



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

Published by the Department of Information
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

31 MAY 2001

Another step forward in enhancement of Brunei Darussalam – People's Republic of China relations

Cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China (PRC) are expected to be stepped up following high-level exchanges of visit this month between their leaders.

In the first of such visits, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made a three-tier visit from 15 May to 18 May to the PRC – the first leg to the Chinese capital, Beijing, then to the southern industrial city of Shenzhen, and the final leg to Hong Kong.

In Beijing, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam jointly chaired with PRC's President, His Excellency Jiang Zemin a high-level meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum on human capacity building.

The meeting was held for two days,



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency President Jiang Zemin of the People's Republic of China greet each other as they were about to hold a meeting at Zhong Nan Hai in Beijing. The two leaders jointly chaired this month's APEC high-level meeting on human capacity building.

15 – 16 May at the Great Hall of the People, at which both His Majesty and the Chinese leader made key-note addresses (See page 2 'Keeping abreast with technological developments in order to benefit from the New Economy').

In the course of the speech, the Brunei monarch expressed happiness over the friendship and cooperation the two countries now enjoy, especially in the ten years since their establishing formal diplomatic relations.

His Majesty gave assurance of Bru-

nei Darussalam's full support and assistance when the PRC hosts the Ninth APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) in Shanghai later this year, just as the PRC had done during Brunei Darussalam's hosting of the Eighth AELM in Bandar Seri Begawan last November.

His Majesty said that he had come to Beijing this time around in the same spirit of regional purpose and cooperation, in reference to the APEC high-

** Continued on page 5 (More pictures on pages 6, 7, 8 and 12)*

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 Zaianit Haji Noorkhan
Ak Jefferi Pg Duraman
Musa Mohidin

Layout/Design
Editorial Staff

Photographs
**Photography Division of
The Department of Information**

YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 15 June 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.

Keeping abreast with technological developments in order to benefit from the New Economy

Brunei Darussalam is resolved on developing its human resources (HRD) as a means of obtaining maximum benefit from the opportunities now opening up in the New Economy. As such, it was a proponent along with the People's Republic of China during last November's Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum's Eighth Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) in Bandar Seri Begawan for a high-level APEC in meeting to be convened with the focus on human capacity building.

In underscoring the Sultanate's commitment and resoluteness, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam earlier this month jointly chaired with His Excellency President Jiang Zemin of the People's Republic of China a high-level meeting on human capacity building.

The meeting was held for two days, 15 – 16 May, in the Great Hall of the Peoples in the Chinese capital, Beijing, and both leaders made key-note opening addresses.

Speaking along the theme 'New Economy' new strategy: cooperation and innovation to build human capacity for common prosperity', His Majesty said that in the face of rapid developments and changes in technology, each economy in the Asia Pacific has to acquire skills and knowledge continually and quickly if it were to benefit from the opportunities now opening up in the New Economy, while pointing out that new technology has much to offer by way of helping the development process.

"This in essence, is the challenge we face", His Majesty told a gathering of some 350 delegates from APEC's 21 member-economies.

Although this is not an easy task, His Majesty pointed, each economy in the Asia Pacific has to face the challenge in its own way and at its own pace.

"In practical terms", His Majesty went on to say, "it means we have to maximise the benefits to be gained

from opening our markets for trade and investment. To do this the people must be equipped with skills that are constantly updated and for such skills to be brought to an international level of competitiveness".

Above all, if our people are to prosper in the New Economy, they must feel they have a personal stake in its success. In other words, they need to be more than mere consumers.

"We have to make sure that knowledge and the means to disseminate it are not kept in the hands of a few", His Majesty stressed.

"As well as this, we need to encourage creativity and innovation", he added.

His Majesty outlined that in the Brunei Darussalam context, the government is working closely with representatives from business, education and training institutions in effort to fulfill its commitment and aspiration toward helping the people to take advantage of the new opportunities.

