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Brunei Darussalam

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Security is an important aspect to maintain and uphold

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 31 December - Security is important, because without security, development cannot be carried out. Therefore, it is important to maintain and uphold the practice which holds strongly to the teaching of Islam, to abide by the law and to live in harmony and unity. This is the secret of the security.

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) touched on keeping in mind that elements that inflict on peace will always try to create chaos and cannot be avoided and forgotten.

His Majesty delivered the *titah* in conjunction with the New Year's Celebration 2017 at Istana Nurul Iman.

"The purpose they have were never the same as ours. Because of this, we need to be careful and aware. This is the responsibility of all parties, especially those who are specifically involved in security affairs," said His Majesty.

His Majesty emphasised that efforts should also be undertaken to address threats arising from the cyber world and social media, as well as to further strengthen strategic partnerships with international cyber security organisations.

From the economic point of view, our world is still dealing with economic uncertainty. However, we are grateful for the reforms we take and the whole-of-nation approach, as seen in the rise of the state's ranking in Ease of Doing Business, as reported by the World Bank.

"This achievement was due to the commitment and close cooperation



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) in conjunction with the New Year's Celebration 2017 at Istana Nurul Iman.

between government agencies and other stakeholders. We do not however, deserve to be satisfied, but instead need to be more active and more enthusiastic in improving the achievement," said His Majesty.

As elsewhere, we are also inviting foreign direct investors to invest in this country.

"So far Alhamdulillah, a number of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) have

started in the country, while various programmes and initiatives have also been planned and implemented to assist local businesses and entrepreneurs, especially Small and Medium Enterprises or MSMEs. This is in hope, that the country's economy is being driven, to make it resilient," added His Majesty.

Touching on the matter of the Civil Service in the country, His Majesty looks forward to seeing it grow productively.

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EMAIL US AT: info.dept@information.gov.bn

EDITORIAL Advisory Board:

Mawardi Haji Mohammad
(mawardi.mohammad@information.gov.bn)

Hajah Noorashidah Haji Aliomar
(noorashidah.aliomar@information.gov.bn)

Chief Editor:

Saadiatul Nur Aqilah Haji Jaman
(aqilah.jaman@information.gov.bn)

Editor:

Faridah Haji Kaderi
(faridah.kaderi@information.gov.bn)

Translation

Translation Unit

Layouter:

Khairul Shaharim Haji Abdul Ghafor

Proofread:

Azimatul Azimah binti Siti Rahmat
(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 audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman.



His Excellency Pavlo Klimkin, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on January 14.



His Excellency Enver Hoxhaj, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kosovo Republic on January 24.

HRH receives audience

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 the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, His Excellency Pavlo Klimkin on January 14.



His Majesty sends messages of condolences

i. **BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 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 consented to send a message of condolences to President of the Republic of Turkey, His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan following a recent terrorist attack in Istanbul.

In the message, His Majesty was surprised to find out about the attack that has resulted in the loss of lives and deepest condolences from His Majesty and the government with people of Brunei Darussalam to President of the Republic of Turkey and people of the Republic of Turkey, especially to family of the victims involved in the incident.

ii. **BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Wednesday, January 11** - 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

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 has consented to send congratulatory messages to:

i. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency U Htin Kyaw and State Counselor and Foreign Affairs Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the government in conjunction with the 69th Anniversary of the Republic of Independence on January 4.

ii. Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Amar Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Tun Abang Haji Openg following his appointment as the 6th Chief Minister of Sarawak on January 14.

iii. The President of the United States of America, His Excellency President Donald J. Trump and its citizens in conjunction with the Oath-taking Ceremony as the 45th President of the United States on January 20.

iv. The Australian Commonwealth Govt., The Honorable Sir General Peter Cosgrove, AK MC (Retired) and the Australian Commonwealth Prime Minister, The Honorable Malcolm Turnbull, MP and the Australian government and people in conjunction with Australia Day on January 26.

v. The President of the Republic of India, His Excellency Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister, His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi and the government and people of the Republic of India in conjunction with the Republic Day of India on January 26.

Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to send a message of condolences to Yang Dipertua Negeri Sarawak, Tuan Yang Terutama Tun Dato Laila Utama Pehin Sri Doctor Haji Abdul Taib bin Mahmud on the passing of the late Sarawak Chief Minister, Yang Amat Berhormat Tan Sri Doctor Datuk Patinggi Haji Adenan bin Haji Satem.

Increase standard of training with leadership values



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 RBAF, delivering a *titah* (royal speech) during the Sovereign's Parade Ceremony for the 15th Intake Officer Cadets.

TANAH JAMBU, January 19 - In producing a ruling and competent leader, the Defence Academy, Royal Brunei Armed Forces (DA RBAF) is urged to improve the standard of training, while applying leadership values in accordance with Islamic teachings and philosophy of the Malay Islamic Monarchy.

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 RBAF, said in a *titah* (royal speech) that the co-operation between the Cadet School, Defence Academy, RBAF with Overseas Officers' Schools is very beneficial.

His Majesty delivered the *titah* during the Sovereign's Parade Ceremony for the 15th Intake Officer Cadets at the Parade Square, Defence Academy of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (DA RBAF) in Kampong Tanah Jambu.

"The bilateral exercises in the early stages with the cooperative countries, especially among ASEAN countries, are capable of further strengthening the Defense Diplomacy platform," said His Majesty at the Sovereign's Parade Ceremony for the 15th Intake of the Officer Cadet School, Defence Academy, RBAF.

His Majesty further said that such a step is crucial in order to achieve regional and international security and stability.

For the sake of the future, His Majesty hopes that RBAF will continue to produce successful military leaders, not only in the field of professional care, but also in acquiring expertise and wisdom in organising and forming the necessary strategies.

He said this was one of the main roles of RBAF, as the country's defence.

Earlier, His Majesty also touched on two Officer Cadets scholarships, with RBAF scholarships who will receive their credentials at this time.

"Eversince the Officer Cadet School was established in 2008, it has successfully produced 336 caliber Military Officers. This is a great honour, and now, there are those who have become coaches at Defence Academy, RBAF, especially at the Cadet School itself," he said.

His Majesty also said that some of the female officers who have graduated from the Officer Cadet School have successfully ventured into a career that had previously been limited to only male officers, such as female military pilots and recently a female captain for the Royal Brunei Navy Ship.

"In the international arena, some of them have also been a part of or are still a part of the mission of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the International Monitoring Team (IMT) in Mindanao, the Republic of the Philippines, and as an International Liaison Officer at the Information Fusion Center, the Republic of Singapore. We are very proud of these achievements," said His Majesty

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"I believe that there are still many more aspects that can be improved, especially regarding the application of key values in the Public Service. We want to make the government rich in discipline and rich in trust in carrying out our duties, as a means of achieving blessings in our service," said His Majesty.

In the field of education, His Majesty said, efforts are being made to widen the streams of study, as well as to improve the quality of education to achieve the Brunei Vision 2035.

