



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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STATE VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES

*HM:
Interdependence
between neighbouring
states vital*



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah meets Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines for a one-to-one audience at the Malacañang Palace on January 27.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah said that the current world scenario could not be summed up in a neat single phrase as 'challenging times'.

As the region's economy is still recovering and the term 'security' now entails a frightening connotation, the sovereign said that the future conduct of international affairs lies in sharing problems and working together.

"There are now major concerns that require more than individual national government can offer on its own," said His Majesty during a state banquet hosted by the Philippines' President on

January 27.

As transnational criminals and agents of terror are becoming more globalised, the region's security needs should match such impact through consultation. "We need each other's goodwill and understanding. We need the strength we gain from working together as neighbours, friends and partners," said His Majesty.

Besides extolling the Brunei-Philippines government-to-

government relations, the sovereign also noted the two countries' interdependence that now extends to commerce and industry.

Touching on the current regional scenario, the sovereign said that the demands on governments and the ordinary people are severe and well publicised. Underpinned by decency, goodwill and tolerance, the answer for each should be positive and offer hope, he said.

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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 15 February 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 presents the letter of diplomatic accreditation to His Excellency Haji Mohd Noor bin Haji Jeludin, Brunei's ambassador to Japan.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presents the letter of accreditation to Her Excellency Datin Tan Bee Yong, Brunei's ambassador to the Nordic states.

HM presents and receives new envoys' credentials

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam had consented to present diplomatic credentials to three of Brunei's ambassadors. The event was held at the Istana Nurul Iman on January 20.

The first envoy was His Excellency Haji Mohd Noor bin Haji Jeludin, Brunei's ambassador to Japan. The

second was Her Excellency Datin Tan Bee Yong, Brunei's ambassador to the Nordic states. And the third was His Excellency Haji Mustapha bin Haji Sirat, Brunei's ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

His Majesty next received credentials from three newly appointed foreign envoys. The first was His

** Continued on page 9*



His Excellency Teofisto T. Guingona Jr, the Philippines' vice-president (left) greets His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam upon arrival at the Villamor Air Force Base on January 26.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam inspects the guard of honour.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam inspects the guard of honour upon his arrival at the Malacañang Palace.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam announces his speech during a banquet hosted by Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo of the Philippines.

STATE VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES

LOG BOOK OF A SOVEREIGN

His Majesty's three-day itinerary for the state visit began with the laying of wreath ceremony held at the Rizal Memorial Park on January 27. Followed by a one-to-one meeting with Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at the Malacañang Palace.

Also on the same day, the sovereign received courtesy calls by the president of the Philippine Senate, the Honourable Franklin M. Drilon; and the speaker of the House of Representatives, the Honourable Jose De Venecia Jr.

The hosting state awarded His Majesty the honorary doctorate in law issued by the University of the Philippines. The event was held at the University's National Institute of Science and Mathematics Education. During the state banquet, the sovereign underscored the close Brunei-Philippine interdependence.

The sovereign next visited the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) on January 28 – the first foreign head of state to do so in 15 years. Prior to luncheon the sovereign's remark stressed the intellectual and technical competencies as prerequisite for professional military officers of today. His Majesty was also given the honour to pardon 146 cadets who had committed disciplinary offences throughout their stay at the Academy.

His Majesty and entourage left for Brunei Darussalam on January 29. Brunei's modern diplomatic history with the Philippines dates back since November 1, 1983 with the setting up of a Brunei Government Agency in Manila. The office was upgraded to embassy-level in January 1, 1984.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives the honorary doctorate degree in law from the University of the Philippines (UP). Dr Francisco Nemenzo (right), UP's president, delivers the certificate on behalf of the University.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam socialises with UP academic staff.

STATE VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES

LATEST BRUNEI-PHILIPPINES BILATERAL

Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of the Philippines signed the Agreement on Merchant Shipping and Related Matters on January 27. Brunei was represented by Pehin Dato Haji Yahya bin Dato Haji Bakar, the permanent secretary at the Prime Minister's Office and his Philippine counterpart was Oscar Servilla, the administrator for the Maritime Industry Enforcement. The document aims to improve Brunei-Philippine economic bilateral in maritime transportation.

In a joint press statement the same day, the two countries agreed to the proposed Memorandum of Understanding on the Academic Cooperation in Secondary Education and Cooperation in Tourism scheduled for signing soon.

Both countries expressed the importance of regional and international cooperation in the combat against terrorism. As such the Philippine president welcomed Brunei to join the Agreement on Information Exchange and the Establishment of Communication Procedures this year.



