



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam newsletter

Published by the Department of Information
Prime Minister's Office

OCTOBER, 2010
VOLUME 25 ISSUE 10

Brunei Darussalam – New Zealand: Share strong lasting ties

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 11 – Brunei Darussalam and New Zealand share strong lasting ties in the field of education, health and defence. Both countries have worked together in many Commonwealth programmes, especially those directed at the special needs of small states.

The matters were said by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* (royal speech) in honour of the three-day state visit of Governor-General of New Zealand, His Excellency Sir Anand Satyanand and wife, Her Excellency Lady Susan Satyanand to Brunei Darussalam. The banquet took place at the Istana Nurul Iman.

"Our regional and international commitments together are steadily growing.

We are not only partners in the ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue now.

Last week you joined us in our wider region as members of the Asia-Europe Meeting.

We are also both part of the East Asia Summit one of the most exciting initiatives our part of the world has ever seen.

As members, we may be small countries but we share a joint responsibility with our great partners for planning the



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam highlights the strong lasting ties shared between Brunei Darussalam and New Zealand.

future direction of the world's largest region.

As well as this, we share deep-rooted social values," said His Majesty.

His Majesty also said that Brunei Darussalam warmly appreciates the contribution to its own development by teachers, consultants, advisors, trainers and professional experts from New Zealand.

"But, perhaps above all, we enjoy the wonderful welcome our people are always given whenever they are in New Zealand as workers, students or just simple visitors," said His Majesty.

Food safety and quality prioritised

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 12 – The safety and quality of food product be it from abroad or domestic will continue to be emphasised. A number of laws and regulations on food safety have been enforced such as Public Health (Food) Act (2000 Ed) and Fisheries Order (2009) which shows to the public especially entrepreneurs on the importance in fulfilling the stipulated regulations.

The matters were highlighted by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources,

Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya, at the official opening of a seminar on 'Enhancing Entrepreneurs Awareness on Seafood Safety' at Setia Pahlawan Hall, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR).

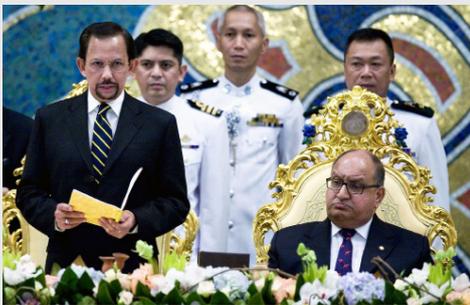
Thus the government will ensure that foodstuffs are free from preservatives like formaldehyde; free from mercury, lead, and zinc; while the marine life is free from harmful chemicals during red water; and



PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR

Minister of Industry and Primary Resources says, safety and quality of food product will continue to be emphasised.

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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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

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His Majesty receives audiences



PHOTO: PG.HAJI BAHAR PG.HAJI OMAR



PHOTO: PG.HAJI BAHAR PG.HAJI OMAR

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

- ① The Minister attached to Prime Minister's Office of Thailand, The Honourable Ongart Klampaiboon on October 2.
- ② The Chief of Defence Force of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Lieutenant General Neo Kian Hong on October 7.



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT



PHOTO: PG.HAJI BAHAR PG.HAJI OMAR

His Majesty presents diplomatic credentials

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presented diplomatic credentials to two newly-appointed envoys of Brunei Darussalam to foreign nations. The ceremony was held on October 19 at the Istana Nurul Iman.

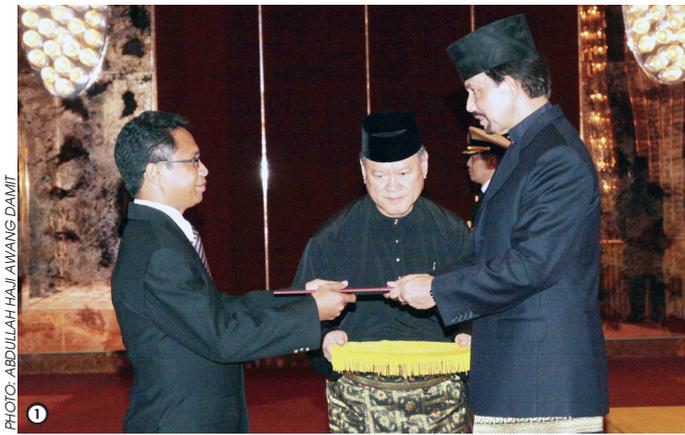
The two newly-appointed envoys were:

- ① His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Ishaq bin Haji Abdullah as High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Malaysia.
- ② His Excellency Haji Mohammad Aziyan bin Abdullah as High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the United Kingdom.

Congratulatory messages

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

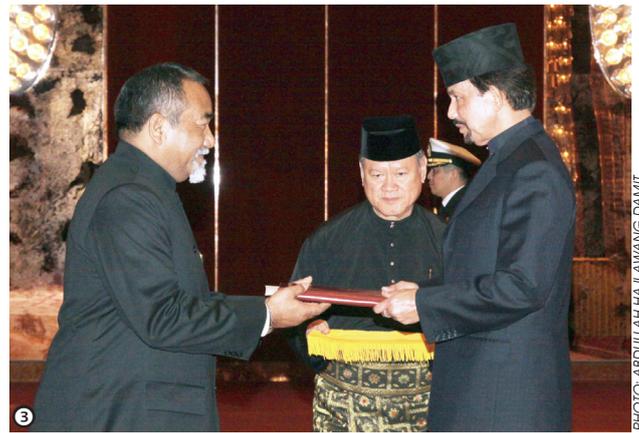
- The Right Honourable David Lloyd Johnston on his election as the Governor-General of Canada on October 2.
- His Excellency Kim Hwang-Sik on his appointment as the Prime Minister of Republic of Korea on October 2.
- His Excellency Lee Myung-Bak, President of Republic of Korea in conjunction with the republic's National Foundation Day on October 3.
- His Excellency Christin Wulff, President of the Federal Republic of Germany and Her Excellency Angela Merkel, The Federal Republic of Germany's Chancellor in conjunction with the republic's Unification Day on October 3.



His Majesty receives diplomatic credentials

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received diplomatic credentials from three newly-appointed envoys to Brunei Darussalam. The ceremony was held on October 19 at the Istana Nurul Iman.

- The three newly-appointed envoys were
- ❶ His Excellency Lalduhthlana Ralte, High Commissioner of India to Brunei Darussalam
 - ❷ His Excellency Roberto Sarmiento de Oliveira Soares, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Timor-Leste to Brunei Darussalam.
 - ❸ His Excellency Anacleto Felicani, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Italy to Brunei Darussalam.



Her Majesty receives audiences

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

- ❶ Madam Jane Ng Geok, the wife of the Chief of Defence Force of the Republic of Singapore on October 7.
- ❷ A delegation consisted of female ambassador and spouses of heads of Brunei-based diplomatic missions. The delegation was led by the wife of High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam, Madam Chua Puay Hoon. During the audience, the delegation conveyed their greetings to Her Majesty on the occasion of Her Majesty's birthday on October 7.
- ❸ Datin Hajah Mastura binti Haji Awang, the spouse of newly-appointed High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Malaysia, Dayang Nur Fadhlina binti Abdullah, the spouse of newly-appointed High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to United Kingdom on October 28.





PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness The Crown Prince received audiences from male intending *haj* pilgrims (left). Meanwhile, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri, Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah received audiences from female intending *haj* pilgrims (above).

Audience for intending *haj* pilgrims

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 9 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received separate audiences from intending *haj* pilgrims at the Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty received 679 intending male *haj* pilgrims. Also present was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran

Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.

Meanwhile, Her Majesty received 691 intending female *haj* pilgrims. Also present were Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah.

Brunei's *haj* intending pilgrims will be leaving to perform *haj* in five flights beginning October 22. They

will be accompanied by a team of 26 medical officers and seven *haj* officers.

Meanwhile, the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation had distributed *ihram* cloth for intending male *haj* pilgrims and *telekung* (long prayer veil) for intending female *haj* pilgrims. The *ihram* cloth and *telekung* are personal gifts from His Majesty.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

HRH receives audiences

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

- ① The newly-appointed Chief of Defence Force of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Lieutenant General Neo Kian Hong on October 6.
- ② The High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Malaysia, His Excellency Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ishaq bin Haji Abdullah and the High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to United Kingdom, His Excellency Awang Haji Mohd. Aziyan bin Abdullah on October 28.
- ③ The newly-appointed High Commissioner of Republic of India to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Laidunthlana Ralte on October 30.



PHOTO: AK. AMIRUNIZAM PG-HAJI MOHD. ALI



His Majesty attends bilateral meeting

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, October 3 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister of Belgium, His Excellency Yves Leterme.

The meeting was held at the Prime Minister's Office in Rue Lambermont.

At the meeting, His Majesty expressed satisfaction on the cordial bilateral relationship between Brunei Darussalam and Belgium and discussed on ways to further enhanced cooperation.

Brunei Darussalam established diplomatic relations with Belgium in 1984.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Prime Minister of Belgium held a bilateral meeting at the Prime Minister's Office in Rue Lambermont.

Visit to 'A Passage to Asia' Exhibition

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, October 3 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visited 'A Passage to Asia' Exhibition at the BOZAR Expo held in conjunction with the 8th Asian-Europe Meeting Summit (ASEM 8).

His Majesty is one of the exhibition's Patron where His Majesty received a brief information on the exhibition from the Exhibition's Curator, Mr. Jan Van Alfahen.

'A Passage to Asia' is an exhibition that features various treasures from both continents as Asia and Europe share a history of 2,500 years of trade activities. The exhibition also showcases different exhibits from 16 Asian countries.

The exhibition also includes exhibits from Brunei Darussalam which are the collection of *meriam* (cannons) and *tembikar* (pots) from 15th and 16th century; and also artefacts from the sunken ship found 40km from Brunei seashores in 1997.

The exhibition is opened to public for four months beginning June 20 to October 10, 2010.



The sovereign takes a closer look at the exhibition from Brunei Darussalam and receives a briefing from the BOZAR Expo's Curator.

PHOTOS: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

His Majesty attends 8th ASEM Summit

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, October 4 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Opening Ceremony of 8th ASEAN-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and First Closed Session with Heads of States and Governments from Asia and Europe held at Royal Palace Belgium.

The arrival of His Majesty with other ASEM leaders at Grande Antichambre were welcomed by His Majesty King Albert II of Belgium; the Prime Minister of Belgium, His Excellency Yves Leterme; the President of European Union (EU), His Excellency Herman Van Rompuy; and the President of the European Commission, His Excellency

Jose Manuel Barroso.

The 8th ASEM Meeting was chaired by the President of EU, His Excellency Herman Van Rompuy.

Soon after the opening ceremony, His Majesty with other leaders attended the First Closing Session.

The agenda for this session is 'More Effective Global Financial and Economic Governance' which among others focused on the ways to strengthen the world economy and identify fields for economic cooperation.

His Majesty then attended a 'Working Dinner' hosted by the President of EU at Salle du Trone, Royal Palace.



His Majesty and President of the European Commission (EC), His Excellency Jose Manuel Barroso.



His Majesty with President of Republic of Bulgaria, His Excellency Georgi Parvanov (left) and President of Republic of Austria, His Excellency Federal Chancellor Werner Fayman during the Official Opening of ASEM 8 (above).



Group photo of Heads of Delegations attending 8th ASEM.

Coordinated economic, social and environmental policies vital to pursue sustainable development

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, October 5 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* (royal speech) emphasises on the importance of coordinated economic, social and environmental policies in pursuing sustainable development as well as open markets and the conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda.

His Majesty made the remarks at the second closed session of the 8th Summit of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM 8) at the Salle du Trone, Royal Palace Belgium. The agenda of the second session was on 'Advance on the Path of Sustainable Development'.

His Majesty also highlighted the importance of encouraging

contribution from all segments of society to sustainable development and suggested educational and technical exchanges between Asia and Europe. His Majesty also acknowledged the need for expertise and technical know-how from Asia and Europe in areas that promote sustainable development such as environmental protection, energy conservation and climate change.

After the second session, His Majesty held a four-eye meeting with His Majesty King Albert II at the Royal Palace Belgium.

His Majesty then attended the third closing session. The agenda for this session was 'Global Issue In Focus'. The topics discussed include nuclear disarmament, terrorism, Islamophobia,

reform the United Nations Security Council, Millennium Development Goals, maritime security and human rights.

The third closed session was followed by a reception hosted by His Majesty King Albert II at the same venue. A Working Lunch was hosted by the President of the European Council, His Excellency Van Rompuy succeeded the reception.

Meanwhile, agenda for the fourth closed session was 'People to People, Visibility and Future of ASEM'. The discussion was focused on ways to enhance mutual understanding between the peoples of Asia and Europe.

The 9th ASEM Summit will be hosted by Laos in 2012.

State visit by Governor-General of New Zealand

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, OCTOBER 11 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha attended a banquet held to honour the state visit by the Governor-General of New Zealand, His Excellency The Right Honourable Sir Anand Satyanand and wife, Her Excellency Lady Susan Satyanand to Brunei Darussalam.

The banquet took place at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present at the banquet were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah; His Royal Highness Prince

Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Noor Ehsani and other members of the royal family.

Meanwhile His Excellency

Governor-General's delegation includes the High Commissioner of New Zealand to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency David Kersey and officials from New Zealand.

His Excellency Governor-General and delegation are in the country for a three-day state visit beginning October 11, 2010.

Prior to that, in the morning, Their Majesties received courtesy visit from His Excellency Governor-General and wife. The ceremony took place at Ceradi Laila Kenangan, Istana Nurul Iman.

