



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with Brunei and WHO officials at the inauguration of the 52nd session of the World Health Organisation Regional Committee for the Western Pacific.

**Work
together
to combat
diseases,
achieve
health for
all**

In spite of the advancements made in the medical field, there still lies ahead major challenges in finding cures for some diseases.

Amongst the most alarming of the diseases for which cures have yet to be found are HIV-AIDS and Ebola. At the same time, diseases which had been brought under control previously, such as malaria and TB, are re-emerging.

Outlining these disturbing facts, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam underpinned the need for countries to work together in combating the diseases as well as self-inflicted health phenomena, such as the effects of smoking and consequences of environmental and industrial pollution.

The Brunei monarch was inaugurating the fifty second session of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Committee for the Western Pacific, which Brunei Darussalam hosted from 10 to 14 September.

The scenerio, however, is not all one of gloom. On a brighter and more optimistic note, His Majesty was happy to note that Brunei Darussalam, along with other countries in the Western Pacific region were last year certified by WHO as free of polio.

Brunei Darussalam itself has been declared malaria-free since 1987, and through its aggressive and expanded programme of immunization, has kept at

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YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 30 September 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.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam meeting senior delegates from WHO member countries as well as NGO's representatives shortly after he officially opened the 52nd session of WHO regional committee for the Western Pacific.

** From page one
(52nd WHO session)*

low level major vaccine-preventable child-hood diseases (tetanus, whooping cough, diptheria, amongst others).

His Majesty said that in a little more than a hundred years the advance of medicine and health care has transformed human life in quality and expectations. "For over half a century now, this work has been inspired by the World Health Organisation. It has truly made remarkable progress and confronted the great scourges of human history and, in many cases, it has removed them from every continent.

"We are grateful to the WHO for the guidance they have given us in our efforts to keep up with changes in medical and health care. With improvements in health standards in the country, our people are now enjoying over-

all good health", the ruler added.

His Majesty said HIV-AIDS and Ebola are potentially devastating to the people and societies as any ancient plague, and the situation is compounded by the rising co-infection with TB amongst HIV-AIDS sufferers. There is also the increasing problem of multi-drug resistance to TB in some countries.

The ruler commended WHO for the scope of its agenda at the fifty second session in addressing these and many new pandemics, sometimes self-inflicted health phenomena ranging from the effects of smoking on individuals to the medical and social consequences of environmental and industrial pollution.

Brunei Darussalam, His Majesty assured, will be paying very careful at-

** Continued on page 3*



His Majesty talking to the WHO regional director for the Western Pacific Dr. Shigeru Omi, while the WHO Director General, Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland and Brunei's acting health minister, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Aziz look on.

* From page 2
(52nd WHO session)

tention to WHO's recommendations.

"Among the many items for discussions, we will be especially interested in the results of your Ministerial Roundtable on mental health", he told the gathering at the opening ceremony, held at the Brunei International Convention Centre.

His Majesty disclosed that his government, through the Ministry of Health, has implemented a 10-year National Health Care Plan beginning in the year 2000 up to 2010. According to His Majesty, this has identified priority health issues, and set policy directions and strategic goals in providing excellence in health-care.

More than 150 delegates representing both government and non-governmental agencies from 37 countries and health ministers from round the West Pacific region attended the meet-



His Majesty converses with the Director General of the World Health Organisation, Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland during an audience at Istana Nurul Iman.

ing, conducted over the five days at the Empire Hotel and Country Club in Jerudong, about 20 kilometers from the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

Brunei Darussalam's acting health minister, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Aziz chairing the meeting.



Monarch presents letter of appointment to Brunei diplomat and receives credentials of foreign envoys

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on 13 September at Istana Nurul Iman, consented to present a letter of appointment to a Sultanate's new high commissioner and receive credentials of foreign envoys to the country.

