



برونى دارالسلام Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam newsletter

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His Majesty's working visit to US

Bilateral discussion with His Excellency George W. Bush



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency George W. Bush, President of the United States of America at the Oval Office of the White House during a bilateral discussion.

WASHINGTON D.C., December 16 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held bilateral discussion with His Excellency George W. Bush, President of the United States of America (US) at the Oval Office of the White House.

During the discussion, both leaders touched on efforts in bolstering the global fight against terrorism and enhancing the trade relations between Brunei Darussalam and the US.

In this regard, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam hopes to strengthen exchanges with investment agencies as well as the US private sectors businessmen in the future.

During the 30-minute meeting, His Majesty and President George W. Bush also discussed on regional and international

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Brunei–Thailand enjoy longstanding cordial relations

BERAKAS, December 3 – Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohammad Taib, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources said that Brunei Darussalam and Kingdom of Thailand have close cooperation in the field of defence, business, investment and education.

The matter was stated during a reception in conjunction with 75th birthday celebration of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand, which was held at International

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Brunei Darussalam

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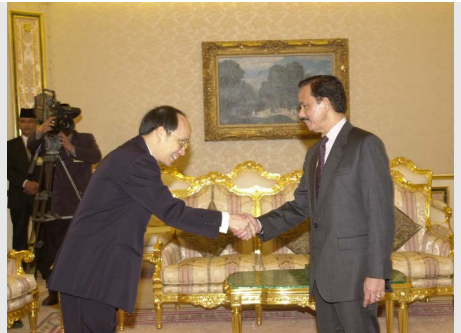
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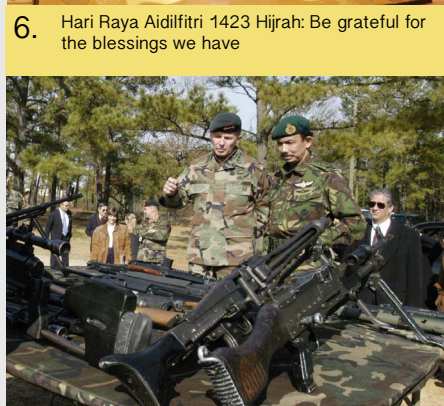
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1. Bilateral discussion with His Excellency George W. Bush



3. His Majesty receives audience



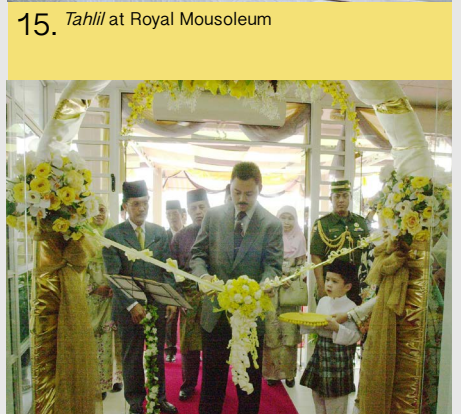
6. Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1423 Hijrah: Be grateful for the blessings we have



9. Meeting with US Cabinet members and visit to Brunei's Embassy



11. Visits Fort Bragg



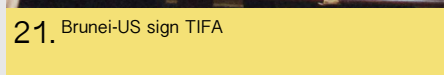
15. Tahlil at Royal Mausoleum



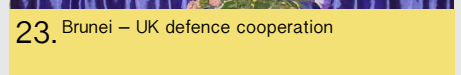
18. Her Majesty attends BSLA Hari Raya gathering



