

بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

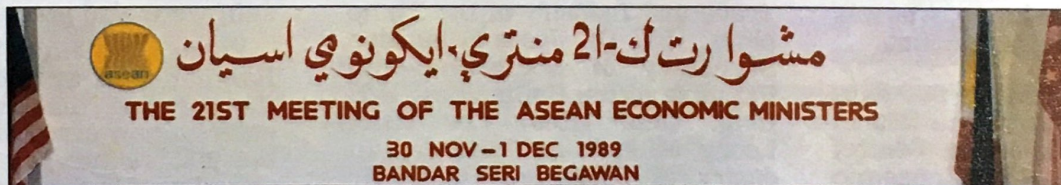
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HM Sultan urges greater intra-ASEAN cooperation



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers his inaugural address at the 21st Meeting of ASEAN Economic Ministers hosted by Brunei Darussalam.



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has called for greater intra-ASEAN cooperation and for the grouping to use its collective strength when dealing with advanced economies.

Officiating at the opening of the Twenty-First Meeting of ASEAN Economic Ministers on November 30, the Brunei ruler said, "Collectively, the present ASEAN six must create for itself an era of enlarged intra-ASEAN

cooperation, especially in the fields of economics. New initiatives must continue to be made in trade, investments and other fields".

At the same time, the six-ASEAN member countries must exert more efforts to harmonize their economies, His Majesty further said.

And His Majesty added that the external aspects of ASEAN economic cooperation on the other hand, should further bind the grouping in dealing with advanced economies.

The meeting was held for two days at the Brunei International Convention Centre in Bandar Seri Begawan and was attended by all the economic ministers of ASEAN member nations.

Earlier in his inaugural address, His Majesty the Sultan noted that the Asia Pacific is recognised as the most vibrant and dynamic region, with ASEAN as its vital component.

The Sultan said that notable progress has been made in the implementation of decisions taken at

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the Manila Summit of ASEAN Heads of Government in 1987.

Among other things, the Summit had created the necessary environments and mechanisms to enhance ASEAN economic cooperation, particularly under trade and investments.

"However, more efforts still need to be exerted in order to realise a more meaningful intra-ASEAN economic cooperation". His Majesty stressed.

Brunei Darussalam has embarked on an economic diversification programme, starting with the promotion of small and medium industrial projects.

His Majesty pointed out that this would provide opportunities for the development of private enterprise.

"At the same time, we welcome the participation of ASEAN entrepreneurs and investment in these ventures", said HM the

Sultan.

The Brunei ruler also spoke of the important role which the business community can play in making the ASEAN economic cooperation a greater success.

To this end, the ASEAN Chamber of Commerce and Industry must establish a very close working relation amongst its members.

ASEAN, His Majesty said must also take full advantage of its collective strength in dealing with advanced economies. The regional grouping has witnessed the strength of its solidarity and cohesiveness with international issues, political or economic. His Majesty added that ASEAN's ability in reaching common positions on regional and international issues has gained prominence and the respect of the international community.

"The success of the recent Ministerial-Level Meeting on the Asia Pacific Economic Co-

operation in Canberra," said His Majesty "further underlines the crucial role of ASEAN in regional economic co-operation."

"In the face of growing concern about the move by others forming trading blocs and increasing protectionist measures, ASEAN's participation in this consultation will enable it to further promote the cause for a universally accepted free and fair trading practice."

However, His Majesty warned that the new consultative group must not allow itself to develop into a trading bloc.

Also present at the opening were His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkihah, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran DiGadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkihah, Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Foreign Diplomats, Senior Government Officers and more than 100 delegates.

Brunei Darussalam's economic diversification to be given more impetus

The Twenty-First Meeting of the ASEAN Economic Ministers was successful in meeting its objectives of enhancing economic cooperation among ASEAN member countries, says Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman, who was also Chairman of the meeting.

The meeting, held for two days from November 30 at the Brunei International Convention Centre, was attended by all the Economic Ministers of the other ASEAN countries comprising H.E. Mr. Radius Prawiro, Minister Coor-

dinator for Economy, Finance, Industry and Development Supervision of Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Hartarto, Minister of Industry of Indonesia; H.E. Dr. Ariffin M. Siregar, Minister of Trade of Indonesia; H.E. Dato Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of Trade and Industry of Malaysia; H.E. Mr. Jose Concepcion Jr., Secretary of Trade and Industry of the Philippines; H.E. Dr. Jesus Estanisiao, Secretary of Socio-Economic Planning of the Philippines; H.E. Brig. Gen. (Res) Lee Hsien Loong, Minister for Trade and Industry of Singapore; H.E. Mr. Mah Bow Tan, Minister of State for Trade and Industry of Singapore; H.E. Dr. Subin

Pinkayan, Minister of Commerce of Thailand; H.E. Mr. Suchon Charmpoonod, Deputy Minister of Finance of Thailand; and H.E. Mr. Phaithoon Kaeothong, Deputy Minister of Industry of Thailand, and their respective delegations. H.E. Mr. Rusli Noor, Secretary - General of the ASEAN Secretariat and members of his staff were also present.

Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Rahman told an interview after the meeting that as the world enters a new era of the 1990's and the 21st century, new directives were being outlined to enable the regional grouping to take to task boldly and collectively the economic challenges ahead.

He told the interview that the response to His Majesty's invitation in his inaugural address for foreign investors to invest in Brunei Darussalam is encouraging.

The promotion conducted by the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources is almost completed, the minister said.

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Sultanate voices support for President Corazon Aquino

Brunei Darussalam has assured its support for President Corazon Aquino in the wake of the recent military coup attempt by rebel forces. In a message to the Philippine leader, His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan dan Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was pleased that President Aquino was safe. The message also expressed the Brunei Darussalam Government's condemnation of the coup attempt to seize power from the Constitutional Government of President Aquino. The message said His Majesty's Government supported the assistance extended by the United States to President Aquino.

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He gave assurance that both the government and the private sector stand to gain when private entrepreneurs and businessmen seize the opportunities of joint ventures offered in Brunei Darussalam.

The minister further said that next year his ministry will be drawing up a detailed list of areas

for business opportunities available in Brunei Darussalam such as in agriculture and forestry.

The list will be useful to foreign investors, especially those in ASEAN, who are contemplating to set up business in the country.

He also disclosed that the government is now actively looking into new proposals in preparation for the Sixth National

Development Plan with the aim of accelerating the economic diversification efforts, thus reducing the country's dependence on the oil-based economy.

The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan had allocated \$3.7 billion towards implementation of the Fifth Five-Year National Development Plan which was primarily designed to diversify the economy. The programme ends at the end of 1990.

Genuine efforts by ASEAN called for facing challenges and opportunities

ASEAN Economic Ministers have agreed that new initiatives must continue to be made in trade, investment, transfer of technologies and other fields of intra-ASEAN economic cooperation.

This consensus was contained in a joint statement issued at the end of the Twenty-First Meeting of the ASEAN Economic Ministers which was hosted by Brunei Darussalam from November 30 to December 1, at the International Convention Centre near the capital.

The joint statement said ASEAN should further strengthen its economic cooperation with genuine efforts and commitment to cope with the impending arrival of the last decade of the twentieth century and in the face of challenges and opportunities brought about by greater economic interdependence and integration among the Asia-Pacific nations.

