



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

newsletter

Published by the Department of Information
Prime Minister's Office

FEBRUARY, 2010
VOLUME 25 ISSUE 2

Royal speech in conjunction with 26th National Day HM: Implement plans according to schedule

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 22 – A call was made for plans to be implemented according to schedule and not merely planned on paper. The key factor is how to implement it. One of the most effective methods is through discussion among relevant agencies involved within a particular project.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in his *titah* (royal speech) to mark the 26th National Day of Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty also spoke on the importance of preserving the environment where it is high time to speed up the promulgation of legislation or regulations for a more controlled development. It is important to preserve the environment as the country will continuously need fertile land, clean air and drinking water and unpolluted clean sea water. One such mechanism which needed to be enforced is the Environmental Impact Assessment and other similar mechanism for development projects.

His Majesty also said the country needs more orderly, stable and attractive economic policies as well as a conducive investment environment that can serve as a catalyst for comprehensive economic growth.

Brunei Darussalam celebrates its National Day every February 23 where a mass gathering will be held at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with the 26th National Day of Brunei Darussalam.

PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR

Brunei supports ASEAN + 3 efforts tackle food security issues



Delegates from ASEAN + 3 member countries in the 13th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve.

GADONG, February 24 - Brunei Darussalam has always given its support and commitment in tackling food security issues in the ASEAN + 3 region.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dayang Hajah Suriyah binti Haji Umar stated the matter at the opening of the 13th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve.

Dayang Hajah Suriyah also underscored the need to step up efforts to ensure the availability of sustainable food through an international mechanism, in light of the present world food security challenges.

The meeting is held at The Rizqun International Hotel. The two-day meeting is attended by delegates from ASEAN + 3 member countries.

Among the agendas discussed at the meeting are to discuss various issues of implementing projects related to ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Council and Secretariat. Financial and others relevant topics with ASEAN + 3 food security.

PHOTO: ABDULAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT



4 Brunei Darussalam celebrates 26th National Day



6 Sincerity panacea for all imperfections



7 Crown Prince attends birthday receptions



9 British High Commissioner as Local Presidency



13 Brunei-Sabah to strengthen bilateral trade



14 ASEAN + 3 Natural Gas Forum



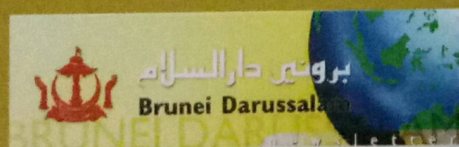
15 Book on electrical standards launched



16 Brunei's Expedition around the World's commemorates 26 years of independence



17 Qualified and experienced human resources needed



FEBRUARY 2010 | VOLUME 25 ISSUE 2

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. Muhammad Hadi Muhammad Melayong
(muhammad.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
(aida.hidop@information.gov.bn)
Hajah Apsah Haji Sahdan
(apsah.sahdan@information.gov.bn)

Layout Designer:

Aidah Hidop
(aida.hidop@information.gov.bn)

Proof reader:

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

Online:

Haji Ariffin Mohd.Noor
(arifin.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.bdnnewsletter.gov.bn

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



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and as the Supreme Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from the Chief General of Staff of the United Kingdom, His Excellency General Sir David Richards KCB CBE DSO ADC Gen. on February 3.

National Village of Excellence Award



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presents a prize to the winner of the National Village of Excellence Award.

BERAKAS, February 14 – A call was made for the Mukim and Village Consultative Councils (MPMK) to be the prime mover, thinker and planner for the development of the community in their respective areas. For the plans to be effective it is vital for everyone to be involved including the penghulu and village head.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made

the call in his *titah* (royal speech) at the National Village of Excellence Award at the International Convention Centre.

His Majesty also said there are many villages that produce their products such as through agriculture and handicraft but in a small scale and face specific constraints. However, it is a step towards realising the government's hope for the 'One Village,

One Product' project. This effort undoubtedly will assist in producing a peaceful and prosperous community. It is hoped that the products will be produced in a large scale and obtain a wider market. While relevant government agencies must be prepared in providing assistance.

After his *titah*, His Majesty then presented prizes to the winners of the National-Level Village of Excellence

Award.

For this year's award, no villages have qualified for the Gold and Silver Awards while the Bronze Award was won by Kampong Belais and Buda-Buda Consultative Council in Mukim Bokok, Temburong. The winner received a trophy, \$10,000 cash prize, an assistance grant of \$30,000 for the village's development and prosperity projects as well as a plaque and a certificate.

Meanwhile, Kampong Sibut Consultative Council in Mukim Amo, also from Temburong received first appreciation award; followed by Kampong Tanjong Maya Consultative Council in Tutong in second place. They each received a cash prize of \$7,000, an assistance grant of \$15,000 for the village's development and prosperity projects and a plaque and certificate.

Also present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

Congratulatory Messages

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent congratulatory messages to:

- His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran in conjunction with the Islamic Republic of Iran's 41st National Day on February 11.
- His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait and His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait as well as the government and the people of Kuwait in conjunction with Kuwait's 49th National Day on February 25.

Brunei Darussalam celebrates 26th National Day

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 23 – A mass gathering was held to celebrate the 26th National Day of Brunei Darussalam at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien in the capital where this year's National Day celebration carries the theme 'Negaraku Brunei Darussalam' or 'My Country Brunei Darussalam'.

Present to grace the momentous event was His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

One hundred and nine teams took part in the parade, involving more than 20,800 participants representing uniformed bodies, ministries, district offices, higher learning institutions, colleges, government and private schools, non-government organisations, and associations in Brunei Darussalam.

The highlight of the colourful mass gathering was the formation of number 26 by the participants of the march past. The number represents the 26th National Day of Brunei Darussalam with various areas of development and progress achieved.



His Majesty inspects the guard of honour comprising personnel from Royal Brunei Armed Forces and Royal Brunei Police Force.



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah as a member of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Military Cadet participating in the parade.



The Special Need People taking part in the parade.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah.



The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) team led by the Permanent Secretary at PMO, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apang.

PHOTOS: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN
RAMLI TENGAH
MASRI OSMAN
ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT
AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TEGAR
AK. AMIRULNIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. AU



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah (right) and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah (left).



His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim (right); His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik (centre) and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen (left).



26th National Day Congratulatory Messages

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 22 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received congratulatory messages from the heads of state and other foreign dignitaries in conjunction with the 26th anniversary of Brunei Darussalam's National Day.

The messages were from Their Majesties; King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, the Custodian of Two Holy Mosques and King of Saudi Arabia; Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and the Northern Ireland; King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand; Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al-Said of The Sultanate of Oman; King Norodom Sihamoni of Cambodia; and King Albert II of Belgium.