His Majesty presented a letter of appointment to His Excellency Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abd. Aziz bin Muhammad, Brunei Darussalam's new high commissioner to Canada. His Excellency was previously ambassador to the Republic of Korea.

** Continued on page 4*



Brunei Darussalam's new high commissioner in Ottawa, His Excellency Dato Haji Abd. Aziz bin Muhammad receives his letter of appointment from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

* From page 3
(credentials)

The ruler then received the credentials of India's new high commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Ajai Choudhry, the ambassador of the Arabic Republic of Egypt, His Excellency Mr. Ossama Mohamed Anwar El-Ashiry, the ambassador of Argentina, His Excellency Mr. Armando Juan Jose Maffei and the high commissioner of the Federated Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Ibrahim Yarima Abdullahi.

His Excellency Mr. Ossama Mohamed Anwar El-Ashiry, aged 58 years, is also his country's General Consul to Hong Kong.

His Excellency Mr. Armando Juan Jose Maffei is also his country's ambassador to Malaysia. His previous appointments have included as ambassador to the United Kingdom and Viet Nam. Both ambassadors and the Nigerian high commissioner are based in Kuala Lumpur.

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

They were also received in audience the same day at Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Foreign Affairs, during which they discussed bilateral matters.



India's new high commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Ajai Choudhry presents his credential to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, above.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving the credentials of Egypt's new ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Ossama Mohamed Anwar El-Ashiry, above, and Argentina's ambassador, His Excellency Armando Juan Jose Maffei, below.



His Excellency Ibrahim Yarima Abdullahi, Nigeria's new high commissioner presents his credential to the Brunei monarch upon assuming his posting in Bandar Seri Begawan.





Above: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting the challenge trophy to the overall winner – the A contingent of the Royal Brunei Armed forces.



Above: The ruler trying his skills with a pistol during the pistol event, in which he led his own team.

Officials of the Royal Brunei Armed forces greeting His Majesty on arrival at the Binturan shooting range, right.



His Majesty officially closes Brunei International Skills-At-Arms Meet

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has officially closed the Seventh Brunei International Skills-At-Arms Meet (BISAM) and presented prizes to winners of the competitions at the Binturan Shooting Range of Penanjong Garrison in Tutong district, on 4 September.

The Deputy Minister of Defence, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General (Rtd) Pengiran Haji Ibnu Ba'asith and the Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), Major General Dato Haji Awang Mohd. Jaafar welcomed His Majesty on arrival at the garrison.

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The UBD Chancellor (His Majesty himself) and officials enter the plenary hall of the International Convention Centre in a procession led by the bearer of the cokmar or mace, which is in the form of the Mushaf Brunei Darussalam Koran.



One of the new graduates receives her degree certificate from His Majesty, above, while others anxiously await their turns.



** From back page
(UBD Convocation)*

ing many more post-graduate programmes and introducing new academic programmes at the same time.

“These opportunities must be competed for by Bruneians themselves, whether as fresh graduates or from amongst government officers”, urged His Majesty.

Quality manpower can be upgraded in this way to meet the demand of development and changing times.

His Majesty further said he would also like to see UBD as a pioneer of research by playing a more active role, for instance, in collaborative research projects with local and foreign agencies and institutions.

“The outcomes of the researches can then be made use of beneficially by both the public and private sectors”, pointed His Majesty.

His Majesty’s government had early this year introduced various apprenticeship schemes for degree graduates and technical and vocational diploma holders to provide them with job skills in effort to make them more ‘marketable’, and to reduce unemployment amongst this job-seeking group. The apprenticeship involves six-month training attachments with government agencies and the private sector.

His Majesty urged UBD to have a

** Continued on page 7*



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, who's Pro-Chancellor of the UBD, in a group photograph with the university's senate committee members during the university's 13th convocation ceremony, held at the International Convention Centre.

** From page 6
(UBD Convocation)*

hand in this too, by producing graduates who are more marketable to the private sector and by making them more enterprising in starting up own business concerns.