Priority was to enrich the quality of teachers, stressed His Majesty, to make them the highest-performing educators.

In the international arena according to His Majesty, we will always play a positive role towards both regional and global prosperity and peace.

His Majesty hopes that ASEAN will continue to be a

respected regional organisation because of its clear principles of charity.

His Majesty said that in 2017, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of ASEAN, it is hoped that good cooperation will continue between ASEAN member countries, in the interest of the ASEAN Community 2025 Vision.

Earlier His Majesty said, another milestone will take place in 2017, with Allah's will, the country will celebrate the Golden Jubilee Celebration of 50 Years of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne. The celebration is very meaningful, as a way for us to appreciate history.

His Majesty also said we are to be grateful to Allah the Almighty, because with His permission, we are now stepping into the threshold of the New Year of 2017.

His Majesty said we will leave 2016 with a thousand memories, among them the sweet memories of enjoying peace and prosperity in this lucky country.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces in a group photo with the 15th Intake of the Officer Cadet School at the Defence Academy of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

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the 52-week training.

In his *titah*, he also congratulated 29 Cadet Officers who have successfully completed their training by displaying excellent parade performance.

His Majesty congratulated all parties involved, especially parents and families for their support to the said officers during

His Majesty expressed his gratitude and congratulated all Defence Academy, RBAF staff, especially Defence Academy Commanders, Officer Cadet School Officers, 'Colour Sergeants' and officers and all trainers who have worked hard to train and educate the Officers Cadets up to this level.

His Majesty attends the Sarawak Chief Minister's Funeral Ceremony



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 attending the funeral ceremony of Allahyarham Chief Minister of Sarawak, Tan Sri Doctor Datuk Patinggi Haji Adenan bin Haji Satem, at Masjid Jamek, Petra Jaya, Kuching, Sarawak.

KUCHING, SARAWAK, January 12 - 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 arrived safely at Kuching, Sarawak for attended the funeral ceremony of Allahyarham Chief Minister of Sarawak, Tan Sri Doctor Datuk Patinggi Haji Adenan bin Haji Satem, at Masjid Jamek, Petra Jaya, Kuching, Sarawak.

The arrival of His Majesty at the Kuching International Airport was greeted by the Speaker of Sarawak Legislative Assembly and Minister-in-Attendance, Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Haji Mohd. Asfia bin Awang Nassar and his wife; and Assistant Minister for Housing and Assistant Minister Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Datuk Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah.

Also present to greet the arrival of His Majesty was the Honorable High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Malaysia, Tuan Yang Terutama Dato Paduka Haji Alaihuddin bin Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Utama Haji Awang Mohd. Taha.

His Majesty consented to proceed to Masjid Jamek, Petra Jaya to pay final respects and to perform the Zuhur and *Jenazah* Prayer.

His Majesty then proceeded to the Funeral Ceremony of the late Tan Sri Dr. Datuk Patinggi Haji Adenan bin Haji Satem, at the Muslim Cemetery in Samariang, Petra Jaya, Kuching.

The late Tan Sri Dr. Datuk Patinggi Haji Adenan bin Haji Satem has left a wife, Yang Amat Berhormat Datin Patinggi Datuk Amar Hajah Jamilah Haji Anu, four daughters and a son.

He was born in 1944 in Kuching, Sarawak and received his early education at St. Joseph school, Kuching, before pursuing a law degree at the University of Adelaide, Australia.

He started his career as a Magistrate in Kuching in 1970, and then joined politics where he became the Deputy Minister of Land Development in Sarawak for two years until 1987. He was then appointed as the Minister of Land Development in Sarawak from 1987 to 1992.

The late Tan Sri Doctor Datuk Patinggi Haji Adenan bin Haji Satem was appointed as the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment at the federal level in 2004 and subsequently was appointed as the fifth Chief Minister of Sarawak on February 28, 2014.

Their Majesties pay final respects to Allahyarham Pengiran Hajah Siti Hawa

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 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 and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to pay final respects to Allahyarham Pengiran Hajah Siti Hawa binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Bendahara Pengiran Anak Abdul Rahman at Baitul Athirah, the residence of Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Jefriah at Jalan Gadong.

Also present was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman and other members of the Royal Family.

The *Jenazah* Prayer was led by the State Mufti, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Doctor Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned.

Allahyarham Pengiran Hajah Siti



Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Baginda 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 touching the casket as it is carried out of the residence as a show of respect to Allahyarham Pengiran Hajah Siti Hawa.

Hawa passed away at around 7.30 am at Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital at the age of 84.

During her lifetime, Allahyarham Pengiran Hajah Siti Hawa was conferred with the Brunei Darussalam Decoration and Honourary Medals, the Darjah

Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei Yang Amat Mulia, SMB, Darjah Ketiga and Pingat Hassanal Bolkiah Sultan, PHBS.

Allahyarham Pengiran Hajah Siti Hawa was laid to rest at the Royal Mausoleum.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and members of the Royal Family mass *Jenazah* Prayer for Allahyarham Pengiran Hajah Siti Hawa, led by the State Mufti.

Their Majesties attend the wedding of the son of the Chief Minister of Sabah

KOTA KINABALU, SABAH, January 21 - 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 and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam arrived in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah to attend the wedding ceremony of the son of the Chief Minister of Sabah, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Musa bin Haji Aman. The ceremony was held at Sutera Harbor Resort, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

Accompanying Their Majesties were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The ceremony was the wedding of the son of the Chief Minister of Sabah, Mohammed Hayssam bin Dato Seri Paduka Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Musa and Fitri Hana binti Haji Ghulam Haidar Khan.

The arrival of Their Majesties at the Kota Kinabalu International Airport was greeted by the Yang Di-Pertua Negeri Sabah, His Excellency Tun Seri Janjan bin Haji Mahiruddin and his wife, Yang Amat Berbahagia Toh Puan Norlidah RM Jasni; Chief Minister of Sabah, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Musa bin Haji Aman and his wife, Datin Seri Panglima Datuk Hajah Faridah binti Haji Tussin; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia as the Minister-in-Attendance, Yang Berhormat Dato 'Sri Anifah bin Haji Aman and his wife, Datin Siti Rubiah binti Abdul Samad and other national leaders from Malaysia and the State 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, Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam and His Royal Highness Sultan Ibrahim ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Iskandar, Sultan of Johor Darul Ta'zim with the bride and groom.

Sabah.

Also present to greet the arrival of Their Majesties was the High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Malaysia, His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Awang Alaihuddin bin Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Utama Haji Awang Mohd. Taha and wife.

In the afternoon, Their Majesties were pleased to receive in audience the Chief Minister of Sabah, and his wife, Datin Seri Panglima Datuk Hajah Faridah binti Haji Tussin. Also present at the ceremony were the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia as Minister of Minister-in-Attendance, Yang Berhormat Dato 'Sri Anifah bin Haji Aman and wife.