Also sending congratulatory messages were Their Excellencies; President S.R. Nathan of Singapore; President Macapagal-Arroyo of Philippines; Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar; President Nguyen Ming Tret of Vietnam; President Choummaly Sayasone of People's Democratic Republic of Laos; President Asif Ali Zardari of Islamic Republic of Pakistan; President Md. Zillur Rahmna of Bangladesh; President Barack Obama of the United States of America; President Hu Jintao of People's Republic of China; Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of Australia; President Pratibha Devisingh Patil of India; President Lee Myung-bak of Korea; Muammar Qaddafi, the Leader of the Revolution, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; President Zin

El Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia; President Dr. Heinz Fischer of Austria; President Georgi Parvanov of Bulgaria; President Vaclav Klaus of Czech; President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine; President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan; President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan; President Doris Leuthard of the Swiss Confederation; and President of Jose Ramos-Horta of Timor-Leste Democratic Republic.

Meanwhile, congratulatory messages were also received from the heads of government. They were from His Royal Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa, Prime Minister of Bahrain; The Right Honourable Dato' Seri Mohd Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia; and Their Excellencies Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore; General Thien Sein, the Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar; Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung of Viet Nam; Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen of Cambodia; Prime Minister Bouasone Bouphavanh of People's Democratic Republic of Laos; Gordon Brown, the British Prime Minister; Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed of Bangladesh; Prime Minister Jan Fischer of Czech; and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko of Ukraine.

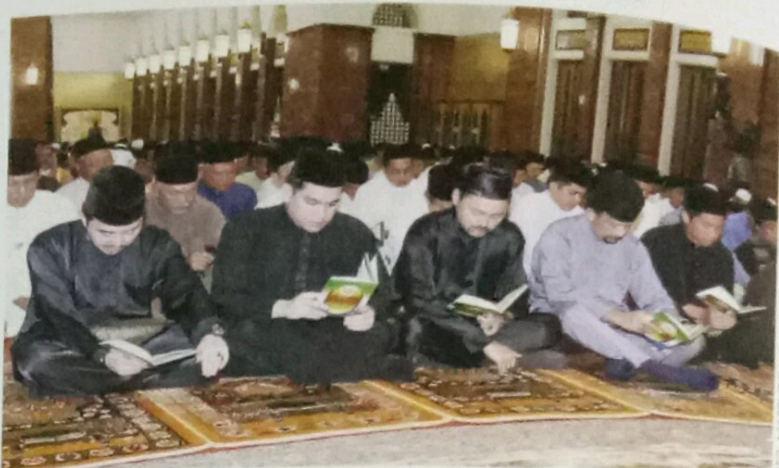
Other dignitaries sending their congratulatory messages were Their Excellencies, Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations; and Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary-General of Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Mass prayers for Brunei Darussalam's 26th National Day

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 22 – Celebrations to mark the 26th National Day of Brunei Darussalam began with a mass Maghrib and Isyak prayers, thanksgiving prayer and the recital of Surah Yassin at all mosques and suraus throughout the country.

The focal point was the Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Mosque in the capital where His Majesty Sultan The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined scores of Muslims at the prayers.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.



His Majesty and male members of the royal family at the thanksgiving prayer to mark the 26th National Day of Brunei Darussalam.

Sincerity panacea for all imperfections

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 25 – A call was made for the citizens and residents of this country to practise sincerity.

The call was made by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *tifrah* in conjunction with Prophet Muhammad's (Peace Be Upon Him) birthday anniversary for the year 1431 Hijrah.

Sincerity, said His Majesty must be practised in all aspects of life so that the citizens and residents of this country will be a nation that is blessed by Allah and rewarded with many blessings.

Sincerity is an antidote or medicine to all imperfections especially at work or when performing a duty. If the person is really sincere, he will be clean from all bad attributes like greed, jealousy, dishonesty and corruption.

The birthday anniversary of Prophet Muhammad is celebrated nationwide every 12 Rabiulawal of the Islamic calendar. A mass gathering will be held on February 27 corresponding to 13 Rabiulawal 1431 Hijrah at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin in the capital.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a *tifrah* (royal speech) in conjunction with Prophet Muhammad's birthday anniversary for the year 1431 Hijrah.

His Majesty leads Maulud gathering and procession

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 27 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined scores of Muslim for a gathering and procession ceremony to commemorate the birthday anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) for the year 1431 Hijrah at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin in the capital.

Also present at the ceremony 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 Jefri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Azim, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

This year's Maulud gathering and procession ceremony recorded participation from 149 teams with a total of 17,000 people. The teams were from uniformed personnel, ministries and departments, Mukim and Village Consultative Councils, higher learning institutions and schools, associations, non-governmental organisations and members of the public.

Similar ceremony was also held at the three other districts.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joins scores of Muslim for a gathering and procession ceremony to commemorate the birthday anniversary of Prophet Muhammad.

In Belait District more than 7,000 people participated in the Maulud gathering and procession; while in Tutong District more than 8,000 people joined. Meanwhile, Temburong District recorded participation of 2,000 people.

Crown Prince attends birthday receptions

JERUDONG, February 25 – His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Al-Muhtadee Billah, General of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces who is also the Deputy Inspector General Police and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office attended high tea receptions in conjunction with His Royal Highness' 36th birthday anniversary.

A reception was hosted by the Royal Brunei Police Force held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club on February 25.

Accompanying His Royal Highness was Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah.



His Royal Highness at a reception hosted by the Royal Brunei Armed Forces held at Bolkiah Garrison Officer Mess.

Also present was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, the Commandant of the Women Police.

Meanwhile on February 19, a similar ceremony was hosted by the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) at the Bolkiah Garrison Officer Mess.

Accompanying His Royal Highness was Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.



His Royal Highness at a reception hosted by the Royal Brunei Police Force held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

PHOTOS BY: MASRI OSMAN

New Al-Islah Centre opens



His Royal Highness officiates the opening of new Al-Islah Centre.

KUPANG, TUTONG, February 11 – The new Al-Islah Centre under the supervision of the Narcotic Control Bureau at Jalan Kerakas Payau has been officially opened.

Present to officially open the centre was His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim who was on a working visit to the centre.

The new centre is built on a 21 hectare land area with a cost of \$18 million under the 8th National Development Plan where it can occupy 200 male and 100 female residents. The work progress started on August 6, 2007; meanwhile the foundation laying ceremony was held on April 10, 2008 by the Minister of Home Affairs.

At the centre, His Royal Highness was given a briefing by Assistant Director of Narcotic Bureau Control, Awang Haji Roslan bin Haji Suhaili as centre's commandant.

The former centre was based in Jalan Pelumpong Muara.

Darussyifa' Warrafahah inaugural graduation ceremony

JERUDONG, February 14 - His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik attended the first graduation of the Darussyifa' Warrafahah, an Islamic Welfare and Medical Association.

Some 149 members of the 2010 Darussyifa' Warrafahah received their graduation certificates upon completing 80 hours of Islamic Medical Study through a basic course program.

Darussyifa' Warrafahah has a constitution which is responsible on the running of the association in line with the objective of its formation such as producing local Islamic medical specialists and to strengthen public confidence towards Islamic medicinal practice. His Royal Highness also attended the Islamic Medical Seminar organised in conjunction with the first Darussyifa' Warrafahah Graduation Ceremony 2010.

The graduation and seminar were held at the BRIDEX's Exhibition Area and Conference Hall.



