



# برونى دارالسلام

## Brunei Darussalam

### newsletter

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## State Legislative Council

### HM: Consider benefits of the people and nation



PHOTO: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a *titah* (royal speech) at the official opening of the First Meeting of the Sixth Session of the State Legislative Council.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 11** – Matters discussed at the State Legislative Council must consider the benefits of the people and nation, not issues that are not important. It must be taken seriously, not flippantly.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in his *titah* (royal speech) at the official opening of the First Meeting of the Sixth Session of the State Legislative Council at Jalan Kebangsaan.

His Majesty also said that statements or views must be supported and reviewed with facts so that the discussions are focused and not diverted from its purpose.

The meeting will become a channel to convey and debate their views and seen as a way to induce development and progress. This is where the voices will be heard and reached out to the authorities in the government. Everything will be assessed and scrutinised if it is suitable to become the basis for national plans.

The official opening of the First Meeting of the Sixth Session of the State Legislative Council were also attended by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

## Brunei partakes 'Earth Hour'

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 27** – Brunei Darussalam joined other countries around the world in conducting 'Earth Hour'.

Earth Hour is a global activity scheduled and organised annually at the end of March where world community are urged to switch off the light voluntarily for 60 minutes from 8.30pm – 9.30pm. It is one of the measures to raise awareness of climate change issues.

One of the agencies participating Earth Hour was the Ministry of Development where its minister, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdullah was present to switch off the lights of the ministry's building at 8.30pm.

Another agency participating in the Earth Hour was the Brunei Tourism Development Board, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.

The Earth Hour was marked with switching off the lights at one of Brunei's landmark in the capital, the Kampung Ayer Cultural and Tourism Gallery.

Also joining Earth Hour was Energy Division of Prime Minister's Office in cooperation with the Science, Technology and Environment

Partnership (STEP) Centre, Ministry of Education; the Energy Club of Paduka Seri Begawan Science College and

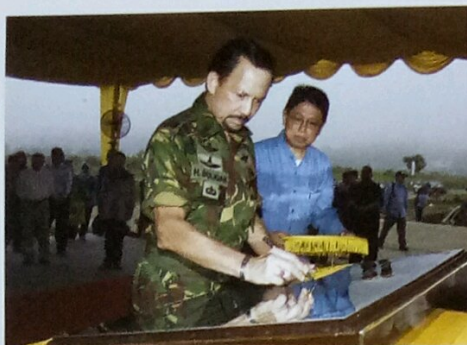
Brunei Darussalam Islamic Bank (BIBD) Sendirian Berhad with switching off the college's lights.



PHOTO: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN

Brunei Tourism Development Board, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources participates in the Earth Hour by switching off the lights at the Kampung Ayer Cultural and Tourism Gallery.





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# BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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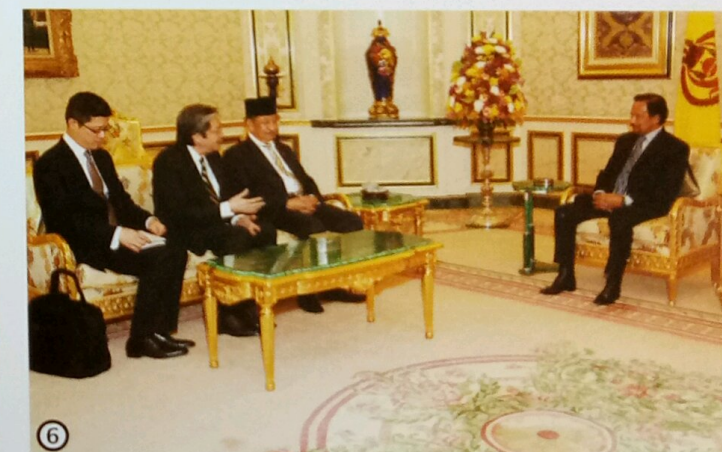
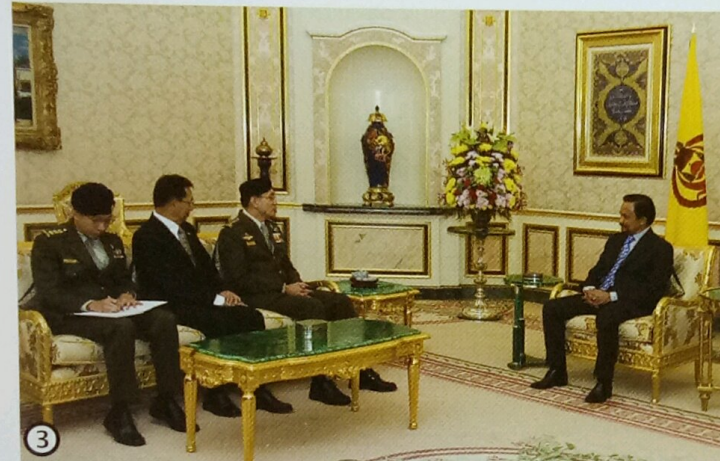
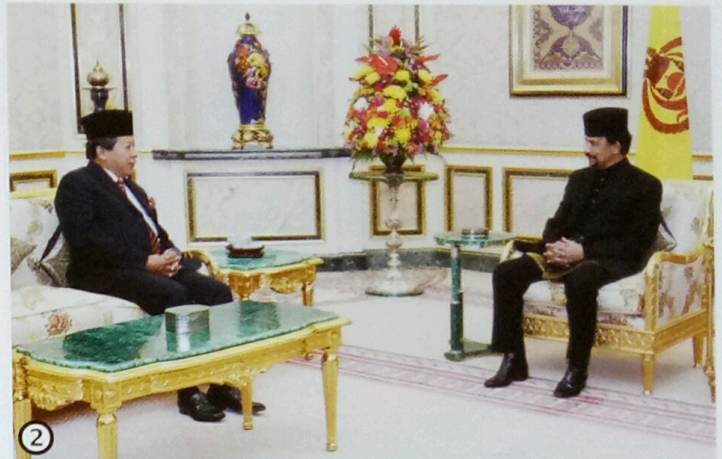
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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from:



- ❶ The Honourable Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid bin Hamid, Minister of Defence of Malaysia on March 1.
- ❷ The Honourable Datuk Anifah Haji Aman, Malaysia's Foreign Minister on March 3.
- ❸ His Excellency Lieutenant General Dato Paduka Seri Desmond Kuek Bak Chye, Singapore's outgoing Chief of Staff Armed Forces on March 8.
- ❹ The Honourable Tan Sri Datuk Seri Syed Hamid bin Syed Jaafar Albar, Special Envoy to the Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia on March 13.

- ❺ Mr Kurt Campbell, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs, United States of America on March 13.
- ❻ The Honourable John Tsang Chun-Wah, Financial Secretary of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (S.A.R) on March 20.

PHOTOS: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN  
PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR  
ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT  
MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presented diplomatic credentials at the Istana Nurul Iman to:



His Excellency Dato Paduka Serbini bin Haji Ali, the newly-appointed Brunei Darussalam's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Belgium on March 3.



