



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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ASEM enhances understanding and cooperation



His Majesty greets the President of Viet Nam, His Excellency Tran Duc Luong at the 5th Asia-Europe Meeting

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was in Hanoi to attend the 5th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM 5) from October 8 to 9.

Meetings were held in three closed sessions and a Retreat Session. The First Closed Session discussed the theme of 'International Developments and New Global Challenges'. At the session, His Majesty delivered a speech where he outlined the importance of diversity and the importance of fostering a closer relation with regional organisations such as ASEM or the United Nations (UN).

At the Second Closed Session, heads of state and government discussed the ways to promote economic cooperation between both sides under the theme of 'Promoting the Asia-Europe Economic Partnership in the Context of Globalisation and Open Regionalism'.

Both sessions were held on October 8 in the morning and afternoon respectively at International Convention Centre.

The Third Closed Session was held on October 9 at the same venue.

At this session, heads of state and government discussed the theme of 'Cultural Diversity: Preserving National Cultures in the Age of Information Technology and Globalisation'.

The meeting was chaired by the Prime Minister of the Republic Socialist of Viet Nam, His Excellency Phan Van Khai.

His Majesty also delivered a speech at this meeting in which he said that globalisation and any issues that are linked with it could promote tolerance and respect for each other if it is handled with utmost understanding.

His Majesty also said that projects for ASEM in 2005 could promote and enhance the understanding and better cooperation among the youth of Asia and Europe.

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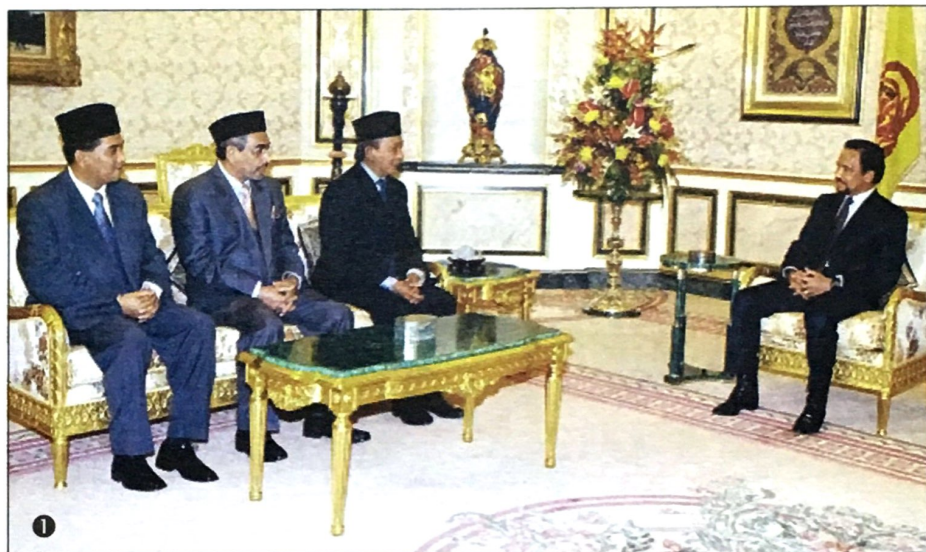
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PALACE NEWSROUND... PALACE NEWSROUND... PALACE

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

- ① His Excellency Tan Sri Samsudin Osim, the Chief Secretary of Malaysian Government on October 2.
- ② His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, the Prime Minister of Republic of Singapore on October 4.
- ③ His Excellency Cedric Foo, Minister of State of Defence of Singapore on October 11.





His Majesty hosts luncheon for the Prime Minister of Singapore at the Istana Nurul Iman

Brunei-Singapore relation strengthen

His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore was in the country for a one-day work visit.

His Excellency's itinerary on October 4 began with a one-to-one meeting with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Both leaders discussed bilateral issues between both nation-states.

His Excellency also attended a luncheon hosted by His Majesty.