Later in the afternoon, His Excellency Governor-General and wife visited Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (SHHB) Islamic Exhibition Gallery at the State Mufti Building and the Royal Regalia Building in the capital.

Call to review maternity leave regulation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 20 – A call was made for relevant agencies to review the existing regulation on maternity leave. The existing regulation provides an eight week maternity leave to be taken after being advised by a government medical officer.

The call was made by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* (royal speech) after an unscheduled visit to the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital (RIPAS) in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Furthermore, His Majesty said that the current International Labour Organisation (ILO) based on its convention 102 and 103 stipulated for maternity leave to be at least 12 weeks; while convention 183 stated that maternity leave should not be less than 14 weeks where six weeks is mandatory leave after giving birth.

Accompanying His Majesty were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

Among the sections visited by His Majesty were Surgical Intensive Unit;



The sovereign visits one of the wards at RIPAS Hospital.

Intensive Care Unit; Coronary Care Unit; RIPAS Religious Unit; the Accident and Emergency Unit; Radiology and

Pharmaceutical Units; the Cardiology Outpatient Block; Diabetes Centre and Specialist Clinics.

Condolence messages

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

- Prime Minister of Singapore, His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong following the demise of Madame Kwa Geok Choo, wife of the Singapore's Mentor Minister, His Excellency Lee Kuan Yew and mother of His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong on October 3.
- President of Indonesia, His Excellency Dr. Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono following the recent natural disaster in West Sumatra and Central Java on October 27.

Civil Service Day

HM: \$1 billion for e-government strategies

BERAKAS, October 21 – It is vital for civil servants to empower modern management skills such as the usage of scorecard, information technologies,



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Majesty delivers a *titah* at the civil Service Day at the International Convention Centre (ICC).

supervision and many more.

The matters were said by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* (royal speech) at the 17th Civil Service Day celebration held at the International Convention Centre.

Speaking on usage of information technologies in the public sector, His Majesty said that he has consented the implementation of e-government strategies since 2000 where an amount of \$1 billion has been allocated. However its usage is still considered low.

While IT applications for facilitating the public in dealing with the government, are still regarded as not satisfactory compared to other countries in this region.

While the client's charter should be actively implemented as it is one of the agendas of the Government of His Majesty.

Soon after delivering the *titah*, His Majesty presented the Civil Service Excellent Employee and the Civil Service Excellent Awards.

A total of 36 recipients received the Civil Service Excellent Employee Award. This is the first time such award

has been introduced as recognition of the excellent contribution of the civil service officers and staff in Division Three, Four and Five.

His Majesty also presented prizes to the winners of the Civil Service Excellent Award. There were no winners for gold and silver award for the Service Delivery and Finance categories this year. The bronze medal was won by the National Registration and Immigration Department with its project 'Upgrading the Border Control System'.

His Majesty also presented certificates of service to 654 civil servants who retired this year. The certificates were presented to the Permanent Secretaries of the respective ministries.

Also present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Suffri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul 'Azim; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna.



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

One of the recipients receives his key to his new home from His Majesty.



PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH

His Majesty looks on one of the fish ponds at the Wasan Vocational School.

More citizens receive keys to new homes

MUKIM PENGKALAN BATU, October 26 – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is constantly on the move to provide comfortable shelter to its citizens.

Latest saw 141 people received keys to their new homes under the Landless Indigenous Citizens Housing Scheme based at Kampung Lumapas 'A' and Kampung Mata-Mata Katok 'B' in the Brunei-Muara District.

Present to personally hand over the keys to the recipients was His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of

Brunei Darussalam held at the Wasan Vocational School in Kampung Limau Manis.

Soon after the presentation of the house keys, His Majesty toured around Wasan Vocational School. The complex is a vocational institution specialising in providing training on agriculture, fishery and forestry. His Majesty also visited Awang Semaun Secondary School in Kampung Sungai Kebun.

His Majesty also stopped over at the residence of village head of Kampung Lumapas 'A' and Kampung Beribi. In

Kampung Beribi, His Majesty was also invited to open a new commercial complex - Bangunan Sumbangsih Bahagia. The complex houses several units of commercial premises and banks.

Prior to, His Majesty also officially launched the Agricultural Development Area - Batang Perhantian Paddy Planting Project. Seventy hectares wide, this agricultural area is managed by Agriculture and Agrifood Department where it will be fully developed with the usage of high technology in paddy planting.

17th ASEAN Summit



ASEAN countries' leaders in a group photo session during the opening ceremony of 17th ASEAN Summit.

PHOTOS: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

HA NOI, VIETNAM, October 30 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was in Ha Noi to attend the 17th ASEAN Summit and related meetings.

While in Ha Noi, His Majesty on October 28 attended the official opening of the 17th ASEAN Summit, a luncheon with ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC), the ASEAN Leaders Retreat that took place at

the National Convention Centre. While in the evening, His Majesty with other ASEAN leaders attended a dinner at Melia Hotel, Ha Noi where the leaders discussed issues related with relationship and cooperation between ASEAN countries.

On October 29, His Majesty attended the 13th ASEAN-China Summit; ASEAN + 3 Summit; 13th ASEAN-Japan Summit; and the 3rd ASEAN-UN

Summit.

While on October 30, His Majesty attended the 8th ASEAN-India Summit; the 2nd ASEAN-Russia Summit; 5th East Asia Summit; the ASEAN-New Zealand Summit; and the ASEAN-Australia Summit.

The meetings took place at the National Convention Centre.

Brunei – Vietnam: Bilateral relationship and cooperation discussed

HA NOI, VIETNAM, October 28 – Efforts to strengthen bilateral relationship and cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Vietnam were discussed in a meeting between His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Prime Minister of Socialist Republic of Vietnam, His Excellency Nguyen Tan Dung.

The meeting was held at the government office building in conjunction with the 17th ASEAN Summit.

Brunei Darussalam and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam established diplomatic relationship in 1995.



Bilateral relationship and cooperation among the matters discussed by His Majesty and His Excellency Prime Minister of Vietnam.



His Majesty and His Excellency President of the Philippines.

Brunei – Philippines exchanged views on bilateral relationship

HA NOI, VIETNAM, October 28 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino III at Melia Hotel, Ha Noi, Vietnam.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the President of the Republic of Philippines exchanged ideas on bilateral relationship and cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the Philippines.

* Continue on page 11

*From page 10 (17th ASEAN Summit)

Courtesy call to the President of Socialist Republic of Vietnam

His Majesty at the courtesy call to His Excellency President of Vietnam.



HA NOI, VIETNAM, October 30 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with other Heads of States of East Asia Summit (E.A.S.) held a courtesy call to the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, His Excellency Nguyen Minh Triet.

The courtesy call was held at National Convention Centre, Ha Noi.

Also present were heads of states of heads of ASEAN and E.A.S. Also present were the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia, His Excellency Sergey Lavrov and Secretary States of America, Her Excellency Hillary Clinton.

