



# برونى دارالسلام

## Brunei Darussalam

# Brunei Darussalam newsletter

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## Brunei – UK: continue close relationship



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

**LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, December 14** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held a meeting with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The meeting was held at the Buckingham Palace, London.

The arrival of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Buckingham Palace was greeted by The Queen's Master of Household.

His Majesty then had a photograph session and a meeting with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second.

After the meeting with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, His Majesty held a separate meeting session with His Royal Highness Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Royal Highness Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge.



The arrival of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Buckingham Palace, London.

After the session, His Majesty left Buckingham Palace. Bidding farewell to His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince William.

The meeting between His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second signifies the good and long-standing relationship between Brunei Darussalam and the United Kingdom.



3. Swearing-In Ceremony for newly appointed Minister of Health



4. Get-Together Ceremony with citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam in the UK and Eire



7. Brunei Darussalam supports all UN resolutions



8. His Majesty joins mass gathering and procession to mark Maulidur Rasul



9. Her Majesty graces Women's Special Assembly



10. His Royal Highness officiates the Opening Ceremony of the 5th AICIF



12. His Royal Highness awards Golden Jubilee Golf Tournament prizes



13. Speaker of the Legislative Council receives farewell visit



14. Politeknik Brunei receives ISO 9001:2015 Award



15. China – Asean Rally participants celebrated



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# Swearing-In Ceremony for newly appointed Minister of Health

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 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 attend the swearing-in ceremony for the newly appointed Minister of Health at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Also in attendance was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

The ceremony began with the reading of the letter of appointment by the Grand Chamberlain, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Penggawa Laila Bentara Istiadat Diraja Dalam Istana Pengiran Haji Alauddin bin Pengiran Paduka Tuan Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar.

The ceremony was for Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Doctor Haji Md Isham bin Jaafar, whose appointment as the Minister of Health came into effect on the 1st of December 2017.

This was followed by the swearing-in ceremony in the presence of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Prior to the appointment, Yang



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 presenting the Letter of Appointment to the newly appointed Minister of Health, Dato Paduka Doctor Haji Md. Isham bin Jaafar during the swearing-in ceremony at the Istana Nurul Iman. Also present was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

Berhormat Dato Paduka Doctor Haji Md Isham bin Jaafar was the Executive Director, Medical Director and Member of the Board of Jerudong Park Medical Centre, Jerudong.

## 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:

- His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, and to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister, Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Defence, the United Arab Emirates, members of the Royal Family and to the Government as well as people of the United Arab Emirates on the occasion of its National Day on December 2.
- His Excellency Bounnhang Vorachith, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and His Excellency Doctor Thongloun Sisoulith, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, to the Government as well as the people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the occasion of its 42nd National Day on December 2.
- His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun, the King of Thailand and to His Excellency Retired General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand on December 5.
- His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan and His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan as well as the Government and people of Japan on the occasion of the 84th Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty Akihito on December 23.

## His Majesty Sends Message Of Condolence

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 a message of condolence to:

- His Excellency Rodrigo Roa Duterte, President of the Republic of the Philippines, following the recent tropical storms in the Republic of the Philippines on December 26.

# Get-Together Ceremony with citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam in the UK and Eire



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 arriving at the London Hilton on Park Lane Hotel for the Get-Together Ceremony with Citizens and Residents of Brunei Darussalam in the United Kingdom and Eire.

**LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, December 17** - 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 Get-Together Ceremony with citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam who are currently in the United Kingdom (UK) and Northern Ireland (Eire).

The ceremony was held at the London Hilton on Park Lane Hotel, London, UK.

Accompanying Their Majesties at the Get-Together Ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Jefriah.

Upon arrival at the hotel, Their Majesties were greeted by His Excellency Major General (Retired) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the UK and Eire and wife, as well as Muhammad Hasif bin Nordin and Siti Nuramirah binti Haji Sabli, President and Vice-President of



Their Majesties during the hi-tea reception.

the Brunei Students' Union in the UK and Eire.

Their Majesties then proceeded to the Wellington Ballroom for a hi-tea reception.

Their Majesties later signed a commemorative parchment before joining a photo session with senior officers from the High Commission of Brunei Darussalam in London as well as the president and vice-president of the Brunei Student's Union in the UK and Eire.

Their Majesties were then invited for a photo session with the recipients of Universiti Brunei Darussalam's Chancellor's Scholar for the 2017/2018

session, before proceeding to the Grand Ballroom for the Get-Together Ceremony.

The ceremony began with the singing of national anthem by the Brunei Students' Union of the University of Portsmouth, followed by the recitation of verses from the Al-Quran by Awangku Liyaqat Zhaehierul Haq bin Pengiran Haji Zulkarnain from University of Leeds, while meaning of the verses was read by Norsaidi bin Serali from University of Southampton.

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Their Majesties accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel, Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah, and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Jefriah, in a group photo with recipients of the Universiti Brunei Darussalam's Chancellor's Scholar.

A *Doa Selamat* was then recited by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Doctor) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.

The ceremony continued with a welcoming address by Muhammad Hasif, President of the Brunei Students' Union. On behalf of all the students, he also delivered a pledge of unwavering loyalty and allegiance to His Majesty.

His Majesty also consented to deliver a *titah* (royal speech).

The ceremony continued with a showing of the video clip titled '*Generasi Cemerlang dan Berwawasan*'.

Afterwards, His Majesty presented the Universiti Brunei Darussalam's Chancellor's Scholar for the 2017/2018 session to Hanisah binti Haji Awang Sharif (PhD Clinical Medicine Research, Imperial College London) and Najeehah binti Haji Abdul Hamid (Masters in Philosophy Sociology-Modern Society and Global Transformations, Newham College, University of Cambridge).

During the ceremony, His Majesty



More than 1,700 citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam who are in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, were present for the Get-Together Ceremony.

received a *pesambah* (gift) from the President of the Brunei Students' Union, while Her Majesty received a *pesambah* from the Vice-President.

