

بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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Brunei Darussalam – Vietnam relations strong, said their leaders

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, His Excellency Mr Tran Duc Luong both have expressed their satisfaction at the good and friendly relations between the two countries.

The two leaders made the statement following their bilateral meeting on November 12, at Istana Nurul Iman in Bandar Seri Begawan, at the start of a three-day state visit by the Vietnamese head of state to the Sultanate.

During the meeting, His Majesty and His Excellency Mr Tran Duc Luong discussed issues of mutual interest, and exchanged views on regional and international matters. The Vietnamese leader also took the opportunity to extend an invitation for the Brunei monarch to visit Vietnam.

Earlier in the day, His Excellency President Tran Duc Luong was accorded a red-carpet welcome at a ceremony in front of Istana Nurul Iman, where he inspected a guard of honour



Accompanied by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, The Vietnamese President His Excellency Tran Duc Luong inspects a guard of honour mounted by men of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces in front of Istana Nurul Iman as part of his official welcoming ceremony at the start of his three-day state visit to Brunei Darussalam.

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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 15 December 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's surprise visit to schools

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam recently made a series of surprise visits to various educational institutions in the capital and in Tutong district.

On November 10, His Majesty first visited Duli Pengiran Muda Al-Muhtadee Billah College located at Jalan Pasar Gadong.

The Minister of Education Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Aziz and the Principal of the college Awang Jamal bin Haji Kahar accompanied his Majesty as His Majesty toured the college.

His Majesty visited the classrooms, teachers' and staff room, library, Information Communication Technology Dept, the Principal's and Deputy Principal's offices and the general office of the college.

During the visit, the caring monarch spoke freely with the students and their teachers. He also asked students about the studies at the college, their dress code and discipline in general.

Later His Majesty drove down to

another part of the capital to Chung Hwa School, the only privately run Chinese school in the Brunei-Muara District.

On arrival at the Chung Hwa School His Majesty was greeted by the Chairman of the school Mr Ang Swee Chuan and Principal Madam Kho Guik Lan.

From Chung Hwa School, His Majesty then proceeded to the Kampong Danau in Tutong District. His Majesty arrived there by helicopter and landed at Tanjong Danau. There His Majesty made his first stop at a prawn hatchery -ITQAN Sdn Bhd, a local firm.

His Majesty continued his visit to the Danau and Tumpuan Telisai primary schools. The Danau primary school has 13 teachers while the Tumpuan Telisai primary school has 29 teachers and more than 280 students. His Majesty also visited the Ketua Kampong Hj Abdullah Rashid's residence. Kampong Danau has about 800 residents.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam happily obliges a student with an autograph during the ruler's surprise visit to the Duli Pengiran Muda Al-Muhtadee Billah College – one of the institutions which caters for sixth form studies in the country. Looking on at the extreme left is Education Minister Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Aziz.



Left: The Brunei monarch informally talks to students as he toured the Duli Pengiran Muda Al-Muhtadee Billah College. Below left: His Majesty poses with the ketua (headman) of Kampong Danau in Tutong district during his visit to the village, which also included a visit to the village school.



Above: Pupils of Chung Hwa Secondary School eagerly await turn to greet His Majesty while some of their teachers look on.



The headmasters of the Tumpuan Telisai and Kampong Danau Primary Schools, above and right respectively, briefed His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam about various aspects of the respective school.



Royalty grants audiences



Madam Kaniz Fatema Hussain, wife of Bangladesh's outgoing high commissioner, during her audiences with Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha, left, and with Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam, above.