In a press conference, His Excellency stated that Brunei and Singapore have a strong bilateral relationship and a wide range of cooperation namely; the economy, military and other sectors. He also

stated that business opportunities for Brunei and Singapore still exist as a result of Singaporeans investing in this country and vice versa. Such opportunities, according to His Excellency, are also present through eco-tourism and conventional tourism.

Brunei and Singapore established its diplomatic relation on January 1, 1984. However, bilateral relation between both countries has existed since the 1970's where Brunei set up its government agency in Singapore on February 1, 1975. The status of the agency was upgraded to Commissioner on September 1, 1982 and a High Commissioner on January 1, 1984.



His Excellency at a press conference

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam issued congratulatory messages to:

- His Excellency President Hu Jintao of China in conjunction with the republic's National Day on October 1.
- His Excellency President Roh Moo-hyun of Korea and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Lee Hae-Chan in conjunction with the republic's National Foundation Day on October 3.
- His Excellency President Horst Kohler of German and His Excellency Gerhard Schroder the Federal Republic of German's Chancellor in conjunction with the German Unification Day on October 3.
- His Majesty King Juan Carlos I of Spain and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero in conjunction with the Kingdom of Spain's National Day on October 12.
- His Excellency Dr. Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono for his election as the President of the Republic of Indonesia.



Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha granted audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman for:

- ❶ Yang Berbahagia Puan Sri Suslita Majid, the spouse of Chief Secretary of Malaysian Government on October 2.
- ❷ The spouse of foreign envoys to Brunei on October 7 in conjunction with Her Majesty's Birthday.



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

His Excellency Conrad Karl Cappell, the newly appointed Ambassador of German to Brunei on October 13.

Citizens receive keys & land lots

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam issued land grants and keys to new homes to 87 recipients on October 14. The ceremony was held at Pengiran Setia Jaya Pengiran Abdul Momin Primary School in Belait.

From the total recipients, 43 received land grants based at five different *mukims* and 44 received keys to terrace houses under the Kampong Pandan National Housing Scheme.

His Majesty also toured the school; visited several homes of the recipients; industrial sites; homes of *Penghulu* and village headman of Mukim Belait; petrol station; *syaria* lower court and civil's court building.

HM attends inauguration ceremony of Indonesia's new president

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was in the Republic of Indonesia from October 19 – 20 to attend the appointment and swearing-in ceremony of the new President of Indonesia.

Prior to the ceremony, His Majesty held a one-to-one meeting with Bapak Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at Grand Hyatt Hotel in Jakarta. The meeting touched both bilateral and regional issues.

His Majesty joined other foreign leaders to witness the appointment and swearing-in ceremony of President Dr. Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono as the sixth President of Indonesia on October 20 at the republic's parliament building.

His Majesty's itinerary was concluded with the breaking of fast with the newly elected president at the Istana Negara.



His Majesty greets the new President of Indonesia



His Majesty with heads of state and government at the inauguration ceremony



Sixth President of Indonesia sworn in



President Dr. Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Muslim heads of state and government break fast at the Istana Negara



Heads of state and government at the 5th ASEM



His Majesty delivers a speech at the First Closed Session



His Majesty at the Gala Dinner held at Melia Hotel (left)



His Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah at the closing session



His Majesty upon arrival at Noi Bai International Airport



National flags of each state-members of ASEM



His Majesty at one of the divisions at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports



His Majesty listens to a briefing by one of the officers



Officers and staff members taking the opportunity for an autograph from His Majesty as a memento

