

بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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Man For Peace Award for His Majesty Sultan

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving the Man For Peace Award 1989 from the President of the Together For Peace Foundation, Mrs. Mariapia Fanfani. Looking on is the Italian ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Romualdo Bettini.

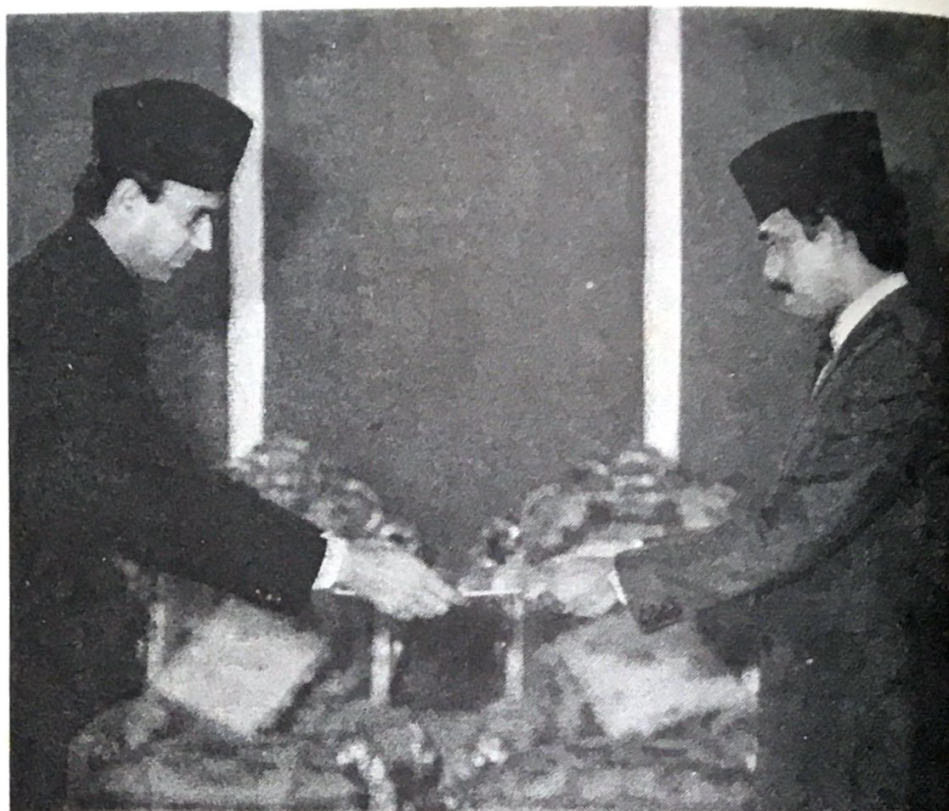


His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has been bestowed a high honour by an international foundation. On February 22 at the Istana Nurul Iman, the Brunei monarch was presented the "Man For Peace Award 1989." The Award, given by the The Together For Peace Foundation of Italy was presented to His Majesty by its president, Mrs. Mariapia Fanfani, wife of the former Italian Prime Minister Amintore Fanfani. The Foundation was set up in 1988 to promote the ideals of peace and solidarity. The Awards, also given to other male and female recipients, were chosen by an international panel at the United Nations last November. The other male recipients included Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore, Britain's Prince Charles, a United Nations official, Prince Sadaruddin Aga Khan and Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti. The Woman For Peace Award went to Queen Sofia of Spain, Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Princess Lobkowicz of France, Mrs. Marcela Perez de Cuellar, wife of the United Nations Secretary-General and Mrs. Barbara Bush, wife of US President George Bush. The 1990 official ceremony for the Man and Woman Peace Awards will be held in Rome in November this year.

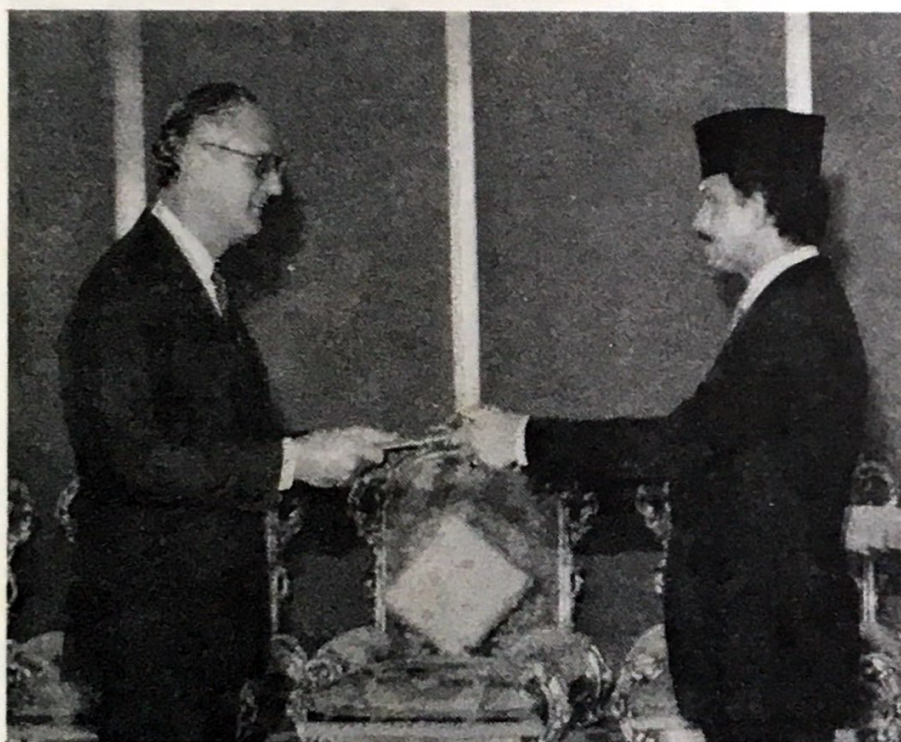
New envoys present credentials



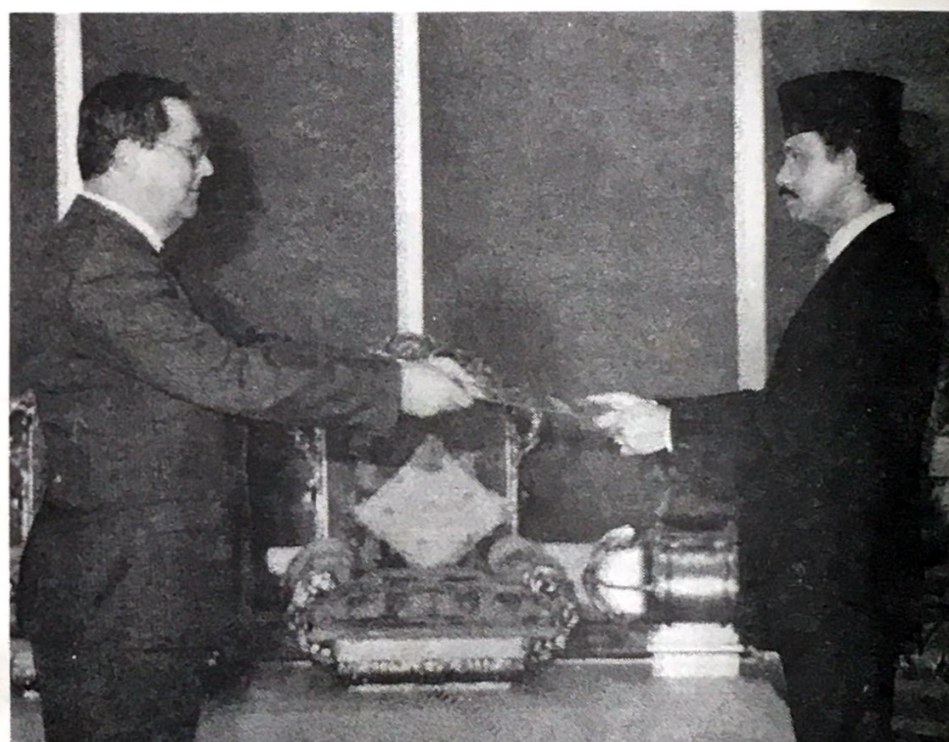
Malaysia's new High Commissioner in Bandar Seri Begawan, His Excellency Encik Zainal Azman Zainal Abidin presenting his credential to His Majesty the Sultan on 5 February.