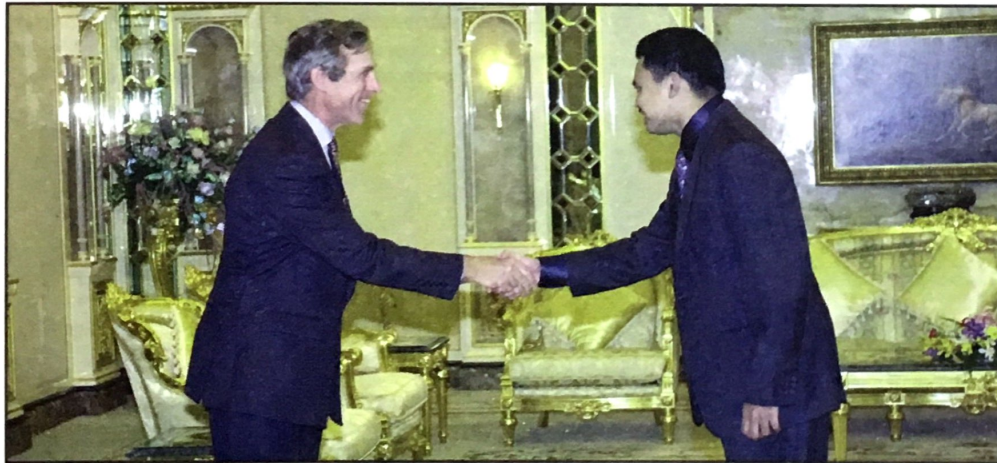
Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam consented to grant audiences separately to the wife of the outgoing Bangladeshi high commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, Madam Kaniz Fatema Hussain.

The audiences took place at Istana Nurul Iman in Jalan Tutong on 21 November and at Istana Nurul Izzah in Jerudong on 14 November, respectively.

On 26 November, also at Istana Nurul Iman, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah granted an audience to the British high commissioner to the Sultanate, His Excellency Mr. Stuart Laing.

His Royal Highness also granted an audience to the outgoing Bangladeshi high commissioner, His Excellency Mr. Muhammad Mumtaz Hussain on 15 November, and to the new Japanese ambassador to the Sultanate, His Excellency Mr. Hara Satoshi a day earlier. His Excellency presented his credential to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam late last month.

Also being granted an audience by His Royal Highness The Crown Prince was Singapore's high commissioner, His Excellency Mr. Tee Tua Ba.



Left: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Bullah greets Britain's high commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Stuart Laing.

Right: The Brunei Crown Prince in conversation with the Bangladesh high commissioner, His Excellency Muhammad Mumtaz Hussain, who has come to the end of his tour of duty in Bandar Seri Begawan.



Royalty at Nasyid competition of the Pertiwi Association



Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam presenting prizes to the leader of the winning team of the Nasyid competition.

Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam has presented prizes to winners of the National Nasyid Competition of the PERTIWI Association, on 2 November.

The President of PERTIWI, Datin Hajjah Jusnani said, other than being active in areas such as education, welfare, sports and economy, the association also puts religious activities into priority.

Accompanying Her Royal Highness were Their Royal Highnesses Princess Hajjah Masna and Princess Hajjah Noor Ehsani.

The function, held at the Islamic Dakwah Centre, was in conjunction with the Israk Mikraj, and is part of the association's annual activities. Five teams took part in the competition.

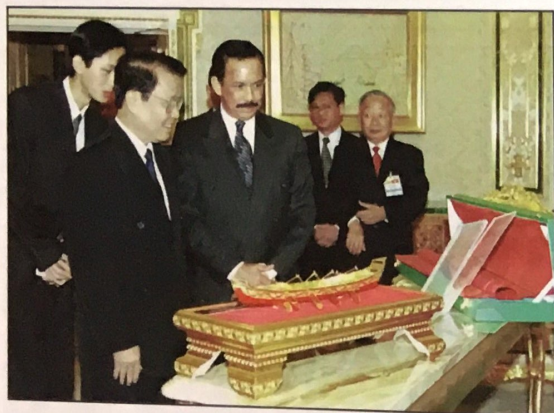


Left: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah granting an audience to Japan's incoming ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Hara Satoshi.