Girl Guides Association help to tackle environment issue and health

JERUDONG, October 8 - The Girl Guides Association has the opportunity to assist and provide cooperation with the government in not only tackling environment issues but most importantly tackling health issues such as obesity among school children through projects like 'Doing Good Deeds for the Earth' project.

Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha said in a *titah* (royal speech) at the Girl Guides Association Day 2010 held at the Royal Berkshire Hall, Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club.

It is hoped that such initiative, said Her Majesty, will indirectly raise community's awareness especially among parents to instil and practice healthy food intake and lifestyle among the younger generation of this country.

Her Majesty The Raja Isteri also presented the World



Her Majesty The Raja Isteri at the Girl Guides Association Day 2010.

PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. AUI

Her Majesty attends birthday celebrations

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 15 – Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha attended a birthday celebration jointly organised by Brunei Darussalam Women Council (MWNBD), Brunei Shell Women Association (PWBS), Brunei Darussalam Nurses Association (PENJURU) and PEKERTI, a welfare association of wives and families of Royal Brunei Police Force.

While on October 10, Her Majesty also attended similar celebration hosted by Association of Wives of Cabinet Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and deputies and associated members.

The ceremonies took place at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas; and at the Royal Berkshire Hall in Jerudong Park Polo and Riding Club respectively.



Her Majesty consented to cut a birthday cake at one of the birthday celebrations.

PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. AUI

Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts Asia Pacific Award; Bronze Long Service Badges; as well as certificates and appreciation prizes for activities organised in 2009-2010 to selected teams.

One of the recipients of the WAGGGS Asia Pacific Award was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Vice President of the Girl Guides Association.

Also present were Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah; Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, the President of Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna.

More than 2,500 receive honorary medals



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince on behalf of His Majesty presented the honorary medals to the recipients.

PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 26 – In conjunction with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 64th birthday anniversary, His Majesty has consented to award honorary medals to more than 2,500 recipients.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office presented the honorary medals on behalf of His Majesty.

On October 26, His Royal Highness Crown Prince presented the honorary medals to 852 recipients. Meanwhile on October 25 and 23, 837 and 844 recipients received their honorary medals from His Royal Highness Crown Prince.

The medals presented are *Pingat Jasa Kebaktian* (Meritorious Service Medal) – P.J.K., *Pingat Indah Kerja Baik* (Medal of Excellent Service to the State) – P.I.K.B. and *Pingat Kerja Lama* (Long Service Medal) – P.K.L.

The ceremony was held at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Did you know that...

- Brunei Halal Brand was initiated by the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources with cooperation from the Brunei Islamic Religious Council, Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Health.
- The Royal Brunei Navy was formed on June 14, 1965, which was four years after the formation of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and was initially known as Boat Section.

>> BRUNEI IN BRIEF

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

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

>> HOW TO GET TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM?

There are a number of ways to reach Brunei.

- By air - Brunei's national carrier, Royal Brunei Airlines travels to more than 20 destinations around the world. The airline also has worldwide office for you to book a return flight to Brunei (to know the nearest RBA's office at your place, please log to: www.bruneiair.com)
- International airlines such as Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and Thai Airways also fly frequently to Brunei. Beginning July 2006, Air Asia, 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.

HRH attends Toyota Classic Concert

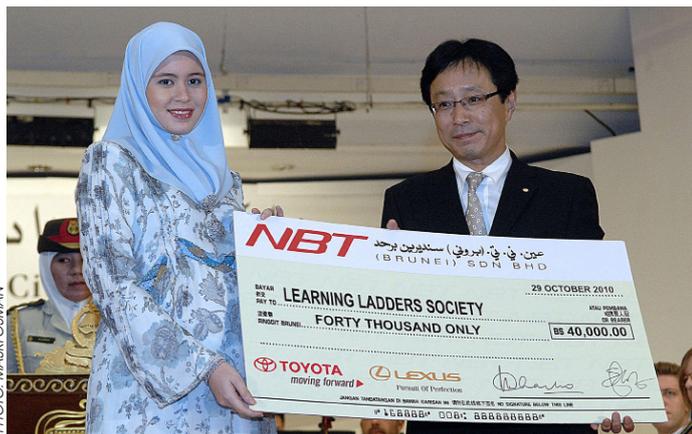


PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

Her Royal Highness receives a mock cheque from NBT Brunei for Learning Ladders Society.

BERAKAS, October 29 – Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah attended the Toyota Classic Concert performance 'Orchestra Citta di Firenze' 2010.

At the event, Her Royal Highness received \$80,000 from the Managing Director of NBT Brunei where Her Royal Highness then presented \$40,000 to Pusat Ehsan Bengkurong and \$40,000 to Learning Ladders Society.

The event was held at International Convention Centre.

UBD: Appreciation for excellent students

TUNGKU, October 5 – Twenty-four students of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) who have excelled in their studies have been awarded with medals and book prizes.

One of the recipients was Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah.

The medals and book prizes were presented by the Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Dr. Haji Awang Abu Bakar, who is also the Chairman of UBD Council.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

One of the recipients of medals and book prizes was Her Royal Highness.

HRH pays final respect to Madame Kwa Geok Choo

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, October 5 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade as personal representative of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal

Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam went to Sri Temasik, the official residence of Prime Minister of Singapore to pay final respect to

Madame Kwa Geok Choo, the late wife of Singapore's Mentor Minister, His Excellency Lee Kuan Yew and mother of Singapore's Prime Minister, His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong.

NEW DELHI, REPUBLIC OF INDIA, October 3 – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, President of Brunei Darussalam's National Olympic Council (BDNOC) attended the Opening Ceremony of the XIX Commonwealth Games held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

Seventy-one contingents participated in this 12-day sports festival including Brunei Darussalam. Brunei Darussalam's contingent led by Chef-de-Mission, Pengiran Anak Md. Sofian bin Pengiran Anak Hashim are represented by man and women's lawn ball team and one Paralympics athlete.

Prior to that, on October 2; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah attended the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) gathering held at the Ashok Hotel Conference Centre in Delhi.

The gathering announced that Glasgow, Scotland will be the next host for the Commonwealth Games in 2014. Meanwhile, Gold Coast, Australia and Hambantota, Sri Lanka are the two candidates bidding for hosting the Games in 2018.

The discussion also touched on Commonwealth Youth Games (CYG), which Isle of Man become candidate for 2011 and Samoa for 2015. Related matters on anti-doping were also discussed.

His Royal Highness also visited Games Village and lawn ball athletes.

HRH attends XIX Commonwealth Games



His Royal Highness attending the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) gathering held at Ashok Hotel Conference Centre in Delhi.

Brunei to participate 16th Asian Games

BERAKAS, October 16 – Brunei Darussalam comprising of nine athletes will be participating in five sport events at the 16th Asian Games namely; billiard and snooker; equestrian; karate-do; fencing and wushu.

The matters were disclosed at a meeting

for committee of sports assessment and selection of athletes representing the country to regional and international sporting events.

