



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

newsletter

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Royal speech in conjunction with New Year 2010

HM: Government committed enhance citizens' welfare

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 31, 2009 – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is committed to study on any policies needed for the welfare of its people.

This was stated by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with New Year 2010 that was telecasted nationwide through radio and television.

His Majesty also said that starting January 1, 2010, the Supplementary Contributory Pension Scheme (SCP) will be enforced for both the public and private sectors. It is particularly for those under the Employees Trust Fund (TAP) which coincides with the extension of retirement age to 60 years.

In this regard, His Majesty believes that there is still room to analyse and introduce either an additional or alternative funding scheme to cover other basic needs such as housing. With that, His Majesty welcomes improvements to speed up and make it easier for the people including those related to starting up a business.

With these improvements, said His Majesty, it is not impossible to improve the country's standing in the 'Ease of Doing Business' list.



PHOTO: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with New Year 2010.

Brunei Darussalam is ranked 96th from 183 countries according to the 'International Financial Corporation, World Bank' for the year 2010.

2010 better year for global tourism activities



The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources in a group photo with the delegates of the National Tourism Organisations Meeting.

JERUDONG, January, 22 – ASEAN can expect 2010 to be a much better year for global tourism activities as the threat of global financial crisis is recovering. The view was endorsed by United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) on their latest report on world tourism trend that 2010 shall be a positive growth for world tourism especially in the ASEAN region.

The matters were stated by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR), Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya at the National Tourism Organisations Meeting (NTOs) held at

Indera Kayangan, The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

"We are entering into a new phase of our ASEAN tourism development. The new strategic plan will need to be deliberated now and implemented from 2011 onwards. We saw the birth of the Visit ASEAN Campaign being launched right here in Brunei Darussalam during the ATF in 2001, with the tagline 'Asia's Perfect 10 Paradise'," said the minister.

He further added that ASEANTA had been supporting the campaign in promoting Southeast Asia as a single destination with the introduction of Single Air Pass and Hotel Pass

promoting more than one destination in ASEAN.

ASEAN must not also lose focus on the existing relationships with China, Japan, Korea, India and Russia in the formulation of our tourism strategy, stated the minister.

"We must always work to project the image that Southeast Asia can be the choice of destination for world travellers," said the minister.

Brunei Darussalam is currently hosting ASEAN Tourism Forum from January 22 to 28, 2010.



4 More houses and land lots for citizens



5 HM. Carry out research and statistics on why compulsory religious education not imposed



6 2nd Intake Officer Cadets Sovereign's Parade



7 9-Ball Team Challenge 2010



8 Stop global warming and decelerate climate change



9 HRH attends ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat



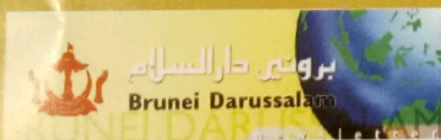
10 2nd IOC Sports Medicine Course



11 Attorney General's Chamber celebrates Golden Jubilee



13 SCP operation officially launched



JANUARY 2010 | VOLUME 25 ISSUE 1

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HM bestows title for Chief of Staff Armed Forces of the Philippines

ISTANA NURUL IMAN, January 21 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) has consented to bestow the title of 'The Most Exalted Order of Paduka Keberanian Laila Terbilang' First Class - D.P.K.T which brings the title 'Dato Paduka Seri' to the Chief of Staff Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), His Excellency General Victor Sabio Ibrado.

His Majesty also consented to receive in audience the Chief of Staff Armed Forces of the Philippines.



PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from:



- ❶ The State Councillor of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Dai Bingguo on January 25.
- ❷ The Tourism Ministers from Southeast Asian (ASEAN) countries, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, and Republic of India on January 25. The ministers are attending the ASEAN Tourism Forum 2010.

PHOTOS: HAJI MOHD. YUSSOF MOHD. YASSIN
AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH



Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha consented to receive in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from:



The spouse of the Chief of Staff Armed Forces of the Philippines, Datin Dolores Clarion-Ibrado on January 21.



Her Excellency Dato' Sri Ng Yen Yen, Malaysia's Minister of Tourism on January 25.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and General of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) received in audience at Istana Nurul Iman from the outgoing Commander of RBAF, Pehin Major General Dato Haji Awang Halbi; and the new RBAF Commander, Major General Haji Aminuddin Ihsan on January 4.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

More houses and land lots for citizens

PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN



His Majesty presents a land grant to one of the recipients.

LUMUT, January 19 – As one of its continuous effort to provide shelter and comfort to its citizens, the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through its National Housing Programmes have awarded 65 more people with land grants and keys to their new homes held at the Liang Lumut Recreational Club.

Present to grace the ceremony was His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

From the total recipients, three received land grants that are under the National Housing Development Scheme at Kampong Pandan and two under National Housing Development Scheme at Kampong Lumut/Sungai Liang; while 62 received keys to their new homes under National Housing Development Scheme at Kampong Lumut/Sungai

Liang.

Currently 1,844 houses under the National Housing Development Scheme in Belait District had been handed to the recipients where 343 are based in Sungai Liang while 1,501 are based in Kampong Pandan.

As to date, more than 7,000 houses through the National Housing Scheme had been built where the houses were built all over the nation. Currently the housing schemes for the citizens are the National Housing Development Scheme, the Landless Indigenous Citizens Housing Scheme, Temporary Occupation-of-land License and Infill Scheme.

After the ceremony, His Majesty visited the home of village head of Kampong Lumut II, Awang Abd. Rahman bin Hashim and the home of *Penghulu* (head of mukim) of Mukim Liang, Awang Haji Abd Hamid bin Haji Mumin.

His Majesty also went to Balai Raya Kampong Lumut I to witness the Single Mother Assistance Project (Projek Bantuan Ibu Tunggal) that involves the making of local delicacies.

Also visited was Sungai Liang Water Treatment Plant which cost about \$95 million to build. The water treatment plant was built under the Eighth National Development Plan and supplies 36 million litres of clean water to Lumut, Sungai Liang, Labi and the rural areas.

His Majesty also visited several homes of recipients under National Housing Plan at Kampong Lumut/Sungai Liang before proceed to Belait Arabic School.

Later, His Majesty went to Mukim Seria and visited home of the *Penghulu* (head of mukim), Awang Haji Ibrahim bin Idrus and the Flood Prevention Project based at G14-H14, Jalan Tengah Seria.

His Majesty's itinerary ended with a luncheon at the Brunei Shell Recreational Club.

His Majesty attends royal burial ceremony

JOHOR BAHRU, MALAYSIA, January 23 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the burial ceremony for Almarhum Al-Mutawakal Allallah Sultan Iskandar Alhaj ibni Almarhum Sultan Ismail.

Also present was His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah.

His Majesty arrived at Istana Besar Johor Baharu midday to pay his last respects to Almarhum.

Soon after arrival, a prayer was read by the State Mufti of Brunei Darussalam, Pehin Dato Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz.

Later, His Majesty attended the funeral ceremony at the Mahmoodiah Royal Mausoleum.



His Majesty sprinkles flower petals over the mausoleum.

PHOTO: HAJI MOHD. YUSOFF MOHD. YASSIN

HM: Carry out research and statistics on why compulsory religious education not imposed

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 26 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visited two schools which were the Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPUSB) and the Al-Falaah School.

During his visit to KUPUSB, His Majesty consented to deliver a *tifah* (royal speech) where he voiced his concern over the flaws present in the religious education system.

