



# برونئي دارالسلام

## Brunei Darussalam

# Brunei Darussalam newsletter

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## His Majesty receives honorary doctorate

**LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, April 14** – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to receive conferment of the Honorary Doctorate of Law from King's College London, United Kingdom.

The scroll of Honorary Doctorate of Law was presented to His Majesty by Chairman of the Council of King's College London, Lord Duoro in a ceremony held at the Strand Campus, King's College London.

His Majesty also consented to deliver *titah* (royal speech) at the ceremony.

His Majesty in the *titah* expressed his hope that Bruneian graduates from King's College continue to make significant contributions to Brunei society and process of nation building.

The success of any nation relied upon the talents and skills of its people, said His Majesty.

Education, said His Majesty, is the fundamental key to providing individuals with skill sets that they will need to lead productive and fulfilling lives.

"I am determined that the people of my country will only be well-educated and highly skilled, but will also be able to enjoy the fruits of their labours and hard earned prosperity in good health and well-being," said His

Majesty.

"In this regard, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and King's College have already established a partnership that promises to evolve into a significant milestone towards achieving these aspirations for our people.

I am pleased that we have now expanded collaboration between UBD and King's College in medicine, dental hygiene and therapy, as well as the study of biodiversity and the environment.

These areas of study and research are essential for us to elevate the quality of life of our people and to ensure the prosperity of our generations to come," said His Majesty.

His Majesty also expressed his confidence that close association with King's College will be further enhanced in the years to come, by providing Bruneians with education of the highest standards and the opportunity to be involved in leading edge research in areas of mutual interest.

Also present at the ceremony was His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim.

After the conferment ceremony, His Majesty consented to meet with some of Bruneian students undergoing their studies at King's College. Currently, there are 20 Bruneian students studying various courses at the college.

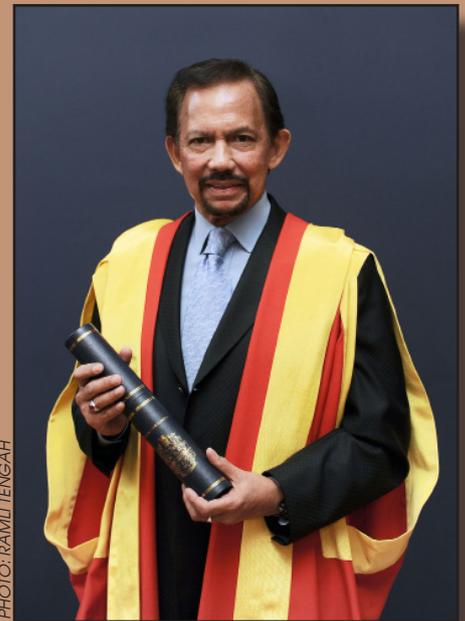


PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH

Education is the fundamental key to providing individuals with skills sets that they will need to lead productive and fulfilling lives, said His Majesty. Picture shows His Majesty with the scroll of Honorary Doctorate of Law conferred by King's College London, United Kingdom.

## New Privy Council members appointed

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 6** – His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen have been appointed as new members of the Privy Council.

Other new members appointed were Yang Dimulikan Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Begawan Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Umar; and Yang Dimulikan Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd. Zain bin Haji Serudin.

The appointments took into effect from April 7, 2011.



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PHOTO: RAWLI TENGAH



### His Majesty receives audience

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 9** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience the Islamic Council Advisor of the State of Johore and the Advisor to Duli Yang Maha Mulia The Sultan of Johore, Yang Berhormat Dato' Haji Nooh bin Gadot and delegation.

The audience took place at Cheradi Ratna Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman.

PHOTOS: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received diplomatic credentials from four newly-appointed envoys to Brunei Darussalam. The ceremony was held on April 5 at the Istana Nurul Iman.

They were:

- ① His Excellency Nestor Z. Ochoa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Philippines to Brunei.
- ② His Excellency Daniel L. Shields III, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Brunei Darussalam.
- ③ His Excellency Thamsanqo Dennis Mseleku, the non-resident High Commissioner of the Republic of Africa to Brunei Darussalam.
- ④ Her Excellency Ntsebe Kokome, the non-resident High Commissioner of the Government of Lesotho to Brunei Darussalam.



PHOTO: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN



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PHOTO: AMPLIAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPLIAN HAJI TENGAH

## Her Majesty receives audiences

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

- 1 The spouse of High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam, Yang Berbahagia Datin Aedea Rahimah binti Ahmad on April 5.
- 2 The spouse of the Islamic Council Advisor of the State of Johore who is also the Advisor to Duli Yang Maha Mulia the Sultan of Johore, Datin Kalthom binti Abdul Hamid and delegation on April 9.
- 3 The spouse of newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Phillipines to Brunei Darussalam, Madam Maria Tomasa E. Ochoa on April 23.

PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI



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PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN



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PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

## His Royal Highness receives audiences

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

- 1 His Excellency Dato' Abdullah Sani Omar, the newly-appointed High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam on April 5.
- 2 His Excellency Nestor Z. Ochoa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to Brunei Darussalam on April 18.
- 3 His Excellency Daniel L. Shields III, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Brunei Darussalam on April 18.

PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID



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# His Majesty receives honorary doctorate



**JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, April 21** - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has been conferred 'The Distinguished Degree of Doctor Honoris Causa in Philosophy of Humanity and Civilisation' by Universitas Indonesia.

According to the university's rector, Professor Dr. Der. Soz Gumilar Rusliwa Somantri, His Majesty was conferred the honorary doctorate for His Majesty's success in enhancing the well-being of mankind through economic development, education and civilisation. The professor further said that His Majesty also played a role in developing dialogues on civilisation by promoting Islamic spirituality as a universal value that becomes a path for the dialogue.

The doctorate was presented by the university's rector at the Conference Hall of Universitas Indonesia.

The ceremony also saw His Majesty delivering a *titah* (royal speech) where His Majesty highlighted the importance of lifelong learning. According to His Majesty, Brunei Darussalam and Republic of Indonesia have young population where almost half of the population are aged 35 years old below. Like Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam has implemented a number of significant initiatives so that the youth will continue to improve especially in the field of education. This includes providing opportunities for all Brunei students to study until the highest level either locally or abroad. This is inline with Brunei Darussalam's Vision 2035 which is to have highly skilled and educated citizens. Education, according to His Majesty, is a long life investment where it has a miraculous power as without education, development is impossible to achieve.

His Majesty also said that His Majesty and His Excellency President Yudhoyono share the same stand in managing education.

Universitas Indonesia is among the best and most prominent universities in the Republic of Indonesia. It was established in 1849 and among the oldest universities in Asia. This university has produced more than 400,000 graduates. More than 33,000 undergraduates are currently studying at the university.

PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives the Recognition Certificate of 'The Distinguished Degree of Doctor Honoris Causa in Philosophy of Humanity and Civilisation' from the Rector of Universitas Indonesia.