His Royal Highness presents a certificate to one of the graduates of the Darussyifa Warrafahah.

1st Bruneian to reach South Pole celebrated



Dayangku Najibah Eradah receives a token of appreciation from Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna.

JERUDONG, February 3 – The accomplishment by the first Bruneian to reach the South Pole, Dayangku Najibah Eradah binti Pengiran Ahmad Mahdi Al-Sufri was celebrated at a dinner reception held at the Jerudong Polo and Riding Club.

Present to grace the ceremony was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade who expressed her happiness on the achievement of Dayangku Najibah Eradah.

Accompanying Her Royal Highness was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz.

Dayangku Najibah Eradah along with other women from Cyprus, Ghana, India, New Zealand, Jamaica and the United Kingdom travelled for 40 days with a distance of 900 kilometres where they reached the South Pole two days earlier than scheduled. They arrived at the South Pole on December 28, 2009 at 11.09pm local time.

British High Commissioner as Local Presidency

KOTA BATU, February 1 – Effective February 1, 2010, European Union (EU) management affairs in Brunei Darussalam will be led by British High Commissioner, His Excellency Rob Fenn as "European Presidency or Local Presidency". It was previously led by the French Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Louis Le Vert.

A joint reception was held at the official residence of the French Ambassador at Kampong Sungai Besar.

Among the attendees at the ceremony was Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Osman.

According to the Lisbon Agreement, effective from December 1, 2009, the presidency of the European Council is elected every 2½ years by the EU Council.



The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (centre) at a reception held at the official residence of the French Ambassador to the sultanate at Kampong Sungai Besar.

Students join APEC Future Scientist Conference



The four students are to represent Brunei Darussalam to the 2nd APEC Future Scientist Conference.

BERAKAS, February 1 – Brunei Darussalam through its Science, Technology and Environment Centre (STEP) of Ministry of Education have sent four students to represent the country in the 2nd APEC Future Scientist Conference in Thailand.

The delegation is led by Dr. Chia Yaw Ming, Education Officer from Ministry of Education.

Three of the students, Awang Muhammad Hamzan bin Muhammad Iskandar, Natasha Chong Mei Shi and Toh Tieng Shi are from Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Science College and Dayangku Aishah binti Pengiran Haji Muhd Sazali is from Jerudong International School.

The students are selected based on their academic performances.

The conference which carries the theme "Sustainable Green Energy and Environmental Solution" will be held from February 1 to 6 at the Science National Stadium, Pathum Thani, Thailand. Among the activities are presentation and implementation of group project, poster presentation and visits.

Organised by APRC Mentoring Centre for the Gifted in Science (AMGS), Korea and the Science National Stadium, Pathum Thani, Thailand; the conference is supported by Ministry of Science and Technology, Thailand; Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Korea; Gyeongnam Territory Government, Korea and Korea Research Foundation.

New procedure on earthwork development

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 1 – All applications on earthwork development for land within the Development Control Competent Authority (DCCA) area must be submitted by Qualified Persons (QP) namely architects and engineers who are registered with the Ministry of Development.

The new procedure covers all earthwork development irrespective

of the land size.

The step is taken to avoid and reduce the problem related to landslide and flooding causes by improper earthworks.

Prior to this new procedure, any earthwork development applications can be submitted by the land owner himself for land less than 0.5 hectares, while for land area more than 0.5 hectares application should be

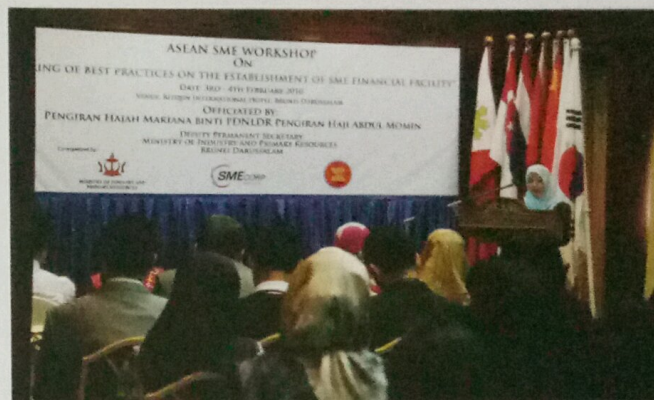
submitted by QP.

According to the Department of Town and Country Planning, it is a joint-responsibility by land owner, developer, QP and earthwork contractors to take care of the environment to avoid damage on environmental area and property which can lead to landslides and flooding.

Brunei to host SME workshop

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 3 – The Entrepreneurship Development Centre of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources in collaboration with SME Corporation Malaysia is organising the 2nd ASEAN Workshop on 'Sharing Best Practices for the Establishment of SME Financial Facility'.

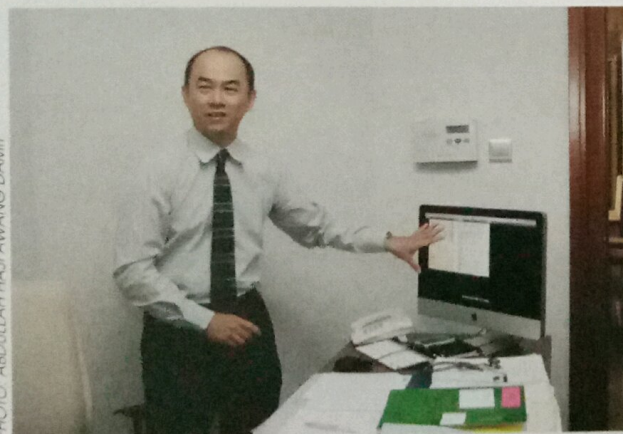
The workshop is participated by some 50 participants comprising representatives from 10 ASEAN countries; SME agencies from China, Japan and Korea as well as the expertise from ASEAN SME's financial institutions. The workshop is one of four cooperation projects implemented by Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia under Strategic Schedule Plan for ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) on SME's Development for the term 2009 to 2011.



The 2nd ASEAN SME Workshop officiated by the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.

PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR

National Cancer Centre fully operational in April



Dr. Haji Muhd. Syafiq bin Abdullah, one of the the Oncology Specialist at the National Cancer Center.

JERUDONG, February 3 – The National Cancer Centre (NCC) will be fully operational in April this year where its operation begun in phases since end of last year.

The Oncology Specialist, Dr. Haji Muhd. Syafiq bin Abdullah said that the second phase of NCC is providing inpatient and day patient treatments. Outpatient treatments will commence starting February 15.

According to him, some patients will still need to undergo their operations at the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital particularly for special cases as the construction of NCC's main building will only be complete in 2012.

Once it is fully operational in 2012, NCC will be the biggest and most sophisticated in the island of Borneo.

NCC is based next to the Jerudong Park Medical Centre.

Various measures to prevent and control cancer

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 4 – Various measures have been undertaken by the Ministry of Health to prevent and control cancer in Brunei Darussalam. One of the measures is the implementation of the Tobacco Oder 2005 where it desires to reduce tobacco products in this country and lung cancer.

These were stated by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi at a ceremony to commemorate

World Cancer Day celebrated every February 4.