In the evening, the arrival of Their Majesties at The Magellan Sutera, Sutera Harbor Resort was greeted by the parents of the bride and groom, the Chief Minister of Sabah, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Musa bin Haji Aman and his wife, Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Seri Panglima Datuk Hajah Faridah binti Haji Tussin and Yang Berhormat Datuk Haji Ghulam Haidar Khan bin Bahadar and his wife, Yang Berbahagia Datin Rosna Haji Mohd.

Yunus.

Their Majesties then proceeded to the Holding Room, where Their Majesties were introduced to the bride and groom.

Among the distinguished guests present at the wedding ceremony was His Royal Highness Sultan Ibrahim ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Iskandar, Sultan of Johor Darul Ta'zim.

Also present at the ceremony were the Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato Laila Utama Dato 'Sri Mohd. Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak and his wife, Yang Berbahagia Datin Sri Rosmah binti Mansor; Yang Di Pertua Negeri Sabah, Tuan Yang Terutama Tun Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Juhar bin Haji Mahiruddin and his wife; Yang Di Pertua Negeri Sarawak, Tuan Yang Terutama Tun Dato Laila Utama Pehin Sri Dr. Haji Abdul Taib bin Mahmud and his wife and Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Yang Berhormat Dato 'Sri Dr. Ahmad Zahid bin Hamidi.

Before the Wedding Ceremony began, Their Majesties also took part in a photo session with the bride and groom. Their Majesties then proceeded to the Grand Ballroom accompanied by the Chief Minister of Sabah and his wife, Yang Berbahagia Datin Seri Panglima Datuk Hajah Faridah binti Haji Tussin.

A *Doa Selamat* was read by the State Mufti of Sabah, Yang Berbahagia Sahibus Samahah Datuk Ustaz Haji Bungsu @ Aziz bin Haji Jaafar. During the Wedding Ceremony, Their Majesties were invited to lead the *Merenjis* Ceremony. After the *Merenjis* Ceremony, Their Majesties proceeded to the Dinner reception with other distinguished guests.



Accompanying Their Majesties was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Her Majesty attends Women's Special Assembly

BERAKAS, January 11 - Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to attend the Women's Special Assembly in conjunction with the Maulidur Rasul celebration of the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam at the International Convention Centre for the year 1438 Hijrah.

The arrival of Her Majesty at the International Convention Centre, Berakas was attended by the Director of the Islamic Da'wah Centre, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Dayang Hajah Siti Azizah binti Haji Musa, as Chairman of the Joint Committee of the Women's Special Assembly in conjunction with Maulud celebration of the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam for the year 1438 Hijrah and other working committee members from the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Brunei Darussalam Women's Council.

Also present was Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatulk 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 recitation of the holy verses from the Al-Quran by the champion of the National Musabaqah Tilawatil Quran for 1437 Hijrah / 2016 AD, Dayangku Ummi Syazana binti Pengiran Haji Marjuki, while the interpretation of the verses was explained by Dayang Rasidah binti Haji Apong from the Islamic Da'wah Centre.

The verses of the Al-Quran recited were verses 261 to 265 of *Surah Al-Baqarah* which Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala gives a reward comparable to those who give charity seeking the blessings of Allah, and it warns us that bad deeds will overturn the reward of giving to charity.

The welcoming remarks by Dayang Hajah Siti Azizah among others, addressed on the theme of the Maulidur Rasul celebration this year, "A Blessed Vision guided by examples from the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam".

She explained that the theme of this year's celebration coincides with the words of Allah the Almighty in *Surah Al-Ahzab*, verse 21, "Surely in the Messenger of Allah is a good example for you, for those who hope for Allah's blessings and happiness in the Hereafter".



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam during the Women Special Assembly in conjunction with the Maulidur Rasul celebration of the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam for the Year 1438 Hijrah.

The ceremony continued with a Special Talk titled "A Blessed Vision guided by the examples from the Prophet Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam" delivered by a speaker from Islamic Da'wah Centre, Dayangku Norhayati binti Pengiran Haji Kasharan.

Subsequently, the event witnessed a choral performance by Arab Katok Secondary students explaining the interpretations of verses 261 to 265 of *Surah Al-Baqarah*.

The ceremony was also enlivened by the presentation of *Dikir Marhaban* by a staff of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Brunei Darussalam Women's Council.

A *Doa Selamat* was read by Datin Dayang Hajah Maznah binti Haji Muhammad.

Her Majesty then went on to the Exhibition and Sales of Halal Products of Local Entrepreneurs.

The exhibition highlighted the involvement of small and medium industry enterprises, especially among women in

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Accompanying Her Majesty, Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatulk 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.



Her Majesty and members of the Royal Family touring the Exhibition and Sales of Halal Products for Local Entrepreneurs.

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conducting activities and businesses that emulated the morals and the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam.

The Women's Special Assembly this year was jointly

organised by the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Brunei Darussalam Women's Council in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Also present at the ceremony were the Wives of Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran-Pengiran Cheterias, the wives of the Cabinet Ministers and the Wives of the Deputy Ministers.

His Royal Highness attends selection session for under 18 players



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, as Chairman of Brunei Football Club DPMM FC, attending the selection session for under 18 players organized by Brunei DPMM FC.

JERUDONG, January 15 - A total of 152 participants comprising of local young footballers from all four districts exhibited their respective potential during the selection session for under 18 players organised by Brunei DPMM FC.

Witnessing the selection session was His Royal Highness Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and the Senior Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, as Chairman of Brunei DPMM FC.

The selection session held at Mini Stadium, Jerudong was headed by Brunei DPMM FC Team Leader Head, Steve Kean, a professional coach who has handled one of the premier league clubs in the United Kingdom, to give young players the opportunity to undergo training and gain experience from him.

Out of the total, only 25 participants aged between 12 and 18 years will be recruited to train twice a week with the professional coach.

In an interview with Pelita Brunei, Brunei DPMM FC Manager, Awang Md. Ali bin Haji Momin explained that the selection session was aimed at discovering the talents and potential of young players to advance and enhance their potential. He further hopes that there will be more players from the under 18 DPMM FC team taken into the main squad of Brunei DPMM FC, just like the previous year.

"As we all know, a year ago, three players have been taken into the squad and one of them was Azim Izamuddin, who then scored for the squad. So this selection session can be a stepping stone for the participants who want to play at a higher level," he explained.

However, he said, interested participants who were not selected to join the under 18 DPMM FC team should try harder in the future.

His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness graces FOBISIA Swimming Championship

BERAKAS, January 20 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman attended the 3rd Swimming Competition of the Federation of British International Schools in Asia (FOBISIA).

Participating in the championship, was Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim ibni Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.

Also in attendance to witness the tournament was Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman.

Upon arrival at the National Swimming Pool National Sports Complex of Hassanal Bolkiah, HRH was greeted by 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 and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dato Paduka Dr. Awang Haji Affendy bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin.

In the first day of the event, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim, representing the International



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 attending the 3rd Swimming Competition of the Federation of British International Schools in Asia (FOBISIA).

School of Brunei (ISB) Hammerheads has joined the 50m for the male swimmers aged 9 to 10 years with a time of 51.53.