## Brunei – Indonesia: Bilateral cooperation discussed



**JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, April 21** - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam who was in Jakarta on a work visit held a meeting with the President of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Doctor Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

During the meeting, His Majesty and His Excellency exchanged ideas on bilateral relations and regional issues of common interest. The two leaders also discussed ways to further enhance cooperative relations between the two countries.

The meeting took place at the Presidential Palace in Jakarta.

Prior to the meeting, His Majesty received in audience the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Professor Dr. Purnomo Yusgiantoro. The audience took place at the Hyatt Hotel.



Both leaders exchange ideas on bilateral relations and regional issues of common interest during the meeting.

His Majesty receives in audience the Minister of Defence of Indonesia.

PHOTOS: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

## His Majesty attends Sovereign's Parade Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

**SURREY, UNITED KINGDOM, April 15** – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* (royal speech) expressed his pleasure to come back to Sandhurst to have the honour once more of representing Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at the Sovereign's Parade Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS), United Kingdom.

His Majesty said he first



### HRH promoted to Second Lieutenant

**SANDHURST, UNITED KINGDOM, April 15** – With consent by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen has been promoted to the rank of Second Lieutenant. The promotion commenced from April 15, 2011.

had the similar honour in 1986 and His Majesty also attended the academy as a cadet in 1966.

"The links between Great Britain and my own country have always been close and I am therefore personally delighted, on Her Majesty's behalf and also as a proud parent, to bear witness to the commissioning of Course Number 102 which includes my son.

This is very much a multinational occasion.

In addition the 188 cadets being commissioned into the British Army, there are 16 overseas cadets from 11 nations," said His Majesty.

All of us, said His Majesty, need allies in this uncertain world and the presence of a British Garrison in Brunei Darussalam is an example of a mutually beneficial link that is very welcome.

"There is no greater honour that can be bestowed upon you, than the trust to lead your fellow men and women in the defence of your nation. You could not have chosen a better life – one that presents greater challenges, that demands more of you in physical and moral terms, or that offers greater reward in terms of personal fulfilment.

For all of you, the real

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam representing Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at the Sovereign's Parade Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS).



PHOTOS: RAMLI TENGAH



The Sovereign's Parade commissioning Course Number 102 also includes His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen (second from left).

work starts now. Many of you will shortly find yourselves in command of soldiers on operations. It is a sobering thought, a most serious business, but one for which you are well prepared. I am sure that the pride of your parents today will be tinged with anxiety about your future.

Some of you will be relishing the prospect of command; some will be anxious about meeting its demands. However, I assure you that you would not be commissioned today if you had not already demonstrated the

qualities needed to succeed in command," said His Majesty.

The Sovereign's Parade was for 475 cadets including 204 cadets in the commissioning of Course Number 102 that include His Majesty's son, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

At the ceremony, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam awarded three awards to three cadet officers which are Sword of Honour; the Queen's Medal and Overseas Sword.

## Congratulatory Messages

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

- Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and members of the Royal Family on the joyous occasion of the wedding between Her Majesty's grandson, His Royal Highness Prince William of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge with Her Royal Highness Catherine Middleton, the Duchess of Cambridge on April 29.
- The Right Honourable Pehin Sri Dr. Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, Chief Minister of Sarawak, on his recent re-appointment as Chief Minister of Sarawak on April 17.

## His Majesty sends message of condolence

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 29** – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent a message of condolence to the President of United States of America (USA), His Excellency Barack H. Obama following the recent storms that swept across a number of towns and cities across the USA.

In the message, His Majesty expressed his sadness upon the loss of lives and significant damage caused by the storm. His Majesty and the Government and people of Brunei Darussalam offered deepest condolence and sympathy to President Barack H. Obama as well as the government and people of the United States of America, and above all, to the bereaved families of the victims and all those affected due to the disaster.

## Their Majesties attend royal wedding

**UNITED KINGDOM, April 29** - 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 were in London to attend the royal wedding of His Royal Highness Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton.

Prior to the Royal Wedding, Their Majesties attended a banquet held at Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Hyde Park London. Also in attendance was Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as well as other invited guests attending the royal wedding. The banquet was held on April 28.



PHOTO: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF/MOHD. YASSIN

Their Majesties upon arrival at the banquet.

## 1,758 awarded State Honorary Medals

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 14** - In conjunction with the 64<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary of His Majesty The Sultan

and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, His Majesty has consented to award State Honorary Medals to 1,758 recipients.

Present on behalf of His Majesty to award the honorary medals was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Deputy Sultan.

The investiture ceremony took place at the Balai Singgahsana Indera Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman.

On the first day, a total of 513 people were awarded

the State Honorary Medals where 43 people received Meritorious Service Medal or *Pingat Jasa Kebaktian* (P.J.K.); 280 recipients were awarded the Excellent Service Medal or *Pingat Indah Kerja Baik* (P.I.K.B.); and 190 recipients were awarded the Long Service Medal or *Pingat Kerja Lama* (P.K.L.).

The investiture ceremony continued on April 13 with 648 recipients receiving the honorary medals. This ceremony saw 386 people received P.I.K.B. and 262 received P.K.L.

On April 14, similar occasion was also held for 597 people. 287 recipients were awarded P.I.K.B. and followed by P.K.L. to 310 recipients.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

1,758 people receive State Honorary Medals in conjunction with His Majesty's 64<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary; presented by His Royal Highness The Crown Prince.

## His Royal Highness on work visit to RTB

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 19** - The state's broadcaster, Radio Televisyen Brunei (RTB) received a work visit from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

During the visit to RTB's complex in Sungai Akar, His Royal Highness received a briefing on RTB's function and development. His Royal Highness also took a closer look at the implementation as well as RTB's operation including its capability in developing and producing digital broadcasting in Brunei Darussalam.

Brunei Darussalam's radio service brought by Radio Brunei was first transmitted in 1957; while its television services commenced in 1975 being the first to broadcast colour television in this region.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

An old camera previously used by RTB is among the items exhibited at the mini exhibition at RTB's complex.

## Health Promotion Blueprint launched

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 20** – As part of its effort to promote healthy lifestyle among the citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam,

the Ministry of Health has launched a Health Promotion Blueprint 2011-2015. This blueprint contains short and medium term strategies to

promote healthy lifestyle and prevent and control chronic diseases in this country.

Present to officially launch the blueprint was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office. His Royal Highness also launched a Health Promotion Campaign.

The launch took place at the Health Promotion Centre, Ministry of Health in Berakas.

It is hoped that with the blueprint, measures to promote community health will run more efficiently. The blueprint contains four strategic objectives which among others include instilling and strengthening health in public policies related to health including legislation of acts and policies.

At the ceremony, His Royal Highness also launched the Health Promotion Centre's website and Royal Brunei Catering's 4<sup>th</sup> Healthy Cooking Recipe Book.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office launches the Health Promotion Blueprint.

## Crown Prince CIPTA Award 2011

**BERAKAS, April 7** – This year's Crown Prince's Creative, Innovative Product and Technological Advancement (CIPTA) Award saw three categories being competed namely; creating new product, process or technology; modifying existing product, process or technology; and creating new or modifying existing product, process or technology by young inventors.