Assessment and selection of these athletes are based on their standards of

* Continue on page 14

TUNGKU, October 7 – The 2nd Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Memorial Lecture 2010 was organised to commemorate and appreciate the contributions of Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien as the Architect of Modern Brunei.

Present to officially launched the memorial lecture was His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim at the Chancellor Hall of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

A special lecture was delivered by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Setia Negara Pengiran (Dr.) Haji Mohd Yusof entitled 'Bingkisan Mutiara Dari Zaman Pemerintahan Al-Marhum Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin'. Yang Amat Mulia is one of Brunei's renowned statesman and prominent figures who had lived most of his life in the same era as Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin.

An exhibition was also held with the theme 'Mutiara Kenangan Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien' where it featured historical review through photographs depicting Brunei Darussalam's development process during the rule of Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien.

Some 2,000 people attended the ceremony comprising of Permanent Secretaries, Deputies Permanent Secretaries, Senior Government Officers and private sector as well as

2nd SOAS Memorial Lecture 2010



PHOTO: AMPLUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPLUAN HAJI TENGGAH

His Royal Highness takes a closer look on the 'Mutiara Kenangan Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien' exhibition.

the student of high institution throughout the country.

The Memorial Lecture is a programme organised by Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation with the cooperation of UBD.

* From page 13 (Brunei to participate 16th Asian Games)

achievement such as in fitness tests, discipline, performance and potential in the event they are participating.

Present at the meeting was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) who was briefed on the latest reports from the committee members on the preparation for the country's participation at the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou China 2010 held next month.

The games will start from November 12 to 27 with a total of 42 sports event being competed.

Brunei Darussalam's contingent will depart for Guangzhou on November 8.

Youth Dialogue

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 2 – A 'Youth Dialogue' was held to answer the call made by His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul Azim to listen to views from youth to assist the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) in making relevant plans for youth development by consultation with stakeholders.

More than 150 youths between 15 to 30 years old participated in the dialogue entitled 'Youth's Voice, Our Future Voice'. The dialogue provided participants with opportunities to interact, exchange views and receive feedbacks on various matters of concern that require appropriate actions.

Panel members for the dialogue session were His Royal Highness; Acting Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Datin Hajah Adina; and Permanent Secretary at MCYS, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Jemat.

The dialogue was held at DiGadong Hall of MCYS.

3rd Special Olympics Asia Pacific Bocce Competition

BERAKAS, October 3 – Brunei Darussalam hosted a three-day 3rd Special Olympics Asia Pacific Bocce Competition from October 1 to 3.

In attendance to officially open the competition was Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah at the Multipurpose Hall, Indoor Stadium of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium Complex.

The competition was participated by Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Philippines and New Zealand.

The theme for this year's competition is to 'Promote health among special needs athletes'.



PHOTO: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN

The dialogue session attended by His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim.

Dialogue session for people with special needs

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 9 – A dialogue session was held between Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) and groups from government and non-government organisations (NGOs) in the bid to discuss on agendas or related issues concerning the welfare of people with special needs.

Present at the dialogue session was His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim; the Minister and Deputy Minister of MCYS, Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Hazair and Datin Hajah Adina; and senior officers of MCYS.

Among the agencies present were Community Development Department from MCYS; Child Development Centre (CDC), Ministry of Health; Special Education Unit, Ministry of Education; Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam; Brunei Darussalam's National Association of the Blind (BDNAB); Handicapped Children Association (KACA); Paraplegic and Physically Disabled Association (PAPDA); Society for the Management of Autism Related Issues in Training, Education and Resources - Brunei Darussalam (SMARTER Brunei); Special Olympics Brunei Darussalam (SOBD); National Association of the Deaf; Learning Ladders and Community Welfare Council.

It was hoped that such dialogue would assist MCYS to analyse, plan and oversee the needs those with special needs besides planning towards the establishment of a special committee for handling the welfare of people with special needs.

The session was held at At-Taqwa Meeting Room of MCYS.

Girl Guides donate for good cause

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 15 –The Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam (PPNBD) with one of its objective is to help other people and always lend a hand, has donated to the Humanitarian Fund for Pakistan Flood Victims; and presented flood assistances comprising of food items to those effected by recent flood in the Tutong and Belait Districts.

Present to hand over the Girl Guides Association Natural Disaster Fund Collection was Her Royal

Highness Princess Hajah Masna, the Vice President of PPPNBD.

The cheque was received by the Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Datin Hajah Adina; while the flood assistances were received by Acting District Officer of Tutong, Awang Haji Muhammad Sufian and Acting District Officer of Belait, Awang Haji Abdul Hamid.

The ceremony was held at the association headquarters in Kampung Anggerek Desa.



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMI

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna (right) presents the donation to Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

* From frontpage (Food safety and quality prioritised)

free from pathogen which could affect the nation's aquaculture industry.

Speaking on the seminar, the minister said the seminar is held timely as its aim which is to provide understanding on seafood safety and knowledge regarding related matters coincide with MIPR's initial step

through Fisheries Department will begin to put conditions so that all imported seafood must have health certificate and food safety verification.

"The respective steps are to ensure seafood like imported fishes and prawns are safe for consumption," said the minister.

Fisheries Department is enhancing the ability of its existing laboratory

for analysing of seafood. Last year, the lab had successfully gained international accreditation ISO/IEC 17025 for Fish Inspection and Quality Control (FOQC) Laboratories.

The one-day seminar is facilitated by speakers from Ministry of Health, Brunei-Muara District Office, Municipal Board and representative from Attorney General Chamber.

Brunei – Thailand sign Letter of Transmittal

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 2 – The 9th Joint Technical Committee Meeting between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of The Kingdom of Thailand in Information and Broadcasting ended with the signing of the Letter of Transmittal.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Pengiran Abdul Haris while the Government of The Kingdom of Thailand was represented by Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Office of Prime Minister's of Thailand, Mr. Anek Permvongseni.

The signing was held at the Rizqun International Hotel in Gadong.

Pengiran Abdul Haris in his remarks hoped that the results of the meeting will foster closer relations of the people between both countries through information and broadcasting cooperation.

Meanwhile, Mr. Anek Permvongseni hoped both parties will cooperate more closely in focusing on the cooperation development for advancing the new media technology.



PHOTO: HASTRAL HAZMI ABD. HAMID

Representatives from Brunei Darussalam (left) and The Kingdom of Thailand sign the Letter of Transmittal.

Various matters had been agreed by Brunei and Thailand in the meeting. Among others were exchange of visit, publications, joint exhibition and news exchange through the internet.

Brunei – Thailand: 9th Joint Technical Committee Meeting strengthens cooperation

GADONG, October 3 – The 9th Joint Technical Committee Meeting under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand on the cooperation in the fields of Information and Broadcasting was held at Rizqun International Hotel from October 1 to 2.

The delegation from Brunei Darussalam was led by the Permanent

Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Pengiran Abdul Haris bin Pengiran Haji Shabudin; while Thailand was led by the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office of Thailand, Dr. Anek Permvongseni.