His Majesty urged the relevant authorities to carry out research and statistics on why religious education system has not been imposed as compulsory even though it has exist for 50 years. He said that studies and statistics are vital as it is through these, problems and on why compulsory religious education has not been imposed would be identified. And through these, ideas could be inspired on how to improve further.

KUPUSB formerly known as Maktab Perguruan Ugama Seri Begawan (Seri Begawan Religious Teachers College) was established on July 5, 1975 and was upgraded to a university on January 20, 2007.

The university currently has 456 students for the 2009/2010 intake with 48 teaching staff.

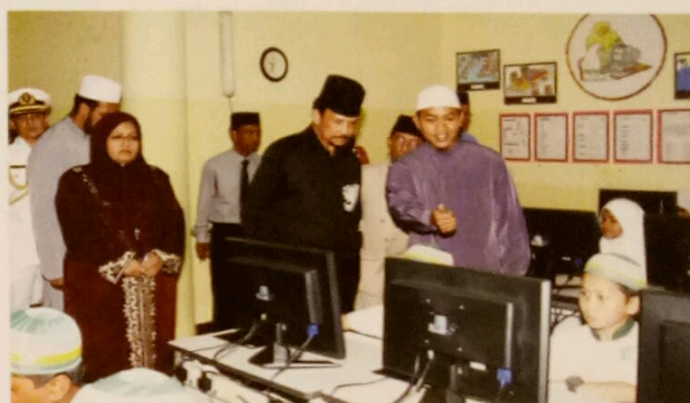
Prior to this, His Majesty visited Al-Falaah School based at Taman Manggis Manis. This school began its operation on April 3, 1995 which is a private school registered at the Ministry of Education.

This school currently has 667 students where it provides education from pre-school and preparatory from Year 2 to 6.

PHOTOS: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR
RAMLI TENGAH



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College.



His Majesty at Al-Falaah School.

ASEM Workshop



His Royal Highness delivers a *sabda* at the opening of ASEM workshop.

TUNKU LINK, January 4 – Brunei Darussalam must strive towards developing a culture of recognition of the importance of environmental conservation and protection.

This was stated by His Royal Highness Crown Prince (Dr.) Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office who is also the Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) at the opening of ASEM workshop with the theme 'Towards Understanding the Impact of Global Climate Change on Biodiversity and Tropical Rainforest'.

His Royal Highness said Brunei Darussalam is blessed with

some of the most wonderful natural ecosystems and pristine tropical rainforests on the planet. Its locality on the island of Borneo is well regarded as an area with an amazing diversity of plants and animals.

His Royal Highness said that Brunei Darussalam is proud that up to 58 per cent of its total landmass is under conservation, where its forest resources are being managed in a sustainable manner.

"I hope this ASEM Workshop will be able to generate extensive global interest in the Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre for teaching, training and research on climate change, so that we may further enhance our understanding of its impact on biodiversity and our tropical rainforests. We are also actively involved in regional conservation initiatives with our neighbours in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, with the Coral Triangle Initiative; and together with Indonesia and Malaysia in the Heart of Borneo project.

"It will be a challenge to maintain our forest resources as there are many issues affecting forests and forestry in this region and elsewhere. These include declining forest cover, land degradation, and illegal logging. These older challenges now converge with new ones, such as climate change, the preservation of food security, management of biodiversity outside protected areas, payment for environmental services, and violent conflict in forested regions," said His Royal Highness.

This is a 10-day workshop with 40 participants from Asia and Europe; and 15 speakers from abroad. It is hoped that this workshop will strengthen existing relations and assist in establishing new international relations between Brunei Darussalam, Europe and other Asian countries.

His Royal Highness graces 2nd Intake Officer Cadets Sovereign's Parade



PHOTO: AK AMIRINZAMING HAJI MOHD AU



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness Crown Prince General Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office and General of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) in a group photo with the Second Intake Officer Cadets of the Officer Cadet School (OCS) of RBAF at the Sungai Akar Camp.

SUNGAI AKAR, January 14 – Relevant parties as well as the Officer Cadet School are reminded to always be alert and sensitive to current developments and changes in terms of military dimensions, infrastructural and asset requirements as well as the latest leadership methodologies.

The reminder was made by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office and General of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) in his *sabda* (royal speech) at the Sovereign's Parade Ceremony for the Second Intake Officer Cadets of the Officer Cadet School (OCS) of RBAF at the Sungai Akar Camp.

Based upon these developments and requirements, said His Royal Highness, the relevant parties should act dynamically and introduce strategic reforms that will lead towards the accomplishment of the vision and mission that has been established.

Earlier on, His Royal Highness said that the existence of OCS with its own character and unique identity will of itself become a basis for the motivation of all parties to continue endeavouring to further raise the entire performance and image of this institution as befits the motto 'Loyalty, Commitment and Courage' in coming together to meet the challenges of the changing times, said His Royal Highness.

"I'm pleased to note that this morning's parade is a most significant parade, for it is the first time that the

OCS of the Second Intake are donning the new uniforms which signify the institution's own identity," added His Royal Highness.

The success of the Officer Cadets in fully taking to heart and putting into practice the qualities, personal values as well as leadership inculcated throughout their training in the discharge of their responsibilities and obligations, reflects upon the capability and continued success of this OCS, said His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness added that, for the OCS as well as the close partnership of the local and foreign trainers, obviously today's achievement represents a milestone in the continuous efforts to develop the school's capacity and build its reputation as a military training institution on par with those of other nations throughout the world.

This matter said His Royal Highness is in line with the aspiration of the Ministry of Defence and RBAF to raise the level of professionalism of its personnel through the development locally conducted 'Life-long Learning' and 'Continuous Professional Development' programmes which are both relevant and systematic for the various ranks of the RBAF.

His Royal Highness also congratulates the Officer Cadets who have successfully undertaken the training programme that represents a test of various physical and mental capabilities as well as personality.

His Royal Highness believed that the parade is a source of inspiration to encourage prospective trainees and youth groups to raise their level of commitment towards achieving personal excellence.

At the ceremony, His Royal Highness consented to confer the awards to the best officer cadets in every category for the Second Intake of the RBAF OCS.

The first recipient was the winner of the Best Sword of Honour Award, 21496 Officer Cadet (U) Dayangku Nurazriana binti Pengiran Hassanah. With a Master degree in the field of Aeronautical Engineering, the awardee is the first female Officer Cadet ever to be presented this award and also will be the first Female Officer to undergo pilot training in RBAF.

The Sword of Honour award symbolises the most prestigious award given by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as the Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the RBAF.

Other awards presented were: the Best Overall in Academic to 18919 Officer Cadet (U) Haji Muhd Faiz bin Haji Mohammad; the Best Military Skills to 17452 Officer Cadet (L) Mohd Hydzir Zuhdi bin Haji Sulaiman and the Best in Physical Training Endurance to 18912 Officer Cadet Awangku Muhd Hadi Muiz bin Pengiran Haji Ismail.

Southeast Asia Islamic Youth Conference

GADONG, January 12 – Unity is the catalyst for excellence in life and as the basis to preserve and protect the peace, harmony and prosperity of nations, regions and the world.

This was stated by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office at the official opening of the Southeast Asia Islamic Youth Conference held at The Rizqun International Hotel.

His Royal Highness said that the Islamic youth are called upon to continuously comprehend and put into practice Islamic teachings based on the teachings of Al-Quran and As-Sunnah.

To produce a knowledgeable and wise Islamic youth, they must always uphold the divine values of Islamic teachings that covers faith (aqidah), shariah and morality (akhlak).

