



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

Published by the Department of Information
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

15 APRIL 2001



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam being greeted by village residents on his arrival at Kampong Sungai Teraban in Belait district.

Brunei Sultan continues visit to villages

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has continued his series of visits to villages and mukims in the country. On 12 April, His Majesty visited Mukim Labi and Kampong Sungai Teraban, both in the Belait district.

His Majesty was greeted on arrival at Rampayoh Primary School, where the official welcoming ceremony was held, by the District Officer, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abd. Ghani and

Permanent Secretaries of Home Affairs Ministry and Education Ministry, as well as senior government officials.

His Majesty was then briefed on the development of Kampong Labi I and II by the village heads, Awang Haji Bolhassan bin Kalimang and Awang Abdullah bin Haji Idris respectively, before the ruler mingled with the residents and toured an exhibition on handicrafts produced by the local community.

His Majesty also visited the 200-hectare Hua Ho Agricultural Farm - an area for the cultivation of various fruits and vegetables, and a farm for poultry, cattle and goats rearing. To date, the farm has 20 permanent and 30 part-time workers, most of whom are locals.

Mukim Labi has a population of 1,543 people comprised of Malays, Chinese and Ibans. Most of the resi-

** Continued on centre page*

**BRUNEI
DARUSSALAM
NEWSLETTER**

is published fortnightly by the Department of Information. It reports on government, social and business events in the country. All money values are expressed in Brunei dollars \$, unless otherwise stated. Any information in this newsletter may be reproduced; a clipping of the publication would be appreciated. For free subscription (excluding postage) write to the Distribution Division, The Department of Information, Old Airport, Berakas BB 3510, Brunei Darussalam.

Editorial Staff

Chief Editor
Mahari Haji Ismail

Editors
Aisah Haji Piee
Hajjah Zaijanit Haji Noorkhan
Ak Jefferi Pg Duraman
Musa Mohidin

Layout/Design
Editorial Staff

Photographs
**Photography Unit of
The Department of Information**

YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 30 April 2001. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-383400/ext.BDN Division or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.

Accolade for volunteers during World Meteorological Day

Brunei Darussalam's meteorological service of the civil aviation department is grateful to volunteers who have contributed data enabling weather forecasters to sustain the well being of agriculture, and air and maritime safety. In his speech on March 24 to commemorate World Meteorological Day, the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Haji Zakaria said that such activity contributes to the national meteorological knowledge on climate and weather change. Data, he said, are also needed for research in the study of human influence on climate and natural process that affect the atmosphere, land and ocean.

"In some countries, volunteers comprise of organisations and individuals that have interest on meteorological and hydrological phenomena," said Pehin Dato Haji Zakaria. The minister commended volunteers' patience and perseverance in pursuing their interest in weather phenomena. With a sense of responsibility, volunteers play an important role in helping to prepare in advance for natural disasters such as El Nino and La Nina devastations.

In Brunei Darussalam's context, Pehin Dato Haji Zakaria said, volunteers comprise of government agencies and institutions of higher learning. The minister recalled that by the end of last year 80 committees were established boasting membership comprising of government agencies from various ministries for the coordination of weather data collection the likes of rainfall and air temperature. "The meteorological service of the civil aviation department has collected data from volunteers that consequently enrich our understanding of Brunei's climate," said the minister.

The minister also explained that experience gained from interactions with global meteorological network and activities organised domestically has enabled the meteorological service to foster interest among the general public to become volunteers. The meteorological service, said Pehin Dato Haji Zakaria, also helps schools in or-

ganising meteorological activities so as to raise interest among students on meteorology as an extra curricular activity in the anticipation that one day some of them will hold an entrenched interest on environmental studies such as meteorology either as a hobby or a profession.

"The civil aviation department of the ministry of communications always welcomes contributions from volunteers. Weather, climate and water are natural elements that influence the way we maintain the environment and upgrade our socio-economic activities. Our country is located in a region that is prone to natural disasters that result in the loss of lives and material damages. The devastations of El Nino and La Nina plus the drought afflicting our country a few years ago are witness to these. Skilful planning and determination in confronting these environmental catastrophe have minimised the impact," explained the minister.