Right: Singapore's high commissioner, His Excellency Tee Tua Ba in conversation with the Brunei Crown Prince during his audience.



Right: His Excellency Vietnamese President Tran Duc Luong, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of the royal family as well as other guests stand in homage of the national anthems of the two countries at the start of a dinner at Istana Nurul Iman hosted by the Brunei monarch in honour of the visiting Vietnamese leader. Speaking at the function, both His Majesty and His Excellency expressed satisfaction at the strong relations between the two ASEAN neighbours.



Above and right: His Majesty and the Vietnamese President looking at souvenirs they had just exchanged during a brief ceremony which preceded the state dinner.



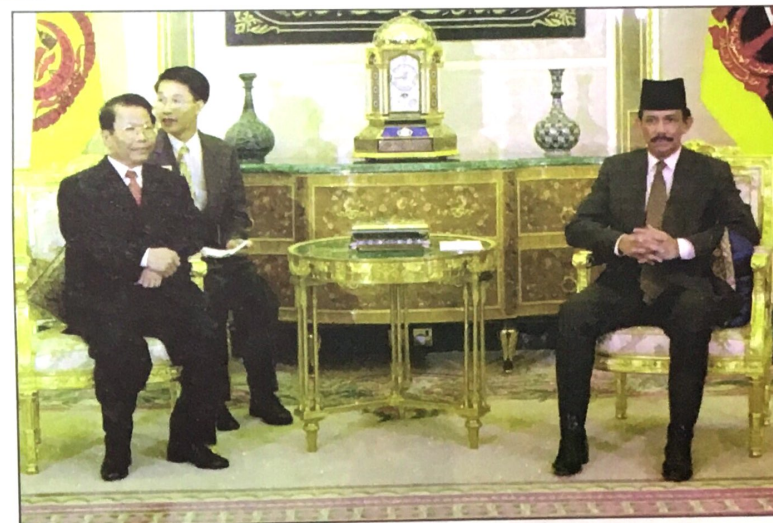
Left: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is introduced to members of the visiting Vietnamese delegation led by the country's President shortly after the official welcoming ceremony complete with a guard of honour in front of Istana Nurul Iman.

* From page one
(Visit of Vietnam's President)

by men of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and took the salute. At the Brunei international airport, the President who was accompanied by a 56-member delegation, was met by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Speaking at a state dinner at Istana Nurul Iman on November 13 in honour of the Vietnamese leader, His Majesty spoke of the special relations between Brunei Darussalam and Vietnam – recalling that it was in Brunei Darussalam that Vietnam was admitted as the seventh member of ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) in 1995. Since then, said the ruler, both countries have benefited from exchanges of visit by their respective ministers, senior government officers and members of the business sector.

These have given insights into practical opportunities which can be explored and developed together either on a bilateral basis or by ASEAN as a whole, His Majesty fur-



Above: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam granting an audience to His Excellency Tran Duc Luong at the start of the visit.

ther said.

This possibility is further reaffirmed with the establishment of the Brunei Darussalam-Vietnam Joint Commission of June last year, the ruler added.

In the wake of this commission, His Majesty said he would now like to see developments in the areas of education, tourism, trade and investment between the two ASEAN neighbours.

His Majesty also welcomed the signing of a maritime agreement and a memoran-

dum of understanding and cooperation on tourism, which were signed the previous day between the two countries.

His Majesty urged Vietnam to work together towards reviving the regional economy in the wake of the global recession, while acknowledging that the Vietnamese government, under His Excellency's leadership, possesses the will and determination to overcome such challenges.

The Brunei monarch praised the Vietnamese government for the progress it has made towards

* Continued on page 8

* From page 7
(Visit of Vietnam's President)

developing the country's economy, which have shown strong signs towards revival following the recent economic crisis hitting the region.