The ministers have directed senior officials to take a bold and innovative approach in addressing the issues facing the region with a view to formulate long term-programmes, which will enable the group to meet the increasing challenges and opportunities.

The joint statement laid out the areas of cooperation which have been agreed by the economic ministers.

FINANCE AND BANKING

The Ministers noted that ASEAN member countries with official foreign exchange quotations now include other ASEAN currencies in their quotation and the progress of the ASEAN Reinsurance Corporation.

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FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

In the field of food, agriculture and forestry, the Ministers noted that several regional projects had been implemented and new project proposals formulated to further enhance ASEAN cooperation in this field. With regard to the recent anti-tropical timber campaign, the Ministers noted that there have been significant ASEAN efforts on forest management, conservation and development and therefore agreed to dispatch a Ministerial-level delegation to consuming countries in 1990 to counter the issue so that there is better appreciation by the international community.

INDUSTRY, MINING AND ENERGY

With regard to cooperation in industry, mining and energy, the Ministers approved Thailand's proposed ASEAN Potash Mining project to replace the ASEAN Rock-Salt-Soda Ash project as its ASEAN Industrial Project. The Ministers noted that Brand-to-Brand Complementation (BBC) schemes proposed by Mitsubishi Motor Corporation, Volvo, and Mercedes Benz had been approved by COIME (Committee on Industry, Minerals and Energy). The Ministers also noted that COIME had approved in principle the Toyota Motor Corporation's scheme. In addition, the Ministers approved the inclusion of seven products in the AIJV list of Pre-Approved products.

The Ministers have also agreed to accelerate the implementation of the AIJV projects by the private sector and to remove any undue bureaucratic obstacles faced by them.

COMMODITIES

The Meeting noted the progress on the implementation of the eight-point initiatives to enhance ASEAN cooperation on commodities. The assignment of responsibility and prioritisation of commodity list as well as work

programmes on the market development of ASEAN commodities including tropical vegetable oils and timber were adopted.

ASEAN DATA BANK OF COM- MODITIES (ADBC)

With regard to the proposed establishment of the ASEAN Data Bank on Commodities (ADBC), the Meeting noted that ADBC would initially be established as an integral part of the ASEAN Secretariat to be linked to ASEAN member countries. The Meeting also urged the acceleration of its establishment.

INTRA-ASEAN TRADE COOPERATION

On intra-ASEAN trade cooperation, the Ministers noted that with the implementation of the 1989 PTA programmes, a total of 335 items would be introduced into the PTA with a minimum margin of preferences (MOPs) of 25 percent and this would bring the total PTA items to 14,801. On the deepening of MOPs for existing items, a total of 2,848 items would be enjoying further deepening of MOPs. On the 1990 programmes and product lists, the Ministers approved their implementation and noted that a total of 500 items would be introduced into the PTA and another 3,544 existing items would enjoy the deepening of MOPs.

TRANSPORTA- TION NETWORK

The Ministers noted that the strengthening of the ASEAN Road/Rail/Shipping/Ferry/Air links will ultimately form an overall ASEAN Transportation Network. The Ministers noted that the Malaysia-Thailand Landbridge could possibly contribute to such a network. The new ferry link services have also been planned between Belawan - Langkawi - Phuket; Cebu - Sandakan; Pontianak - Kuching or Sibul; and

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HM Sultan appoints two new envoys and receives the credentials of two others



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan presents letter of appointment to Brunei Darussalam's new ambassador to Saudi Arabia, His Excellency Ustaz Awang Haji Abdul Mokti.



His Excellency Awang Haji Abdul Majid, Brunei Darussalam's first resident ambassador to the Republic of Korea, receives his letter of appointment from His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.



The US ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Christopher Hallowell Phillips in discussion with His Majesty the Sultan shortly after he presented his credential to the Brunei ruler.

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has appointed new envoys for the country's diplomatic missions in Riad and Seoul.

At Istana Nurul Iman on November 27, the Brunei Monarch presented letters of appointment to Ustaz Awang Haji Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd. Daud, ambassador-designate to Saudi Arabia, and to Awang Haji Abdul Majid bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Dewa Dato Haji Abdul Rahim, ambassador-designate to the Republic of Korea.

His Excellency Awang Haji Abdul Mokti, 41, a BA graduate in philosophy (Education) from Birmingham University as well as BA graduate of Egypt's Al-Azhar University, has held several appointments in various government departments.

They include Deputy Director of Welfare, Youth and Sports; Chief Officer of the Islamic Religious Propagation and Director of the Administration Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

His most recent appointment before being made ambassador was that of Private and Confidential Secretary to His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, the Foreign Affairs Minister.

Awang Haji Abdul Mokti also holds a diploma in Commonwealth and Overseas Affairs Administration from the University of Birmingham and had attended courses at the Islamic College of Malaya.

He takes over as ambassador in Riad from Dato Haji Malai Ahmad Murad bin Haji Malai Mashor, who is now the new Director of the Political Department of the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Bandar Seri Begawan.

His Excellency Awang Haji Abdul Majid, also 41, was previously Director of the Political Department of the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

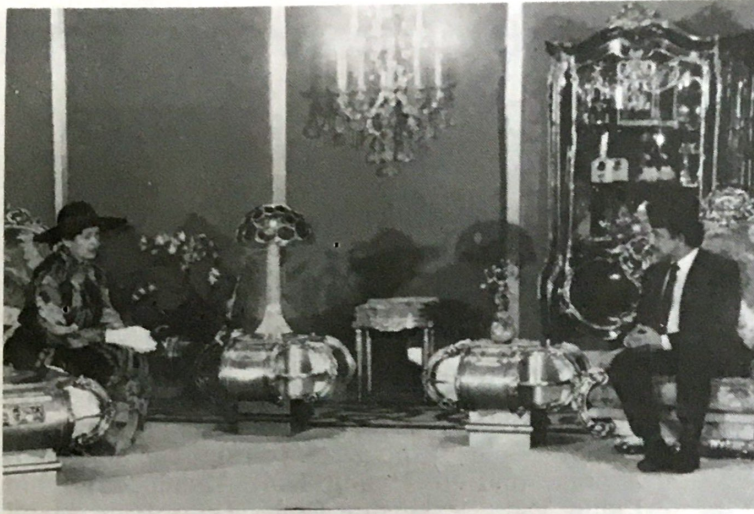
He, too, had held a number of senior positions in several government departments.

His Excellency Awang Haji Abdul Majid holds a Masters degree from Leeds University, a BA degree from the University of Hull, a certificate in Education from the Worcester College of Education and a diploma in Diplomacy from Oxford University.

He has been a lecturer at the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Teachers College, Director of Brunei Students Study Unit in London and First Secretary at the Brunei High Commission in Singapore.

Prior to Awang Haji Abdul Majid's appointment as ambassador to the Republic of Korea, His Excellency Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Idris, who is presently ambassador in Tokyo, was accredited to Seoul.

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Her Excellency Miss Claire Kirschen, Belgium's ambassador in Brunei Darussalam, chats with the Brunei ruler during an audience at which she presented her credential.