His Majesty receives a courtesy visit by the president of the Philippine Senate, the Honourable Franklin M. Drilon on January 27.



His Majesty also receives a courtesy visit by the speaker of the House of Representatives, the Honourable Jose De Venecia Jr.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam announces his speech during his visit to the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) on January 28. His Majesty is the first foreign head of state to visit PMA in 15 years.



The sovereign signs the granting of pardons for 146 cadets who had committed disciplinary offences throughout their stay at the Academy.

His Majesty visits the Rizal Memorial Park on January 27, prior to his meeting with the Philippine president.



His Majesty inspects the guard of honour upon his arrival at the Baguio City airport.



His Majesty lays a wreath at the Rizal Memorial Park.



His Majesty receives greetings from the diplomatic staff of the Manila-based Brunei embassy, and ones comprising the advance party from the Brunei foreign ministry.

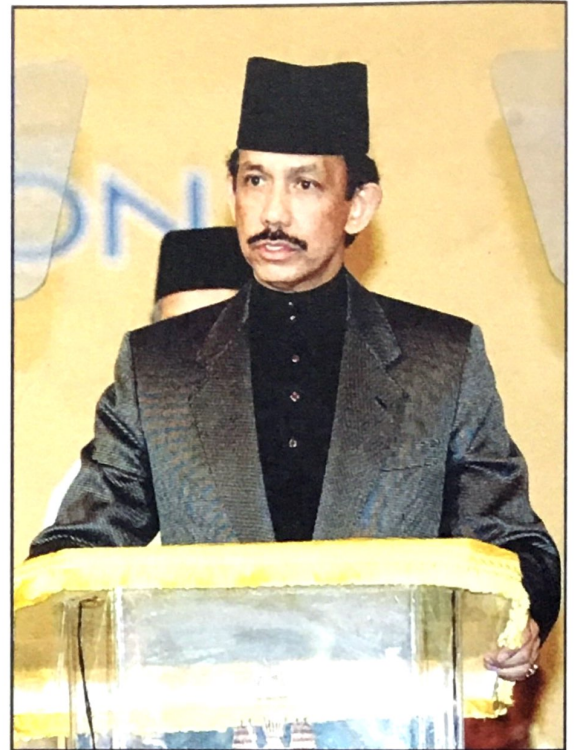
Youths, practise good character: HM



His Majesty presents a trophy to the winner of the male category, Mohammad Fahmie bin Haji Metussin from Brunei.



His Majesty presents a trophy to the winner of the female category, Eka Hermayani from Indonesia.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah delivers his address at the closing ceremony of the 2nd Quran Reading Contest for Southeast Asian Youths on January 19. Brunei hosted the first contest in 2000.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah called on Southeast Asian youths to prove that they can excel in leadership, education, and morals.

The sovereign said in a world fraught with moral and leadership crises, Southeast Asian Muslim youths of disparate cultural, linguistic and social backgrounds could function as model members of their communities.

Knowledge of the Islamic teachings could strengthen their faith in facing challenges, he said. "When your faith is strong, there is no problem for you to receive all kinds of welfare," he said.

Muslim youths could build a prosperous, peaceful and tranquil environment in their countries, he said during the closing ceremony of the 2nd Quran Reading Contest for Southeast Asian Youths on January 19.

The competition's purpose, he said, was to generate religious awareness among Muslim youths. According to the sovereign, efforts to discredit Islam by associating it with matters of no connection with this religion justified such gathering.

His Majesty concluded with optimistic advice for the participants: "Be proud of Islam, with the Quran, and do become model Muslims who are pursuing goodness and prohibiting sins."



His Majesty consents to a group photo session with members of the royal family, the organising committee, and all the contestants from the nine participating ASEAN member-states.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah officially opens the 2nd Quran Reading Contest for Southeast Asian Youths on January 17.



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince and entourage arrive at the International Convention Centre that hosts the contest.

HRH: PERFECT GUIDANCE FROM QURAN

Appreciation of Islamic tenets that emphasise tolerance and moderation could foster peace and cooperation at regional and international levels, according to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.

Islam encourages Muslims including youths to act in unison in pursuing good deeds, he said at the opening ceremony of the Quran Reading Contest for Southeast Asian Youths on January 17. The Quran guides Muslims to peace and mutual respect, and refrains them from pursuing conflicts, he said.

As heirs and future leaders, youth bonding through bilateral and regional programmes could nurture understanding and solidarity, according to the crown prince.