His Excellency Pehin Datu Lailaraja (Rtd) Major General Dato Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yusof, the newly-appointed Brunei Darussalam's High Commissioner to Malaysia on March 3.

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



His Excellency Handriyo Kusumo Priyo, the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam on March 3.



His Excellency Victor Alexandrovich Seleznev, the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Brunei Darussalam on March 3.



His Excellency Ensar Eminovic, the new-appointed non-resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Brunei Darussalam on March 3.



His Excellency Tapio Kalevi Saarela, the newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Finland to Brunei Darussalam on March 3.

PHOTOS: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT  
MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN



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



- ❶ The wife of Malaysia's Minister of Defence, Yang Berbahagia Datin Seri Hamidah binti Khamis on March 1.
- ❷ The wife of outgoing Chief of Staff, Singapore Armed Forces (SAF), Datin Claudel Elizabeth Keuk on March 8.
- ❸ The Board Members of World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) of Asia Pacific Region on March 17.
- ❹ The wife of the outgoing Ambassador of Lao People's Democratic Republic to Brunei Darussalam, Mrs Khatthaoudone Bounkhoun on March 17.
- ❺ Datin Dayang Hajah Rafiah binti Mohd Arif, the wife of Dato Paduka Awang Serbini bin Haji Ali, the newly-appointed Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Belgium; and Datin Dayang Hajah Kalshom binti Haji Suhaili, the wife of Pehin Major General (Rtd) Dato Haji Awang Halbi, the newly-appointed High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Malaysia on March 17.

PHOTOS: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN  
AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH  
MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN

## 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 Asif Ali Zardari, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Syed Yousef Raza Gillani and the government and people of the republic in conjunction with the republic's 70<sup>th</sup> National Day on March 23.
- His Excellency Mohammad Zillur Rahman, President of People's Republic of Bangladesh and her Prime Minister, Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina Wajed and the government and people of the republic in conjunction with its 39<sup>th</sup> National Day on March 26.



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



① His Excellency Dato Paduka Serbini bin Haji Ali, Brunei Darussalam's newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Belgium and His Excellency Pehin Datu Lailaraja (Rtd) Major General Dato Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, Brunei Darussalam's newly-appointed High Commissioner to Malaysia on March 4.

② His Excellency Handriyo Kusumo Priyo, the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam on March 6.

③ His Excellency Lieutenant General Dato Paduka Seri Desmond Kuek Bak Chye, the outgoing Chief of Defence Force, Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) on March 8.

④ The Honourable Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob, Malaysia's Minister of Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism on March 25.

⑤ His Excellency Somdy Bounkhoum, the outgoing Ambassador of Lao People's Democratic Republic to Brunei Darussalam on March 31.

⑥ His Excellency Victor Alexandrovich Seleznev, the newly-appointed Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Brunei Darussalam on March 31.



## More paddy plantation area

PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH



His Majesty signs a plaque to mark the opening of a new paddy plantation area at Kampung Batong.

**MUKIM PENGKALAN BATU, March 15** – A foundation laying ceremony was held for the opening of a new paddy plantation area at Kampung Batong.

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

With an area about 170 hectares, the Agricultural Development Area -Batong Paddy Plantation Project is under the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood.

At the plantation area, His Majesty took a closer look on the exhibition displayed where it depicted the development and the status of paddy planting of Brunei-Muara District.

His Majesty also visited Agricultural Development Area – Panchor Murai Paddy Plantation Project. This 200-hectare paddy plantation area is a joint project by Department of Agriculture and Agrifood with Landevel Sendirian Berhad.

## 72 people receive land grant

**TUTONG, March 15** – Seventy-two people received their land grants under the Temporary Occupation License Land Scheme (TOL) in Tutong District.

The land grants were presented by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at Kampung Menengah Primary School in Lamunin.

The TOL scheme was introduced to assist the government in providing accommodation for the people of the country besides the Landless Indigenous Citizens Housing Scheme (STKRJ) and National Housing Scheme (RPN).

After the ceremony, His Majesty visited Kampung Menengah Primary School, visited several homes of

recipients and homes of Kampung Bukit Sulang/Menengah Village Head and Kampung Lubok Pulau Village Head.

During the visit, His Majesty also visited Kampung Pengkalan Tangsi, Lamunin Paddy Planting Area which begun active plantation in 1998. At the plantation, His Majesty also took a closer look on a mini exhibition from Department of Agriculture and Agrifood and Tutong District Paddy Farmers Sales Products.

Also visited was the O.G. Complex in Kampung Petani, Tutong where His Majesty visited Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD) and Takaful IBB's branch.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presents the land grant to one of the recipients.

PHOTOS: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN  
ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT



His Majesty joins in the paddy harvesting at Kampung Pengkalan Tangsi, Lamunin Paddy Planting Area.

## HM sends condolences

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 1** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent his condolences to Her Excellency Michelle Bachelet, President of the Republic of Chile following the recent earthquake.

In the message, His Majesty expressed his great sadness upon learning of the loss of lives and widespread devastation caused by the disaster.

On behalf of His Majesty's Government and the people of Brunei Darussalam, His Majesty sent his deepest sympathy to Her Excellency Michelle Bachelet, President of the Republic of Chile, the Government and the people of Chile and especially to the bereaved families of the victims.



## Brunei-Thailand reaffirm commitment

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 29** – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience the Prime Minister of Thailand, His Excellency Abhisit Vejjajiva who was on a one-day official visit to Brunei Darussalam.

The audience took place at Istana Nurul Iman where both leaders also held a one-to-one meeting.

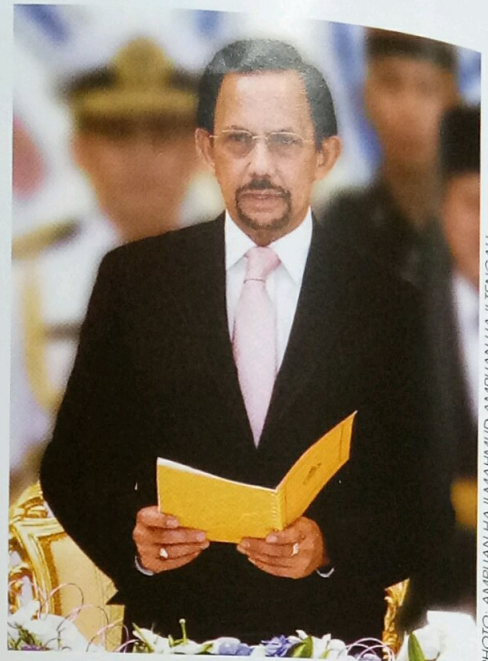
A luncheon was also hosted by His Majesty to welcome His Excellency where in his royal speech, His Majesty expressed the warmest appreciation to His Excellency and the government of Thailand for Thailand's chairmanship of ASEAN last year during the first year of its Regional Charter.

"Thailand's contribution to the founding and subsequent development of our association is a permanent part of our region's history. And we welcome this chance to congratulate you and your people on all your hard work last year," said His Majesty.

His Majesty also stated Brunei's pleasure of renewing the lasting ties of friendship between the people of Brunei and Thailand.