The conference is part of the Brunei Darussalam's Silver Jubilee National Day celebration where it is held from January 12 to 14. The theme of the conference is 'Perpaduan Belia Islam Menjana Kecemerlangan' (Unification of Islamic Youths Generates Excellence). About 368 participants from Brunei Darussalam, the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of Singapore, Thailand, Myanmar, the Philippines, Viet Nam and Laos are taking part in the conference where



His Royal Highness delivers a *sabda* at the official opening of the Southeast Asia Islamic Youth Conference.

working papers will be based on religious knowledge, education, economy, social, cultural, civilisation, science and technology. Besides the conference, an exhibition is also held at the lobby of The Mall.

HRH witnesses Asia vs Europe 9-Ball Team Challenge 2010



His Royal Highness witnesses the 9-Ball Team Challenge 2010.

GADONG, January 15 – His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office witnessed the 9-Ball Team Challenge 2010 between Teo Chee Soon from Brunei who was partnering with Ko Pin Wi from Chinese Taipei to represent Asia playing against Nick Van Berg from Holland who was partnering with Imran Majid from England to represent Europe which ended with Asia winning the game with 5-4.

The Asia Vs Europe 9-Ball Team Challenge 2010 is held for three days starting from January 15 to 17 where Asia was represented by Teo Chee Soon (Brunei Darussalam), Efren "BATA" Reyes (Philippines), Francisco Bustamante (Philippines), Ko Pin Yi (Chinese Taipei) and Lu Hui Chan (Chinese Taipei). While Europe was represented by Ralf Souquet (German), Darren Appleton (England), Imran Majid (England), Nick Van Den Berg (Holland) and Ruslan Chinahov (Russia).

Crown Prince officiates ATF 2010

JERUDONG, January 25 – His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office graced the opening of ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) 2010 held at The Grand Hall, The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

The event was highlighted with a performance from local artists and a clip video which showed activities conducted by the delegations besides promoting local products.

Brunei Darussalam is currently hosting ATF 2010 with the theme 'ASEAN - The Heart of Green, 10 Destinations and 1 Conservation Vision'.

ATF 2010 gathers a large number of delegates comprising representatives from tourism sector in ASEAN region, ASEAN destination partners such as China, India, Japan, Korea and the international media.

The forum is held from January 21 to 28.



His Royal Highness officiates the ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) 2010.

Stop global warming and decelerate climate change

JERUDONG, January 13 – Everyone in the community has a role to play, not just in the future, but right now, to stop global warming and to decelerate climate change.

The call was made by Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah in her *sabda* (royal speech) during the official closing of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Workshop 2010 held at the Banquet Hall, BRIDEX in Jerudong.

All of us have a duty to secure a better future for the next generation, said Her Royal Highness.

Her Royal Highness further added that, the effort can be started with something as simple as planting a tree, flowers or plants in our gardens and using less paper at school or work, or we can reduce the use of plastic bags whilst also recycling our waste products and conserving energy and water in our homes and workplaces.

"But above all, we need to lead by example and impart upon our children the importance of preserving our environment and its biodiversity, whether it be tropical rainforests, coral reefs or just the plants and creatures in our gardens and surroundings.

"For it is the lifestyles that we bequeath upon our children and their children, which may well determine the manner in which the earth's climate changes," said Her Royal Highness.

In this regard, said Her Royal

Highness, education should be at the forefront of our efforts to increase awareness and promote interest in learning about climate change and the preservation of the natural environment.

Her Royal Highness also touched on the higher learning institutions like universities that have a crucial role and responsible in not only educating the youths, but also in terms of scientific research and knowledge sharing that will assist nations and their leaders in making well-informed decisions on climate change.

Earlier on, Her Royal Highness said that Brunei Darussalam is indeed fortunate to be blessed with one of the world's most important biodiversity hotspots where most varieties of habitat can be found, than almost anywhere else in the world.

The pristine tropical rainforests at the Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre have long attracted the interest of top scholars and students from around the globe to come and conduct research and training on biodiversity and rainforests.

Her Royal Highness was also pleased to see that the workshop exemplifies this interest by bringing together young scientists from Asia and Europe to Brunei Darussalam to learn more on climate change and to gain a deeper



Her Royal Highness delivers a *sabda* at the official closing of the ASEM Workshop 2010.

understanding of its impact on our planet and the crucial challenges it poses to the world's leaders.

At the ceremony, Her Royal Highness also presented a certificate to the 40 workshop participants from Asia and Europe. The 10-day workshop with theme 'Towards Understanding the Impact of Global Climate Change on Biodiversity and Tropical Rainforest' witnessed 15 invited speakers presenting papers related to the theme.

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

- His Excellency Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar and His Excellency General Thein Sein, the Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar in conjunction with Myanmar's 62nd Independence Day anniversary on January 3, 2010.
- Her Excellency Quentin Bryce, Governor-General of Australia and The Right Honourable Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister of Australia and also to the government and people of Australia in conjunction with Australia Day on January 26.
- Her Excellency Pratibha Devisingh Patil, the President of the Republic of India and the Prime Minister, His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh and also to the government and people of India in conjunction with the India's Republic Day on January 26.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddauiah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent his condolences to the President of Haiti, His Excellency Rene Preval due to recent earthquake in Haiti on January 16.

His Majesty expressed his regret with the loss of lives and widespread devastation caused by the disaster. On behalf of his Government and the people of Brunei Darussalam, His Majesty sent his deepest sympathy to the President of Haiti, the government and especially to the bereaved families of the victims.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send his condolences to the Royal Highness Tunku Ibrahim Ismail ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, the Acting Sultan of Johor Darul Takzim on January 23, following the passing of Almarhum Al-Mutawakal Allah Sultan Iskandar Alhaj on Friday, 6 Safar 1432 corresponding to January 22, 2010.

In the condolence message, His Majesty and the royal family as well as the people of Brunei Darussalam expressed their sincerest sympathies and condolences to His Royal Highness Tuanku Ibrahim Ismail and the royal family of Johor Darul Takzim for the passing of the late Sultan.

HRH attends ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat

DA NANG, VIET NAM, January 13 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended an 'Informal Working Dinner' together with other ASEAN Foreign Ministers.

The 'Informal Working Dinner' was hosted by Viet Nam's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Pham Gia Khiem to celebrate the ASEAN Foreign Ministers attending the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat.

At the dinner, the ministers discussed regional and international affairs and matters of mutual interest and attention as well as current world development such as financial, food, energy and security.

Other topics discussed include the follow-up action and the enforcement of ASEAN Charter as well as strengthening ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Politic-Security blueprint and ASEAN Social-Culture Plan Action.

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat is held in Da Nang, Viet Nam from January 13 to 14.



HRH at the Informal Working Dinner.

FEALAC adopts Tokyo Declaration



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade represents Brunei Darussalam to FEALAC.

TOKYO, JAPAN, January 17 - The 4th Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) ended with the adopting of the Tokyo Declaration.

Among the items stated in the declaration are that the bi-regional trade between East Asia and Latin America had quadrupled, far outpacing the increase of other region to region trade in the world.

The declaration also stated that the ministers are committed for further strengthening the activities and frameworks of FEALAC in order to make the most of the vast potential in bi-regional cooperation.

Representing Brunei Darussalam at the forum was His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The closing of the meeting was held at the Royal Hall Grand Prince Hotel Akasaka.

HRH attends bilateral meeting

TOKYO, JAPAN, January 17 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade held a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Columbia, His Excellency Jaime Bermudez Merizalde at the Grand Prince Hotel Akasaka.