Message for HM Sultan from PLO leader, Mr. Yasser Arafat



The Palestine ambassador to Malaysia, His Excellency Mr. Ahmad Al-Farra meets His Majesty the Sultan at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has granted an audience to the ambassador of the State of Palestine to Malaysia, His Excellency Mr. Ahmad Al-Farra bin Mohamad.

H.E. Mr. Ahmad Al-Farra, 43, met His Majesty at Istana Nurul Iman on November 25.

Sources said he was bringing a message for the Brunei ruler from the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Mr. Yasser Arafat and was to have briefed His Majesty on the latest situation in the occupied territories especially the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

His Excellency has been appointed to the Foreign Service since 1972 and has served in Egypt, Pakistan, Afghanistan and currently, Malaysia.

Born in Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip, Mr. Ahmad Al-Farra is a Bachelor of Commerce graduate from Egypt's Alexandria University.

Also at Istana Nurul Iman on November 28, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received the credentials of the ambassadors of the United States and Belgium.

The new US envoy is His Excellency Mr. Christopher Hallowell Phillips, 69, and he takes over from Mr. Thomas Ferguson.

The new Ambassador has more than 40 years of service and experience in government and international business. His Government service includes postings as Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations (with the rank of Ambassador), United States Representative to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, Vice Chairman of the United States Civil Service Commission, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Organisation Affairs and Massachusetts State Senator from 1948 to 1953.

Mr. Phillips's background in international business is similarly extensive. He served as President of the United States-China Business Council (formerly the National Council for United States-China Trade). He also served as President of the United States Council of the International Chamber of Commerce and Secretary-Treasurer of the United States Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD, and as Second Vice President of Chase Manhattan Bank from 1961 to 1965.

Mr. Phillips graduated from Harvard University in 1943. He served in the United States Army Air Corps from 1942 to 1946. He also served on the staff of the Supreme Commander Allied Powers, Tokyo from 1945 to 1946.

The new Ambassador is also a member of the Council of Foreign Relations, the Advisory Council of the School of Advanced International Studies, John Hopkins University, and the Executive Committee, United States National Committee for the Pacific Economic Cooperation. He is also Chairman of the New Zealand-United States Arts Foundation and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Belgium's ambassador is Her Excellency Miss Claire Kirschen, 49.

She holds a Masters degree in Philosophy and Literature. She joined the diplomatic service in 1963, and was posted successively in the Hague, Luxemburg, Geneva, Paris and Peking before her appointment as Consul General and Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva. Since 1984, Miss Kirschen has been appointed Deputy Chief of Cabinet of His Majesty the King of Belgium.

Outgoing diplomats see HM the Sultan at end of tour of duty

Two foreign envoys who completed their tour of duty in Brunei Darussalam at the end of December have had separate audiences with His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

They were Pakistan's outgoing ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Sardar Ahmad and the ambassador of Austria, His Excellency Dr. Kurt Spallinger.

The Pakistani envoy has been in Bandar Seri Begawan since February 1989, and prior to his posting to Brunei Darussalam, he had served as a minister as well as charge d'affaires and head of the Pakistani mission in Aden,

South Yemen.

His Excellency Dr. Kurt Spallinger has been Austria's non-resident ambassador to Brunei Darussalam since 1985.

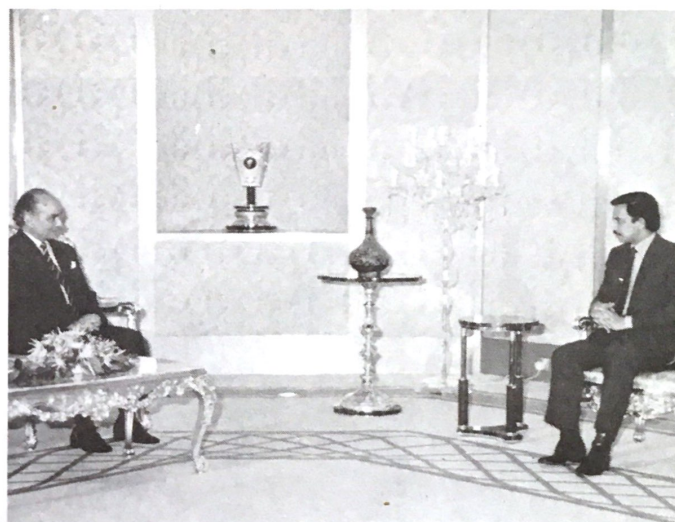
He was based in Kuala Lumpur.

Dr. Kurt Spallinger was accompanied at the audience by the Consul-General, Mr. Alfred G. Flaim and the Austrian Trade Commissioner to Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam, Dr. Gustav A. Jamnig.

Both diplomats had earlier paid courtesy calls on the Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah.



The outgoing ambassador of Austria, His Excellency Dr. Kurt Spallinger (looking on) introduces an official of the Austrian embassy during his farewell audience at Istana Nurul Iman with His Majesty the Sultan.



Pakistan's ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Sardar Ahmad says farewell to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during an audience at Istana Nurul Iman.



Acting president of the Courts of Appeal, Judge Derek Cons receives his letter of appointment from His Majesty the Sultan.

New judges take oath

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His Majesty appointed Judge David Stonach Hunter one of the Commissioners of the High Court for three years.



Judge Syed Kemal Shah Bokhary on his appointment as one of the Commissioners of the High Court by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan.

Three new judges for Brunei Darussalam have been sworn in following their appointment by His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The three judges, who were sworn-in before His Majesty at a ceremony at Istana Nurul Iman on November 13, are Judge Derek Cons, 61, Judge David Stonach Hunter, aged 63 and Judge Syed Kemal Shah Bokhary, 42.

Judge Derek Cons was appointed acting President of the Court of Appeal, while both Judge David Stonach Hunter and Judge Syed Kemal Shah Bokhary were appointed Commissioners of the High Court for three years.

The Grand Chamberlain, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz read the letters of appointment.

The ceremony was attended by His Majesty's brothers, Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisua Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

Also present were the Special Adviser to His Majesty at the Prime Minister's Office and Home Affairs Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa, the Minister of Law, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Haji Bahrin and the Deputy Minister of Defence, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major-General Pengiran Haji Ibnu.

Photographer gets second place

A Brunei Darussalam participant has won second place honours in an international photographic competition.

Awang Mohammed Haranadi bin Haji Buntar, a photographer with the Brunei History Centre won the honour with his entry called 'Mosque at dawn' in the competition organised by the Secretariat of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage of the OIC to commemorate Islamic

Heritage Year 1410.

A total of 299 participants from 36 countries entered the competition.

Chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Fahd bin Abdul Aziz, the commission organised the competition with such aims as to seek creative interpretations of apparent diversity and inherent unity in Islamic cultural heritage.

Second place win carries a cash prize of US\$600.

Be more enterprising call to women by HM the Raja Isteri



Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha arrives to open the 'Women in development' seminar at which she urged women to be more enterprising.

Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha has been speaking on the role of Brunei women in nationbuilding, and called on them to be more enterprising.

Opening a "Women in Development" seminar cum workshop and exhibition at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium on December 6, Her Majesty urged Brunei women to be willing to take up jobs in the private sector and not merely engage in the government.