"We re-affirm our commitment to close cooperation in the many crucial areas of modern life that challenge us as governments.

And, above all, we look forward to continuing to strengthen our deep and lasting friendship with the people of the Kingdom of Thailand," said His Majesty.



His Majesty delivers a *titah* (royal speech) at a luncheon to welcome the Prime Minister of Thailand.

PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI JENGGAH

## HM on one-to-one meeting with Thai PM



PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during a one-to-one meeting with the Prime Minister of Thailand at Ceradi Laila Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 29** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held a one-to-one meeting with the Prime Minister of Thailand, His Excellency Abhisit Vejjajiva at the Ceradi Laila Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman.

The meeting was held in conjunction with His Excellency Prime Minister's official visit to Brunei Darussalam.

Brunei Darussalam and Thailand share close and cordial relations where diplomatic relations was established on January 1, 1984. Various cooperations have been implemented such as in the fields of trade and investment, education, defence and health.

## His Majesty receives Prime Minister of Thailand

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 29** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience the Prime Minister of Thailand, His Excellency Abhisit Vejjajiva at Ceradi Laila Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman.

His Excellency Abhisit Vejjajiva is in Brunei Darussalam for a one-day official visit.

Present at the audience were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and other members of royal family.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister of



PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives in audience the Prime Minister of Thailand.

Thailand's official delegation consists of Foreign Minister, His Excellency Kasit Piromya; Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, His Excellency Theera Wongsamut and Minister of Public Health, His Excellency Jurin

Laksanawisit.

Earlier, on arrival at the Brunei International Airport, His Excellency and delegation were welcomed by His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim.



## Girl Guide celebrates Thinking Day Celebration



PHOTOS: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

Her Majesty The Raja Isteri upon arrival at the association's headquarters.

**BERAKAS, March 5** – The Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association celebrated 'Thinking Day' where it is celebrated in remembrance of each other and to convey appreciation

to every member of the Girl Guides and Scouts throughout the world for carrying out voluntary charity works.

Present to grace the ceremony was Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha, the Royal Patron of the association held at the association's headquarters.

Also present were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.

Her Majesty The Raja Isteri launched the association's website which could be surfed at [www.girlguides.org.bn](http://www.girlguides.org.bn).

Her Majesty The Raja Isteri along with other members of the royal family also took a closer look at an exhibition of activities carried out by members of the association and consented to plant Yellow Durian trees.

The Girl Guides Association was formed in 1951 in the Belait District. In 1986, the Guide Association (UK) signed a Deed of Transfer giving the Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association self government in all areas of work. In 1990, new uniforms and enrolment badges were launched. While in 1995, the association introduced new patrol badges depicting local flowers and fruits.

## Women Gathering in conjunction with Prophet Muhammad's birthday anniversary



Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha in a group photo with other female members of the royal family and recipients of the Hijrah Meritorious Award.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 8** – A special gathering for women in conjunction with the celebration of Prophet Muhammad's (Peace Be Upon Him) birthday anniversary was held where the main highlight of the event was the presentation of Hijrah Meritorious Award to four women.

Present to grace the event was Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha. Also present were other female members of the royal family.

The recipients of the Hijrah Meritorious Award for the year Hijrah 1431 were: Dayang Hajah Zainab binti Abdullah @ Zainab binti Periau, Dayang Hajah Marhani binti Abdul Latif, Datin Dayang Hajah Hindut binti Haji Lamat and Datin Dayang Hajah Zaharah binti Abang Sulong@Olong.

## Aberdeen Brunei Senior Masters Golf Championship 2010

**JERUDONG, March 7** – Ruangkit Boonchu of Thailand emerged as the champion for the Aberdeen Brunei Senior Masters Golf Championship 2010.

Present to award the prizes was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

The champion received the Aberdeen Golf Trophy and a cash prize of US\$60,000; while first runner-up was Frankie Minoza from the Philippines; and second runner-up was Chris Williams from South Africa.

The championship is one of the measures taken to promote tourism in the country and to develop golf where it was also telecasted on ESPN and Star Sports.

## Wider scope of work for Fire and Rescue Department

**BERAKAS, March 9** – The scope of work for the Fire and Rescue Department has expanded to not only conventional tasks but has advanced to a much wider and challenging scope.

These matters were highlighted by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office in his *sabda* (royal speech) at a ceremony to celebrate the golden jubilee anniversary of the

establishment of the Fire and Rescue Department.

The department has undergone various challenges and gained a number of experiences that could strengthen the department as an agency that plays a role in maintaining the safety and well-being of the citizens and residents in this country.

His Royal Highness also watched field performances depicting fire rescue endurance and a

demonstration of operation on utilising motorcycles and other vehicles of the department. There were also displays of fire extinguishing by volunteers firemen and fire and rescue cadets; presentations of score cards, choir; and demonstration of nozzle jets application and water curtain.

His Royal Highness also took a closer look on an exhibition showcasing the development of the department over the 50 years since its establishment.



## Golf Tournament of the Inter-Ministries Sports Festival

**JERUDONG, March 14** – The Ministry of Home Affairs emerged as champion for the Golf Tournament of the Inter-Ministries Sports Festival held in conjunction with the 16<sup>th</sup> Civil Service Day 2009.

Present to grace the prize

presentation ceremony was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

Second place was won by the Ministry of Development whilst the Ministry of Defence 'A' in third place.

Awang Seruji bin Haji Setia clinched the title in the individual category for overall net and Tony bin Haji Karim won the individual category for overall gross.

## Prevention better than cure



His Royal Highness received a briefing on H1N1 scanning equipment.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 23** – The strategy of 'prevention is better than cure' is not only a synonym applicable to medicine, it also forms a part of the divine values of the teachings of Islam in shaping the daily lifestyle of its followers. This matter is also very relevant in the issue of maintaining cleanliness which is a basic obligation of the religion.

The matters were stated by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran

Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Deputy Sultan at the Official Opening of National Seminar of Ulama (Islamic Scholars) and Experts on Influenza A (H1N1) held at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas.

"We should take heed and be reminded from the Qur'an that disaster, catastrophe and devastation upon mankind are attributable to the mankind's own acts and behaviours,"

said His Royal Highness.

With respect to maintaining cleanliness in public areas, the relevant authorities in this country will continue to endeavour in enforcing regulations and the relevant laws including those for operators of premises that serve food, schools and other public premises for the general well-being of the public, added His Royal Highness.

The goal and objective of this seminar, said His Royal Highness

is to further enrich our cumulative knowledge in how to overcome issues and challenges of strategic importance by examining objectively the issue of the Influenza A (H1N1) disaster with the learned guidance of the ulama and expert.

According to His Royal Highness, the fundamentals that went into the organisation of this seminar are both timely and will be of great benefit to the community in general in creating a greater awareness and deeper understanding as well as to public policymakers in enabling them to make more informed decisions regarding any possible failure in addressing the root causes of this threat.

The seminar is attended by 300 participants from both the public and private sectors including members of the public. Nine working papers will be presented by local and foreign experts during the three-day seminar.

An exhibition is held in conjunction with the seminar and will be opened to public until March 31.