Meanwhile, the President of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Jiang Zemin said that economic development and social progress need material resources to base on, and even more, human knowledge and capacity to sustain it.

To develop human resources and strengthen human capacity building has become a vital issue bearing on the development of all countries, he pointed.

The continuous knowledge uplift, breakthroughs in science and technology and the economic development call for increasingly better qualified labour force. To strengthen human resources development and human capacity building has never looked so important and so urgent as it does today, he further said.

He reminded that it must be noted, however, that human resources are not automatically generated as population increases to a certain number. Rather, they need to be developed and nurtured.

Delegates from the APEC member-

** Continued on page 10*

Brunei ruler grants audiences to visiting minister, and outgoing envoys

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to receive a courtesy call from The Honourable Dr. Ludger Volmer, State Minister at the Federal Foreign Office of the Republic of the Federation of Germany, at Istana Nurul Iman on 12 May.

The minister was in the country on a working visit.

Present at the ceremony were Pehin Dato Haji Awang Zakaria, the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya, Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office and Pehin Dato Awang Lim Jock Seng, Permanent Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

His Majesty on the same day, also at Istana Nurul Iman, granted separate audiences to the outgoing ambassador of the Federated Republic of Germany to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Klaus-Peter Brandes, and the outgoing high commissioner of New Zealand, Her Excellency Madam Sarah Dennis.

During both audiences, His Majesty expressed appreciation on the contribution of Their Excellencies in enhancing bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and their respective countries.

His Excellency Mr. Klaus-Peter Brandes was his country's ambassador to the sultanate since May 1999, while Her Excellency Madam Sarah Dennis was New Zealand's high commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, based in Kuala Lumpur, since May 1998.

Meanwhile, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Foreign Affairs, also the same day, received in audience Her Excellency Madam Sarah Dennis, at Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan.

His Royal Highness earlier received in audience His Excellency Dr. Ludger Volmer, the State Minister at the Federal Foreign Office of the Federated Republic of Germany, during which the ministers exchanged views on several regional and international issues.



Above: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives the Honourable Dr. Ludger Volmer, State Minister at the Federal Foreign Office of the Federated Republic of Germany at Istana Nurul Iman.



His Majesty granting separate audiences to the outgoing New Zealand's high commissioner, Her Excellency Madam Sarah Dennis, above, and to the outgoing ambassador of the Federated Republic of Germany, His Excellency Mr. Klaus Peter Brandes, below.



Audiences for Commander of US Pacific Armed Forces and Philippines' Vice President

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has granted an audience to the Commander of the Armed Forces of the United States of America in the Pacific, Admiral Dennis C. Blair. The ceremony took place at Istana Nurul Iman in Bandar Seri Begawan on 21 May.

Admiral Dennis C. Blair was accompanied during the audience by the Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), Pehin Dato Haji Awang Mohd. Jaafar bin Haji Abdul Aziz.

Also present were His Majesty's Special Adviser at the Prime Minister's Office cum Home Affairs Minister, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Isa, and Permanent Secretaries of the Prime Minister's Office and Defence Ministry, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya and Dato Awang Haji Alimin respectively.

At another part of Istana Nurul Iman the same day, Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam granted an audience to Madam Diane Blair, wife of Admiral Dennis C. Blair.

Two days earlier, also at Istana Nurul Iman, His Majesty consented to grant an audience to His Excellency Mr. Teofisto T. Guingona Jr., the visiting Vice President and Foreign Secretary of the Republic of the Philippines

During the audience, His Majesty and His Excellency exchanged views on issues of mutual interest between Brunei Darussalam and the Philippines.

His Excellency was also granted an audience by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah the same day at Istana Nurul Iman, and was entertained at a luncheon by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Foreign Affairs Minister, and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah at Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan.

Prior to the luncheon, His Royal Highness and His Excellency held a discussion on bilateral matters and several regional issues. The meeting was held at another part of Balai



Above: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with the commander of the United States Pacific Fleet, Admiral Dennis Blair.