Women should also get involved in commerce and trade as well as community works, Her Majesty said.

"What is most important are dedication, industriousness and pride in one's work".

Her Majesty also took to task reminding those present at the ceremony that while discussing the role of women in nationbuilding, women should also not neglect their basic responsibility towards their families, "because shaping-up a proper family, in particular in raising and educating children towards becoming useful members of the community, is the fundamental foundation of nationbuilding".

Her Majesty expressed hope that the seminar/workshop/exhibition would be able to bring to the fore positive roles which women can play in the nationbuilding process of Brunei Darussalam.

The event was organised by the Women's Section of the Ministry of Culture, Youths and Sports.

Charity evening for KACA's fund raising



Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam arriving at a cultural show to raise fund for handicapped children.

Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam has attended a charity show to raise fund for the Association for Handicapped Children, KACA, of which she is patron.

Organised by KACA, the evening featured performances by a cultural troupe from West Sumatra which was in Brunei Darussalam for eight days at the end of November.

A spokesman for the KACA association said funds raised from the charity show, held at the auditorium of Radio Television RTB, would go towards the cost of constructing a centre for handicapped children.

The spokesman added that the association needed about \$500,000 for the centre while its fund to date stands at \$300,00.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has sent a congratulatory message to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said on the occasion of the Sultanate of Oman's National Day on November 18.

In a message in conjunction with the occasion to his Omani counterpart, His Excellency Mr. Yusuf bin Alwi bin Abdullah, Brunei Darussalam's Foreign Affairs Minister, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar expressed hope of further enhancing the already friendly and close relations between the two countries.

In Brunei Darussalam, Oman's Charge D'Affaires, Mr. Fuad Mubarak Al-Hinai hosted a dinner reception to mark the occasion, at which the Brunei government was represented by the Minister of Religious Affairs, Pehin Orang Kaya Ratna Diraja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd. Zain.

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Mohd. Ali, Deputy Home Affairs Minister, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Abidin, permanent secretaries, foreign diplomats and senior Brunei officials also attended the function.

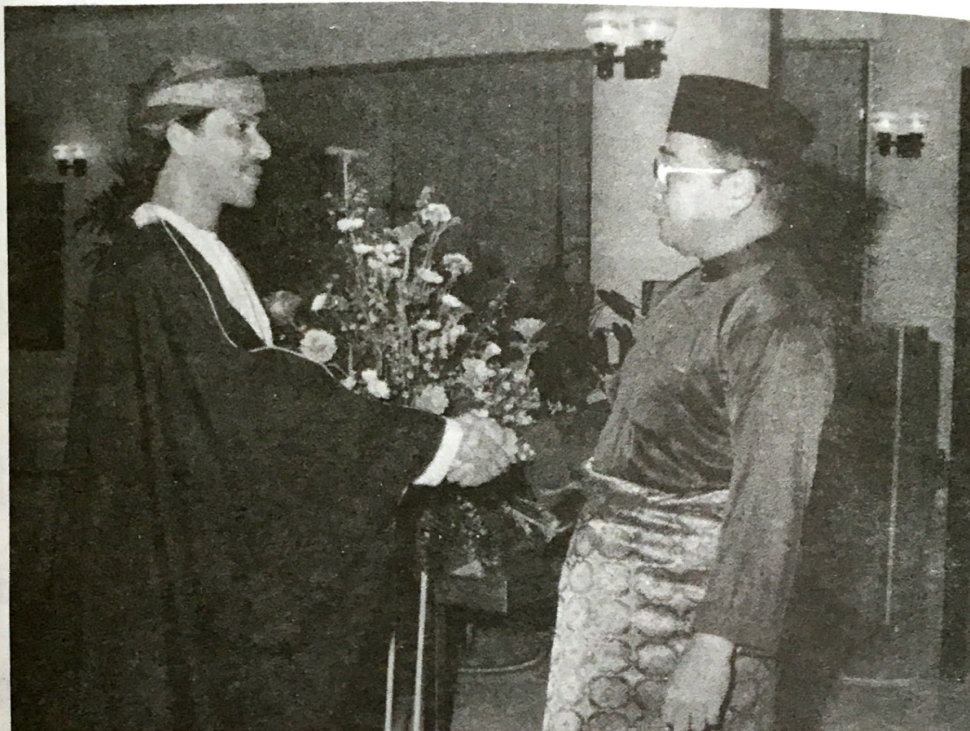
Speaking at the celebration, Mr. Fuad Mubarak Al-Hinai said that the Omani-Bruneian relation is very good and very encouraging. The Government of Oman, he added, had been particularly pleased with the decision of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to open an embassy in Muscat. This will provide a further impetus to the bilateral ties, whose potential is yet to be fully utilised.

The Charge D'Affaires further said that Sultan Qaboos initiated a series of five-year plans immediately after acceding to the throne nineteen years ago. These plans which outlined several priorities, had resulted in the development of the country, the provision of health care, education and other social developments.

Prior to this, the Sultanate was stricken with almost a century of stagnation, lacking in development, with illiteracy, a high mortality rate and isolation.

The Sultanate of Oman can now be proud of modern Ministry buildings, schools, hospitals and

Celebration of Oman's National Day



The Religious Affairs Minister, Pehin Orang Kaya Ratna Diraja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd. Zain (extreme right) is welcomed by the Omani Charge D'Affaires, His Excellency Mr. Fuad Mubarak Al-Hinai during a dinner reception marking the Sultanate of Oman's National Day.

commercial establishments and highways with dual carriageway and flyovers.

Brunei Darussalam and the Sultanate of Oman established diplomatic ties in 1984. The Sultanate opened its mission in Bandar Seri Begawan in August 1986.

Relations of the two countries had been further strengthened by

visits of leaders from both sides. They had also conducted several joint-military exercises within the past few years.

In both countries, oil has become a predominant factor in their economies. Like Brunei Darussalam, the Sultanate of Oman is also currently pursuing a policy of diversifying its economy in order to be less dependent on oil.

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Palawan - Kota Kinabalu. Already, there are intra-ASEAN airlines links between major points of ASEAN countries. The sharing of Airlines facilities, fuel purchase and pooling of aircraft parts have been identified as possible areas of cooperation.

VISIT ASEAN YEAR 1992

The Ministers also noted that the visit ASEAN Year 1992 campaign would be conducted in four principal markets, namely; Japan, Australia, West Germany and ASEAN region.

COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES/ INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

On the cooperation with Third Countries/International Organisations, the Ministers noted that the dialogue process between ASEAN and its dialogue partners had brought about positive result particularly in the areas of technical assistance and development cooperation. However, in the area

A cultural troupe from West Sumatra in Indonesia has been showing the finesse and beauty of their traditional dances and songs to audiences in Brunei Darussalam.

At the head of the mission was Drs. Seruji Ismail, a personal representative of the Governor of West Sumatra.

On stage for some two hours in each show, the 30 members of the troupe performed in Bandar Seri Begawan, Kuala Belait, Tutong and Temburong.

His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisua Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah launched their first performance in Bandar Seri Begawan, which took place at the International Convention Centre.

Among those featured in the show were songs and dances performed by local West Sumateran communes during the padi planting season and customs when greetings guests.