The meeting was held on the second-day of the 4th Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC).

Also present at the meeting was Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi.

His Royal Highness is in Japan to attend the 4th Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC).



His Royal Highness held a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Columbia at the Grand Prince Hotel Akasaka.

Brunei Darussalam and Montenegro establish diplomatic relations

BANDAR SERI BEGWAN, January 18 - The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of Grenada have officially established diplomatic relations with effect from January 18, 2010.

The signing of the Joint Communiqué took place at the Office of the Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations (UN) in New York.

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was represented by His Excellency Latif bin Tuah, Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the UN, New York whilst the Government of Montenegro was represented by His Excellency Nebojsa Kaludjerovic Permanent Representative of Montenegro to the UN.

2nd IOC Sports Medicine Course



The President of BDNOOC at a session of the course.

BERAKAS, January 18 – The Department of Youth and Sports in cooperation with Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Committee (BDNOC) is organising the 2nd International Olympic Committee (IOC) Sports Medicine Course at the Orchid Garden Hotel in Berakas.

The four-day course was officiated by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, President of BDNOOC where His Royal Highness also attended two sessions of the course.

According to the Director of Youth and Sports, Awang Haji Mohamad bin Penglima Asgar Dato Paduka Haji Abdullah, the course was organised to provide a better understanding on the importance of combining Sports Medicine and Sports Science to doctors, physiotherapist, nurses, paramedics, athletes, sports administrator and coach.

The course is hoped to provide exposure particularly to coaches and athletes on the concept of modern sports science and medicine for enhancing the performance of the national athletes.

Youths play role in strengthening unity for the excellence of ummah

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 14 – His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim' stated that the Southeast Asia Islamic Youth Conference was a golden opportunity for participants to exchange ideas, views and sharing experiences for strengthening the unity.

The theme of the Southeast Asia Islamic Youth Conference 'Islamic Youth Unity Generates Excellence' said His Royal Highness was very relevant on the notion that youth represent the continuity of future generation who will play important roles in ensuring the stability of unity which will be the basis in the effort to achieve excellence of the ummah.

His Royal Highness said in his *sabda* (royal speech) at the Official Closing Ceremony of the Southeast Asia Islamic Youth Conference held in conjunction with the celebration of Brunei Darussalam's Silver Jubilee National Day (1984-2009) at the Songket Ballroom, The Rizqun International

Hotel in Gadong.

The efforts towards strengthening the unity of Islamic youths are vital and should be constantly strengthened so as to protect the good name of Islam and of Muslims themselves, said His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness also hopes that the conference can become a base to create networking and cooperation among the Southeast Asia Islamic youth and also assist in forming youth development programmes which focused on Islamic youth unification and the excellence of ummah.

The resolution of the conference was read by the Deputy Administrator of the Seri Begawan Religious Teachers College University, Dr. Haji Abdullah



His Royal Highness delivers a *sabda* (royal speech) at the Official Closing Ceremony of the Southeast Asia Islamic Youth Conference.

bin Awang Haji Lampoh.

Nineteen conference papers from Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand and Lao were presented during the three-day conference.

Team Asia wins 9-Ball Team Challenge 2010



His Royal Highness presents a prize to the winner of 9-Ball Team Challenge 2010.

GADONG, January 17 – Team Asia won the Asia vs Europe 9-Ball Team Challenge 2010 by defeating Team Europe with 8-7.

The tournament took place at

The Rizqun International Hotel in Gadong.

In attendance to witness the deciding match and later presented the awards was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

The deciding match witnessed Team Asia which was represented by Francisco Bustamante (Philippines) defeated representative from Team Europe, Nick Van Den Berg (Holland) with five frames to two

frames.

Before the deciding match, both teams were tied to equal points of 7-7. The winning of Francisco Bustamante assist Team Asia to win the Challenge

Trophy of Asia vs Europe 9-Ball Team Challenge 2010.

The champion received cash prize of US\$27,000 while runner-up, Team Europe, US\$13,000. Meanwhile the winner of deciding match received cash prize of US\$5,000.

The three-day tournament was organised by Brunei Cue Sport Association with the support from Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and sponsored by GHK Motors; and also collaborated with Europe Pocket Billiard Federation (EPBF) and Asia Pocket Billiard Association (APBU).

The tournament was officiated by His Royal Highness on January 15.

The event is an effort to support Europe Pocket Billiard Federation (EPBF) for the development of cue sports in the region.

Attorney General's Chambers celebrates Golden Jubilee

MUARA, January 10 – To commemorate its golden jubilee anniversary, the Attorney General's Chambers (AGC) organised a 'Family Fun Day' held at Muara beach.

Present at the celebration was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Muta-Wakillah Hayatul Bolkiah.

Also present were the Chief Justice, Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Kifrawi bin Dato Paduka Haji Kifli; Attorney General, Datin Paduka Hajah Hayati, and staff members of AGC.

The 'Family Fun Day' started with a cleaning campaign of the Muara beach followed with other games.

One of the objectives of this event is to strengthen relations between officers and staff members of AGC.

HRH Princess Hajah Muta-Wakillah Hayatul Bolkiah (right) at AGC's Family Fun Day.



PHOTO: HAJI MAJMAH HAJI MOHD. ALI

HRH attends 'Malaysia night'

JERUDONG, January 27 – Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade graced 'Malaysia Night' held at the Banquet Hall of BRIDEX.

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

'Malaysia Night' was held as one of the itineraries during ASEAN Tourism Forum 2010. The event was highlighted by cultural performances from the various ethnics in Malaysia.

Her Royal Highness with Her Excellency Dato' Sri Ng Yen Yen, Malaysia's Minister of Tourism at a 'Malaysia Night'.



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

HRH graces Standard Chartered Bank's International Night

JERUDONG, January 29 – Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade graced the Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) International Night.

At the event, Her Royal Highness officiated 'The New SCB Priority Banking Logo and Expansion'.

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

The event held at the Grand Hall, The Empire Hotel & Country Club was to celebrate the banking priority consumers to share information and services and the latest renewal of 'Priority Banking'.

Her Royal Highness at the Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) International Night.



Brunei Darussalam and Grenada establish diplomatic relations

BANDAR SERI BEGWAN, January 30 – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of Grenada have officially established diplomatic relations with effect from January 29, 2010.

The signing of the Joint Communiqué took place at the Office of the Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations (UN) in New York.

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was represented by His Excellency Latif bin Tuah, Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the UN, New York whilst the Government of Grenada was represented by His Excellency Dr. Dessima M. Williams, Permanent Representative of Grenada to the UN.

Did you know that..

- Brunei Darussalam hosted the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Meeting in 2000.
- Bunga Simpor is one of the many species of flora found under Brunei's rainforest canopy. The flower was chosen as part of APEC 2000 logo.
- Seventy eight per cent of the country's total land area is covered by forests with 40 per cent of the land is gazetted forests reserve.
- Brunei Darussalam is the fourth ASEAN member to use the biometric passport.
- Brunei ports have met the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code standard since July 1, 2004.

>> 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.

SCP operation officially launched

COMMONWEALTH DRIVE, January 4 – The Supplementary Contributory Pension Scheme (SCP) is one of the mechanisms introduced by the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to ensure the social security of the citizens upon their retirement. This scheme is compulsory to citizens and residents who are working either in the public or private sector.

These were stated by Head of SCP Unit, Dayang Norlia binti Haji Kula at the official launching for the operation of SCP scheme held at the Ministry of Finance.