The meeting discussed on the implementation of programmes in the field of information and broadcasting including exchange of television and radio programmes; as well as publications between Brunei Darussalam and Thailand.

A joint exhibition was also organised from October 1 to 3 where it among others showcased the development of bilateral relationship in the fields of information and broadcasting.

While a joint musical variety show known as 'Alai Pa Plern' was held at Dewan Raya of Radio Televisyen Brunei on October 2 involving artists from both countries.

Both joint exhibition and musical variety show are also projects agreed under the MoU.

PROMEEC held in Brunei

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 11 – The energy authority in Brunei Darussalam is committed towards energy conservation. Some of the measures taken are the usage of cycle combination at Bukit Panggal in Tutong District; promoting of new power such as solar energy in Seria of Belait District contributed by Mitsubishi Corporation which is currently the largest solar power plant in the ASEAN region.

The matters were said by Permanent Secretary at Energy Division at Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Awang Haji Matsatejo Sokiaw at the official opening of The Promotion of Energy Efficiency and Conservation (PROMEEC) and Energy Management Seminar under the Senior Officials

Meeting on Energy and Minister on Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (SOME-METI) 2010-2011.

The permanent secretary also said that recent energy audit indicated there are many potentials for energy conservation. The audit showed a minimum of 10 per cent of energy can be conserved without cost or very low investments.

The two-day seminar was jointly organised by Energy Division of PMO, Centre for ASEAN Energy, METI Japan, Thailand's Ministry of Energy, Philippines' Ministry of Energy, Indonesia's Ministry of Energy and Mineral, Malaysia's Ministry of Energy and Singapore's Ministry of Energy.

More than 40 people participated in the seminar which among others presented working papers and discussion on energy efficiency by resource persons from ASEAN and METI.



The energy authority in Brunei Darussalam is committed towards energy conservation, said the Permanent Secretary.

ASEAN not exempted from environment challenges

JERUDONG, October 13 – Efforts by ASEAN ministers responsible for the environment in strengthening and enhancing cooperation in the field of environment would continue to be important and relevant.

This was said by the Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi at the official opening of the 12th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

The minister said that ASEAN region is not exempted from environment challenges as it has experienced natural disasters and incidents related to extreme climate change such as typhoons, draught and flooding.

The minister further said that each country has its own strengths, limitations, abilities and capacities in facing these challenges. Thus by implementing cooperation through forums like the Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment, it would enable ASEAN member countries to enhance its strength and share experience in handling these challenges.

The meeting which was attended by the Minister of Environmental from all ASEAN member countries discussed regional and global issues related to environment which has become ASEAN's interest. The issues include climate change, global warming, environment protection and bio-diversity, water source management, the management of environment in the urban area and offshore and marine as well as environmental education.

ASEAN satisfied on ASEAN + 3 achievements

JERUDONG, October 14 – The Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi said that ASEAN is satisfied with the developments achieved in the implementation of several projects between ASEAN and China, Japan and Republic of Korea (ASEAN + 3).

The minister stated the matter at the 9th ASEAN + 3 Ministerial Meeting on the Environment held at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

Speaking on ASEAN-China cooperation, the minister said that ASEAN and its partner have approved ASEAN-China Strategy on Environment Cooperation which determines the basic to strengthen ASEAN-China cooperation in the future.

On ASEAN-Japan cooperation, the minister stated that several projects related with the climate and ASEAN + 3 Youth Environment Forum have been implemented.

While on ASEAN-Korea cooperation, the minister said that several projects and activities have been implemented under the ASEAN-Korea Project on Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystem in the Southeast Asian Tropical Regions.



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

Ministers attends receptions

Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan and Ambassador of Korea to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Kim Dae Sik attended a reception to commemorate the republic's National Day at International Convention Centre in Berakas on October 4.



PHOTO: ABDUL KADIR MD. TAHIR

Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin and Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Dr. Thomas C. Bruns attended a reception to commemorate the republic's Unification Day at The Empire Hotel and Country Club in Jerudong on October 5.



PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

Minister of Development delivers his speech at the 9th ASEAN+3 Ministerial Meeting on the Environment.

Marine-based resources major GDP contributor

GADONG, October 14 – Marine-based resources such as hydrocarbon, oil and gas, fisheries and shipping activities contribute more than 95 per cent to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdullah stated the matters at an event to mark World Maritime Day held at the Rizqun International Hotel.

The minister hoped that the celebration would help raise awareness on the necessity of these seafarers, as well as on the importance of ensuring their safety whilst at sea, so as to enable them to continue contributing to the nation's economy for the benefit of the people.

According to one of Marine Department's publication entitled

'Seaman Books', more than 2,000 seafarers are involved in maritime industry since the year 2000, of which only 500 are locals. This number is expected to increase with an anticipated rise in demand in the shipping industry brought about by the methanol tanker transport service; the need to establish a national shipping line; and the encouragement for foreign listed vessels to register in the country which needs the involvement of seafarers.

A call was also made by the minister to establish a Maritime Training Centre as there is an increase of seafarers; and there is a need to align skills and standard certification as requested by international standards. The Marine Department is the sole agent that can provide the trainings and



PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR

One of the senior marine officers receives his appointment certificate as 'Surveyor of Ships'.

certification needed.

At the event, the minister presented certificates to three senior marine officers on their appointment as a 'Surveyor of Ships'. The minister also presented a 'First Class Competency Maritime Officer Certificate' to one of the marine officers for completing the Master Mariner qualification.

This year's celebration carries the theme 'The Year of the Seafarer'.

JERUDONG, October 16 – The Unofficial Annual Meeting of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore (MABIMS) Religious Ministers not only enhance existing ties among its members but it also fosters closer cooperation in various religious-related matters. This is for the benefit and welfare for the more than 250 million Muslims in the MABIMS region.

The matters were said by Minister of Religious Affairs, Pengiran Dato Dr. Haji Mohammad at the 14th Unofficial Annual Meeting of MABIMS Religious Minister held at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

In the meeting, the minister also urged MABIMS delegates to look deeply into the vision and mission of MABIMS so that it can be explained, achieved and realised.

MABIMS meeting fosters closer ties



PHOTO: HERNE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

Brunei Darussalam hosts the 14th Unofficial Annual Meeting of MABIMS Religious Minister.

Optimum mouth care for citizens

JERUDONG, October 16 – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is committed in providing high quality health care including optimum mouth care to its citizens aligned with the Ministry of Health's Strategic Vision 2035.

The matters were stated by Acting



PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

Acting Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Health urged dentists to equip themselves with relevant latest trends.

Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Health, Datin Paduka Dr. Hajah Intan at the official opening of Brunei Darussalam Scientific Convention and Dental Trade Exhibition, 4th FDI/Ministry of Health held at the Indera Kayangan Ballroom, The Empire Hotel and Country Club in Jerudong.