Ideally a more effective natural disaster management demands a comprehensive meteorological service plus attendant human resources equipped with sophisticated state-of-the-art instruments. "The meteorological service must constantly upgrade its competence not only in terms of efficiency but also in the employment of latest technology," said Pehin Dato Haji Zakaria.

Advancement in communication technology, satellites and information, argued the minister, have brought changes not only in areas of communication, commerce, entertainment, education, and telemedicine but to meteorological service as well. In line with progress in info-communication technology, said the minister, the civil aviation department has planned and implemented an assortment of efforts and projects such as fast data retrieval by employing scientific info-communication technology and satellites through the global telecommunication system; upgrading the hurricane warning radar system project; the weather

** Continued on page 10*

Brunei ruler presents and receives credentials of new envoys

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has presented letter of appointment to a new Brunei Darussalam's diplomat and received the credentials of two in-coming foreign envoys. The ceremonies took place at Istana Nurul Iman in Bandar Seri Begawan on 7 April.

His Majesty first presented a letter of appointment to His Excellency Awang Haji Adnan bin Haji Zainal, Brunei Darussalam's new High Commissioner to the Republic of Singapore.

Prior to this appointment, His Excellency was the personal and confidential secretary to His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

His Majesty then received the credentials of Malaysia's new High Commissioner to the country, His Excellency Mr. Salman bin Ahmad and the High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, His Excellency Mr. Badr-ud-deen.

His Majesty later consented to grant separate audiences to the diplomats.



Brunei Darussalam's new high commissioner to the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Awang Haji Adnan bin Haji Zainal receives his letter of appointment from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, above, while Malaysia's in-coming high commissioner, His Excellency Mr. Salman bin Ahmad presents his credential to the ruler, below.



Left: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving the credential of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan's new high commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Badr-ud-deen.

His Majesty grants audiences

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has granted an audience to the outgoing Commissioner of Police, Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Yaakub bin Haji Zainal and the Acting Commissioner, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Johan, at Istana Nurul Iman on 9 April.

A press release issued by the Prime Minister's Office said, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to the appointment of Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Rahman as the Acting Commissioner with effect from 9 April, while the Commissioner of Police is on leave before retirement.



The Brunei monarch in conversation with the retiring commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), Major General Awang Haji Shari bin Ahmad and his successor, Pehin Dato Major General Awang Haji Mohd. Jaafar bin Haji Abdul Aziz, nearest to camera.

On 2 April, His Majesty granted an audience to the Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces who will end his term of service, Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Shari bin Ahmad, and the new Commander of the Forces, Major General Dato Seri

Laila Jasa Haji Awang Mohd. Jaafar bin Haji Abdul Aziz. The audience took place at Istana Nurul Iman in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Meanwhile, Her Majesty Raja Isteri

** Continued on page 5*



Left: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam shakes hand with a special emissary of the President of the Republic of Philippines, His Excellency Mr. Paul Dominguez whom the ruler granted an audience on 2 April. Below: Datin Hajjah Hazizah binti Haji Adam, wife of the RBAF's outgoing commander and Datin Hajjah Salbiah binti Haji Mohd. Yusof, wife of the RBAF's new commander, being granted audiences by Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha at Istana Nurul Iman, below left, and by Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam at Istana Nurul Izzah, below right.



** From page 4
(audiences)*

Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam separately granted audiences to the wife of the High Commissioner of Police, Datin Hajjah Rahmah binti Mohd. Daud and wife of the Acting Commissioner, Pengiran Datin Hajjah Syarifah binti Pengiran Haji Zaini. The audiences took place on 9 April at Istana Nurul Iman in Bandar Seri Begawan and Istana Nurul Izzah in Jerudong respectively.

Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness had a week earlier, on 2 April, granted audiences to the wife of outgoing Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Dayang Hajjah Hazizah binti Haji Adam and wife of the new Commander, Dayang Hajjah Salbiah binti Haji Mohd. Yusof, also at Istana Nurul Iman and Istana Nurul Izzah.

Also being granted a separate audience by His Majesty and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah was the special envoy of the President of the Republic of the Philippines, His Excellency Mr. Paul Dominguez. Both audiences took place at Istana Nurul Iman, on 2 April.