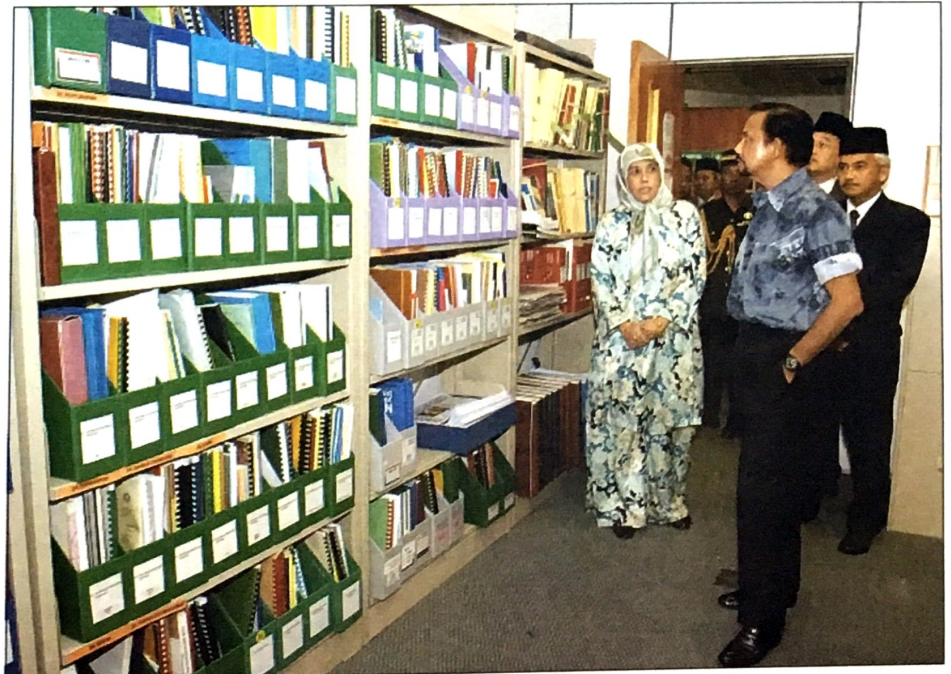
HM visits Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made an unscheduled visit to the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports on October 5.

During the visit, His Majesty toured various sections of the Ministry.

Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports was established soon after Brunei achieved her independence. There are five departments under the flagship of this Ministry – Language and Literature Bureau, Youth and Sports Department, Museum Department, History Centre and Community Development Department.

There are also five divisions under the Ministry – Administration, Culture, Research and Public Relations, Outward Bound Brunei Darussalam (OBBD) and Youth Development Centre.



His Majesty tours a library in the Ministry's building



His Majesty delivers a royal speech at the Nuzul Al-Quran celebration



Winner of Category A, Awang Muhammad Najib receives his award

Quran as a torch of enlightenment and blessings

It is the responsibility of the Islamic *ummah* to protect the holiness and honour of the Quran.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said at the ceremony marking the Nuzul Al-Quran celebration on October 31 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

The sovereign also stressed the significance of the Quran as it could give a torch of enlightenment and blessings in all of our work.

"Let us use the Quran as an everlasting guidance," said His Majesty.

Nuzul Al-Quran is a celebration commemorating the first revelation of the Quran sent by Allah The Almighty to Prophet Muhammad.



Winner of Category C, Awang Muhammad Azim receives his prize



Royal entourage at the Nuzul Al-Quran celebration



Winner of Category A (above left) reciting a surah from Al-Quran

Her Majesty attends birthday celebrations

Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha on October 9 attended birthday celebration organised by the Women Council of Brunei Darussalam at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

While on October 10, Her Majesty attended another birthday celebration at the Royal Berkshire hall in Jerudong Park Polo Club. The ceremony was held by the spouses of Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers and senior government officials.



Her Majesty cutting her birthday cake during a celebration presented by Women Council of Brunei



Her Majesty at a birthday celebration hosted by the spouses of Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers and senior government officials



Her Majesty and members of the royal family at a ceremony marking Her Majesty's birthday

Her Royal Highness at the 6th International Nursing Conference



Her Royal Highness delivers a speech



A choir performance by nursing students at the conference

Good leadership in nursing profession vital

Nurses and healthcare professionals must ensure that they are up-to-date with latest developments in medical and healthcare fields. This is because the general public place high expectations on the competence and performance of their health professionals as adequate information are available through

mediums like the Internet.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah said at the opening ceremony of the 6th International Nursing Conference on October 11 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

This year's conference carries the theme 'Leadership for Change: Education, Practice and Research'.