Their Majesties then proceeded to meet and greet more than 1,700 citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam

currently in the UK and Eire, comprising students, government officials as well as those on vacation.

The ceremony also featured a *Nasyid* performance by the Brunei Religious Officer Student Association (BruROSA).



His Majesty conferring the Universiti Brunei Darussalam's Chancellor's Scholar to Hanisah binti Haji Awang Sharif.



His Majesty conferring the Universiti Brunei Darussalam's Chancellor's Scholar to Najeehah binti Haji Abdul Hamid.

# Knowledge and expertise as a foundation towards the development goals of the country

**LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, December 17** - 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 in a *titah* (royal speech) stated that the government will continue to give priority to education, including the provision of scholarship and education loan schemes and emphasised that students should focus on their studies and continuously improve themselves.

The *titah* was delivered at the Get-Together Ceremony with citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam who are currently in the United Kingdom and Eire, which was held at the London Hilton on Park Lane Hotel, London, United Kingdom.

His Majesty said that besides academic success, students should contribute to the development of the country when they return from their studies, adding that the knowledge and expertise that they acquire are the foundation for realising the development goals of the country.

The Monarch further said that the developmental pillar also takes into account the quality of identity and character, and for Bruneians, the mould for our identity and character is MIB (Malay Islamic Monarchy). His Majesty reminded the students that they are the heir and 'the children' of MIB, and that they should not turn away from it.

His Majesty further emphasised that MIB is the principle and value system for Brunei Darussalam and cautioned



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 delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the Get-Together Ceremony with citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam who are currently in the United Kingdom and Eire.

everyone from being derailed from this track, or from trying something else apart from MIB.

His Majesty in his *titah* also congratulated the two students who were selected to receive the Universiti Brunei Darussalam's Chancellor's Scholar for

the 2017/2018 session to study at leading institutions in the United Kingdom.

In closing the *titah*, His Majesty prayed for all the students and government officials who are in the United Kingdom to always be in prosperity and in the protection of Allah the Almighty.

## His Majesty announces granddaughter's name

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with great pleasure has named His Majesty's granddaughter and the daughter of His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman as:

Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Faathimah Az-Zahraa' Raihaanul Bolkiah binti Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei



Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Faathimah Az-Zahraa' Raihaanul Bolkiah binti Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.

Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha as well as other members of the Royal Family sincerely thanked all those who were involved during the birth and who had conveyed their messages of

congratulations and greetings on the birth of Their Majesties granddaughter who was safely born on Friday, the 12th of Rabiulawal, 1439, corresponding to the 1st of December 2017, at 3:54 pm.

# Brunei Darussalam supports all UN resolutions

**ISTANBUL, TURKEY, December 13** - 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 in a *titah* (royal speech) emphasised Brunei Darussalam's support of all UN resolutions, saying that the Sultanate joins the international community in expressing serious concerns, on any change in position, on Baitul Maqdis from the status quo.

His Majesty believed that a two-state solution must be negotiated and a consensus must be reached by the parties directly concerned. According to the Monarch, this is the most viable long term solution towards achieving an independent state of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital.

His Majesty delivered the *titah* at the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Extraordinary Summit at the Istanbul Lutfi Kirdar International Convention and Exhibition Center, Republic of Turkey.

A just and lasting solution to the plight of the Palestinian is much called for and has long been overdue, said His Majesty. His Majesty also expressed that unity and solidarity of the Muslim Ummah is more pertinent now than ever.

In concluding the *titah*, the Monarch expressed Brunei Darussalam's support for the Communique and the Istanbul Declaration.



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 being greeted by His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of the OIC Extraordinary Summit, at the Convention Centre.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Extraordinary Summit.

Earlier upon arrival at the Istanbul Lutfi Kirdar International Convention and Exhibition Center, His Majesty was greeted by His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of the OIC Extraordinary Summit.

His Majesty then joined other OIC leaders for a group photo session, before proceeding to the Conference Hall for the opening session of the extraordinary summit.

This was followed by an opening speech by the President of the Republic of Turkey as the Chairman of the OIC Extraordinary Summit.

At the end of the OIC Extraordinary Summit, a Communique on the 'US Administration's recognition of the occupied City of Al-Quds Ash-Sharif as so-called capital of Israel, the occupying power, and decision to transfer the US Embassy to Al-Quds' and the Istanbul Declaration were adopted.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other OIC leaders in a group photo session, before proceeding to the Conference Hall.

# His Majesty joins mass gathering and procession to mark Maulidur Rasul



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and members of the Royal Family joining thousands of people from all walks of life in the mass gathering and procession to mark Maulidur Rasul or the birth anniversary of the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wassalam, at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien in the Capital.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 2** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined thousands of people from all walks of life in a mass gathering and procession to mark the Maulidur Rasul or the birth anniversary of the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien in the Capital.

Themed '*Rasulullah Qudwah Pemimpin Adil*' or the "Messenger of Allah: Example of a Just Leader" for the year 1439, the annual gathering, held every 12th of Rabiulawal in the Muslim calendar is a significant and historic date for the Islamic community worldwide in remembrance and in glorifying the birth anniversary of the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wassalam.

Also present accompanying His Majesty were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkhiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkhiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkhiah.

Upon arrival, His Majesty was greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, the Minister of Religious Affairs, as Chairman of the Major Islamic Events Celebration Executive Committee for 1437 Hijrah and

members of the celebration committee.

The event began with the recitation of *Surah Al-Fatihah* led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Doctor Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.

The Minister of Religious Affairs in his welcoming speech among other things touched on His Majesty's wise leadership in religious affairs, where the Monarch and the people are side by side in developing and strengthening Islamic Syiar and its eminence as the official religion; as well as making it a practice which contributes to a harmonious society, and strong governance for all levels of the society.