## HRH graces Borneo Global Issues Conference



Her Royal Highness officiates the 8<sup>th</sup> International School Brunei, Borneo Global Issues Conference (8<sup>th</sup> ISB BGIC).

**BERAKAS, March 13** – Brunei Darussalam is blessed to have a social and community environment that is safe, secure and greatly supportive of the development of children.

Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah made the *sabda* at the opening ceremony of the 8<sup>th</sup> International School Brunei, Borneo Global Issues Conference (8<sup>th</sup> ISB BGIC) held at the International Convention Centre.

Her Royal Highness said Brunei's cultural and family values also centre very much around the integrity of the family unit and the creation of a nurturing environment for the development of children.

"It is for this reason that youths in Brunei Darussalam may find it difficult to fully appreciate the enormity of the predicament that faces millions of children around the world, every day," added Her Royal Highness.

The theme of this conference is therefore of particular significance to the youth, as it entreats upon them to focus upon the rights of children all over the world, at a time when this crucial issue is becoming an increasing cause for international concern.

This conference also offers an opportunity to gain much insight into the plight of those less fortunate, and

to gain a greater sense of value for the importance of basic facilities, like proper schooling and healthcare.

At the ceremony, Her Royal Highness also presented mementos to participating schools both within the country and abroad, sponsors and supporters of the conference including the Deputy Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Haji Hamdillah.

The theme for this year's conference is 'The Rights of Children', in conjunction with the United Nation's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, C-R-C.

Over 300 secondary students, from 14 local schools and 6 overseas schools namely from Qatar, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia debated various topics. The conference was organised by ISB in collaboration with Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Cooperation (HSBC) with the support of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources and Brunei Liquefied Natural Gas (BLNG).



## HRH joins blood donation drive

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 12** – Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah joined a Blood Donation Campaign at Blood Donation Centre, Laboratory Services Department at Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital.

The campaign was initiated by Her Royal Highness where 15 fellow students from Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) also joined the campaign.

This campaign is in line with the slogan by World Blood Donor Day 2010 which falls on June 14 with the theme 'New Blood For The World'.

## Her Royal Highness visits Temburong District

**BANGAR, March 27** – Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah joined a group of lecturers and undergraduates in Degree of Public Policy and Administration, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) conducted a study visit to Temburong District.

The visit begun with a briefing on Temburong District by Temburong District Officer, Awang Matusin bin Orang Kaya Sura Haji Tuba at the Muafakat Hall, Government Offices in Temburong.

The delegation then visited Centre for Mukim and Village Consultative Council Product before proceeding to the Temburong Art and Cultural Heritage Gallery.

Also visited were Kampung Belais and Buda-Buda, the winner of bronze award at the Excellent Village Award; Kampung Sibut and Kampung Senukoh.

## Inter-Ministries Sports Festival 2010

**BERAKAS, March 6** – An eight-day sports festival among ministries in conjunction with the Civil Service Day 2009 was officially opened where a total of 11 sporting events would be competed.

Present to officially open was His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim at the Track and Field Complex of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex.

His Royal Highness also watched a Tug-of-War competition for the 1,100 kilogramme category between the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Prime Minister's Office, as well as another competition of the same category between the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources. In the 800 kilogramme category, the Ministry of Defence competed against the Ministry of Education.

Nearly 2,000 government officers and staff from 12 ministries are involved as athletes, coaches and technical officers where 45 gold, 45 silver and 50 bronze medals are at stake in the festival.



His Royal Highness officiates the Inter-Ministries Sports Festival 2010.

PHOTO: HERNE SULANA HAJI OTHMAN

## Ambassador-at-Large attends General Debate Session

**MANILA, March 18** – Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended the second day General Debate and Closing Session of Special Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on 'Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development' held at the Philippines International Convention Centre.

The special meeting passed the Manila Declaration comprising the Action Plan aimed to promote

interfaith dialogue for peace and development.

The declaration among others encouraged the member countries to implement the procedure to increase the exchange of ideas between the various communities toward awareness and respect and compromise on the culture and other religions.

Her Royal Highness also held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Mohammad Ali Fathollahi, Iran Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs;

Her Excellency Latifa Akharbach, the Deputy Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Maghribi; His Excellency Timothy Andrew Fischer, the Ambassador of Australia to Holy See and His Excellency Abdelaziz Abu Ghoush, the non-resident Ambassador of Palestine to Brunei Darussalam.

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

## Brunei Darussalam and Georgia establish diplomatic relations

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 2** – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of Georgia have officially established diplomatic relations with effect from March 1, 2010.

The signing of the Joint Communiqué took place at the Office of the Permanent Representative of Georgia 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 Tuan, Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the UN, New York whilst the Government of Georgia was represented by His Excellency Alexander Lomaia, Permanent Representative of Georgia to the UN.



## Did you know that..

- Oil exploration in Brunei Darussalam began in 1899 when oil seepage was discovered at Ayer Bekunchi in Brunei District (now Brunei Muara District).
- Oil was only discovered in 1929 at Seria of Belait district.
- Coal was an important export item for Brunei before the discovery of oil.
- Brunei Darussalam introduced its government newspaper known as Pelita Brunei on February 15, 1956.
- Brunei's first National Development Plan was launched in 1953 to cover a period of five years.
- Brunei Currency Board issued Brunei's first own currency in 1967 to replace the Straits dollar used since 1906.

## >> 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](http://www.brunelair.com))
- International airlines such as Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and Thai Airways also fly frequently to Brunei. Beginning July 2006, Air Asia, one of Malaysia's lowest airfare carrier 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.



## Inaugural International Conference on Islamic Finance 2010



PHOTO: HEENIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

The Second Minister of Finance delivers a speech at the opening ceremony of the First International Conference on Islamic Finance 2010.

**GADONG, March 1** – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through the Ministry of Finance will continue to take necessary actions to ensure that the local financial system is resilient and sustainable.

This was stated by the Second Minister of Finance, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abd Rahman at the opening ceremony of the First International Conference on Islamic Finance 2010 held at The Rizqun International Hotel.

One of the measures is by strengthening prudential regulations and the necessary supervisory

capacity. The ministry also implements regular reviews of the legal infrastructure from time to time so it is in line with market developments.

Themed 'Contemporary Challenges of Islamic Finance: Towards Realising the Goals of Syari'ah', the conference serves as a platform in consolidating numerous views and principles, between scholars and practitioners.

The two-day conference was participated by some 100 participants from the Ministry of Finance, the Prime Minister's Office, various banks as well as academic institutions.

## China UnionPay now available in Brunei

**JERUDONG, March 2** – Baiduri Bank announced the launching for acceptance of China UnionPay (CUP) Card in Brunei Darussalam with the signing of agreement with China UnionPay Co. Ltd.

The ceremony was held at the Indera Kayangan Ballroom at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

Signing on behalf of Baiduri Bank was its General Manager, Mr. Pierre Imhof while his counterpart was Mr. Yang Jianmin, head of delegation of

China UnionPay Co. Ltd. (Singapore Branch).