Present to officially launch the operation of the SCP scheme was the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Major General (Rtd) Dato Haji Awang Mohammad who is also chairman of SCP Board.

Also present was the Minister of Finance II, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abd Rahman.

THE SCP scheme is a defined contribution where the total fixed contribution rate is seven per cent where it is currently at a minimum of 3.5 per cent from the salary and 3.5 per cent from the employer.

Members of SCP who are still a member of the Employees Trust Fund (TAP) on January 1 of this year will be given a 'catch up' benefit which is to ensure that each member has sufficient savings before their mandatory retirement. An amount of \$30 will be deposited to their SCP account from their date of joining TAP.

The official website for SCP was also launched which is available through



Minister of Energy launching the operation of SCP.

www.mof.gov.bn. The website has further details on SCP's scheme such as memberships, eligibility conditions, contribution rates, survivorship benefits, 'catch-up' payments and issuance of SCP fees.

Book on 'Energy Management Guide' launched



Book on Energy Management Guide launched.

TUNGKU, January 5 – For a better management of energy usage, government agencies are urged to follow the Energy Management Guide book besides taking quick responsible actions in the bid to become a role model to the private sector and members of the public.

This was said by the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Major General (Rtd) Dato Haji Awang Mohammad at the official launching of a book entitled 'Energy Management Guide' and the opening of Energy Management Course.

The minister further said that the publication of this book would be beneficial and would be able to assist in more efficient energy management and reduce energy wastage in both the public and private sector.

This book is based on ASEAN Energy Management Handbook which was introduced to ASEAN member

countries through cooperation program between ASEAN and Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. The 'Energy Management Guide' book has been modified according to the local context and conditions.

While the Energy Management Course according to the minister would be as the agent for changes in implementing initiatives on saving and efficient management of energy. It would also strengthen cooperation with Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB), Sultan Saiful Rijal Technical College (MTTSR), government agencies and academic institutions in enhancing the skill and knowledge in managing energy.

The course is a pilot project to produce course materials and build the capabilities in disseminating information and skills in managing energy.

Brunei-Canada: Enhance education and economic cooperation

BENGKURONG, January 6 – Cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Canada in the field of education and economic would be continuously enhanced.

This was said by His Excellency Wendell J. Sanford, the High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam at a reception to celebrate New Year 2010 at the Canadian High Commission.

According to His Excellency, the Canadian High Commission will be organising an education exhibition

held at The Rizqun International Hotel. The exhibition will be held on January 30 and it will be participated by 10 universities and academic institutions from Canada. It will provide an opportunity particularly for students to choose where to further their studies.

His Excellency also said that a pharmaceutical company from Vancouver will be investing in this country by opening a factory to produce *halal* products.

According to the press release issued by the Canadian High

Commission, investments by both sides and partnering ventures could greatly contribute to enlarging each other's market base and presence in respective region.

These positive factors have strengthened Canada's recent export success in Brunei. While modest in proportion to overall Canadian exports, merchandise exports to Brunei surged to C\$18.2 million in Brunei in 2008, an increase since 2006.

Gearing up for ASEAN Tourism Forum 2010

BERAKAS, January 10 – A cleaning campaign was held as one of the activities organised by the committee for the upcoming ASEAN Tourism Forum 2010.

Present as guest of honour was the Minister of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR), Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya.

The cleaning campaign took place at the Berakas Forest Reserves participated by officers from MIPR.

Brunei Darussalam will be hosting ATF 2010 from January 21 to 28 this year where over 1,600 delegates is expected to attend the forum which includes 400 international buyers and 100 international media.

ATF is a cooperative regional effort to promote the ASEAN region as one tourist destination. This annual event involves all the tourism industry sectors of the 10 member nations of ASEAN: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

More details on the upcoming ATF 2010 is available at www.atfbrunei.com



Cleaning campaign by MIPR. Picture shows Minister of MIPR taking part in the activity.

More facilities for the public

KUALA BELAIT, January 10 – A project to repair the Belait riverside would provide the public another venue for leisure activities and to enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

The facilities from this project were officially opened by the Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan.

The project cost \$1,957, 515 where it included the building of food stalls. This project was one of the projects from the Eighth National Development Plan.

Construction works began on May 12, 2008 and was completed in November last year. The project is about 2.5 hectares wide where it also provides parking bays and street lights for the areas involved.

Other facilities provided are a stage for public use during events, multipurpose hall, landscape, a bridge to connect the park and the food stalls, playground for young children, jetty for the public to enjoy the surroundings and huts.

Minister of Energy visits Bukit Panggal Power Station

TUTONG, January 11 – The Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Major General (Rtd) Dato Awang Haji Mohammad made a work visit to the new Bukit Panggal Power Station based in the Tutong district.

The Bukit Panggal Power Station was a project under the Eighth National Development Plan where a budget of \$170 million was allocated for its establishment.

Construction works began in 2005 and was operational by January 2008 where it uses the 'Combined Cycle' concept which is the first of its kind owned by the Department of Electrical Services (DES).

The new station is hoped to be the main generator for DES' entire generation system. The level of energy generated for Phase One is at 16 MW with an efficiency rate of 47 per cent. While the efficiency level of existing generators using the 'Simple Cycle' is at 26 per cent.

The Bukit Panggal Power Station is based on a 140 hectare wide piece of land where 75 hectares have been developed for phase one of its long term planning with a maximum capacity of 500MW.

The signing ceremony of MoU on Pharmaceutical Product between MIPR, BEDB and Pharmex Japan Company Limited.

Supplement agreement to MOU on producing halal pharmaceutical products



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 12 – A supplement agreement to the Memorandum of Understanding for the production of *halal* pharmaceutical products was signed between Brunei's Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR), Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) with Pharmex Japan Company Limited.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was the Permanent Secretary at MIPR, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd Hamid; while BEDB was represented by its Chief Executive Officer, Vincent Chong; and Pharmex Japan Company Limited was

represented by its chairman, Osamu Sato.

The additional agreement would extend the period of MOU which was signed on February 28, 2008 to another two years. Besides that, the MOU would strengthen the potential to establishing an Agro Technology factory estimated at USD250 million.

Fisheries Department accredited with ISO/IEC 17025



The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources at the ISO/IEC 17025 Accreditation Certificate presentation held at the Fisheries Department in Fish Landing Complex, Muara.

MUARA, January 14 – Fisheries Department achieved a historic milestone in its establishment as it has been accredited with ISO/IEC 17025 for the department's Fish Inspection and Quality Control laboratories.

The ISO/IEC 17025 Accreditation was awarded by the Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC) under

the Singapore Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (SAC-SINGLAS) to Fish Inspection and Quality Control of Fisheries Department for chemical and micro biological testing on December 10, 2009.

The matter was stated by the guest of honour, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya at the ISO/IEC 17025 Accreditation Certificate presentation at the Fisheries Department in Fish Landing Complex, Muara.

The ISO/IEC 17025 was first introduced in 1999 where it is a standard which a laboratory should acquire for its own management and operation laboratory system; and a standard that is used by experts when inspecting the competency of the laboratory as the accreditation is internationally recognised.

The results from products analysed by a laboratory which is ISO/IEC 17025 accredited are more accepted internationally and provide customers confidence in acquiring services from the respective laboratory.

The minister saw this achievement as a start to fulfil one of the criteria for the standards of exported items.

Food analysed systematically by ISO accredited laboratory is one of the criteria that must be fulfilled.

The achievement, said the minister would give advantage to our exported seafood products.

Fisheries Department in its strategic planning had planned to expand and develop seafood processing industry which cost \$71 million.