This will reduce the dependence of the graduates on the government sector for employment, His Majesty pointed.

His Majesty noted the number of students enrolled at the UBD was increasing steadily from one year to the next, and reminded that this should not be at the expense of forsaking quality.

"Quality must be upheld and UBD must not compromise on matters that can jeopardise the quality it has", His Majesty said, while add-

ing, "I frankly believe that graduates with quality, knowledge and excellence are most needed in this challenge-laden globalisation era".

His Majesty, who is the Chancellor of UBD, presented degree certificates to more than 630 graduates at the ceremony, after completing their four-year studies in various discipline of studies.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah presenting a diploma certificate to a graduate, left, and being briefed on an exhibition held in conjunction with UBD's Convo Festival, above.

** From page 5
(BISAM)*

His Majesty was introduced to the chiefs of defence, commanders of the armed forces and heads of contingents taking part in the meet, and members of the executive committee, before being briefed on BISAM.

The Brunei ruler watched a competition held at the Shooting Range Gallery before he proceeded to the Pistol Carbine Electrical Range (PCER), where he led a

team and participated in the pistol shooting event for individuals and VIPs.

The winner of the seventh BISAM was the 'A' team of the RBAF and received His Majesty's Trophy. The runner up were the Malaysian Military Forces while the Singapore Military Forces was placed third.

A total of 299 personnel from seven countries, namely Australia,

Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the United Kingdom and Brunei Darussalam took part in the competition. The seven-day meet began on 29 August and was launched by the Deputy Defence Minister.

The meet, which is held every two years, is aimed to highlight the efficiency and skills of shooters and to provide them the opportunity to interact and promote the spirit of friendship.

New Commissioner of High Court appointed

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to appoint Judge James Kevr Findlay as the Commissioner of the High Court.

The letter of appointment was read by the Grand Chamberlain, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Penggawa Laila Bentara Diraja Dalam Istana Pengiran Haji Alauddin during the swearing-in ceremony at Istana Nurul Iman on 30 August.

Also present at the ceremony was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah.

Judge James Kevr Findlay, aged 65 years, began his career as a policeman in 1954 in Zimbabwe, Southern Africa, and joined the judicial career in 1958 as a clerk responsible for supervising and managing the biggest magistrate court in Zimbabwe.



Judge James Kevr Findlay receiving his letter of appointment from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna said, as a member of World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), Brunei Darussalam's Girl Guides Association will always support and carry out projects based on several topics, such as peace, environment, health and education.

In relevance to the need of time, the association this year will conduct a cleaning campaign as part of its efforts to make people aware of the importance of the environment in the development and growth of man's heritage – one of the aspirations of WAGGGS.

Officiating at the Peace Day celebration and launch of its projects at a hotel in Jerudong, on 7 September, Her Royal Highness who is the President of the country's Girl Guides Association hoped that the campaign would instill the understanding that the environment is the country's symbol, and an asset as well as natural resources for future generation.

Such awareness, she said, would increase the number of world's citizens who love the beauty and cleanliness of the environment, and care for its maintenance to meet the sustainable growth.

"It is, therefore, significant for all individuals to put cleanliness into priority in their daily life," she said.

Brunei's Girl Guides Association supports WAGGGS's aspiration



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna presenting a certificate of appreciation to a member of the coordinating committee for the seventh Asia-Pacific Convention of World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).

Her Royal Highness also hoped that the projects would encourage and guide Girl Guides and their leaders to become healthy members of the community, and being responsible to themselves, their family, the society and the country.

She further assured that the Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam would give due concern in such effort by providing guidance and training through well-organised activities in accordance with local needs, culture, ways of life and social values.

The Peace Day is an annual activity of the association, aimed at providing

benefits to the needy through the implementation of social works. The 27th World Conference for the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts Association in Singapore in 1990 stated that each member country should choose a date in September to be recognised as Peace Day.