The tour was one of the cultural exchanges aimed at further enhancing goodwill and friendship and to promote understanding between the peoples of Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia.

A West Sumatra Cultural group performs for Brunei audience



His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisua Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah being introduced to officials and members of the West Sumatra cultural mission.

of commercial cooperation, progress has been disappointing particularly on issues relating to market access to products for export interest to ASEAN; high tariff walls and stringent non-tariff measures; improvements to the GSP; and imposition of stringent trade policies and trade restrictive measures such as anti-dumping and CVD actions.

SECTORAL DIALOGUE WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The Ministers noted that the Sectoral Dialogue between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea had been established since 2 November, 1989 through the exchange of letters between the Foreign Minister of Indonesia, the current Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee, on behalf of ASEAN, and the Foreign Minister

of the Republic of Korea. Initially, the areas of cooperation include trade, investment and tourism. This could be expanded later on to cover other areas such as development cooperation, transfer of technology and human resources development.

ASEAN - US INITIATIVE (AUI)

On the ASEAN-US Initiative (AUI), the Ministers directed the ASEAN Senior Economic Officials to study the AUI Report with the view of determining the issues where ASEAN could have a joint approach. The Senior Economic Officials should hold an informal consultation with the US to determine the desirability of setting up a joint working group and report its findings to the ASEAN Economic Ministers prior to the Meeting between the

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Above: His Majesty the Sultan being greeted by ministers on arrival at the 21st Meeting of ASEAN Economic Ministers at the Brunei International Convention Centre, accompanied by His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sulri Bolikiah and His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolikiah seen in the picture below.



The Brunei Darussalam delegation at the meeting which was chaired by the country's Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman (centre) Below: ASEAN Economic Ministers comprising Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources of Brunei Darussalam, Dr. Subin Pinkayan, Minister of Commerce of Thailand, Mr. Radius Prawiro, Minister Coordinator for Economy, Finance, Industry and Development Supervision of Indonesia, Dato Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of Trade and Industry of Malaysia, Mr. Jose Condon Jr., Secretary of Trade and Industry of the Philippines, Brig. Gen. (Res) Lee Hsien Loong, Minister for Trade and Industry of Singapore and the Secretary-General of the ASEAN Secretariat, Mr. Rusli Noor await the arrival of His Majesty the Sultan to open the 21st AEM. Bottom right: His Majesty accompanied by the ASEAN Economic Ministers leaves the main hall of the International Convention Centre after he had officially declared open the 21st Meeting of ASEAN Economic Ministers, with a call, among other matters, for more intra-ASEAN cooperation. Above: ministers and guests seated on the podium with His Majesty along with the ASEAN Economic Ministers. Seated on the podium with His Majesty along with the ASEAN Economic Ministers are His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sulri Bolikiah (fourth from left in the front row) and His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolikiah (fifth from left in the front row).



Banks urged to be more open to Bruneians

A senior Brunei official has called on banks in the country to be more accommodating towards locals and always take into account the interests of the country.

The Acting Director of the Financial Services, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Yaakub bin Abu Bakar made the call when he opened the annual Inter-Banks Koran Reading Championship at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium recently.

He spoke of the need for obedience towards the teachings of Islam, and also for abiding by laws and regulations of the government and respect its policies and aspirations.

In this context, said Dato Haji Yaakub, "I urge banks in this country to be involved in nation development always by taking into consideration the interests of Brunei Darussalam foremost because the benefits and incomes of these banks come from the wealth of the country".

The official pointed out that in reciprocity, the banks should provide job and training opportunities to Bruneians.

"I am of the opinion that the special job and training provision extended to Bruneians at all levels of the banking organisation are good practice and policy towards increasing further the positive participation of the banks in the nationbuilding process, both in the short-term and in the long-term", the official further said.

Representatives from five banks took part in the Koran reading competition.

517 get medals for various merits



His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah presents the PBLI medal to the State Mufti, Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama Haji Awang Ismail

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam last month bestowed merit awards to more than 500 civil servants. They are for good conduct, long service and other meritorious deeds.

The State Mufti, Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama Haji Awang Ismail bin Omar Abdul Aziz and PWI Jebli bin Buasan headed the list of recipients by being bestowed Pingat Bakti Laila Ikhlas (PBLI).

Of the rest of the recipients, 94 received Pingat Jasa Kebaktian (PJK); 261 received Pingat Indah Kerja Baik (PIKB) and the rest, numbering 160, were awarded Pingat Kerja Lama (PKL).

Presenting the awards on behalf of His Majesty at ceremonies held over four days at the Lapau (Parliament House) in Bandar Seri Begawan was His Majesty's second brother, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah.

Royal message to UAE

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam had sent a congratulatory message to His Majesty Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al-Nahayyan, President of the United Arab Emirates and the Government of Abu Dhabi, on the occasion of its

National Day last December 2.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah also sent a similar message to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, His Excellency Mr. Rashid Abdullah Al Noaimi.

Islamic values mould strong personality

Absorbing Islamic values with full understanding and practising them sincerely will enable one to build a strong personality, the Special Adviser to His Majesty at the Prime Minister's Office and Home Affairs Minister, Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa has said.

These will also enable one to execute one's responsibility with full dedication, efficiency, trustworthiness and sincerity, as has been urged often by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan.

Pehin Dato Haji Awang Isa was speaking at a Koran reading competition at the Islamic Dakwah Centre in November for departments under his ministry.

He said it was most important for officers and employees to fully absorb and understand Islamic values because in this way, every individual will cultivate the willpower which will prevent one from being influenced into wrongdoings.

The minister pointed out that efforts to absorb Islamic values in the ministry and departments



The special Adviser to His Majesty at the Prime Minister's Office and Home Affairs Minister, Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa.

under it should not be demonstrated through appearances, such as clothes, because this alone will not give a true picture of the depth of one's absorption and understanding of the Islamic values.

World AIDS Day Observed in NBD

All levels of the community in the country have been urged to join in efforts to fight and keep AIDS at bay by increasing their knowledge of the disease.

The call was made by the Brunei Darussalam Health Minister, Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Johar bin Dato Paduka Haji Nordin at the opening of a one-day seminar to mark the World AIDS Day on December 1.

The Minister said that all the efforts carried out by the government to prevent and control AIDS will not be successful without the cooperation of the whole community.

The World AIDS Day theme last year focused on youths to play their role in the prevention and control of AIDS because they are more likely than others to engage in behaviours that can lead to AIDS.

The World AIDS Day is a day to strengthen the spirits of solidarity, tolerance, compassion and understanding for people infected with HIV or people with AIDS through knowledge, compassion and action.

The minister reminded youths in the country of the importance in avoiding actions that leave them open to the risks of AIDS, such as irresponsible sex and the sharing of contaminated needles by intravenous drug addicts.

He said that about 21% of the population of the country are youths who play a significant role in nation building.

Three foreign speakers were invited to speak at the seminar which was followed by a four-day exhibition at the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha hospital.



The Health Minister, Dato Paduka Dr. Awang Haji Johar viewing an AIDS related exhibition in Bandar Seri Begawan held in conjunction with the World AIDS Day on December 1.