Above: The ruler granting an audience to the Philippines' Vice President and Foreign Secretary, His Excellency Teofisto T. Guingona Jr., and bottom of page, Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam granting an audience to Mrs. Diane Blair.



Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan.

His Excellency Mr. Teofisto T. Guingona Jr. and wife were in Brunei Darussalam as part of a familiarisation tour of the ASEAN countries.



Picture left, the Philippines' Vice President and Foreign Secretary, His Excellency Teofisto T. Guingona Jr. in discussion with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, while picture below shows His Excellency being entertained to a luncheon by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and his wife, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah.



* From page one
(Brunei - PRC)

level meeting on human capacity building. This was to together address a crucial challenge to the region, that is, to find ways for the people to benefit from the opportunities opening up for them in the New Economy.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam left Beijing to continue his working visit, to the southern industrial city of Shenzhen located in Guangdong province bordering with the New Territories of Hong Kong. In 1980, Shenzhen was designated a special economic zone and became the forefront of economic reform since China started its open-door policy.

His Majesty toured the Shenzhen Hi-Tech Industrial Park in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone. The Shenzhen Hi-Tech Industrial Park was launched in 1996 as a national high and new tech park serving as a geographical area for accumulative high tech industry as well as a base for high tech research and development (R&D), an incubator for high tech enterprises and a base for training high-tech talents.

The Brunei monarch also visited the Zhongxing Telecom (ZTE) Corporation – a key state-owned enterprise. The ZTE is China's leading telecom

manufacturer and network solutions provider in providing telecom equipment and telecom solutions to various networking needs for the global market.

The Executive Vice Mayor of Shenzhen, Mr. Li Decheng hosted a banquet in His Majesty's honour.

His Majesty The Sultan and yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam began the final leg of his visit, to Hong Kong, on 17 May.

There, the Brunei ruler exchanged views and had discussions on bilateral issues between Brunei Darussalam and the former British Colony with its Chief Executive, His Excellency Tung Chee Hwa during their meeting at Government Guest House.

Hong Kong SAR (Special Administrative Region) was returned to the PRC on 1 July 1997 after 150 years under British rule.

While in Hong Kong, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also visited the island city's port – the Hong Kong International Terminal (HIT) which began operations in 1969 and is today one of the largest in the world with a capability of handling up to 40,000 ships each year. His Majesty was briefed on the port's establishment, development and achievement by the operations di-

rector. Before leaving Hong Kong, His Majesty attended a dinner at the Government Guest House given in his honour by His Excellency Tung Chee Hwa.

The latest visit was His Majesty's third to the People's Republic of China, the first was a state visit in November 1993, followed by a working visit in August 1999.

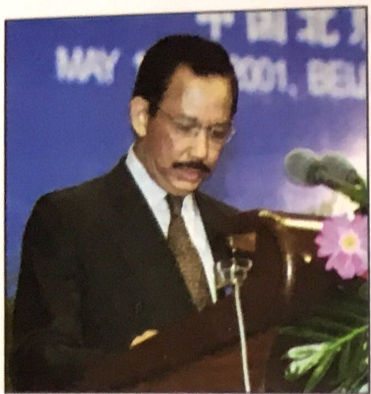
Reciprocal visit

May 21 saw the Chairman of China's Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, His Excellency Li Peng begin a three-day official visit to Brunei Darussalam, accompanied by his wife Madam Zhu Lin. With him also was a 100-strong delegation that included his deputy.

His Excellency was met by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and his wife, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah at the Brunei International airport in Berakas, where he took the salute and inspected an honour guard mounted by men of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

The Chinese senior leader had a meeting with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei

* Continued on page 10



Left: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam outlined some of the challenges that have to be overcome, in his speech at the opening of APEC high-level meeting on human capacity building, in Beijing. Above: His Majesty and His Excellency President Jiang Zemin of the People's Republic of China at the opening ceremony of the meeting which took place in the Great Hall of the Peoples.