Peace has been of great concern to WAGGGS. In its 26th World Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, and also in conjunction with the proclamation by the United Nations on International Peace Decade, the WAGGGS calls on every association to conduct activities of peace elements.

Policies, strategies and research collectively needed for effective fight against drugs



Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam said, the task of preventing the widespread use of gateway drugs should not only be addressed with the formulation of policies or strategies, but should also be complemented with continuous research and studies by academicians, professionals, think tanks as well as through the involvement of the youths themselves.

“Such efforts go a long way towards creating a better and more secure future for our youths”, she said, before declaring open the 11th International Federation of Non-Government Organisation for the prevention of drug and substance abuse (IFNGO) ASEAN NGOs Workshop held at a hotel in Jerudong, on 14 September.

“Our youths are our future. Our nation’s prosperity depends on the well being of our people, and the continued well being can only be guaranteed by the well being of our generations. Our future is dependent on our ability to eradicate drug abuse from our youths”, Her Royal Highness said.

The battle to combat drug abuse in general and the focus on preventing it from destroying our youths, she added, is a long and arduous task that should not be taken lightly.

Her Royal Highness pointed that research has indicated that alcohol and

Above: Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam on arrival to officiate the opening of a seminar on drugs, at which she urged for concrete steps to be taken against drugs.

Right: Her Royal Highness being briefed by an official on various types of drugs which were on display in conjunction with the seminar.



Right: Her Royal Highness mingles with representatives from ASEAN countries participating in the workshop.

** Continued on page 11*

Upgrade cooperation between Brunei- Malaysia and Brunei - Vietnam

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Foreign Affairs has said, Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia should open up opportunity for new cooperation for the benefit of their communities.

The minister appreciated the traditional friendship and long-established cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia. Both countries have an annual consultation between their leaders and activities which involved senior officials. Both countries are also members of many organisations at regional and international levels.

In a speech at a reception marking the 44th Malaysia Independence Day at the International Convention Centre in Berakas early this month, His Royal Highness pointed that it is acknowledged that Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia were faced with various specific challenges.

But what we should take into account was how both countries could work together to help their community in the best way to develop their talent and initiatives, he said.

For his part, the Malaysian High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr. Salman Ahmad, among other things, touched on the need for Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam to upgrade their cooperation and provide mutual assistance to achieve their respective vision and aspiration.

His Excellency was also happy to note the development of cooperation in the civil service and military between the two countries. He also said that the joint programmes which involved officials of both countries have brought about a close understanding network.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah was also the guest of honour at a reception marking the 56th National Day of Viet Nam early this month. He spoke on the need to upgrade cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Vietnam.

He said, Brunei Darussalam would always work together as cooperative partner for the benefit of the peoples of both countries.

Meanwhile, the Vietnamese ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Tran Tien Vinh said, his country and Brunei Darussalam are close friends, and Brunei Darussalam has strongly supported Viet Nam's admission into ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations), ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) and WTO (World Trade Organisation).



Top picture: His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and his wife, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah, Malaysia's high commissioner in Bandar Seri Begawan, His Excellency Salman Ahmad and his wife stand to the national anthems of Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia at the start of celebration marking Malaysia's 44th Independence Day anniversary. Above: His Royal Highness and Vietnamese ambassador His Excellency Tran Tien Vinh cutting the cake at celebration marking Vietnam's 56th National Day, while their wives look on.

His Royal Highness was accompanied at both functions by Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah.

Call to properly plan, monitor and implement the development of manpower

The development of manpower should be properly planned, monitored and implemented in order to maintain and upgrade manpower productivity in the face of the rapid change in technology.

This is important as the country needs competitive and productive human resources who can increase its economic growth, especially in the investment and marketing aspects.

Highlighting the significance before he declared open this year's Science Week held at Nakhoda Ragam Vocational School in Lambak Kanan, Berakas on 1 September, the Deputy Minister of Education and acting Development Minister, Dato Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad bin Haji Jumat said, science, mathematics and technology education needs to be enhanced so that the skill of an individual can meet the rapid change of technology.