In Brunei Darussalam, cancer has been identified as one of the main causes of death since 2004 to 2007; with mortality rate 55.1 in every 100,000 population in year 2007.

The minister said the most common types of cancer faced among male was lung cancer while breast cancer was the most among women. Other types of cancer include cervical

cancer (cervic), 'endometrium' and 'nasopharynx'.

The theme for this year's World Cancer Day is 'Cancer Can Be Prevented'. It aims to urge the public to take easy steps to prevent cancer. This is in line with the measures taken by the Ministry of Health to promote and nurture healthy lifestyle among the people of this country.

Excellent Village Award

Brief background

Brunei Darussalam with a land area of 5,765 sq. km and a population of 406,200 (est 2009) is divided into four constituent districts namely, Brunei-Muara, Tutong, Belait and Temburong.

Each district consist of several mukim (a mukim consist of a group of villages) led by a District Officer under the purview of the District Office, Ministry of Home Affairs.

There are 17 mukim in Brunei Muara District comprising of 105 villages; while the Tutong District has eight mukim with 41 villages; the Belait District with seven mukim comprising of 27 villages; and Temburong District with five mukim and 18 villages.

Village Consultative Council's Excellent Village Award

The Village Consultative Council's Excellent Village Award (Anugerah Kampung Cemerlang Majlis Perundingan Kampung - AKC MPK) is one of Ministry of Home Affairs' continuous efforts in assisting the Mukim and Village Consultative Councils to achieve more success and move towards excellence.

It aims to enhance the effectiveness of the Penghulu and Village Head in Brunei Darussalam as the Chairman of their respective Mukim and Village Consultative Council as their leadership is the base towards enhancing the communities' quality of living in the villages and mukims.

It is hoped that through this award, every mukim and village will put more efforts to develop their respective mukim and village and not merely only for the competition but also for the community itself.

What is Excellent Village Award?

The Village Consultative Council's Excellent Village Award is:

1. One of the projects by the Ministry of Home Affairs to enhance the capability of the village through Mukim and Village Consultative Councils where it will bring changes and progressive development to villages.
2. It is a platform to acknowledge village leadership and efforts of the community particularly Mukim and Village Consultative Councils towards creating developed and excellent villages.
3. The Excellent Village Award Project is implemented in the form of system of competition according to specific criteria and characteristics.



4. It is hoped that the project will help to realise the concept of 'one village one product' as the concept is listed as the main assessment for the award project; and becomes a trademark of the village itself.

There are seven aspects or criteria in the assessment of the Excellent Village Award based on the achievement and development in the following areas:

1. Management and administration;
2. Economy (village product/resources);
3. Environmental friendly, cleanliness, beauty, energy saving and cheerfulness;
4. Project and activity;
5. Security, welfare and community;
6. Religious;
7. Skills, education and information communication.



The Excellent Village Award 2009

The Excellent Village Award 2009 (District Level) was participated by 46 villages. 15 villages from Brunel-Muara District, nine villages from Tutong, six villages from Belait District and 16 villages from Temburong District.

After selections only 15 villages qualified to the Excellent Village Award 2009 National Level.

The villages were:



| No. | Village | District |
|-----|---|--------------|
| 1 | The Consultative Village Council of Area 2, Kampong Rimba National Housing Plan, Mukim Gadong 'A' | Brunel-Muara |
| 2 | The Consultative Village Council of Belimbing, Mukim Kota Batu. | Brunel-Muara |
| 3 | The Consultative Village Council of Sungai Matan, Mukim Kota Batu. | Brunel-Muara |
| 4 | The Consultative Village Council of Pudak, Mukim Kota Batu. | Brunel-Muara |
| 5 | The Consultative Village Council of Jerudong, Mukim Sengkuring. | Brunel-Muara |
| 6 | The Consultative Village Council of Lumut 1, Mukim Liang | Belait |
| 7 | The Consultative Village Council of Mumong, Mukim Kuala Belait. | Belait |
| 8 | The Consultative Village Council of Tanjong Maya, Mukim Tanjong Maya | Tutong |
| 9 | The Consultative Village Council of Merimbun, Mukim Rambai. | Tutong |
| 10 | The Consultative Village Council of Bukit Udai, Mukim Tanjong Maya. | Tutong |
| 11 | The Consultative Village Council of Belingos, Mukim Bangar. | Temburong |
| 12 | The Consultative Village Council of Batu Apoi, Mukim Batu Apoi. | Temburong |
| 13 | The Consultative Village Council of Senukoh, Mukim Labu. | Temburong |
| 14 | The Consultative Village Council of Belais and Buda-Buda, Mukim Bokok. | Temburong |
| 15 | The Consultative Village Council of Sibut, Mukim Amo. | Temburong |



The First Excellent Village Award 2009

The First Excellent Village Award 2009 was held on February 13, 2010 saw none of the 15 finalists qualified to receive the Gold and Silver Award. While the Bronze Award was presented to the Village Consultative Council of Belais and Buda-Buda, Mukim Bokok (Temburong District) for their projects on poultry farming, cultivating of mushroom, food production, heritage park, recreational park and fishing.

Two Appreciation Awards were also presented to the Village Consultative Council of Sibut, Mukim Amo (Temburong District) and the Village Consultative Council of Tanjong Maya, Mukim Tanjong Maya (Tutong District).



Did you know that..

- Brunei Darussalam established its Heart of Borneo Council effective April 21, 2008 in its bid for a proper management of the Heart of Borneo Initiative.
- Brunei Darussalam became the 65th member of Asian Development Bank (ADB) on April 27, 2006.
- The year 2007 marked the 100th anniversary of Brunei's health services.

Bandar Seri Begawan is now 100.35 square kilometres wide where its former land area was only 12.87 square kilometres. The expansion took place effective August 1, 2007.

- Tutong District has 1,779.85 hectares of its area gazetted as Agricultural Development Area.

>> 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.brunelair.com)
- International airlines such as Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and Thai Airways also fly frequently to Brunei. Beginning July 2006, Air Asia, 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.

Brunei-Sabah to strengthen bilateral trade

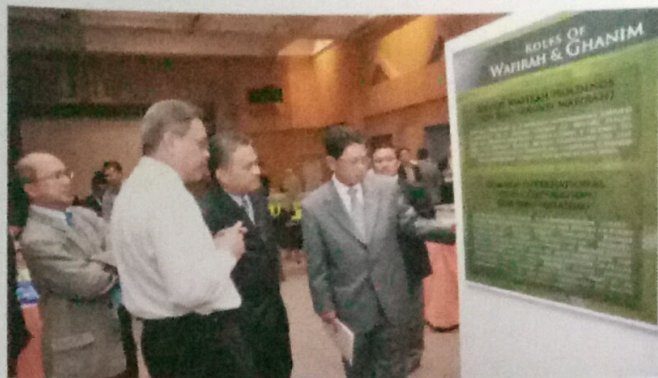
JALAN MENTERI BESAR, February 4 – Brunei-Sabah hopes to strengthen its bilateral relation and enhance trade to a wider scale.