Meanwhile, the winner of the 50m Stroke Category for male swimmers aged 9 to 10 years was Gorn Sakdavisarak from STA Marlins with 39.33, while in second place was Cameron R Jamieson from Dulwich College Seoul with 39.86, and in third place was James Leigh from the British School Manila with a time of 40.41.

The champion for the backstroke 50m Category for 9 to 10 year-old

female swimmers was Isha Chen from ISB with a time of 38.50 followed by Hanami Roughley of Tiger Sharks with a time of 40.52 and third place was Opal Ongsaranakom of STA Marlins with 40.99.

The afternoon session for the championship included the following categories the 200m Individual Medley Category, 100m Butterfly Stroke, 50m Backstroke and 200m Breaststroke according to age groups.

The championship took place for three days.

His Royal Highness visits 10th RKN Project site

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 23 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Chairman of the Highest Committee of The 10th National Development Plan (RKN) consented to attend the ninth work visit to several project sites, particularly under the Ministry of Development.

The arrival of His Royal Highness at the Project Site Office was greeted by the Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Finance II (Second), Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, as the Deputy Chairman of the Highest Committee of the 10th National Development Plan (RKN) ; Minister of Home Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong; Minister of Development, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Bahrin bin Abdullah and other Highest Committee members.

The briefing began with the recitation of *Surah Al-Fatihah* and



His Royal Highness being briefed on the Sumbiling Jetty Project.

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His Royal Highness being briefed on the Residency Road Extension Project (Phase 2) by the Acting Director of Roads, JKR.

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a *Doa Selamat* led by the Mosque Affairs Officer, Pengiran Haji Mohammad Hafizuddin bin Pengiran Haji Bakar.

The briefing was briefed by the Acting Permanent Secretary (Technical and Professional) of the Ministry of Development, Awang Haji Marzuke bin Haji Mohsin on the projects to be visited.

His Royal Highness was then invited by the Minister of Development to visit the Kampung Ayer Zone 'A' Revitalisation Project Site, where His Royal Highness received a briefing on the current status of the project presented by the Acting Director of Drainage and Sewerage, Public Works Department (PWD), Awang Haji Mohd. Salleh bin Haji Abdul Karim

His Royal Highness then proceeded to the Revitalisation Project Site near the Kampung Sumbiling Jetty area and received a briefing from the Acting Executive Engineer at PWD, Pengiran Muhammad Fuad bin Pengiran Haji Ali and later signed the *Lembaran Kenangan* (royal parchment) followed by a photo session.

The Kampung Ayer Zone 'A' Revitalisation Project is from the Kedayan River to the Edinburgh Bridge. The Kedayan River Regeneration (Design and Build) began in January 2016 and is expected to be completed by May 2018 at a cost of BND35,991,266.47.

The aim of the revitalisation project is to reduce flood for the Kedayan River area, as well as to enhance a healthy lifestyle for the public.

It also aims to provide a platform for sustainable economic development in the future.

After visiting the project site, His Royal Highness proceeded to Tarindak D'Seni for an overview of the entire Phase 2 of Residency Expansion Project site.

His Royal Highness was pleased to hear about the project, presented by the Acting Director of Roads at PWD, Awang Haji Mazlan bin Haji Abdul Salim.

To have a closer look, His Royal Highness then proceeded to the Residency Road Expansion Project (Phase 2), where an explanation was given by the Acting Assistant Director of Roads at PWD, Awang Rafitra bin Haji Abdul Razak.

This was followed by signing a *Lembaran Kenangan* and a photo session.

The Residency Road Expansion Project (Phase 2) with the cost of the BND49 million is the continuation of the upgrading of Phase I Residency Road completed in 2013

The project is aimed to smooth traffic movement especially for road users traveling from Bandar Seri Begawan (BSB) to Jalan Kota Batu, besides the completion of the Sungai Kebun Bridge, whereby the number of traffic from Mukim Lumapas and the surrounding areas will increase.

Another aim of the project is to beautifying the sight around BSB for the public as well as tourists. The Residency Road Expansion Project (Phase 2) involves the enlargement of the 1.2 km long Residency Road, which starts from the Kianggeh River Bridge to the Bubungan Dua Belas area.

Subsequently, His Royal Highness headed to the Bridge Construction Project Site from Kampung Sungai Kebun to Jalan Residency and was briefed by the Acting Director of the Roads at PWD, before commuting to a special vehicle to look over the bridge to the end of Jalan Sungai Kebun.

His Royal Highness then headed to the middle of the Bridge for a short briefing before signing the *Lembaran Kenangan* and consented to a photo session at the end of the working visit.

Meanwhile, His Royal Highness's working visit to 10th (RKN) project sites reflects His Royal Highness's leadership in ensuring the implementation of the planned projects runs smoothly to support the nation's aspiration towards achieving Brunei's 2035 Vision.



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, Chairman of the Highest Committee of the 10th National Development Plan (RKN) at one of the sites under the 10th RKN Project.

His Royal Highness chairs the First Executive Committee of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations Meeting

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 26 – 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 chaired the First Meeting of the Highest Executive Committee for the Golden Jubilee celebrations of 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's Accession to the Throne.

The arrival of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, as the Patron of the Advisory Committee for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations, at the Prime Minister's Office Building, was greeted by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, as Member of the Advisory Committee for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

Also present to greet His Royal Highness the Crown Prince were the Co-Chairpersons of the Executive Committee for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations, Chief of Adat Istiadat Negara, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar; the Minister of Home Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong; the Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Finance II (Second), Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim; the State Mufti, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Doctor Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned and the Private and Confidential Secretary of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Shahbandar Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Mohd. Nawawi bin Pehin Orang Kaya Shahbandar Haji Awang Mohd. Taha.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince was invited to a photo session with members of the Executive Committee for the Golden Jubilee Celebration.

The meeting began with a *Doa Selamat* which was read by a member of the Executive Committee for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Imam Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Hamid bin Bakal.

This was followed by a welcoming remark from the Chief of Adat Istiadat Negara, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz.

In his *sabda*, His Royal Highness said that the planning and concept of the celebration should be moderate and always emphasise aspects that highlight Brunei customs and traditions. His Royal Highness further said that most importantly, it is a



His Royal Highness delivering a *sabda* (royal speech).

symbol of the meaningful achievements for the country and the people of the country under the reign of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

His Royal Highness said that with the blessing of Allah the Almighty, His Majesty's wise leadership and authority in leading Brunei Darussalam, has brought the country to fulfill the demands of development and progress whilst maintaining peace and political stability.

"My father's leadership has also made the country able to generate positive economic growth in attracting foreign investment. In addition to this, the country has also produced more of Brunei's own intellectuals and experts, increasing capability and competitiveness internationally," said His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness highlighted that religion remains as the main centrepiece in the planning and direction of development. The development of this country is in line with His Majesty's aspirations to transform this country into a *zikir* nation. These are some of the matters that must be kept in mind in planning the celebration in order to achieve the impact or outcome that is expected from it. In organising and carrying out the celebration, it needs to be planned and monitored carefully and systematically.

