



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam newsletter

Published by the Department of Information
Prime Minister's Office

APRIL, 2010
VOLUME 25 ISSUE 4

Brunei Darussalam – Tajikistan share warm and cooperative relationship

ISTANA NURUL IMAN, April 3 – These last 20 years have been among the most dynamic of modern history. Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Tajikistan have witnessed sweeping changes in science, engineering, technology, communications, production and consumption.

These were said by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* (royal speech) at a state banquet to celebrate the two-day state visit of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, His Excellency Emomali Rahmon to Brunei Darussalam,

“As a result, one of the important aspects of our work as leaders is, of course, to help our people understand and absorb those changes well with confidence and in security.

So, I am pleased that we have agreed on a number of areas in which we can work together.

The M.O.U and Agreement we have signed will give us a clear idea of how we can best go about building a warm and cooperative relationship between our countries,” said His Majesty.

Earlier in his royal speech, His Majesty said that for nearly two decades President Emomali Rahmon has led the people of Tajikistan in their national efforts to meet modern domestic and regional challenges bravely and steadfastly in peace, stability and tolerance,



PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH

His Majesty and the President of the Republic of Tajikistan during a bilateral meeting.

* Continue on page 3

Positive indicators for Brunei Darussalam in Human Development Index



PHOTO: AZIMAH HAJI AHAD

The Acting Chairman of BEDB gives a briefing for Sabah's Minister of Industrial Development and delegation.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 13 – Brunei Darussalam was ranked 30th on the Human Development Index by United Nations (UN) in 2009; the first among Islamic nations; second in ASEAN; and fourth in Asia.

The matters were highlighted by Acting Chairman of Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) in his briefing for Sabah's Minister of Industrial Development, His Excellency Datuk Raymond Tan Shu Kiah and delegation at i-Centre.

Meanwhile, in Macro-economy Stabilisation (Global Competitiveness Report, World Economic Forum 2008 – 2009) he said, Brunei Darussalam was first, followed by Algeria and Kuwait on second and third spots.

*Continue on page 15



7 Brunei Darussalam – Tajikistan share warm and cooperative relationship



6 His Majesty meets the President and Prime Minister of Vietnam



8 His Majesty graces Hikmat Bersatu Exercise III



8 AAG links Southeast Asia - USA



9 Her Royal Highness attends birthday celebration



9 ASCC prioritises four areas



14 SMS Brunei Prihatin launched



15 Goodwill visit by Sabah's Minister of Industrial Development



17 Stability and prosperity attract investment



APRIL 2010 | VOLUME 25 ISSUE 4

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

is published monthly by the Department of Information. It reports on government, social and business events in the country. All money values are expressed in Brunei dollars \$, unless otherwise stated. Any information in this newsletter may be reproduced; a clipping of the publication would be appreciated. For free subscription (excluding postage) please write to the Distribution Unit, Department of Information, Prime Minister's Office, Old Airport, Berakas BB 3510, Brunei Darussalam.

EDITORIAL Advisory Board:

Dr. Haji Muhammad Hadi Muhammad Melayong
(hadi.melayong@information.gov.bn)

Editor:

Sastra Sarini Haji Julaini
(sarini.julaini@information.gov.bn)

Sub Editor:

Hajah Noorhijrah Haji Idris
(noorhijrah.idris@information.gov.bn)

Reporters:

Aidah Hidop
(aidah.hidop@information.gov.bn)
Hajah Apsah Haji Sahdan
(apsah.sahdan@information.gov.bn)

Layout Designer:

Hajah Zaianit Haji Noorkhan
(zaianit.noorkhan@information.gov.bn)

Proof reader:

Hajah Norpisah Md Salleh
(norpisah.salleh@information.gov.bn)

Online:

Haji Ariffin Mohd.Noor
(ariffin.noor@information.gov.bn)

Photographs

Photography Division of Department of Information

General inquiries

(673) 2383 400/ext English News & Media IT Division
Fax (673) 2382 012

Information Department

www.information.gov.bn

Information Gallery

www.infofoto.org.bn

VISIT US ONLINE → www.bdnewsletter.gov.bn

EMAIL US AT: bd.newsletter@information.gov.bn



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

His Majesty and the President of the Republic of Tajikistan at a state banquet to celebrate the two-day state visit of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan to Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty and President of Republic of Tajikistan hold bilateral meeting

ISTANA NURUL IMAN, April 3 – A bilateral meeting was held between His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the President of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Also present at the meeting were His Royal Highness Crown Prince

Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The bilateral meeting ended with a signing of document and an

exchange of notes.

Present as signatories to the documents were His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, His Excellency Hamrokhon Zarifi.

*** From frontpage**

(Brunei Darussalam- Tajikistan share warm cooperative relationship)

and have constantly supported these principles in the international area.

“Next month in Dushambe, we shall be joining the international community in congratulating your people not only on hosting the OIC Foreign Ministers Meeting but on the statement it makes about their commitment to the

brotherhood of our faith and to the principle of international peace and goodwill among all people.

In acknowledging all these achievements, we thank the people of Tajikistan and we are delighted that your visit gives the opportunity to express our appreciation to their President in person,” said His Majesty.

Also present at the state banquet

were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji ‘Azim, His Royal Highness Prince ‘Abdul Malik, His Royal Highness Prince ‘Abdul Mateen and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna.

His Majesty receives in audience

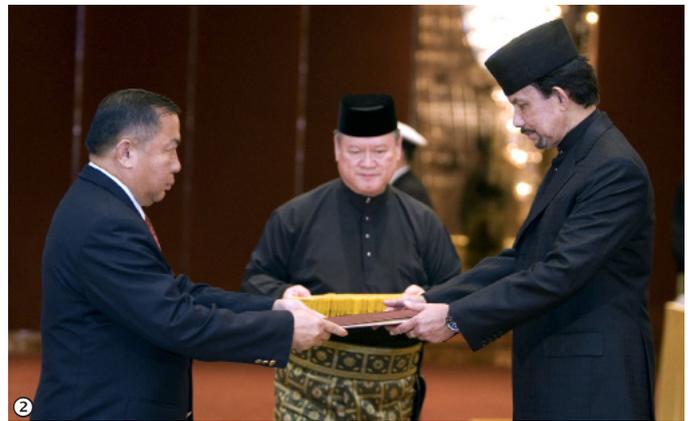
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 3 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience His Excellency Somdy Bounkhoun, the outgoing Ambassador of Lao People’s Democratic Republic to Brunei Darussalam.

The audience took place at Istana Nurul Iman.



PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH

His Majesty received in audience His Excellency Somdy Bounkhoun.



PHOTOS: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

HM receives diplomatic credentials

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 22 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received diplomatic credentials from four newly-appointed envoys to Brunei Darussalam held at Istana Nurul Iman.

They were:

- ❶ His Excellency Mohammad Reza Havaseli Ashtiani, newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Islamic Republic of Iran to Brunei Darussalam.
- ❷ His Excellency Souvanna Phouyavong, newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Democratic of Republic People of Laos to Brunei Darussalam.
- ❸ His Excellency Roland Van Remoortele, newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belgium to Brunei Darussalam.
- ❹ His Excellency Johannes Wilhelmus Gunivortus Jansing, newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Netherlands to Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty receives audience

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 24 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience Her Excellency Tong Xiaoling, the outgoing Chinese Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam.

The audience took place at the Istana Nurul Iman.



PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN

HM sends condolences

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 15 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent his condolences to His Excellency Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China and His Excellency Wen Jiabao, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China following the recent earthquake that hit Qinghai Territory.