There is no winner for the first category this year where a project on 'Electronic Vision Assistance (EVA) For the Visually Impaired' created by Awang Syed Bilal Hassan, Awang Haji Mohd. Adi Mukmin bin Haji Sarbini dan Awang Saifulbahri bin Haji Mohd. Ja'afar earned second place. They received a cash prize of \$4,000, trophy and certificates. Third place was won

by a project on 'GZUP B-Rust Remover For Automotive Cooling System' created by Awang Haji Zupri bin Haji Kamis and Project on 'GZUP Crunchy Coal' created by Awang Haji Mohd. Faizal bin Haji Wahab. They received a cash prize of \$2,000, trophy and certificates.

While in the second category, the 'GZUP Bottling System' won first place created by Awang Haji Zupri bin Haji Kamis and Awang Haji Mohd. Nazmie bin Haji Mohammad Daud. They received \$6,000 cash prize, trophy and certificates. Second place was won by the project on 'Cendol and Coconut Milk Machine (2C2M)'. The product was created by Awang Haji Ja'afar bin Awang Besar and Awang Azmi bin Haji Ja'afar. They received a cash

prize of \$4,000; trophy and certificates. Meanwhile the 'Smart Phone' created by Awang Amali bin Abdul Rahman won third place. He received \$2,000 cash prize; a trophy and a certificate.

In third category, a newly introduced category was won by a project 'Solar Water Heater' created by Dayang Amanina @ Nur Fatin binti Haji Bakar from Sultan Sharif Ali Secondary School. She received \$3,000 cash prize, trophy and a certificate. The second place was won by a project on 'The Multi-Functional Study Table' created by Awang Adzrimi bin Amin and Awang Mohd. Kamil Hakim bin Mohd. Amin from Katok Sixth Form Centre. They received \$2,000 cash prize; trophy and certificates. Meanwhile, the third place was won by a project on 'Quick Track' created by Michael Erlangga Vekananda, Dayang Nur Atikah binti Haji Omar and Ronald Allan Ramos Wong of St. George School. They received \$1,000 cash prize; trophy and certificates.

Present to award the prizes was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister Office who is the Royal Patron for CIPTA Award.

This was the 4<sup>th</sup> year for ITB to organise such prestigious competition with support from Brunei LNG to among others aims to encourage inventions and innovations in Brunei Darussalam.



His Royal Highness looks on one of the creative products produced through CIPTA Award.

PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

## HRH attends birthday reception

**JERUDONG, April 17** - Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah attended a ceremony celebrating Her Royal Highness' birthday anniversary.

The event took place at the Royal Brunei Golf & Country Club hosted by Brunei Ladies Golf Association (BLGA) where Her Royal Highness is its Royal Patron.

At the event, Her Royal Highness also presented prizes to winners of the Women's Golf Championship including male golfers who took part in the Charity Championship. A total of 152 golfers took part in the three-day tournament organised by the BLGA.

At the event, Her Royal Highness also presented a mock cheque worth \$10,000 to Breast Cancer Support Group Brunei (BCSGB) and \$7,300 for the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Fund (JETF).



Her Royal Highness consents to cut a birthday cake presented by Brunei Ladies Golf Association (BLGA).

PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

## Brunei supports formation of IRENA

**ABU DHABI, April 4** - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended the Plenary Session of the Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre.

The Plenary Session was chaired by Dr. Sultan Al-Jaber, President of IRENA.

His Royal Highness delivered a statement, thanking the Federal Republic of Germany for the initial idea behind the agency and congratulating the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on its impressive work as the permanent host country.

His Royal Highness later held bilateral discussions with His Excellency Sven Al Kalaj, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

His Royal Highness also joined fellow heads of delegations in a tour of IRENA exhibitions and attended a dinner at the Manaret Sa' diyat hosted by the Government of UAE to welcome all delegates. Also present at the dinner was His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of UAE.



His Royal Highness at the Plenary Session.

PHOTOS: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

## Brunei – UAE discuss cooperation

**ABU DHABI, April 5** - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade held a discussion with His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of United Arab Emirates (UAE) aimed to strengthen relations between the two countries in various areas of cooperation.

His Royal Highness congratulated His Highness on the many exciting developments currently taking place in Abu Dhabi and the ministers considered ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in many areas of common interest such as investment, finance and tourism. They also discussed current affairs affecting ASEAN and the Gulf Region.

His Royal Highness and His Highness discussed the setting up of a Joint Commission to develop specific cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and UAE.

The meeting was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abu Dhabi.



His Royal Highness and His Highness among others discussed the setting up of a Joint Commission between Brunei Darussalam and UAE.

## HRH attends Special Informal Foreign Ministers' Meeting on EAS



Group photo of Foreign Ministers attending the Special Informal ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting on EAS.

**BANGKOK, THAILAND, April 11** - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, together with other Foreign Ministers and the Secretary-General of ASEAN attended the Special Informal Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the East Asia Summit (EAS). The meeting was chaired by His Excellency R. M. Marty Natalegawa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia.

During the meeting, the ministers discussed preparations for the 6<sup>th</sup> EAS later this year, and ways to strengthen the EAS process.

While on April 10, His Royal Highness attended a welcoming dinner for ministers taking part in the Special Informal Foreign Ministers' Meeting on EAS. The dinner was hosted by His Excellency Kasit Piromya, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand at a leading hotel in Bangkok.

His Royal Highness joint fellow ASEAN Ministers and heads of delegations at a preliminary session of the special meeting held after the dinner to discuss regional and international affairs.

**BERKSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM, April 14** - Coworth Park Hotel which is one of the luxury properties under the management of Dorchester Group owned by the Brunei Investment Agency (BIA) has been officially opened.

Present to officially open the hotel was His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim. Also present was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah.

Coworth Park Hotel is based in Berkshire where it is located on 240-hectare piece of land providing 70 rooms with five-star facilities.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Dorchester Collection, Christopher Cowdray in his welcoming remarks stated that Coworth Park received two highest awards - the 'Pineapple Award' and the 'World Top Hotel' from the United States and United Kingdom.

Prior to that, on April 13, a thanksgiving ceremony was held at the hotel. The ceremony was held in conjunction with the official opening of the Coworth Park Hotel.

## His Royal Highness officiates Coworth Park Hotel



His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim officially opens Coworth Park Hotel in Berkshire.

## SMARTER Charity Gala Night

**JERUDONG, April 30** - The Society for the Management of Autism Related Issues in Training, Education and Resources - Brunei Darussalam (SMARTER Brunei) has organised a Charity Gala Night aimed to raise its fund to sustain its operational cost.

Present to grace the Charity Gala Night was His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim held at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

At the event, His Royal Highness presented certificates of appreciation

to five recipients involved in the day's event.

Besides raising funds, the charity also promoted among Bruneians that autistic children can also think for the future, act and solve problems. Over the past ten years, SMARTER has been preparing their autistic children to be part of the larger community. The Charity Gala Night also gave them the chance to show their unique ability, strength, skill, enthusiasm and talents.