His Excellency was in the country to deliver a special message from Her Excellency President Gloria Arroyo.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam granting an audience to the retiring Commissioner of the Royal Brunei Police Force, Dato Awang Haji Yaakub bin Haji Zainal and to the acting Commissioner of Police, Dato Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Johan, above. Below: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah greets His Excellency Mr. Paul Dominguez, a special emissary from the President of the Republic of the Philippines.



Datin Hajjah Rahmah binti Mohd. Daud and Pengiran Datin Hajjah Syarifah binti Pengiran Haji Zaini, wives of out-going commissioner of police and acting commissioner of police respectively are granted audiences by Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha at Istana Nurul Iman, below left, and by Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam at Istana Nurul Izzah, below right.



dents work with the public and private sectors, while some are conducting agricultural activities. Even though Mukim Labi is situated far from the town of Kuala Belait, the residents enjoy government-provided facilities, such as electricity and water supply, telephone service, a school, police station, roads and a community hall.

Mukim Labi is also wellknown for its places of interest, such as the Wasai Wong Kadir and Teraja Waterfall.

On the second leg of the visit, His Majesty toured Kampung Sungai Teraban, a village situated on the opposite bank of the Belait River to Kuala Belait town. It has a population of more than 1,000 people - over 900 of whom are Muslims while the rest of other faiths.

At the welcoming ceremony held at Kampung Sungai Teraban Primary School, His Majesty was briefed on the development of the village and problems facing the villagers by the village's acting head, Pengiran Haji Abas. His Majesty also consented to mingle with the residents.

During the visit, His Majesty also toured the Sungai Tujoh Control Post, which was officially opened on 26 March 1997. The Post is the biggest and most modern Immigration Control Post in the Sultanate, built between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia's border.

Other than immigration officers, officials from the Royal Customs and Excise, Narcotics Control Bureau and the Department of Religious Affairs are also put on duty at the post, which is open some 15 hours daily, from six in the morning.

His Majesty also visited the police post and permanent booths for the payment of tolls of the Rasau bridge - three kilometres from the Kuala Belait town centre.



Above: Heavy rain did not dampen the spirits of residents of Kampung Labi II who turned up in large number to welcome His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to their village. Below: Looking pleased and smiling, the ruler makes a tour of the Teraja longhouse at Mukim Labi for a first-hand look at the way the residents live.



The ketua (head) of Kampung Labi II, Awang Haji Bolhassan bin Kalimang briefs His Majesty and those present on various aspects of the village including its development, left.



Above: His Majesty shares a light moment with the Belait District Officer, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Ghani prior to a briefing which took place at the Kampung Rampayoh Primary School in Mukim Labi. Below: His Majesty in a group photo with acting ketua of Kampung Sungai Teraban and his family.



Accompanied by officials, His Majesty tours the Sungai Tujoh Control Post on the border with Malaysia which houses the Immigration, Anti-Corruption and Religious Affairs Department's branches. Below: An immigration Department official briefs the ruler on aspects of the duties of the department at the control post.



B\$18,000 goes the Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah Trust Fund for Orphans

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah has consented to give away prizes to the winners of a charity golf tournament. It was to vie for the Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah Golf Challenge Trophy and was organised to raise funds for the Duli Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah Trust Fund for Orphans. The tournament took place on 8 April, at the Royal Brunei Golf and Country Club at Jerudong near Bandar Seri Begawan.

The overall gross winner was Lt Colonel (Rtd) Haji Mahmud who carded a five-over 77. A stroke behind was Supt (Rtd) Haji Suot bin Moksini, while Major General (Rtd) Pengiran Dato Haji Abidin came in third with a score of 82.

In the overall nett division, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Mohammad Saifullah carded an astonishing 12-under-par 60 to beat Brigadier General (Rtd) Dato Haji Ibrahim Haji Mohammad by a wide margin of 10 strokes. Ken Kho was third, a stroke behind Dato Haji Ibrahim, with a nett score of 71.

A total of 108 golfers participated in the charity event that generated \$14,600 from green fees but the amount was topped up to \$18,000 by the or-



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah presenting a cheque for B\$18 thousand raised during the Crown Prince's Golf Challenge Trophy tournament in aid of the Duli Pengiran Muda Al-Muhtadee Billah Trust Fund for Orphans, received by the fund's chairman, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdul Rahman.

ganisers Lim Teck Hoo Holdings. There were also other divisions' winners at the tournament.