His Majesty then received a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from leaders of teams taking part in the event.

The Minister also expressed gratitude that Brunei Darussalam continues to celebrate the birthday of Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wassalam which truly displays the eminence of Islam which has brought peace and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Majesty.

A total of 12,760 participants were present at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien from over 120 groups representing uniformed units, government ministries and departments, secondary schools and higher education institutions, associations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), private sector and members of village consultative councils and mosque Takmir committees.



# Her Majesty graces Women's Special Assembly



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam as well as other members of the Royal Family during the Women's Special Assembly in conjunction with the Maulidur Rasul celebration for 1439 Hijrah.

**BERAKAS, December 7** - Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam graced the Women's Special Assembly in conjunction with the Maulidur Rasul celebration for 1439 Hijrah which took place at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Upon arrival, Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri was greeted by co-advisors, co-chairpersons and working committees for the Women's Special Assembly in conjunction with the Maulidur Rasul celebration for 1439 Hijrah from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA) and the Brunei Darussalam Women's Council (MWNBD).

Also greeting Her Majesty was Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, the Minister of Religious Affairs as Chairman of the Major Islamic Events' Executive Committee for 1439 Hijrah; Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, the Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance; as well as members of the Major Islamic Events' Executive Committee for 1439 Hijrah.

Also present were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah, and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The ceremony commenced with the reading of *Surah Al-Mai'dah* from verses

7 to 11, by the country's first Qariah representative at the International Tilawah Al-Quran in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 1965, Dayang Hajah Aminah binti Siling,

In her welcoming speech, Dayang Hajjah binti Moktal, Acting Director of Islamic Studies at the Ministry of Religious Affairs, among other things, touched on this year's Maulidur Rasul theme "*Rasulullah Qudwah Pemimpin Adil*".

She said, "Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wassalam is the prime example that one should follow. The Prophet's credibility has made him the best role model in all aspects of life, and it is the obligation of the *ummah* to follow the Prophet's examples."

The ceremony also saw a performance by students of Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha Girls Arabic Religious Secondary School in Katok in which they explained verses one to 11 of the *Surah Al-Ma'idah* through a dialogue and stage drama on contemporary life.

The highlight of celebration was a special religious talk by Hajah Zunainah binti Haji Gunong, Senior Religious Officer at the Islamic Da'wah Centre, Ministry of Religious Affairs.

The ceremony was also enlivened with a *Dikir Marhaban* by officers and staff from the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Religious Affairs and members of the Brunei Darussalam Women's Council.



*Dikir Marhaban* by officers and staff from the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Religious Affairs and members of the Brunei Darussalam Women's Council.

# His Royal Highness officiates the Opening Ceremony of the 5th AICIF



His Royal Highness Prince Doctor Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Deputy Sultan and Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) officiating the Opening Ceremony of the 5th Asean Universities International Conference on Islamic Finance.

**JERUDONG, December 13** - His Royal Highness Prince Doctor Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Deputy Sultan and Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) consented to officiate the Opening Ceremony of the 5th International Conference on Islamic Finance ASEAN Universities (5th AICIF).

The arrival of His Royal Highness at the Royal Berkshire, Royal Brunei and Polo Country Club was greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, the Minister of Education.

Also present to greet His Royal Highness's arrival was Doctor Awang Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, the Rector of UNISSA and Awang Yusof bin Haji Abd. Rahman, the Director of Monetary Authority of Brunei Darussalam (AMBD).

Upon arrival, the recital of *Surah Al-Fatihah* and prayers were led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Imam Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Hamid bin Bakal.

The Minister of Education, as chairman of the UNISSA Council in his welcoming remarks explains, cooperation with Islamic banking institutions and world-renowned professional is a priority for Islamic finance in the region as well as around the world.

Hence, the Minister hopes that the conference will further strengthen the relationship between ASEAN universities offering Islamic banking and finance programmes.

His Royal Highness then consented to speech and subsequently concluded the 5th AICIF inauguration.

His Royal Highness then consented to receive a *pesambah* (gift) in the form of a "Crystal Flora Vase" adorned with logos of 7 universities as co-organisers of the 5th AICIF.

The analogy also includes ideas and views of scholars and regional Islamic finance scholars gathered in one platform (AICIF) coming together to form a model of a superior Islamic Finance Hub in line with the aspirations of His Majesty the

Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

A keynote address was delivered by Professor Doctor Engku Rabiah Adawiyah binti Engku Ali, a Professor at the International Institute of Islamic Banking and Finance, International Islamic University of Malaysia, entitled "Issues, Challenges and Future Prospect of Islamic Banking and Finance", where she presented some strategic steps required in order to drive the industry more effectively.

Among the recommendations was to include good and competitive value through better and more profitable profits, financial inclusion in the real economy.

Before departing from the Royal Berkshire Hall, His Royal Highness consented to join a group photo with the Committee of the 5th AICIF and the invited speakers, and then signed the royal parchment in commemoration of the ceremony.

The 5th AICIF is an annual international conference organised with six ASEAN state universities on a rotation basis.

This year, UNISSA through the Faculty of Economics and Islamic Finance, is the main organizer, after the conference was launched in 2013 by UIAM and was hosted by the Islamic State University of Sunan Kalijaga, Jogjakarta in 2014.

In 2015, the conference was held at Islamic University of Sultan Agung (UNISSULA), Semarang and re-organised the next year 2016 by UIAM.

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His Royal Highness meeting the presenters and delegates, both local and international.

# Islamic banking and finance industry needs to be continuously upheld

**JERUDONG, December 13** - In a globalised and interconnected world, Syariah principles that serve as the foundation of the Islamic banking and finance industry need to be continuously upheld and implemented.

His Royal Highness Prince (Doctor) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Deputy Sultan and Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali stated in a *sabda* (royal speech) the prohibition of *Riba* (usury) and unethical practices must always be the moral compass.