She also urged dentists to equip themselves with latest trends in youth and children management as they are continuously involved in daily mouth care. Furthermore, mouth diseases such as teeth caries and gum problems in the nation are still considered as serious

She further said the last research on mouth care carried out in 1999 showed that only 11.3 per cent of children aged from five to six years old were free from caries; 4.8 per cent of children aged 12 had permanent teeth damage; while those aged from

12 to 15 years old only had one per cent of healthy periodontium; and more than 80 per cent had calculus.

The latest research for civil servants carried out through one of its health campaigns indicated that on average each civil servant has 10 permanent teeth experiencing damage; less than 10 per cent has healthy gum; 77 per cent with calculus; and 21 per cent needs treatment.

The main objective of the convention and dental trade exhibition was to promote on the development professionally in enabling participants to enhance and update information and skills in dentistry besides sharing experience. A number of workshops, seminars and symposiums were conducted on October 15 while an exhibition would be held from October 16 to 17 at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

Brunei - Malaysia: Titian Budaya Programme

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, October 17 – Bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia has been further strengthen through Titian Budaya Programme. As part of the programme, a 'Brunei Darussalam - Malaysia Bilateral Exhibition and Sales of Traditional Handicrafts and Food' was held at the Craft Complex, Conlay Road in Kuala Lumpur from October 15 to 17.

The exhibition consists of four elements namely stage show, exhibition on bilateral relation, demonstration, dance and music performances and also sales of traditional handicrafts and food.

Twenty-one small-and-medium enterprises (SMEs) from Brunei Darussalam joined in the sales of crafts which exhibited and promoted cloth-weaving, traditional food and games and also traditional products. Several local young art artists also took part in the exhibition.

The exhibition also received a visit from Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazari and wife; and Malaysia's Minister of Information, Communication and Culture, The Honourable Dato' Seri Utama Rais Yatim and wife.

Call for local entrepreneurs to compete in international arena



Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office at the workshop.

JERUDONG, October 18 – It is hoped that local entrepreneurs would one day be able to emerge and set up a consortium to compete successfully in international arena and markets would also then change rapidly.

This was stated by the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Colonel (Rtd) Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin in his keynote address at the ASEAN Experts Group on Competition (AEGC) - the 1st

Brunei - Malaysia satisfied with health cooperation

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, October 16 – The Ministry of Health of Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia are satisfied with the achievements on the implementation of its Joint Work Plans in the health sector between both countries.

The matters were stated in a joint statement after the 5th Bilateral Health Ministers Meeting between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia at Putrajaya.

Brunei Darussalam was represented by Health Minister, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan; while his counterpart was Malaysia's Health Minister, The Honourable Dato' Sri Liow Tiong Lai.

The meeting discussed on progress achieved in the implementation of cooperation between both countries; besides plans to further strengthen the bilateral cooperation such as the agreement under the Memorandum of Understanding under the Health

Cooperation sealed in 2006.

The Joint Statement also stated that both sides are also satisfied on cooperation in areas of Cross Border Transfer of Patients; Human Resource Development for Healthcare Sector; Communicable Disease Surveillance and Control; Food Safety and Quality Control; Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Control; Non-Communicable Disease (Tobacco Product Control, Obesity, Diabetes and Cancer); and also Traditional and Complementary Medicine.

Both ministers also agreed for the establishment of Joint Technical Working Group Meeting to be held annually. These groups will discuss on planning and implementation on exchange of information, capacity enhancement, joint research and operation in health.

The 6th meeting will be held in Brunei Darussalam in 2012.

Ministry of Home Affairs inks pact on e-government projects



Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (seated, third from left) witnesses the signings of two Ministry of Home Affairs' e-government projects.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 19 –

The Ministry of Home Affairs has inked pact on two e-government projects in its effort to further strengthen its services and efficiency between its agencies and the public.

The first contract with a cost of an estimated \$1 million involves the supply, delivery, installation, upgrading, configuration, tests, and implementation of its existing and new network carried out by Azure

Technologies for nine months.

Meanwhile, the second contract with an estimated \$987,000.00 is for the renovation work on the lower and first level of the ministry's Information Technology Centre to be implemented by McHouse Interior Décor Company Sdn. Bhd. for a period of six months.

The signing of the contracts was witnessed by the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Major-General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Haji Awang Halbi.

Socialization Workshop on the ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Competition Policy.

He further highlighted on several potential products and services to be explored. One sample is the use of green technology that could be explored.

The workshop is conducted jointly between AEGC and the ASEAN

Secretariat with cooperation from InWent Capacity Building International, Germany as one of the commitments by AEGC to share their practices in this region in drafting and enforcing policies and competition policies.

The workshop is attended by more than 100 participants from AEGC taking place at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

2nd MABIMS Youth Bus Project

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 4 – Thirty-two youth from four member-countries including Brunei Darussalam and Singapore and Radio Televisyen Brunei (RTB) crews are participating in the 2nd Majlis Agama Brunei Indonesia Malaysia Singapore (MABIMS) Youth Bus Project this year.

The 2nd MABIMS Youth Bus Project departed from Brunei Darussalam to its first destination, Pontianak of Indonesia to attend the work visit arranged by the project secretariat.

Present to bid the delegation farewell was the Minister of Religious Affairs, Pengiran Dato Dr. Haji Mohammad.

Brunei Darussalam is hosting the 2nd MABIMS Youth Bus Project which will cover a journey from Brunei Darussalam to Pontianak, Indonesia and Sarawak, Malaysia. The bus final stop-over will be at Brunei Darussalam.

The MABIMS Youth Bus Project was agreed during the MABIMS Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) held in November, 2008 at Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Among the objectives are to organise the sharing of information and best practises, strategies and programmes to develop youth and to strengthen networking amongst youth of MABIMS.

Brunei – Malaysia hold student internalisation programme

JALAN MUARA, October 5 – Bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia have been further strengthened with cooperation in various areas.

The latest saw a student internalisation programme between both countries being conducted. This programme is towards enhancing leadership excellence among the officials, principals, headmasters and students. It is also hoped that the programme will enable to broaden participant's experience, and sharing of expertises.

Participants attending the programme will be taken care by their respective foster families. Thus a ceremony was held for the 60 participating students to be handed over to 40 foster families. The ceremony was held at the Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Science College.

Besides the programme, the school has also organised 'School Immersion Programme Session', exchange of culture and visit to several places of interest and dinner at the High Commission of Malaysia in Brunei Darussalam.

Brunei Darussalam hosts MABIMS Dakwah Management Seminar

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 5 – Brunei Darussalam hosted a seminar on MABIMS's Dakwah Management at the Da'wah Islamiyah Centre in Kampung Pulcia. Present to officially launch the seminar was Minister of Religious Affairs, Pengiran Dato Dr. Haji Mohammad.

The two-day seminar was attended by members of MABIMS comprising of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.

SEAMEO VOCTECH: 20th Anniversary Exhibition

GADONG, October 7 – To celebrate 20th anniversary of its establishment, the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation Regional Centre for Vocational and Technical Education and Training (SEAMEO VOCTECH) conducted a one-day exhibition and workshop held at its headquarters.