The matter was reiterated at a courtesy call by the Chairman of Sabah Economy Development Corporation (SEDCO), Yang Berhormat Datuk Haji Mohd Arifin to the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya.

The delegate was given a briefing by Senior Economic Officer, Dayang Normah binti Haji Ibrahim on the ministry's background and investment opportunities in Brunei derived from primary resources, manufacturing and tourism.

A briefing was also delivered by the Director of Agriculture, Dayang Hajah Normah Suria Hayati that touched on Brunei Halal Brand and the International Halal Products Expo scheduled to take place this year.

The delegation is on a four-day work visit to Brunei Darussalam.



The delegates from SEDCO views on the exhibition by the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.

PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGGAH

Overcome extreme wastage of energy use

JERUDONG, February 6 – The extreme wasting of energy usage in Brunei Darussalam is a challenge that should be seriously overcome. As a platform to support the government initiative in efficient energy conservation, every May 24 has been declared as Energy Day in this nation.

These matters were said by the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Major General (Rtd) Dato Haji Awang Mohammad at the presentation of Long Service Badge for Brunei Shell Joint Venture Emblem (BSJV) held at Grand Ballroom, The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

According the minister, everyone should be aware that the government is giving a large amount of subsidies on petrol and electricity which could be spent on development activities.

The Energy Section at PMO with Petroleum Unit and Electrical Services Department have steered this effort to overcome the issue with cooperation from all parties including BSJV.



The Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office presents the Long Service Badge to one of the recipients of Brunei Shell Joint Venture Emblem.

PHOTO: HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGGAH

Brunei Cambridge Exam results show improvement

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 6 – The Brunei Cambridge GCE October/November 2009 results for the ordinary and advanced level showed an improvement compare to those of 2008.

The result for Brunei Cambridge GCE 'A' Level showed an increase of 0.49 per cent where 3,073 candidates sat for the October/November 2009 examination and 2,462 or 80.12 per cent passed with at least 1 'A' level. Overall percentage of candidates getting at least 2 'A' Level are 52.7 per cent.

Meanwhile the result for Brunei Cambridge GCE 'AS' Level increased by 0.8 per cent compares to the results in 2008. From 1,617 candidates, 1,276 or 78.91 per cent obtained at least 1 'AS' Level. Overall result showed 87 candidates from 1,617 or 5.38 per cent have grade A in at least two subjects.

The results for the Brunei Cambridge GCE 'O' Level October/November 2009 showed that from 7,555 candidates, 3,986 (52.76 per cent) obtained at least 3 'O' Level which is an increase of 0.42 per cent compare to year 2008. For this year's 'O' Level, three schools achieved 100 per cent in obtaining at least 3 'O' Levels.

Workshop on Incident Command System

JERUDONG, February 8 – The Incident Command System (ICS) would be incorporated in the Brunei Darussalam Disaster Management System where it is a step forward in helping to develop the capacity and increase efficiency in disaster management.

The Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Adnan stated the matter at the opening of the National Disaster Workshop held at the Holiday Lodge Hotel.

More than 50 participants from different agencies including the Ministry of Health, Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Royal Brunei Police Force, Fire and Rescue Department, and the Public Works Department participated in the three-day workshop that will run until February 10.

The workshop is organised by the National Disaster Management Centre with cooperation from the Agriculture Services of United States of America. It is a programme under the ASEAN-US Cooperation on Disaster Management designed for capacity-building in preparedness and response within ASEAN as well as internationally.

Brunei Darussalam is also one of the two pilot countries selected to adopt the US Incident Command System.

BMC Food Industries Sdn. Bhd. awarded ISO 22000: 2005



PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI ISMAIL

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources presents the certificate to the Director of Management of BMC Food Industries Sdn. Bhd.

JERUDONG, February 9 – A Certification Programme has been implemented as a move to ensure that production of local foodstuffs are safe and meet the standards of exported food items.

This programme is initiated by the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources through the National Standard Centre.

One of the companies to receive the award is BMC Food Industries Sdn. Bhd. which is now ISO 22000:2005 certified.

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya presented the certificate to the Director of Management of BMC Food Industries Sdn Bhd, Tan Too Liang.

The certificate presentation was held at the Indera Kayangan Ballroom, The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

BMC Food Industries signs MoU with three companies

JERUDONG, February 9 – BMC Food Industries is moving forward to expand their market domestically and abroad with the signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with three new companies; Ben Foods Brunei Sdn. Bhd., Gardenia Marketing Sdn. Bhd. and Borneo Nusantara Sdn. Bhd.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya held at Indera Kayangan Ballroom, The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

Signing as signatories to the MoU on behalf of BMC Food Industries Sdn. Bhd. was the Managing Director,

Tan Too Liang, while the Ben Foods Brunei Sdn. Bhd. was represented by its General Manager, Gardenia Marketing Sdn. Bhd. was represented by its Executive Director Paul Koh Lean Poh and General Manager of Borneo Nusantara Sdn. Bhd., Dennis Chin Wei Ming.

The MoU between BMC Food Industries Sdn. Bhd. and Ben Foods Brunei Sdn. Bhd. will focus on producing products such as smoked chicken frankfurter and smoked chicken frankfurter with cheese for Golden Chick brand that will be supplied to Ben Foods Brunei Sdn. Bhd.

The MoU between Gardenia Marketing Sdn. Bhd. will focus on

the joint venture of both companies where as BMC Food Industries Sdn. Bhd. appoints Gardenia Marketing Sdn. Bhd. as the dealer to promote, market and distribute the products produced by BMC Food Industries Sdn. Bhd. exclusively to Sabah's market.

While the MoU with Borneo Nusantara Sdn. Bhd. will focus on a joint venture between both companies whereas BMC Food Industries Sdn. Bhd. appoints Borneo Nusantara Sdn. Bhd. as the dealer to promote, market and distribute the products produced by BMC Food Industries Sdn. Bhd. exclusively to Sarawak's market.

ASEAN + 3 Natural Gas Forum

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 9 – Brunei Darussalam's natural gas industry has a bright future in which the country had invested in rejuvenation works for its liquefied natural gas (LNG) plants in Lumut including new and larger LNG vessels.

The matters were stated by Deputy Permanent Secretary (Energy) at Prime Minister's Office, Awang Haji Ismail at the official opening of the 6th ASEAN + 3 Natural Gas Forum held at The Ritzqun International Hotel in Gadong.

According to the Deputy Permanent Secretary, the step would ensure that BLNG's project would continue to provide stable and continuous LNG supply to customers in the country which is far beyond current LNG contracts.

"We are also proud to inform that the methanol plant which is located in Lumut will be fully operational and begin its export in a short period of time," he said.

The two-day forum was attended by several members of ASEAN. Also participating are Japan, China and

Korea.

The forum among others will include presentation of reports from ASEAN member countries which produce and exports natural gas namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia and Malaysia; and also ASEAN member countries which use and import natural gas such as the Republic of Philippines, Republic of Singapore and Thailand.