“By doing so, Islamic banking and finance would be able to contribute effectively to the social and economic well-being of the society,” His Royal Highness said at the opening ceremony of the 5th Asean Universities International Conference on Islamic Finance (AICIF) at the Royal Berkshire, Jerudong Park and Polo Country Club.

His Royal Highness stated that this covers upholding the social duty of reducing poverty; boosting shared prosperity; and ensuring fair and equitable distribution of wealth, being the main pillars of Islamic finance.

“In Brunei Darussalam, the Islamic banking and finance industry also serves to complement our continuous efforts in realising the Brunei Vision 2035 goals. This entails diversifying the nation’s economy and becoming a regional



His Royal Highness Prince (Doctor) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Deputy Sultan and Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) for the 5th AICIF.

financial hub that provides employment opportunities as well as attracting new skills and technology,” His Royal Highness said.

The Government of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji

Omar ‘Ali Saifuddin Sa’adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has extensively implemented initiatives in tandem with the growth and rapid developments in

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## His Royal Highness officiates the Opening Ceremony of the 5th AICIF (continued)



His Royal Highness in a group photo with invited speakers and the Steering Committee during the opening ceremony of the 5th AICIF.

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The objective of the conference is to discuss and evaluate the latest developments on Islamic banking and finance, as well as to provide recommendations to Islamic banking and financial interests (academic staff,

practitioners and policy makers) for the future direction of Islamic banking and finance.

It is also to further strengthen the relationship between ASEAN state universities that offer Islamic banking

and financial programmes in a joint international conference.

The seminar lasted two days from December 13 - 14 at Parkview Hotel, Jerudong.

# His Royal Highness awards Golden Jubilee Golf Tournament prizes

**JERUDONG, December 3** - Awang Azman Latip bin Haji Abd Aziz and Dayangku Siti Nurhizriah binti Pengiran Nikman emerged as the overall Best Male and Female Gross Champion on Golf Tournament in conjunction with the Golden Jubilee Celebration of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's Accession to the Throne.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office graced the prize presentation ceremony, which took place at Royal Berkshire Hall, Jerudong Polo and Country Club.

For the Men's Gross Category, Awang Qawim Aslimon won runner up while Haji Abdul Aziz bin Haji Md. Kassim finished in third place.

In the Men's Division 'A' (handicap 0-12), Awang Haji Rahmat Japar won first place with 67 nett while Awang Haji Mohd Hanafi bin Pehin Penyurat Haji Ahmad won the Men's Division 'B' (Handicap 13-18) with 64 nett strokes and Azahari bin Awang Osman won the Men's Division 'C' (Handicap 19-24) with 66 nett strokes.

For the VIP and Sponsors Category, Awang Md. Fadillah bin Haji Abd. Aziz emerged as the champion with 69 nett strokes while Awang Haji Andinan bin Haji Mohd Daud won the Men's Senior Category with 68 nett strokes.

Datin Hajah Ummi Kalthum binti Pengiran Haji Tuah won first place for the Female Category with 74-nett strokes.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah consented to receive



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office awarding the prize to Awang Azman Latip bin Haji Abd Aziz, the Champion of the Gross Category for Men at the Golf Tournament.

a *pesambah* (gift) from Dato Paduka Awang Lim Beng Thai, as the Patron of the Golf Tournament Committee and the Golf Tournament Committee members in conjunction with the Golden Jubilee Celebration of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's Accession to the Throne.

Before leaving the ceremony, His Royal Highness also consented to join a group photo and receive a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from the committee members and players who participated in the golf tournament.

The tournament was held on November 24 to 26. More than 200 players

participated, comprising local players and also from neighbouring countries.

The Best Male Gross Champion, Awang Azman Latip bin Haji Abd. Aziz, in an interview, expressed his gratitude and was happy about the victory where he had also won several other matches before.

Awang Azman Latip, who has been playing golf for 20 years, said that he will be anticipating in joining more golf tournaments organised in the future. The same feeling as such was described by Dayangku Siti Nurhizriah binti Pengiran Nikman who had also won other matches before.

## Islamic banking and finance industry needs to be continuously upheld (continued)

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the global Islamic banking and finance industry.

His Royal Highness said, in realising the need for a strong and dynamic workforce to retain the industry's competitiveness, the Government of His Majesty through the Centre for Islamic Banking, Finance and Management has implemented programmes to develop the capacity and competency of Islamic finance practitioners in the country.

In consolidating these initiatives, the Brunei Darussalam's Financial Sector Blueprint 2016-2025, has also been developed.

Among others, His Majesty added, this blueprint highlights strategies to elevate the reputation and quality of Islamic finance in Brunei Darussalam and make it providers of niche Islamic

financial services.

Earlier in the *sabda*, the Deputy Sultan said that the hosting of the 5th AICIF is timely in the ever-changing global and regional economic environment that brings new challenges and risks on a daily basis.

His Royal Highness said, the challenges facing Islamic banking and finance industry are not unique. These include competition from conventional banking systems; the need to have effective legal frameworks, policies and procedures; adapting to advancements in technology, inevitably, the Fourth Industrial Revolution; and enhancing capacity and competency of Islamic finance practitioners.

"The global financial crisis in 2008 truly underscored the resilience of Islamic

finance, specifically in the relationship between Islamic banking and financial stability. Moreover, the huge potential of the Islamic financial market is evident in several areas.

This is reflected by the increase in total Islamic banking assets from \$1.4 trillion in 2015 to \$1.5 trillion in 2016; the increase in the volume of *Sukuk* outstanding to \$318.5 billion; Islamic funds' assets worth \$56 billion; and the increase in *Takaful* contributions to \$25 billion," said His Royal Highness.

Thus, His Royal Highness said, we must strive to address those challenges earnestly and with a sense of urgency.

His Royal Highness further said, these challenges also demand concerted efforts and greater cooperation among Islamic banks regionally and globally.

