



# بروني دارالسلام

## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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# UPHOLD PEACE AND SECURITY

*"Brunei Darussalam could not afford to be complacent towards peace and security as they underpin citizens' well-being," said His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah during the New Year 2003 address on January 1.*

Issue concerning terrorism is a focus of attention for Brunei Darussalam. His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah said 2002 was marred by tragedies and bloodshed in some states because of the work of terrorists and extremists.

The sovereign said Brunei Darussalam could not afford to be complacent towards peace and security as they underpin citizens' well-being. During the royal address, *titah*, on January 1 the sovereign said Brunei's security agencies should always be in a state of alert and caution. He also expects the citizens to adopt similar attitude in safeguarding and maintaining the security of the country.

His Majesty mentioned how

violence, hitherto affecting far away places, has taken its toll in several ASEAN cities leading to the loss of many lives. "Such alarming instances have triggered our awareness of the value of peace and well-being," said His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Time was when ASEAN's challenge was confined to overcoming the economic recession caused by the currency crises of 1997-98. Today, the challenge is to rekindle confidence among foreign investors and tourists towards this region. The irresponsible acts of certain parties have not only tarnished Southeast Asia's image but also affected trade and investment, said His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

As an active participant in the international arena, Brunei hosted a string of regional events throughout 2002: the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Ministerial Meetings (AMM), the ASEAN Economic Meetings (AEM), and the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI).

"Without neglecting internal interests, my government is continuing efforts to enhance the country's progress and development including infrastructure and public facilities for the well-being and security of citizens," said the sovereign. He also hoped the private sector to continue cooperating with the government in the national development efforts.



## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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### YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 31 January 2003. 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 Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah consents to receive the arrival of His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden (left) at Brunei International Airport.*

## *Visit of His Majesty The King of Sweden to Brunei Darussalam*

**H**is Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah had consented to receive His Majesty King Carl Gustaf of Sweden at the Brunei International Airport on January 12. The Swedish sovereign, accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Carl Philip, was in Brunei for a three-day visit.

The Swedish royalty's three-day itinerary comprised visits to tourist attractions such as the Royal Regalia Building and Kampong Ayer. Brunei Darussalam established diplomatic relations with Sweden since 1984.





*His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam next consents to receive His Royal Highness Prince Carl Philip (right).*



*His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah bids farewell to the Swedish sovereign. The Swedish royal entourage was in Brunei Darussalam for a three-day visit.*



*His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consents to receive His Majesty the King of Sweden for a farewell audience at the Istana Nurul Iman.*





The highlight of His Majesty's working visit is the signing ceremony of the Exchange of Notes regarding the continued stationing of a battalion of the British Brigade of Gurkhas in Brunei. His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam represents the Brunei government while the Right Honourable Prime Minister Tony Blair represents Britain (right).

## Working visit to Britain



The Brunei-British relations that began in 1847 was further strengthened following the working visit of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to the United Kingdom on January 9.

His Majesty's itinerary included a welcoming ceremony whereby the sovereign granted an audience to the representative of Her Majesty the Queen, Baroness Trumpington. The bilateral meeting that followed between the Brunei sovereign and the British Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Tony Blair was held at No.10 Downing Street.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consents to receive the representative of Her Majesty The Queen, Baroness Trumpington (right) prior to his meeting with the British Prime Minister.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consents to arrive at a luncheon hosted by the Right Honourable Geoffery Hoon, the British Defence Secretary (right) at the Lancaster House.

Discussion covered regional and international issues of mutual concern including the development in Iraq and the Middle East. His Majesty expressed his appreciation for

*\* Continued on page 5*





*His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam inspects the Brunei-based Gurkha battalion last year.*

*\* From page 4  
( Working visit )*

the continuing assistance and cooperation given by the British government in all fields, especially in education, defence, and trade and investment.