Present as guest of honour and to launch the card was Deputy Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamdilah who is also Chairman of Brunei Tourism Board.

The introduction of CUP among others will give opportunity for businesses to attract more tourists from China.

Since its establishment in 2002, CUP

is one of the largest network payment card in China based in Asia Pacific with more than two billion card holders.

CUP Card is accepted by 83 countries worldwide including Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Japan, Korea, Germany, France, Philippines, Taiwan and Australia.

This card is accepted by more than 200 shops, stores, hotels and restaurants selected by Baiduri Bank.

## Driving school management system

**JALAN SUNGAI AKAR, March 4** – The Ministry of Communications and Land Transports Department aim to review the driving school management system in the bid to fulfil the criteria as an academic institution.

This was stated by the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Dr. Haji Awang Abu Bakar at the official opening of the Driving Test and Training Complex in Kampung Sungai Akar.

The review would include reviewing and updating the driving schools' co-curriculum. There is a need to study and review the co-curriculum as future drivers must possess not only the theory in understanding the road rules and regulations but also driving skills such as safety, courteous and cautious driver.

Another area that should also be reviewed and updated is the registration of the teaching staff by ensuring that they fulfil the criteria as a teaching staff.

The review would also look on the driving school premises where it should fulfil the criteria as a learning centre ranging from cleanliness, safety, comfortable and the facilities provided.



PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AWANG  
The Minister of Communications at the opening of the Driving Test and Training Complex in Kampung Sungai Akar.

## Ports Department signs new Tug Boat contract

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 4** – Ports Department achieved a new milestone with the signing of contract for 'The Design, Construction, Commissioning and Delivery of a Twin Screw Multipurpose 50 Ton Bollard Pull Tug' with Multitech Sendirian Berhad.

The signing ceremony was held at the Airport Restaurant, Brunei International Airport in Berakas.

Singing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei

Darussalam was the Acting Director of Ports, Awang Haji Bujang bin Haji Tingkong while his counterpart was Managing Director of Multitech Sendirian Berhad, Gwee Peng Hong.

Present as guest of honour and witnessing the signing was Permanent Secretary of Communications, Awang Haji Alaihuddin.

The purchase of new tug boat is one of the Ports Department projects under the National Development Plan which costs \$7.2 million. The tug boat

which is expected to be completed in 14 months time is an additional to the existing three tug boats owned by the Ports Department.

According to statistics, 1,802 vessels berthed at Muara Port in 2007, and the numbers increased to 1,970 in 2008 and 1,726 in 2009.

With the new addition to the port fleet, the department could provide an efficient tug service to foreign vessels berthing at Muara Port.



## Brunei Darussalam aspires to be recognised for the accomplishment of its people



The Minister of Education at the launching of School Leadership Program.

on the accomplishment of its highly educated and highly skilled people as measured by the highest international standards by the year 2035.

The matter was stated by the Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Rahman at the launching of School Leadership Program held at the Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

To fulfil the nation's aspiration, the Ministry of Education has aligned the ministry's strategic plan 2007-2011 where various

fields are given attention such as investing in early childhood education; adopting international best practices in teaching and learning; and having first class secondary and tertiary education including vocational schools.

The minister added the implementation of the National Education System for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (SPN21) is one of the major initiatives towards achieving the vision where it requires transformation in providing education services to the students.

The School Leadership Program is held for five days and participated by more than 70 school leaders throughout the country.

TUGKU LINK, March 6 - Brunei Darussalam aspires to be recognised

## Mobile Eye Clinic

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 8 - The new Mobile Eye Clinic will provide the importance on eye care to the public at a primary level where it will help face two main causes of blindness - diabetic eye disease and glaucoma.

The matters were highlighted by the Minister of Health (MOH), Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi at the launching of World Glaucoma Week at Ministry of Health's Multipurpose Hall.

It is hoped that with these kinds of efforts, it will provide one approach towards eliminating and prevention of blindness align with vision 2020.

The launching of World Glaucoma Week also saw the handing-over of bus for Mobile Eye Clinic from Managing Director of G.H.K. Motors Sendirian Berhad, Pehin Dato Goh King Chin to the minister.

The bus which costs \$84,000 is equipped with special sensitive devices for eyes and health check for residents living in the rural areas.



The Minister of Health officially received the Mobile Eye Clinic.

## Brunei Darussalam hosts TELSOM

GADONG, March 8 - Brunei Darussalam is currently hosting a three-day joint Working Group Meeting of ASEAN Telecommunications Senior Officers Meeting (TELSOM) starting March 8 to 10.

The meeting will discuss the main agenda that will be inline with ASEAN ICT Master Plan; new project initiatives for 2010-2011 as well as technical input for ICT Master Plan; the status of cooperation and new initiative to all dialogue partner.

The meeting is attended by senior officers from ASEAN member countries as well as dialogue partners from Japan; Korea; China; India and European Union held at The Centrepont Hotel, Gadong.

The next meeting will be held in April in Singapore.

## Japanese Language and Culture Week

TUNGKU, March 10 - Bilateral relation between Brunei Darussalam and Japan are further strengthened in the field of culture and education with the launching of Japanese Language and Culture Week.

The event is held at Universiti Brunei Darussalam which was launched by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Wadood Bolkiah bin Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz. Also present was the Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Noriki Hirose.

Since it was launched in 2007, the Japanese Language and Culture Week aim to foster closer relationship between both nations in the fields



Japanese drum 'Wadaiko' is among the performance at the launching of Japanese Language and Culture Week.

of language, education and culture through workshops, cultural performance, cooking demonstration held throughout the cultural week.

This year's cultural week will showcase traditional musical instrument and dances which has existed since 2000 years ago.



## Course to enhance knowledge and skills on paddy production

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 12** – A delegation of 29 officers and staff including lecturers and students of Wasan Vocational School will be attending a short course on rice production at the Republic of Philippines.

The delegation is led by Agriculture Officer, Dayang Khairulnisa binti Umar where the delegation will be in Philrice, Philippines Department of Agriculture for about 20 days.

The course will include expertise training programme on paddy production method through an inspection system specifically designed for the delegation in the effort to increase their knowledge, skills and performance in technology

production and promotion of paddy production.

The program is included in the cooperation project between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) and Philippines' Department of Agriculture.

Present to bid farewell at the Brunei International Airport was the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya.

Wasan Vocation School is an institution specialising in the areas of agriculture, fisheries, forestry and food processing.

## Workshop on capital adequacy, transparency and market discipline

**JERUDONG, March 15** – Ministry of Finance (MoF) in cooperation with Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB) organised a three-day workshop on two prudential standards particularly on Capital Adequacy, Transparency and Market Discipline.

The IFSB is an international standard-setting organisation that promotes and enhances the soundness and stability of the Islamic Financial Services Industry (IFSI) by issuing global prudential standards and guiding principles for the industry.

The workshop was attended by officers and staff from Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education and private financial institutions. It aimed to serve as one important strategic platform for learning and increased understanding to raise standard and guidance principles in assisting for enhancing the perfection and stabilisation of IFSI.

The workshop was held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club in Jerudong.