20. Deputy Sultan launches Golden Jubilee Health Clinic



21. Brunei-US sign TIFA



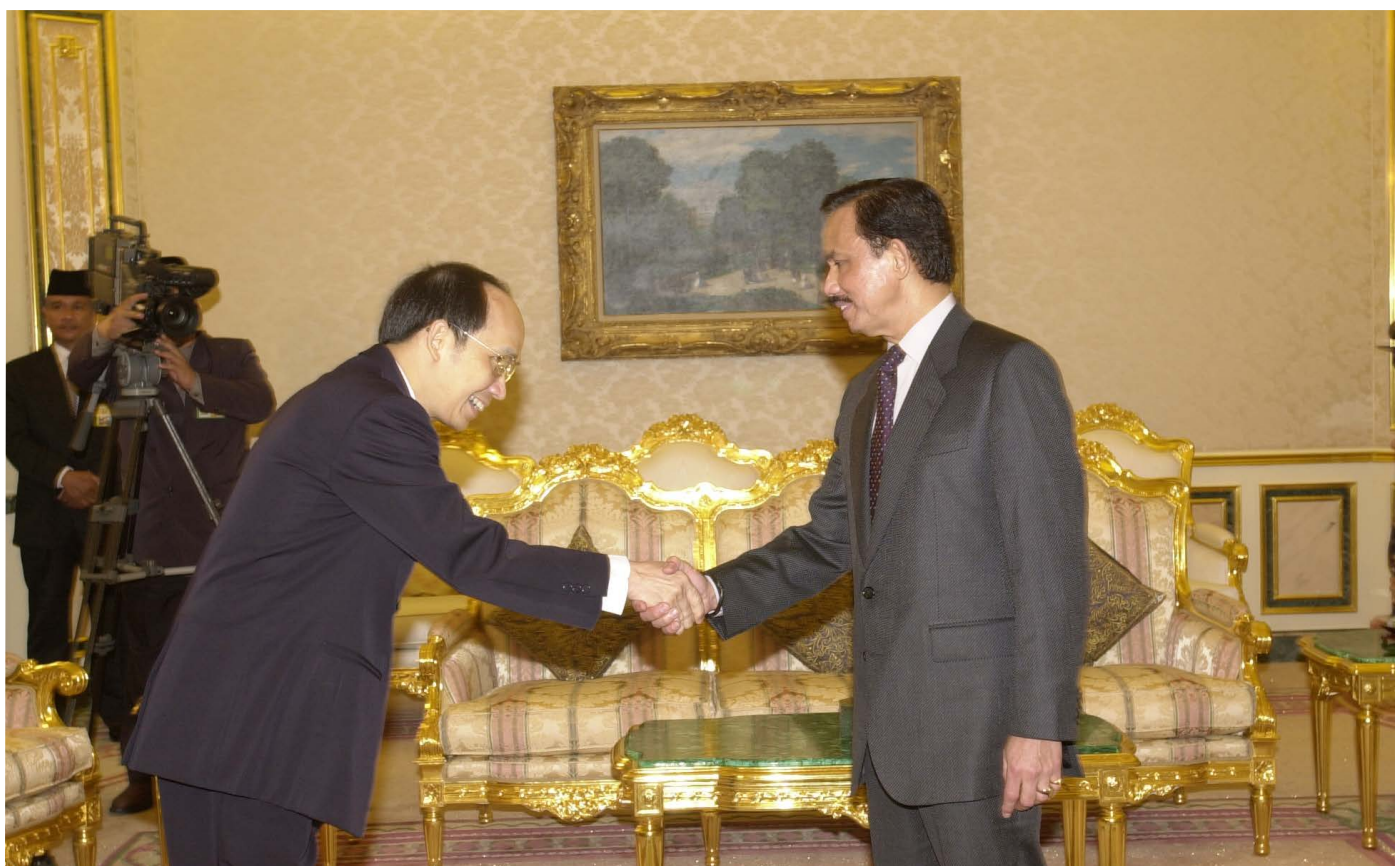
23. Brunei - UK defence cooperation

His Majesty receives audiences

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive audiences on December 26 at the Istana Nurul Iman from:



His Excellency Han Zhubin, Procurator-General of the Supreme People's Procuratorate, People's Republic of China.



His Excellency Dato Paduka Thinakorn Kanasuta, outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam.

Crown Prince receives audiences

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:



His Excellency Yusbar Djamil, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam on December 11.



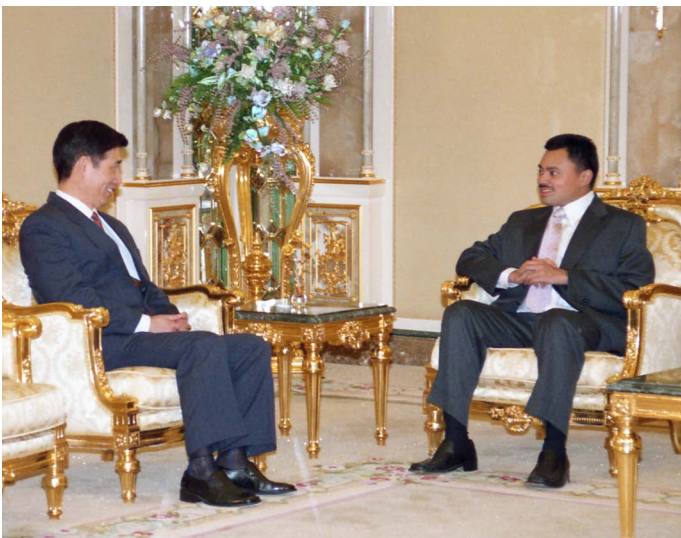
His Excellency Thierry Borja de Mozota, Ambassador of the French Republic to Brunei Darussalam on December 11.