Above: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam being greeted by Shenzhen's Executive Deputy Mayor, Mr. Li Decheng.



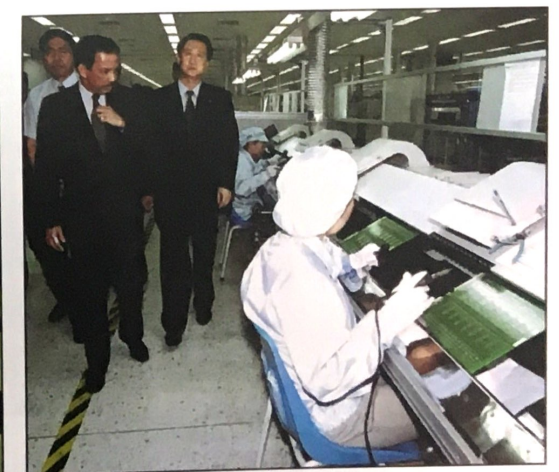
Above: His Majesty gets a briefing on the ZTE Telecom industry while on a tour of its facilities.



Above left: His Majesty and the Chinese President during their meeting at Zhong Nan Hai, and above right shows the Brunei monarch at yet another meeting, this time with His Excellency Mr. Li Peng, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. The latter meeting took place at the Great Hall of the Peoples. Below: His Majesty and the PRC's President with heads of delegation from 21 member-economies of APEC attending the high-level meeting on human capacity building.



Above: His Majesty and some members of the Brunei delegation being briefed on Shenzhen Hi Tech Industrial Park, prior to their touring the site and its activities. Below left: His Majesty taking a close look at a communication equipment produced at the Shenzhen Hi Tech Industrial Park, and below right, the ruler while touring ZTE Telecom's component manufacturing section.





Above: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at a meeting with Hong Kong's Chief Executive, His Excellency Tung Chee Hwa, who had earlier warmly greeted the Brunei ruler on arrival at Government House, right.



Above: With keen interest, His Majesty views closely an exhibition on the development of Hong Kong's International Terminal, and at a model of the port, right, while being briefed by the port's operations director, Mr. David Thomson.



Above: His Majesty while on a 45-minute cruise of Hong Kong harbour and being briefed by Mr. Lee Yuk Kwang, acting secretary of the port and maritime board.



His Majesty looking at some of the state-of-the-art equipment being employed by the Hong Kong port in its operations, above.

His Royal Highness Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, arrived in Brunei on 13 May to begin a four-day official visit. Prince Andrew was received at the airport by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the ministry of Foreign Affairs. Also present at the airport was Britain's High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Stuart Laing.

His Royal Highness Prince Andrew made a courtesy call on His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, who gave a dinner in honour of the visiting prince, and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Duke of York also visited a number of ministries as well as leading private organisations in the Sultanate.

On May 14, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs consented to host a luncheon at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan, in honour of His Royal Highness Prince Andrew, the Duke of York.

Also in attendance was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna.

His Royal Highness Prince Andrew also attended a dinner held at the British High Commissioner's residence.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Dato Laila Utama Haji Abdul Rahim also attended.

The Duke of York is the second son of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of Britain and the Duke of Edinburgh. He was born on 19 February 1960 at Buckingham Palace.

The Duke of York visited the Ministry of Education, where he was greeted by the Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdul Aziz.

Earlier, His Royal Highness Prince Andrew visited the Ministry of Communications. There, he was briefed by the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Haji Zakaria on the efforts undertaken by his ministry and the departments under it to make Brunei as a centre of trade and tourism services.

Among other matters touched by the minister was the efforts to make the

Duke of York on four-day official visit to the Sultanate



His Royal Highness Prince Andrew at a dinner at Istana Nurul Iman given in his honour by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, above, and below, the prince shares a light moment with His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah who hosted a luncheon.