ASEAN Economic Ministers and the US Trade Representative in June 1990.

ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC)

On the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Ministers exchanged views on the result of the APEC Ministerial-level Meeting in Canberra on 6-7 November, 1989. They noted that ASEAN's role in promoting the Asia-Pacific Cooperation through the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conferences (PMC) had been duly acknowledged by the other participating countries in the Canberra Meeting. They were aware that more work would be required to cope with the increasing opportunities and challenges presented by greater economic interdependence among the Asia-Pacific nations. In this regard, the Ministers reaffirmed ASEAN's common stand that the ASEAN Secretariat should continue to play the coordinating role in the preparatory activities leading to the next APEC Ministerial-level Meeting tentatively scheduled to be held in Singapore in June 1990, thus coinciding with the auspicious event of the 25th Anniversary Celebration of Singapore. They also reiterated ASEAN's determination to uphold and promote its cohesion and solidarity as one of the main principles underlying the ongoing APEC consultation process. The Ministers were confident that ASEAN would play a positive and pivotal role in the process.

URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (URMTN)

On the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (URMTN), the Ministers recognised the vital importance

that a successful conclusion of the URMTN will have on the future of GATT and multilateral trading system. They reaffirmed their strong commitments to the conclusion of the Round by December, 1990. To this end, ASEAN will continue to play a constructive role in the final crucial phase of the negotiations and urge other participants to do likewise.

To ensure the success of the Round, considerable joint effort must be undertaken so that its outcome is meaningful and beneficial to all participants. In this regard, the Ministers noted the lack of progress in the negotiating groups. Market access issues which are of interest to ASEAN have not been given enough emphasis, whereas new issues have gained momentum. There is also imbalance in the rule-making area where greater concentration has been given to rules of interest to developing countries such as safeguards, anti-dumping and countervailing measures and dispute settlement. The Ministers urged that this imbalance be redressed as soon as possible.

The Ministers furthermore insisted that the international trading rules on competition that emerge from the Uruguay Round be open, fair and equitable. GATT rules on Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Actions should be further clarified and made more precise to minimise the possibility of discretionary abuse by user-government. They should not be used as a form of disguised instrument against import. In this connection, ASEAN views with grave concern any proposals that are intended to circumscribe new competitors.

The Ministers further noted with grave concern that the principle of special and differential treatment (S & D) for developing countries which is embodied as an integral part of the Punta del Este Declaration has been constantly ignored or diluted in all areas of negotiations. They reaffirmed the importance that ASEAN attaches to S & D as one of the principles governing the negotiations and as an integral element of the evolving GATT system.

The Ministers agreed to hold the next 22nd AEM in Indonesia in early October 1990.

Brunei Darussalam and Britain clinch arms purchase package

The Brunei Darussalam Ministry of Defence announced on November 21 the signing of a protocol between the governments of Brunei Darussalam and Britain for the purchase of defence equipment for the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

The move is aimed at boosting the country's defence capability and part of its contribution towards regional security.

The deal is for the purchase of 16 Hawk-100 light-attack jet-fighters from the British firm British Aerospace and three Corvette off-shore patrol vessels from another company in the United Kingdom - Vosper Thornycraft.

These new acquisitions will go into operation in 1992, the Defence Ministry has announced.

An overall Memorandum of Understanding listing down the details of the Protocol will be signed soon by ministers from both sides.

The protocol also disclosed that a Letter (or Letters) of Intent between the two governments setting out the basic terms and conditions of procurement will be signed in the near future to facilitate delivery within the time scale required. A formal contract (or contracts) between the Government of Brunei Darussalam and the United Kingdom's suppliers will subsequently be concluded.

The Government of the United Kingdom has assured the Government of Brunei Darussalam that it will use its best endeavours to ensure that defence companies in the United Kingdom make viable proposals towards this country's plan in developing its defence industrial capability within twelve months of the date of the protocol.

The Protocol further mentioned that "The Government of the United Kingdom in the continuing interest of the enduring bilateral relations will use all reasonable endeavours to assist in furthering the legitimate interest of the Government of Brunei Darussalam, in this respect by pro-

viding assistance in the execution of contracts, quality assurance, in-service support and training, and technology transfer".

The protocol added that the actual numbers of the equipment will be determined by the Government of Brunei Darussalam. The list of requirements may be extended at any time with the mutual consent in writing of both governments.

The protocol was signed in Bandar Seri Begawan on 17th October 1989. Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major-General Pengiran Haji Ibnu, the Deputy Minister of Defence signed on behalf of the Government and the High Commissioner of Britain to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Roger Westbrook represented his Government.

The Ministry of Defence had also announced the purchase of four CN 235 maritime patrol aircraft made by IPTN in Indonesia and four S211 intermediate training aircraft manufactured by Siai Mercetti in Italy.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan is the Minister of Defence as well as the Supreme Commander of the RBAF. The Government attaches importance to national security. This is underlined by the fact that under the Fifth Five Year Development Plan (1986-1990), 10 percent of the Government expenditure is allocated to defence.

The RBAF has forged close links with its immediate neighbours, in particular Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. Joint exercises are conducted with the armed forces of ASEAN. There is also close collaboration with other countries like Britain and Australia.

Last year saw one of the biggest joint exercises between the British and Bruneian forces, involving ships from the British Royal Navy and a British battalion from Hongkong and all elements of the RBAF.

Oil explore agreement

The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and a bumiputra-owned petroleum company, the Jasra International Petroleum Sdn. Bhd. (JASPET) have signed a new petroleum mining agreement covering Block B, which is an offshore concession of approximately 1,572 square kilometers with water depths ranging from 10 to 80 meters.

The signing ceremony took place on 23rd November 1989 at the Conference Room of the Prime Minister's Office at the Secretariat Building in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Signing for the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan was Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Ahmad bin Dato Matnor, Permanent Secretary of The Prime Minister's Office as the Clerk to the Council of Ministers,

in the presence of Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office.

Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Rahman bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahim and Pengiran Ahmad bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Rahman, the Executive Directors of JASPET, signed the Agreement on behalf of the company.

JASPET will explore the concession jointly with a French petroleum company, Elf Aquitaine Offshore Asia B.V (ELF), Brunei branch.

This will expand the scope of an already existing joint exploration efforts by JASPET and ELF (the Jasra Elf Joint Venture), which commenced the search for hydrocarbons in their other offshore concession Block A on 10 December 1986.

Wider varieties of programmes in future for television and radio audiences

Exchanges of television and radio programmes among Brunei Darussalam and the other ASEAN countries as well as Japan and the Republic of Korea will give viewers and listeners in these countries a wider range of programmes to tune to in the near future.

These countries recently attended the Asia Broadcasting Forum for three days beginning November 15, in Tokyo, with the aim of promoting cooperation in the field of broadcasting programme and technology.

It was jointly organised by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Japan and the Council for the Promotion of Programmes Exchanges among East and Southeast Asian Countries.

The Brunei Darussalam delegation was led by the Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin. The Permanent Secretary, who is also the Director for the Department of Broadcasting

and Information, was accompanied by two senior officials in the Prime Minister's Office and the Department of Broadcasting and Information.