His Royal Highness receives a token of appreciation from SMARTER Brunei.

## Health Promotion Premier Walkathon

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 24** – His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik launched and took part in the Premier Walkathon in conjunction with the Health Campaign and Health Promotion Blueprint 2011.

The event started and ended at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddin.

More than 6000 participants

took part in the event where male participants walked a distance of 3.5 kilometres through Jalan Elizabeth II, Jalan Kianggeh, Jalan Subok, Jalan Residency and Jalan Sultan. Meanwhile, female participants walked as far as 3.4 kilometres along Jalan Tutong, Jalan Haji Basir, Jalan Sekolah, Jalan Tasek Lama and Jalan Kianggeh.



The Health Promotion Premier Walkathon launched by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

## Seri Mulia Sarjana Secondary School wins 13<sup>th</sup> PRYNSA

**GADONG, April 28** - The Seri Mulia Sarjana Secondary School emerged as the champion for the 13<sup>th</sup> Princess Rashidah Young Nature Scientist Award (PRYNSA). The school received a cash prize of \$3000 and a trophy. Second place was won by Sayyidina Umar Al-Khattab Secondary School followed by Chung Hwa Middle School, Kuala Belait.

Present to award the prizes was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah at the Rizqun International Hotel. Also present was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah.

PRYNSA provides an opportunity for local youth to show their interest in nature, talents and capabilities by presenting to the country the findings of their research work carried out over a year. Since PRYNSA was first introduced 13 years ago, the programme has educated and exposed students to the world of scientific studies. It has also given students numerous useful experiences and educational assistance such as in teamwork and carrying out their study project.



The 13<sup>th</sup> PRYNSA's champion in group photo with Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah.

## HRH attends 'Special ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting'

**JAKARTA, INDONESIA, April 9** – Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended the 'Special ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting' held at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia.

At the meeting, the ministers discussed ASEAN and Japan cooperation following 'The Great East Earthquake' and tsunami that hit Japan on March 11.

On behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and its people, Her Royal Highness in a *sabda* (royal speech) expressed condolences and deep sympathy to the government and people of Japan over the tragedy faced. Her Royal Highness also welcomed the assistance and contributions from ASEAN member states on relief and recovery efforts to alleviate the plight of victims in the affected areas.

The meeting was officiated by the President of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. It was co-chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Dr. Marty Natalegawa and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, His Excellency Takeaki Matsumoto.

Her Royal Highness and other ministers also attended a dinner hosted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Dr. Marty Natalegawa.

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

## HRH attends 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN ASCC Meeting

**JAKARTA, INDONESIA, April 28** - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, attended the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council (ASCC) Meeting.

The meeting was chaired by His Excellency H.R. Agung Laksono, Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare of Indonesia, and was attended by ASEAN Ministers to the ASCC Council Meeting and the Secretary-General of ASEAN. The meeting took place at the Borobudur Hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia.

At the meeting, Her Royal Highness expressed satisfaction on ASCC's achievements for the past years, including the adoption of the Five Year Work Plan on Education in Brunei Darussalam earlier this year, the finalisation of a new Work Programme of Action on HIV/AIDS, as well as efforts being made by ASEAN to come up with an Action Plan on Climate Change. Her Royal Highness added that this encouraging progress showed ASEAN's continued commitment in pushing ahead the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint, which was adopted by leaders at the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in 2009. Her Royal Highness also commented that prioritising cultural cooperation is important in ASEAN's efforts to forge a shared identity.

The 5<sup>th</sup> ASCC Council Meeting agreed to prioritise cooperation for 2011 in Environment, Education, Capability to Control Communicable Diseases (HIV/AIDS), Culture, and the Enhancement of the participation of persons with Disabilities. The meeting also welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint. It also agreed to give support to the proposal to establish an ASEAN Ministerial Body on Sports, which the ASEAN leaders are anticipated to endorse at the 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on May, 7 to 8 2011 in Jakarta. The meeting further agreed that the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Meeting will be held in Semarang, Indonesia in September 2011.

Her Royal Highness also attended a dinner for Ministers of ASCC hosted by the Minister of People's Welfare Coordination of Indonesia, His Excellency H.R. Agung Laksono. The dinner took place at the Borobudur Hotel in Jakarta on April 27.

## Shuttle bus service eases transportation

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 2** - As part of its continuous effort to provide comfort and convenience especially for the public who wish to commute to the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital, the Ministry of Health has introduced a shuttle bus service. This aims to facilitate and reduce time to find parking bays.

Hence, an official launching ceremony for the 'RIPAS Hospital Link Shuttle Bus' was held at Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkiah's parking bay which is the pick-up point for the shuttle bus service to RIPAS Hospital.

In attendance to officiate the new service was the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan.

According to the minister, a taskforce was set up to identify the problems for the cause of congestion of traffic around RIPAS Hospital where once identified, necessary actions would be implemented taking into account the public's safety and comfort. The shuttle bus service is also to give leeway for the implementation of upgrading projects scheduled to take place at RIPAS Hospital.

The service will provide four buses where operating hours are between 6.00 am to 6.00 pm during working days.



The shuttle bus service is introduced as part of Ministry of Health's continuous effort to provide comfort and convenience especially for the public.

PHOTO: HERMIE SULLANA HAJI OTHMAN

## Syariah Court launches Law Report



Minister of Finance II launches Syariah Court's Law Report and website.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 2** - The Syariah Court has published a Law Report, the first of its kind where it is a collection of decisions reached at the Syariah Court.

The book entitled 'Buku Laporan Undang-Undang Syariah Brunei' consists of three volumes where the first volume is based on decisions made between years 1967 to 1999; followed by 2001 to 2003; and the final volume for years between 2004 to 2007.

This book was published to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the establishment of the Syariah Court.

Also as part of the commemoration, the Syariah Court has also launched its website where members of the public will be able to surf at [www.mms.gov.bn](http://www.mms.gov.bn).

Present to officially launch the book and website was Minister Finance II at Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdul Rahman.

PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZI HAJI DURAMAN

**BERAKAS, April 2** - Brunei Darussalam's Society for the Management of Autism Related Issues in Training, Education and Resources (Brunei SMARTER) conducted a 5-kilometre walkathon to commemorate the 4<sup>th</sup> World Autism Awareness Day.

The event was launched by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium.

The event was supported by the ASEAN Autism Network (AAN) which is a newly-formed community network. AAN agreed to conduct the event simultaneously in each country respectively namely; Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Brunei's SMARTER will be celebrating its 10-year establishment which will be held on April 30 at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

## Walkathon marks World Autism Awareness Day



The walkathon is organised to commemorate the 4<sup>th</sup> World Autism Awareness Day.