In the message to His Excellency Hu Jintao, His Majesty expressed his great sadness with the loss of lives and widespread devastation in the Qinghai Territory, especially to the bereaved families of the victims.



Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received in audience at Istana Nurul Iman from:

- ❶ The spouse of the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam, Puan Sri Rejeki Handayani Handriyo on April 5.
- ❷ Her Excellency Tong Xiaoling, the outgoing Chinese Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam on April 10.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received audiences at Istana Nurul Iman from:

- ❶ The outgoing Chinese Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, Her Excellency Tong Xiaoling on April 17.
- ❷ The newly-appointed Islamic Republic of Iran's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mohammad Reza Havaseli Ashtiani on April 22.
- ❸ The newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic Democratic of Laos to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Souvanna Phouyavong on April 26.

His Majesty meets President and Prime Minister of Vietnam

PHOTOS: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN

HANOI, VIETNAM, April 7 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held a separate bilateral meeting with the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, His Excellency Nguyen Minh Triet and the Prime Minister of Vietnam, His Excellency Nguyen Tan Dung.

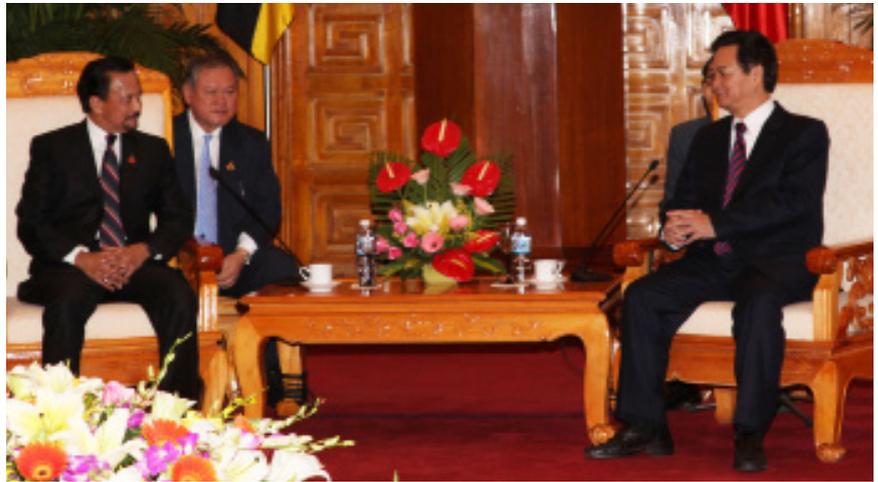
His Majesty first met His Excellency Nguyen Minh Triet at the Presidential Palace where His Majesty congratulated His Excellency and the Government of Vietnam for hosting the 16th ASEAN Summit, and discussed bilateral matters between the two countries.

His Majesty later met His Excellency Nguyen Tan Dung at the Government House. During discussions, His Majesty congratulated His Excellency as the chairman of this year's ASEAN Summit, and exchanged views on regional and international matters.

Also present was His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



His Majesty held a bilateral meeting with President of Vietnam.



His Majesty held a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Vietnam.



His Majesty meets the General Secretary Communist Party of Vietnam.

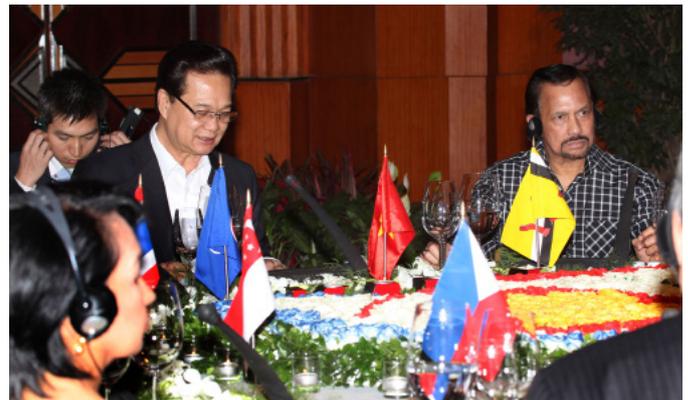
Bilateral and regional matters discussed

HANOI, VIETNAM, April 8 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Nong Duc Manh, General Secretary Communist Party of the Republic Socialist of Vietnam exchanged views on bilateral and regional matters at a meeting held at the Central Committee Headquarters.

His Majesty also congratulated His Excellency and the Government of Vietnam for hosting the 16th ASEAN Summit.

Also present at the talks was His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

His Majesty during the working dinner hosted by Prime Minister of Vietnam.



ASEAN leaders evaluate ASEAN Community roadmap

HANOI, VIETNAM, April 8 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with other ASEAN leaders attended the Opening Ceremony and Plenary Session of the 16th ASEAN Summit held at the National Convention Center.

At the summit, His Majesty and other ASEAN leaders reviewed the progress made by ASEAN in implementing the ASEAN Charter, roadmap for ASEAN Community, as well as efforts in enhancing ASEAN connectivity.

The session was chaired by the Prime Minister of Vietnam, His Excellency Nguyen Tan Dung.

In the evening, His Majesty together with other ASEAN leaders attended a Working Dinner hosted by the Prime Minister of Vietnam held at Melia Hanoi Hotel.

Accompanying His Majesty throughout the events was His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



His Majesty and other ASEAN leaders at the 16th ASEAN Summit.



His Royal Highness with other ASEAN Foreign Ministers at a Working Dinner hosted by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam.

Foreign Ministers discuss regional development

HANOI, VIETNAM, April 7 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade with other ASEAN Foreign Ministers attended a Working Dinner hosted by His Excellency Pham Gia Khiem, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam at a leading hotel in Hanoi.

At the dinner, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers discussed preparations for the 16th ASEAN Summit and current regional developments.

Brunei achieves Tariff Liberalisation 99.65 per cent

HANOI, VIETNAM, April 7 - Brunei Darussalam with five other ASEAN countries comprising of Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand have reached 99.65 per cent of the overall liberalisation of tariffs until the year 2010. While the four other ASEAN countries - Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam have now reached 98.86 per cent of the

total tariff of 0.5 per cent under the Common Effective Preferential Tariffs for ASEAN Free Trade Area (CEPT-AFTA).

According to Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry of Vietnam, His Excellency Nguyen Cam Tu, ASEAN has achieved very significant success in community development since the

confirmation of the Council ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint in 2007. The success are based on four main pillars - development of a single market and production base, a competitive regional economy in all stages of development and full integration into the world economy in 2015.

ASEAN Foreign Ministers sign protocol on dispute resolution

HANOI, VIETNAM, 8 April - ASEAN Foreign Ministers have signed the ASEAN Charter Protocol on Dispute Settlement Mechanism which took place at National Convention Centre.

Present on behalf of Brunei Darussalam was His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The signing of the protocol is an important step towards the completion of the legal framework that has been set by the ASEAN Charter.



His Royal Highness at the signing of ASEAN Charter Protocol on Dispute Settlement Mechanism.

Overcome challenges that effect ASEAN's cohesiveness

HANOI, VIETNAM, April 9 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* (royal speech) suggested ways for ASEAN to further improve its relevance and credibility such as addressing challenges that continue to affect ASEAN's cohesiveness in realising the ASEAN Community by 2015.

His Majesty delivered a *titah* at the Retreat Session of the 16th ASEAN Summit held at the National Convention Centre.

On the ASEAN Economic Community Pillar, His Majesty stated that the regional grouping needed to realise a single market and production base for the region. In this regard, His Majesty highlighted the need for ASEAN to make further progress in

achieving this goal by 2015.