His Royal Highness emphasises the need to develop a communication strategy that seeks to attract the participation and engagement of the people and the entire community, especially the youth and students in school and higher learning institutions. This also includes the private sector, especially the media, associations, non-governmental organisations, all Heads of Department, Penghulus and Heads of Village, who are able to give encouragement and bring about the success of the Golden Jubilee Celebration.

In concluding his *sabda*, His Royal Highness hopes that the members of the committee will be able to provide constructive views and opinions, solely for solving, enlivening and ensuring the quality and perfection of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations.



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 in a photo session with members of the Executive Committee for the Golden Jubilee Celebration.

Federation of British International Schools in Asia (FOBISIA) Invitational Swimming Championship

BERAKAS, Saturday, January 21 - 22 - The 3-day Federation of British International Schools in Asia (FOBISIA) Invitational Swimming Championship began on January 20, 2017.

Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman attended the morning session of the second day.

The arrival of Her Royal Highness at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex Swimming Pool, was greeted by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (KKBS), Dato Paduka Doctor Awang Haji Affendy bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin.

At the event, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim ibni Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah participated in the Medley Relay 200M male aged (9-10) representing ISB and 50M Male (9-10 Years) Breaststroke and thus managed to beat his own personal record with the fastest time of 58.37 in the category.

Also present was Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman.

In the 200M Medley Relay Category, the champion was won by the STA Marlins team the fastest time of 2.42.81, while the team from Harrow International School, Bangkok finished second with 2.47.8, and British School Manila was third with 2.48.47.

Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim ibni Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah participating in the FOBISIA Invitational Swimming Championship.



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman during the FOBISIA Invitational Swimming Championship.

For the male 50M Breaststroke, Haruho Yamaguchi of STA Marlins topped with 44.87, while the second and third place was won by Harrow International School's Bangkok Kan Payungwataseth with a time of 46.24 and Tonmye Puengpak with a time of 46.56.

Her Royal Highness also attended the afternoon session, accompanied by Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman.

The arrival of Her Royal Highness at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Swimming Pool in the afternoon was greeted by Acting Senior Officer of the Youth and Sports Department, Ministry

of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dayang Mariam binti Ulat.

YTM Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim representing the International School of Brunei (ISB) Hammerheads, participated in the 100 metres Freestyle Swimming Category (M) for male swimmers aged 9 to 10 years with a time of 1:31:73.

Brunei Darussalam hosted the 3rd FOBISIA Invitation of Swimming Championship under ISB.

ISB was represented by 30 swimmers from the Hammerheads Team of the school, in which amongst them was YTM Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim, against 400 swimmers from 13 international schools from six Asian countries under FOBISIA.

Among the international schools that participated in the tournament was Bangkok Patana School (PTS); Bangkok Preps (BKPP); British International School Kuala Lumpur (KLK); British School Manila (BSM); Dulwich College Seoul (DCSL); ELC International School, Selangor (ELC); BSJ - Electric Eels (BSJ); Harrow International School, Bangkok (HIS); ISB; ISP Uplands (ISPU); Jerudong International School (JIS); STA Marlins (STA) and Wellington International School, Shanghai (WCIS).

Federation of British International Schools in Asia (FOBISIA) Invitational Swimming Championship (continued)

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On the last day of the championship, YTM Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim joined the Freestyle Category 50 Metre (M) for male swimmers aged 9 to 10 and recorded a time of 38.63. In the tournament, YTM Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim together with Brunei's International School partner (ISB) Hammerheads secured third place through 200M Freestyle Relay Category for male swimmer 9 to 10 years with a time of 2: 29.02.

At the end of the tournament, Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah consented to award medals to the winners of the 200M Freestyle Relay Category (Men and Women) aged 9 to 10 years and aged 11 years.

The Champions for the 200M Freestyle Relay Category for males aged 9 to 10 years old was the STA Marlins with 2: 20.90 followed by British School Manila in second place with 2:24.71 and ISB in third place is with 2:29.02.

Meanwhile in the same category for female swimmers, ISB won with a time of 2:23.35, followed by STA Marlins second place with 2:26.36 and Harrow International School, Bangkok in third place with 2:28.82.



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman awarding medals to the winners.

FOBISIA was founded in 1988 with only five members and now the federation has 52 international schools,

FOBISIA was founded in 1988 with only five members and now the federation has 52 international schools, under the British Curriculum

throughout Asia providing platforms for international schools to connect, share best practices, and provide opportunities for competition between schools through co-development programmes.

Speaker of the Legislative Council receives goodwill visit

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 16 - The Legislative Council received a goodwill visit from the High Commission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Brunei Darussalam.

According to the press release of the Department of Councils, the High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Retired Major General Tariq Rashid Khan made a goodwill visit to the Speaker of the Legislative Council, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib.

Also present were the Secretary to the Cabinet Ministers' Council Clerk of the Legislative Council, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Jaya Dato Paduka Awang Haji Judin bin Haji Asar and Deputy Clerk, Yang Mulia Dayang Rose Aminah binti Haji Ismail and several officers of the Legislative Council.



The High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Retired Major General Tariq Rashid Khan (left) with the Speaker of the Legislative Council, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib.

In addition to strengthening the friendship and goodwill of both parties, the goodwill visit discussed issues that are of concern together.

Traditional Boat Racing event for 'Bandarku Ceria'



The guest of honour, the Minister of Home Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, presenting prizes to the champions.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 8

- Lela Cheteria Kampung Lurong Dalam team from Mukim Burong Pingai Ayer emerged as champion for the 25 paddler Open Marathon Boat Race Category as the highlight of the 2017 Traditional Boat Race Event held at the Brunei River.

In an interview with Pelita Brunei, the team's manager, Pengarah Haji Ibrahim bin Haji Mohd. Yusuf, expressed gratitude for once again winning the championship for the 25 paddler Open Marathon Boat Race Category, where in the previous 2016 Regatta, the team had also won first place.

According to the team's manager, the race was very tense and he did not expect to succeed in first place because all the teams competing were great teams.

"Alhamdulillah, the teamwork and strong training by this team proves that nothing is impossible to achieve. The team has undergone training for about two months after returning from their participation in the Sarawak International Dragon Boat Regatta 2016 in November", he explained.

Training will continue to be carried out as usual to prepare for the next race event.

The 25 and 20 paddler Category was won by the Seri Pahlawan Team representing Mukim Tamoi and the 10 paddler Category was won by the RPM Company Team.

Meanwhile, the champion for 15 Paddler District Category was won by the

Temburong District Team and 15 Paddler Mukim Category was won by the Mukim Saba Team.

The 15 Paddler from Private Sector Category was won by the Advanced RPM Company Team.

The Two Paddler Padian Category was won by participants from Mukim Kota Batu Team and the 13 Feet 18HP 2 Piston of Six rounds Boat Category was given to Abd. Hanif.