PHOTO: MOHD. SAHREAL HAJI SAID

## Pilot Project to upgrade Kampung Ayer

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 4** – A pilot project to upgrade Kampung Ayer, one of the landmarks of Brunei Darussalam has been initiated where it will among others involve the construction of 65 houses. The construction of these houses will be personally funded by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

This pilot project is an initiative upon the concern by His Majesty on the well-being of the people residing at Kampung Ayer. His Majesty wishes to see a more proper development of Kampung Ayer where it is safe and comfortable to live; and to provide a better image of Kampung Ayer as a heritage which we can be proud of and sustainable for the future

generations.

Thus a contract signing ceremony for the implementation of the project was held between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the appointed company, Tobishima (Brunei) Sdn. Bhd.

Present as signatories to the agreement were Permanent Secretary and architect at Ministry of Development, Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar and Haslinawati binti Haji Abd. Halim respectively. The ministry is the lead agency for this project. Whilst their counterparts were Tetsuya Shirasaki, the Director of Tobishima (Brunei) Sdn. Bhd. and Koji Tomoshige as project manager.

The signing ceremony was held at



PHOTO: HAJI MASWALEH HAJI MOHD ALI

**Minister of Development (left) and Director of Tobishima (Brunei) Sdn. Bhd. at the signing ceremony.**

Istana Nurul Iman, witnessed by the Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi as the Chairman for the committee of this pilot project.

## EG Bandwidth Services to connect all ministries

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 4** – A contract signing between the Ministry of Communications and TelBru Sdn. Bhd. was held for the supply, delivery, installation, development, testing and commissioning of EG Bandwidth Services (EGBS), a service that would

connect all ministries and departments under Brunei Darussalam's e-government initiatives.

Through this signing, the Ministry of Communications plays a major role as supervisor of the contract agreement as well as EGBS Service

Level Agreement. The ministry will also aim to fulfill and assist government agencies in reviewing sites for installation of EGBS with TelBru. The ministry through this agreement will also assist government agencies to obtain relevant technical advice and support related to respective EGBS.

Among the support and services that could be provided to all government agencies when this project has been completed include supports on multimedia applications such

as data, image, video, audio and text. It would also be able to provide bandwidth of 64Kb per second to 100Mb per second.

Signing on behalf of Ministry of Communications was its Deputy Permanent Secretary, Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Yusof; whilst TelBru Sdn. Bhd. was represented by its Acting Chief Executive Officer, Awang Haji Umar Ali bin Haji Abdullah.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Alaihuddin bin Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Utama Haji Awang Mohd. Taha.

The contract signing ceremony was held at the Ministry of Communications.

PHOTO: AMPLIAN HAJI MAHMUD, AMPUAN HAJI TENGGAH



**The contract signing is hoped to provide services that will connect all ministries.**

## Health Promotion National Committee to expand its role



PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR

**Minister of Health chairs the Health Promotion National Committee meeting.**

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 7** – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented for the Health Promotion National Committee to

be upgraded and expanded in term of its responsibility related to health matters in the bid to face current and future challenges. This is taking into account current trends and scenario on non-communicable diseases where the trend shows an increase and re-emergence of diseases due to unhealthy lifestyle.

In this regard, serious, committed and consolidated actions should be taken not only by those in the public sector but as well as non-governmental organisations, private sector and every level of the society.

The matters were highlighted by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan when chairing the Health Promotion National Committee meeting.

The committee was formed on January 22, 2000 where it was to answer

the call made by His Majesty in his 51<sup>st</sup> royal birthday *titah* (royal speech) on July 15, 1997 where His Majesty stated that his government provides attention and emphasis on health promotion programmes to promote awareness on the importance of healthy lifestyle as an effort towards enhancing the quality of lifestyle in this country.

The main objective of the committee is to control and overcome health problems in Brunei Darussalam especially in cases like chronic diseases and non-communicable diseases which link to lifestyle or 'lifestyle disease'. The committee is also responsible to provide directions, advice and guidelines in planning and implementing strategic health promotion programmes at the national level by giving priority towards national health policy.

## Architects, Professional Engineers and Quantity Surveyors Order introduced



PHOTO: HAJI MASWALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

One of the ASEAN Engineer Register (AER) Award held at Royal Berkshire, Jerudong Polo Club.

**JERUDONG, April 8** – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has recently passed the Architects, Professional Engineers and Quantity Surveyors Order in 2011. Through this Order, it enables the Board of Architects, Professional Engineers and Quantity Surveyors to set the qualifications and their practices besides providing architectural, professional engineering and quantity surveying services through business and organisation entities.

The matters were said by the Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi at Engineer Night 2011 and ASEAN Engineer Register

(AER) Award held at Royal Berkshire, Jerudong Polo Club.

According to the minister, this Order requires professionals to register at the Board of Architects, Professional Engineers and Quantity Surveyors which is the sole authority for this profession in Brunei Darussalam.

Speaking on *Pertubuhan Ukur, Jurutera dan Arkitek* (PUJA) Brunei, an organisation for architects, engineers and surveyors in Brunei Darussalam, the minister said that PUJA must provide more focus to promote awareness among the public on its role, and to follow best practices and its code of ethics.

## Ground breaking ceremony for Red Grouper breeding project

**TUTONG, April 9** - Brunei Darussalam's fisheries industry is set to expand further with the breeding of Red Grouper using a land-based fish farming technology. With a high international market value, the Red Grouper with an estimated value of US\$32.00 per kilo, it will be marketed in countries like China where this type of fish is considered as valuable in the Chinese culture.

Thus a ground-breaking ceremony was held for the Red Grouper breeding project held at Eco-Aquaculture Park Site at Sungai Paku in Tutong District. Present at the ceremony was the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya.

The breeding of this Red Grouper will be using a technology from Taiwan known as Recirculating

Aquaculture System (RAS). The company responsible for this project is Myinvesco HI-Q Biotech Sdn. Bhd.

According to its Managing Director, Lieutenant Col (Rtd.) Awang Haji Mohammad Said, the financial assistance and site provided by the government are valuable and vital for the success of this project in using the RAS technology.

## No report on Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis

**GADONG, April 10** – Brunei Darussalam's health sector has shown that there has been no report on Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB). While routine test for anti-microbial sensitivity carried out by its Ministry of Health's Tuberculosis Laboratory has also not found MDR-TB. However there are a few reports on anti-tuberculosis drug resistance. Thus we should continuously be on guard to prevent

the emergence of MDR-TB in Brunei.

The matters were said by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan at a ceremony to commemorate World Health Day 2011 held at the Rizqun International Hotel.

The minister further said that Brunei Darussalam also has no reported cases of drug resistance for malaria, AIDS or HIV. All of the cases can be managed through treatments. The

minister also urged personnel of the Ministry of Health to monitor the situation closely and put in place and implement policies, processes and procedures so Brunei Darussalam will remain drug resistance-free for these diseases in the years to come.

This year's World Health Day celebration brings the theme 'Combat Drug Resistance: No Action Today, No Cure Tomorrow'.

## Rewards for high-achieving athletes and associations

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 13** - Some 45 athletes, nine trainers, six assistant trainers and five national sports associations received rewards under the Sports Excellence Encouragement Scheme for winning medals as well as breaking regional and international records in several sports event in 2007, 2009 and 2010.