His Majesty also encouraged ASEAN to continue to work together in a cohesive manner in responding to urgent challenges such as climate change, terrorism, natural disasters, pandemic diseases and other crisis.

His Majesty added that ASEAN needed to enhance its strategic role and maintain the interest of its partners by striking a balance between driving the processes and providing opportunities for external partners to contribute to ASEAN. In this regard, His Majesty stated that ASEAN needed to be more proactive and play a leading role. In doing so, His Majesty underscored the need to provide sufficient resources to the ASEAN Secretariat in coordinating meetings,

formulating ideas, and in responding to crisis affecting the region. His Majesty added that this would create a dynamic ASEAN that is responsive to challenges.

After the Retreat Session, His Majesty with other ASEAN leaders met His Excellency Nguyen Minh Triet, the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at the Presidential Palace. His Majesty and other ASEAN leaders then attended a lunch hosted by His Excellency.

His Majesty left Hanoi, Vietnam for Brunei Darussalam later in the afternoon. Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness at the Hikmat Bersatu III Exercise.



PHOTOS: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN



His Majesty observes 3rd Hikmat Bersatu Exercise 2010

PENANJONG GARRISON, April 27 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Force (RBAF) observed closely Hikmat Bersatu III Exercise.

Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Crown Prince General Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.

The Hikmat Bersatu III Exercise has been conducted for the last twelve days which started on April 15. This exercise aimed at assessing the effectiveness and efficiency of RBAF Command and Control especially those between the Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) and other RBAF.

His Majesty also visited Anduki Aerodrome, Brunei Shell Petroleum to witness part of the on-going battle exercise.

AAG links Southeast Asia - USA

JERUDONG, April 14 – The Asia America Gateway (AAG) will link Southeast Asia to the United States of America (USA) using a high bandwidth optic fibre through the Pacific Ocean. This cable system with a length of 20,000 kilometres long will be linking Brunei Darussalam, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam directly to USA via Guam, Hawaii and California (San Luis Obispo).

Present to launch the AAG Submarine Cable was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

The AAG Submarine Cable will provide 1.92 terabit per second data transfer speed that can support internet, video and multimedia needs.

Earlier in his welcoming speech, the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar said that the system is an alternative communication system other than the 'South East Asia-Middle East-Western Europe 3' (SEA-ME-WE 3) Submarine Cable System which is the only cable link running at the moment.

The minister explained that Brunei Darussalam is one of the 'Branch Landing Party' for the AAG with a total investment of US\$40 million. The investment of US\$30 million is from the Government of His Majesty



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness at the launching of the AAG Submarine Cable.

The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through Brooketon Sendirian Berhad, meanwhile Telekom Brunei Berhad (TelBru) and DST Group through DST International invest US\$5 million respectively.

The minister said with AAG Submarine Cable, it will ensure that all business activities in Brunei Darussalam will continue to run.

An exhibition was also held showcasing various cables in implementing the system such as land cable, double armoured cable, single armoured cable and others.

The event was held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

Her Royal Highness attends birthday celebration

JERUDONG, April 11 – The Brunei Ladies Golf Association (BLGA) hosted a birthday celebration for Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah held at Member's Lounge, The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

At the ceremony, Her Royal Highness presented a mock cheque amounted to \$13,000 to the President of Learning Ladders Association, Dr. Sharina binti Haji Yunus. The sum was part of the amount collected from the golf tournament hosted by BLGA last year.

Her Royal Highness also presented trophies to the winners of the Golf Tournament 'Royal Patron's Challenge Trophy' 2010.



Her Royal Highness presents a mock cheque to the President of Learning Ladders Association.

SMJA wins PRYNSA



Her Royal Highness presents prizes to the winner of 12th PRYNSA Award.

GADONG, April 15 – Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam (SMJA) Secondary School emerged as the champion for the 12th 'Princess Rashidah Young Nature Science Award (PRYNSA)'.

Present to grace the prize awarding ceremony was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah who is the patron of PRYNSA.

Second place was won by Sultan Hasan Bangar Secondary School, Temburong who received cash prize of \$2,000. While third place was won by Sekolah Ugama Arab Menengah Perempuan Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit (SUAMPRIPAD) who received cash prize of \$1,000.

Each winner also received a trophy and laptop sponsored by Brunei Shell Petroleum as well as personal savings deposit of \$50 for each participant sponsored by Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) and certificates.

PRYNSA has been organised by Forestry Department since 1997. Among the objectives of PRYNSA is to instil awareness among the younger generation on the importance of preservation and protection of forest resources and the environment.

The event took place at The Rizqun International Hotel.

ASCC prioritises four areas



Her Royal Highness representing Brunei Darussalam at the 3rd ASCC Council Meeting in Hanoi.

HANOI, VIETNAM, April 7 – ASEAN Ministers Responsible for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council reviewed the development for the implementation of ASCC blueprint and noted the achievements accomplished since several years ago.

The ministers stressed the matter during the 3rd ASCC Council Meeting at the National Convention Center (NCC).

Representing Brunei Darussalam at the meeting was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Document on 'Transfer of Rights' signed

JERUDONG, April 14 – A document on 'Transfer of Rights' between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Brunei International Gateway (BIG) Sendirian Berhad was signed where it enables BIG Sendirian Berhad to manage and be the spearhead of the AAG Submarine Cable project for Brunei Darussalam.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office witnessed the signing of the document 'Transfer of Rights' held at Indera Kayangan Ballroom, The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar; while his counterpart was Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications, Awang Haji Alaihuddin as Chairman of BIG Sendirian Berhad.

His Royal Highness also launched BIG Sendirian Berhad's website which could be accessed through www.big.com.bn



The Minister of Communications (second from left) and the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications who is Chairman of BIG (third from left) at the signing of the document 'Transfer of Rights'.

* Continue on page 10

* From page 9 (ASCC prioritises four areas)

The ministers also discussed on steps to overcome shortages in the community building development including experts, mobilisation, cooperation in activities as stated in the national action plan.

The ministers also agreed to acknowledge four areas which became ASCC's priority during Vietnam becoming the ASEAN

Chairman that is human resource development for the recovery of sustainable economy; dealing with global challenges including infectious diseases, climate change and disaster management; to enhance ASEAN's women and children social welfare and development; and to enhance cultural cooperation towards creating awareness on ASEAN and ASEAN community.

The ministers also approved the

ASCC Communication Plan and the 4th ASEAN Minister Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA) Meeting Report and the 7th Senior Officials Meeting on Culture and Arts (SOMCA) which were held last March 24 to 26 at the Republic of Philippines.

After the meeting, the ministers attended the launching ceremony of Commission on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Women and Children.

Establishment of ACWC significant in ASEAN evolution

HANOI, Vietnam, April 7 – The establishment of ASEAN Commission on Promotion and Protection and Promotion on the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) is a significant

milestone in the evolution of ASEAN.

The establishment of the ACWC will be able to strengthen the implementation, objectives and principles of ASEAN as stipulated in

the Charter, Vientiane Action Programme 2004-2010, ASEAN Socio-Culture Committee (ASCC) blueprint, the APSC blueprint and ASEAN's commitment to strengthen regional cooperation on the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children.

ACWC will also act as a bridge for harmony, progression, authorisation and involvement of

women and children in the process of ASEAN community development.

In relation with the 16th ASEAN Summit, the launching of ACWC was held at the National Convention Center (NCC) by the Prime Minister of Socialist Republic of Vietnam, His Excellency Nguyen Tan Dung.

Present at the launching ceremony was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

In conjunction with the launching, ACWC organised its first meeting to discuss on the board's mission like the mandate enclosed in ACWC's Term of Reference.



PHOTO: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN

Her Royal Highness at the launching of ACWC .