The 8-rounds 18HP Speedboat Category was won by Zul and the Two Paddler Padian Category was won by the *Pekayuh Bungsu* Team.

The 2 Piston 30HP Fishing Boat Category was won by Rozali, while the 10-rounds 30HP Speed Boat Category was won by Suhaili. The *Katam Kalok* Team won the Padian Category.

The event was organised by the Mukim Consultative Council (MPM) Kota Batu in collaboration with the Brunei and Muara District Department (JDBM).

Present as the guest of honour and to present prizes was the Minister of Home Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong.

The event involved teams from districts, subdivisions, invited teams and private sector.

The event enlivened and revived the atmosphere of the city, and at the same time supported the initiative of the 'Bandarku Ceria' Programme with the cooperation from the public and those involved.



The 2017 Traditional Boat Race Event taking place at the Brunei River.

Launching of the Bandar Seri Begawan and Kampong Ayer Warisan Tourism Packages



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 officiating the launch of the Bandar Seri Begawan and Kampong Ayer Warisan Tourism Packages.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 7 - The launching of the Bandar Seri Begawan and Kampong Ayer Warisan Tourism Packages was expected to further enhance the existing tourism packages, while ensuring that they are attractive, comfortable and safe for tourists.

The Launching Ceremony of Bandar Seri Begawan Tourism Package and Kampong Ayer National Heritage was jointly concluded by the Minister of Home Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong; Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong and 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 at the Galeri Seni Dermaga Diraja, in the capital.

The launch package is to highlight existing tourism products in Kampong Ayer and Bandar Seri Begawan, as well as to enhance the efforts of travel agents to actively market tourism products both locally and internationally.

In addition, it also encourages travel agents to offer affordable indicative prices and encourage locals to travel internationally, especially during the school holidays.

Towards enriching the tourism economy and sector in the country, eight tour packages have been introduced; the Full Day City and Water Village Tour, Half Day City Tour, Kampong Ayer Tour, Sunset River Safari Tour, Night City Tour, Heritage Drive Tour, Bandar Seri Begawan Walking Tour and Proboscis Monkey Tour.

The package is a continuation of the Temburong Vacation Package which was launched on September 1, 2016 by the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) through the Tourism Development Department in its efforts to strengthen the country's main tourism product.

The launch also includes the Brunei Darussalam Heritage Trail which was launched by 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 at the Art Gallery, Royal Wharf, in the capital.

The Brunei Darussalam Heritage Trail is a project of Department of Museums, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MPRT) to preserve and increase public awareness of the historical sites and buildings in Bandar Seri Begawan which have been gazetted under The Antiquities and Property Act 1976 revised 1984, 1991 and 2002.

Also launched was the Product Sales of the Village Consultative Council (MPK) and Tourism Products which was launched by the Minister of Home Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong.

The exhibition and sale involved the participation of the MPK in the Brunei and Muara Districts, travel agents and tour operators focusing on the sale of Bandar Seri Begawan and Kampong Ayer tourism packages.

The event continued with a cruise along the Brunei River on the MV Sentosa cruise ship. Also onboard was the Minister of Communication, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat; Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries, Members of the Brunei Darussalam Tourism Board and other special invitees continued in the evening.

The MV Sentosa cruise ship is a cruise ship which offers services such as cruising along the Brunei River to witness the scenery of Kampong Ayer.

Subsequently, the event was followed by the signing of the Tourist Information Center plaque executed by the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism.

The Tourist Information Center aims to facilitate tourists visiting the country for information on interesting places and tourism facilities in the country.

Brunei - Korea continues to increase business cooperation



The Minister of Home Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong (third, left); the Minister of Education, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman (three, right); the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong (second, left); 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 (second, right) and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Cho Won Myung (centre) during the Opening Ceremony of the New Buildings Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Jalan Kebangsaan.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 10 - Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Korea will continue to work together to promote business opportunities for both countries in enhancing its effectiveness.

The economic exchange between the population and the private sector population was the primary basis for establishing a valuable partnership between the two countries.

The matter was explained by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Cho Won Myung during the Opening Ceremony of the New Embassy Building of the Republic of Korea in Jalan Kebangsaan.

His Excellency Cho Won Myung in his speech said, respecting

the culture and sports between the two countries was evident in achieving progress in the field of cultural exchange.

Present at the ceremony were, the Minister of Home Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong; the Minister of Education, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman; the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong and Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Retired) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof.

The new building was built in February 2015, three months after the arrival of His Excellency in the country.

Primary Schools receive visit from Ministry of Education

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 3, 5 - With the beginning of school coming, the students' excitement and enthusiasm can be seen, eager to start school and to meet their teachers and friends after the holiday season.

In conjunction with the 2017 school session, the Ministry of Education visited several schools to witness students entering school on their first day of school in the year 2017.

On January 3, The Minister of Education, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman made a visit to Sekolah Rendah Pengiran Pahlawan Setia Diraja Sahibul Bandar, Jalan Mata-Mata, Cluster 1.

The arrival of the Minister and the delegation was welcomed by the Principal of the primary school, Dayang Suhaila binti Salleh and Head of Cluster 1, Dayang Hamidah binti Haji Daud.

Participating in the visit was the Director of Schools, Awang Zaman bin



The Minister of Education, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, interacting with students who have just started school for the year 2017.

Haji Gapar; the Director of Curriculum Development, Awang Haji Abd Rahman bin Haji Naw; the Director of Schools Inspectorate Dayang Nadia Lee Siew Hoon binti Abdullah and the Head of Public Relations Unit, Dayang Sharinah binti Awang Suhaimi.

On the same day, the Deputy Minister of Education, Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar also conducted a separate visit to Sultan Hassan Bangar Secondary School, Temburong District. And welcome by

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Primary Schools receive visit from Ministry of Education (continued)

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the Principal, Awang Abdul Wafi Sia bin Abdullah Sia.

Also present during the visit were, the Director General of Education, Awang Haji Abdul Rahim bin Derus; the Director of Estate Planning and Management Ministry of Education, Awang Haji Omarali bin Haji Muhammad Jaafar and the Acting Senior Special Duties (Corporate), Department of Schools, Awang Haji Mohd Sharifudin Haji Mohd Salleh.

Another separate visit to Keriam Primary School, Tutong, Cluster 5 was made by the Permanent Secretary (Core Education), Ministry of Education, Doctor Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Mohd. While the Acting Permanent Secretary (Higher Education) of the Ministry of Education, Associate Professor Dr. Haji Azman bin Ahmad made a visit to Sekolah Rendah Pengiran Setia Jaya Pengiran Haji Abdul Momin, Kuala Belait, Cluster 6.

The visits were aimed at gaining the entry of students in the early years and also to support and improve the relationship between the Ministry of Education and the school community as well as to motivate and inspire students to begin their 2017 school session.

This year, the number of students in government primary schools is 35,380 and the number of students in government secondary schools is 34,432 (based on



The Minister of Education, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, observing students who have just started school for the year 2017.

data as of December 31, 2016).