In a working paper presented at the forum, Pehin Dato Ustaz Haji Badaruddin underlined the importance of an International Cooperation Programme in generating greater awareness and appreciation among participating countries and in fostering friendship with the people.

Within ASEAN itself, some form of cooperation in the field of broadcasting already exists. This arrangement was finalised in Jakarta in May, 1989 with the signing of the Declaration of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information.

The Ministers agreed and adopted two Programmes of Action—namely The Programmes for the Enhancement of ASEAN Cooperation in Press; and the Programme for the Enhancement of ASEAN Cooperation in television, radio, film and video. The Permanent Secretary said member countries of the forum could expect further enhancement in broadcasting cooperation with more members participating in the forum such as Japan and the Republic of Korea.

The Permanent Secretary listed down the factors which needed consideration in bringing about international cooperation through the exchange of programmes. These included the prevailing political situation in the different countries, their accompanying national broadcasting policies and norms, the varying degrees in the socio-economic and technological developments of each country and the different languages in each of these countries.

In addition, the official stressed that any programme exchange must be supportive of a country's aspiration in pursuing the government's national policies and development plans.

Brunei Darussalam had also proposed some other areas of cooperation among participating countries. Member countries could consider training in the dubbing of television programmes. The pooling of resources and expertise and financial support as in the cooperation in the reduction of telecommunication tariff and Direct Broadcasting Satellite are also important considerations.

At the end of the forum, participating countries agreed that the exchange of programmes would play a significant role in establishing and promoting the Asian identity. The exchange of programmes would also contribute to mutual understanding among different countries and peoples as well as maintain and enhance world peace and stability.

They also agreed to overcome any obstacle which impede the smooth exchange of programmes such as linguistic, technological and economic problems.

When exchanging programmes, the countries further agreed to take into account the cultures, the customs, the national sentiment and the unique political and economic conditions of the recipient countries.

It was also agreed that broadcasters of each country should strengthen their efforts to promote co-production by increasing contacts with each other. Practical measures for information exchanges in Asia or the possible establishment of an institution for information exchange must be pursued with Japan taking a central role.

The bulk of foreign programmes over RTB (Radio and Television Brunei) is currently obtained commercially in the open market; others are obtained through ASEAN, ABU (Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union) or through bilateral arrangement made either on a non-commercial basis or on a joint production. Only 5 percent of the foreign programmes are obtained through some sort of an exchange programme. Locally-produced programmes made up 40 percent for television, while a larger proportion of 95 percent are produced for radio transmission.

Broadcasting in Brunei Darussalam provides a positive link between the people and the government, and vice-versa, in achieving the country's objective towards development, prosperity and harmony.

Radio Television has a long association with the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union, ABU, and the Commonwealth Broadcasting Union. After it resumed full independence in 1984, Brunei Darussalam has been playing a leading role in the activities of the ASEAN-COCI (Committee on Culture and Information).

ASEAN and Canada Embark on multi-million dollar joint projects

ASEAN and Canada are expected to sign a memorandum of understanding during the course of the next few months for projects worth approximately £27 million, in a move consistent with the strong commitment by the Canadians to increase trade and investment in the ASEAN region.

This was disclosed in a joint communique issued at the end of the sixth ASEAN-Canada Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan on November 22, which among other things said that the programme was part of Canada's major initiative in ASEAN.

The projects will significantly raise Canada's total external trade in ASEAN, which presently accounts for only less than one percent.

The communique said that Canada had undertaken a major initiative in ASEAN with the opening in July last year of the Canada-ASEAN Centre. The centre will facilitate the implementation of development and cooperation projects with ASEAN.

The JCC Meeting, which deliberated on international and regional economic issues of mutual concern, focused attention on the Uruguay Round of MTN, the Canada-US Free Trade Agreement, commodity issues and the international debt and monetary issues. Both ASEAN and Canada agreed to intensify consultations on trade issues through trade policy and MTN discussions in the ASEAN region in 1990.

ASEAN and Canadian officials, in addition had a very useful discussion on the high priority which their respective Governments place in addressing the serious environmental problems afflicting the world. ASEAN and Canada had pledged to work more closely and seek new ways to cooperate in the protection and preservation of the environment.

The joint press release also took note that the participation of the ASEAN-Canada Business Council demonstrated the growing partnership between the Governments and the business community in

expanding trade and investments between ASEAN and Canada.

The outcome of the Meeting reflected the strong bonds of friendship between ASEAN and Canada. Awang Haji Yusof bin Haji Abdul Hamid, Director-General for ASEAN-Brunei Darussalam acted as ASEAN spokesman for the ASEAN delegations. Canada was led by Mr. George Seymour, Director-General of the Asia Pacific South Bureau, Department of External Affairs and International Trade.

The meeting was co-chaired by Canada and Brunei Darussalam, the current co-ordinator of the ASEAN-Canada dialogue.

With Canada's trade in ASEAN accounting for only less than one percent of its external trade, it is, therefore, a matter of great concern that industrial and commercial relations between the grouping and Canada are brought to the full potential, Awang Haji Yusof pointed out.

He highlighted that ASEAN attaches great importance to Canada's cooperation in the Uruguay Round in creating a freer, more liberal and better-managed world trade system.

Ensuring an improved functioning of the multilateral trading system would benefit everyone, he told delegates.

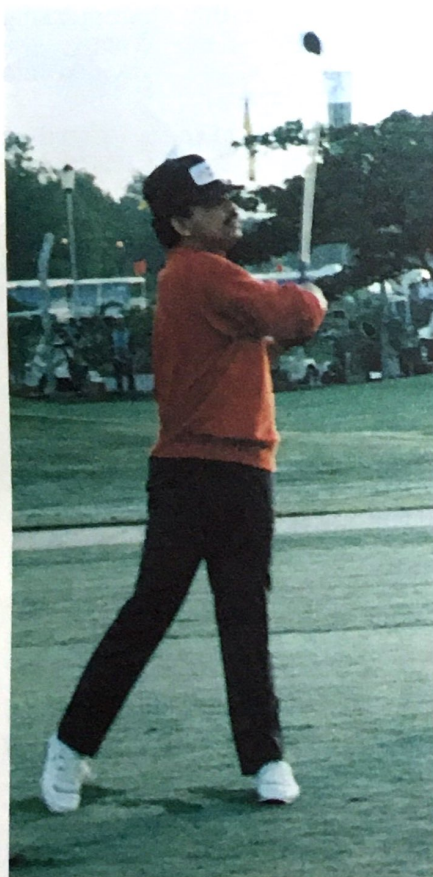
Awang Haji Yusof described the renewal of the ASEAN-Canada Economic Cooperation Agreement for a further two years beginning June last year as a clear indication of the desire of both sides to continue promoting their relationship in a mutually beneficial manner.

The JCC was established in 1981.

Mr. George W. Seymour, the leader of the Canadian delegation, echoing a statement made his Prime Minister, Mr. Brian Mulroney, said that Canada was putting extra attention and resources into expanding its trade and economic links with the Asia-Pacific.

The next JCC meeting will take place in Canada at a date to be decided later.