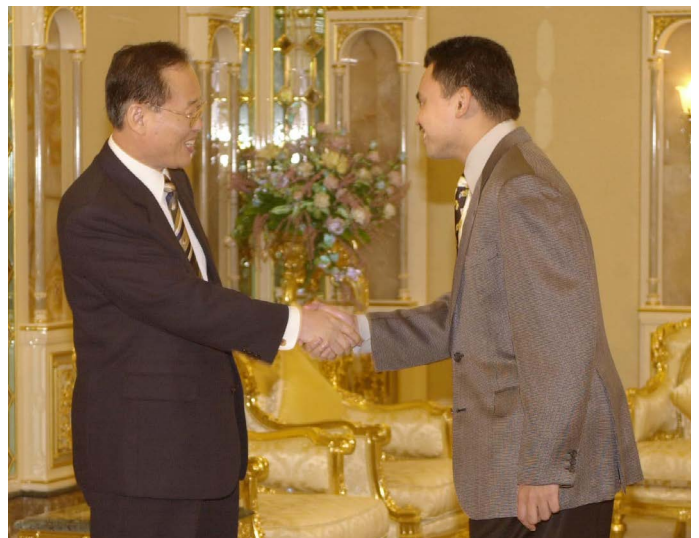
Her Excellency Virginia H. Benavides, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to Brunei Darussalam on December 14.



His Excellency U Thet Win, Ambassador of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Brunei Darussalam on December 14.



His Excellency Qu Wenming, outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam on December 14.



His Excellency Kim Ho-Tai, outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam on December 17.

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His Excellency Dato Paduka Thinakorn Kanasuta, outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam on December 30.

His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzadin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send congratulatory messages to:

- His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of the Kingdom of Thailand and His Excellency Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand on the occasion of His Majesty's 75th birthday anniversary on December 5.
- His Majesty Sheikh Hamad bin Essa Al-Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain and His Royal Highness Prince Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain on occasion of its National Day on December 16.
- His Imperial Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan and His Excellency Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan on the occasion of His Imperial Majesty's 79th birthday anniversary on December 23.

Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1423 Hijrah

Be grateful for the blessings we have

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 9 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam called for Muslims in the country to always appreciate the practice of gratitude by increasing charitable activities in all areas, whether in religiously or socially.

The matter was stated in the *titah* (royal speech) delivered by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1423 Hijrah/2002 Masihi on December 5.

Indeed, the favour will be preserved by the practice of gratitude and the practice is to fulfil all religious demands in the sense that the favours received should be used for the purpose of obedience only.

At the same time, as we are grateful for the blessings that we have, His Majesty added, Muslims in the country should also be determined to preserve it, besides recognising the source of maintaining the blessings and the cause of perish.

The Monarch further stated that there are many people around the world who are not as fortunate as the people in the country. They are not as lavish or as free as we are, some even lost their home and were forced to flee as refugees.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1423 Hijrah/2002 Masihi celebration.

His Majesty added, unfortunately, this is the fate of some Muslims who need sympathy and contribution, we cannot ignore or be spectators only. We should also remember our less fortunate brothers and sisters who were in tears even in our laughter. On that basis, we never missed out on organising humanitarian donations.

His Majesty expressed delight for the charities that have always been carried out by the public. This is a practice encouraged by Islam which is universal without boundaries.

On December 6, His Majesty joined his subjects on the first day of Syawal to perform Sunat Hari Raya Aidilfitri prayer, held at the Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque.

Also joining His Majesty to perform sunat prayer were His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joining his subjects to perform Sunat Hari Raya Aidilfitri prayer at the Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque. Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of the royal family receiving *junjung ziarah* from uniformed personnel (above and below).



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Afterwards, His Majesty and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received audiences and *junjung ziarah* (meet-and-greet) from the State Dignitaries, foreign diplomats and senior government officials at the Baitur Rahmah, Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present at the event were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

Also in attendance were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolqiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolqiah and Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Noor Ehsani and other members of the royal family.

Istana Nurul Iman opened its door to public for three days from December 7. In conjunction with the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration, a total of 90,657 people came to the palace for a *junjung ziarah* to His Majesty and other members of the royal

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Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1423 Hijrah

Be grateful for the blessings we have



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving a greeting from male visitor.

