-based industry, and welcomes cooperation in the conducting of research and expeditions to understand further the country’s diverse forest and learn new products that are significant to the modern society.

“With all these development strategies in the forestry sector, the government remains vigilant against the identified drivers of deforestation. Therefore, we have controlled the development of agriculture and conversion of controlled forests for agricultural purposes. The cutting of forests for agriculture development is stopped.

Instead, we focus on agricultural initiatives to efficiency of production, and thereby increasing the projected yield per hectare. We encourage investments in the development of agricultural technology development and high technology farm practices including vertical farming,” added the Minister.

## Brunei - A new bird watching destination in Southeast Asia



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism at the launching of the second edition of ‘Bird Watching in Brunei Darussalam 2016: A guide to the birds of Brunei Darussalam’ at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Pacific Rainforest Summit 2016.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 8** - Nature-based tourism products such as bird watching activities have shown positive developments over the last three years.

In this regard, the efforts to further develop the nature tourism industry has received a new instillation with the launch of a book titled ‘Bird Watching in Brunei Darussalam 2016: A guide to the birds of Brunei Darussalam’ at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Pacific Rainforest Summit held at the International Convention Centre, Berakas on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2016.

Mohd. Jeffrey bin Haji Mohd. Sunny Lai, Tourism Officer, in an interview said that the book is a guide for the bird lovers and for local people and overseas.

He clarified that the launch of the book was part of continuous efforts of the Nature Unit at the Tourism Development Department, Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) in collaboration with local industry stakeholders, to raise awareness in the country as one of the new destinations for bird watching through a package offered by a local company.

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“The first printing of the 92-page booklet has been distributed to bird-watching societies and clubs within the region as part of the promotional strategy of the Tourism Development Department in creating awareness on Brunei Darussalam as a new birding destination in Southeast Asia. We will send the books to ASEAN countries other than Asian countries such as Japan, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Australia,” he said.

According to the officer, 228 bird species divided into 43 plates have been identified in the country and have been recorded for data collection purpose.

The Tourism Officer further explained that bird watching is also seen as one of the potential ways to reduce hunting and trafficking of endangered species in one part of the world, as it can help foster a positive attitude towards the environment and wildlife within the community, tour operators including the travelers themselves.

In the meantime, he called on the public and especially the youth to nurture and protect the nature of this country including flora, fauna and wildlife on land or in the water.

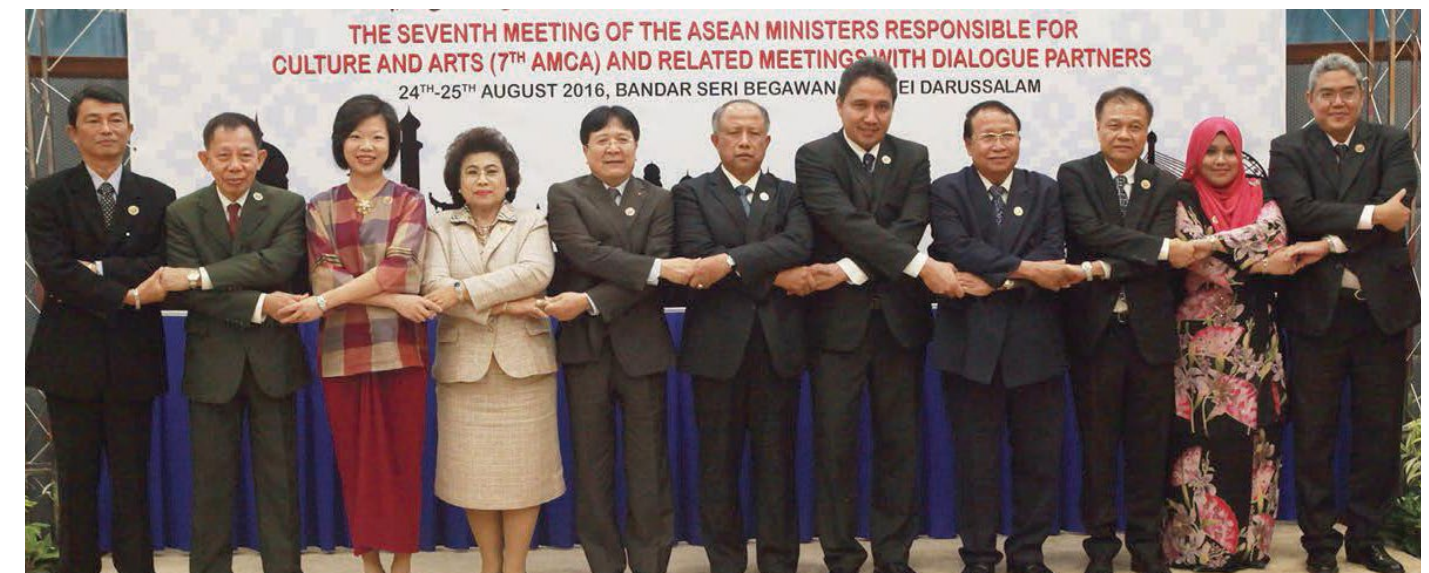
He also said that bird watching activity will further enhance



Mohd. Jeffrey bin Haji Mohd. Sunny Lai, Tourism Officer showcasing the book ‘Bird Watching in Brunei Darussalam 2016: A guide to the birds of Brunei Darussalam’.

the attractiveness and interest of bird lovers in the Asian region and other parts of the world to visit Brunei Darussalam and Sabah as well as to promote economic benefits for bird lovers and ecotourism in the country.