MUARA, April 1 – A new health centre was officially opened in the bid to increase the quality and comprehensive primary health services for the people of this country.

The newly opened health centre is based at Muara and was officiated by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi.

The minister said that the primary health care is imperative in the overall health care and the standard of healthcare enjoyed by the people of a country reflects its people's economic and social development.

The new Muara Health Centre is built on 1,504 hectares of land under the 8th National Development Plan and costs around \$4,544,620.54 to build. The ground-breaking

ceremony was held on August 16, 2007 and completed on May 31, 2009.

This centre provides outpatient services like flu clinic, general sickness clinic, chronic disease appointment by hour, collection of blood and medical record provision. Other services available are pharmacy, E.M.A.S, community ophthalmology and community dietary.

Muara Health Centre is the second new health centre opened this year after Sungai Liang Health Centre which was opened last February.

Ministry of Health in its planning will build more health centres at various strategic areas including Lambak, Pengkalan Batu, Lamunin and Gadong.

New health centre opens



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

The Minister of Health officiates the new health centre in Muara.

National Standard Centre manages accreditation affairs

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 7 – The National Standard Centre, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) has been given the mandate to manage the standard, accreditation, metrology, quality and productivity affairs; and also on consumer's safety and protection in Brunei Darussalam.

This was stated by the Permanent Secretary at MIPR, Dayang Hajah Suriyah binti Haji Umar who chaired the inaugural National Standard Council Meeting held at the State Legislative

Building.

In her remarks, she said that the proposal for establishment of National Standard Council was raised from awareness on the importance of developing private sector particularly involving in exports of local products.

The meeting was attended by 17 members from public and private sectors, and institutions which have interest and role besides being able to contribute ideas for the country's development.

National Standard Council was officially established on December 14, 2009 by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Among the objectives of this council are to introduce and expand the national standard to international level and to maintain and strengthen the integrity, capability and competency in the standard and accreditation systems.



The President of the Republic of Tajikistan and delegate at a briefing on Brunei's economy.

Brunei - Tajikistan offer investment opportunities

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 4 - Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Tajikistan have different economic resources and have the potential to be further developed.

This matter was stated at a briefing by the Brunei Investment Agency (BIA) held at Istana Edinburgh attended by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, His Excellency Emomali Rahmon on April 3.

The briefing was delivered by the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar who is the Chairman of Brunei Investment Agency (BIA) and the Managing Director of BIA, Dr. Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah.

In the briefing, the minister said that currently Brunei Darussalam through BIA does not have any investment or economic activities in the Middle East. However if given an opportunity, Brunei Darussalam might take the opportunity to invest in Tajikistan since it has an abundance of natural resources such as silver and coal mine, sea resources and other investment opportunities.

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan also attended a briefing on Brunei's long-term and strategic planning on its water management and the role of Ministry of Development on the current water management, strategy and initiatives.

The briefing was presented by the Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdullah.

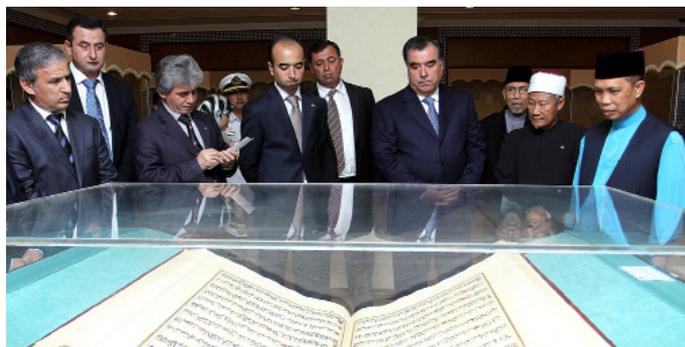
His Excellency Emomali Rahmon and delegate were also given an overview of Brunei's economy as well as the challenges and opportunities it would encounter.

The briefing was given by the Acting Chairman of Brunei Darussalam Economy Board Development (BEED), Dato Paduka Timothy Ong.

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan also attended a briefing on the investment opportunities available at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources which took place on April 4.

The briefing was delivered by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya held at a resort based in Kampung Sungai Belukut, Mentiri.

In the briefing, the minister touched on the ministry's vision and mission; and investment opportunities such as in



The President of the Republic of Tajikistan during a visit at the Islamic Galleria of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah at Darulifta, State Mufti building.



The President of the Republic of Tajikistan and delegate during a visit to Kampung Ayer.

the sultanate's tourism and primary sector.

While in the sultanate, His Excellency and delegation visited several places of interest in Brunei Darussalam. Among the places visited were the Islamic Galleria of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah at Darulifta, State Mufti building; Royal Regalia; and Kampung Ayer.

Be cautious with international drug dealers via internet

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 1 - Members of the public are advised to be cautious and not to abuse facilities provided by information communication technologies causing them to be easily conned and become a victim of the international drug dealers.

The advice was said by Director of Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB), Awang Haji Abdul Aziz in his speech at the Final of Multimedia Presentation Competition on Drug Abuse Control Education for Secondary Schools and Colleges 2010 at the Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajah Masna Secondary School.

He also emphasises that students should be cautious and think wisely whilst on the internet and communicating with strangers

so they can decline any kinds of offers and rewards; besides avoiding from meeting the stranger.

With the theme 'Teenager Free from Drugs', the competition's objective is to disseminate information on the danger of drugs through information technology other than to create continuous awareness among the students about the negative effects of drug consumptions.

The competition was won by Pengiran Isteri Hajah Mariam Secondary School who also won the best presenter and presentation technique; followed by first runner-up, Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajah Masna Secondary School; and Sayyidina Abu Bakar Secondary School as second runner-up.



The Director of Narcotic Control Bureau at the final of Multimedia Presentation Competition on Drug Abuse Control Education for Secondary Schools and Colleges 2010.

Did you know that...

- Brunei Darussalam celebrates Teacher's Day every September 23. September 23 is the date of birth of Brunei Darussalam's 28th Sultan - Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien.
- Civil Service Day in Brunei Darussalam is celebrated every September 29 where it is to commemorate the establishment Brunei Darussalam's Written Constitution (September 2, 1959).
- The fifth Sultan of Brunei, Sultan Bolkuah was famously known as 'Nakhoda Ragam' who reigned from 1485 to 1524. Under his rule, Brunei expanded its empire where it reached to as far as some of the islands of today's Philippines and Borneo.

>> BRUNEI IN BRIEF

- Official name is Negara Brunei Darussalam.
- Capital is Bandar Seri Begawan.
- It is located on the north-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia.
- Land size is 5765 sq. km
- Population is estimated at 406,200 people (2009).
- It is divided into four districts – Brunei Muara, Tutong, Kuala Belait and Temburong.
- Malay is the official language but English is widely spoken.
- Islam is the official religion and it allows other religions to be practiced.
- National carrier is Royal Brunei Airlines.
- It has an equatorial climate, a uniform temperature, high humidity and heavy rainfall.

Public Warning: The trafficking of controlled drugs carries the death penalty in Brunei Darussalam

>> HOW TO GET TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM?

There are a number of ways to reach Brunei.