According to Her Royal Highness, good leadership is essential since the nursing profession forms a major part of our healthcare environment and nurses represent the front line of our healthcare systems.

International Nursing Conference is held annually and hosted by the Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah College of Nursing.



Minister of Health officially opens the building for SMARTER

SMARTER opens its centre

The Society for the Management of Autism - Related Issues in Training, Education and Resources Brunei (SMARTER) now has its own operational building.

Present to officially open the building was the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar on October 2 at Sengkurong.

This building which is known as 'Autism Spectrum Disorder Centre' would be providing the initial stages of caring programs on social, training, education and psychology. It also has various facilities namely Early Intervention, Assessment, High functioning and Sensory Centres, Swimming pool, Sand Pit playground and Mini Gymnasium areas.

8th AMRI - “Ten Nations One Community”

Senior officers led by the Minister of Communications attended the 8th ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI) meeting held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The meeting which was held on October 6-8 focused on the importance of the roles of Information Ministers in imparting information, knowledge and the dissemination of information to all ASEAN citizens and to the outside world.

A number of efforts and initiatives were also agreed:-

1. ASEAN conferences would now use the tagline – “Ten Nations One Community”

2. Trailer would be broadcasted on televisions promoting ASEAN with the length of one and three minutes

3. ASEAN Sound Bites would be used in ASEAN radio programs as an addition to the ASEAN in Action programmes

4. Electronic games would be created based on the history and geography of ASEAN

5. A 30 minute segment would be dedicated for ASEAN news every week and to enhance the quality of the news by providing training to news producers.



Pehin Dato Awang Haji Zakaria, Minister of Communications leading Brunei's delegation to 8th AMRI

An agreement was also reached to enhance the efforts of the ASEAN Television News. The dissemination of news on ASEAN is important in its bid to promote and enhance the image of ASEAN. This program was introduced by Brunei.

Ministers also agreed to cooperate in the field of digital broadcasting through the ASEAN Digital Cooperation (ABD). This is a joint project led by Brunei and Singapore adopted in 2003 where it enabled all ASEAN countries to jointly discuss issues pertaining to the relevant policies for digital

broadcasting. At this meeting, all Ministers agreed for a Task Force to formulate a common technical specification of the Set-Top Boxes for receiving digital transmission for ASEAN.

The 8th AMRI meeting also agreed to introduce the conference of AMRI with three other nation-states namely; China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. This would be introduced at the 9th AMRI meeting in Indonesia in 2006.

RBAF sends personel for IMT

Ten personel from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) were deployed to Mindanao of South Philippines to join the International Monitoring Team (IMT).

A handing over of the national flag ceremony was held prior to departure. Present at the ceremony was the Commander of RBAF, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Halbi on October 20 at Rimba in Gadong.

The team would be monitoring and supervising the ceasefire and implementation of the socio-economy aspect stated in the agreement between the government of the Republic of Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Participation of RBAF portrays



Personel from RBAF bids goodbye before departing for Mindanao

Brunei's desire to contribute towards peace. This is aligned with one of the priorities stated in the Defence White Paper 2004, where it supports stability

in the neighbouring countries. This is also to train RBAF personnel to be equipped for United Nations' mission by 2007.

8th DGICM

Various agreements were reached at the 8th Meeting of the ASEAN Director-General of Immigration Departments and Head of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM):-