In order to follow the enrollment of the students in schools and to further support and improve the relationship between the Ministry of Education and the school community, the Minister of Education visited two primary schools in the Brunei Muara District on January 5, at the same time giving motivation and spirit to students entering school in the year 2017.

The arrival of the Minister at Rimba I Primary School, Cluster 4 was welcomed by the School Principal, Dayang Aji binti Haji Ahmad and Head of Cluster 4, Dayang

Hajah Suriani binti Haji Noor Hashim. Which this school has 422 students and 43 teachers.

The Minister and entourage then continued to visit Rimba II, Cluster 4 Primary School and was welcomed by the School Headmaster, Mrs Chantal Valerie Brimiah. Which has a crowd of 551 students and 57 teachers.

The visit ended with a dialogue session and the sharing of the 'School Development Plan 2017' by the school's Principal.

Minister of Religious Affairs makes visit to Arabic secondary and religious schools

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 3, 5, 16 - In an effort to improve Arabic language skills among Arabic School students, school leaders, particularly teachers need to create a conducive atmosphere in Arabic and encourage students to communicate using the language.

The Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman emphasised the matter in an interview during a visit to the Arab Preparatory School Kilometre 2, Jalan Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Clearly, the matter was aimed at providing the balance of Arabic language proficiency as well as excellent English proficiency among the Arabic schools. Which the



The Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman visiting one of the classrooms.

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Minister of Religious Affairs makes visit to Arabic secondary and religious schools (continued)

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achievement of Arabic schools in Brunei Darussalam especially Bandar Seri Begawan Arab Preparatory School in the Primary School Assessment Examination (PSR) according to the Minister was pleasing and must be maintained and enhanced.

The Minister and group was welcomed by Principal of the Arab Preparatory School, Dayang Sarimah binti Haji Ahmad as well as the teachers and staff of the school.

Also attending the visit was the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Aziz bin Orang Kaya Maharaja Lela Haji Yussof and the Acting Director of Islamic Studies, Dayang Ajjiah binti Haji Moktal.

In expressing the Ministry of Religious Affairs' concern and support for its Islamic Studies Department's efforts in leading religious schools in the country in the preparation, assessment, strategies and in achieving the aims of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Minister continued his series of visits to Pengiran Anak Puteri Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah Religious School, Berakas on January 5.

The Minister of Religious Affairs was welcomed by the Principal of the school, Dayang Hajah Jamaliah binti Haji Mohd Yassin as well as teachers and staff.

As many as 5,764 students have registered into pre-school classes this year; 4,117 students in the Brunei Muara District (2,116 males and 2,001 females), 614 students in the Tutong District (313 males and 301 females), 882 students in the Belait District (475 males and 407 females) and 152 students in the



The Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman interacting with students.

Temburong District (82 males and 69 females).

On January 16, the Minister continued his another series visits to Hassanal Bolkiah Boys Arabic Secondary School (SMALHB), Jalan Tutong and was welcomed by the Principal of the school, Hajah Norjainah binti Haji Buntar, teachers and staff of the school.

The Minister also emphasised that the programmes to strengthen the use of Arabic language in Arabic schools would create an Arabic language atmosphere and is expanded to facilitate the understanding of the language of the Al-Quran in terms of reading, memorisation and interpretation.

Brunei - France strengthens relationship in various fields

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 5 - The delegation from the France-Southeast Asia Inter-parliamentary Friendship Group who were on a two-day visit to Brunei Darussalam was celebrated at the Reception Ceremony held at the residence of the Ambassador of the Republic of France to Brunei Darussalam.

Present at the reception was the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong. The delegation consisted of four senators led by the President of the France-Southeast Asia Inter-parliamentary Friendship Group, Gerard Miquel; Deputy President for Thailand's branch, Bernard Saugey; Deputy President of Brunei Darussalam's branch, Jean-Claude Lenoir and Deputy President of the Philippine's branch, Simon Sutour accompanied by the group's Executive Secretary, Anne-Laure Saint-Dizier.

In an interview with the media, Gerard Miquel said that during the visit they had the opportunity to pay a courtesy call to Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the



The Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong (third, left) with a delegation from the France-Southeast Asia Inter-parliamentary Friendship Group of France Senate.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade as well as a visit to the Ministry of Education.

The visit to Brunei, he explained, was aimed at further strengthening bilateral ties between France and Brunei to study together the differences in culture, tradition, and language between the two countries.

In addition, the visit also

shared the common interests of France and Brunei in various fields such as education, economy, diplomacy, the oil and gas sector and so forth.

He also expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the people of Brunei who have provided great hospitality to the first delegation to visit the country.

RB collaborates to improve tourism in Brunei

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 17

– The Tourism Development Department in the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism's (MPRT) mission is 'To increase the number of tourists by focusing on strengthening the attractiveness and diversity of tourism products as well as improving the quality of tourism services'.

The Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) aims to double the number of air travelers entering the country from 278,000 in 2015 to 450,000 by 2020.

The ministry's strategy of developing tourism in the country was primarily focused on the development of tourism products and efforts to upgrade existing travel packages offered to tourists.

This was confirmed by the Minister of the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT), Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong at the Opening Ceremony of Royal Brunei Sales and Marketing Forum 2017 at the Radisson Hotel, in the capital.

Therefore, it is clear that good tourism products must have reasonable value, are attractive, can be kept as memories, fun and enjoyable, unique, safe, clean and so on.

"We have a number of interesting places in the country, which are available and can be offered as tourist destinations or major products. These include attractions around Bandar Seri Begawan such as the Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Mosque (SOAS) and the Royal Regalia Building," said the Minister.

"Other areas of interest include Kampong Ayer which showcases the unique culture and heritage, and Ulu Temburong which provides an unforgettable experience, rich and diverse in nature and environment - a clean tropical rainforest and natural habitat."

According to Yang Berhormat, within



The Minister of the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT), Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong receiving a souvenir during the Royal Brunei Sales and Marketing Forum 2017.

the last 18 months, we have achieved a number of successes and are aggressive in making changes to the tourism industry in Brunei Darussalam. "We have focused on product development and will continue to do so, to remain competitive in the region.

We have spent time of refining existing products such as Temburong, Bandar Seri Begawan and Kampong Ayer and hereafter are Tutong, Belait and other recreational destinations such as beaches, forests and garden. At the same time, we have also included several activities such as diving, bird watching and community-based tourism for example homestay and village activities," he added.

According to Yang Berhormat, MPRT has also established the Brunei Tourism Board (BTB) which is an important platform for MPRT to communicate with stakeholders in the government and the private sector.

The BTB's main objective is to provide guidelines on tourism-related activities and to provide a platform for dialogue between the private and public sectors on

tourism-related issues.

In this regard, the Minister can see the need for our national airline to work closely with other travel agencies including hotels, travel agents, tour operators and comprehensive transport operators, but competitive in designing travel programs at the right price for customers.

RB has also supported tourism initiatives by opening more routes to welcome more charter flights from the People's Republic of China, Zhengzhou and soon Xian and also from Seoul, South Korea and code share flights to Turkey and Japan.