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family. The first day recorded 30,862 visitors, while there were 32,782 and 27,013 visitors on the second and third day respectively.

His Majesty received greetings from male visitors. Accompanying His Majesty were other male members of the royal family.

On the other side, Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajah Mariam received greetings from female visitors. Joining Her Majesty were other female members of the royal family.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha exchanging Hari Raya greetings with the State Dignitaries and foreign diplomats and senior government officials at the Baitul Rahmah, Istana Nurul Iman (above and left).



His Majesty's working visit to US

Bilateral discussion with His Excellency George W. Bush

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politics as well as security issues including developments in Iraq, the Middle East and North Korea.

In conjunction with His Majesty's visit, a joint statement between Brunei Darussalam and the US was issued to reflect the success of the visit to US and further strengthen bilateral relation between both countries.

In the joint statement, both leaders reaffirmed to strengthen the relationship of Brunei Darussalam and the US, especially the common interest in peace, prosperity and stability in the Southeast Asia Region, as well as strengthening cooperation to identify and eliminate terrorist networks and exchange information on terrorists.

In this regard, His Majesty welcomed His Excellency's offer to assist Brunei Darussalam in expanding its capacity to combat terrorism.

Both leaders reiterated the importance of strengthening international cooperation to eliminate any kind of terrorism and emphasised the importance of multilateral work, institutions including the United Nations. The importance of promoting tolerance and understanding of different cultures and religions was also emphasised by the leaders.

To further deepen the understanding between the two countries, His Majesty and His Excellency pledged to increase the opportunities for Bruneian students, government officials, and professionals to study and train in the US. In connection with this, His Excellency announced the establishment of the Fulbright Programme in Brunei Darussalam.

In a joint statement, His Majesty also welcomed the Entrepreneurship ASEAN Initiative (EAI) that was recently

suggested by His Excellency. The initiative will enhance the promotion on investment, growth on free trade economy of the US and ASEAN.

In that regard, His Majesty and His Excellency welcomed the signing of the bilateral Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) between Brunei Darussalam and the US to meet the 21st century challenges. Both leaders also agreed on the importance of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and APEC in promoting regional prosperity and stability.

His Majesty last met President George W. Bush in Mexico during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' meeting, which was dominated by issues relating to global terrorism and its impact to the world's economy and security.

During the 7th ASEAN Summit, which took place in Brunei Darussalam, His Majesty condemned acts of terrorism following the attack to the US on September 11. His Majesty reiterated this stand once more at the 35th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in July and called on ASEAN to initiate a comprehensive plan of action to combat terrorism.

Earlier on December 11, His Majesty departed from Brunei Darussalam for the United States (US) on for a four-day working visit from December 15-18, to strengthen the bilateral relation between the country and the US.

The bilateral ties between Brunei Darussalam and the US exist 150 years ago, which started with the signing of agreement between both countries in 1850. Meanwhile, the diplomatic relation was established in March 10, 1984 by founding respective embassy in Bandar Seri Begawan and Washington on the same year.

Meeting with US Cabinet members and visit to Brunei's Embassy

WASHINGTON D.C., December 16

– The bilateral cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the United States (US) remains strong and enhanced, covering the fields of defence, trade, investment and the economy.

To strengthen those areas, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held separate meetings with His Excellency Colin L. Powell, Secretary of State, US; His Excellency Kenneth W. Dam, Acting Secretary of the Treasury; and His Excellency Paul Wolfowitz, Deputy Secretary of Defence, which took place at the Blair House and Pentagon.

During a meeting with His Excellency Kenneth W. Dam, His Majesty was

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency Colin L. Powell, Secretary of State, United States of America during a meeting at the Blair House.

His Majesty's working visit to US

Meeting with US Cabinet members and visit to Brunei's Embassy



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during a separate meeting with His Excellency Kenneth W. Dam, Acting Secretary of the Treasury (left) and His Excellency Paul Wolfowitz, Deputy Secretary of Defence (right).



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briefed on the prospects and current position of the US economy which according to His Majesty, this information are important to all countries in the Asian region including Brunei Darussalam.

Meanwhile, a meeting with His Excellency Colin L. Powell, His Majesty and His Excellency discussed on bilateral cooperation in various fields and exchanged views on politic issues, as well as issues on regional and international security.

His Majesty was also briefed on developments in Iraq, Middle East and North Korea.