Hosting an event that demonstrates Islam's prominence is one of Brunei's positive contributions towards understanding and unity among Muslim youths in the region, he said. Brunei first hosted the Quran reading contest for youths in 2000. Nine ASEAN member-states participated in this year's contest: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

BAHRAIN'S PM VISITS BRUNEI



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah hosts a dinner for the Bahraini Prime Minister, His Royal Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa (left). Brunei's entourage comprises His Royal Highness The Crown Prince (far left), His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah.



His Majesty and members of the Brunei royal family receive the Bahraini entourage for a farewell audience on January 25 at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Bahrain's Prime Minister, His Royal Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa was in Brunei on January 24 for a two-day working visit. The Bahraini suite comprised the Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet Affairs Minister, and Finance and Economy Minister.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam had consented to host dinner for the Bahraini entourage the following day.

Brunei Darussalam established diplomatic relations with Bahrain on September 24, 1988.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs (right) receives the Bahraini Prime Minister and entourage upon arrival at Brunei airport on January 24.

New regulations for better public service

The Prime Minister's Office issued three new regulations to improve Brunei's public service: the first concerned employee recruitment, the second on staff training, and the third on monitoring staff attendance.

Dato Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, permanent secretary at the Prime Minister's Office described the regulations' attributes during the opening of the Alignment Workshop for Heads of Departments in the Public Service on January 27.

All three regulations, expressed in State Circulars, were announced in January this year. The first outlined

the fast-track recruitment process for hiring non-managerial personnel and disciplinary action applicable to managerial staff and below. The stipulated procedure required each government ministry to set up a Personnel Board for this purpose.

According to Dato Haji Hazair, the second regulation required all government personnel of all levels undergo 100-hour knowledge enhancement training each year. Training, both in-house and abroad, is extensively defined: attending seminars or workshops; attending official events or meetings; conducting

seminars or workshops; and engaging professional induction courses online.

The third regulation, according to Dato Haji Hazair, required all government institutions to set up computerised attendance system to monitor staff comings and goings during office hours. The system could increase employee accountability because it statistically records staff attendance. Employees could see how much work time and financial losses the government endured resulting from staff absenteeism.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah presents the letter of diplomatic accreditation to His Excellency Haji Mustapha bin Haji Sirat, Brunei's ambassador to Pakistan.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives the letter of accreditation from His Excellency Mr Wei-Wei, ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Brunei.



His Majesty receives the letter of accreditation from His Excellency Mr Gene Christy, ambassador of the United States of America to Brunei.



His Majesty receives the letter of accreditation from His Excellency Mr Vesely Jaroslav, ambassador of the Czech Republic to Brunei.

** From page 2 (Diplomatic accreditation)*

Excellency Mr Wei-Wei, ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Brunei. The second was His Excellency Mr Gene Christy, ambassador of the United States to Brunei. And the third was Mr Vesely Jaroslav, ambassador of the Czech Republic to Brunei.

The sovereign's itinerary was concluded with two separate audiences: one for the three Brunei ambassadors; the other for the three newly appointed foreign envoys.

BRUNEI ESTABLISHES BANKING AND INVESTMENT COOPERATION WITH BAHRAIN

Brunei signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bahrain on January 25. The MoU's remit enabled cooperation between the two states in areas of banking and investment covering Islamic banking, financial data, and training.

Brunei Darussalam was represented by the deputy Finance Minister, Dato Haji Yakub bin Haji Abu Bakar. His Bahraini counterpart was Abdullah Hassan Saif, the Minister of Finance and Economy.



Milestone date for the Brunei-Bahrain relations: Brunei signs cooperation agreement in areas of banking and investment. His Excellency Abdullah Hassan Saif, the Minister of Finance and Economy represents Bahrain (left), and Dato Haji Yakub bin Haji Abu Bakar, the deputy Finance Minister represents Brunei.

Audience for intending pilgrims



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness The Crown Prince receive visit from male pilgrims prior to leaving for the holy city of Mecca. Such visit that displays reverence for the royal family is locally known as junjung ziarah.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah had consented to grant an audience to 542 male pilgrims prior to their travel to the holy city of Mecca to perform the haj. The audience was held at the Istana Nurul Iman on January 18.