1. Meeting reviewed and considered measures to accelerate the implementation of the Work Program of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Immigration Matters adopted in 2002.
2. Complying with the Bali Concord II and ASEAN Tourism Agreement, the meeting agreed to step up efforts in harmonising the visa issuance procedures, where possible, for foreign nationals travelling into ASEAN.
3. The meeting also welcomed the offer by the Philippines to hold a workshop on Anti Fraud Travel Documents.
4. Delegations shared their experiences in its bid to enhance the effectiveness on immigration matters among member-states. Meeting also welcomed the progress achieved by several member-states on their 'Biometric Passport' and the proposal to improve passports in accordance with ICAO standards.
5. Meeting also noted the initiatives made by member-states in promoting seamless clearance through the use of Smart Cards.
6. Visa exemption for ASEAN nationals made by member-states in line with the Bali Concord II and the draft ASEAN Framework Agreement was also welcomed.
7. Meeting also took of Cambodia's presentation on 'Strengthening Regional Security Through Cambodia's Enhanced Border Control Capacity'.
8. Meeting welcomed the offer by Cambodia to host the 9th DGICM in 2005.

The 12th ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) was held in Brunei Darussalam on October 12 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Among the issues considered were the proposals of the 12th ACCSM working group on enhancing ACCSM cooperation values, ACCSM Action Plan for the next five years, and the need for training where priority would be given to countries like Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam.

The meeting also discussed Brunei's proposal on implementation of ASEAN Civil Service Visit Exchange Programme.

ACCSM is an organisation that is intended to bring cooperation among the ASEAN civil service to meet developing challenges due to the advancements in technology. It also intends to respond to the increasing pace of regional economic integration, to enhance the quality and delivery of the civil services, as well as hasten the pace of reform and changes the civil services in the ASEAN region.

12th ACCSM to enhance cooperation values



Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Hamid, Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office chairs the 12th ACCSM

MOH launch logo and book

Obesity is a global problem, thus, Brunei is not exempted. The main causes of obesity are the high intake of food containing high calorie and fat. According to the National Dietary Status research (1996-1997), obesity among boys aged between five to 10 years old in this country has reached 17.8 per

cent. While for girls, they have achieved eight per cent. Both figures are one of the highest in ASEAN.

Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar said on October 12 at the launching of 'Healthier Choice' logo and 'Healthy Recipes Collection 2' book at the Empire Hotel and Country Club in

Jerudong. It was held on conjunction with World Heart Day.

According to the Minister, studies had shown that 12 per cent of boys and 10.8 per cent of girls aged between six to nine years old have a high blood pressure and cholesterol level.

This problem could be reduced by controlling the intake of oily food. Oily food could lead to obesity, coronary heart problem, cancer, diabetes and high blood pressure.

Launching of 'Healthier Choice' logo is a form of recognition by the Ministry of Health on healthy food products. It is hoped that with the logo, it would increase the practice and the consumption of healthier food. It is also hoped that with a healthier food choices, a more conducive environment towards a healthier lifestyle would prevail.

The launching of the "Healthy Recipes Collection 2" book is aimed to provide consumers with a healthier style of cooking.



Minister of Health launching the logo and book

Complex extended to accommodate more fishing ships

Problems of congestion at the existing fish landing complex in Muara would soon be solved as a result of the extension project which commenced since April of this year.

The extended complex would be complete by June 2005 with the project costing more than B\$2 million.

Present at the foundation laying ceremony was the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Idris bin Haji Belaman on October 14 at Muara.

The current fish landing complex could no longer accommodate the growing amount of fishing ships. It was built in 1988 costing more than B\$5.4 million.



A foundation laying ceremony for the extended complex to accommodate more fishing ships

Brunei-German explore further for areas of cooperation

Brunei-German diplomatic relation would continuously be enhanced and more opportunities for cooperation could be explored.

This was stated by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Hussein at the reception for the 14th anniversary of German Unification Day on October 5 at the Empire Hotel and Country Club in Jerudong.

The minister also expressed his appreciation with the signing of agreement on encouragement and protection of investments between both nation-states. He also said that Brunei welcomes German's interest in assisting developing countries.

In his welcoming speech, His Excellency Conrad Cappell, the Ambassador of German to Brunei said that German is attracted with Brunei's efforts to diversify its economy.

Brunei and Germany bilateral relation were established on May 1, 1984.