During the meeting with His Excellency Paul Wolfowitz, His Majesty was pleased over the ongoing effort to build a strong relationship in defence cooperation

between Brunei Darussalam and the US.

In strengthening the defence co-operation, both countries held several joint exercises, among them, the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT).

Such training has helped to enhance defence skills at all levels and helped to develop close relationships and mutual understanding between the two countries since the defence cooperation was established in 1988.

Afterwards, His Majesty visited the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam building located at the International Court, North West Washington D.C. His Majesty spent half an hour visiting the three-storey building which includes office, conference room, communication

room and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the US's room.

The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam purchased 41,755 sq. ft. of land for US\$647,202.00, to build the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam's building in 1988.

At a cost of US\$13,795,428.45, the construction of the building began in May 1988 and was completed in July 1999. The three-storey building has a total area of 29,400 sq. ft. and started its operation in 1999.

The Embassy of Brunei Darussalam in Washington has six officers from Brunei Darussalam and 16 home based employees in Washington.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during his visit to the Brunei's Embassy.



His Majesty with His Excellency Pengiran Anak Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Putih, Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the United States.

Visits Fort Bragg

NORTH CAROLINA, December 17 – The series of working visit continued with His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's visit to Fort Bragg Military Base.

At the Fort Bragg, His Majesty visited the Special Operation Command, which included briefing delivered by Lieutenant General Philip R. Kensinger, Commander of the US Army Special Operation Command.

During the visit, His Majesty witnessed firearms demonstration by one of the personnel and joined in a target shooting using Pistol Barretta 9 mm and Rifel M-4 Carbine. His Majesty also viewed other site and demonstrations of interest

including a sniper demonstration and a Special Operations' hostage assault rescue.

Fort Bragg is a US Army base with an area of 932 sq. km. It is a prestigious centre that trains troops for specialised training that was established in 1918.

The centre contains a number of departments in charge of all military training and operations for the US Army Special Forces and there are around 40,000 personnel of the US Army Special Forces and Special Operation Command has approximately 26,000 personnel.

After the visit, His Majesty left Fort Bragg for New York City. While in New York, His Majesty is scheduled to visit US Military Academy at West Point.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam riding on a helicopter while receiving a briefing by one of the Fort Bragg's officer.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam listening to a briefing on Fort Bragg Military Base in North Carolina delivered by Lieutenant General Philip R. Kensinger, Commander of the US Army Special Operation Command.



His Majesty takes a closer look at the static display of military equipment.

His Majesty's working visit to US

Visits to the US Military Academy at West Point; Meeting with UN's Secretary-General; and Visit to new building for Permanent Mission of Brunei Darussalam



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting a souvenir to Lieutenant General William J. Lennox, Jr., Superintendent of the United States Military Academy.

NEW YORK, December 18 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam continued his working visit to the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point.

During the visit, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was honoured with the high rank hat of the academy, which is only worn by the 4th Cadet Battalion Commander, West Point.

His Majesty then listened to a briefing on historical development of the USMA since its formation in 1802, followed by a visit to few historical sites at the academy compound, which include the Superintendent's Office room, Trophy

Point and West Point Museum.

The USMA is situated 50 miles north of New York City, which was founded on March 16, 1802; mark its 200th anniversary of its founding this year. Since then, the academy has produced more than 300,000 officers and calibre leaders in various fields to administer the USMA.

The academy has about 4,000 military personnel and produces more than 900 new officers annually. The prestigious USMA, which has a rich legacy, prepares its graduates to serve as commissioned leaders in the US Armed Forces.

On the same day, His Majesty held a meeting with His Excellency Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) at the UN Headquarters, where

His Majesty expressed his appreciation and support for efforts of the UN in combating international terrorism.

His Majesty also commended the Secretary-General of the UN for his continuous efforts to reform the UN and also for his efforts in East Timor.

During the 15-minute meeting, His Majesty and His Excellency Kofi Annan discussed issues relating to terrorism and the efforts of international community to combat the terrorism issue that is now gaining worldwide attention, following the attack in New York and Washington on September 11, 2001.

His Majesty and His Excellency also exchanged views on other regional

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visited historical sites at the United States Military Academy's compound.





His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during his visit to the United States Military Academy (left) and His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam interacting with cadets who were studying at the academy.

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and international matters including the developments in ASEAN and drug trafficking issues.

During the meeting, His Majesty was briefed on matters related to UN works and the work progress of the UN weapons inspection team in Iraq.