The RB Sales and Marketing Forum 2017 was held for three days, attended by over 150 participants comprising RB officers and staff from the local headquarters and overseas.

Also present was the Permanent Secretary of MPRT, who is was also a Board Member of RB, Dr. Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin.

ASEAN marks 6.5 per cent growth in international travelers in 2016

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, January 20 – The Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong attended the 20th Tourism Ministers Meeting and 16th ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Ministers Meeting which took place from 18 to 20 January 2017, in conjunction with Singapore ASEAN Tourism Forum 2017 (ATF).

The meeting was led by the 45th Meeting of the ASEAN National Tourism Organisation (NTOs), the 30th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) NTOs Meeting and meetings with dialogue partners from January 16 to 18, 2017.

Also present was the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism, Yang Mulia Awang Wardi bin Haji Mohammad Ali.

During the meeting, the ministers were pleased with the progress made in the ASEAN tourism cooperation in 2016, particularly with the contribution of the tourism sector to the establishment of the ASEAN Community when the rest of the remaining measures were under the AEC Blueprint 2015.

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ASEAN marks 6.5 per cent growth in international travelers in 2016 (continued)

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The Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong (five, right) in a photo session with other ASEAN Tourism Ministers during the 20th Tourism Ministerial Meeting and ASEAN Plus Three 16th ASEAN Tourism Ministers Meeting, in Singapore in conjunction with the ASEAN Tourism 2017 (ATF) Tourism Forum.

The Ministers also noted progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan (ATSP) 2016 - 2025, where key countries for all major activities under the Work Plan for 2016 - 2017 have been identified. The Ministers are convinced that with the progress of the current implementation and with the active role of key countries, ASEAN tourism will be able to sustain contributions towards realizing ASEAN integration goals set out in ASEAN 2025: to Advance Forward, in which ASEAN was expected to receive 116 million international visitors in 2016 registering a growth of 6.5 percent compared to 2015.

Recognizing the broad potential and opportunities offered by technology, the Ministers see that ASEAN should leverage more effective digital and social media marketing by enhancing the ability to respond to acceleration of changing trends.

The Ministers also emphasised the importance of increasing the capabilities in tourism statistics and the collection of analytical

data and urged senior officials to strengthen cooperation among ASEAN member states and international organizations.

Regarding sightseeing tours, the ministers reiterated their commitment to developing Southeast Asia into a lively voyage destination where they stated that by 2035, sailing cruise passengers in Southeast Asia were expected to reach about 4.5 million.

In that regard, the ASEAN Tourism Minister agreed to develop the Joint Tourism Travel Joint Declaration as part of the cruise plan where the first Sailing Dialogue was also held to discuss the potential growth of the shipping industry.

With a high commitment from ASEAN member countries and partners, ministers are confident that the target of 121 million international tourist arrivals to the region in 2017 can be exceeded.

State Mufti receives courtesy call

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 24

- The State Mufti, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Doctor Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned received a courtesy call from the Rector of Al-Fatih Islamic Campus, Bilad Al-Sham University, Damsyik, Syria, Professor Doctor Husameddin Farfour M. Salleh at the State Mufti's office at Darulifta Brunei Darussalam, Jalan Pengiran Babu Raja.

During the visit, Professor Doctor Husameddin Farfour M. Salleh was accompanied by two officials from the university, Yaman Alistawani Mhd Adnan and Waleed Abdelmonem Elsaid Ibrahim.

Professor Doctor Husameddin Farfour M. Salleh and his entourage were on a working visit to this country for the signing of the MoU between Al-Fatih Islamic Campus, Bilad Al-Sham University,



The State Mufti, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Doctor Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned with the Rector of Al-Fatih Islamic Campus, Bilad Al-Sham University, Damsyik, Syria, Professor Doctor Husameddin Farfour M. Salleh.

Damsyik, Syria with the Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University (UNISSA) of Brunei Darussalam.

In Darulifta Brunei Darussalam,

Professor Doctor Husameddin Farfour M. Salleh and his entourage were also taken to visit the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Islamic Exhibition Hall in Darulifta Brunei Darussalam.

'Masjidku Makmur, Negara Berkat' Programme



Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd. Daud (fourth, left) during the 'Masjidku Makmur, Negara Berkat' Programme, in Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Mosque.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 29 - In a way to prosper the mosque, the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MORA) through the Department of Mosque Affairs, the Islamic Da'wah Centre and the Islamic Shari'ah Development Division with the cooperation of Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Mosque held the 'Masjidku Makmur, Negara Berkat' Programme, at the Omar 'Ali Saifuddin mosque.

At the same time, the programme provided opportunities for visitors to commemorate the 'Bandarku Ceria' event at the start of their day with the

blessings of fulfilling the fardhu prayers in congregation and seizing rewards through *wirid* reading after the prayer.

The programme was graced by a tazkirah titled 'Physical Leisure through the Dawn Prayers' delivered by the Permanent Speaker of the Islamic Da'wah Centre, Doctor Haji Ismuhadi bin Haji Abdullah.

Also present at the mosque were the Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd. Daud and Datin, the Deputy

Permanent Secretaries and senior officials from MORA.

The presence of the pilgrims at once will enable the practice of the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam and can create a sense of equality among Muslims in performing the pilgrimage and worship rituals together.

Prospering the mosque can be intended as building and setting up a mosque, filling it up with its various obligations and fulfilling obligations to Allah, respecting and preserving it by keeping it clean.

Deputy Minister of Defence receives courtesy call

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 11 - The Deputy Minister of Defence, First Admiral (Retired) Dato Seri Pahlawan Abdul Aziz bin Haji Mohd Tamit received a courtesy call from the Major General (Pilot) Abdullah bin Saleh Al-Shehri, War Wing Commander of the Command and Staff College of Saudi Arabia.

According to a Press Release by the Ministry of Defence, the Deputy Minister of Defence welcomed the visit and both sides expressed satisfaction over the relationship between the two countries and also hopes to continue to explore expandable collaboration including in the field of training and courses towards enhancing the defence relationship as a whole.

Major General (Pilot) Abdullah led a delegation of 21 senior officials comprising trainers and participants of the Command and Staff College of Saudi Arabia.

The delegation was in the country from January 6 to 13 for a study tour.

In 2016, the Deputy Minister of Defence made two visits to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the first for a working visit



Deputy Minister of Defence, First Admiral (Retired) Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Abdul Aziz bin Haji Mohd Tamit (right) with the War Wing Commander of the Command and Staff College, Ministry Defence of Saudi Arabia, Major General (Pilot) Abdullah bin Saleh Al-Shehri (left).

from January 26 to 29 and the second to witness the exercise of the North Thunder Exercise Army on March 10.

Senior officials from the Ministry of

Defence, Saudi Arabia, who recently visited Brunei Darussalam was Major General Staff Pilot Hussein bin Mohammed Alassaf and Brigadier General Mashari Saad Al-Ghunaim in April 2016.