## NDP 2007 – 2012: \$1.2 billion for housing development

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 17** – An amount of about \$1.2 billion has been allocated under the National Development Plan (NDP) 2007-2012 for developing 10,000 units of houses and land lots at all districts.

The Director of Housing Development, Awang Marzuke bin Haji Mohsin stated the matters in his welcoming remarks at the 'Seminar and Workshop On the Modular Design and Construction for Housing Projects in Negara Brunei Darussalam' at Ministry of Development.

The Landless Indigenous Citizens Housing Scheme (STKRJ) and National Housing Scheme (RPN) are schemes that became government's main focus for providing houses in the country, said Awang Marzuke.

He also touched on several issues related to the development such as delays in completing the project, unsatisfactory quality and increased in costs.

Other than issues on production, other challenges in providing housing are affordability and acceptability that is developing a house that is affordable and suits housing

participants.

Housing Development Department, he said had undertaken several initiatives to overcome the challenges like enhancing the system efficiency and process related to planning and implementation of the project with the usage of suitable method and new technology.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdullah as the guest of honour said that more than 17,550 applicants are in the waiting list; and it is expected to increase to 30,000 in 2012 and 36,000 in 2017; while waiting period is about 17-20 years whereas annual house production are only about 400 houses annually.

The minister also touched on the development costs that incurred about \$150,000 per house excluding land price and these houses are sold at \$40,000 each (terrace house) and \$90,000 (detached house).

He further added there are main issues that have to be faced and overcome which are housing productivity, construction productivity and cost and methodology.

## Diabetes causes kidney problem

**GADONG, March 14** – A book entitled 'Diabetic Kidney Disease Guideline' was launched by the Ministry of Health as reference for health professionals in overcoming diabetic and kidney problems in the early stage.

The book was launched by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi at an event to mark World Kidney Day 2010 held at the Dialysis Treatment Centre in Rimba.

This year's World Kidney Day was celebrated with the theme 'Lindungi Buah Pinggang Kawal Diabetes' (Protect Kidney, Control Diabetes) with the aim to promote awareness among the public on diabetes, measures to prevent it and the importance of early health check.

## UBD launches Intellectual Property Policy

**RIMBA, March 17** – Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) has launched its Intellectual Property (IP) Policy where it was officiated by Attorney General, Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Hayati.

The Attorney General said that the firm protection and enforcement of IP is an important component for economic progress and development.

The IP system, she said, is one of the basic modern economic policy and catalyst for development. It will continuously increase to become an important tool for sustainable development for knowledge-based millennium community.

According to the Attorney General, the Attorney General's Chambers with its limited sources has become the unofficial leading agency assisting in promoting the protection and administrating of IP rights in the country.

Meanwhile, the Vice-Chancellor of UBD, Dr. Haji Zulkarnain said that IP is the university's assets. The existence and development of IP at the university will encourage variety of new enterprises through licensing, technology transfer and business and also facilitate the university-industry relationship.

He also expressed hope that the seminar and workshop will become the point for the start of sustainable, economical, affordable and with quality housing development.

The two-day seminar and workshop is held as part of World Habitat Day 2009 programmes.

The seminar and workshop among others aimed to expose and provide the participants different perspectives and dimensions of modular designs and constructions.



## Brunei hosts SEA RADO Board Meeting 2010

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 17**

Brunei Darussalam fully supports activities on anti-doping; and through the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS), Brunei Darussalam has formed the Brunei Darussalam Anti-Doping Committee (BDADC) in 2006 and hosted South East Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organization (SEA RADO) Board Meeting 2010.

Several significant steps have been taken to qualify BDADC to World Anti-Doping Code and UNESCO Convention on Drugs Abuse in Sports as one joint commitment with World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

These were stated by the Permanent Secretary at MCYS, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd Hamid at the official opening of Southeast Asia Regional Anti-Doping (SEA RADO).

Among the agendas in the two-day meeting are to discuss the development and progress of RADO including the Strategic Plan and Operational Plan, Anti-Doping Regulations and Code Compliance.

Meanwhile from March 18 to 19, Doping Control Officer (DCO) Training will be held in which its objectives include the overview of world anti-

doping code; and the international standards for testing and practical theory session for the doping control sample collection process.

Participants of the meeting comprise of ASEAN member countries and Timor-Leste.

SEA RADO was established in May, 2006 as a body to coordinate drug eradication programme in sports in the ASEAN region.

The meeting took place at The Rizqun International Hotel in Gadong.

## Brunei – Hong Kong sign Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 20**

Brunei Darussalam and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), People's Republic of China economic relations have been further strengthened with the signing of Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect on Taxes on Income.

Signing on behalf the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was the Second Minister of Finance, Pehin Dato

Haji Awang Abdul Rahman while his counterpart was His Excellency John Tsang Chun-Wah, Financial Secretary of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Through the agreement, the two governments will be able to enhance economic cooperation and trade through private sectors.

The private sector will gain benefits through the reduction of income tax, besides through Withholding Tax rates which are limited for companies from both countries.

To date, Brunei Darussalam have signed 13 Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreements with United Kingdom, Indonesia, China, Singapore, Vietnam, Oman, Bahrain, Japan, Pakistan, Laos, Kuwait, Malaysia and Hong Kong SAR People's Republic of China.

His Excellency John Tsang Chun-Wah is in the country for a four-day visit from March 19 to 22.

The signing ceremony was held at Ministry of Finance.

## Call for environmental care

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 21**

Brunei Darussalam has continuously given attention to the importance of preserving biodiversity as uncontrolled exploration of forests for development and economic diversification purposes could cause a loss to the nation, as experienced by other developed countries.

The matters were stated by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya at the launching of World Forestry Day and Nature Camp 2010 at the Berakas Forest Reserve Recreational Park.

The minister called all parties not only the government but also other stakeholders to be together in helping

the need for natural environment care and demand for development and resource exploration.

"Geographically, Brunei is a small nation with a manageable population growth. Thus, we have to be smart in managing our biodiversity resources as the simplest mistakes could give a negative impact and prove costly to our nation's environment," said the minister.

Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources said the minister, have established the Tropical Biodiversity Centre (TBC) at Sungai Liang aimed to strengthen the strategic efforts for centralising all research and development toward the country's diversified biological resource

especially from economic potential side.

Theme for 2010 World Forestry Day is 'Forest: Source of Biodiversity Wealth'. World Forestry Day is celebrated every March 21.

The minister also launched the new recreational area at the Berakas Forest Reserve Recreational Park which has been developed since a year ago.

More than 100 students from 23 secondary schools joined the Nature Camp which is held from March 20 to 25. The five-day camp is aimed to increase awareness among students on the importance and role of forest to human life in building and development of the nation's social-economy.

## Brunei celebrates World Tuberculosis Day

**GADONG, March 24** – A website to promote awareness on tuberculosis (TB) has been launched. This website is available at [www.moh.gov.bn/tb](http://www.moh.gov.bn/tb). This is part of the activity to commemorate World Tuberculosis Day celebrated globally every March 24.

It is hoped that members of the public would learn more of TB through this website.