Pengiran Dato Haji Yusof bin Pengiran Haji Kula emerged champion of Division A with a nett score of 73, beating Pehin Col Haji Md Yusof by a stroke. Awang Johari was a stroke further off the pace to finish third.

In Division B, Dr Mohd Alif carded a 72 nett score and wins the title. Yang

Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Dato Laila Utama Haji Abdul Rahim beat Dato Haji Danial for second place on the countback after both had carded similar scores of 73.

In Division C, Pehin Col Haji Halbi emerged champion of this group with a one-under 71. Lim Beng Thai finished second and Hj Haliliddin third after countback. Both had ended the day at even-par 72.

Also present at the ceremony was the chairman of the Crown Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah Trust Fund for Orphans, Pehin Dato Laila Utama Haji Abdul Rahim as well as other board members of the fund.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah presents prize to Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Dato Laila Utama Haji Abdul Rahim, one of the winners in the Crown Prince's Golf Challenge Trophy tournament.

More than 5,000 patients in the Sultanate have been registered as suffering from psychiatric illnesses

According to figures compiled from the Psychiatric Department's records since early 1983, more than 5,000 patients in the Sultanate have been registered as suffering from psychiatric illnesses.

These patients have been specifically treated on a daily basis and short term at the outpatients' clinics of the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) hospital and Suri Seri Begawan hospital in the Belait District. This was stated by the Acting Minister of Health, Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Pehin Dato Haji Awang Umar, prior to the launch of World Health Day 2001 with the theme 'Stop Exclusion-Dare To Care' or 'Jangan Sisihkan-Beri Pemedulian'. The ceremony took place on 10 April at the Empire Hotel and Country Club in Jerudong.

Pehin Dato Haji Abul Aziz also pointed out the fact that the norms and family traditions in the country are an unseen cure for mental illnesses.

"Praise to Almighty Allah, the strong family ties inherited from past generations have been able to ease the suffering of those with mental illnesses as they are never singled out or discriminated against. In fact they are given the necessary support, care and help that they truly need", he said.

Nevertheless, he regretted the situation where a few people still choose to discriminate against those with mental illness and this factor has become a stumbling block for patients and their family members to seek an early treatment. There are also those who cannot accept the fact that they are suffering from a psychiatric illness.

"Lack of essential knowledge about mental illnesses and psychiatric disturbances has also created other wrong perceptions in the minds of public who feel that these patients are possessed or spiritually harmed by sorcery.

"In striving towards a better life and carrying out daily routines in a stressful environment, we should strive to achieve well balanced mental health by practising good and religious deeds," he added.

Global health indicators show that

Brunei Darussalam has achieved the highest quality of life.

In this regard the Ministry of Health is not only keen to provide first-class health and medical services but also serious in developing local human resources for the delivery of such services.

But this Bruneisation programme in the medical and health services does not mean that the authorities are no longer keen to hire foreign experts to help the nation deliver such services.

He acknowledged that Brunei is still largely dependent on foreign doctors and medical staff especially in the areas of experienced specialists.

"Indeed we truly appreciate their contribution so far, this is to prove over what can be seen as misconception in the community following an alleged mass departure of foreign doctors from Brunei hospitals".

It appears that certain quarters and even some in the medical field were not too happy with the recent departure of a number of well-known foreign doctors and specialists. Sadly the return in droves of local doctors and specialists from their studies abroad to fill the posts vacated by the foreign doctors has failed to excite many people in the health and medical circles.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Aziz in his speech expressed his concern over such developments and stressed that he needed

to comment on it for fear that it could lead to further misunderstanding and squabbling among people in the health and medical sector.

He also added the localisation programme in the health and medical sector is being carried out in stages.

Also present were WHO's representative for the West Pacific Region for Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Singapore, Dr. U.H. Susantha De Silva and consulting experts from WHO, Prof. Dr. M. Parameshwara Deva and Datuk Dr. Aziz bin Abdullah.

Meanwhile Datin Paduka Dr. Hajjah Intan, Director General of Medical Services, in her opening speech noted that 25 per cent of outpatient cases are reported to be experiencing mental disorders or neurological problems. However, two-thirds of the cases are being handled well by staff in the clinics without consulting a psychiatric expert in the hospital.