In relations to this, Fisheries Department is in the progress of building Seafood Analysis Laboratory - one of the projects under the National Development Plan 2007 – 2012 expected to be complete in 2012.

MINDEF to have JOC C4ISR System

BERAKAS, January 15 - The Ministry of Defence will soon have a sophisticated military capability with the signing ceremony of a Joint Operations Centre (JOC) based on the concept of a Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) System or known as JOC C4ISR.

The Contract Signing Ceremony was held at MINDEF's Officers' Mess at

Bolkiah Garrison between the Ministry of Defence and United Kingdom's Northrop Grumman Information Systems Europe Limited (NGMSE).

Signing on behalf of the Ministry of Defence was Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha bin Haji Sirat, Permanent Secretary of Defence I; while his counterpart was Mr. Kevin Squibb, NGMSE's Head of Commercial.

Present to witness the signing

ceremony was Pehin Colonel (Rtd) Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar, Deputy Minister of Defence.

The implementation of the JOC C4ISR System is another important step taken in line with the Brunei Government's Defence White Paper Update 2007 entitled 'Shaping the Force Today's and its strategic objectives'.

Research on poverty

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 16 – A consultant has been engaged to carry out research on poverty in Brunei Darussalam. The step is taken as one of the initiatives of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to make the nation achieve zero poverty.

The signing ceremony for the appointment of a Consultant for Research on Poverty in Brunei Darussalam was held at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and witnessed by Pehin Dato Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Signing on behalf of the government was Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Jemat as Chairman of Brunei Darussalam Task Force on Poverty Surveys, and Acting Director of Social Services, Datin Hajah Shireen.

Meanwhile the appointed consultant, ZD Consultant was represented by its Managing Director, Dayang Hajah Siti Zarefah and Principal Consultant UPV, Dayang Hajah Huslina.

The Permanent Secretary in his speech said that the research will be handled by Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports; and a task force committee has been set up to guide the surveys' scope of work.

The task force committees are made up of representatives from Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Economic Planning and Development, Brunei Islamic Religious Council, and Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation.

Among the objectives is to provide complete database on the nation's community that are living in poverty, and will offer the national planning to eradicate poverty in the country.

Deputy Education Minister meets UK-based Bruneian students

LONDON, January 16 – Bruneian students especially those on scholarship awarded by the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam were urged to study hard and bring back success.

The matter was highlighted by the Deputy Minister of Education, Pengiran Dato Dr. Haji Mohammad in a cordial meeting with UK-based Bruneian students. More than 100 Bruneian students attended the meeting at Brunei Hall, 35-43, Norfolk Square in United Kingdom.

The Deputy Minister of Education and delegation were in London to attend the Learning and Technology World Forum 2010 and made visits to several technology and vocational institutions in United Kingdom.

The 12-day itineraries which begun on January 9 also included visits to Uxbridge College, Edexcel Centre, Stepney Green School, and Dulwich School and also meeting with experts in numeracy and vocational and technical education; Mr. David Davies, Mr. Mark Snell, Mr. Paul Walters and Newman Burdett.

Brunei to have Turtle Conservation and Management Centre

MUARA, January 16 – Brunei Darussalam will have its own Turtle Conservation and Management Centre at Meragang Beach in Serasa by early next year.

The permanent centre which costs \$3,300,000 is a project through Fisheries Department, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources. The building of the centre is one of the projects under the Eighth National Development Plan.

The centre will have a hatching and growing quarter, laboratory, research room, briefing room, information and exhibition area and a common office space.

The foundation-laying ceremony of the centre was held by Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya.

The new centre will be replacing the temporary centre which is currently located at Serasa, said Director of Fisheries, Dayang Hajah Hasnah.

She further added that, the centre is also hoped to become a showcase for marine life which will attract visitors to the country.

Since 2000, Fisheries Department has released as many as 5,000 baby turtles as a result of hatchery

programme, said Hajah Hasnah.

There are three species of turtles that are commonly found in Brunei Darussalam which are Penyu Kangkan, Lipas and Sisik. All these turtles are protected under Brunei Darussalam Marine Life and Fisheries Laws.

During the foundation-laying ceremony, the minister and officials witnessed the cleaning project of Pantai Meragang's seaside and also went for a jungle trekking to the turtles' nesting area.

Garden Centre project

RIMBA, January 19 – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with K.N Nursery (B) Sendirian Berhad to develop, manage and operate the 'Garden Centre cum Hi-Tech Nursery' project.

The signing ceremony took place at Simpur Hall, Horticulture Business Centre in Rimba.

Signing on behalf of the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood was its Director, Dayang Hajah Normah Suria

Hayati binti Pehin Jawatan Dalam Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Haji Awang Mohd Jamil Al-Sufri and her counterpart was Pengiran Yura Perkasa bin Pengiran Setia Negara Pengiran Haji Mohd. Yussof, Chairman of K.N Nursery (B) Sendirian Berhad.

Present as guest of honour at the ceremony was Permanent Secretary of MIPR, Dayang Hajah Suriyah binti Haji Umar.

Established more than 30 years ago, K.N Nursery (B) Sendirian Berhad is a local company that is active in producing flowers and decorative plants, and also landscaping project.

With this MoU, the company is granted with 6.8970 hectares of land at the Rimba Agriculture Development Area to operate a Garden Centre which provides facilities related to developing, managing and operating the garden centre and hi-tech nursery.

The garden will offer recreational areas like playground, jogging and bicycle track, restaurant facility, cultural theatre/stage and a golf driving range and mini putting green that will be open to the public.

The project is expected to cost at about \$3.3 million.

THiNK BIG Business Plan Competition Awards 2009/2010

JERUDONG, January 20 – It is vital to provide a continuous platform for the younger generation where it enable them to share their vision on how to take advantage of the information-communications technology (ICT) and to use the advantage to create social and economic benefits.

Nowadays, ICT owns shares in every development process and it must be given a top honour, stated Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Major General (Rtd) Dato Haji Awang Mohammad at the THiNK BIG Business Plan Competition Awards 2009/2010 prize presentation ceremony.

For this year's competition, four ICT companies competed in the final. The judging panel awarded the Joint

Grand Prize Award to Mimit E-Technology and Freedomsoft. Both companies received \$15,000. The Mimit E-Technology also won Special Merit Award for ICT based on Islamic Application and received \$5,000.

Meanwhile, the Special Award for College and University Students was given to RevoTech Sendirian Berhad who received \$2,000.

Among the main objectives of the THiNK BIG Business Plan is to motivate local entrepreneurs to create ideas

in the ICT field with the opportunity to develop their business ideas and enhance creativity.



The Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office presents a prize to the winner of the THiNK BIG Business Plan Competition Awards 2009/2010.

Development plan for Tutong District

TUTONG, January 20 – The Department of Town and Country Planning is in the process of preparing a development plan for Tutong District (Pelan Perancangan Kemajuan Guna Tanah bagi Daerah Tutong) which will comprehensively outline the strategy and progress of the district.

The plan is hoped to integrate the overall framework for the direction of development and investment focus for Tutong District so that it will be aligned

with the objectives of the National Long-Term Development Goals 2035.

The matters were stated by the Commissioner of Town and Country Planning, Awang Hong Kok Seng in a briefing and discussion with government departments, private sectors and relevant parties at the Multi-purpose Hall in Tutong.

The main objective of the briefing was to inform and discuss the findings

in the Inception Report for the Tutong District Development Planning Project

The plan will include the development of Tutong's socio-economy and environment, in which the public will also be taking part at a later stage of the project.