- By air - Brunei's national carrier, Royal Brunei Airlines travels to more than 20 destinations around the world. The airline also has worldwide office for you to book a return flight to Brunei (to know the nearest RBA's office at your place, please log to: www.bruneiair.com)
- International airlines such as Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and Thai Airways also fly frequently to Brunei. Beginning July 2006, Air Asia, one of the Malaysia's lowest airfare carrier also has direct flight from Kuala Lumpur to Brunei.
- Arrival by plane would land you to Brunei International Airport (BWN), the sole airport in the nation.
- For those who enjoy journey by sea, you can reach Brunei by boat or ferry. The main ferry terminal in Brunei is the Serasa Ferry Terminal at Muara. You can catch a ferry from Labuan, Sabah or Lawas and Sundar, both in Sarawak, a state of the neighbouring country, Malaysia. Another option is via a boat from Limbang, Sarawak which will arrive at the jetty around Jalan Residency area in the Capital.
- You would have two options of entry point to Brunei by land transport. You can enter through the Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post in Belait District or the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post in Brunei Muara District. The Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post in Belait is the entry point for those from Miri, Sarawak. While the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post is the entrance for those coming from Limbang, Sarawak; Kota Kinabalu; and Kalimantan.

MoU for developing ICT application

The signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding between Infindo Technology with Accel X Pte. Ltd.



PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH

BERAKAS, April 6 – The local information technology sector continues to develop with the latest saw a signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Brunei-owned small-and-medium enterprise (SME), Infindo Technology with Accel X Pte. Ltd., a Singapore-based company. The MoU would concentrate on computer technology application.

Signing on behalf of Infindo Technology was its Managing Director, Nicky Wong while his counterpart was Edmund Yong, Managing Partner of Accel X Pte. Ltd.

Present to witness the ceremony was Chief Executive Officer of Brunei Darussalam Economic Development Board (BEDB), Vincent Cheong.

Infindo Technology is an IT Research and Development (R&D) company

looking into innovative mobile and web technologies. Its current focus is on mobile PUSH data delivery platforms and mobile service deployments for the Apple iPhone, Google, Android, Symbian, Window Mobile and Blackberry mobile platforms.

Infindo Technology is one of BEDB's incubator based at iCentre where BEDB is continuously making effort in assisting various small-and-medium entrepreneurs (SMEs) in the country towards the nation's economic development. One of BEDB's efforts is the establishment of iCentre where it is the first ICT incubator in the nation as the first phase of the Business and Technology Park that the BEDB is developing to support local business and technology development.

The signing ceremony was held at the iCentre building in Kampung Anggerek Desa, Berakas.

Sports School building ready for operation

BERAKAS, April 8 – The construction of Sports School building has been completed and will commence operation at the end of this year.

Located near to the Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex in Berakas, the school which costs about \$18.7 million to build started its construction in February last year on a 10-hectares piece of land. The construction of this building is part of the National Development Plan 2007 – 2012.

A key handing-over ceremony was held presented by the Public Works Department (PWD) on behalf of contractor to the Permanent Secretary (Core Education) of Ministry of Education, Datin Paduka Dayang Apsah binti Haji Abd. Majid. The key was then presented to the Principal of Sports School, Awang Zaman bin Haji Abd. Gapar.

The new Sport Schools (Phase 1) can accommodate 500 students with three main blocks divided into classrooms, vocational and technical rooms, history and geography rooms, computer and science lab, administration block, library, lecture theatre and conference rooms.

Also included are sports facilities such as indoor stadium, badminton court, sepak takraw court, track and field and sports field.

Exercise to evaluate effectiveness

BERAKAS, April 15 - The Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) has launched the 3rd series of Hikmat Bersatu Exercise 2010 where its purpose is to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of 'Command and Control' especially among RBAF's headquarters and its units.

The exercise was launched by the Commander of RBAF, General Major Awang Haji Aminuddin Ihsan held at First Battalion Royal Brunei Land Forces (RBLF).

The 3rd Hikmat Bersatu Exercise 2010 involves all components of land, sea and air namely RBLF, Royal Brunei Navy (RBN), Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAF), Special Forces Regiment (SFR) and the Royal Brunei Malay Reserve Regiment, all Directorates and Offices of the Ministry of Defence.

The exercise will run until April 29 within the boundaries of Brunei Darussalam, including the Exclusive Economic Zone (ZEE) and air space.

Government officers from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam participating in a course on Managing with IT for Non IT Managers.



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALLEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

Brunei conducts IT course for CLMV officers

RIMBA, April 6 – Fifteen government officers from Cambodia, People's Democratic Republic of Laos, Union of Myanmar and Socialist Republic of Vietnam (CLMV) are currently attending an 18-day course on 'Managing with IT for Non IT Managers' conducted by the Brunei Darussalam's Civil Service Institute.

The course is conducted with the objective to assist the participants to explore the abilities of several softwares that could be used for daily tasks.

The course is under the Initiative of ASEAN Integration (IAI) and Civil Service Institute as a training institution in Brunei Darussalam that has been given the mandate to conduct the

course and equip the participants with latest knowledge, skills and attitudes for making effective planning and implementation of government projects.

ASEAN leaders launched IAI with an objective to strengthen the relationship between ASEAN member countries. It also aims to assist new ASEAN member countries in developing their countries for speeding up a wider regional economic integration.

One of main focus of CLMV countries through this IAI Working Plan is Information Technology and Communication which covers ICT Legislation and e-Governance.

The course is taking place from April 5 to 22.



PHOTO: HATRIL HAZMI ABD. HAMID

The Minister of Health launches the World Autism Awareness Day organise by the Learning Ladders Association.

Increase awareness on autism

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 2 – Several events were organised to commemorate 'World Autism Awareness Day' in the effort to increase awareness on autism among members of the public.

The first event was organised by the Learning Ladders Association held at the Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Complex in the capital. Present to officially launch was the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi.

The minister in his speech said that the Ministry of Health through Child Development Centre (CDC) offers services through professional groups from various areas with holistic management approach with an aim to gain maximum freedom movement.

In providing professional assistance, support and advice for parents, teachers and those with careers, said the minister, CDC works closely with Special Education Unit, Ministry of Education and other non-government associations like Learning Ladders Association.

"We realised that there are lack of qualified professional in this area. In this context I would like to inform that Learning Ladders Association had started training programme for local citizen becoming qualified Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) therapy members," said the minister.

Also organising similar event was SMARTER Brunei Association at the Sukma Indera Hall of Rimba II Primary School.

Present to launch was the Permanent Secretary (Core Education) at Ministry of Education, Datin Paduka Dayang Apsah binti Haji Abdul Majid.

In her speech, she called for all institutions; the public and private sectors to be prepared to accept the concept of 'adapt and adjust' in giving chances to individuals experiencing autism and their families to be jointly involved in national development with providing facilities that can support the respective individual.

SMS Brunei Prihatin launched



PHOTO: PG-HAJI BAHAR PG-HAJI OMAR

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports with the Acting Minister of Religious Affairs at the launching of SMS Brunei Prihatin.

JALAN KEBANGSAAN, April 8 – A drive to collect fund through short messaging system (SMS) that is 'SMS Brunei Prihatin' for the Haiti and Chile Earthquake Humanitarian Fund was officially launched.

The Department of Community Development as the Secretariat of the fund welcomes public to donate for easing the burden of people and population of Haiti and Chile.

The 'SMS Brunei Prihatin' was jointly launched by Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Dr. Haji Awang Ahmad and Acting Minister of Religious Affairs, Pehin Dato Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin.

This SMS project is organised

by the Department of Community Development, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports; Department of Radio and Televisyen Brunei, Prime Minister's Office; and two private telecommunication providers, DST-Group and B-Mobile Communications Sendirian Berhad.

The donation through SMS can be made from April 8 to May 22, 2010. Public can donate a sum of \$1, \$5, \$10, \$15 or \$20 and send to the fund hotline number 38111 or through WAP Portal.

The Haiti and Chile Earthquake Humanitarian Fund was officially established on March 25, 2010.