His Royal Highness Prince Andrew making a visit to QAF Brunei, including the company's newspaper production site at the Beribi Industrial complex.

** Continued on page 10*

** From page 9
(Prince Andrew in Brunei)*

international airport and the Muara port as the centre of flight services and the regional trans-shipment port.

The Minister also briefed the Duke of York on the government efforts to develop the information technology services. Brunei Darussalam and the United Kingdom have good relations especially in the field of technical training, human resources as well as air flight services, telecommunication and postal services.

His Royal Highness Prince Andrew toured several historical and interesting places in Brunei in the capital, among them were the Royal Regalia Museum and Bumbongan Dua Belas.

His Royal Highness Prince Andrew visited the QAF Centre, the headquarters of QAF Brunei, one of the leading organisations in the Sultanate and met with Prince Abdul Qawi, Executive Deputy Chairman and Director of QAF Brunei.

Accompanied by Prince Abdul Qawi and senior QAF management, His Royal Highness Prince Andrew toured the premises of two subsidiaries of QAF Brunei, the QAF Car showroom at QAF Headquarters and Brunei Press Sdn. Bhd.

Welcoming and bidding farewell to His Royal Highness the Duke of York at the Brunei International airport was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

** From page 5
(Brunei - PRC)*

Darussalam at Istana Nurul Iman (palace) shortly afterwards at which, according a press release issued by the Brunei Darussalam Prime Minister's Office, they discussed bilateral issues including on efforts toward enhancing cooperation between their two countries.

They also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual concern, the press release stated.

Present at the meeting were His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Special Adviser to His Majesty in the Prime Minister's Office cum Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Haji Isa, the Communications Minister, Pehin Dato Haji Zakaria, Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Dato Haji Yahya and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam had earlier granted an audience to His Excellency and Madam Zhu Lin.

Present at the audience were other members of the royal family including His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

His Majesty also gave a banquet in honour of His Excellency Mr. Li Peng, who before becoming Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National

People's Congress has held the post of Prime Minister.

During the course of the visit, His Excellency Li Peng and delegation took the opportunity to visit several places in the Sultanate including a sightseeing cruise of Kampong Ayer (water village) on the Brunei river, and tours of the Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkiah mosque and royal regalia building in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China established formal diplomatic ties on 30 September 1991. Since then, the two countries have signed memorandums of understanding on trade and investment, Brunei's petroleum sales to the PRC on a yearly basis, on tourism into Brunei by Chinese nationals, cultural exchange and an air services agreement.

Presently the two countries enjoy two way trade, though the volume is still small and the trade surplus still heavily in the PRC's favour. In 1997, PRC's exports to Brunei Darussalam were worth B\$77.6 million, a decline from that during the previous year of B\$91.8 million. Brunei's exports to the PRC was minimal.

His Excellency Li Peng's visit to Brunei Darussalam was the second in as many years by senior Chinese leaders. In November last year, His Excellency President Jiang Zemin made a two-day state visit to the Sultanate after he attended the Eighth APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting.

Historically, Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China have had trade relations stretching as far back as 2000 years, when the Chinese referred to Brunei as Puni or Puli. Today potentials for cooperation lie in many areas including in petroleum and gas, agriculture, fisheries, petro-chemicals and manufacturing industries.

** From page 2
(APEC meeting)*

economies lauded Brunei Darussalam's initiative in convening the two-day meeting on human capacity building which served as a continuity to a consensus of APEC Economic leaders during their summit meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan last November with regards human capacity building.

One delegate said the meeting reflected Brunei Darussalam's maturity to-

ward together building up APEC, particularly in the area of human capacity building. Another delegate shared the view that it is timely for human capacity building to be given priority in APEC's programme so as to enable each member-economy draw up development plans and programmes.

"The meeting", said the delegate, "was most apt and meaningful", while expressing the hope that Brunei Darussalam would continue to play an important role toward bringing the Asia-Pacific region to a landmark success in the twenty first century.