He said, having a broad knowledge and skill in science, mathematics and technology would enable an individual to practise and master new technology.

In this respect, the role of science, mathematics and technology educators would ensure students to have basic knowledge and skill in these fields before they left school, he said, while adding that, the strong basic education in these fields would help create more effective workers in the growth of knowledge-based industries.

On efforts to diversify the country's economic resources so that the economy does not depend solely on oil and gas, the minister said that the government has emphasised on the growth of manufacturing sector and services which required workers with knowledge and high cognitive skill.

"Teachers should play their part in producing a workforce with the efficiency in analysing and planning, with the ability to think in a logical and critical manner and communicate", said Dato Dr. Haji Ahmad.

He also lamented over the reduced number of students studying science subjects, mathematics and technology at the upper secondary and advanced levels, which was partly due to weak achievements.

"This is partly because there are teachers who do not emphasise on the importance of these subjects, and their relations with the daily life both locally and internationally", he pointed.

"Research has also indicated that there are teachers who fail to prepare a strategy to make these subjects interesting as well as a lack of encouragement for students to enter science classes and mathematics," the deputy minister added.

He later urged educators to find various teaching means and methodology to meet the learning requirement of every student, and reminded students that they would one day face a more sophisticated technology for an industrial sector.

A total of 99 students from 33 schools and colleges in the country took part in the Science Week, organised by the Brunei Association of Science Education (BASE).



Dato Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad bin Haji Jumat, acting Development Minister who is also the Deputy Minister of Education, taking a close look at the exhibition put up by schools and colleges participating in the Science and Technology Week 2001 at Nakhoda Ragam Vocational School.

** From page 9
(11th IFNGO ASEAN NGOs Workshop)*

tobacco are usually the first forms of drugs that young people are inclined to try. It also has indicated that school children who smoke every day are ten times more likely to use other forms of drugs than children who do not smoke, while adolescents who drink alcohol are more likely to use other drugs compared to those who do not consume alcohol at all.

"Parents who think that their children are merely smoking tobacco or drinking alcohol and that this is not as serious as consuming drugs, should think again", she urged.

According to Her Royal Highness, by using alcohol and tobacco, young people may develop tenden-

cies and behaviours that can be associated with using drugs – such as taking the risk in obtaining substances illegally, being dishonest and unscrupulous in their actions, and ultimately taking chances on themselves, and there is a strong evidence that using these substances initially will eventually lead them to try out hard drugs.

She was happy to note that the workshop with its theme 'New Dimensions in Drug Abuse Prevention' has placed greater emphasis on the prevention of the so-called gateway drugs such as alcohol and tobacco.

"By understanding the grave potential threat of gateway drugs, we should then be able and willing to explore all and any possible ways to prevent these gateway drugs from our youths", said Her Royal Highness.

Work to achieve level of excellence of established overseas institutions

Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), as an institution of higher learning aspired to be a centre of multi-disciplined knowledge, has been urged to strive to achieve excellence that is at parity with that of established and renowned foreign institutions.

At the same time, it should offer more programmes that would be better able to meet the demands of the job markets.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made the call at the thirteenth convocation of UBD on 6 September, held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas near Bandar Seri Begawan, the Brunei Darussalam capital.

His Majesty was pleased to note, however, that the UBD has begun to move in this direction by offer-

** Continued on centre page*



University of Brunei Darussalam's 13th convocation saw more than 600 students graduate with degrees and diplomas, which were presented to them by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, who is Chancellor of the university.



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

September

- International Jet Ski Championship
- Go Kart International
- Fruit Festival
- International Tourism Fair
- NBT Asian Football Club Competition
- Jungle Marathon

October

- Mountain Bike Open Championship
- International Motorcross Challenge
- Brunei Shopping Carnival

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

August Rainfall: 129.8 mm

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

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