His Majesty also received on 5 February the credential of Pakistan's High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr. Saquib Mawaz Khan.



His Excellency Mr. Sergio Damasceno Vieira presents his credential to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.



His Majesty receiving the credential of Denmark's ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Jens Peter Larsen.

Two new foreign diplomats to Brunei Darussalam presented their credentials to His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-

Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Istana Nurul Iman on 5 February.

First to present his credential was the High commissioner of Malaysia, His Excellency Encik

Zainal Azman Zainal Abidin. His Excellency Encik Zainal Azman is 43 and holds a BA (Honours), Malaya and a Diploma on International Course in European Integration from the University of Amsterdam.

His Excellency Encik Zainal Azman is the fourth High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam. He took over from His Excellency Dato Zainal Abidin bin Mokhtar, who completed his term in October last year.

Prior to his present appointment, His Excellency Encik Zainal Azman was Under-

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Secretary (Administration) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Consul-general for the Consulate-General of Malaysia in Los Angeles, Minister-Counsellor and Charge d'Affaires, Embassy of Malaysia in Morocco, Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director of Information, on secondment to ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta; First Secretary, Embassy of Malaysia in Iran; Second Secretary, Embassy of Malaysia to the Federal Republic of Germany, and Assistant Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

His Excellency is married with four children.

The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan later presented his credential to His Majesty the Sultan.

His Excellency Mr. Saquib Mawaz Khan is 36 years old and holds a BSc in Business Administration from the American College of Switzerland in Leysin and an MBA (Finance/Marketing) from the University of Geneva, Switzerland. His Excellency Mr. Saquib Mawaz Khan took over from His Excellency Mr. Sardar Ahmad who completed his term in December last year.

Prior to his present appointment, His Excellency Mr. Saquib Mawaz Khan worked with Kidder Peabody Investment Bank in London (1980) as Accounts Executive taking charge of the Middle East Market from the London Office. Later he resigned from Kidder Peabody in September 1985 from his post as Assistant Vice President.

Since September 1985, he served as Delegate in Pakistan for the Swiss Industrial development Institute of Switzerland. The Institute is an Association with over 130 Companies (Associations, Educational Institutes Industrial and Service Companies) with facilities for the training of Executives and Professionals in newly industrialised countries. His Excellency Mr. Saquib Mawaz Khan is married.

Brunei Darussalam established diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in January 1985.

The two foreign diplomats were later granted audiences by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam after the presentation of credentials.

The following day, two other foreign diplomats presented their

Brunei diplomat presents credential



Brunei Darussalam's first resident ambassador in Seoul, His Excellency Awang Haji Abdul Majid bin Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Rahim presented his credential to the President of the Republic of Korea, His Excellency Mr. Roh Tae Woo (above) recently.

The presentation ceremony took place at the president's official residence.

It was followed by a courtesy call by the Brunei Darussalam diplomat on the Korean leader and Awang Haji Abdul Majid later inspected a guard of honour put up by men of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Korea.

Before the appointment of Awang Haji Abdul Majid, the

Brunei Darussalam ambassador to Japan was accredited to the Republic of Korea.

His Excellency Mr. Roh Tae Woo was one of the many world leaders who sent greetings to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam recently on the occasion of Brunei Darussalam's Sixth National Day anniversary which fell on 23 February.

The Republic of Korea. Head of State, in the message among other things, expressed his confidence that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries will be further strengthened in the years ahead.

credentials to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan, at the Istana Nurul Iman.

The new envoys were His Excellency Mr. Sergio Damasceno Vieira, Brazilian ambassador based in Malaysia and His Excellency Mr. Jens Peter Larsen, Denmark's ambassador to the country based in Singapore.

The newly appointed Brazilian ambassador is 53. He is a law graduate in judiciary and social science.

He has previously served at the Brazilian Embassies at the United Nations, Warsaw, Lisbon and Caracas.

Meanwhile, the Danish ambassador accredited to Brunei Darussalam is 48 and he is a first degree holder in Business Studies.

The Danish diplomat has previously served his country as Secretary at the Foreign Ministry in Copenhagen and as a Trade Charge D' Affaires and Trade Counsellor at the Royal Denmark Embassy in Moscow.

Visiting dignitaries granted audiences by HM the Sultan



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has granted audiences to two visiting ministers and a military chief. On separate occasions on 28 February at the Istana Nurul Iman, the Brunei ruler granted an audience to Malaysia's Minister of Information, Dato Mohamad bin Rahmat (above) who was on a three-day visit to Brunei Darussalam starting February 27. He was heading a delegation of Malaysian singing artistes and performers taking part in *Senandung Muhibbah*, an entertainment programme produced jointly by Radio Television Brunei and Radio Television Malaysia. Shortly afterwards, His Majesty granted an audience to France's Trade Minister, His Excellency Mr. Jean-Marie Rausch (picture below left). His Excellency was also on a three-day goodwill visit to Bandar Seri Begawan. Also visiting Brunei Darussalam was the Commander of British Forces based in Hongkong, Major-General Duffel. He had an audience with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan on 5 March (picture below right). Major General Duffel also met with Brunei Darussalam's Deputy Defence Minister, Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major-General Pengiran Haji Ibnu.



"Be on guard", minister tells immigration officials

The Special Adviser to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan in the Prime Minister's Office and Home Affairs Minister, Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa has been speaking about the need for officers of the Immigration Department to be constantly alert in the course of their work.

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Brunei and Malta can share experience, says Maltese Minister

A three-member delegation from the Republic of Malta led by its Minister of Industry made a three-day visit to Brunei Darussalam from January 29.

In an interview, Mr. John Dalli, the head of the delegation described his visit, the first to Brunei Darussalam, as "very positive" and "beyond my expectations."

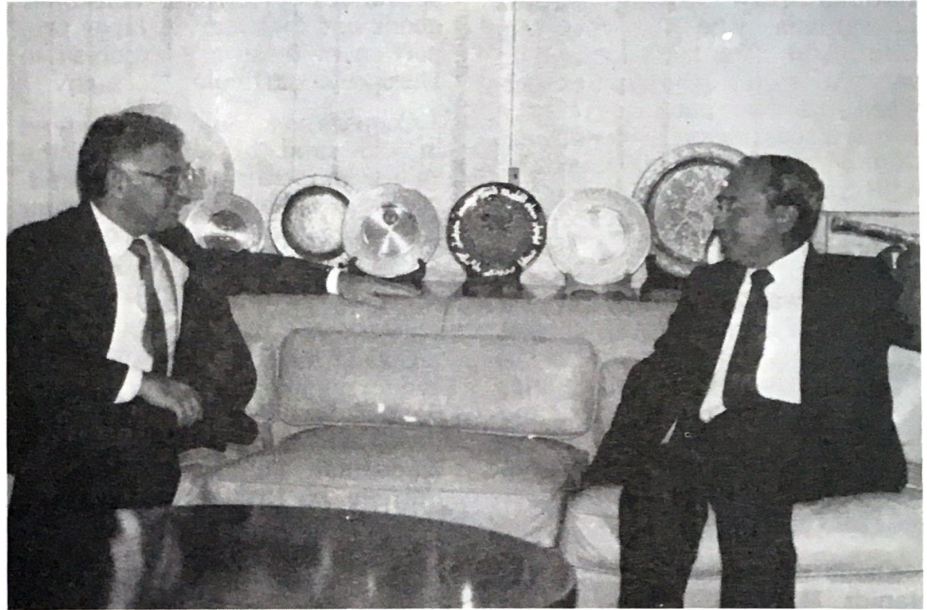
The visit provided "a big scope for Brunei Darussalam and Malta to share experiences and to cooperate with each other so that both could develop at a faster pace." The visiting minister also spoke of the likelihood of cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Malta, in particular in industrialization and trade, the building of ports, the airline industry and in education.

The Republic of Malta, like Brunei Darussalam is a small country of 122 sq miles, with a population of 350,000 inhabitants. Mr. John Dalli said his country, which has been successful in industrialization with over 30 years experience, "is willing to assist Brunei Darussalam to industrialize."

"The Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources of Brunei Darussalam" said Mr. Dalli "could send some officials to the Republic of Malta to look into how another small country manages to organise itself and set up industries." These officials could also learn "how to avoid problems such as pollution and look into how Malta operates within its constraints such as lack of manpower."

Brunei Darussalam, according to the Head of the Implementation and the Coordination Section of the Economic Planning Unit, would have to continue to rely on foreign workers in order to diversify the economy. Brunei Darussalam, in a forecast made recently at a forum on the working environment in the private sector, would be able to produce only 3.4 thousand workers annually.

This number is inadequate in view of the 8,000 workers needed every year for the 2,000 newly created industries for the next five years, after 1990. Presently, according to the 1989 figure, the



The visiting Industry Minister of Malta, Dr. John Dalli (left) holds discussion with the Industry and Primary Resources Minister of Brunei Darussalam, Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman.

Commissioner of Labour said that there are 30,000 foreigners working in Brunei Darussalam. This figure included the professionals, the skilled, semi-skilled and the unskilled workers.

As to his meeting with the Managing Director of the Brunei Investment Agency, Mr. John Dalli said "We have informed Brunei about the developments in Malta and the opportunities that might arise with regard to Brunei's investment policies." Mr. Dalli added that Brunei officials, during a visit to the Republic of Malta could also promote Brunei Darussalam as an investment potential.

Apart from a meeting with his Brunei counterpart, Mr. Dalli also met the Minister of Communications.

In the field of communications, the visiting Minister spoke about the likelihood of cooperation in the development of ports and cooperation with the Royal Brunei Airlines, RBA. Mr. Dalli said that the Republic of Malta now developing a new port, which will become the biggest in the Mediterranean. The Republic of Malta already has a natural port.

Both countries have small airlines, Mr. Dalli stated. "In this

very competitive age, and with increasing competition in future, it will be more and more difficult for small airlines like ours, to survive. Big countries tend to keep on denying us access to their airports. By cooperating with each other, I believe we can find ways to better utilize our equipment, expertise and facilities which both airlines have."

Presently, Air Malta does not fly to Brunei Darussalam or any other countries in the Far East. Mr. Dalli also suggested that RBA could use the Republic of Malta as a "stopping post" (transit) for its European routes.

Similarly, Air Malta going to Australia, where there is large number of the Maltese community, could stop over in Brunei Darussalam.

Mr. Dalli said that "There is a possibility of getting in touch with Brunei Airline for making some sort of connection for onward delivery for example to Australia." Currently, Air Malta flies through Singapore, Rome and London for its flight to Australia. These are some of the possible areas of cooperation, which could be further discussed, Mr. Dalli explained.

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In the area of trading relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Malta, the President of the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Hapidz Laksamana, who also met Mr. Dalli, said "The talks focused on ways to foster trading ties between the two countries. There was a discussion on the identification of goods manufactured by both countries so that these could be marketed in the respective countries.

There was also talk on the transfer of technology to Brunei Darussalam to accelerate the industrialization efforts at home. Both parties also agreed that the meeting would be the first in the exchange of information towards establishing trading relations of the two countries.

About the meeting with Dato Hapidz, Mr. Dalli had this to add

"We will be informing the chamber's President about the range of available goods in Malta which could be shipped to Brunei." Some of the products manufactured by the republic of Malta include fashion garment, spectacles, electronic consumer goods and footwear. A large proportion of these are exported to Europe, in particular Germany.

Cooperation could even extend in the field of education, the visiting Minister of Industry added. The Republic of Malta has an English speaking environment with a very old University which has been in existence for over 100 years.

During the visit, Mr. Dalli also had an audience with His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. He had another audience with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul

Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah.

Mr. Dalli's itinerary also included a briefing on the Fifth National Development Plan at the Economic Planning Unit.

Brunei Darussalam established diplomatic relations with Malta on 15 August, 1986.

Minimal contacts and multilateral cooperation have taken place through various agencies of the Commonwealth and the United Nations, of which the two countries are members.

Brunei Darussalam also sent its Law Minister, Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Haji Bahrin to attend celebrations of the Maltese twenty-fifth independence anniversary in September last year at the invitation of Malta. During the visit, the Law Minister met with Malta's Prime Minister, Dr. Fenech Adami, during which existing relations between the two countries were further enhanced and strengthened.

SEAMEO'S technical training centre to be set up in Brunei Darussalam

THE Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation, SEAMEO has chosen Brunei Darussalam as the location of its proposed technical training centre.

The centre is expected to be built in 1992 and its cost will be borne by donor governments.

The announcement was made by the Minister of Education, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz on his return after attending the 25th SEAMEO Conference in Chiang Mai, Thailand from 4 to 7 February 1990.

Brunei Darussalam became a member of SEAMEO in 1984. In 1986, the country hosted the 21st SEAMEO Conference. Apart from ASEAN and Cambodia, SEAMEO has associate members which include Australia, Canada, France and the Federal Republic of Germany. Also present at the 25th SEAMEO Conference were observers from major donor governments and international organizations.

In a working paper presented at the conference, the Minister commended SEAMEO's initiative to propose a strategic planning programme, with the aim of ensuring that SEAMEO's programmes and activities are relevant in meeting the changing needs of member countries and in responding to the challenges of the future.

In this respect, SEAMEO's programmes and activities should encourage not only academic attainment or technical and vocational skills, but also entrepreneurial skills. He proposed that SEAMEO look into ways to promote entrepreneurial skill.

The minister also spoke of the need for a 'new vision in staff development.' He said courses offered by SEAMEO Centres should cover a broad range of opportunities which in turn provide professional growth in education. The Minister added that there is a need for committed and competent teachers and administration in education. Since they are the catalysts of development, it is therefore essential that they are motivated, trained and prepared for changes in the next century.



The Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Aziz.

With rapid economic and social changes, along with changes in technology, the Minister stressed the need for the education system to inculcate a sense of moral values among the students. In turn, they will be equipped in the tackling of any negative social issues such as drug abuse. Values such as honesty, loyalty, efficiency and pride in one's work should

Audiences with Her Majesty the Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness the Pengiran Isteri



Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam granted audiences on 28 February to Mrs. Nadine Rausch, wife of the French Trade Minister who was accompanying her husband on a visit to Brunei Darussalam (pictures above left and above right respectively). Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness also granted audiences to Mrs. Heather Jermyn, wife of New Zealand's non-resident High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam (bottom left and bottom right respectively). Her Majesty gave the audiences at Istana Nurul Iman, while Her Royal Highness gave the audiences at Istana Nurul Izzah.

also be highlighted in the school curriculum, the Minister said.

SEAMEO, the Minister continued, could also take the lead in developing programmes for environmental and ecological studies, and to imbibe in the younger generation, a respect for the environment.

The Education Minister further stated that SEAMEO centres must become centres of excellence in their particular fields by strengthening their research and training capabilities.

Earlier, Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Aziz explained in detail, the aim behind the education policy of

Brunei Darussalam. He said that while there is a conscious need to diversify the economy, there is also a "real desire to preserve the Bruneian identity, with its own norms, values, traditions and culture." One of the greatest challenges faced by the Education Ministry, is to produce Bruneians who are able to play their part in a sophisticated technologically-oriented society. Yet, at the same time, remain imbued with strong Islamic and Malay values. The Brunei education system has therefore been established with the aim of achieving these goals.

Three current issues, among others, are now priority issues in

the education policy of Brunei Darussalam, namely the bilingual policy, the introduction of the Malay Muslim Monarchy in the school curriculum and the improvement and expansion of vocational and technical education.

The Bilingual Policy

In 1985, just a year after full independence, Brunei Darussalam introduced the bilingual system of education in schools. In this system the Malay language is the medium of instruction from the pre-school to the third year of

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primary education. During this early stage, the English language is taught as a subject. It is only from primary four onwards that certain selected subjects are taught in the English language while the rest continue to be taught in the Malay language.

One of the main aims of this system is to enable the younger generation to achieve a high proficiency in both the Malay and the English language. The intention is to safeguard the position of the Malay language as the National Language of the country, at the same time, recognising the importance of the English language. It is hoped that this will enable Bruneians to gain a quick and easy access to information on developments in science and technology (including the transfer of technology) and information in the fields of communication and the mass media. It is also hoped that this policy will allow Bruneians to fulfill the nation's requirements in the important fields of international diplomacy, as well as taking advantage of opportunities for commerce and for training in different fields which are vital to the future development of Brunei Darussalam.

By making compulsory the use of the Malay language as a medium of instruction for certain subjects, it is hoped that the Malay language will continue to be used and will continue to grow. While recognising the need for future Bruneians to be fluent in English, the preservation of the Bruneian identity is directly linked with the continued use and dominance of the Malay language within Brunei Darussalam.

The Introduction of the Malay Muslim Monarchy In the School Curriculum

The second issue of concern is the introduction of the Malay Muslim Monarchy as a subject in the school curriculum. The concept which has been in existence for the past six centuries, was reaffirmed when Brunei Darussalam gained independence in 1984. The underlying philosophy of nation building in Brunei Darussalam is the acceptance of Islam as a complete way of life. The introduction of the subject in school is aimed at inculcating among the children of Brunei Da-

russalam, an attitude and outlook towards life that is based upon Islamic teachings, and to instill in them positive qualities in their character so as to build a society whose values are consistent with traditional Bruneian values. These values include values such as a strong religious faith, loyalty to the Monarch and a desire for a "balance" in progress and development.

Currently, Malay Muslim Monarchy is taken as a compulsory course by all undergraduates of Universiti Brunei Darussalam. The Government also intends to develop the university as a resource center which will undertake research and intellectualize the concept of Malay Muslim Monarchy. It is hoped that by introducing Brunei studies as a coherent "academic package" with the coming academic year, the understanding of the concept will be further enhanced.

In the primary school, the concept is taught together in the civics syllabus. Materials on the subject are currently being gathered and developed so that it can be introduced in the school curriculum.

The Improvement and Expansion of Vocational and Technical Education

The Government of Brunei Darussalam realizes that an educated workforce, in particular an adequate number of tradesmen and technicians are a necessary pre-requisite for growth and development. National development plans have therefore provided for the expansion of technical and vocational education. Over the past 16 years, seven technical and vocational institutions have been established offering full-time and part-time courses and programmes on a wide range of subjects, to students with varying levels of educational attainment.

These institutions provide technical and vocational courses intended to meet the career needs of individuals, provide manpower training programmes to meet the economic and social goals of the Governments and to cater for initial training to meet the needs of employers.

Two new vocational schools are in the process of being established and will be able to take first intake by 1992. They will mainly

cater to the needs of early school leavers who have completed three years of secondary education. These schools will provide basic training at pre-vocational and vocational levels, at the same time offering opportunity for successful students to progress to a higher level of vocational programmes in technical colleges within the country.

With the provision of relevant courses and with the flexible intake requirements, these institutions will offer an alternative route to tertiary education for those who might otherwise be tempted to forsake formal education after three years in secondary school.

The courses which will be offered at these two new vocational schools are being planned and designed locally to meet the specific needs of Brunei Darussalam. Other existing institutions which have been established to meet the needs of the human resource development in the country, are the Institute of Technology Brunei, the Agriculture Training Centre, the Vocational and Technical Education Training Centre and the Arts and the Handicraft Centre.

Manpower projections have indicated a rapid increase in demand for both skilled and unskilled workers in Brunei Darussalam in the 1990's. It is also forecast that the greatest shortage is in the technical level. Manpower projections have also revealed that the priority in education for the future and in training strategies must be in the improvements in the competency of students in mathematics and science. Teachers have been urged to demonstrate initiative, innovation and creativity and to stimulate and develop students' aptitudes and skills in science and mathematics.

Brunei Darussalam will need more than double the number of science and mathematic teachers by the year 2,000. In an effort to stimulate interest in science and mathematic, and to improve students' performance in these subjects, the Ministry has declared the year 1990 as the "Year of Enchantment of Mathematics" in Brunei Darussalam. Various activities and programmes, exhibitions, in-service courses and an international conference on mathematics are being organised this year to meet the objective of the "Year of Enchantment of Mathematics."

In a bid to attract more locals to join the private sector, the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, has taken another effort, this time a dialogue session with renowned representatives from the private sector. It is hoped that the Government and the private sector, through their "dynamic interaction" could together trash out issues related to industrialization in particular with regard to the working environment in the private sector.

The significance in holding regular dialogue sessions with the private sector, was underlined by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman. The Minister was addressing representatives from the private sector before the start of the dialogue session. Held on 6 February 1990 at the International Convention Centre and chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, the session aimed to gather views as to how to pull more Bruneians into non-Government employment.

Problems in the efforts towards economic development are bound to arise from time to time, the Minister conceded. But with regular interaction, these could be resolved to ensure the continued progress and prosperity of the country.

The representatives from the private sector included those from the Association of Banks in Brunei, the State Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Representatives from the Youths Council of Brunei, the Royal Brunei Airlines and senior Government officials from the Education Ministry, the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, the Economic Planning Unit and the Labour Department were also present.

"Job opportunities in the private sector already exist, in fact the number is increasing," the Minister had stated. Recently, the Government announced that 40,000 job opportunities along with 2,000 new industries will be created after 1990.

The Minister further said that "In view of the lack of certain skills and the small number of population of the country, some of

Drive to encourage locals seek employment with private sector

the positions had to be filled by foreign workers."

"But while the need for foreign workers will continue to ensure a rapid growth in industrialization," the Minister pointed out "efforts must be geared towards fulfilling these needs, namely: the locals should be given the opportunities to fill in the posts which are available in the private sector; the private sector should continue to provide trainings to locals to enable them to take over from foreign workers at an appropriate time; the locals should be willing to work in the private sector."

The Minister urged representatives from the private sector to systematically think of an approach to change the thinking among locals; i.e. so that they could take on a positive attitude towards private sector contributions in the economic development of the country.