## Speaker of the Legislative Council receives farewell visit

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 4** - Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, The Speaker of the Legislative Council yesterday received a farewell visit from Her Excellency Loan Forgeron, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of France to Brunei Darussalam.

The ceremony took place at the Dewan Majlis Building.

Also present was Yang Dimulikan Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Jaya Dato Paduka Awang Haji Judin bin Haji Asar, the Secretary to the Cabinet Ministers' Council and Clerk to the Legislative Council.

During the farewell visit, both parties expressed high appreciation for the good working relationship during Her Excellency's service in the country.

Both sides hope that the good relationship will continue to prosper and strengthen between the two countries.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, The Speaker of the Legislative Council with Her Excellency Loan Forgeron, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of France to Brunei Darussalam.

## Thailand committed to further strengthening bilateral cooperation with Brunei



The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam, Biravij Suwanpradhes presenting a token of appreciation to the Minister of Home Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doktor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong.

**JERUDONG, December 5** - The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam highlighted that Thailand is committed to further strengthening bilateral cooperation with Brunei by exploring areas of mutual interest that compliment both Brunei's economic diversification strategy envisaged in Wawasan 2035 and Thailand's 20 year national strategy.

His Excellency Biravij Suwanpradhes made the remark at the Reception

Ceremony to celebrate the National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand at the Indera Samudera Hall, The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

This year, His Excellency said, Rajabhat University in the Surin region played host to a group of students from Universiti Brunei Darussalam, while the feedback obtained was very positive.

"Over the past 12 months, we have seen an increase in the number of business delegates from Thailand visiting Brunei Darussalam and exploring themselves

on Brunei Darussalam in general as well as on business opportunities," His Excellency added.

Present on behalf of the government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doktor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Home Affairs and spouse.

The ceremony began with the singing of the national anthem of Brunei Darussalam and the Kingdom of Thailand and continued with the presentation of a token of appreciation to the Minister of Home Affairs by His Excellency Biravij Suwanpradhes.

The event was enlivened with a short video clip presentation on Thailand Tourism and a musical performance by the people of Thailand.

# Politeknik Brunei receives ISO 9001:2015 Award

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 5** - Politeknik Brunei (PB) has become the first higher education institution in the country to be awarded with the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) 9001:2015 certifications for its Level 5 Diploma education in the fields of business, information, communication technology and science and engineering.

The award ceremony was held on December 27, 2017 by Bureau Veritas (BV) at Politeknik Brunei, Ong Sum Ping.

The Official Handover ISO certification ceremony was presented by the Rakesh Kumar, Bureau Veritas' Country Chief Executive for Singapore and Director for Malaysia to Denis Ho Mun Tai, Director of Politeknik Brunei.

Present to witness the handover ceremony was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, the Minister of Education.

The Minister of Education then presented certificates to fourteen Politeknik Brunei staff in recognition of their significant roles as ISO task force members and certified internal auditors, for ensuring and managing compliance to ISO standards and requirements.

Politeknik Brunei's journey towards ISO certification began in September 2013 with the ISO 9001: 2008. With the launch of ISO 9001: 2015, Politeknik Brunei has gained new ISO standards which superseded the previous version.



The Minister of Education (middle) witnessing the presentation of the ISO 9001:2015 Award by Rakesh Kumar, Bureau Veritas' Country Chief Executive for Singapore and Director for Malaysia (right) and Brunei Industry and Facilities, to Denis Ho Mun Tai, Director of Politeknik Brunei (left).

Looking beyond the certification and compliance requirements, Politeknik Brunei continues to strive in order to promote quality and ensure that the QMS will achieve long-term sustainability to support Brunei Vision 2035.

## Collaborate to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

**YANGON, MYANMAR, 12 December** – The Acting Minister of Development, Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar emphasised that water security and sustainable development are closely related and critical to countries in the Asia Pacific region to work together to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) under 2030 UNDP Agenda.

He said that the countries could build and ensure that all residents can enjoy clean water and sanitation that lead to sustainable socio-economic growth.

According to a press release, this was stated by the Acting Minister of Development, during the 3rd Asia-Pacific Water Summit (PWS-3), which lasted for two days beginning December 11, 2017 in Yangon, Myanmar.

During the summit, the Acting Minister of Development also shared the country's achievements in the supply of clean water and the challenges that could be faced in the near future in ensuring adequate and continuous supply in view of the growing water demand. Water sources, water-related disaster events such as droughts, floods and landslides, sanitation and hygiene requirements and climate change impacts, are among the issues discussed at the 3rd APWS.

The Acting Minister of Development later participated in discussions in several Thematic Discussions held on water security issues such as Governance for Sustainable Urban Water Supply, Inclusive



The Acting Minister of Development, Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar (middle) with the Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Pahlawan Colonel (Retired) Dato Paduka Haji Abdulrahmani bin Dato Paduka Haji Basir (second, right) and Bruneian delegates.

Approach through Good Practices of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), Water and Disasters in the context of Climate Change, Water-Energy-Food Ecosystems, Improving Sanitation and Wastewater Management and more.

A total of 11 Thematic Discussions were discussed, which led to various proposals and actions related to the water security of the Asia Pacific countries.

Discussions with heads of state, ministries, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), experts and government agencies from Asia Pacific countries including Japan, Korea, India, China, ASEAN countries, Nauru and the Yangon Declaration or the Non-binding Yangon Declaration, which states that the

Asia Pacific countries have expressed the desire to achieve water security to ensure sustainable development through effective water resources management, inclusive governance, development financing using sustainable concepts such as PPP and cooperation at various levels.

Joining the delegation were the Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Pahlawan Colonel (Retired) Dato Paduka Haji Abdulrahmani bin Dato Paduka Haji Basir; Director General of Public Works (JKR), Haji Amer Hishamuddin bin Pehin

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## CHINA – ASEAN Rally participants celebrated

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 23** – The Brunei Darussalam Four Wheel Drive organised a Dinner Event to celebrate the participants who joined the ASEAN International Touring Assembly and China-ASEAN Journalists Rally (China-ASEAN Rally) in the country.