The preparation of the project will be assisted by Integrated Environment Consultant Sendirian Berhad.

Public advised to get Influenza A (H1N1) vaccine



The Acting Minister of Health gets a vaccination at Berakas 'A' Health Centre.

BERAKAS, January 21 – Members of the public are advised to get their Influenza A (H1N1) vaccination as a precautionary measure against getting infected from the influenza.

The call was made by the Acting Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Awang during his visit to the Berakas 'A' Health Centre in Kampung Anggerek Desa, one of the vaccination centres available in the Brunei-Muara District.

The other vaccination centres based in the Brunei-Muara District are at Ong Sum Ping Vaccination Centre;

Jubli Perak Sengkuring Health Centre; and for those with chronic diseases would be referred to the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital based on schedules set for

them.

While vaccination centres in the Belait District are based at the Suri Seri Begawan Hospital and Sungai Liang Health Centres. Those in the Tutong District would be able to get their vaccinations at the Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah Hospital; and the Hospital Pengiran Isteri Hajah Mariam for those residing in the Temburong District.

The Acting Minister of Health also said that members of the public should not be worried with the side effects after receiving their vaccinations.

As to date, the Ministry of Health has a stock of 130,000 Influenza A (H1N1) vaccine for the citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam and for green identity card holders. The ministry is also expecting about 170,000 more vaccines to arrive.

Health Minister attends 126th Session of Executive Board WHO

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, January 22 – Brunei Darussalam expressed its appreciation for the leadership led by the Director General of World Health Organisation (WHO) in handling Influenza A (H1N1).

This was stated by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi at the 126th Session of The Executive Board of the World Health Organisation. The meeting is taking place from January 18 to 23.

According to the minister, although the numbers of A (H1N1) cases are declining in many areas including Brunei Darussalam, the fight against it is not yet over.

He also expressed his concern over the issue of vaccination, whereby many did not want to take the H1N1 shot as it is considered mild. This is also experienced by Brunei even though the vaccines are given for free to citizens and permanent residents of the country.

Brunei Darussalam has become the member of the WHO Executive Board

beginning May 2009 where it is for a three-year period; and the minister is a member of the board.

One of the main agenda of this meeting was to discuss WHO's annual program; and to discuss and prepare the agendas and resolution draft which will be presented at the WHO General Assembly in May 2010.

The meeting also discussed various issues of mutual interest for the West Pacific where Brunei Darussalam is a member.

Eighteen technical issues were also discussed on 'Pandemic Influenza Preparedness: Sharing of Influenza Viruses and Access to Vaccines and Other Benefits' and global attainment towards the Millennium Development Goals.

One of the vital agendas for Brunei Darussalam is the 'Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases:



The Minister of Health at a bilateral meeting with his counterpart from the Republic of Indonesia, Her Excellency Dr. E.R Sedyaningih.

Implementation of The Global Strategy' where it recommends a strategy at the global level for six years to contain non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, coronary heart diseases, cancer and many more.

The Minister also held a bilateral meeting with his counterpart from the Republic of Indonesia, Her Excellency Dr. E.R Sedyaningih on January 18.

Charity expedition to assist those in need

JALAN KEBANGSAAN, January 23 – A charity expedition will be organised by the Department of Community Development (JAPEM) with cooperation from the Brunei Chess Federation (BCF) in the bid to help those in need.

Thus, a national charity fund was launched through a charity project entitled 'Everest Trekking' where eight members of BCF will be on a 16-day expedition starting April 23 in their bid to climb to the Everest Base Camp in Nepal.

Once reaching the Everest Base

Camp which is 5,400 metres above sea level, the group will be organising chess matches.

Present to officially launch the charity fund was the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Dr. Haji Awang Ahmad.

In his welcoming speech, the President of BCF who will also be leading the group, Awang Haji Zainal said that this charity expedition is their effort to answer the call by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam which is to eradicate poverty in Brunei by 2035.

He also said that 100 per cent of the donations will be given to the National Charity Fund and will be used for the construction and repairing the homes of the underprivileged.

Members of the public will be able to donate through short-message-services (SMS); go directly to the secretariat based at the ministry; through cheque under the name 'BCF TREKKING AMAL' at Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC); or via online at www.trekkingamal.com.bn

Chinese State Councillor visits Brunei

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 24 – State Councillor of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Dai Bingguo is in Brunei Darussalam for a three-day work visit.

On arrival at the Brunei International Airport, His Excellency was received by Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng.

During the visit, His Excellency is scheduled to attend a contract signing ceremony for 'Source Improvement Works for Brunei / Muara / Tutong Water Supply - Ulu Tutong Dam' on January 25; and to visit interesting places of Kampung Ayer.

World Custom Day 2010

JALAN MENTERI BESAR, January 26 – The increase in trade not only contributes to the Gross Domestic Products (GDP) but also creates job opportunities for citizens and residents. The two main drivers are the entrepreneur community and business environment, in which both are closely related and important.

The matter stated by the Deputy Permanent Secretary (Policy and Administration) of Ministry of Finance, Awang Yusof bin Haji Abd. Rahman in his speech at a ceremony to mark World Custom Day 2010 held at Kyoto Hall, Royal Customs and Excise Headquarters.

The Permanent Secretary said that the Royal Customs and Excise Department as the nation entry point guard is to find compatible and balance approached in dealing with the respective community as business matters should be deal shortly without any obstacle that would delay flow of services and products but at the same time, the department should not compromise about national security, said the Permanent Secretary.

He added that in the effort to fulfill the current and future challenges, the Royal Customs and Excise's officers must change their mind sets; enhance working style and performance; be pro-business; understand business requirements as traders do not want to be burdened with.

At the ceremony, the Deputy Permanent Secretary also presented the 8th Royal Customs and Excise Department Accreditation Awards (2009) to the best male and female officers.

World Customs Day which falls on January 26, 2010 carries the theme 'Customs and Business: Improving Performance Through Partnership'.

Improvement works for water supply

JERUDONG, January 25 – A signing ceremony was held for 'Source Improvement Works for Brunei / Muara / Tutong Water Supply - Ulu Tutong Dam' between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Sinohydro-Pahatyc Joint Venture Sendirian Berhad.

The construction of Ulu Tutong Dam is to ensure a sufficient supply of water to the Layong and Kuala Abang's raw water processing plant from the Tutong River.

Present as signatories to the agreement to represent the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam were the Director General of Public Works Department, Awang Suhaimi bin Gafar and the Director of Water Services, Awang Abu Hanipah bin Haji Talip. While their counterparts representing Pahatyc was Pengiran Anak Haji Ariffin bin Pengiran Anak Umarali and Sinohydro was represented by Zeng Xing Ling.

Present to witness the signing



The signing ceremony witnessed by the Minister of Development and the State Councillor of the People's Republic of China.

ceremony was the Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdullah; and the State Councillor of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Dai Bingguo.

Ulu Tutong Dam is based in the Tutong District with a height of 42 metres, a catchment area of 108 square kilometres, and a volume capacity of 100 million cubic metres.

The dam which costs \$85.4 million to build and construction works is expected to be complete in four years.

The signing ceremony was held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

Tenaga Suria Brunei, largest power solar plant

SERIA, January 25 – Brunei Darussalam's energy sector achieved another milestone through the Tenaga Suria Brunei (TSB) Project where it would position Brunei on the green map and as one of the nation's effort to achieving a stable power supply. Its installation would be the first ever in the country and would be the largest in the Southeast Asia region.