"Several medical courses and talks by the consulting expert from the WHO and psychiatric expert lecturer from St. George's Medical School, London are being held at the RIPAS Hospital and Suri Seri Begawan Hospital in Kuala Belait", she added.

The launching ceremony was also followed with an exhibition on mental health jointly organised by the Counseling Unit and Special Education Unit of the Education Ministry.



The acting Health Minister, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, who is also the Education Minister – 3rd from left, at World Health Day 2001 celebration.

Royal Brunei Airlines' (RBA) aircraft are now carrying the logo of the Visit Brunei Year 2001 to support the government's efforts in promoting tourism.

The national carrier unveiled the VBY2001 logo on April 11 on its planes at a ceremony officiated by Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Haji Awang Zakaria, the Minister of Communications.

An RBA press release stated, "Royal Brunei Airlines has been promoting advertisements in selected travel industry publications.

RBA has been sponsoring many journalists and travel agencies from Europe, the Middle and Far East and Australia on incentive trips to visit Brunei. As a result of these arrangements Brunei Darussalam is well known throughout the 22 destinations that the national airlines flies to.

At the ceremony, a cultural performance was held by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. Accompanied by the Executive Director of Royal Brunei Airlines, Pengiran Ali bin Pengiran Haji Ahmad, the guest of honour sprinkled scented flowers on the Boeings 767-300 ER.

A total of ten RBA aircraft are carrying the Visit Brunei Year 2001 logo, which were been cleaned thoroughly before the VBY 2001 logos were pasted on. The stickers meet the safety standard. The VBY 2001 logo and calendar of events/activities organised in the Sultanate in conjunction with VBY 2001 are also provided inside the aircraft.

It is hoped that the VBY2001 logo will attract more passengers and tourists to Brunei and create awareness of Visit Brunei Year 2001.

Representatives from travel associations and the Brunei Tourism Department also sprinkled scented flowers on the aircraft in a ritual known locally as "Menabur Bunga Rampai" which is part of the Brunei culture.

Also present were members of Board of Directors and management staff of RBA, as well as tour operators and hoteliers. Previously, RBA planes had carried the images of the Brunei 1999 SEA Games mascot "Awang Budiman", during the games in the Sultanate.

Royal Brunei Airlines' aircraft carry Visit Brunei Year 2001 logo in support of government efforts to promote tourism



The Communications Minister, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Zakaria commissions the carrying of the Visit Brunei Year 2001 logo aboard Royal Brunei Airline's aircraft around the airline's 22 destinations in Asia, Middle-East and Europe.

**From page 2
(World Meteorological Day)*

chart plotting system project; upgrading the satellite weather image retrieval system; and the networking of weather information system.

Brunei Darussalam's meteorological service was established in tandem with the utilisation of the civil international airport in the 1950s. Initially the meteorological service functioned as supporting entity only. Today its competence encompasses weather advisory and predictions for the general

public, government agencies, private firms and the preparation of climate data information.

Brunei Darussalam joined the World Meteorological Organisation on November 1984 and has been an active participant in matters pertaining to meteorology, weather studies and related areas. Brunei cooperates in monitoring, collecting, processing and data dissemination and integrated meteorological product. It also engages in international exchange of data and meteorological product as voluntary contribution to the international body.



The Communications Minister, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Zakaria cuts the ribbon during a ceremony in observance of the World Meteorological Day held at the arrival hall of the Brunei International airport.

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources has urged entrepreneurs in fisheries to develop the industry not only in the aspect of consistent production, but more importantly in its quality in order to be able to face competitions. They also need to change a strategy to improve instant capacity to meet local and foreign markets.

In a speech read by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Awang Haji Abdul Rahman, at a seafood festival held at the ministry on 3 April, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Rahman said that the ministry would continue to cooperate with the private sector in efforts to increase their production and enter a new market.

The ministry would continue to provide infrastructure facilities for development, and incentives to attract more participation of locals and foreigners to implement projects with new technology in the fisheries industry, he said.

The growth of fisheries industry in Brunei Darussalam is still below ex-

pectation, with the fixed growth-rate of about 2.5 percent. In 1999 the industry produced B\$41 million. However, the country still imports 50 percent of fish and seafoods from neighbouring countries.