RBGCC officially opened by HM Sultan



Above left: His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam seen in action in the President Trophy Golf Championship — a tournament which followed shortly after the Brunei ruler officially opened the Royal Brunei Golf and Country Club at Jerudong Park, as seen in the picture on right above. Two of His Majesty's brothers, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah (in picture at bottom left of page) and His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah also took part in the tournament which marked the opening of the RBGCC.



A new golf course has been opened in Brunei Darussalam.

It is the Royal Brunei Golf and Country Club, RBGCC and was officially opened by His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on December 1.

Situated at Jerudong Park about 12 kilometres from the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, the course covers 49 hectares and was completed in March last year.

The opening of the RBGCC was followed by a tournament in which His Majesty the Sultan, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah were among the participants vying for the President Trophy donated by His Majesty.

It was won by Lieutenant Colonel Haji Mahmud.

Other participants in the tournament comprised cabinet ministers, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries and senior government officials who altogether numbered some 120.

Apart from the championship for the President Trophy, the tournament was also divided into other categories.

The winners of these as well as the President Trophy championship walked away with free return air tickets to Jakarta, Bangkok and Singapore as well as other prizes including golf sets.

But participants failed to win any of the four luxury cars offered as prizes for players who manage 'hole-in-one' for each of the third, eighth, thirteenth and sixteenth greens.

His Majesty the Sultan presented the President Trophy to the winner, while his brothers presented prizes to the winners of the other categories of the tournament.

Commonwealth countries urge community approach to promoting health

Representatives from 35 Commonwealth countries have been meeting in Melbourne, Australia to explore improved community approaches to health promotion and diseases prevention.

Brunei Darussalam was represented at the meeting by its Health Minister, Dato Paduka Dr. Awang Haji Johar bin Dato Paduka Haji Noordin.

The Ninth Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting was opened on November 13 by the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Bob Hawke, and the deliberations centred mostly on lessening inequalities in health systems through developing national diseases prevention strategies, according to a report.

At the meeting, the delegates compared the effectiveness of different systems of health care, including public health campaigns, and discussed new approaches to training health teams, with the need to move beyond curing diseases to actively promoting good health.

The Australian Minister for Community Services and Health, Dr. Neal Blewett outlined recent Australian initiatives which included the AIDS community education campaign.



Brunei Darussalam's Health Minister, Dato Paduka Dr. Awang Haji Johar being greeted on arrival at the Ninth Commonwealth Ministers' Meeting in Melbourne by Australian Minister for Community Services and Health, Dr. Neal Blewett. At extreme left is Mr. Moni Malhoutra, Assistant Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Secretariat.



The President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah (centre) at the recent meeting to discuss Brunei Darussalam's participation at the next Asia Games in Beijing.

Brunei athletes may take part in seven events at next Asia Games

The President of the Brunei Darussalam National Sports Council, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah has told sports associations that they first have to attain a satisfactory level of performance before they can be considered for international championships.

He was speaking during a meeting to discuss Brunei Darussalam's participation at the next Asia Games, to be held in

Beijing from September 22 to October 7 next year.

His Royal Highness stressed that performance must be taken into account because athletes will be competing against the best from countries in Asia.

He called on associations wishing to take part in the Games to first show proofs of their performance achievement before athletes form such associations before making a decision on the participation at the Games can be made.

He also told associations or

athletes with good performance that they would be considered for training overseas.

His Royal Highness hoped that associations and athletes will make full use of facilities provided by the government through the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports for the purpose of improving the standard of sports, both at national and international levels.

The meeting proposed participation in seven events at the Asia Games. These are shooting, boxing, canoeing, football, judo, sepak takraw and swimming.

Your turn

The next issue of the *Brunei Darussalam newsletter* will appear during the second week of February 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 January 20, 1990. All editorial rights reserved.

Brunei Malay in a minute

Each month we introduce readers to common Brunei Malay words as used in the State. This month we introduce two Brunei words, *ajai* and *tuhut*.

They are parts of the human body.

Ajai is part of the face below the mouth. It is *chin* in English and *dagu* in standard Malay.

Tuhut is a joint between the thigh and the lower part of the leg. *Tuhut* is *knee* in English and *lutut* in standard Malay.





The "Durong" with thatched wall and thatched roof (thatch palm). Note the circular dinar on each of the four posts.



The ladder, known as "Tangga Kambing" which literally translates as "Goat ladder" is made of a single tree trunk with notches carved out at fairly even intervals for footing. It is believed that it is called the goat ladder because goats are probably the only animals that can climb on such a ladder. No doubt, this could be true with the nimble-footed mountain goats.

Store-house for padi (paddy) called 'Durong'

Simply built of thatch (palm thatch) for its walls and roof secured on a wooden frame, the Durong is an important building for padi planting communes or families in Brunei Darussalam.

Stored inside are stocks of padi harvested each year so that each family would have year-round supply of rice.

Usually with a floor area measuring six to seven square feet, the Durong is suspended above the ground to a height of five to six feet by four small posts or stilts.

An interesting feature of the Durong are its dinars, each of which has a hole in the centre. The posts are pushed through the holes, securing the dinars in place well above the ground but not quite reaching the floor of the

Durong. In this way, the dinars serve to prevent rodents such as rats and mice and other pests from getting to the inside of the Durong to eat the paddy stock kept inside it.

The door of the Durong is also made of thatch, or barks of tree.

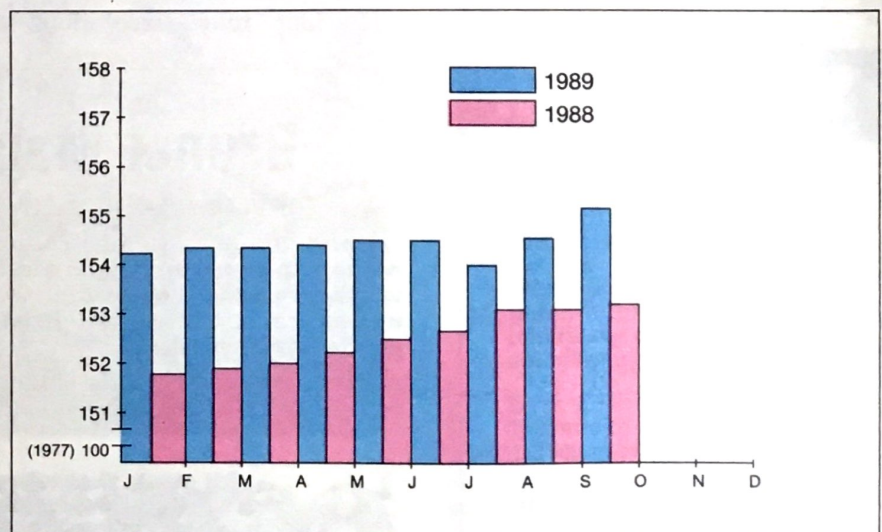
The ladder for getting into the Durong is made of a single tree trunk with notches for securing footing, and removed when not needed.

BRUNEI IN BRIEF

Capital City :	Bandar Seri Begawan
Land size :	5765 sq.km
Population :	241,400 (1988)
Official Language :	Malay
Official Religion :	Islam
November 1989 rainfall :	463.9 mm.
(annual 2,818mm)	

PRIME LENDING RATE

January 6.25%. (quoted by Bankers' Association).



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX