



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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His Majesty to KL on work visit

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah left for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on August 21 to attend the 7th Brunei-Malaysia Joint Commission Meeting of the Heads of Government.

His Majesty and entourage were received on arrival at the airport by Malaysia's Foreign Minister, Dato' Seri Syed Hamid Albar bin Syed Jaafar Al-Albar, and Dato' Abdul Kadir bin Sheikh Fadzir, Malaysia's Minister of Culture, the Arts and Tourism.

The Brunei-Malaysia Joint Commission Meeting of the Heads of Government was launched in 1997; a parallel joint commission meeting at foreign minister-level began since 1994.

The annual Brunei-Malaysia Joint Commission Meeting, alternately hosted between the two states, institutionalises discussions of common interest pursued by both governments. It helps to strengthen the Brunei-Malaysia bilateral cooperation in areas such as agriculture; broadcasting; the economy; education; defence; information; investment; tourism; and transportation.

** continued on centre page*



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir, the Prime Minister of Malaysia at a recent working visit to Kuala Lumpur.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at a banquet hosted by the Malaysian sovereign

**BRUNEI
DARUSSALAM
NEWSLETTER**

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Editorial Staff

Editor
Musa Mohidin

Sub Editor
Sastra Sarini Haji Julaini

Reporter
Hajah Noorhijrah Haji Idris

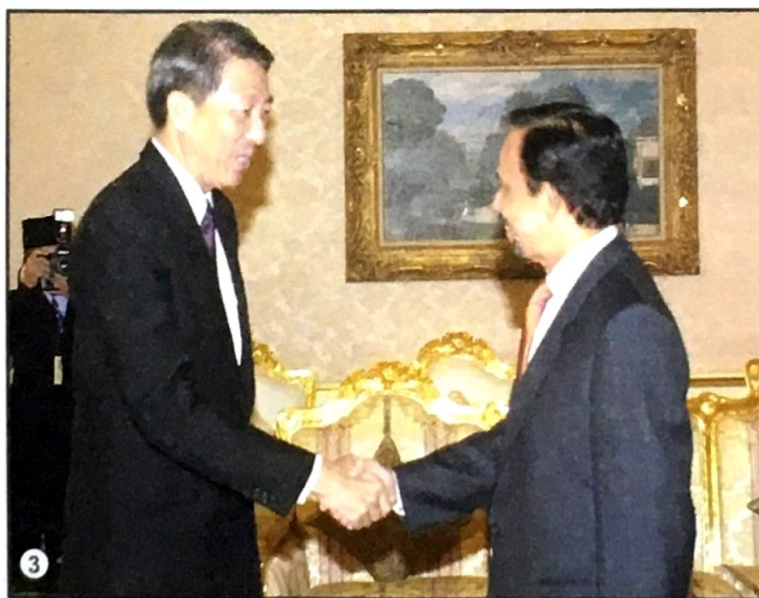
Layout Designer
Hajah Zaianit Haji Noorkhan

Photographs
**Photography Division of
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YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on September 2003. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 2383400/ext.BDN Division or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.

PALACE NEWSROUND... PALACE NEWSROUND.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:

- ① His Excellency Mohamed Sultan Saif Al Suwaidi, the outgoing non-resident ambassador of United Arab Emirates on August 19.
- ② The Chiefs of Military from ASEAN member states on August 25. They are; the Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Pehin Dato Major General Haji Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yusof; the Commander of Indonesia's National Military, General Dato Endriartono Sutarto; the Commander of Malaysia Armed Forces, General Tan Sri Dato Zahidi bin Haji Zainuddin; the Commander of the Republic of Singapore Armed Forces, Major General Ng Yat Chung; the Supreme Commander of Thailand's Royal Armed Forces, General Surayud Chulanont; and the Chief of Staff of Vietnam's People Public Military, Senior General Phung Quang Thanh.
- ③ The Honourable RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean, the Republic of Singapore Minister of Defence on August 26.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam appointed His Excellency Dato Mahadi bin Haji Wasli as Brunei ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland on August 28.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah received diplomatic credentials on August 28 at the Istana Nurul Iman from:

- ① His Excellency Nisaka Yoshinobu, the Japanese ambassador to Brunei.
- ② His Excellency Mohamed Ali Afifi, the non-resident ambassador of Egypt to Brunei.
- ③ His Excellency Yang Chang Chon, the non-resident ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Korea to Brunei.
- ④ His Excellency Ajit Mahendra de Silva Jayaratne, the non-resident high commissioner of Sri Lanka to Brunei.
- ⑤ His Excellency Geoffrey John Randall, the non-resident high commissioner of New Zealand to Brunei.



Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:

- 1 The wives of the ASEAN Military Chiefs on August 25.
- 2 Madam Chew Poh Yim; the wife of the Honourable RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean, Singapore's Minister of Defence on August 26.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:

- 1 The members of ASEAN Football Federation Council (AFF Council) led by the council's President, Yang Mulia Tengku Tan Seri Dato' Dr. Ahmad Rithaudeen Al-Haj on August 16.
- 2 The Honourable RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean, Singapore's Minister of Defence on August 26.

HRH visits welfare homes

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah visited welfare homes based in Pulaie on August 26.

The Crown Prince was received on arrival by the permanent secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Haji Jemat bin Haji Ampal; and the director of Community Development Department, Datin Hajah Zaliha binti Haji Mohiddin.

The Crown Prince's itinerary began with briefings by the permanent secretary and the director of Community Development



A staff member explains the process of making a 'songkok'

Department.

First, the Crown Prince visited Taman Noorhidayah 1 and 2 which are managed and function according to Girls and Women Protection Act 1972. The visit then proceeded to Darussakinah Home 1 and 2, which is managed according to Children Order 2000.

The Crown Prince also toured classes that specialised in making *songkok* (a headgear in the form of a hat. It is worn by men when dressed in the Malay attire called *baju Melayu*)

Permanent secretary: E-government enhances public administration

Businesses and citizens expect better services from state organisations when Brunei's e-government project becomes fully operational. As an additional service delivery tool e-government promises several benefits: quick information delivery, and faster coordination and implementation of government policy. It also reinvigorates changes that are needed for socio-economic development.

Pengiran Dato Haji Abdul Hamid bin Pengiran Haji Mohd Yassin, permanent secretary at the Prime Minister's Office made the remark on August 26 during the launch of a seminar on "Management Changes in

E-government Implementation in the Public Service".

"The challenge of government is not confined to inducing change nationwide but inventing change itself," he said.

Legality and regulatory issues need reviewing if a state is to produce a growth-inducing and technologically-accessible e-government policy.

One of the remits of the Hanoi Plan of Action touches on the establishment of the ASEAN Information Infrastructure (AII). Member states had forged agreements on the design, standardisation, inter-connection and inter-operability of their information technology systems since 2001 to fulfil this purpose.

AII's information content is scheduled for development next year.

Against such background, the permanent secretary said that technological framework for e-government should conform to international norms. Doing so enables the e-government operations run parallel with the innovative entrepreneurship that thrives in the competitive open market.

The two-day session showcased best practices in implementing e-government initiatives used by some of the ASEAN member states. It also exposed the participants, comprising delegates from member states, to contemporary approaches and ideas in enhancing the quality of public administration. Much of the seminar focused on issue management.



His Majesty greets Malaysian officials

* From page one
(KL visit)

The four-day work visit to Kuala Lumpur also entailed a one-to-one meeting between His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, and the Malaysian Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohammad.

The opening of the Brunei Government Agency in Kuala Lumpur in January 8, 1982 marked the beginning of Brunei Darussalam's modern diplomatic history with Malaysia. The office was upgraded to Commission-level in November 4, 1982, and upgraded to High Commission-level in January 1, 1984.



His Majesty performs Friday prayers with Malaysian citizens



His Majesty at a banquet hosted by the Malaysian Prime Minister



His Majesty signs the guest book at Wisma Putra



His Majesty with The Right Honourable at Wisma Putra

HM WORK VISIT TO KL LOG BOOK

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam arrived in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for a four-day working visit on August 21.

The sovereign's itinerary began with recreational activities at Bukit Kiara's Equestrian Club on August 22.

His Majesty later joined other Muslims to perform the Friday prayer at the Kuala Lumpur Federal Mosque.

A one-to-one meeting was later held between the sovereign and Malaysia's Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir at the Prime Minister's Office in Putrajaya.

Discussion touched on the efforts to enhance and strengthen the Brunei-Malaysia bilateral relations, which include discussion on issues concerning land and maritime boundary.

A banquet was later hosted by the Right Honourable at Seri Perdana, the official residence of the Prime Minister.

His Majesty attended a royal banquet that was hosted by His Majesty Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin ibni Al-Marhum Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail of Malaysia on August 13, at the *Istana Negara* (national palace).

His Majesty and entourage left for Brunei on August 24.



Prominent figures took a group photo prior to the dinner banquet

HRH attends 'Gala Dinner'

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah on August 30 attended a 'Gala Dinner', which was held in conjunction with the independence day of Malaysia.

Upon arrival, the Crown Prince was received by His Excellency Tan Sri Jamal bin Johari, the Malaysian high commissioner and other committee members.

The Malaysian high commissioner said that the 'Gala Dinner' was the first of its kind organised by the Brunei-based Association of Malaysian Society.

The Crown Prince also received the contribution for the Pengiran Muda Al-Muhtadee Billah Fund for Orphans from the Association of Malaysian Society and Malaysian companies operating in Brunei.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince at the 'Gala Dinner' for Malaysia's independence day

Brunei-Indonesia: Proactive bilateral cooperation



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and HRH Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah at the reception for Republic of Indonesia's independence day

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah attended a reception held in conjunction with the independence day of Republic of Indonesia on August 19.

In his speech, His Royal Highness expressed his gratitude towards Indonesian workforce in Brunei Darussalam as they have invested tremendous amount of commitment through their skills. They are involved in various industries in Brunei Darussalam.

In his reply speech, His Excellency Yusbar Djamil, the Indonesian ambassador said that Brunei and Indonesia share common understanding especially in areas concerning the economy, investment, education, labour and health. Current challenge is, however, to find ways to make this bilateral cooperation more proactive which will be beneficial for both states.

Deputy minister and permanent secretaries: Locals properly trained for job market

Brunei's young workforce, freshly graduated from vocational institutions, is prepared to meet the demands from industry and public sector.

The Technical Education Department of the Ministry of Education, for its part, ensures that vocational courses meet the needs of both the private and public sectors. The department has three mechanisms for such purpose: the National Programme Advisory Committee (NPAC), Programme Development Evaluation Committee (PDEC), and the Apprentice Training Advisory Committee (ATAC).

Dato Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, Deputy Minister of Education made the remark on August 27 at the eighth convocation of the Sultan Saiful Rijal Technical College.

The deputy minister urged holders of vocational qualifications to avoid being complacent. The globalisation of markets, communications and resources compel today's employees to constantly upgrade their knowledge and skills.

According to Dato Haji Suyoi, a knowledgeable workforce strengthens Brunei's competitiveness in terms of production quality, and attracting foreign investment. It also facilitates technology transfer.

His ministry's Curriculum Development Department is also championing competency-based and life skill-orientated curricula. "Such measure ensures that school leavers are equipped with basic skills prior to finding work or continuing their studies," he said.

Three permanent secretaries of different ministries also emphasised, on separate occasions, the pivotal role played by holders of vocational qualification in nation building. Each one touched



Dato Haji Suyoi gives a certificate to one of the graduates

on the government's strategy in preparing Brunei's human resources through training. They also commended the private sector for giving sponsorships and hosting job placements for students from vocational institutions.

Haji Mohammad Jumin bin Haji Marsal, permanent secretary (technical and professional) at the Ministry of Development announced the government's stand on Brunei's new generation workforce on August 23 at the sixth convocation of the Sultan Bolkiah Vocational School.

Dato Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Mohidin, permanent secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs announced the speech of his Deputy Minister regarding vocational training on August 26 during the tenth anniversary of the Nakhoda Ragam Vocational School.

And Sheikh Haji Adnan bin Sheikh Mohamad, permanent secretary at the Ministry of Education touched on his Ministry's constant supervision of vocational courses on August 27 at the eighth convocation of the Jefri Bolkiah Technical College.

Minister: Obey world-class standards when exporting foodstuffs

Brunei's food exporters should mind consumer safety and product quality if they are to succeed in the food sector industry. Compliance with world trade standards is not only about keeping Brunei food exports accessible and competitively priced.

Today, many states impose non-tariff barriers against agricultural imports on the grounds of food safety, although the hidden motive is to protect their domestic agricultural industry. Regional and international cooperation, therefore, attempt to accommodate such demands.

Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Rahman Taib, the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources made the remark on August 28.

The minister said that Brunei also expects its food imports to be safe for consumption and of high quality.

"The government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam continues to ensure a constant flow of imported food products and wishes its home agricultural industry to have the capacity to match imports," he said.

The Agricultural Department encourages local agricultural businesses to use cost-effective production system because it promises economies that enable Bruneian producers to compete in the global trade arena.

According to the minister, Brunei is now self-sufficient in poultry and eggs; its horticultural sector is also showing encouraging growth.

ASEAN enhances agricultural and forestry cooperation with East Asian states

Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Rahman on August 22 attended the 25th ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) Meeting and the third AMAF Meeting with agriculture and forestry ministers from the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (AMAF+3). The meetings were held in Kuala Lumpur for two days.

Among matters of discussion in the AMAF meeting were regarding ASEAN cooperation in food; agriculture and forestry sectors.

According to the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, to enhance the existing cooperation, ASEAN need to outline a roadmap which not only focus on the effort to increase the quality and productivity; but also to contribute in reducing poverty; and monitoring the food safety.

The roadmap would support ASEAN's effort in promoting economic and social development; and it would be parallel with ASEAN's external and internal economic integration efforts.

Permanent secretary: Brunei's no place for dubious products

Suppliers risk undermining their credibility if they continue to treat Brunei as dumping ground by bringing in products of questionable quality.

Unscrupulous business practice is minimised when suppliers uphold integrity that is underpinned by knowledge and business skill.

Reputable entrepreneurship is also internalised when suppliers acquire hands on control on matters such as preparing quotations, financial management of tenders, and the like.

Pengiran Dato Haji Abu Bakar bin Pengiran Seri Indera Pengiran Haji Ismail, the acting permanent secretary (administration and finance) of the Ministry of Development made the remark on August 19 at the opening ceremony of the two-day course called, 'Introduction to Basics of Contractor'.

He also urged banks to help local businesses by offering financial packages that are based on profit sharing concepts, instead of interest earning ones.



Pengiran Dato Haji Abu Bakar at the opening ceremony for 'Introduction to Basics of Contractor' course

ANNOUNCEMENT



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah appointed Haji Metassan bin Haji Mohd. Daud, the director of transportation at the Ministry of Communication as the permanent secretary (administration and finance) at the Ministry of Development effective August 27.

Minister:

Help available to access world trade

The government had implemented a two-prong strategy in a bid to set up a business-friendly economic environment, and secure access for local industrial products into the global trading system.

The strategy, shaped as support programmes, takes into account of the industries' stages of development and offers tangibles including industrial estates, financial packages, and tax incentives.

It also offers local businesses product promotions, internationally recognised product certifications, preparatory entrepreneurship training, and support services.

"All these (facilities) enable local industries to develop and consolidate prior to exposure to the international competition," said Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Rahman Taib, the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources on August 16.

The minister's remark during the Local Product Expo 2003 also touched on the benefits of participating in the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA). By this, the minister was referring to the special tariff applicable to manufactures that have a 40 per cent ASEAN input.

AFTA came into effect after the first six signatories (ASEAN 6), Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the



Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Rahman at the Local Product Expo 2003

Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, signed the Agreement on the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) Scheme on January 28, 1992. It traces its origin from the Agreement on ASEAN Preferential Trading Arrangements signed on February 24, 1977, and in the Protocol on Improvements on Extension of Tariff Preferences under the ASEAN Preferential Trading Arrangements (PTA) of December 15, 1987.

CEPT Scheme Agreement defines, in piecemeal, the

intra-ASEAN trade rules. The first round of CEPT Agreement in 1992, for example, stated that the rules were applicable to manufactures covering capital goods and processed agricultural products only. By December 15, 1995, the list also included agricultural products. The new member states adopted the agreement in subsequent years after joining ASEAN.

Tariffs were slashed between 0 and 5 per cent on most of the products traded among the ASEAN 6 since January 1, 2002.

Permanent secretary:

Sharing knowledge enlightens society

As holders of postgraduate qualifications, Bruneians had produced a range of dissertations and theses during their stay at universities. But a majority of the intellectual findings are stashed in bookcases instead of getting published.

Sheikh Haji Adnan bin Sheikh Mohamad, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Education, cited the local perspective as one of the benefits offered by academic publications on Brunei by Bruneians.

Sheikh Haji Adnan made the remark on August 18 during the launch of the National Workshop on Academic Writing and Publishing held at the University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

He urged UBD academia to publish more of their research because their writings function as source of reference that induces the growth of society's intellectual development.

HM grants keys

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah issued land grants and keys to new homes to 325 recipients on August 18. The ceremony was held at Rimba One Primary School.

From the total recipients; 48 received land grants based at the Kampong Lambak Kanan; 133 received house keys under the level one of 2nd Phase of Kampong Rimba National Housing; 14 received house keys under the level four of Kampong Rimba National Housing and 130 received house keys under Kampong Rimba Land Scheme for Indigenous Resident.

His Majesty also toured the school; and visited the school of Brunei Malay Teachers Association (PGGMB); and several homes of recipients including the homes of headmen of Mukim Berakas A, Kampong Pancha Delima, and Kampong Anggerek Desa.

Snippets...

Permanent secretary: Children's future success depends on upbringing

Children deserve mental and physical nurturing at the early stages of their lives. And they need parental guidance if they are to excel in their studies, especially at tertiary levels.

The government provides education for all in an attempt to maximise Brunei's human resource capacity. An educated workforce is necessary for the growth of Brunei's economy given the current job trend that demands specific skills.

Dato Haji Zainal bin Haji Momin, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Health made the remark on August 20 during the eighth convocation of the Nakhoda Ragam Vocational School, held at the International Convention Centre.

ASEAN-EC: Conference on K-Economy

Brunei Darussalam will host ASEAN-EC International Conference 2003 from October 7 to 9. The conference on K-Economy will touch on issues such as: information communication technology (ICT); E-Government; human resource development and small-and-medium-enterprises (SME).

The conference is organised by the ASEAN-EC Management Centre of Prime Minister's Office; and is expected to attract more than 300 participants comprising local and foreign delegates.

His Majesty attends funeral of Sultanah of Kedah

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah on August 27 has attended the funeral of Her Royal Highness the Sultanah of Kedah.

The late Sultanah, Tuanku Hajah Bahiyah ibni Al-Marhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman passed away on August 26, at the age of 73. She was laid to rest at the Langgar's royal mausoleum in Kedah, Malaysia.

Telecom upgrades system

Customers could subscribe to more multimedia products offered by Brunei Telecommunications Department (JTB) in the near future.

JTB had invested B\$38.95 million in upgrading its operations by installing IP-driven convergent technology called the Next Generation Network (NGN) on August 27.

Its acting director, Hajah Norliha binti Haji Abu Bakar, said that the upgrade should make Brunei's telecommunication system on par with ones in developed countries.

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*

National Carrier: *Royal Brunei Airlines*

Official Language: *Malay*

Official Religion: *Islam*

Official Website: *www.brunei.gov.bn*

PUBLIC WARNING. The trafficking of **controlled drugs** carries the **death penalty** in Brunei Darussalam.