The reward was presented by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair held at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS).

The sports which received the awards were the 6<sup>th</sup> Lawn Bowls Asia 2007; 8<sup>th</sup> Asian Bowls Championship 2009; 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Men's Softball Championship 2009; ASEAN and ASIAN Body Building and Physique Championship 2010; 2<sup>nd</sup> ASIAN Beach Games 2010; 1<sup>st</sup> ASIAN Para Games 2010; Pencak Silat World Championship 2010; and 2<sup>nd</sup> South East Asia Pencak Silat Championship 2010.

The rewards were one of MCYS' initiatives under the Sports Excellence Encouragement Scheme to motivate athletes in maintaining their success as well as a symbol of appreciation to the trainers for their role.



PHOTO: HERNIE SUIJANA HAJI OTHMAN

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports presents the Sports Excellence Encouragement Scheme reward to one of the recipients.

## Port of Entry vital identify and respond acute health

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 12** – The International Health Regulation (IHR 2005) requires its members of the World Health Organisation (WHO) to have a Multi-Stakeholder Port of Entry Public Health Emergency Contingency Plan (PHECP). This took into effect since June 2007. This is part of the regional and international collective defence system towards health safety where entries to countries play a unique role in identifying and responding towards acute health at national, regional and international level.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health (MOH), Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Salam bin Abdul Momin stated the matters at Multi-Stakeholder Port of Entry PHECP Planning Meeting.

In these regard, the Permanent Secretary said under IHR 2005, every country is required to develop and strengthen IHR core capacities for its designated international airport and ports by June 2012. This requirement

includes the development of PHECP at designated Ports of Entry.

In the case of Brunei Darussalam, the Brunei International Airport is the main Port of Entry where the Permanent Secretary hoped that in the future, a sea port will be included as a designated Port of Entry.

Around 40 participants from MOH and various government and non-government stakeholder agencies took part in the three-day meeting organised by MOH with support from WHO.

The meeting was held at Centrepoint Hotel, Gadong.



Participants of the meeting with Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Health (front row, fifth from right).

PHOTO CREDIT BY MINISTRY OF HEALTH

## Brunei Halal Brand to enhance small-and-medium enterprises

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 12** – The establishment of Brunei Halal Brand is one the government's initiatives to enhance its small-and-medium enterprises (SMEs). One of the aspirations in establishing Brunei Halal Brand is to provide a platform for SMEs to enter the foreign market.

The matters were highlighted by Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Mohd Amin Liew bin Abdullah at the official opening of the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BIMP-EAGA Natural Resources Development (NRD Cluster); the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BIMP-EAGA Small and Medium Enterprises Development (SMED) Cluster.

The Permanent Secretary further said that the Brunei Halal Brand merges commercial value into the national *halal* certification and it is as a platform to expand *halal* industry as well as providing easy access on quality and safety. It is also part of the strategy to diversify the economy towards creating employment opportunities for the locals.



PHOTO: PG-HAJI BAHAR PG-HAJI OMAR

The establishment of Brunei Halal Brand is one of the government's initiatives to enhance its SMEs, said Permanent Secretary at MIPR.

One of the strategies by MIPR to promote the development of Brunei Halal Brand is the setting up of Agro-Brunei Technology Park where it aims to attract research and innovative technology application by focusing on activities based on agriculture, fisheries and forestry. Through this park, the Fisheries Department has begun a new project by focusing on fish farming by using 'Ecological Recalculating Aquaculture System'

which is the first to be used for big-scale project in this country.

The two-day meeting involved more than 100 delegates from BIMP-EAGA region - Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines where the NRD Cluster meeting discussed programmes pertaining to the development of projects based on the use of natural resources from the BIMP-EAGA region.

The SMED Cluster focused on the development and enhancing capacity and capability of SMEs in delivering their joint projects which will contribute to the economic growth of the BIMP-EAGA region and, to some extent, to align the work programme with the current ASEAN initiatives on SME Development.

The NRD-SMED convergence meeting discussed the area of possible collaboration projects which will be supported by the strategic investment plan and double action plan

The meeting took place at the Centrepoint Hotel.



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

The Attorney General, Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Hayati officiates the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Law Forum.

## Brunei hosts 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Law Forum

**JERUDONG, April 13** – Brunei Darussalam has hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Law Forum where matters pertaining to Progressive Liberalisation of Trade in Legal Services among ASEAN members were discussed. Also discussed was a proposal by Brunei Darussalam in the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting held in October 2008.

Present to officiate the forum was the Attorney General, Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Hayati held at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

The forum was attended by senior law officials, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, legal academics and members of the national law societies of eight ASEAN countries namely - Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; Indonesia; Malaysia; Philippines; Singapore; Thailand; and Viet Nam.

## Contributions from NGOs related to people with special needs lauded

**JERUDONG, April 18** – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam appreciates and acknowledges contributions given by associations and organisations related to people with special needs. Thus a study was conducted recently on the assistance needed by respective associations and organisations. As a result, the government has agreed to provide a certain percentage of financial aid that would assist the associations and organisations' operational cost.

The matters were said by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair at the official opening of Brunei Autism

Centre for Adults (BACA) SMARTER Brunei.

The government, according to the minister, will also be assisting respective associations and organisations to obtain sites based on services provided; while the associations and organisations will seek for sponsors from individuals and private sector for the purpose of constructing the respective buildings.

The newly opened BACA is based at Jalan Jerudong where it will provide secondary, higher and vocational education. BACA currently has 26 trainees with 27 students aged 13 years above.

## BATP supports innovative technologies

**TUNGKU, April 19** – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has identified the need to provide support for innovative technology-oriented business in the agro sector of the economy.

This strategy is linked to the desire to develop a more diversified, competitive and sustainable economy, to help Brunei move away from its reliance on oil and gas production. Therefore, the establishment of Brunei Agro Technology Park (BATP) will support this need where it aims to produce more than 9000 employment opportunities including more than 2000 professionals. The 500-hectare park will support technologies based on innovative business and Brunei Halal Brand initiatives.

In this regard, a ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of BATP was held based at Kampung Tungku.

The ceremony was led by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya.

The first phase of the construction of this park will involve 50 hectares where 25 plots of land will focus on basic infrastructure facilities including 4.7 km of one-way and twin-lanes; 9.2 km of drainage works; 3.4 km of sewage works; water supply; telecommunications; installation of high volts cables; one main transmission station, six substations, and installation of street lights.

The second phase will involve a cost of \$20.5 million and expected to be completed by 2013.

## Brunei celebrates World Water Day

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 20** – As Brunei Darussalam is one of the highest in terms of water usage, efforts have been made to promote awareness and educating members of the community on the importance of prudent water usage.

The matter was highlighted by the Acting Director General of Public Works Department, Mr. Young Chee Yen in his welcoming speech at the official launching to celebrate World Water Day.