Brunei Darussalam joined as the 159th member of UN on September 21, 1984. Since joining the UN, Brunei Darussalam played a positive role with international community in addressing global issues.

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His Majesty with His Excellency Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the UN during a meeting that took place at the UN Headquarters.

His Majesty's working visit to US

Visits to the US Military Academy at West Point; meeting with UN's Secretary-General; and visits to new building for Permanent Mission of Brunei Darussalam

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Subsequently, His Majesty consented to visit the new building for Permanent Mission of Brunei Darussalam, which is located in 771 United Nations Plaza, where His Majesty spent half an hour touring the five-storey building including the office, conference room, Permanent Mission's room, communication room, and finance and administration.

His Majesty concluded the working visit to the US and leave New York on December 19.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam touring the new building for Permanent Mission of Brunei Darussalam in New York (above) and His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam viewing pictures of Former Permanent Representatives of Brunei Darussalam cherished in the building (left).



His Majesty signing a visitor book during the working visit to the new building for Permanent Mission of Brunei Darussalam.

Tahlil at Royal Mausoleum



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen attending a *Tahlil* ceremony held at the Royal Mausoleum.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 10 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended a *Tahlil* ceremony at the Royal Mausoleum.

The event was held for the late parents of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

The reading of *Tahlil*, *Doa Tahlil* and *Doa Selamat* was led by Yang Dimuliakan Lagi Dihormati Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.



Yang Dimuliakan Lagi Dihormati Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti led the reading of *Tahlil*, *Doa Tahlil* and *Doa Selamat*.

His Majesty then poured *ayeng asah-asahan* or scented water on the tombs of His Majesty's late parents and followed by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien passed away on September 7, 1986 corresponding to 3 Muharram 1407 Hijrah. Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit passed away on September 13, 1979 corresponding to 20 Syawal 1399 Hijrah.

Tahlil at Royal Mausoleum

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam pouring *ayeng asah-asahan* or scented water on the tombs of His Majesty's late parents.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah (left) and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah (right) pouring *ayeng asah-asahan* on the tombs of Their Royal Highnesses' late parents.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik (left) and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen (right) pouring *ayeng asah-asahan* on the tombs of Their Royal Highnesses' late grandparents.

Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam receiving *junjung ziarah* from the attendees.

JERUDONG, December 13 - Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajah Mariam binti Abdul Aziz attended Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration organised by the Council of Women of Brunei Darussalam.

Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness were greeted upon arrival by Datin Hajah Masni binti Haji Mohd. Ali, President of the Council of Women at the Berkshire Hall, Jerudong Park Polo and Country Club.

Also present at the event were Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam; and Her Royal Highness Princes Hajah Noor Ehsani.

At the event, variety of songs and dance performances were performed by members from women's council.



Among the attendees at the event.



Some of the performances showcased by the Council of Women of Brunei Darussalam members at the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration.

Her Majesty attends BSLA Hari Raya gathering

SERIA, December 22 - Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to attend Hari Raya Aidilfitri gathering organised by the Brunei Shell Ladies Association (BSLA) at the Oil and Gas Discovery Centre.

Accompanying Her Majesty to the event were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna.

Upon arrival at the Arena Field, Her Majesty and other members of the royal family were greeted by Datin Paduka Hayati, President of the BSLA; Chris Finlayson, Managing Director of Brunei Shell Petroleum and spouse; and Awang Adnan bin Haji Hanafiah and spouse.



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam receiving *junjung ziarah* from Brunei Shell Ladies Association members.



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha takes a closer look at the exhibition of the discovery of the universe, the earth, and hydrocarbon molecules.



Her Majesty and other members of the royal family in a group photo with the members of Brunei Shell Ladies Association.

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Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam takes a closer look at the children's games related to science and engineering.



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha listening to a briefing on technology exhibition and view the pictures of the oil and gas industry in Brunei Darussalam.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatol Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolqiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolqiah touring the technology exhibition.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna touring the exhibition at the Oil and Gas Discovery Centre.

Brunei–Thailand enjoy longstanding cordial relations

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Convention Centre, Berakas.

The Minister further stated that during His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's visit to the Kingdom of Thailand last August, several

Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) were signed, focusing on strengthening the bilateral trade and transfer of technology.

"I also believe that there are still many areas where we can work together for mutual benefit," said the Minister.

Accordingly, the Minister added, the

two countries will hold their first Joint Commission Meeting early next year. Meanwhile, Brunei Darussalam also supports the Kingdom of Thailand, which will become the host for APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting 2003.