Documentary on Brunei-China's history airs next year

The President of BCFA, Dr. Haji Kamaruddin presents the 'Letter of Support' to the Acting Director of RTB, Awang Haji Idris.



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

GADONG, April 10 - A Special Documentary on the history of Brunei-China relations is an inaugural project undertaken by Brunei's Department of Radio and Televisyen Brunei (RTB) with the Department of History Centre and Brunei Museum in cooperation with Brunei-China Friendship Association (BCFA).

The project is in conjunction with the 20 years of diplomatic relations of Brunei Darussalam with the People's Republic of China in 2011.

The matters were stated by the Acting Director of RTB, Awang Haji Idris bin Haji Mohd Ali at a 'Letter of Support' presentation ceremony for the project held at the Centrepoint, Gadong.

Awang Haji Idris said that the documentary will focus on four important aspects of the historical

relationship of Brunei-China as the Sultanate; Islamic, Trade and Diplomatic Relations.

The 'Letter of Support' was presented by the President of BCFA, Dr. Haji Kamaruddin bin Dato Paduka Haji Talib to the Acting Director of RTB. The ceremony was witnessed by the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Pengiran Abdul Haris bin Pengiran Haji Shahbudin.

A total of eight officers and staff will leave for the People's Republic of China on April 12 to carry out film recording of several historic sites related to the history of Brunei-China relations.

The documentary is scheduled to be aired in middle of 2011 through Brunei's television channels; namely RTB 1 Infotainment, RTB 3 HD Channel, and RTB 4 International.

* From frontpage
(Positive indicators for Brunei Darussalam
in Human Development Index)

He further added that, Brunei Darussalam faces several challenges such as its economy is too dependent on oil and gas industry while the people are too dependent on the public sector for job employment.

Brunei Darussalam, he said, has several approaches which are to focus on the competitive strength, promote partnership with trusted investor besides developing required infrastructure.

Other than that, Brunei Darussalam will have one new economic zone in Muara, where it will become one integrated zone to place factories, housing area and recreational areas.

The nation also favours to become a centre for Islamic trade particularly in producing halal medicines and food products, in which currently Brunei Darussalam is the first country in the world to introduce Halal Guideline Book for Pharmaceutical Products.

Goodwill visit by Sabah's Minister of Industrial Development



The Minister of Communications receives a goodwill visit from Sabah's Minister of Industrial Development and delegates.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 13 – Brunei Darussalam and Sabah will continue to improve and strengthen their relations and mutual interest in various fields.

Such efforts have been further reinforced with the goodwill visit by Sabah's Minister of Industrial Development, His Excellency Datuk Raymond Tan Shu Kiah and delegation to the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar.

During the visit, both ministers discussed efforts to improve the existing relationship apart from discussing issues of common interest particularly in communications.

Job seekers urged to change attitude

BERAKAS, April 13 - Job seekers were urged to change their attitude and not to be dependent on the public sector to find employment.

The matters were highlighted by the Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Adanan at the opening of Career Carnival 2010 held at the International Convention Centre.

The mindset which is dependent on the public sector for employment should be changed as employments in the public sector is decreasing.

Thus job seekers, said the minister, should be alert and sensitive on current needs and must change their mindset according to the market and take the opportunities for employment available in the private sector.

The minister also said that the country needs to equip its young people who are partially the job seekers with various knowledge and competitive and relevant skills so

that they will be more competitive and resilient when facing current and future challenges.

It is hoped that the Career Carnival will be used as a 'one-stop-centre' for job-seekers among the locals, especially on employment opportunities in the private sector in the country.

The carnival will run until April 17 where various activities have been organised such as career seminar, career exhibition, walk-in-interview and career clinic. More than 1260 job seekers have registered for the career seminar where six speakers will present seven working papers. The career exhibition will see a participation of more than 100 companies;



The Minister of Home Affairs at the Opening of Career Carnival 2010.

training institutions; and government agencies. An open interview will also be held where 1245 job vacancies are offered by the private sector; and 48 councillors will be available for the career clinic.

GADONG, April 15 - Towards making the personnel of the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) of high integrity, honest, sincere, trustworthy and free from corruption, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between RBPF and the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB).

The signing ceremony which was held at the Officers Mess of the Royal Brunei Police is a collaboration of both agencies under the Prime Minister's Office in fighting against corruption in the country especially the personnel of RBPF.

Signing on behalf ACB was the Acting Director of ACB, Ang Swee Kiang meanwhile RBPF was signed by the Commissioner of RBAF, Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Zainuddin.

Present at the ceremony was the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Awang Haji Omar bin Haji Abdul Rahman.

MoU to fight corruption signed



A Memorandum of Understanding to fight corruption signed between Royal Brunei Police Force and Anti-Corruption Bureau.

RBAF personnel join peacekeeping mission in Lebanon

RIMBA, April 18 - Nine Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) personnel have been dispatched as the third contingent for the peacekeeping mission in Lebanon, reaffirming Brunei's commitment to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil).

Similar to the initial deployment, the RBAF personnel will be embedded within a team primarily comprising their Malaysian counterparts, under the command of Malcon West 2, which was formed in 2009.

They were given an official sending-off ceremony at Hangar B of the Royal Brunei Air Force Base. The team is RBAF's third deployment since their first and second deployment which began in 2008.

Present to hand over the national flag to the Brunei contingent was RBAF Commander, Major General Haji Aminuddin Ihsan.

Workshop increases awareness on wildlife trade and smuggling

BERAKAS, April 18 - A workshop was held to promote awareness on wildlife trade and smuggling across the borders.

The workshop also focused on monitoring and enforcement of rules and regulations that exist in this country; and international laws relating to trade of wildlife. It also ensured a closer cooperation between customs agencies in neighbouring countries in dealing with wildlife crime.

Participants of this workshop were also provided with skills and knowledge in recognising the wildlife and plant specimens.

A total of 55 participants joined the two-day workshop entitled 'The Heart of Borneo's Customs Workshop on Wildlife Crime' conducted by the Royal Customs and Excise Department.

ERS to assist SMEs

JERUDONG, April 15 - A new refinancing scheme known as 'Export Refinancing Scheme' (ERS) has been introduced to encourage small-and-medium enterprises (SMEs) to succeed in export activities. This is also to provide the SMEs opportunities to compete in ASEAN and international free trade area.

The ERS was launched by Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya at Bridex Hall. Also held was a signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Industry

and Primary Resources (MIPR) and Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD).

This scheme, according to the Permanent Secretary at MIPR, Dayang Hajah Suriyah, is needed particularly for the local SMEs to expand their products and services to the foreign market.

ERS is a new scheme for SMEs besides existing schemes such as the Enterprise Facilitation Scheme (EFS) and Micro-Credit Financing Scheme (MFS) introduced in 1999 and 2001 respectively.



Signing ceremony for Export Refinancing Scheme.

MoU to expand cooperation

JERUDONG, April 15 - Experts from Vector Scorecard (Asia Pacific) Pte. Ltd., Singapore have been hired by the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) through Entrepreneurial Development Centre to organise Technical Assistance Programme to assist in strengthening the ability, process and SMEs' primary practice in this country.

Thus a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and contract for National Study Project - '5i' Readiness & Needs Analysis for Brunei SMEs' with Vector Scorecard (Asia Pacific) Pte Ltd, Singapore were signed at Bridex Hall.

Signing on behalf of MIPR was its Permanent Secretary, Dayang Hajah Suriyah binti Haji Umar while her counterpart was Director of Vector Scorecard (Asia Pacific) Pte. Ltd., Singapore, Nazri bin Muhammad.