According to the Acting Director General, one of the steps taken is by disseminating information through the media on why we should save water; and how to save and reduce water usage.

Brunei Darussalam celebrated World Water Day 2011 at Tasek Lama Recreation Park in the capital. Present as guest of honour was the Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi.

## Healthy lifestyle emphasised

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 16** – The importance of living a healthy lifestyle is continuously emphasised by the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. The latest saw the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) on Healthy Lifestyle Clinic Programme between the Ministry of Health and Fitness Zone, as one of the measures to overcome obesity.

Signing on behalf of the ministry was its Acting Director-General, Dr. Zainal Ariffin bin Haji Yahya; while his counterpart was the Managing Director of Fitness Zone, Mr. Goh Kiat Chun. Present to witness the signing ceremony was the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan.

Through this MoA, the ministry has appointed Fitness Zone as its partner in providing facilities and support to participants of the Healthy Lifestyle Clinic Programme. Members of the programme will undergo exercise programme for 12 weeks using Fitness Zone's facilities.

Fitness Zone is one of the leading fitness clubs in Brunei Darussalam where it provides comfortable work out surroundings, latest gym equipments, exercise programmes and qualified and knowledgeable staff.

The signing of the MoA was held at Fitness Zone in Serusop.

## Brunei receives Hong Kong education officers

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 20** – Brunei Darussalam and Hong Kong Special Administration Region has fostered closer relations with the work visit made by Hong Kong's Secretary of Education, Mr. Michael Suen Ming-Yueng and delegation to Bandar Seri Begawan.

While in the country, Mr. Michael Suen Ming-Yueng and delegation made a courtesy visit to the Acting Minister of Education, Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yusoff.

The meeting involved discussions focused on opportunities as well as bilateral cooperation in the field of education between Brunei Darussalam and Hong Kong. The delegation also had the opportunity to introduce educational institutions in Hong Kong to Brunei students.

While in Brunei, the delegation also received a briefing on Brunei Darussalam's education system particularly its higher education and the 21<sup>st</sup> National Education System (SPN21). They also visited Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and Jerudong International School (JIS).

## Rehabilitation and maintenance works for Brunei International Airport's runway

**JERUDONG, April 21** – In realising the need to improve the capacity and safety in line with the development and introduction of latest aircrafts, the Ministry of Communications through the Civil Aviation Department has appointed a consultant for the rehabilitation and maintenance works to the runway and movement area of the Brunei International Airport.

In this regard, a project signing ceremony was held between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Jurutera Tempatan.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was the Permanent

Secretary at the Ministry of Communications, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Alaihuddin, while Jurutera Tempatan was represented by its Managing Director, Dato Paduka Haji Nordin.

The ceremony was witnessed by the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdullah.

## Research on Hepatitis B and HBMISS

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 22** - A research on Hepatitis B and Measles Immunity Seroprevalence Study (HBMISS) will be conducted comprehensively in Brunei Darussalam this May. The study which is the first to be conducted in this country will detect HBMISS among school children.

These were said by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan at the launching of 1<sup>st</sup> Vaccination Week and Hepatitis B and Measles

Immunity Seroprevalence Survey 2011 held at Rizqun International Hotel, Gadong.

The minister said, this study will be evaluated on Hepatitis B prevention's impact and methods of prevention especially for effective National Development Programme on immunisation.

The vaccination on the Measles in Brunei Darussalam was first introduced among the children since 1974

meanwhile vaccination on Hepatitis B was first introduced in 1988.

Among the objective of vaccination week is to enhance society awareness on the importance of vaccination in preventing the disease apart from enhancing awareness all level of health workers on the importance of active communication on the patients and parents in the immunisation.

## SMART Gallery showcases RFID applications

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 26** – The Authority for Info-Communications Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam (AiTi) has officially opened its Secure, Mobile, Advanced and Reliable Technology (SMART) Gallery where it showcases prototypes of advanced and future technologies. Visitors will be able to take a closer look on point of sales counter, vehicle tracking and document tracking which use Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) applications. This gallery is opened for the public from Monday to Friday.

AiTi has also launched its newly revamped website where it features a fresher look and easy navigation. The website is available at [www.aiti.gov.bn](http://www.aiti.gov.bn)

Present to officially open the gallery and launch the website was the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdullah. The ceremony was held at AiTi's headquarters based at Kampung Anggerek Desa.

Besides these, a mini laboratory was also introduced where it enables locals to undergo training and to specialise in RFID.



Minister of Communications received a briefing on AiTi's new website.

## ACYF visits Brunei

**BERAKAS, APRIL 25** – A delegation from the All China Youth Federation (ACYF) was in Brunei Darussalam for a five-day visit. The delegation was led by Vice President of China Young Entrepreneurs Association, Mr. Chen Xiaodong.

The visit was in conjunction with the 20 years of diplomatic relations between Brunei and the People's Republic of China.

While in Brunei, the delegation paid a courtesy visit to the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair.

During the courtesy visit, both parties discussed present and future cooperation between both countries particularly in aspects of culture and sports.

## Ambulance boat service launched

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 25** - As an effort to further improve early treatment service and handling of emergency cases occurring at residences near Kampung Ayer or Water Village, the Ministry of Health has launched its first Marine Ambulance Boat.

The ceremony was launched by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan.

Marine Ambulance Boat 1 is equipped with the most up-to-date equipment as those found in land ambulance vehicles. Besides handling emergency cases such as drowning and injuries as well as emergency cases involving large vessels that cannot anchor in Brunei's harbour, the marine ambulance will also be used to provide medical treatment during water sports events such as regatta.



The Marine Ambulance 1 launched as an effort to further improve early treatment service and handling of emergency cases occurring at residences near or at Water Village.

## Brunei – Fiji: Diplomatic relations established

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 26** - The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of Fiji have established diplomatic relations with effect from Monday, April 25, 2011.

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

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei

Darussalam was represented by His Excellency Latif bin Tuah, Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations, New York; whilst the Government of Fiji was represented by His Excellency Peter Thomson, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations, New York.

## Debit Card expands trade opportunities

**JERUDONG, April 26** – Trade opportunities between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China have been further expanded with the launching of Baiduri UnionPay Debit Card. This debit card is accepted by 83 countries including Australia, France, Germany, Korea, Hong Kong, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.

It is hoped that the introduction of this debit card will enhance payment facilities for tourists and entrepreneurs. It is also to provide a safer alternative by using PIN-based security.

The launching of this card is to commemorate the 20 years anniversary of Brunei-China relations. Present to launch the card was Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Amin Liew bin Abdullah. Also present were the General Manager of Baiduri Bank, Mr. Pierre Imhof and First Vice Executive President of China Union Pay, Mr. Cai Jianbo.

Baiduri Bank is one of the leading local banks which begun its operation in 1994. It has received many awards and accolades such as the 'Best Banking Group 2009' for Brunei from World Finance Magazine, United Kingdom; and Bank of the Year Award from the Banker Magazine, United Kingdom in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

## Eco clubs receive financial support

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 27** – The importance of conserving and preserving the natural environment is constantly highlighted where it encourages not only participation of the public sector but also the private sector in together upholding the significance of preserving mother nature.