The website was officiated by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji

Awang Suyoi at the Centrepoin Hotel in Gadong.

In his welcoming speech, the minister said that a number 213 new TB cases were recorded in Brunei Darussalam last year in which 80 per cent were locals. The amount was considered as low compare to 10 years ago, an indication that the nation has achieved progress in its effort to combat against TB.

This year's World Tuberculosis Day

theme is 'On the move against TB - Innovate towards action'.

TB is an airborne disease in which if when one patient with active TB is not treated, it can infect 10 to 15 people annually.



## Haiti and Chile Humanitarian Fund established

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 25** – A fund known as Haiti and Chile Earthquake Humanitarian Fund has been established in the bid to assist those affected by the earthquake that recently took place in Haiti and Chile.

The collection of donation will be running for three months beginning March 25 to June 24, 2010. Besides cash donation, relevant parties can also organise charity activities for collecting the fund.

Donation boxes can be found at various areas including mosques, banks, departmental stores, and government offices.

The two local private telecommunications companies will also launch donation through the short messaging system (SMS).



The Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi, on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency M. Shameem Ahsan, the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam attended a reception to celebrate the republic's 40<sup>th</sup> National Day held at the International Convention Centre (ICC), Berakas on March 26.

## AMCA+3 agree to set up ASEAN+3 Fund

**PHILIPPINES, March 27** – The 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Minister Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA) Meeting agreed to enhance ASEAN cooperation in areas of culture and arts focusing on human resource development; the protection, preservation and promotion of ASEAN cultural heritage; and, the development of small and medium-sized cultural enterprises.

At the meeting, Brunei Darussalam was represented by Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad.

The meeting also endorsed SOMCA Working Group Work Plan which was agreed at the 6<sup>th</sup> SOMCA Meeting.

Meanwhile, the 4<sup>th</sup> AMCA+3 Meeting with China, Japan and Korea also agreed to enhance cooperation between ASEAN and three dialogue partners in establishing ASEAN+3 Working Plan and to set up ASEAN Plus Three Fund.

The host country, Philippines also held the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Festival of Arts in conjunction with the AMCA. At the festival, every countries including Brunei Darussalam performed local art and cultural performances.

The next AMCA and AMCA+3 Meetings are scheduled to be held in 2012 in Singapore.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Working Group Meeting between Ministry of Education Brunei Darussalam and Singapore

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 29** – A delegation of nine officers from Singapore's Ministry of Education are in the country to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Working Group Meeting between the Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam and Singapore from March 29 to 30.

Brunei Darussalam's delegation is led by the Permanent Secretary (Core Education), Datin Paduka Dayang Apsah binti Haji Abdul Majid; while her counterpart is Permanent Secretary of Singapore's Ministry of Education, Madam Tan Ching Yee.

The meeting will discuss current development in educational field besides sharing on preschool education and 21 century challenges. The meeting also aims to further enhance exchanges in educational areas besides strengthening educational exchange and cooperation between both countries.

This year's meeting marked the beginning of exchange programme for technical education students between both nation-states.

## Brunei-Thailand strengthen cooperation in health sector

**JERUDONG, March 29** – Brunei Darussalam and Thailand bilateral relations particularly in the field of health cooperation has been further strengthened with the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Brunei's Ministry of Health and Public Health Ministry of Thailand.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi while his counterpart was Minister of Public

Health's Thailand, His Excellency Jurin Laksanawisit.

Under this MoU, both countries would be able to strengthen cooperation in areas such as human and animal related disease (zoonosis), including infectious disease via food and vector, surveillance, control and prevention of disease, health promotion, basic health care, oral health care and psychiatric and mental health.

Also given attention are health development and management like

services, accreditation and hospital management, drugs/medicines control, medical apparatus and cosmetic items, traditional and contemporary medicines.

It also includes health and medical research including on herbal medicines, capacity development of manpower, patient referral, exchange of health information and also promoting trade and investment opportunity in health care sectors.

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



## Issues on food security discussed

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 29** – Issues on food security was the main focus of discussion during the bilateral meeting between the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya and Thailand's Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, His Excellency Theera Wongsamut.

The minister, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya was on a five-day working visit to the Kingdom of Thailand which commenced from March 21 to 26.

During the working visit, Thailand as one of the biggest producers of rice in the world, agreed to continue its supply of rice to Brunei Darussalam. Brunei Darussalam has just signed a renewal contract for a three-year and eight months supply of rice from Thailand.

Thailand has also agreed to give assistance to Brunei Darussalam in the area of production, field management and post-harvesting handling. This cooperation is very imperative in ensuring food security through supply and production especially to support Brunei Darussalam's effort for its rice production to reach the target of 20 per cent by 2010 and 60 per cent by the year 2015.

On future economic cooperation, both parties agreed to explore further on how both countries could develop a niche, high quality halal export industry, as this would combine Thailand's high quality food products with Brunei's stringent Halal Certification Standard.

During the working visit, the minister was accompanied by the Permanent

Secretary of MIPR, Hajah Suriyah binti Haji Umar, and senior officers from the ministry.

The minister and entourage visited Charaeon Pokphand Food (CP), one of the biggest food corporations in Thailand. Other places visited were Thanya Toong Ruang Chai Rice Mill, Marketing Organisation for Farmers, Royal Chitralada Project, Community Rice Center, Supatra Land and Nongnooch Garden and Resort in Pattaya.

The group also visited and held discussions with Brusiam Food Alliance Company Limited, joint venture company between Brunei Darussalam and Thailand dealing with the supply of rice to Brunei Darussalam.

## Road upgrade ease road congestions

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 30** – An upgrading project involving the widening of roads from Sungai Lampai to nearby areas of Bubungan Dua Belas (House of Twelve Roofs) and Residency Bridge will ease road congestions faced by public travelling via Jalan Residency particularly those commuting from Bandar Seri Begawan to Kota Batu and its nearby areas.

The Upgrading Project of Jalan Residency Phase 1 begun last October, 2009 where it is expected to be completed by end of 2011. The project was under the National Development Plan 2009-2010 and under the planning of Roads Department of Public Works Department (PWD) and costs about \$24.4 million.

Among the scopes of the project are the building of river wall protection, two additional lanes, an organised parking bay, installation of street lights along Jalan Residency, providing safe and comfortable jetty for Kampung Ayer residents and areas for pedestrians.

Present at the ground-breaking ceremony was the Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdullah.



The Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdullah at the ground-breaking ceremony.

## Earth Hour Campaign reduces power usage

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 31** – The Earth Hour Campaign held on March 27 saw a reduction of power usage to as much as 38.5 megawatt electrical power in Brunei Darussalam.

The matter was revealed by Acting Director of Electrical Services Department, Awang Haji Umar bin Tahir at a media conference on Earth Hour at the department's headquarters in Berakas.

According to the acting director, the amount saved could be compared to electrical power consumption for 34,650 houses used in one hour; or a sum of 1.7 million pieces of energy saving bulbs or five times the highest power usage in Temburong District.

The amount of power usage reduction is a big and unexpected achievement, said Awang Haji Umar. He also urged the public to make energy saving as a habit or culture.