With the signing of the agreement it will underline the principles of public cooperation between both sides, in mutual interest areas which will be identified together.

It will also create joint-opportunity for developing various programmes for cooperation in training, expertise,

information, research and development and other knowledge-based activities.

Also held was a signing ceremony between Sahamada Corporation Sendirian Berhad with Pottery-Mart Pte. Ltd. (Singapore) for marketing local products to overseas.

Signing on behalf of Sahamada Corporation Sendirian Berhad was its Managing Director, Muhammad Nur Khalid bin Haji Ilias while his counterpart was Goh Chok Chai Ricky, Managing Director of Pottery-Mart Pte. Ltd. (Singapore).

Under the agreement, Pottery-Mart Pte. Ltd. (Singapore) will be the distributor of 'Cinta' chilli sauce, a product by Sahamada Corporation Sendirian Berhad for Czech Republic and Europe (Middle/East) market.

Both signings were witnessed by Minister of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR), Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya and Singapore's High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Joseph Koh.

Order of the Income Tax Act (Amendment) 2010

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 19 - The Ministry of Finance announced that the Order of the Income Tax Act (Amendment) 2010 has been enforced commencing April 17, 2010.

This order is for the provision which enables the exchange of information between Brunei Darussalam and other countries who have signed the Double Tax Avoidance Agreement.

This is in line with Brunei Darussalam's early statement for its commitment

in complying with international standards on information exchange accepted worldwide.

The standard on the exchange of information produced by the 'Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development' (OECD) will help the dissemination of tax information exchange to the contracting countries.

Through this new legislation, it is hoped to enhance international

cooperation to enable Brunei Darussalam to extend cooperation to the contracting countries to obtain information for a more effective implementation and enforcement of domestic tax laws.

With the establishment of implementation and enforcement of the Order of the Income Tax Act (Amendment) 2010, Brunei Darussalam has provided the necessary legal infrastructure to enable more effective exchange of information to the contracting countries.

4th Heart of Borneo trilateral meeting: Common goals discussed

Group photo of participants attending the 4th HoB trilateral meeting with the Deputy Minister of Industry and Primary Resources (seated: six from left).



PHOTO: PG-HAJI BAHAR PG-HAJI UMAR

GADONG, April 21 – Brunei Darussalam hosted the 4th Heart of Borneo (HoB) trilateral meeting where several matters were discussed such as the need to finalise the resolution of the Constitution and Modalities for the Implementation of the HoB initiative; and the launch of World Wildlife Fund (WWF) new report entitled 'Borneo's New World: Newly Discovered Species in the Heart of Borneo' where the report outlines the discovery of 123 new species since February 2007.

The meeting was officiated by the Deputy Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamdillah as Chairman of Brunei HoB.

In conjunction with the trilateral meeting, a two-day workshop on Wildlife Crime in the HoB was also co-organised by Traffic Southeast Asia and the Brunei Forestry Department. The workshop brought together representatives of customs and excise authorities from all HoB countries and their provinces in the bid to raise

awareness of illegal wildlife trade, the smuggling of wildlife across borders and the Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna. The workshop was held from April 18 to 19, 2010.

The two-day meeting was attended by some 60 participants representing Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia. Similar meeting was held in Indonesia and Malaysia in 2008 and 2009.

BERAKAS, April 19 - The stability and prosperity in this country are among the attractions for investment as well as offering not only excellent infrastructure but also a strategic location among all ASEAN member countries.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dayang Hajah Suriyah binti Haji Umar said these during a briefing to the delegation of the Parliament of Australia while visiting the ministry.

In the briefing on investment in Brunei Darussalam, Dayang Hajah Suriyah said that foreign investors are also not subject to personal income tax, no sales tax or the production or export tax.

Present at the briefing was the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya. The delegation of Parliament of Australia was led by the Honourable Duncan Kerr; Dr. Mal Washer and Mr. Kelvin Thompson.

The delegation also heard a briefing on the Heart of Borneo, presented by the Director of Forestry, Awang Haji Saidin bin Salleh, meanwhile a briefing on the Brunei Halal was presented by the Director of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Dayang Hajah Normah Suria Hayati bin PJDSMSU (Dr.) Haji Awang Mohd. Jamil Al-Sufri.

Stability and prosperity attract investment



The delegation comprising of several Australia's members of Parliament at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.

PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

Support scheme to start new business

BERAKAS, April 21 – Small-and-medium enterprises (SME) continue to receive support from both the public and private sectors in the bid to promote the diversification of the economy. Similar incentive was witnessed with the awarding of a Micro Business Support Scheme to 22 graduate trainees of the Youth Development Centre and Taman Nurhidayah to start their business and to seven recipients with existing businesses.

The Micro Business Support Scheme is a joint venture between the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB), Alcoa Inc and the Youth Development Resources (YDR) designed to assist local underprivileged youth to start their own business.

Present to award the Micro Business Support Scheme to the recipients was the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad at the International Convention Centre.



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports presents an award to one of the graduate trainees of Youth Development Centre and Taman Nurhidayah.

PHOTO: AK AMIRULNIZAM PG-HAJI MOHD. ALI

Brunei youths for ASEAN-China Youth Camp 2010

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 21 – Nine Bruneian youths will be participating in the ASEAN-China Youth Camp 2010 commencing from April 21 to 28.

Present to bid farewell the country's delegation was the Acting Deputy Director of Youth and Sports I, Awang Haji Abdul Malik bin Haji Mohammad who handed the national flag to the Special Administrative Officer of Youth and Sports Department, Pengiran Mohd. Amirrizal bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud as head of delegation.

This program which is organised by China is the third annual program in the form of visits to three regions, including universities, museums and business areas and traditional villages.

The program is intended to strengthen relations between ASEAN and China's youth apart from giving them the opportunity to share experiences and information in their respective fields.

Additional budget as catalyst to economic growth

TEMBURONG, April 25 – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam continues to support efforts to generate economic activities of mukim and villages. As such, a total of \$200,000 has been allocated by the government through the Ministry of Home Affairs in the fiscal budget 2010/2011, an additional budget to the existing budget of \$220,000 for Mukim and Village Consultative Council.

It is hoped that the additional budget would act as catalyst to the economic growth particularly on products produced by the villages. In the bid to enhance the welfare and standard of living of the local community, it is hoped that Mukim and Village Consultative Council would take full advantage of the budget and draw strategic plans and comprehensive programs especially on the products produced by the villages.

These matters were highlighted by the Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Adanan at a thanksgiving ceremony and signing of a plaque to commemorate the victory of Kampung Sibut Consultative Council in the Excellent Village Award

17 participate VTET for sustainable development

GADONG, April 19 - A total of 17 participants comprising of director, administrator, lecturers and teachers from 10 members of South East Asia Ministers Educations Organisation (SEAMEO) participated the Curriculum Training on 'Vocational and Technical Education and Training' (VTET) for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

The training held at the SEAMEO Voctech was launched by the Acting Director of SEAMEO Voctech, Awang Alias bin Haji Abu Bakar. The training will be held for two week until May 1.

The program is hoped to provide the participants with the knowledge and skill in identifying ESD Curriculum VTET, to expand learning activities and ESD projects as well as monitoring the programme.

Brunei wins 4th Pan Borneo Golf Senior Amateur



The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports presents a prize to the winner.

JERUDONG, April 21 – Brunei Darussalam has won the overall championship of the 4th Pan Borneo Golf Senior Amateur.

More than 100 golfers from Borneo comprising of Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak, and Brunei Darussalam aged between 55 to 75 years participated in the tournament.

Present to award the prizes was Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd. Hamid bin Haji Mohd. Jaafar.