Present as the guest of honour was the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong.

The event was held at Rizqun International Hotel, Gadong.

The ceremony began with recitation of *Surah Al-Fatihah* followed by a traditional cultural performance.

Participants of the China-ASEAN Rally had the opportunity to visit various places of interest before leaving Brunei Darussalam.

The Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong receiving a souvenir from the team leader of the China-ASEAN Rally.



## Eliminate the threat of HIV and AIDS

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 3** - Brunei Darussalam is not immune to HIV threats. The first local HIV case was detected in 1986, and since then a total of 199 cases has been reported among the people and permanent residents.

A total of 106 new cases have been reported since 2014, indicating an overall increase in general trends.

The matter was stated by the Minister of Health, Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Doctor Haji Md. Isham bin Jaafar, in conjunction with World AIDS Day 2017 celebrated on 1 December 2017.

According to the Minister, some factors may contribute to the change in number of cases, including raising HIV awareness and better examinations.

However, increased risk behaviour may also contribute an increase number of cases. This is particularly alarming as HIV can be completely prevented, which the community needs to know and understand.

The Minister of Health urged that people's knowledge, attitude and practices play a big role in eliminating the threat of HIV.

"We urge all individuals to help us create a generation of AIDS-free generation in Brunei Darussalam," said the Minister.

The Minister also said that it is an opportunity for us to take steps towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations to end the AIDS epidemic as a public

health threat and help us move closer to the goal of AIDS-free generation.

The World AIDS Day theme this year, 'My Health. My right' reminds us that the right to health is more than just access to quality health and medicine services, it also depends on the various essential guarantees including education and health literacy to empower individuals to make healthy choices for themselves and help others to do the same.

### Collaborate to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) (continued)

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Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Zakaria, as well as officials from the Department of Water Services, Public Works Department, Ministry of Development.

The APWS Conference is held every five years, organised by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Asia Pacific Water Forum (APWF).

This year's conference involved delegations from 48 Asia Pacific region countries discussing water and development issues with the theme 'Water Security for Sustainable Development'.

## Nurturing love towards Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam through exhibition



**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN – Sunday, 24 December** – Avertu Management Services organised a *Pameran Cinta dan Kenali Rasulallah* (Love and know the Prophet) to give the public an opportunity to nurture a sense of love for Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition was held at the Meeting Room of the International Convention Centre (ICC), Berakas and was officiated by the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong.

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The Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong observing more closely the exhibited artifacts at *Pameran Cinta dan Kenali Rasulallah*.

## ASEAN discuss ICT advancement

**SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA, December 3** - Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat, the Minister of Communications, led the Brunei Darussalam delegation to the 17th ASEAN Telecommunication and Information Technology Ministers Meeting (TELMIN) and its related meetings held in Siem Reap, Cambodia from November 30 to December 1, 2017.

The 17th TELMIN Meeting and its related meetings were preceded by the 18th ASEAN Telecommunications and Technology Senior Official Meeting (TELSOM 18th) and its related meetings held from 27 - 29 November 2017.

Leading the delegation of Brunei Darussalam to the meeting was Awang Haji Azhar bin Haji Ahmad, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communications and accompanied by senior officials of the Ministry of Communications and the Authority for Info-communications Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam (AITI).

The 17th ASEAN TELMIN was officiated by His Excellency Mr. Bin Chhin, Permanent Deputy Prime Minister, Acting Minister in charge of Office of Council of Ministers, a High Representative of Samdech Akka Maha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of Kingdom

of Cambodia.

During the Opening Ceremony, the Minister of Communications, delivered his speech as TELMIN's Chairman, among others, touched on the 50th Anniversary of the ASEAN by briefly describing the progress and achievement of ASEAN in the development cooperation and economic security.

Yang Berhormat also touched on the ICT Development Index 2017 published by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), which offers a useful benchmark in ICT development with regard to the main purposes of access, use and skills.

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## Brunei - Qatar continue to strengthen relationship



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja (Retired) Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports and His Excellency Saleh Mohammed Al-Nesef, as well as the Ambassadors of the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in a cake cutting ceremony.

**GADONG, December 12** – A dinner reception in conjunction with the National Day Celebration of the State of Qatar was held in the Songket Ballroom, Rizqun International Hotel, Gadong.

The event was hosted by His Excellency Saleh Mohammed Al-Nesef, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Qatar to Brunei Darussalam.

Representing the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja (Retired) Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

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## Nurturing love towards Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam through exhibition (continued)

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Also present were the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Religious Affairs, Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Aziz bin Orang Kaya Maharaja Lela Haji Yussof and Acting Permanent Secretary of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT), Awang Wardi bin Haji Mohammad Ali.

Earlier, a Consultant of *Pameran Cinta dan Kenali Rasulullah*, Awang Mohamad Adi Hamdi bin Haji Aminuddin said that the exhibition was one of the programmes under the Brunei December Festival 2017 as an initiative of the Department of Tourism Development, MPRT.

According to him, the Prophet Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam was a praiseworthy person and is admired and set as an example to follow by all Muslims.

The main highlight of the exhibition are the artefacts and relics of Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam and his companions, which gives the public an opportunity to witness some of the valuable relics of Prophet Muhammad



Some of the artefacts and relics of Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam and his companions being displayed at the exhibition.

Sallallahu Alaihi Wassallam.

It is open to the public from the 25th of December 2017 until the 13th of January 2018 from 9.00 am to 10.00 pm. Admission fee for 6 years old and above is BND10, children 5 years old and under are free.

The exhibition highlights artefacts such as the cap, turban, beard and

sword of Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam.

It is hoped that the exhibition will transform Brunei Darussalam into a tourism destination which is Islamic oriented, by providing an additional slot in tour packages to the country and thereby help to improve the country's economy.