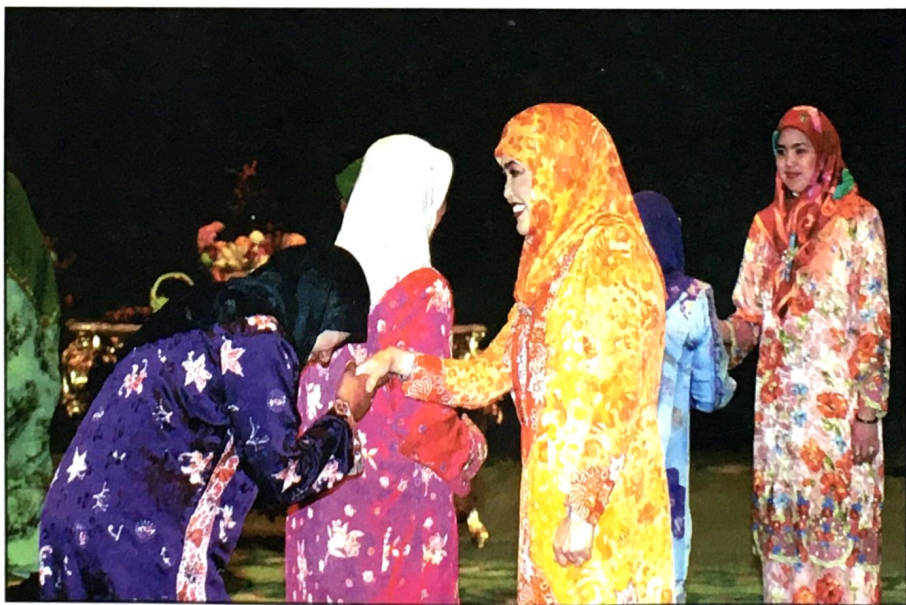
Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha also consented to grant an audience to 548 female pilgrims in the other part of the palace on the same day.

The flag carrier, Royal Brunei Airlines had prepared eight flights to shuttle the Brunei pilgrims to Saudi Arabia.

B\$1 billion funding for 2003

Brunei's 8th National Development Plan (8th NDP) had received B\$1 billion funding, for the second consecutive year.

More than half, B\$579 million, was allocated to finance 384 new projects; the remainder served as payments for last year's projects. All projects comprised public goods: housing, information-communication technology, transport, agriculture, forestry, fishery and entrepreneurial development programmes.



Her Majesty The Raja Isteri receives junjung ziarah from female pilgrims in another audience hall of the Istana Nurul Iman.



All pilgrims receive the haj attire called ihram donated by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah officially opens the UBD Bamboo Park.

Crown prince opens UBD's bamboo park

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah officially opened the University of Brunei's (UBD) Bamboo Park on January 16.

The five-hectare plantation represented the second phase of UBD's campus beautification project. The first phase was launched by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on October 2000.

Subsequent phases include four types of greenery: palm, fern, herbs, and fruit trees.

According to UBD's vice chancellor, Dr Haji Ismail bin Haji Duraman the bamboo park was the brainchild of the late chancellor, Dato Dr Haji Mahmud Saedon bin Othman.



His Royal Highness releases a fish into the man-made pond.



His Royal Highness plants a bamboo seedling to commemorate his visit to the park.

Asean discusses its link with eu

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, the Ambassador-at-Large attended the 14th ASEAN-EU Foreign Ministers Meeting on January 28 in Brussels, Belgium.

His Excellency Somsavat Lengsavat, the Lao Foreign Minister and the European Union (EU) President, His Excellency George Papandreaou of Greece, jointly chaired the Meeting.

Her Royal Highness outlined ASEAN's latest development during Brunei's chairmanship of the ASEAN Standing Committee, including measures to combat terrorism, and the region's economic cooperation in strengthening member-states' economy.

ASEAN and EU foreign ministers issued a joint declaration in combating terrorism. The Declaration emphasised cooperation between the two regional organisations, and stressed the primacy of the United Nations' role in managing issues of terrorism.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah receives a courtesy visit from His Excellency Mr Blas Ople, the Foreign Secretary of the Philippines.



After an audience with the sovereign, His Excellency the Philippine Foreign Secretary next attends an audience with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah. The Philippine ambassador, Her Excellency Virginia Benavidez (far left) accompanies His Excellency Foreign Secretary Ople throughout the two royal audiences.

HM AND CROWN PRINCE MEET PHILIPPINES FOREIGN SECRETARY

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah had consented to grant an audience to His Excellency Mr Blas Ople, the Foreign Secretary of the Republic of the Philippines on January 21. The event was held at the Istana Nurul Iman.

After the audience with the sovereign, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah also consented to receive His Excellency Mr Blas Ople the same day at the other part of the palace.

This is Mr Ople's first visit to Brunei since his appointment as foreign secretary. His Excellency was in Brunei Darussalam for three days.

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

January Rainfall: 60.0 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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