The latest saw a positive contribution from the private sector where Butra Heidelberg Cement Sdn. Bhd. (BHC) has agreed to support eco-clubs in implementing environmental activities at their respective schools.

Thus a signing of agreement ceremony was held between the Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation (JASTRE) and BHC. Singing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was the Director of JASTRE, Haji Mohd. Zakaria bin Haji Saruddin; while BHC was represented by its General-Manager, Setiawan Purnamahadi.

The signing was witnessed by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Development, Awang Haji Mohd. Rozan bin Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Yunos.

Ten secondary schools nationwide received sponsorship to carry out environmental activities. At the ceremony, Awang Haji Mohd. Rozan also presented \$2,000 mock cheque to each club. The sponsorship will enable these clubs to implement activities such as awareness programmes, tree-planting, landscaping, cleanliness week and recruitment drives.

## Study on transportation and logistics system to be conducted

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 28** – A study on Brunei Darussalam's transportation and logistics system will soon be carried out by the Ministry of Communications. This will involve consultancy services.

Thus a signing of agreement for 'Consultancy Services For A Study on The Transportation and Logistics System of Brunei Darussalam' was held between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Booz and Company (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. held at the ministry.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Alaihuddin; meanwhile signing on behalf of the consultant was Mr. Edward Clayton, Principal and Country Head, Malaysia Booz



The signing of the agreement witnessed by Minister of Communications.

and Company (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdullah.

According to the Acting Director of Ports Department, Awang Haji Bujang bin Haji Tinkong, amongst the

objectives of this study is to find ways to promote this nation's logistic centre where the study will be divided into two main areas. The two areas will be a study on transportation and logistics and suitability of ships' platforms for Brunei Darussalam.

## Bukit Markucing Run Challenge

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 3** – As one of the activities to celebrate Brunei Darussalam's 27<sup>th</sup> National Day, a Bukit Markucing Run Challenge was held. One of the participants was Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiaah.

The run was launched by the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Major General (Rtd.) Dato Paduka Haji Awang Halbi.

Two hundred and thirty participants took part in the challenge where 11 categories were competed.

## Brunei's participation at 26<sup>th</sup> SEA Games discussed

**BERAKAS, April 9** - A meeting on the Assessment and Selection of National Athletes Executive Committee was held where among the agendas discussed was Brunei Darussalam's participation at the 26<sup>th</sup> SEA Games to be held in Jakarta from November 11 to 22 this year. The selections of events which Brunei will partake are subject to the performance standard of the athletes nominated by the National Sports Association. The final decision will be announced at a later date.

Present at the meeting was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiaah, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC). The meeting was chaired by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd. Hamid.

The meeting took place at the Hassanal Bolkiaah National Stadium in Berakas.

## Brunei to partake international Qur'an reading competition

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 9** – Ak. Khairul Ikhwan bin Pg. Alit and Awang Hazwan bin Haji Salim will be representing Brunei Darussalam at the Kuwait International Prize For Memorizing, Recitation and Tajweed of The Holy Qur'an.

The competition will be held from April 13 to 20, 2011 which will involve more than 40 countries.

## Education Minister opens 46<sup>th</sup> Regional Language Centre International Seminar

**SINGAPORE, April 18** – The Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar as the President of Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation Council was in Singapore to officially open the 46<sup>th</sup> Regional Language Centre (RELC) International Seminar on Teaching Language to Learners of Different Age Groups.

The 46<sup>th</sup> RELC International Seminar explored approaches, issues, and questions related to teaching language learners across different age groups. From this discussion, the seminar hoped to draw out implications for language teaching, learning, testing, and the training of teachers.

The seminar was held at SEAMEO Regional Language Centre, Singapore.

The three-day seminar, organised by the SEAMEO RELC Singapore was attended by some 500 language educators and specialists from SEAMEO member countries as well as Asia, Europe, Australia and America. Brunei Darussalam was represented by five teachers and officials from the Ministry of Education.

## Sports School Council wins netball championship

**BERAKAS, April 10** – The Sports School Council of Brunei Darussalam has won the 6<sup>th</sup> Open President Netball Championship 2011 after defeating IVY League 23 to 20 points at the final held at the Multipurpose Hall, Hassanal Bolkiaah National Sports Complex.

Among members of the IVY League Team was Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiaah.

Third place was won by Thunderbird Team. The prizes were presented by Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Intan binti Haji Kassim.

## Jogathon to raise fund

**APRIL, 17** – Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), the nation's first university has organised a jogathon in its bid to raise its fund for the varsity's student activities fund. More than 150 participants took part in the event where among the participants was Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah.

The run was divided into 10 categories between male and female - male participants ran a distance of six kilometres, while female participants ran a distance of four kilometres.

The jogathon was also aimed at instilling the spirit of sports and strengthening relations between UBD's students and its officers and staff.

## Energy Minister attends Asia Energy Meeting

**KUWAIT, April 23** - The Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Colonel (Rtd.) Dato Awang Haji Mohammad was in Kuwait to attend the 16<sup>th</sup> Asia Energy Meeting. Three topics were discussed which were on Energy Outlook 2030, Management of Demand and Future Investment and Increase of Energy Price.

Brunei Darussalam was among 18 countries attending the meeting together with producer and consumer countries as well as the association of International Energy Agency (IEA), International Energy Forum (IEF) and Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) towards discussing energy issues that hit world nowadays.

The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held in Republic of Korea in 2013.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Global Ministerial Conference

**RUSSIA, April 30** – A conference was held to assist members of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in providing and strengthening policies and programmes related to healthy lifestyle and preventing non-communicable diseases.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyle and Non-communicable Disease Control was held in Moscow from April 28 to 29. It was jointly organised by WHO and the Ministry of Health and Russia Social Development.

Representing Brunei Darussalam was the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan.

The conference agreed to provide Moscow Declaration comprising the need of action to prevent and control non-communicable diseases.

While in Moscow, the minister also visited Sechenov Moscow Medical Academy where he took a closer look at the facilities and services provided.

## Did you know that...

- Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddien II was the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sultan of Brunei who reigned from 1828 to 1852.
- *Syair Rakis* was written by Pengiran Indera Mahkota Pengiran Shahbandar Muhammad Salleh. The *syair* consists of 12 parts/verses which emphasised on the importance of education and good governance.
- To ensure the elderly and the disabled persons are given the care they needed, the Old Age and Disability Pensions Scheme has been fully enforced since January 1, 1955.
- In 1972, the custom-built Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) carrier, the GADINIA, made the first long-distance ocean voyage of its kind to deliver Brunei LNG's first cargo to the Osaka Gas Corporation terminal in Japan.

## >> 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 414,400 people (2010)

It is divided into four districts – Brunei-Muara, Tutong, 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](http://www.bruneiair.com))
- International airlines such as Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and Thai Airways also fly frequently to Brunei. Beginning July 2006, Air Asia, one of 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.