Meanwhile the representatives from China, Japan and Korea will be presenting reports on current issues in the gas power sector such as views on demand, the domestic investment



The Deputy Permanent Secretary (Energy) at Prime Minister's Office at the official opening of the 6th ASEAN+ 3 Natural Gas Forum.

plans for best gas usage, and updates on exploration projects and vast developments for international cooperation.

Book on electrical standards launched

JALAN KEBANGSAAN, February 10 – A book emphasising on electrical standards entitled 'Piawai Brunei Darussalam International Electro Technical Commission' (PBD – IEC) was launched. It emphasises strongly on electrical safety, raising public awareness, enhancing competency through training and ensuring the quality of electrical products and supply.

The standards will motivate the private sector to venture into the manufacturing of products to meet local market's requirements.

The Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Major General (Rtd) Haji Awang Mohammad said at the launching of the 'Piawai Brunei Darussalam International Electro Technical Commission' book and 'Technical Committee on Electrical Standards' (TECO) official website held at the Banquet Hall, State Legislative Council building.

The desire to implement Brunei Darussalam Electrical Standard will be implemented on a mandatory basis commencing March 1, 2012.

Further details on TECO's official website is available at



The Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office launches the 'Piawai Brunei Darussalam International Electro Technical Commission' book and 'Technical Committee on Electrical Standards' (TECO) official website.

Brunei – Korea inks pact on youth affairs

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 10 – An agreement was signed between Brunei Darussalam and Korea for cooperation in youth affairs. Among areas of cooperation are exchanges of officials responsible on youth development and guidance; and exchanging views and sharing information on related fields.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad; while his counterpart was Korea's Minister of Health, Welfare and Family Affairs, Her Honourable Jae-Hee Jeon.

The signing ceremony was held separately in Bandar Seri Begawan and Seoul.

Working visit strengthen bilateral cooperation

SULTANATE OF OMAN, February 13 – The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya and delegation are currently on a three-day working visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

The working visit aims to strengthen and further enhance bilateral cooperation relations of both countries.

During the visit, the minister will hold discussions on various fields ranging from the economy, industry, tourism, fishery, halal market and development of human resource energy and small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

After the visit to Sultanate of Oman, the minister will proceed to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for a similar visit.

In Saudi Arabia, the minister will hold further discussion with National Prawn Company (NPC), a company involve in prawn farming and marketing industry. NPC showed interest to foster cooperation in commercial prawn farming during their visit to Brunei.



The Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Adanan and Charge D'Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Hossein Tehrani Zamani attended a reception in conjunction with the republic's 41st National Day held at the International Convention Centre, Berakas on February 11.



The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, Pehin Dato Awang Lim Jock Seng and the Ambassador of Kuwait to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Ghassan M. Al-Duwaisan attended a reception in conjunction with the country's 49th National Day held at the Grand Hall, The Empire Hotel & Country Club on February 25.

PHOTOS BY: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

'Brunei's Expedition around the World' commemorates 26 years of independence

BERAKAS, February 13 – To commemorate the 26 years of Brunei Darussalam's independence, an expedition around the world will be organised by Dayang Norhayati binti Abu Bakar and her husband, Awang Harun Kurt Eichbauer.

After crossing Siberia and Russia with 'Jambo', the four-wheel drive car registered in Brunei Darussalam, the couple will begin 'Brunei's Expedition around the World' on February 14 heading Europe.

The National Flag presentation ceremony for was held at the Dewan Setia Pahlawan, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources in the presence of Acting Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamdilah.

This expedition will also bring along the Brunei Halal Brand logo and Brunei Halal Certificate Label.

The journey for this expedition will bring the couple to across Europe

through Spain heading west Sahara, then continue to North America and United States of America in May 2010. These will be followed by an expedition to South America and finally to Australia, before heading back to Brunei at the end of this year.

The highlights of the expedition, among others are to promote the Green Heart of Borneo and to attract investors in tourism to this country besides promoting the Brunei Halal Brand and Brunei Halal Certificate Label. The Brunei Halal Brand logo and Brunei Halal Certificate Label will be clearly visible on 'Jambo' which will



The Acting Minister of Industry and Primary Resources presents the National Flag to the couple, Dayang Norhayati and Awang Harun.

travel around the world and become exponent for international business development in the future.

The couple previous expeditions can be viewed at www.overthehorizon.net

Minister of Communications receives courtesy visit



The Additional Secretary, Info-Technology Department of the Ministry of Info-Communications Technology India with the Minister of Communications during a courtesy call.

BERAKAS, February 17 – The bilateral relation between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of India has been further strengthened through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of Info-Communications Technology (ICT). Under the MoU, a delegate from India is currently in the country to attend a Joint Working Group Meeting on ICT.

While in the sultanate, the delegate paid a courtesy call to the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Dr. Haji Awang Abu Bakar at the Ministry of Communications' headquarters.

The delegate was led by the Additional Secretary, Info-Technology Department of the Ministry of Info-Communications Technology India, Mr. Shri Rakesh Singh.

Brunei hosts 1st Joint Working Group on ICT

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 17 – Brunei Darussalam through the Ministry of Communications hosted the 1st Joint Working Group on ICT between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of India.

The meeting was chaired by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications, Awang Haji Alaihuddin.

This is the first Joint Working Group Meeting on ICT between both nations after the signing of its MoU in May 2008.

Among the agenda discussed at the meeting is to create co-working group and enhance bilateral relations related to human resource development, expert consultation, development of e-government and ICT in this nation.



The first Joint Working Group Meeting on ICT between Brunei and India chaired by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications.

Qualified and experienced human resources needed

BERAKAS, February 18 – The Ministry of Health needs qualified and experienced resources in its effort to enhance existing services as well as introduce new services in line with developments in medical treatment.

The matter was highlighted by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyol at the official opening of the Exhibition and Career Carnival for the Ministry of Health 2010. It was held at the International Convention Centre.

The minister also said strong emphasise has been given on Continuing Medical Education (CME) and Continuing Nurse Education (CNE). He further said that many applications to further studies in various fields both domestically and abroad have also been approved by the ministry.

The exhibition and career carnival is a four-day event where members of the public especially students would be able to benefit and receive information on various careers and services available in the ministry.



The Minister of Health tours around the Exhibition and Career Carnival of the Ministry of Health 2010 held at the International Convention Centre.

Thanksgiving prayers to mark Crown Prince's birthday



A thanksgiving prayer organised by the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation as Secretariat of Pengiran Muda Mahkota Al-Muhtadee Billah Fund for Orphans.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 18 – A series of thanksgiving prayers were held to mark His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah's 36th birthday anniversary.

The National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) held the thanksgiving ceremony at the Surau of Fire and Rescue Department Headquarters.

His Royal Highness is the Chairman of National Disaster Council.

Present at the ceremony was Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Adanan as the Permanent Deputy Chairman of National Disaster Council.

Also present were Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Dani; permanent secretaries; deputy permanent secretaries and Director

of Fire and Rescue Department who is also the Director of NDMC, Awang Yahya bin Haji Abdul Rahman.

The Ministry of Education and Universiti of Brunei Darussalam (UBD) also organised the ceremonies at UBD's mosque on February 18.