The minister pointed that the low growth-rate might probably be due to several factors, such as the target of local market or the insufficient supply that could not meet the increasing overseas' demand.

The seafood festival aimed to promote opportunities and the seafood industry as well as the industry-related activities and the Visit Brunei Year 2001 campaign.

The one-month festival was filled with various programmes, which included fishing competition, the selling of fresh seafood, and exhibition and seminars related to fisheries.

Entrepreneurs in fisheries urged to develop consistent production and quality



The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim called for increased output in fishery to meet both local and foreign markets.

Atmosphere that contributes to the development of a safe and efficient transportation system needed

The Permanent Secretary of the Communications Ministry has stressed the need to encourage an institution's atmosphere that could contribute to the development of a safe and efficient transportation system for both the consumers and suppliers' convenience.

The rapid growth in transportation industry, particularly in the airlines sector is expected to continue in the 21st century, and this continuing growth has brought about challenges and opened up new opportunities in the transportation industry, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdullah said.

"The government and the industry, therefore, should cooperate to face these challenges and strive to seek solutions to existing problems," he added.

Officiating at the 19th APEC Transportation Working Group at the International Convention Centre on 2 April, the official said that this was important because the capability of transportation system to conduct the movement of people and goods were critical in maximising economic productivity and



The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communications, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdullah, 3rd from left facing camera, opens the 19th APEC Transportation Working Group meeting.

to ease trade and public transportation.

The meeting discussed, among others, cooperation among member countries, issues on regional transportation in APEC region, which included the increase in competition in the industry and its infrastructure, a safe and environment-friendly system of transportation, and new technologies and human resources development.

It also discussed preparations for the third APEC Transport Ministers

Meeting to be held in Peru in early October this year. The meeting was co-chaired by the Special Duties Officer of the Ministry of Communications, Awang Haji Metassan bin Haji Md. Daud and Mr. Nigel Mouat from New Zealand.

210 delegates from 18 APEC member countries, including 50 from Brunei Darussalam and observers from regional and international transport associations attended the meeting.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has granted an audience to Yang Amat Mulia Dato Syarif Temenggung of Perlis, Dato' Seri Diraja Syed Amir Abidin ibni Al-Marhum Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail, at Istana Nurul Iman on 5 April.

Yang Amat Mulia, who led a delegation of official envoys of His Majesty Seri Paduka Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin ibni Al-Marhum Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail, the Sultan of Perlis, was in the sultanate to present a letter from the Sultan of Perlis.

The delegation included Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Yazid bin Mat, a member of the State Parliament, Yang Berhormat Encik Yaacob bin Md. Sam, the State's Legal Adviser and Haji Mohd. Sokri bin Haji Hussin, Confidential Secretary to His Majesty the Sultan of Perlis.

A SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE SULTAN OF PERLIS IN AUDIENCE



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam converses with Yang Amat Mulia Tengku Syarif Temenggung of the Malaysian State of Perlis, Dato' Seri Diraja Syed Amir Abidin who led a special delegation of emissaries from The Sultan of Perlis, His Majesty Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin ibni Al-Marhum Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail.

What's happening NOW and NEXT month in Brunei Darussalam?

April

Sample a wide assortment of seafoods in our month-long seafood festival; and have fun in a freshwater fishing competition. For the more adventurous, why not go on a both thrilling and challenging 4x4 off-road safari over some of Borneo's most rugged terrains in the surroundings of lush-green tropical jungles.

May

Brunei International Fishing Competition open to all fishing enthusiasts.

Visit www.visitbrunei.com or email bruneitourism@brunet.bn for more details.



Brunei In Brief

Official name: Negara Brunei Darussalam
Capital: Bandar Seri Begawan
Land size: 5675 sq. km
Geographical Position: North-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia
Population: 336,376 (July 2000 estimate)
National Carrier: Royal Brunei Airlines

Official Language: Malay
Official Religion: Islam
Official Website: www.brunei.gov.bn
March Rainfall: 207.7 mm

The Trafficking and illegal importation of Controlled Drugs are very serious offences in Brunei Darussalam and the penalty is death.

Printed by BRUNEI PRESS SDN.BHD. Lot 8 & 11, Perindustrian Beribi II, Jalan Gadong, Brunei Darussalam.