"As was emphasised at last week's ASEAN Summit, ASEAN must overcome many challenges, both domestic and global, if it were to continue to be relevant to the lives of its people", His Majesty asserted. (ASEAN leaders held their seventh summit in Bandar Seri Begawan for two days, on 5 and 6 November).

In the dinner address, the Brunei ruler also underscored the importance of solidarity and commitment among the 10 member countries of ASEAN if the grouping were to meet its goals for its 500 million people.

"For her part, Vietnam has shown its willingness to play its role", said His Majesty.

"As chair of the ASEAN Standing Committee, Brunei Darussalam values such attribute", His Majesty went on to say, while further expressing gratitude for Vietnam's support during the Sultanate's tenure of the ASEAN chair.

For his part, the Vietnamese President also spoke on, among other things, the great potentials that exist for wide-ranging economic cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Vietnam.

He hoped the existing cooperative and friendly relations would be further strengthened for the mutual benefit of their peoples.



Above: Brunei Darussalam's Communications Minister cum acting Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Zakaria and Vietnam's Minister of Transportation, His Excellency Le Ngoc Huan signing a maritime agreement.



The Vietnamese President visiting the BLNG (Brunei Liquefaction Natural Gas) plant at Lumut in Belait district – 80 kms from the Brunei capital where he was briefed by the LNG Chief Executive, Dato Haji Hamdillah, picture second from top. Above: Residents gave a traditional welcome to the Vietnamese leader when he visited Kampong Ayer (chains of villages on water) in Bandar Seri Begawan. Left: The Vietnamese President having a taste of some of the Brunei traditional kueh (sweetcakes) prepared by the residents of Kampong Lambak Kanan, one of the Brunei Darussalam's largest housing projects under the National Housing Development Plan.

Royalty at concert

Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam has consented to attend the London Festival Orchestra concert held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas, on November 10.

On arrival, Her Royal Highness was greeted by members of the London Festival Orchestra.

Thomas Woods conducted the orchestra, which performed Robert Schumann's Symphony No.3, Johannes Brahms' Symphony No.4, as well as a collection of works by English composers Benjamin Britten, William Walton, Ralph Vaughn Williams and G.F. Handel.

World-class soprano Judith Howard performed with the popular British orchestra. The highlight of the tour was a performance of musical pieces with local artistes to encourage international exchange through music, and the handing over of a cheque to Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam by Mr. Ninan Chacko.

It was for a sum of B\$80, 000 for the Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam which does a top job in looking after the less fortunate children in Brunei. The money was the proceeds from the concert's ticket sales.

The orchestra was brought into Brunei by the courtesy of Toyota Corporation of Japan which has been giving so much delight to local music lovers in sponsoring periodically world class orchestra in Brunei.



Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam speaking at the start of the concert, left, and receiving a cheque in aid of the Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam Centre for the less fortunates – the money being proceeds from the concert ticket sales.



Royal guests and others alike enjoying the evening as the orchestra went about with a wide variety of renditions.



Crown Prince witnesses the signing of an agreement on Business Partnership

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah has witnessed the signing ceremony of an agreement between IBM Brunei World Trade Corporation and a local company, Syabas Technologies, as IBM's System Integrator Business Partner. The ceremony was held at Jerudong Polo Club on 7 November.

The Chief Executive Officer, Shekh Abas bin Sheikh Mohammad signed on behalf of Syabas Technologies while Mr. Voon Seng Chuan, the General Country Manager represented the IBM.

Sheikh Abas said, the signing is aimed to meet the aspiration of His Majesty's Government to pioneer into the information infrastructure and global communication.

He said, the company was committed to the development of information and communication technology (ICT) in the country by providing knowledge and expertise particularly in establishing multi media, e-commerce, as well as consultation and marketing network.

To date, the company has 50 employees, of whom 70 per cent are highly qualified locals.

The ceremony was witnessed by several senior officials from both the government and private sectors.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah gets a briefing from the Chief Executive Officer of Syabas Technologies, Syeikh Abas bin Syeikh Mohammad above.