# International Volunteers Day and People with Special Needs International Day Celebration

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 23** – To celebrate people with special needs with volunteering groups through one platform, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports through Department of Youth and Sports (JBS) and Department of Community Development (JAPEM) held an International Volunteers Day and People with Special Needs International Day Celebration.

Present as guest of honour at the celebration was the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohamad Yussof. The event was held at Dewan Riadah, Youth Centre in the capital.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohamad Yussof visiting the exhibition booth of MPM RON Panchor Mengkubau.



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports presenting a certificate of appreciation to one of the representatives from the volunteer group who participated in the Day of Action 2017 Campaign.

In a welcoming speech, the Acting Director of Youth and Sports, Pengiran Anak Mohd Sofian bin Pengiran Anak Haji Ibrahim said, volunteering programmes are always given attention to by the government.

According to him, by mid 2018, a specific volunteer space in the youth centre will be equipped for volunteers to gather, organise or discuss. The space is to be used as an operation centre for volunteers.

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## ASEAN discuss ICT advancement (continued)

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Therefore, the expected opportunities and challenges arising from the innovations of the 4th Industrial Revolution stressed that ASEAN should strive to invest in infrastructure and human capital to improve ICT readiness and reduce the existence of the digital divide in ASEAN.

The 17th ASEAN TELMIN Meeting carried the theme 'ICT Connectedness and Readiness: Towards a Digitally Integrated Community' and was chaired by the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Cambodia, His Excellency Tram Iv Tek in which its main outcomes include the Implementation of ASEAN ICT Plan 2020; Siem Reap Declaration; and Cooperation with Dialogue Partners Countries.

The Ministry of Communications and AITI places high significance and priority on ASEAN TELSOM / TELMIN, being a key platform where regional collaboration can be leveraged upon to achieve more progress in enhancing the connectivity for Brunei Darussalam.

Through ASEAN TELSOM / TELMIN, the capabilities of local stakeholders can also be further enriched through the opportunities of networking, human capacity building, harmonization of standards, nurturing of creativity and innovation at the ASEAN level.

Thus, the Ministry of Communications has strongly encouraged the participation of local stakeholders and actively interacts with their regional partners in collaborative projects under AIM2020.

In this regard, AITI as an implementing agency and coordinator, will continue to engage more local players and stakeholders, and facilitate their participation in ASEAN cooperation projects.

## Brunei - Qatar continue to strengthen relationship (continued)

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The dinner reception began with the Brunei National Anthem followed by the Qatar National Anthem, then followed by the recitation of verses from the Al-Quran.

The event was also graced with a cake cutting ceremony by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Qatar as well as the Ambassadors of the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Diplomatic relations between the two countries began in 2008 and continues to grow through the fields of trade, economy, culture, communications, education, health, tourism and sports. Both countries are also members of the United Nations, the Conference of Islamic Countries, the Non-Aligned Movement and the G77.

The State of Qatar celebrates its National Day every December 18, after its independence on September 3, 1971.

# Support local creative industry

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 17** - The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports will always provide moral and material support to develop the 'creative industry' in the country to be able to cross boundary to developing countries in the world.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja (Retired) Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof said that women also had the space to participate and play a proactive role in empowering artistic and professional performances.

"The combination of savvy artists, youth and adults is a synergistic network and the successor to local art," said the Minister at the Official Opening Ceremony of the Visual Arts Exhibition held at the Atrium of Seri Qlap Mall.

Yang Berhormat stated that the participation and the collection of visual art works which consisted of various genres of art, performances and others through exhibition and sale, may well boost the economy.

At the same time, Yayasan Seni Zakaria Omar (YSZO) as a non-profit oriented Arts Foundation, will also help local people to work, be independent and not solely relying on the assistance of any party.

Hence, with the Whole of Nation approach he said, it will be able to contribute to the development of the country.



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja (Retired) Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof touring the Visual Arts Exhibition and interacting with a participant.

YSZO is also keen to continue to drive success in achieving the objectives of its establishment and to assist the government, especially the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, towards achieving the National Art Vision, especially the 'Youth Policy' and 'National Culture Policy'.

## International Volunteers Day and People with Special Needs International Day Celebration (continued)

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The International Volunteers Day Celebration is an annual event celebrated by the United Nations (UN) on 5 December since 1985, where Brunei Darussalam has celebrated this event since 2011, whereas the People with Special Needs International Day was introduced and promoted by the UN since 1992 and its celebration is on every 3rd of December.

In celebrating both of these celebration, two separate events were held, which was the Day of Action (DOA) Campaign 2017 which took place on 10 December and the Disabled Wellness Dialogue Ceremony along with volunteers on 20 December.

A musical performance by the people with special needs enlivening the atmosphere of the celebration.



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports in a group photo with volunteers and people with special needs in conjunction with International Volunteers Day and People with Special Needs International Day Celebration.

## Brunei – Singapore strengthens relations through Rhapsody

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 8** - The unity and understanding between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore continues to be strengthened through Rhapsody, a joint entertainment programme between Radio Television Brunei (RTB) and MediaCorp Pte Ltd, Republic of Singapore. The Rhapsody was held at Studio 1, MediaCorp Campus, Star Avenue, Republic of Singapore.

Present were Yang Berhormat Doctor Yaacob Ibrahim, the Minister for Communications and Information, Republic of Singapore; and Dato Seri

Paduka Awang Haji Hamdan bin Haji Abu Bakar, the Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

Themed 'Friends in Music', this year's Rhapsody performance saw artists from both Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore perform a number of songs which have contributed to the growth and improvement of the music industry in the region.

Rhapsody 2017 is one of the projects conducted under the Technical Committee Meeting together with the Memorandum of Understanding in the fields of

Broadcasting and Information between the Government of His Majesty and the Republic of Singapore's government.