The matters were stated by Minister of Energy at Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Major General (Rtd) Dato Haji Awang Mohammad at the Tenaga Suria Brunei (TSB) Photovoltaic (PV)

Panels Installation Ceremony based at Seria Power Station.

The TSB Project involves continuous test for six different PV panels with a capacity of 1.2MW to identify the best and most suitable with the nation's climate.

The project which funded by Mitsubishi Corporation is expected to be complete in August this year.

Among the effects expected from this project are supplies of clean electricity that prevent climate change, besides supplying electricity to the rural area.

Brunei aims 14% increase in tourist arrival

JERUDONG, January 26 – Brunei Darussalam aims a 14 per cent increase in the numbers of tourist arrival this year. Statistics have shown that the total number of tourist arrival from January to September 2009 at the Brunei International Airport was 119,540 people.

This were said by the Director of Brunei Tourism Department, Sheikh Jamaluddin bin Sheikh Mohamed at the National Tourism Organisations (NTO) media briefing held at the BRIDEX Conference Hall.

Speaking on the ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) 2010, more than 1,000 people are taking part where 750 are involved with the exhibition, 363 buyers and 87 local and international media.

While the Travel Exchange (TRAVEX) is participated by 314 companies from all over the world.

HECAS effective February 2010

BERAKAS, January 1 – Applications to enter the higher academic institutions will be available via an online system known as Higher Education Centralised Admission System (HECAS) effective February 1, 2010.

The applications will be for the August 2010 intake for Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) and Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB).

Further information is available through www.hecas.edu.bn

Students who are not able to apply via online are however can register at Maktab Duli Pengiran Muda Al-Muhtadee Billah for Brunei-Muara District; Sultan Hassan Secondary School for Temburong District; Sayyidina Othman Secondary School for Tutong District; and Sayyidina Ali Secondary School for Belait District.

Two students join International Science Youth Forum

BERAKAS, January 17 – Two students, Lee Wen Zhi and Dayang Aina Hafizah binti Haji Zolkiflee; and Dayang Ratni binti Ghani, education officer will be representing Brunei Darussalam to the International Science Youth Forum (ISYF) which will be held in Singapore.

Both students and the education officer are from Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Science College.

The ISYF is jointly organised by Hwa Chong Institution and Institute of Advanced Studies (Nanyang Technological University) and supported by Singapore's Ministry of Education.

The forum will be held from January 18 to 22 at Hwa Chong Institution.

National Sports Festival fields 28 sports

BERAKAS, January 23 – The National Sports Festival or locally known as Pesta Sukan Kebangsaan (PSK) will field 28 sports which will run from June 26 to July 3 this year.

The sports are aquatic, athletics, badminton, basketball, bicycleton, boat race, chess, cue, netball, fencing, futsal, golf, hockey, karate-do, lawn bowl, pencak silat, rugby, taekwondo, tennis, top-spin, tenpin bowling, sepak takraw, softball, squash, table tennis, tug-of-war and volleyball.

The Department Youth and Sports as the agency responsible in organising this sporting event is inviting 12 teams from all four districts including teams from Limbang and Miri, from the Malaysian state of Sarawak and from the Labuan Federal Territory, from the Malaysian state of Sabah to participate.

The teams expected to participate are Brunei-Muara District, Tutong District, Belait District, Temburong District, Royal Brunei Armed Forces Sports Council, Royal Brunei Police Force Sports Council, Sports School Council, higher academic institutions, Brunei Shell Petroleum Sendirian Berhad, Royal Brunei Airlines and Brunei Association of Banks.

The matters were stated by the Director of Youth and Sports, Awang Haji Mohammad at a meeting with representatives of the contingents and sports associations held at the Sports Village.

PSK was first introduced by the department in 1981 as one of the efforts to enhance excellence in sports and to produce a healthy and active community.

Bicycleton for World Habitat Day

BERAKAS, January 24 – A bicycleton was organised by the Department of Housing Development as part of the activities to celebrate World Habitat Day.

The Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdullah was among the 300 participants who took-part in the 44 kilometres cycling expedition. The activity started and ended at the Department of Housing Development Headquarters in Berakas.

The World Habitat Day's theme was 'Planning Our Urban Future'.

SNIPPETS

Brunei to host Borneo Island International Big Bike Festival

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 25 – Brunei Darussalam will be hosting one of the biggest motorcycling event in Borneo Island this year which is the 'Borneo International Big Bike Festival' (BIIBBF).

BIIBBF was first introduced in 1998 which was known as Pan Borneo Rally where its concept was to explore Brunei Darussalam, and the Malaysian states of Sarawak and Sabah.

Brunei hosted the sixth BIIBBF where it saw more participations from Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, and Europe hence the new name which is BIIBBF.

BIIBBF is expected to take place in June of this year.

MoU to develop strategic plan for broadband

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 26 – The Authority for Information Communications Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam (AiTi) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Analysys Mason Limited to develop the broadband strategic plan in Brunei Darussalam.

Signing on behalf of AiTi were its Chief Executive, Pengiran Haji Mohd Zain bin Pengiran Haji Abd Razak; Assistant Chief Executive of Corporate Strategy, Dayang Julianah bin Haji Ali Ahmad; and Assistant Chief Executive of Corporate Services, Awang Haji Jamaludin bin Haji Saman. While Analysys Mason Limited was represented by its Senior Manager, Paul Summer and the company's consultant, Emil Arnell.

Present to witness the signing ceremony was the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications, Awang Haji Alaihuddin bin Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Haji Awang Mohd Taha who is also the chairman of AiTi.

Through the strategic plan, it will provide a framework and guideline for the setting up of a next generation broadband infrastructure including a 'Fibre-to-the-Home' facility. It will be beneficial for Brunei's broadband as it will ensure that every citizen will have the relevant access to it and its benefits.

The agreement to formulate the nation strategic broadband plan is one of the key priorities identified by BIT Council which is responsible in facilitating strategic development of the nation and the economy.

As Brunei Darussalam is heading towards a knowledge-based economy, it is crucial that AiTi has a platform to support access to highly-develop ICT infrastructure including high-capacity broadband networks.

BSB-DMP to reflect Brunei's future city

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 27 – A forum which was the first public consultation from two consultation trainings was held where its results would develop the entire Bandar Seri Begawan Master Plan (BSB-DMP).

The forum was delivered by consultant experts from H.O.K International (Asia Pacific) Limited, Steven Townsend, Robert Marshall and Sylvester Wong and attended by Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Adanan.

The BSB Development Master Plan is one of the comprehensive and integrated plans prepared for aligning BSB's development vision and strategy; and will make BSB into the competitive 21st century city and equivalent to other cities in the world.

Towards that, a forum titled 'BSB-DMP – Guide to Proposal and Public Strategies' (Panduan Cadangan-cadangan Awal dan Strategi-strategi Awam – BSB-DMP) was held at the Mutiara Ballroom at Sheraton Utama Hotel.

During the process of developing the master plan, consultant experts among others would identify and analyse the current situation; future development project and infrastructure requirements; and to develop one integrated vision according to stakeholders' desirable goals.

The second consultation will be held in April, and will feature comprehensive BSB-DMP evolution design resulting from the first consultation.



Photo shows an event to release a turtle by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya on January 25, 2010 with the ministers from ASEAN members countries, India, China, Japan and Korea. The event was held in conjunction with the ASEAN Tourism Minister (ATF) 2010 meeting which was held in Brunei Darussalam from January 21 to 28.



Photo shows a cultural performance by ASEAN countries at the opening ceremony of ASEAN Tourism Forum 2010.