The British Secretary of State for Defence, the Right Honourable Geoffery Hoon hosted a luncheon for His Majesty and entourage at the Lancaster House. During the luncheon, the sovereign and the

Defence Secretary exchanged views on bilateral cooperation on defence as well as current regional and international issues.

During the working visit the sovereign had secured an understanding with the British government for the continuing stationing of a battalion of the British Brigade of Gurkhas in Brunei. The understanding was

contained in the Exchange of Notes signed by His Majesty and the British Prime Minister.

The previous Exchange of Notes signed in June 19, 1995 enabled a five-year stationing of the Gurkha battalion in Brunei effective September 29, 1998. The Exchange of Notes signed this year renewed the agreement for another five years, effective September 29. The signing ceremony was held at No.10 Downing Street.

## **BRUNEI SHOWCASES THE PORT OF MUARA**

**B**runei Darussalam will host the ASEAN Ports and Ship ping conference and exhibition said Pehin Dato Haji Zakaria, the Minister of Communications on January 5.

Running from 29-30 April, the event will showcase the facilities and infrastructure available at the Port of Muara, in addition to enabling the port community to engage in talks regarding attainable business activities with the participants.

Referring to Muara Port's potential, the Communications Minister said the area could grow into a cargo transhipment and redistribution centre.

Pehin Dato Haji Zakaria said local companies should explore business opportunities because "transhipment and redistribution activities can be fully exercised by the private sector".

## **MEDICAL EXPERTS MEET TO SHARE BEST PRACTICE**

**T**he permanent secretary of the Ministry of Health, Dato Haji Zainal bin Haji Momin announced on January 6 that Brunei will host the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Otorhinolaryngology (ORL) Head and Neck Surgery Congress.

The three-day event beginning from January 27 is expected to gather 700 ORL specialists and professionals from Member Countries and 100 guest speakers from Australia, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, Japan and the USA. The submission of working papers will ensure the sharing of best practice: Brunei will submit seven.





His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam issues the key to a new home to one of the recipients.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan consents to receive heart-felt welcoming from one of the locals.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam shares a light moment while visiting the home of the Ketua Kampong of Area II of the Kampong Mentiri National Housing Scheme who is pictured here (right) playing a local instrument resembling a flute.



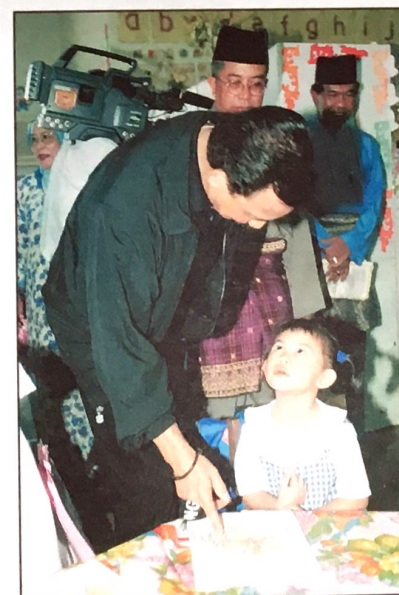
His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consents to plant a commemorative tree following the key and land grants issuing ceremony.

## 291 recipients of land grants and keys to new homes

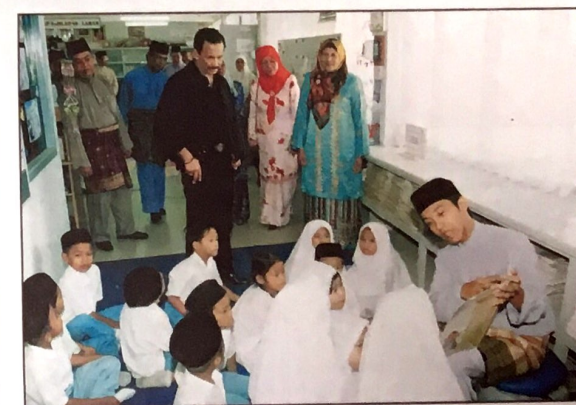
The government of Brunei Darussalam continues to provide housing and land for its citizens. On January 2 His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah had consented to issue land grants and keys to new homes to 291 recipients.