Earlier, His Excellency Dato Paduka

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Deputy Sultan launches Golden Jubilee Health Clinic

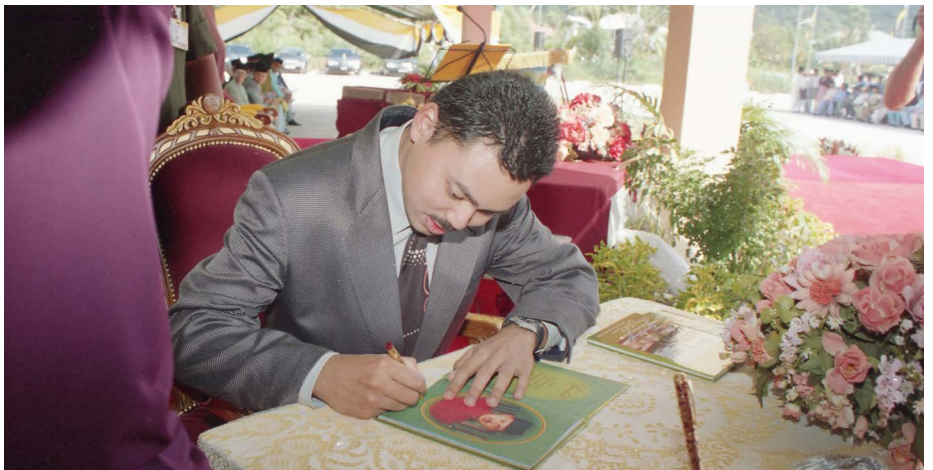
BUNUT, December 23 – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muthadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Deputy Sultan attended the golden jubilee celebration for Kampong Bunut Perpindahan and also launched the Golden Jubilee Health Clinic of the village.

Prior to launch the official opening of the Golden Jubilee Health Clinic, His Royal Highness launched a book about the historical background of Kampong Bunut Perpindahan. His Royal Highness then viewed a mini exhibition of the village and Housing Development Department.

His Royal Highness also signed a commemoration plaque and toured the clinic, followed by a visit at the facilities available at the clinic.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muthadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Deputy Sultan officiating the Golden Jubilee Health Clinic in conjunction with the golden jubilee celebration of Kampong Bunut Perpindahan.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muthadee Billah signing a book about the historical background of Kampong Perpindahan Bunut launched at the event.



His Royal Highness launching the Golden Jubilee Health Clinic of Kampong Bunut Perpindahan by signing a plaque.



His Royal Highness presenting a souvenir to Awang Haji Md. Salleh, former Head of Village of Kampong Bunut Perpindahan (above) and His Royal Highness viewing the exhibition of Kampong Bunut Perpindahan and Housing Development Department (left).



Brunei–Thailand enjoy longstanding cordial relations

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohammad Taib, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources and His Excellency Dato Paduka Thinakorn Kanasuta, Ambassador of Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam during a cake-cutting ceremony.



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Thinakorn Kanasuta, Ambassador of Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam in his speech said that Thailand have enjoyed longstanding cordial and friendly relations with Brunei Darussalam.

Therefore, Kingdom of Thailand plans of organising activities to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Brunei–US sign TIFA



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohammad Taib, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources and His Excellency Mr. Robert B. Zoellick, US Trade Representative signing the bilateral Trade and Investment Framework Agreement.

WASHINGTON D.C, December 16 - In conjunction with His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's visit to the United States (US), Brunei Darussalam and US signed a bilateral Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA). The signing ceremony was held at the Blair House.

Representing the Government of His

Majesty Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohammad Taib, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, while representing the Government of the United States was His Excellency Mr. Robert B. Zoellick, US Trade Representative.

The signing of bilateral agreement is to increase trade and investment and it is a milestone of economic commitment

between the two countries.

Under the agreement, both parties agreed to form a joint council to scrutinise areas to be expended in trade and investment including intellectual property, information and communications technology, biotechnology, tourism, as well as Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) involvement in investment and trade and capacity building.

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Brunei-US sign TIFA

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"We are very pleased with Brunei Darussalam's positive response to the proposal of His Excellency President George W. Bush on the Enterprise for ASEAN Initiative (EAI) including the initiative to see TIFA to be carried out efficiently. We would like to work with Brunei Darussalam to further strengthen the bilateral relation in economic and ASEAN," said His Excellency Robert B. Zoellick.