MORE BUSINESS CONTACTS BETWEEN BRUNEI AND CANADA

Canadian high commissioner, His Excellency Neil Reeder led a second Canadian trade and investment mission to Brunei on May 21. Comprising of senior business executives from ten prominent Canadian private organisations, the entourage's two-day itinerary began with a courtesy call on the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources.

Acting as the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei's Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Haji Zakaria said that Brunei Darussalam need foreign participation in the development of its economy.

During an interview session with Brunei local media, His Excellency Neil Reeder said that the first mission of May 2000 resulted in the return of some Canadian companies, such as NORTEL NETWORKS – one of the world's leading Internet communications businesses with capabilities spanning from Optical Internet, Wireless Internet, Local Internet, e-Business to Personal Internet. The high commissioner also recalled two thriving joint ventures in the oil and gas sector currently operating in Kuala Belait.

High Commissioner Neil Reeder said that the Canadian High Commission wanted to introduce opportunities in Brunei to Canadian private sector, make Brunei better known to Canadian business community and help to re-invigorate the Brunei economy. "There are significant commercial op-

portunities in Brunei and a number of sectors where there is an excellent match between Canadian technology and expertise, and Brunei's development needs," said His Excellency. High Commissioner Neil Reeder also said that Canada has a good tradition of exports in the telecom sector. "We are now looking at financial services. Defence trade has been fairly solid. There are a number of sectors where we have niches quite well established in Canada. I think there is much more that can be done," said the high commissioner.

Business sectors represented in this year's mission included telecoms, financial services, defence equipment, safety and survival training, software, engineering, oil and gas services, and fish products. High Commissioner Neil Reeder anticipated the mission to lead to more activity by the Canadian private sector in Brunei, and increased partnerships between Canadian and local companies in order to generate more two-way trade and investment between Canada and Brunei. According to a news statement from the high commission, one-to-one partnering meetings have been arranged between Canadian companies and their Bruneian counterparts.

His Excellency said that the commercial-spearheaded initiative served as a follow up to His Majesty The Sultan

and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's visit to Canada last year that resulted in emphasis for two-way trade and investment. "We are now marketing Canada quite aggressively as a study destination," remarked the high commissioner. According to an international survey, Canada spent seven per cent of its GDP on education (1996), compared to 5.4 per cent by its immediate North American neighbour.

Trade and investment promotion is a primarily international objective of the Canadian government and the Canadian trade mission to Brunei is consistent with these goals, said the statement from the high commission.

Brunei Darussalam established diplomatic relations with Canada on May 7, 1984. Canada has a highly developed economic structure with strong growth potential and international competitiveness in industries like information and telecommunications, aerospace and chemicals as well as natural resource processing and automobile industries. According to OECD's statistics, in 1997 Canada spent 7.5 per cent of its GDP on information technology. As of July 1999 almost 80 persons per 1,000 in Canada have access to the Internet – the fourth highest among the industrialised economies after Iceland, Finland and the United States.

The Communications Minister, Pehin Dato Haji Zakaria who's also acting Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, greets the Canadian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Neil Reeder who led a Canadian trade and investment delegation to Brunei Darussalam to promote trade cooperation between the two countries.





His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Chairman of the PRC's Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, His Excellency Li Peng having a meeting at Istana Nurul Iman, left, and below, a banquet, also at Istana Nurul Iman, given by His Majesty in honour of His Excellency Li Peng and his wife, Madam Zhu Lin. Present were Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha, far left, and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam, extreme right, as well as other members of the royal family, state dignitaries, foreign diplomats and members of the visiting delegation.



What's happening **NEXT** month in Brunei Darussalam?

June

- visit Brunei Year Golf Championship: Golfers could experience the best golf courses in Brunei.
- Borneo Island Big Bikers 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

April Rainfall: 250.4 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.