From that total amount 162 received keys to their new homes under the 1<sup>st</sup> Phase of Kampong Rimba National Housing Scheme; 70 received house keys under the Kampong Mentiri National Housing Scheme; 31 received land grants based the Kampong Mentiri; and 28 received land grants based at the Kampong Rimba. The presentation of key and land grants was held at a local school in Kampong Mentiri.

His Majesty's itinerary also entailed visit to the Mengkabau Dam and its water filtering plant, the Kampong Saba Light Industrial area and several homes of recipients including the homes of the two village headmen of the Mentiri area. The Mentiri National Housing Scheme houses a community of 5,000.



His Majesty consents to speak to one of the children who are attending the pre-school class.



His Majesty inspects the class session of the junior school purposely built to accommodate the population needs of the Kampong Mentiri National Housing Scheme.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan arrives at the home of the Ketua Kampong of Area I of the Kampong Mentiri National Housing Scheme and consents to witness a religious ceremony blessing a newly-born.





*His Majesty's itinerary for the day also covers visit to the nearby Mengkabau Dam and its water filtering plant.*



*His Majesty consents to receive briefing from one of the officers of the Water Department. Built in 1997 at the cost of B\$28.7 million, the Mengkabau Dam has a water capacity of 9.6 million cubic metres.*



*His Majesty next inspects the type of wood produced by the timber company that is also based at the Kampong Salar Light Industrial Zone.*



*His Majesty inspects the material quality of wood used in the manufacturing of furniture by a private company operating at the Kampong Salar Light Industrial Zone.*



*His Majesty witnesses the use of relevant machinery found in the timber company.*





*His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consents to grant an audience to the visiting Prosecutor General of the Supreme Court Prosecution Service of the People's Republic of China (second left).*



*His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consents to grant a farewell audience to the outgoing Thai ambassador, His Excellency Dato Thinakorn Kanasuta (left).*

## HM receives visits by the Chinese Chief Public Prosecutor and Thai ambassador

**H**is Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to grant separate audience sessions for the Prosecutor General of the Supreme Court Prosecution Service of the People's Republic of China and the outgoing Thai ambassador on December 26.

Held at the Istana Nurul Iman, the audience began with the Chinese delegation led by His Excellency Han Zhubin, the Chief Public Prosecutor who was accompanied by the Chinese chargé d'affaires based in Bandar Seri Begawan, Mr Huang Yong.

The second session was for the outgoing Thai ambassador, His Excellency Dato Thinakorn Kanasuta whose will end his Brunei posting this year. His Excellency was appointed the Thai ambassador to Brunei in 1999.



# A golden jubilee celebration for a village



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince graces the opening of Kampong Bunut Perpindahan's Golden Jubilee Health Clinic. The Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong (left) looks on.



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince signs the commemorative plaque marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Kampong Bunut Perpindahan.



His Royal Highness witnesses the displays showing the development of the village since its founding in 1952.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah had consented to attend the golden jubilee celebration for the Kampong (village) Bunut Perpindahan on December 23. The event also coincided with the official opening of the village's Golden Jubilee Health Clinic.

His Royal Highness The Crown Prince was received upon arrival by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong and the Penghulu of Mukim Kilanas, Haji Abdullah bin Haji Halus. In the context of Brunei social environment, a *Ketua Kampong* is the headman of a single village. A *Penghulu* is the headman of an area comprising several villages. Such area is called a *Mukim*.

Following the official opening ceremony, His Royal Highness next consented to sign a plaque to commemorate the event. The itinerary for the visiting royalty also entailed awarding certificates and gifts to prominent members of the village community, in addition to officially launching a book regarding the historical background of Kampong Bunut Perpindahan.