The ceremony was attended by Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abd. Rahman; Deputy

Minister of Education, Pengiran Dato Dr. Haji Mohammad; Permanent Secretary, Deputy Permanent Secretary and officers from the ministry and UBD.

Similar ceremony was organised by the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation (YSHHB) as Secretariat of Pengiran Muda Mahkota Al-Muhtadee Billah Fund for Orphans (DANA).

Meanwhile on February 16, the officers and staff members of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) organised the ceremony at the surau of Ministry of Defence in Berakas.

Present at the ceremony were the Commander of RBAF, Major General Haji Aminuddin Ihsan and Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Defence, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mustafa.

Another thanksgiving ceremony was also organised by the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) at the surau of the Police Force in Gadong.

The ceremony was attended by the Commissioner of Police, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Zainuddin.

Two Bruneian students participate APEC Youth Conference 2010

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 19 – Two form six students will be representing the country at the APEC Youth Conference 2010 in Hiroshima, Japan.

They are Awang Haji Izz Khairee bin Haji Mohd. Ya'akub and Awang Ahmad Faiz bin Haji Zailani of Maktab Duli Pengiran Muda Al-Muhtadee Billah, Gadong.

The four-day APEC 2010 Youth Conference brings the theme 'Our future, the Earth's Future: Creating a Peaceful, Prosperous Society'.

Among its objective is to achieve an agreement and understanding through an exchange of ideas and interaction even though they come from a different history, religion and lifestyle.

It is also to show the concern issues related to the economy, solidarity and nuclear weapons among the youths in APEC member economies.



Awang Ahmad Faiz (left) and Awang Haji Izz Khairee (right) represent the country at the APEC Youth Conference 2010 in Hiroshima, Japan.

Walkathon marks World Cancer Day



PHOTO: ABDUL KADIR MD. TAHIR

The Minister of Health joins an aerobic exercise at a walkathon to mark World Cancer Day.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 21 – Ministry of Health in cooperation with Royal Brunei Police Force held a

walkathon to mark World Cancer Day.

Among the attendees were Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi as guest of honour; Deputy Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair; the ministry's Permanent Secretary, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Salam; and Acting Senior Deputy Assistant of Police Commissioner, Pengiran Haji Sulaiman.

Prior to the three kilometres walkathon, an aerobic exercise was conducted.

It was hoped that the walkathon would raise awareness on the importance of prioritising health and practising a healthy lifestyle.

World Cancer Day falls on February 4 with the theme 'Cancer Can Be Prevented Too'.

Cancer is the main cause of death in Brunei Darussalam from 2004 to 2007. The National Cancer record showed that lung cancer normally occurs among the male; while breast cancer among the female. Other cancer include cervical, endometrium and nasopharynx.

Regional Seminar on Islam and Global Well-Being

GADONG, February 24 – A Regional Seminar on Islam and Global Well-Being (Seminar Serantau Islam dan Kesejahteraan Sejagat) was officiated by the State Mufti, Pehin Dato (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz at The Rizqun International Hotel in Gadong.

The two-day regional seminar is organised by the Faculty of Usuluddin, Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) where working papers were presented from over 10 Islamic countries including from Southeast Asia.

It is hoped that such seminar would be able to produce one firm resolution which could assist world leaders to create world peace and welfare.



PHOTO: AK AMIRULNABAWI AG HAJI MOHD ALI

Among the participants in the two-day seminar.

More academic institutions in the pipeline



PHOTO: HATIRAL HAZIM ABD. HAMID

The Deputy Permanent Secretary for Higher Education presents the prizes to one of the winner of the competition.

BERAKAS, February 25 – The Ministry of Education is currently preparing a plan and take preliminary action to establish a standard polytechnic institution which can offer students the opportunity to pursue higher studies. While two more vocational schools will be built to accommodate new students.

Dr. Junaidi said that the vocational education and training play an important role in developing human resources in Brunei Darussalam. The Department of Technical Education, every year through technical and vocational education institutions is able to produce a semi-skilled or skilled labour force to meet the needs of the

These were said by the Permanent Secretary (Higher Education) at the Ministry of Education, Awang Haji Mohd Daud at the prize presentation ceremony for the 5th National Skills Competition held at the International Convention Centre.

His speech was read by the Deputy Permanent Secretary for Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Dr. Junaidi Haji Abd Rahman.

country's development and economic progress.

The Department of Technical Education is also gearing up to formulate a strategic plan to further upgrade its capacity by providing more education programs and technical and vocational trainings needed by the nation. The department is also planning to improve the quality of overall technical and vocational education systems in line with the country's National Education System for the 21st Century or SPN21.

The 5th National Skills Competition aimed to identify participants to represent the country at the regional 'ASEAN Skills Competition' to be held in Bangkok, Thailand in November this year. A total of 14 areas were competed in the competition conducted by five technical and vocational institutions. The competition ran from February 2 to 11.

National Day celebration starts with hoisting of giant national flag

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 7 - The 26th National Day celebration officially starts with the hoisting of the giant national flag held at the open foyer of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Complex.

Present at the ceremony was the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Dr. Haji Awang Ahmad where the minister presented four District Officers with national flags and national day posters.

Local nurses attend advance training in India

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 8 - Two nurses from Cardiology Department, Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital will attend Advanced Training for Cardiac Nurses at CMC Hospital in Vellore, India.

Ministry of Health and its nursing administration will always support efforts made to provide advanced training for cardiology nurses, said the Head of Cardiology of RIPAS Hospital, Dr. Haji Nazar Luqman.

The nurses are also encouraged to attend workshops, seminars and symposiums held locally, besides encouraging participation in regional conferences and meetings.

Prior to this, the ministry have been sending cardiology nurses to attend cardiology trainings, meetings and workshops at Melbourne, Australia; Singapore and Malaysia.

The two nurses, Dayang Siti Sahriahwati binti Haji Mohd. Tanjong and Dayang Rahmaswatee @ Rahimah binti Haji Abdul Rahim will leave for India on February 10.

At the CMC Hospital, they will learn about invasive and non-invasive cardiac task, besides studying on various programmes about heart problems available at the institution.

metric tonnes per year.

Wasan Paddy field is among the Agricultural Development Areas that has begun its harvesting activities.

Brunei Book Fair 2010

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 16 - Brunei Darussalam will be organising Brunei Book Fair 2010 in conjunction with its 26th National Day celebration. The book fair will be held for 10 days from February 21 to March 2 at the Indoor Stadium of Hassanal Bolkiah Sports Complex in Berakas.

According to the Acting Director of Language and Literature Bureau, Dayang Hajah Aminah binti Haji Momin, there are 86 booths based in the indoor stadium where 45 books distributing companies are expected to participate in the fair including five from ASEAN countries, Malaysia, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Philippines, Republic of Singapore and Thailand and also from Canada, Australia and ABPA.

In conjunction with the book fair, 42 new books titles will also be launched in which these books will be sold at a 70 per cent discount.

Side activities such as seminar, story-telling competition, quiz and mini exhibition will also be conducted during the book fair.