Artists from Brunei Darussalam were Aziz Harun, Hasrina, Pengiran Amilin dan Syafiqah. While the artists from the Republic of Singapore were Sunny Jackson, Hariani Hassan Bakri, Iskandar Ismail dan Rahila.

Also in attendance were Lim Soh Kwang, the Acting Deputy Director (for Operations) of RTB and Tham Loke Kheng, Chief Executive Officer of MediaCorp.



Yang Berhormat Doctor Yaacob Ibrahim, the Minister for Communications and Information, Republic of Singapore (front, fifth from left) and Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Hamdan bin Haji Abu Bakar, the Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (front, fifth from right) with senior officials of both countries in a group photo and artists from Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore.

## Deputy Minister of Defence attends United Kingdom Security Expo 2017

**LONDON, December 4** - Retired First Admiral Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Abdul Aziz bin Haji Mohd Tamit, the Deputy Minister of Defence, was in Olympia, London to attend the United Kingdom Security Expo 2017 that was held from 29 to 30 November 2017.

During the exhibition, the Deputy Minister of Defence had the opportunity to call on the Right Honourable Earl Howe, Deputy Leader of the House of Lords and Minister of State for Defence, United Kingdom. The Right Honourable Earl Howe was accompanied by the British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Richard Lindsay.

The Deputy Minister of Defence also held another bilateral call with His Excellency Mark Field, Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, United Kingdom.

His Excellency Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, the High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the United Kingdom was in attendance at both calls.

During the calls, both sides expressed great pleasure and satisfaction on the special and longstanding relations that Brunei Darussalam and the United Kingdom share, which include the strong and wide scope of cooperation in defence, characterised by regular exchange of visits, military exercises, trainings, courses and defence meetings.

As part of his programme, the Deputy Minister of Defence visited the Cabinet Office at Whitehall, London.



Retired First Admiral Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Abdul Aziz the Deputy Minister of Defence with the Right Honourable Earl Howe, Deputy Leader of the House of Lords and Minister of State for Defence, United Kingdom.

He also visited the United Kingdom National Cyber Security Centre, which protects and manages their public and private infrastructure from cyberattacks and threats.

Accompanying the Deputy Minister of Defence to the United Kingdom Security Expo 2017 was Retired Captain Haji Mohd Amirul Shahnoel bin Haji Mohd Noeh, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Technology and Development at the Ministry of Defence.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Bruneian youth to receive the Queen's Young Leaders Award



The British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Richard Lindsay and the Queen's Awards Young Leaders 2018 of Brunei Darussalam recipient, Awangku Haji Ahmad Fadillah Akbar bin Pengiran Haji Sellahuddin.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 19** - Awangku Haji Ahmad Fadillah Akbar bin Pengiran Haji Sellahuddin will be receiving the Queen's Young Leaders Award, conferred by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second at the Buckingham Palace in June next year.

The British High Commission to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Richard Lindsay expressed his sincere congratulations on the success.

According to His Excellency, the Brunei Darussalam recipient is one out of 160 lucky youth of the Commonwealth and also one of 14 recipients representing Asia.

Awangku Haji Ahmad Fadillah in an interview said that he is grateful for this recognition and the work of charity which was set up jointly by him, namely Project Bina Ukhwah, which has managed to help underprivileged families to create a better

and safe living environment in the Tutong District.

The Queen's Young Leaders Award Program was established in honour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for her service to the Commonwealth.

It was launched by Their Royal Highnesses the Duke of Cambridge and Prince Harry on the 9th of July 2014 on behalf of The Queen.

Since the Queen's Young Leaders Award was introduced, this is the second time it is awarded to a Bruneian youth, where the first Bruneian youth to receive the Queen's Young Leaders Award was Yang Berhormat Dayang Khairunnisa binti Awang Haji Ash'ari, a member of the Legislative Council, who received the award in 2015.

## The 13th SOMCA strengthens ASEAN's unity



The 13th Meeting of ASEAN Senior officials Responsible for Culture and Arts (SOMCA) and related meetings with Dialogue Partners held at The Centrepoint Hotel, Gadong.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 12** - Brunei Darussalam as the Chairman of the 7th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA) and related Meetings with Dialogue Partners hosted the 13th Meeting of ASEAN Senior officials Responsible for Culture and Arts (SOMCA) and related meetings with Dialogue Partners.

The meeting is a follow-up from the 7th AMCA Meeting and the 12th SOMCA Meeting and meetings with dialogue partners held in Bandar Seri Begawan (BSB) in 2016.

The meeting was held at The Centrepoint Hotel, Gadong chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Datin Paduka Doctor Hajah Norlila binti Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Jalil as the Chairman of SOMCA.

In her welcoming speech, Datin Paduka Doctor Hajah Norlila, among others, explained that the meeting was important in an effort to strengthen the unity and cooperation among all members in representing the peaceful, stable and resilient ASEAN society.

The 13th SOMCA Meeting and related Meetings with this dialogue partner will present the status and actions that have been taken following the results taken during the 7th AMCA Meeting and the 12th SOMCA Meeting and Dialogue Related Meetings and will discuss the current status of the 2016 and 2025 strategic plan on cultural and artistic issues, project implementation under the 'ASEAN-Committee on Culture and Information' (ASEAN-COCI) platform and cooperation in culture between ASEAN

and dialogue partners.

In addition, this meeting will also discuss the initiatives on BSB's declaration as the ASEAN Cultural City, the status of the implementation of activities in conjunction with the establishment of the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN and other proposals in the relevant field.

The meeting will be held two days from December 12, while discussions with dialogue partners will begin on 13 December 2017.

Present at the meeting were delegates from ASEAN and Plus Three and the ASEAN Secretariat.

While in the country the delegation will also be visiting the Royal Regalia Museum, Art Gallery, Royal Pier, Taman Mahkota Jubli Emas and Taman Damuan.