The Brunei Crown Prince and guests prior to the signing ceremony.



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hussain viewing an art exhibition by the Brunei-Japan Friendship Association.

Call to look into and develop business opportunities

Brunei – Japan Friendship Association (BJFA) was urged to look into and develop business opportunities by, among others, seeking relevant partnership in business and forum.

BJFA was also hoped to assist in providing programmes for technology transfer, capable of developing the growth of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the country based on the Japanese experience.

Making the call at the official launch of BJFC and of its first art exhibition at a leading hotel in Jerudong on 8 November, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Hussain believed that the association would strive to further develop its credibility to meet educational requirements and to extend cultural exchange programmes between Brunei Darussalam and Japan.

He also believed that the association, which among others, aims to promote and upgrade cooperation in cultural, economic, educational, recreational and technical fields between both countries would attract membership of local community and corporate entity.

On the art exhibition participated by both countries, the minister was confident that this would enable both parties to exchange views based on their respective professional experience.

Such interaction, he said, would further upgrade their knowledge and

skills in fine arts. The exhibition could also help provide opportunities for co-operation, create awareness and understanding on culture, traditions, belief and values, develop Asian culture and enhance the spirit of mutual respect, cooperation and prosperity among citizens.

The President of BJFC, Dato Awang Haji Hamdillah, meanwhile, reiterated the words of Japanese Premier His Excellency Junichiro Koizumi, who said that Japan wishes to upgrade its long-established bilateral relations with Brunei Darussalam besides its traditional trade of oil and gas.

Beginning with cultural initiative, the association would step further to cover cooperation in fields such as economy, technical and education, he said.

The Brunei-Japan Art Exhibition would become an annual activity of BJFA. A total of 100 art items by Brunei Art Association and Japan's International Arts Academy were displayed.

BJFA was formed in 1998 with full support from the Japanese embassy in Brunei Darussalam and Brunei Liquefied Natural Gas (BLNG) company. Its membership is opened to citizens and residents of the country or foreign community, local corporate, registered international firms and the founder of association with financial contribution to the establishment of BJFA.

Foreign envoys in audience

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Foreign Affairs has granted separate audiences to two foreign envoys, at Balai Penghadapan Bukit Kayangan on 31 October.

His Royal Highness first granted an audience to the new Japanese ambassador to the country, His Excellency Mr. Hara Satoshi. His Excellency, who was previously the General Counselor in Toronto, Canada, presented his letter of appointment to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam earlier the same day.

Also being granted an audience was His Excellency Mr. Adalbert Rittmuller, the ambassador of the Republic of the Federation of Germany.

His Excellency Mr. Adalbert Rittmuller had presented his letter of appointment to His Majesty at Istana Nurul Iman on 10 July.

During the audience, His Royal Highness and the ambassadors discussed bilateral matters.

His Majesty at funeral of Malaysian King



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with his brother, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah to his right, and others present upturn the palms of their hands in prayer for the late Yang DiPertuan Agong (paramount ruler) of Malaysia, His Majesty Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Al-Haj during the lying in state at Istana Negara .

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended on November 22 the funeral of the Yang DiPertuan Agong (paramount ruler) of Malaysia, His Majesty Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Al-Haj.

With His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was his eldest brother, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah.

His Majesty Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Al-Haj of the Malaysian State of Selangor Darul Ehsan and the eleventh to be elected paramount ruler or king under a rotational system among Malaysia's traditional rulers, passed away on November 21, at the age of 75 years.

Prior to the funeral, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah joined other leaders and people of Malaysia in paying their last respects and offering prayers as the late King lay in state at Istana Negara. He was laid to rest at the royal mausoleum in Klang in his home state.

What's happening NEXT month in Brunei Darussalam ?

December

- Hari Raya Aidilfitri
- 3rd ASEAN Orchid/ Floral Festival

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
October Rainfall: 482.7mm

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