The two-day tournament was held at the Royal Brunei Golf and Country Club.

The next tournament will be hosted by Sarawak.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX 2009

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for 2009 was 107.5 compared to 105.6 in 2008. This resulted in an inflation rate of 1.8 per cent compared to 2.7 per cent in 2008.

The cost of food and non-alcoholic beverages rose by 2.3 per cent. The increase was due to higher prices of rice and cereal products (examples: wheat flour, biscuits, instant noodles and dried plain noodles) by 5.0 per cent; fruits (examples: canned fruit and fresh tropical and non-tropical fruits) by 5.0 per cent; sugar, sugar preserves and confectionery (examples: sweet, chocolate, ice-cream and honey) by 4.9 per cent; and dairy products and eggs (examples: evaporated milk, chicken eggs, cheese and mayonnaise) by 4.8 per cent.

The cost of clothing and footwear rose by 0.7 per cent as a result of high prices of materials for male/female, accessories and rental of wedding dress, tailoring charges and haberdasheries.

Higher prices of maintenance and minor repairs led to an increase in the cost of housing water, electricity and maintenance by 0.7 per cent.

Higher prices of furniture, household furnishings, household equipment & electrical appliances, kitchen appliances and utensils, crockery and cutlery, household

operation and other household services resulted in the cost of household goods, services and operation by 1.4 per cent.

The transport cost increased by 2.1 per cent due to higher prices of selected motor vehicles, spare parts of motor vehicles and public transport fare.

Cheaper prices of instrument including accessories led to a lower cost of communication by 0.2 per cent.

The education cost went down by 0.4 per cent following lower school and other fees, computer and accessories and other books.

Lower prices of medical treatment and therapeutical appliances led to the decrease in the medical and health cost by 0.1 per cent.

The recreation and entertainment cost rose by 3.1 per cent following higher prices of some recreation items and hobbies and other miscellaneous expenditure.

The cost of miscellaneous goods and services increased by 2.4 per cent as a result of higher prices of ladies personal effects, baby care equipment and accessories and miscellaneous expenses.

The rate of inflation in 2009 was 1.8 per cent compared to 2.7 per cent in 2008.

International Conference and Exhibition on Co-operative next year

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 2 – An International Conference and Exhibition on Co-operative will be held early next year.

The matter was revealed with the signing of Memorandum of Association (MoU) between the Ministry of Health's Welfare, Sports and Social Co-operative Body Limited (Koperasi Badan Kebajikan Sukan dan Sosial Berhad –BKSS) with Transpower Event Management Company.

Signing on behalf of BKSS was its Chairman, Awang Haji Md. Salleh bin Haji Mohidin while his counterpart was Awang Haji Ismail bin Damit, the Manager of Transpower.

The signing was witnessed by a representative from Brunei Industrial Development Authority (BINA), Awang Masri bin Duraman, Co-operative Development Officer.

The International Conference and Exhibition on Co-operative which will be held from January 6 to 9, 2011 will feature experts on co-operatives from ASEAN, Japan, Australia, Korea, China and India.

Brunei Darussalam will also present a working paper on the country's success with its co-operatives.

Walkathon to mark World Health Day

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 4 – Brunei Darussalam celebrated World Health Day 2010 with a walkathon around the capital.

Present to officially launch the event was the Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Adanan held at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin in the capital.

Also present and joining the walkathon were the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi; Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdullah, and Deputy Ministers of Health, Development and Home Affairs.

World Health Day is celebrated every April 7 and Brunei Darussalam particularly Bandar Seri Begawan is one of the 600 cities in the world registered for the global campaign organised by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The theme for this year's World Health Day is '1000 Cities, 1000 Lives'.

Brunei Darussalam participates Asian Indoor Tug of War Championship

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 6 – Brunei Darussalam Tug of War Association will be taking part in the Asian Indoor Tug-of-War Championship scheduled to be held at Dangjin, Korea from April 8 to 9.

Brunei will participate in two categories; Men's 600 Kilograms Open and Championship categories.

Fourteen countries are taking part in the competitions which are Brunei Darussalam, Singapore, Vietnam, Malaysia, Macau, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Mongolia, Japan, Iran, Sri Lanka, India, Laos and Korea.

The championship is hosted by Asian Tug of War Federation (ATWF), Korea Tug of War Federation (KWTF) and Dangjin County.

Health Ministry receives Australia's Members of Parliament

BERAKAS, April 17 – The Ministry of Health received a delegation comprising of six members of parliament from Australia. This visit was part of their itinerary to ASEAN where it focus on an Intra-ASEAN cooperation on health issues such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Influenza A(H1N1); and challenges in Brunei Darussalam's public health and women's health.

The delegation was received by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi.

Bicycle expedition marks World Water Day

KUALA BELAIT, April 25 – More than 200 cycling enthusiasts aged 12 years and above joined a bicycle expedition to celebrate World Water Day and Customer Day 2010 of Ministry of Development.

The expedition was launched by the Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdullah.

The 37-kilometres of expedition involved various roads in the Kuala Belait and Seria which was also participated by the Deputy Minister of Development, Dato Paduka Dr. Awang Haji Mat Suny, Deputy Permanent Secretary, and senior officials from the ministry.

The World Water Day celebration is an annual project conducted by the Public Works Department with the theme is set by the United Nations (UN). This year's theme is 'Clean Water for Global Health'.

World Down Syndrome Day 2010

TUNGKU, April 25 – To commemorate World Down Syndrome Day 2010, the Children Development Centre (CDC) with cooperation from the Meragang form six students organised a 'Party@Park'.

The event was officiated by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi.

It is hoped that public perception on individuals with Down Syndrome would change to a much positive note and understand their capabilities, skills and performance.

World Down Syndrome Day is celebrated worldwide every March 21.

BIBD \$1 Million Wish Campaign

GADONG, April 30 – Pengiran Dr. Hajah Rahmah binti Pengiran Jadid was announced as the recipient of the Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD) \$1 Million Wish Campaign.

The award was presented by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik held at The Rizaun International Hotel.

Wish Campaign is part of BIBD's initiative to provide room for the society to change their debt habits and instill the culture of saving.

BIBD is a local full pledged Islamic bank incorporated on September 10, 2005.

The recipient of the Wish Campaign, Pengiran Dr. Hajah Rahmah said that the award would be used to develop a permanent building of Darusysyifa Warrafahah.

Pengiran Dr. Hajah Rahmah is the Founder of the Islamic Medical Association Darusysyifa Warrafahah and hopes that the association will run effectively and efficiently in its own building. With a complete and proper facility, it will enable Darusysyifa Warrafahah as an advance and leading centre in the field of Islamic medicine and research in Asia.

Brunei Darussalam partakes Trail of Civilization and Art Performance 2010

CAMBODIA, April 30 – Brunei Darussalam with ASEAN member countries were in Siam Reap, Cambodia to attend the Trail of Civilization and Arts Performance 2010.

Brunei Darussalam's delegation was led by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya together with officials from the Brunei Tourism Development Department and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

The Trail of Civilization and Arts Performance 2010 is an annual event that brings together ASEAN member countries as a symbol of friendship, cooperation, peace and good relations between member countries.

The event aims to enhance cooperation and partnerships in cultural tourism as well as a high value of ASEAN cultural heritage. At the event, Brunei Darussalam presented cultural shows represented by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.



The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam aims to increase rice production from 3.12 per cent in 2007 to 20 per cent and 60 per cent in 2010 and 2015 respectively. Agricultural Development Area are also provided throughout the country with a total of about 7,719.95 ha (Gazette area)

PHOTOS: SASTRA SARINI HAJI JULAINI