The US has TIFA ties to several countries in enhancing

bilateral trade relations. With the signing of TIFA by Brunei Darussalam, TIFA in ASEAN has increased and the US has previously had TIFA relations with the Republic of Indonesia, Republic of the Philippines and Kingdom of Thailand.

Under the ASEAN Initiative Enterprise, the US offers a future bilateral on free trade agreement with ASEAN member countries that is committed to economic restructuring and remain in the free trade agreement.

Introduce local products at Islamic Trade Exhibition

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, December 21 - Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohammad Taib, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources attended the 9th Islamic Trade Exhibition held at the University City Hall of the University of Sharjah, which was officiated by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohamed Al-Qasimi, Ruler of Sharjah.

Also attending the event were the Ministers from the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Member States, executive officers from private sector and Islamic Development Bank. There were Over 600 companies from 57 countries that took part in the

exhibition.

The Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) in its press release stated that Brunei Darussalam's participation consist of food processing companies, tourism agencies, hotel management and handicraft industry, as well as the emerging information technology industry.

According to the Minister, this is the first ever participation of Brunei Darussalam in the Islamic Trade Exhibition. Such international exhibition gave golden opportunities to promote local products to a broader market, besides giving exposure and openings for local entrepreneurs to explore opportunities for mutual benefits.

At the same time, the Minister called on local entrepreneurs to be actively involved in the exhibition and to promote individually or in alliance with the MIPR to widen their market base.

To achieve the goal, the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam will continue to open new avenues for local entrepreneurs as well as to facilitate the investment and trade flow through the country's participation in bilateral economic cooperation regionally or internationally, such as the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA); ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) and World Trade Organization (WTO).

Receives courtesy call from Chief of Army



Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General (Rtd) Pengiran Haji Ibnu Ba'asith bin Pengiran Datu Penghulu Pengiran Haji Apong, Deputy Minister of Defence receiving a courtesy call from Yang Berbahagia General Tan Sri Md. Hashim, Chief of Malaysian Army.

BERAKAS, December 17 - Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General (Rtd) Pengiran Haji Ibnu Ba'asith bin Pengiran Datu Penghulu Pengiran Haji Apong, Deputy Minister of Defence received a courtesy call from Yang Berbahagia General Tan Sri Md. Hashim, Chief of Malaysian Army.

Prior to the call, Yang Berbahagia General Tan Sri Md. Hashim also made a courtesy call to Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Lela Pahlawan Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Mohd. Jaafar bin Haji Abd. Aziz, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Force.

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Yang Berbahagia General Tan Sri Md. Hashim during a courtesy call with Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Lela Pahlawan Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Mohd. Jaafar bin Haji Abd. Aziz, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Force.



Brunei–UK defence cooperation

BERAKAS, December 31 - Brunei Darussalam and the United Kingdom signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the establishment of Joint Defence Commission (JDC), which was held at the Officers' Mess, Bolkiah Garrison.

The JDC is a mechanism that allows senior defence officials from both countries to hold in-depth discussions on bilateral cooperation pertaining to defence, which aimed to improve a more robust and efficient defence cooperation.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Setia Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Rahman bin Abdul Kani, Permanent Secretary (Finance and Development) of the Ministry of Defence and signing on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom was His Excellency Andrew Caie, British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.

The Permanent Secretary hoped that with the signing of the MoU, it will further enhance defence ties between both countries and make full use of this opportunity to share common interest in contributing to global stability and security. At the same time, it is a continuous effort to work cordially and in harmony to promote and improve mutual interests of both countries at regional and international level.

While, His Excellency Andrew Caie



Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Setia Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Rahman bin Abdul Kani, Permanent Secretary (Finance and Development) of the Ministry of Defence and His Excellency Andrew Caie, British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam signing the Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of Joint Defence Commission.

explained that JDC provides a new framework for defence affairs and it provide both parties the ability to review all aspects in defence ties and make changes as needed.

His Excellency added that the JDC not only provide an institutional framework but also its regulatory framework such as regular meetings and its task to help maintain momentum, a clear and effective purpose in defence relations.

His Excellency said both sides should

use the JDC as widely as possible; it should be a platform for both parties to speak openly and freely in order to improve and develop defence relations in all aspects.

"No area in the defence relationship is off limits to the JDC, it can be expressed in any and all bilateral defence agreement that exists and it can also be said in all relevant bilateral defences that may arise out of the formal agreement. However, it can be brought to the meeting table by the desired parties," said His Excellency.