Brunei Darussalam took part in 'Earth Hour' Campaign where the main focus was the Kampung Ayer Cultural and Tourism Gallery. The lights were switched off by 8.30pm on the evening of March 27 for 60 minutes. The campaign also saw participation by other public and private sectors including individuals as a symbol of their commitment towards promoting awareness on climate change issues.

## Tourism workshop makes data comparison

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 31** – Seventy people participated in Workshop on Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Tourism Working Group Capacity Building on Tourism Satellite Accounts.

Among the attendees at the two-day workshop was the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya.

Senior consultant from Australia, Dr. Stanley Fleetwood stated that the workshop aims to assist every individuals and organisations in the country involved with the counting of statistics and research related to areas of tourism.

The workshop is also for making comparison on the new international current data standards which is in line with the standard required for Tourism Satellite Accounts.

The workshop is hoped to make practical and successful Tourism Satellite Account working programme and schedule.



## Improving the life of disabled people

**JERUDONG, March 7** – The Ministry of Health has a role to play in improving the quality of life and to protect the rights of people with disability by undertaking efforts both at the national and international level.

The Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi stated the matter at the official opening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Orthopaedic Symposium.

Other measures include avoiding injuries resulting from violence and accidents besides improving emergency treatment and recovery process for trauma patients.

The theme of the one-day symposium was 'Conquering Pain and Mastering Disabilities'. Five invited speakers from other countries gave talks and shared their expertises in their respective fields with local specialists.

## New WHO representative visits Brunei

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 10** – World Health Organisation's (WHO) new representative to Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Singapore, Dr. Corrine Martine Monique Capuano is currently in the country for a working visit.

While in the sultanate, Dr. Corrine made a courtesy visit to the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi at the Ministry of Health where she presented her Letter of Appointment to the minister.

Dr. Corrine was appointed as the representative of the World Health Organisation for Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore on September 14, 2009.

## Dinner reception for 12<sup>th</sup> Borneo Ladies Golf Challenge Trophy 2010

**GADONG, March 15** – A dinner reception was held for the 12<sup>th</sup> Borneo Ladies Golf Challenge Trophy 2010 held at The Rizqun International Hotel.

Present to grace the dinner reception was Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah who also presented plaques to the main sponsors of the tournament.

This is the first time for the Brunei Golf Ladies Association (BGLA) to organise the tournament where it will take place from March 15 to 17 and participated by local golfers and participants from Sabah, Sarawak, Labuan and Kalimantan.

## Opening of Legal Year 2010

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 16** – There is a need for more lawyers as there is a lack of graduates specialising

in law in Brunei Darussalam. Lawyers are needed not just for the court, Attorney General's Chambers, private practitioners but also at the ministries.

The matters were highlighted by Chief Justice, The Honourable Dato Seri Paduka Haji Kifrawi bin Dato Paduka Haji Kifli at the Opening of the Legal Year 2010.

Also present was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Muta-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah.

The Chief Justice also said that all cases have to be disposed off efficiently and of within reasonable time as justice delayed is justice denied. The courts could only do this with the cooperation and support of lawyers, the Royal Brunei Police Force and other law enforcement agencies, the Prime Minister's Office and other relevant ministries.

Also present were the Attorney General, the Syarie Chief Justice, High Court Judges, Permanent and Deputy Permanent Secretaries.

## Media as strategic partner to spread health info

**BERAKAS, March 24** – Ministry of Health will make the media as its strategic partner in disseminating information and knowledge on healthy lifestyles to the people and population of Brunei Darussalam.

The media, said Deputy Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair, print or electronic, play a significant role in alerting the public on the importance of practicing healthy lifestyle.

The Deputy Minister assured on the importance of media as they hold a close relationship with the public and local community where through medium of writing in newspapers and messages delivered via radio and television can certainly attract public's interest to practice healthy lifestyle.

Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair stated the matters at a dialogue event with participants of 'Healthy Lifestyle Seminar'.

The three-day seminar was participated by 33 participants comprised of television producers, presenters, broadcasters, deejays organised by the Health Promotion Centre. The objective was to deliver healthy lifestyle messages and advices to the participants.

## Women Netball Tournament Open 2010

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 28** – Royal Brunei Police Force emerged as the champion for the Women Netball Tournament Open 2010 after defeating Ivy League at the Multi-purpose Hall of Hassanal Bolkiah Sports Complex in Berakas.

Participating in the tournament

was Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah who is a member of team Comets; and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadilah Lubabul Bolkiah who is a member of team Ivy League.

The tournament was organised by local netball club, Fly High in cooperation with Brunei Darussalam Netball Association (BNA) which attracted 21 groups to participate.

## Eighteen participants complete IAAF Course

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 30** – Eighteen participants completed the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) Coaching Education and Certification System Level II Course which was held for two weeks beginning March 17.

Present at the closing and certificate presentation ceremony was the Vice President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympics Committee, Colonel (U) Pengiran Haji Kamal Bashah at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium Theatre Hall in Berakas.

The objective of the course are to help coaches to identify potential athletes aged 13 to 17 in the secondary schools and districts schemes and develop them into future athletes.

The course is also in line with IAAF's development and the progression of athletic sports, where IAAF as international athletics sports central committee currently desires to make athletics sports as the number one sports which requires competing together with other sports.

The course was participated by Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), Prison Department, Fire and Rescue Department, Youth and Sports Department, government primary and secondary school teachers and Brunei Amateur Athletics Association.

## MoE receives Heart of Borneo booklets

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 31** – The Ministry of Education (MoE) received 3,000 booklets on Heart of Borneo from British High Commission to Brunei Darussalam and Centre for British Teachers in Brunei Darussalam (CfBT). The handing over ceremony was held at the British High Commission Office.

Receiving the booklets on behalf of MoE was its Deputy Permanent Secretary (Policy and Planning), Awang Haji Suhaila bin Haji Abdul Karim as a representative of MoE's Permanent Secretary. The booklets were handed by His Excellency Rob Fenn, the British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.

The booklets will later be distributed to schools throughout Borneo including Sabah, Sarawak and Kalimantan.



## \$4,985,785,600.00 approved for 2010 – 2011 budget

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 22** – An amount of \$4,985,785,600.00 has been approved by the State Legislative Council for the 2010 -2011 fiscal year budget. The approved budget would take into effect on April 1, 2010.

Below is the detailed information of the allocated budget:

Prime Minister's Office	\$526,668,220.00
Ministry of Defence	\$511,983,000.00
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	\$173,679,410.00
Ministry of Finance	\$896,099,707.00
Ministry of Home Affairs	\$150,768,580.00
Ministry of Education	\$620,925,910.00
Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources	\$85,752,740.00
Ministry of Religious Affairs	\$227,815,810.00
Ministry of Development	\$288,848,700.00
Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports	\$86,218,670.00
Ministry of Health	\$295,413,216.00
Ministry of Communications	\$71,611,637.00
Ministry of Development	\$1,050,000,000.00



The First Meeting of the Sixth Session of the State Legislative Council at the State Legislative Council Building at Jalan Kebangsaan.