And with the concern that industrialization should not bring with it negative social problems, the Minister said, "The is a challenge and a responsibility which we shoulder together not merely for the sake of the short term interest but also for the longterm interest to ensure the progress of the country in the future."

Dato Paduka Malai Ali who acted as Chairman of the dialogue session, spelled out the importance in "information flow", in providing updated data regarding position available in the private sector, be it in a big or small organisation. The Ministry on its part, the Permanent Secretary assured, would continue to hold discussions with the Labour Department and the Education Ministry to facilitate and ensure the smooth flow of information. Dato Paduka Malai Ali emphasised that these information should reach three target groups, mainly, the school leavers (more than 3,000 students leaving schools annually to join the labour market), the unemployed, and those already in employment (business), involved in "valued-added" products.

Lack of incentives, such as subsidies, on the part of the Government was cited as one reason for the lack of interest by the private sector to train their staff. Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hapidz Laksamana, President of the Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry, proposed that the Government introduce the Skills Development Fund (with part of the training cost, subsidised by the Government) to encourage employers to send their staff for training. He also urged the Government to allow private sector employees to attend trainings conducted by the Training Unit of the Establishment Department. He further urged the Government to introduce a scheme similar to the Employee Provident Fund in Malaysia and the Central Provident Fund in Singapore. The scheme, which could run along the same line as the Government Pension Scheme, could further lure more locals into the private sector.

Brunei Malay in a minute

Each month we introduce readers to common Brunei Malay words as used in the State. This month we introduce the word, **cucul**.

The word **cucul** is a row of lamps, lanterns or decorated lights lit up during a special function or celebration.

Here is a sentence using the word **cucul**.

Pada Hari Raya, orang Islam di Negara Brunei Darussalam menyalakan cucul di rumah mereka.

During Hari Raya, Muslims in Negara Brunei Darussalam light up their homes with decorated lights.

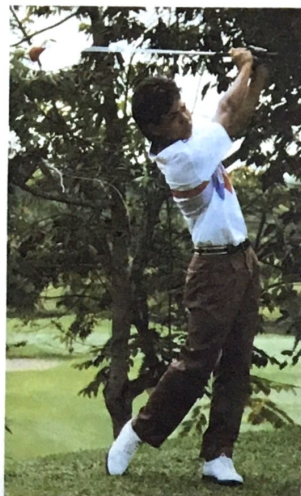




Above: Brunei Darussalam's sole gold-medal winner at the 15th SEA Games, Major Haji Samid reads the oath at the official opening of the Second Merdeka Games on 4 March. Right: Another Brunei Darussalam golden sportsman, Haji Zabidi carries the torch of the Games. Below: Sportsmen, sportswomen and spectators take their positions for the kindling of the Merdeka Games torch.



Action-packed Merdeka Games in colour



Above: The flags of the six ASEAN member countries, which made up the participants of the Merdeka Games, were raised during the flag raising ceremony at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddin in the Brunei Darussalam capital. Left: A golfer in action during the Merdeka Games Golf Tournament.



In a colourful ceremony, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda Al-Muhtadee Billah graciously opens the second Merdeka Games at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium. Top right: Two women in action during the pencak silat events. Centre-right: Acrobatic skill and agility add to the action and excitement during a sepak takraw match. Bottom right: One of the actions in a Merdeka Games soccer match.

Brunei scores success in Merdeka Games

Bruneians can hold their heads higher in sports today in the wake of the Brunei Darussalam contingent emerging from the Second Merdeka Games, held from 3 March to 14 March, with the largest number of medals ever won by the country in any sports meeting of international standards. With a total medal haul of 55 comprising five gold, 16 silver and 34 bronze, Brunei Darussalam wound up in fourth position overall behind Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand respectively. The Indonesians, affirming their supremacy, bagged a total of 34 medals, made up of 19 gold, 10 silver and 5 bronze, while the Malaysians went home with 11 gold medals, 9 silver and 9 bronze - totalling 29 medals. Thailand's medal haul was 26 consisting of 11 gold, 8 silver and 7 bronze, while the Philippines bagged 4 gold, 4 silver, and 5 bronze to finish in fifth place and Singapore's total of 15 medals made up of one silver and 14 bronze gave it sixth placing. Brunei Sportsmen and sportswomen especially outshone other competitors in the pencak silat event, in which they won four of their gold medals while the fifth was won in the team trap shooting event led by His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah, who is President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council and head of the Brunei contingent in the Merdeka Games. Such a large medal tally was testimony indeed in the improvement of standards in sports among Brunei Sportsmen and sportswomen alike. The recent Merdeka Games was the second to be hosted by Brunei Darussalam inviting the participation of athletes from the ASEAN member countries, with the first held in early 1985. About 600 sportsmen and sportswomen from the six member countries of ASEAN took part in the seven types of sports fielded in the games, namely boat racing, shooting, karate-do, football, pencak silat, sepak takraw and golf. Opening the games in a colourful ceremony at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium was His Majesty the Sultan's eldest son, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda Al-Muhtadee Billah. The official opening ceremony was preceded the day before by the official raising of the flags of the six participating countries at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddin, which was officiated at by the Minister of Education, Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz.

(More Merdeka Games action pictures on page 17).



He reminded the officers not to allow themselves to be taken advantage of by foreigners or undesirable elements. This is essential so that a similar incident recently in which a permanent resident was involved in a passport issuing syndicate can be avoided and will not occur again, said the minister.

The recent case was uncovered when the Immigration Department was informed by a Brunei Embassy abroad about foreigners misusing several Bruneian passports for entry into a country.

He stressed that the responsibility of Immigration Officials are becoming more and more challenging in protecting the rights of citizens as the country becomes more exposed and its relations with the outside world increase.

Pehin Dato Haji Isa further urged Immigration Officers to remind each other in order to safeguard the good name of the Immigration Department and avoid and wrongdoing or the commitment of criminal offences.

Equally important to this and in averting corruption, Immigration



The Special Adviser to His Majesty in the Prime Minister's Office and Home Affairs Minister, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Isa addressing the meeting. On his left are the Deputy Home Affairs Minister, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Abidin and the Home Affairs Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Omar (extreme right).

Officers were also urged not to practise favouritism and discrimination, or give priority to relatives, for example, when performing their duties. This he said, is against their work ethics.

Officers should not let these factors interfere or influence their decisions in work. "It is paramount that officers uphold their

● continued on page 19

Graduates must also turn to the private sector for jobs

Yet another call has been made urging Bruneians to join the private sector - this time to undergraduates of the University of Brunei Darussalam, UBD.

Making the call the Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Department, Dato Haji Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong emphasised that the graduates should not merely rely on the government for employment because there are also abundant job opportunities in the private sector.

He was addressing undergraduates attending a leadership course recently.

"Out of the first batch of UBD graduates last year, only a small number had chosen to work with the private sector," the Permanent Secretary informed.

Dato Haji Abu Bakar further highlighted that those working in

the private sector will not only boost the number of locals working in the non-Government service, but they are also making contributions to the national development of the country.

The government, of late is anxious in seeing that Bruneians look less on it for employment. Rather, they should shift their search to private sector. The fact remains, however that the government is the largest employer in Brunei Darussalam. The matter becomes more critical after the announcement made by the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources that 40,000 job opportunities will be created along with the 2,000 newly created industries after 1990. This is when the Fifth National Development Plan which primarily aims to diversify the economy, comes to an end at the end of this year. The concern is understandable in view of only



Dato Haji Abu Bakar Apong, Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's office.

3.5 thousand school leavers joining the labour market every year.

A forum and a dialogue session with the private sector were held



Missions hold National Day celebrations

Some of Brunei Darussalam's diplomatic missions overseas have held celebrations marking the Sultanate's National Day on 23 February. In Riad, the Brunei Darussalam ambassador to Saudi Arabia, His Excellency Awang Haji Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd. Daud hosted a celebration (seen in picture above left, greeting Oman's ambassador in Riad) hosted a celebration on February 24. It was attended by other diplomats and Saudi Arabian officials. The Singapore government was represented by its Minister of Communication and Information, His Excellency Mr. Yeo Ning Hong at a similar celebration hosted by Brunei Darussalam's High Commissioner to the Republic, His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Yunos (picture on top right). The celebration was held at one of Singapore's leading hotels, the Hyatt Regency. Brunei Darussalam's ambassador to the Republic of Korea, His Excellency Awang Haji Abdul Majid also played host to guests at a Brunei Darussalam National Day celebration held at the Hotel Shilla in Seoul (lower picture on right).

during the last two months to encourage more locals to work in the private sector. These are some of the efforts of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources and the government in luring more Bruneians into the private sector.

Dato Haji Abu Bakar also stressed to undergraduates the significance of learning even after

graduation. In the Government service, an officer needs to learn how to manage his staff, no matter how small the number. In this respect, to be adept in human management and human relations, is necessary. The officer also has to be acquainted with the General Orders/General Regulations in the government, the financial procedures and the regulations contained in government

circulars.

Equally important is a knowledge of Islamic values, Malay custom and tradition and the system of government based upon the concept of Malay Muslim Monarchy. Coupled with academic achievement, the Permanent Secretary concluded, one would then be able to contribute beneficially to society.

HM Raja Isteri speaks of the many roles of the Museum



Museum plays a pertinent role in the preservation and promotion of the country's culture and tradition, in particular for the future generation.

The message came from Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha at the launching of the Brunei Darussalam Museum Department Silver Jubilee anniversary on March 10.

Her Majesty urged the Museum Department to expand its role by organising activities to attract the interest of students to know more about the national culture and heritage, aside from promoting the country to foreign visitors.

In the process towards development and modernisation, the rich cultural heritage could serve to inspire the young generation of Brunei Darussalam to protect the

identity of the country and its people, said Her Majesty.

Her Majesty also called on colleges and schools in the country to encourage the use of museum as a resource and research centre for students. It should be inculcated in students that a museum should be more than a place for the display of artifacts and a showcase of history, Her Majesty added.



Top left: Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha being briefed on an exhibit by the Director of the Brunei Museum, Awang Haji Metussin Omar. Top right: Traditional clothes worn by Brunei women are among the displays at the museum. Left: Paintings and photographs of old and new are also exhibited in one of the museum's galleries.

Good prospects for joint-ventures between private sectors of ASEAN and EC

The 1990s will be an era of greater emphasis on regional and inter-regional economic cooperation. It is an era in which the fundamental of a free market economy as well as the concept of a free enterprise system will be applied globally. It is also an era in which the role of the private sector becomes the focus of attention in regional and inter-regional relations.

The Museum Director Haji Matussin bin Omar, who spoke earlier, outlined the museum's development and achievements over the last quarter of a century.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain, in his speech, said that a museum promotes the country's culture and is indirectly contributing to its economy by attracting tourists and perhaps investors to a cultural-related business enterprise such as arts and handicraft.

He also informed that the Arts and Handicraft Training Centre could be made as a basis for the promotion of the traditional industries in the country and hence he urged youths to seize the opportunities and schemes offered by the government.

Youth should equip themselves with required skills and start a business venture; thus contributing towards the socio-economic progress in line with the Government efforts in diversifying the economy, said the Minister.

The Minister also spoke on the educational role played by the Museum Department and how it provides an authoritative source of information for academic and research purposes.

At the end of the opening ceremony, Her Majesty and other members of the royal family toured an exhibition held in conjunction with the anniversary.

In light of this scenario, the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources invited foreign investors to participate in the Government's economic diversification efforts. Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman said that the business incentives and the commercial environment "are equally competitive if not better than others." The Minister further urged them to approach the "One Stop Agency" in the Ministry to help them facilitate in the setting up of business in the country.

The Minister's invitation was made to participants of the ASEAN-EC Food Production workshop on 26 February 1990. He said the two-day workshop signified a good start towards improving the relations between the private sectors of ASEAN and the European Community (EC). It also marked a good beginning towards more joint efforts and joint venture projects between the two groups. Apart from enhancing cooperation, the workshop also aimed to encourage the transfer of technology, apart from increasing direct investments between the two groups.

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources had also expressed his hope that the ASEAN-EC cooperation programme would continue to further increase in the future. Concern that the Single European Market in 1992 would create an inward looking community, the Minister said that during the recent Kuching Meeting, EC had reassured ASEAN that cooperation between EC and ASEAN would not, in any way be less. Rather, perhaps it would be strengthened.

The Ministers had declared that the Single European Market is to be viewed more positively, as in providing an opportunity to further explore the area of cooperation between the private sectors of ASEAN and EC. Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Rahman further stated that

"it is therefore up to the private sector to exploit these opportunities together" now that the EC had pronounced their political commitment.

While in Kuching, the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources said that there was also a discussion on the recent developments in Central and Eastern Europe. There was concern, he said, that the Community's attention and investments might be diverted with the breaking down of the physical barriers between the East and West. If this were to happen, it would mean the losing of opportunity for further cooperation and in further exploring the larger and more diversified market, now available for ASEAN.

In view of this, the Minister continued, it is hoped that the linkage between the private sectors of ASEAN, EC and the Central and Eastern block would foster closer relation and cooperation in order to realize the opportunities of the expanded market.

The Kuching meeting, declared the Minister, reflected the emphasis ASEAN is placing in enhancing economic cooperation with dialogue partners.

Earlier in his speech, the Minister also informed the workshop that Brunei Darussalam is currently moving into high gear in the industrial development programme. In this programme, three factors of direct relevance to the workshop, are present, namely: the recognition of the private sector as key agent in economic development; that foreign investors are encouraged to participate in Brunei Darussalam's industrial development and that the development of the food sector is the spearhead of the country's industrial development programme.

The participation of the representatives from the EC countries in the workshop in Brunei Darussalam, is therefore timely.

Brunei Darussalam's national carrier, Royal Brunei Airlines is expected to expand its route with the inclusion of Frankfurt as a new destination.

The first inaugural flight between Bandar Seri Begawan and the West German city via Bangkok and Dubai is expected to take place in the middle of next month.

The move was disclosed during an interview by the Deputy Economic Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Erich Riedl while visiting Brunei Darussalam on February 22.

"Depending on the Bruneian side, the plan is to have two flights a week" Dr. Riedl said. "Brunei Darussalam is undertaking this at a very important moment when

the political landscape is changing, not only in Germany, but also in Eastern Europe."

Vast opportunities with a much broader market now exist for



Brunei Darussalam moves to step up fishing industry

The Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources has launched a five-point programme to promote the growth of Brunei Darussalam's fishing industry. It is hoped that the programme which places emphasis on breeding, processing, marketing and support services, could boost the fishing industry to fully thrive into a productive enterprise.

The announcement was made by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources at the opening of a seminar on The Promotion of the Fishing Industry. Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman was addressing some 100 entrepreneurs at the International Convention Centre on 1 March.

The fishing industry in the country has a bright and promising future, the Minister asserted. "At the moment, the fishing industry in the country operates within a small-scale with a value of \$35 million, compared to its potential to be fully developed into a \$200 million industry."