His Royal Highness next proceeded with the official opening of the village's Golden Jubilee Health Clinic, where he consented to receive a gift presented by the Director General of Health Services, Datin Dr Hajah Intan binti Haji Salleh.



# GOVERNMENT E-PAYMENT SYSTEM ONLINE

*"Successful implementation of the TAFIS project depends on the commitment and dedication of all concerned," said Pehin Dato Haji Ahmad Wally Skinner, the Deputy Minister of Finance. The deputy minister (right) presents a gift to one of the officers of the Finance Ministry during the Hari Raya gathering.*



**B**runei Darussalam is implementing the next stage of its e-government operations: the Treasury and Financial Information System, TAFIS. As a project of the Ministry of Finance with a baseline effective since March 2002, its second phase entails implementation in four government organisations.

According to the Deputy Minister of Finance, Pehin Dato Haji Ahmad Wally Skinner on December 21, TAFIS will next be online at the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Communications and the Ministry of Health.

Successful implementation of the TAFIS project, said the Deputy Finance Minister "depends on the commitment and dedication of all concerned".

For its eight National Development Plan 2001-2005, Brunei allocated B\$800 million for the e-government projects: B\$526 million had been spent in setting up the basic information technology infrastructure. The government established the Brunei Information Technology Council (BIT) - its first meeting held on January 8, 2001 - to lead the strategic development and widespread use of information technology nationwide.

## **Brunei introduces the next phase of economic diversification**

**T**he Economic Development Board's (EDB) two-pronged strategy is expected to attract fresh inward investment worth US \$4.5 billion and generate employment for 6,000 people by 2008.

The first strategy entails development of an industrial site at Sungai Liang in the Belait district and the Pulau Muara Besar – an island off the coast of the Brunei-Muara district. The second concerns identifying potential industries. The success rate of both strategies is underpinned by Brunei's geographic location and the use of its natural resources.

The EDB plans to utilise the Sungai Liang area's gas reserves for downstream industries and build a 500 MW electricity generator. Both projects are estimated to generate 2,000 jobs. Worth US\$3 billion, 90 per cent of the funding will come from foreign direct investment (FDI).

For the Pulau Muara Besar project that can open 4,000 jobs, the EDB plans to engage an international consultant to organise a feasibility study for setting up a global mega port. Half of this US\$1.5 billion project will come from FDI.

Feasibility studies for the two strategies are scheduled for completion by this second quarter. Final investment decisions made by the end of this year will determine the project implementation scheduled in 2008.





*A successful working visit to Britain. His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam shares a light moment with the British Prime Minister (right) during the Exchange of Notes signing ceremony at No.10 Downing Street.*

## **BRUNEI-BRITAIN DEFENCE COOPERATION**

In January 1998 Brunei signed a contract with GEC-Marconi for the commissioning of three offshore petrol vessels for the Royal Brunei Navy. In addition to the stationing of the British Brigade of Gurkha Battalion in Brunei, there are 54 British army personnel in the Royal Brunei Armed Forces under the Secondment Service Programme.

On December 31, 2002 Brunei and Britain signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that established the Joint Commission for Defence Cooperation. The MoU provides mechanism for detailed discussion towards upgrading defence cooperation between the two countries. At senior officer level, the MoU also provides mechanism for evaluation covering not only strategies relating to regional security but also specific matters such as ones concerning the British Garrison in Seria, the Secondment Service Programme, and defence equipment issues. The first Joint Defence Commission meeting was held in Brunei in January this year.

### **Brunei In Brief**

**Official name:** Negara Brunei Darussalam

**Capital:** Bandar Seri Begawan

**Land size:** 5765 sq. km

**Geographical Position:** North-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia

**Population:** 340,800 (2002)

**National Carrier:** Royal Brunei Airlines

**Official Language:** Malay

**Official Religion:** Islam

**Official Website:** [www.brunei.gov.bn](http://www.brunei.gov.bn)

**December 2002 Rainfall:** 233.3 mm

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

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