The Brunei Book Fair has been held annually since year 2000 recorded an increase in number of visitors. In 2009, it was recorded that more than 80,000 visitors went to the book fair while in year 2008, it was about 60,000 visitors.

The Brunei Book Fair 2010 will be launched by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad.

UBD wins netball tournament

BERAKAS, February 7 - Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) team won the Ministry of Education's Netball Tournament after defeating Zon II team with 14-11 points.

One of UBD's team members was Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah.

The prizes were presented by the Permanent Secretary (Core Education), Datin Paduka Dayang Apsah binti Haji Abdul Majid. The tournament organised by the Ministry of Education and participated by 18 teams throughout the country.

The tournament was held at the Multi-Purpose Hall, Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium.

Twenty-six cruise ships expected to berth at Muara Port

MUARA, February 7 - Twenty-six cruise ships are expected to berth at Muara Port this year. Last year, 23 cruise ships berthed at the port with 20,243 passengers and 9,917 crews. The increase in numbers of cruise ships docking at the country's port is in line with Ports Department's strategic plans which is one of its efforts to promote Brunei Darussalam as a tourist destination.

On February 7, the department recorded a significant testimonial with the arrival of M.V. Discovery Cruise Ship. The 20,000 tonnes ship is nine storeys high and capable of carrying 650 passengers and 300 crews. The cruise ship was in the country for a one-day visit.

Present to welcome the cruise ship and its passengers was the Acting Director of Ports Department, Awang Haji Bujang bin Haji Tinkong.

Harvesting season begins

MUKIM PENGKALAN BATU, February 12 - Paddy harvesting season in Brunei Darussalam is from February to March. Among the types of paddy harvested are Pusu, Bario, Adan and Laila.

The Department of Agriculture and Agrifood in cooperation with Kooperasi Setia Kawan Berhad (KOSEKA) held a harvesting ceremony at the paddy field own by one of the paddy entrepreneurs; Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Aziz at the Wasan Paddy Field.

Present to join the harvesting activities was the Deputy Minister of Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR), Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamdilah and officials from the ministry.

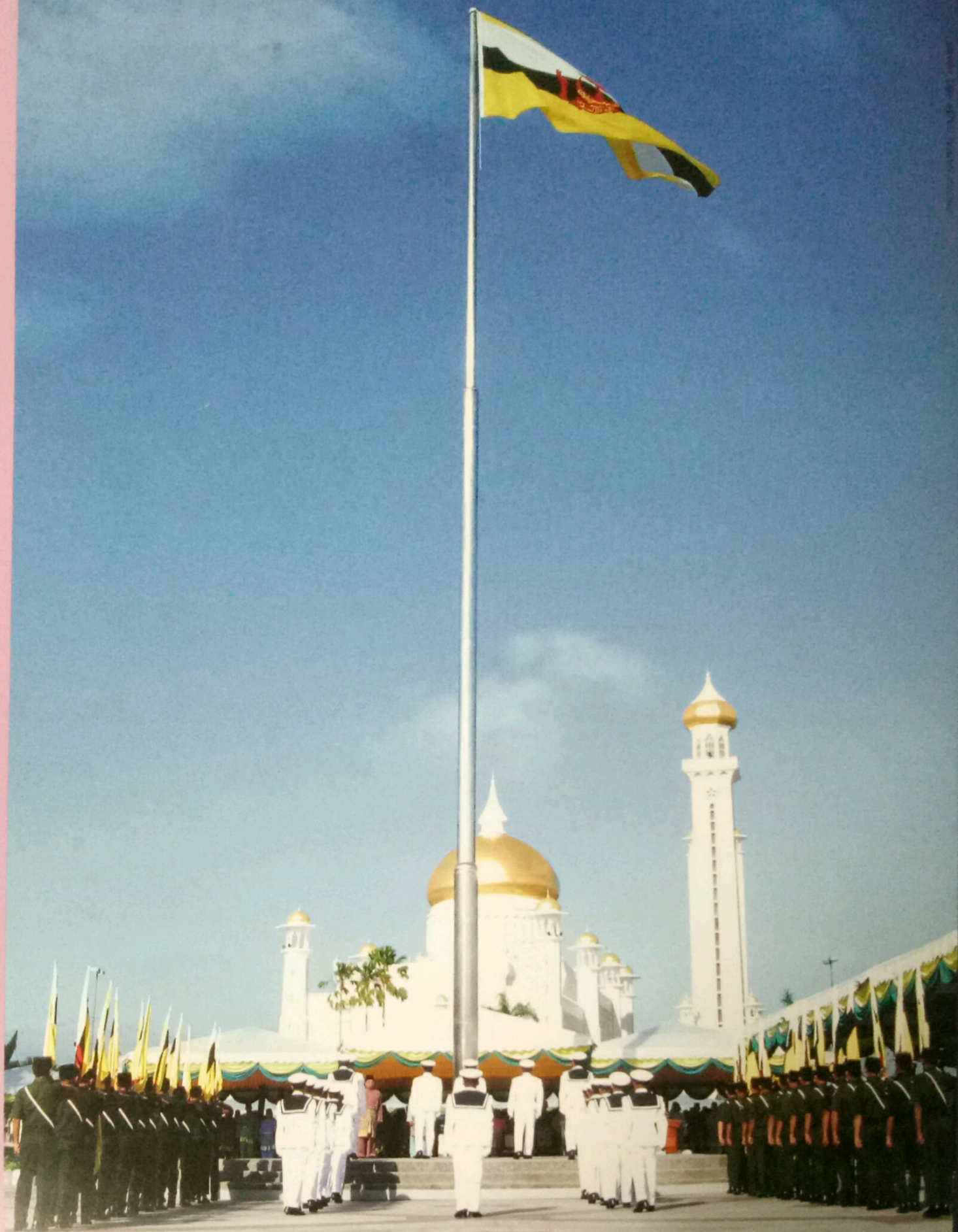
MIPR through Department of Agriculture and Agrifood in its Short Term Plan has fixed a target to increase rice production from 3.12 per cent self-sufficiency that is 982.9 metric tonnes per year in 2007 to 20 per cent self-sufficiency that is about 6,000 metric tonnes per year in 2010.

Meanwhile, in its Mid-Term Plan (2011-2015) the target production is 60 per cent self-sufficiency that is 18,000

Brunei participate in Al-Quran competition in Morocco

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 13 - Brunei Darussalam for the first time will be invited to participate in the 6th King Mohammad International Al-Quran Reading, Memorisation and Interpretation Competition (Musabaqah Membaca, Menghafaz and Mentafsir Al-Quran Peringkat Antarabangsa Raja Muhammad Ke-6) in Morocco, Casablanca from February 16.

Representing Brunei Darussalam is Awang Muhammad Hashim bin Haji Abdullah, mualim (religious expert) Al-Quran, Institut Tahfiz Al-Quran Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (ITAQSHHB). He will participate in memorisation of 2½ juz (chapter in Al-Quran) with Tarannum.



The 26th National Day celebrations began with the hoisting of the giant national flag at the open foyer of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Complex in front of Omar 'Ali Saifuddien mosque in the capital on February 7.