In line with the move in extending the fishing boundaries to 320 km (200 miles) offshore, the ministry will also be issuing more fishing licenses to fishing vessels ("kapal pukat tunda" and "kapal pukat lengkong"). In addition, the Ministry will also be introducing measures to further assist small-scale fishermen.

In aquaculture, the minister said "efforts are now underway to stimulate the production of prawns, fishes and other types of aquarium fishes."

The minister further announced that 1,250 hectares of land have been allocated for prawn breeding. Other large areas of land have also been allotted for the breeding of fishes. Also in the pipeline, is a plan to privatise the breeding of aquarium fishes.

Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Rahman later announced the ministry's plan to allocate land solely for the processing of fishes, so that these could be manufactured into fish products like fish crackers, fishballs etc. In addition, the minister underlined the importance of exports in the fishing industry.

Support services in the form of various incentives such as training programmes and courses to assist entrepreneurs and fishermen, in particular those operating on a small and medium scale basis, have also been designed by the ministry to boost the growth of the fishing industry.

The minister urged entrepreneurs to seize the existing opportunities to their full advantage, now that the Government, through its efforts and commitment, have made available a comprehensive range of information on the fishing industry.

Brunei Darussalam at a time when tremendous political changes are taking place in Central Europe, now that these countries are opening up.

During his one-day visit, Dr. Riedl met the the Communications Minister, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Awang Zakaria and the Managing Director of the Royal Brunei Airlines, Pengiran Haji Tengah.

The visit, according to Dr. Riedl, "aims to look into the possibilities of enhancing bilateral relations between the two countries."

Dr. Riedl also mentioned the discussions he had with members of the Cabinet concerning the developments in Germany, the unification process and the developments in Eastern Europe as well as the different perspectives deriving from these changes.

Though this is Dr. Riedl's first visit to the country, there were two others made earlier from the Federal Republic of Germany.

The Economic Minister, Dr. Martin Bangemann paid a two-day visit on 15-16 February 1988. His meetings with senior Government and private sector officials included talks on the training of Bruneians in vocational skills by German experts and the possibilities of joint-ventures between the two countries.

In another visit, a six-member delegation of the German-ASEAN Parliamentary Group in the German Federal Parliament was in town from 20-21 March 1988 to foster a better understanding and closer cooperation between the two countries. The delegation was headed by Dr. Klaus Juergen Hedrich, Chairman of the Germany-ASEAN Parliamentary Group.



Left: His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah led his team to the gold medal in the trap shooting event. Below: HRH the prince who is also president of the Brunei National Olympic Council and head of the Brunei contingent in the Merdeka Games, is seen below presenting prizes. Middle picture on right shows fierce action at the goalmouth during one of the soccer matches.



Above: rowing in progress, and in all five events of the boat race, the Indonesians were home first at the finish line (picture below). Right: Two girl competitors trying to out-do one another in the karate-do event.





The Deputy Minister Of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Selamat bin Haji Munap.

A deputy minister spells out importance of the Malay Language

Government departments, the intellectuals as well as the private sector in the promotion of the Malay Language in the country.

Since the establishment of the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka 30 years ago, it has played a pivotal role in the promotion and wide use of the Malay Language, the official language in the country. This is constituted in the 1959 Constitution, chapter 82 (1).

Since then, the Education Ministry has made it a policy making the Malay Language a compulsory subject in schools. The subject is also a pre-requisite to those applying for a local or overseas Government scholarship.

The Land Transport Department and the Municipal Board have also emphasized the use of the Jawi script (Malay Arabic characters) on commercial vehicles, signboards and banners, the Deputy Minister stated.

The Constitution has also made it a point for Government institutions and individuals to use the Malay Language in communication, oral or written and in other aspects of their daily lives.

"The private sector or the non-Government institutions should also make the effort to widen the use of the Malay language," Dato Paduka Haji Awang Selamat said.

He further urged the intellectuals to write in the Malay Language and use it as a means of communication in intellectual discussions and at work. The Deputy Minister said the responsibility of the intellectuals goes beyond attaining a degree or a diploma. They could translate books written in foreign languages into the Malay language. This would prove useful as had been done by Japan.

The Deputy Minister, in addition, hoped that the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka library in Seria, would help to inculcate the reading habit, and assist in the promotion, the usage and growth of the Malay language. And consistent with the development in the country and the importance in keeping abreast with information technology in facilitating the dissemination of information, the Deputy Minister called for cooperation towards giving a better and efficient library services.

Those wishing to apply for a Bruneian citizenship must take a test to prove their competency in the Malay Language.

The Government policy was reiterated by the Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Selamat recently. He was speaking at the official opening of a new library building of the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (Language and Literature Bureau) in Seria in February.

The Deputy Minister also spelled out the role of the various

Brunei-French trade relations to be enhanced

Brunei Darussalam and France will work to step up their trade relations as the Sultanate intensifies its economic diversification programmes.

France, with a fairly advanced economy, has the technology and know-how as well as market for value-added products, an area Brunei Darussalam is moving into.

These comments were made by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Malai Ali bin Haji Malai Othman following a visit to Bandar Seri Begawan for three days starting 1 March by the Minister of External Trade of France, His Excellency Mr. Jean-Marie Rausch.

"France has indicated interest in two specific areas, namely in fisheries and in the development of natural products," the official said.

These are products derived from the diverse flora and fauna within the country which can be turned into medicinal and ornamental purposes or used as chemical substitutes.

In an interview, Mr. Rausch gave assurance that the single European Market would not transform Europe into a Fortress Europe. He added the Single European Market would not pose a danger to the outside world, in particular ASEAN.

"Trade with the outside world will continue to be conducted in the most liberal form," Mr. Rausch said. The "dynamic" region in the Far East could not be ignored, considering their population and their market potential.

With regard to trading ties with Brunei Darussalam specifically, Mr. Rausch said, "We would like to have a long lasting cooperation particularly in the fields of investment. This is important in view of Brunei Darussalam's membership in ASEAN and ASEAN's fear of the future in Europe."

In this respect, France, said the visiting Minister "is in a position to bring into Brunei Darussalam further growth in the fishing industry, the timber industry, the pharmaceutical industry or in others." The visit, he continued "is not merely exploratory. It must have a follow-up action."

Exports from Brunei Darussalam to France in 1986 was \$0.52 million, while imports from France stood at \$22.76 million same year. Brunei Darussalam bought mainly vehicles and machineries from France. A joint-venture with a French company called Jasra-ELF has been invited by the Brunei Government, together with other oil companies like Woods Petroleum and Sunray, to drill exploration wells. This is in line with the Government's endeavour to find new fields, while pursuing a policy of conserving existing reserves. There are also other French supporting companies working for Brunei Shell.

There is also a possibility of France buying oil from Brunei Darussalam in the future, said the visiting Minister. France used to purchase oil from this country but this ceased about six years ago.

Mr. Rausch said, his talks concentrated on efforts towards accelerating the economic diversification of the Brunei Government. "This is in the field where France could share her experiences, bring in modern equipment, the technology and the know-how." In short, his talks focused on direct interest to the Bruneian economy.

During his three-day visit, the visiting minister was granted audience by His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam (picture on page 4). The meeting, said Mr. Rausch, looked into issues which could further foster bilateral relations of the two countries.

With the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yang Mulia Dato

professionalism in this matter," His Majesty's Special Adviser and Home Affairs Minister highlighted.

In order to discharge their duties efficiently and effectively, Pehin Dato Haji Isa also advised officers to familiarize themselves with Immigration laws, including related matters such as investigation methods and the gathering of evidences and witnesses. If in doubt, he advised, they should immediately seek the counsel of the Attorney-General Department.