Cake-cutting ceremony as the highlight of the reception

Enhance techniques to prevent crime

Immigration authority in each ASEAN member-states should enhance and develop their procedures and techniques to avoid crime from intruding into ASEAN.

This was stated by the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Adnan at the opening ceremony of the 8th Meeting of the ASEAN Director-General of Immigration

Departments and Head of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) on October 11 in Gadong.

The three-day meeting was attended by ASEAN representatives. Various issues were discussed ranging from consular affairs and ASEAN's Plan of Action related to immigration matters.



Deputy Minister of Home Affairs said immigration authorities should enhance and develop techniques to prevent crime



Pehin Dato Haji Awang Badaruddin officially opens BITEK 2004

BITEK 2004 showcase ICT products

Brunei is open for any latest advancements of the technology. Hence, we should not be spectators but participate actively.

This was stated by Pehin Dato Haji Awang Badaruddin at the launching of BITEK 2004 at the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Shopping Complex on October 1.

** continued on page 15*

Business activities in Brunei have shown positive signs. Besides a stable Consumer Price Index (CPI), the amount of retail shops emerging exceeding demands had given an impact on rentals. This has led to a more competitive business environment and has assisted in reducing the price of goods and services.

This was stated by Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Wahab, the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office during the launching of Brunei Grand Sale (BGS) 2004 on October 1 at The Mall in Gadong.

According to the Permanent Secretary, the Department of Planning and Economic Development (JPKE) has initiated a price control over daily necessities. Price control is carried out under legal jurisdictions.

On Brunei Grand Sale, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Wahab

More than 400 outlets participate in Brunei Grand Sale



Brunei Grand Sale runs from October 1 to November 21

said that it was carried out with cooperation from more than 400 outlets in Brunei. Participating outlets are giving discounts 20 per

cent above on various goods and products.

BGS runs from October 1 to November 21.

ICT to enhance education

Ministry of Education(MOE) has introduced Info-Communications Technology (ICT) as a compulsory subject for students to learn in both government and private primary schools.

Dato Paduka Sheikh Haji Adnan, the Permanent Secretary at MOE said at the finale of the Inforama Quiz 2004 at Radio Televisyen Brunei on October 23.

According to the Permanent Secretary, the ministry has equipped all levels of academic institutions with ICT facilities. Internet access are now accessible to enhanced the level of education on all levels.

Inforama Quiz is held annually in its bid to promote the importance of information technology among members of the public.



A winner of the Inforama Quiz 2004 receives his award

** from page 14 (BITEK 2004)*

Pehin Dato Haji Awang Badaruddin urged all parties to be actively involved in fulfilling the needs of the government and private sector. Besides being actively

involved, all parties should see the importance of acquiring knowledge and technologically skilled.

Hence, he urged the Brunei Darussalam's Computer Association (PKBD) to continuously promote the importance of ICT besides

developing the existing knowledge and skill.

BITEK Week 2004 is an ICT showcase opened for the public where various ICT products were displayed. It was opened from October 1 to 5.

HỘI NGHỊ CẤP CAO Á - ÂU
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5TH ASIA - EUROPE MEETING
HANOI, 8 - 9 OCTOBER 2004



Heads of state and government from the Asia and Europe region at the 5th Asia-Europe Meeting

5th Asia-Europe Meeting

Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) was formally inaugurated at the first Asia-Europe Summit held in Bangkok in March 1996.

There are three main areas of cooperation under ASEM which are political dialogue, economic-financial cooperation and cooperation in other fields. The ASEM process has become a bridge spanning between the two continents. It has helped foster deeper understanding and

cooperation.

ASEM was founded by 26 members. Ten countries are from members of ASEAN and three Northeast Asian nations - Brunei, China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Fifteen are from members of EU - Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United

Kingdom and European Commission (EC).

The Summit in Hanoi was the largest meeting with the admission of 13 new members from Asia and Europe namely; Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Next ASEM Summit would be held in September 2006 in Helsinki, Finland.

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: 349,600 (2003 estimate)

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.

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