## AMCA Meeting addresses two agendas



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports with ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA).

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 24** - The opening ceremony of the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (7<sup>th</sup> AMCA) and the Related Meetings with Dialogue Partners had taken place at the East Wing, Prime Minister’s Office (PMO).

Present as the guest of honour to officiate the meeting was Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Earlier, Datin Paduka Dr. Hajah Norlila binti Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Jalil, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, also as Chairperson of the 12<sup>th</sup>

ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Culture and Arts (SOMCA), welcomed the arrival of AMCA ministers and reported that SOMCA had reviewed the relevant documents to be presented during the AMCA Meeting.

The agendas included within the documents were the Cultural and Arts Strategic Plan (2016-2025), and Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Culture and Arts with the aim to strengthen the identity and culture of arts in promoting a dynamic and harmonious ASEAN Community.

Also present at the opening ceremony were the AMCA, Permanent Secretaries, senior government officials from relevant agencies and foreign delegates from ASEAN member countries.



## Minister of Religious Affairs receive RISEAP delegation

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 16** - Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs, received a delegation from the Regional Islamic Da'wah Council for Southeast Asia and the Pacific (RISEAP) at the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA) at Jalan Dewan Majlis, Berakas.

The delegation was led by Haji Ridzuan Wu, Deputy President of RISEAP. Also present were Haji Harun bin Haji Junid, Deputy Permanent Secretary at the MoRA, and Haji Abdul Aziz bin Haji Abdul Kahar, Acting Director of Islamic Da'wah Centre.

The RISEAP delegation is in the country to strengthen ties in Islamic affairs, especially in Dakwah in the region, according to a press release. RISEAP is a non-government organisation that aims to strengthen cooperation and ties between Islamic organisations in the Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

RISEAP provides its members with training in mosque and prayer hall development, Zakat collection and distribution,



Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs, posing for a group photo with the RISEAP delegation.

Waqaf and Baitulmal management, Halal certification as well as Islamic Dakwah and its education.

The organisation also seeks to establish ties between Muslim and non-Muslim communities as well as enhance leadership succession.

## Bandar Seri Begawan as ASEAN City of Culture 2016-2017

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 24** - Bandar Seri Begawan (BSB) has witnessed developments in terms of demographics, culture and artistry in which the Brunei River marked the importance of political, economic and sociocultural of the Sultanate.

BSB, formerly known as Brunei Town, is synonymous with Kampong Ayer, the largest water settlement in the world, and have been existing for more than 600 years.

In 1521, Antonio Pigafetta wrote about Brunei Town where at that time the city was built entirely on water, except the king's houses and some of the heads', accommodating a total of 25,000 families. All houses were built from wood and had high masts.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, stated the matter at the Launching Ceremony of Bandar Seri Begawan as the ASEAN City of Culture 2016-2017 and Gala Performance of the ASEAN Festival of Arts at the Main Theatre, Prime Minister's Office.

According to the Minister, Malcolm Steward, the first British Resident, also wrote about Kampong Ayer in 1906; whereby Kampong Ayer was the capital of Brunei's sultanate for several hundred years.

"Touching on BSB's development at the moment, BSB was ranked third as ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC) Award, awarded by ASEAN Working Groups on Environmentally Sustainable Cities at the Lao People's Democratic Republic," said the Minister.

In addition, the Minister said that BSB is also a sister city of Nanjing since the year of 2011.

The Minister also said that the selection of BSB as the ASEAN City of Culture 2016-2017 was in conjunction with Brunei Darussalam being the Chairman of the ASEAN



Our local artists also did not miss out on enlivening the celebration.

Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA) Meeting.

The Minister added that, within the period, BSB will celebrate with different kinds of activities and cultural events.

Earlier, His Excellency Vongthep Arthakaivalvatee, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for Socio-Cultural Community, stated in his speech that the ASEAN City of Culture and the Gala Performance of the ASEAN Festival of Arts were the decisions taken from the previous AMCA Meeting.

At the event, attendees were also entertained with cultural performances from all countries of ASEAN and dialogue partners from China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

Also present were ASEAN Ministers and Dialogue Partners from China, Japan and the Republic of Korea that were responsible for Culture and Arts, Permanent Secretaries, senior government officials and delegates from ASEAN member countries.

The launch of both the BSB as ASEAN Cultural City 2016-2017 and the the Gala Performance of the ASEAN Festival of Arts was one of the activities that was presented within the AMCA Meeting.