Pehin Dato Haji Isa earlier spelled out the four points which officers have to bear in mind in the process towards giving consideration to an application: ie the person who is making the application, his relation to the subject of application, the purpose of the application and the implication of this application. "This way" Pehin stressed "they could detect any peculiar behaviour" or any suspected motive.

The Controller of Immigration later elaborated in an interview that the Department will not accept any more request for a passport by any representative. The applicant himself has to personally present the application. So will the children who must appear personally in order to verify the picture, submitted together with the application. The Department also now requires that applicants submit original documents, such as birth certificates and identity cards.

Paduka Haji Awang Mohd. Ali, the talks focused on bilateral and regional issues

Mr. Rausch also met the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman, the Minister of Communication, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Awang Zakaria and the Development Minister, Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Laila Jasa Dr. Haji Ismail.

At the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Mr. Rausch and his entourage heard briefings on the country's economic diversification plans by the ministry's Permanent Secretary.

Of late, the ministry has been most vigorous in boosting foreign investments into the country.

The guarantors, in addition, must also know the applicant personally and put down their signatures on every application form.

Pehin Dato Haji Isa further reminded Immigration officers to be courteous at all times to foreigners or visitors to the country, in particular if they had wrongly filled immigration forms. He also warned the officers against continuously suspecting bona fide female visitors. And at the same time, easily approve the entry of those who are here with "unhealthy motives," without even questioning them or easily let them use the Immigration control posts for going in and out of Brunei Darussalam to neighbouring countries.

The Minister later concluded that officers must possess a full sense of responsibility to their work to ensure that the Immigration Act is efficiently and effectively enforced, and in order to safeguard the interests of the country and the people.

During the talk, participants heard the various laws under the Immigration Act by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Law, Yang Mulia Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abas. Chief among these are the categories of persons classified as prohibited to enter Brunei Darussalam, the status of children whose fathers are non-Bruneian citizens and the powers to ask visitors to leave the country.

Participants also heard a comprehensive account of the duties, responsibilities and functions of the Immigration Department from the Controller of Immigration, the Registrar of Nationals and National Registration, Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ya'akub.

The talk was organised with the aim of giving detailed information on the Immigration Act to Immigration Officers in particular, and to other officers in general; to upgrade the understanding and skills of officers towards the implementation of laws and towards giving an excellent service by being efficient, effective, honest and trustworthy; and to inculcate the spirit of teamwork and cooperation by being self-confident in the execution of duties and in safeguarding the laws of the country.

Your turn

The next issue of the *Brunei Darussalam* newsletter will appear during the second week of May 1990. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-25941 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. Contributions for our next issue should arrive by April 20, 1990. All editorial rights reserved.

Sago makes a tasty meal

Sago does not only make a tasty meal but it can also be turned into a commercial industry with end-products such as sago starch, glucose, fructose, caramel and various pharmaceutical products to list a few.

Sago or ambulung as it is known locally in Brunei Darussalam, is the purified extract from the rumbia or sago palms (Metroxylon).

Sago production has been carried out as a small-scale industry for many centuries in Brunei

Darussalam and sago extraction involves numerous processes, including skinning the barks off the trunks, splitting the trunk into small pieces of similar breadths and lengths and scraping or grating the pieces using machines onto sluices.

The scrapings which contain impurities are sifted out, leaving the sago in wooden troughs filled with water which will be drained away once the ambulung settles down.

After being cleansed several times, the sago or ambulung appears as white solids or lumps resembling flours.

Ambulung is often used as a recipe for local cakes and puddings and other delicacies and is a basis for a filling dish called ambuyat.

Ambuyat is made by mixing the ambulung with boiling water and once solid, it is eaten with chandas, which is a two-pronged bamboo stick. On its own, ambuyat is tasteless and hence, it has become a tradition to eat it with an assortment of sauces and dishes.



Left: The rumbia tree grows well in marshy or swampy areas. Above: The split rumbia trunk is fed into a machine to extract sago. Bottom left: Stripping off the bark of a rumbia tree. Bottom right: The finished product, sago or ambulung is packed into the tampin, ready for the market.



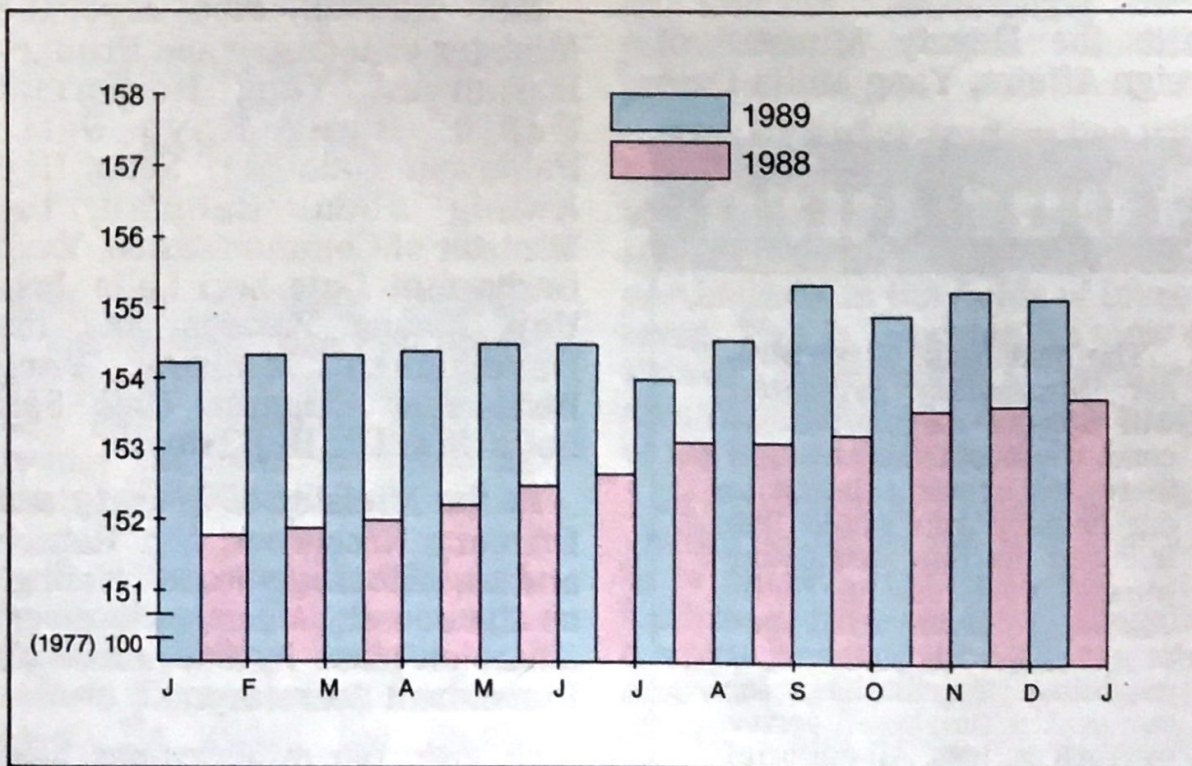
Above: Ambuyat eaten from a common bowl takes the centre position surrounded by the accompanying dishes and sauces for all to relish.

BRUNEI IN BRIEF

Capital City : Bandar Seri Begawan
Land size : 5765 sq.km
Population : 241,400 (1988)
Official Language : Malay
Official Religion : Islam
February 1990 rainfall : 0.6 mm.
(annual 2,818mm)

PRIME LENDING RATE

April 6.75%. (quoted by Bankers' Association).



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