The exhibition and workshop on 'Enhancing Interactive Teaching using E-Book' was launched by the Deputy Director of SEAMEO Secretariat Development and Programmes in Bangkok, Thailand, Awang Noorhaizam bin Haji Mosbi.

The workshop was participated by 30 officers from Brunei Darussalam Technical and Vocational Education Institute.

SEAMEO VOCTECH Regional Centre was formed on August 28, 1990 where since its establishment several achievements have been reached in the field of Technical and Vocational Education and Training.

Minister of Development attends forum in Japan

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 11 – Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi attended the 8th Ministers Forum on Asia Pacific Region Infrastructure Development in Tokyo on October 9.

The minister was accompanied by Deputy Permanent Secretary at the ministry, Awang Haji Mohd. Zain; and senior officials from Public Works Department; and Environment, Parks and Recreation Department.

At the forum, Minister of Development delivered a note on Brunei Darussalam's experiences and strategies on resource management and current water supply, sanitation and risks related to water, besides challenges and issues on water faced by Brunei Darussalam in achieving sustainability in all aspects.

The minister also held a bilateral meeting with Japan's Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Mr. Sumio Mabuchi and discussed on areas of bilateral cooperation and transfer of technology beneficial for both countries.

The minister and delegation also visited various high technology areas such as Keihin Highway which uses porous asphalt pavement, Building and Construction Research Institute in Yokohama, Multipurpose Flood Control Dam in Tsurumi River and Tokyo Bay Aqualine – a combination of 15 kilometres of underwater bridge and tunnel.

Language Month 2010

BERAKAS, October 12 – A call was made to uphold the importance of Malay language as the official language. Furthermore, Malay language plays a significant role in explaining the concept of the nation's philosophy which is *Melayu Islam Beraja* (MIB).

The matters were highlighted by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Hazair at the official launching of Language Month 2010 held at Language and Literature Bureau.

The minister also called for members of civil service to enhance the use of Malay language and position it as the main language for administration matters in their respective ministries and departments.

Malay language is one of the four most important languages spoken globally. There are around 300 million people who speak and communicate in Malay which indicates the strengths and abilities Malay language has for communication.

The launching ceremony also saw the minister launching the first volume of a book entitled *Bahasa Melayu Bahasa Kita* (Malay Language Our Language).



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports calls for enhancement in usage of Malay language.

MABIMS Senior Officers Meeting

JERUDONG, October 13 – Nine working papers based on the strategic fields and specific areas and a proposal paper were discussed at the 35th Meeting of Senior Officers in conjunction with the 14th MABIMS Religious Ministers Unofficial Annual Meeting.

The meeting was held at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

The two-day meeting was chaired by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd. Mahdi.

Health's Minister attends WHO West Pacific Region

KUALA LUMPUR, October 15 – Thirty-seven member countries of World Health Organisation (WHO) for the West Pacific Region including Brunei Darussalam gathered at Putrajaya International Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur to attend the 61st session of WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific.

The meeting was held starting from October 11 to 15. Brunei Darussalam was represented by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan.

The 61st meeting reviewed the progress for projects of WHO for West Pacific Region and also member countries, to ensure the health programmes arranged would run smoothly apart from focusing on regional health issues.

During the meeting, the minister held separate bilateral discussions with Minister for Health and Ageing, Australia, The Honourable Dr. Nicola Roxon; and the Deputy Minister of Health of the Republic of Korea, His Excellency Dr. Lee Jong-Koo on the strengthening cooperation on the health sector between Brunei Darussalam and the respective countries.

The minister also made a courtesy call to the Director of WHO for the Western Pacific Region, His Excellency Dr. Shin Young-soo to discuss regional health issues as well as technical assistance from WHO.



PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

Minister of Religious Affairs officiated Maya Office.

Maya Office facilitates MABIMS' management

JERUDONG, October 16 – In line with the current development with the use of latest technology, the Minister of Religious Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore (MABIMS) established Maya Office at its secretariat.

The office was officiated by the Minister of Religious Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, Pengiran Dato Dr. Haji Mohammad held at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

The role of the Maya Office, established for the MABIMS Secretariat, is one of the efforts by MABIMS member nations to assist in the grouping's management affairs especially among MABIMS Secretariat.

Also present were Indonesia's Minister of Religious Affairs, Malaysia's Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and the President of the Singapore Islamic Religious Council.

ASEAN delegates attend HAPUA meeting

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 18 – The 11th Meeting of Heads of ASEAN Power Utilities/Authorities (HAPUA) Working Group III was held for two days at the Rizqun International Hotel.

The meeting was attended by 19 delegates from Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The meeting among others aimed to provide a platform to draft and strengthen guidelines, summarise the strategy, share practices and the study of electricity material which could be adopted by the member countries apart from encouragement of forum cooperation opportunity and the joint interest assistant in tackling current issues and challenges faced by ASEAN.

RBAF contributes troops to UNIFIL

MALAYSIA, October 28 – The Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) continues to contribute troops to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) where 10 military personnel were sent off earlier on October 16 to Malaysia to join the Malaysian Armed Forces UNIFIL contingent prior to their deployment in Lebanon.

A sending off ceremony was held at the Subang Air Base in Malaysia for the fourth UNIFIL contingent under the MALCON East 6 that consists of 205 personnel inclusive of three RBAF personnel. The Commander of Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF), Colonel Hj Yussof bin Hj Abdul Rahman witnessed the contingent's departure on behalf of the RBAF Commander.

The advance team of the 4th contingent was earlier dispatched on October 21 which comprised of 160 personnel including seven RBAF personnel. This contingent will be replacing the MALCON East 5 team who will be completed their UNIFIL mission on October 28.

This marked the first time RBAF had sent personnel to be embedded in the MALCON East contingent and the fourth deployment for RBAF to Lebanon.

Consistent with the Defence White Paper aspiration, Brunei Darussalam had set out to participate in regional and international efforts as part of its contribution to the global community.

Brunei Darussalam – United Kingdom strengthen defence ties

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 28 – The Ministry of Defence of Brunei Darussalam and United Kingdom has agreed to strengthen its defence relationship. Thus the 11th Joint Defence Commission (JDC) was held at Bolkiah Garrison.

The meeting was jointly chaired by the Deputy Permanent Secretary II of the Ministry of Defence of Brunei Darussalam, Awang Mohd. Sahrip bin Othman and the Assistant Chief Staff of Defence (Policy and International Security) of the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom, General Major Jonathan Shaw.

At the meeting, both parties updated and shared experiences as well as their involvements in peace operation. The meeting also received a briefing on a publication entitled 'National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review'.

The next JDC meeting will be held in United Kingdom in 2011.

8th APEC TELMIN Meeting

JAPAN, October 31 – The 8th APEC Telecommunication Ministers Meeting on Telecommunication and Information Industry (TELMIN8) was held from October 30 to 31 in Okinawa.

Brunei Darussalam was represented by the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdullah.

The theme for the meeting was 'ICT as mechanism for socio-economic growth'.