



# برونى دارالسلام

## Brunei Darussalam

# Brunei Darussalam newsletter

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**VOLUME 26 ISSUE 2**

## Royal speech in conjunction with 27<sup>th</sup> National Day of Brunei Darussalam HM: Government aspires diversify economy



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said Brunei Darussalam places great emphasis on its youth's educational progress. His Majesty said this in a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with Brunei Darussalam's 27<sup>th</sup> National Day.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 22** – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in its bid to have a future that is not dependent solely on its oil and gas industry, strongly aspires to diversify its economy. With a country that possesses a broad economic and revenue base, underpinned by a high growth rate, the opportunity for the country to continue to be prosperous and affluent is indeed bright.

The matters were highlighted by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with Brunei Darussalam's 27<sup>th</sup> National Day. The *titah* was telecasted nationwide through television and radio on the eve of Brunei Darussalam's national day celebration.

His Majesty said towards achieving this goal, his government place great emphasis on its youth's educational progress. For a small country with a small population, Brunei Darussalam needs its citizens who are highly educated and possess diverse strategic skills. The young people should also possess a personality with *Melayu Islam Beraja* values and noble spirit acquired from perfect upbringing.

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## Paddy harvesting at Wasan



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya joining the harvesting activity.

**MUKIM PENGKALAN BATU, February 19** – Paddy harvesting has arrived in Brunei Darussalam particularly at the Wasan Agricultural and Agrifood Development Farm. With an area of 227.5 hectares, the farm is managed by two groups of paddy enterprises, namely Koperasi Setia Kawan (KOSEKA Berhad) and the Mukim Pengkalan Batu Consultative Council.

In this regard, KOSEKA Berhad held a Laila Paddy Harvesting Ceremony for the 2010-2011 season at Pehin Brigadier General (Rtd.) Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Aziz's Paddy Farm.

Also joining in the harvesting activity was the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya.

Paddy planting in the Wasan Agricultural Development Farm is carried out twice annually and is expected to increase further with the use of the modern and systematic planting method.





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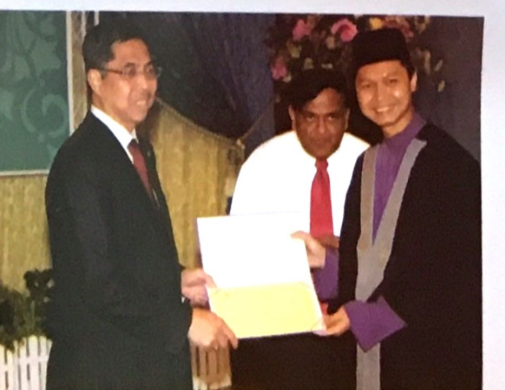
12 164 complete Darusysyifa' Warrafahah course



13 \$11 million for Doppler Weather Surveillance Radar system



14 11th AGBEP held in UBD



17 Health Ministry committed enhance nursing services



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received letters of appointments and audiences from newly-appointed ambassadors to Brunei Darussalam. The ceremony was held on February 17 at the Istana Nurul Iman.

They were:



His Excellency Mohamad Zaki, non-resident High Commissioner of Maldives to Brunei Darussalam.



Her Excellency Mag. Andrea Wicke, non-resident Ambassador of Austria to Brunei Darussalam.



His Excellency Antonio Guillermo Villegas Villalobos, non-resident Ambassador of Mexico to Brunei Darussalam.



Her Excellency Maria Isabel Rendon, non-resident Ambassador of Argentina to Brunei Darussalam.

PHOTOS: RAMLI TENGAH

## His Majesty confers State Decoration to Thailand's Chief of Defence Force

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 21** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces conferred the State Decoration of 'The Most Exalted Order of Paduka Keberanian Laila Terbilang (First Class)' to Thailand's Chief of Defence Force of Royal Thai Army, His Excellency General Songkitti Jaggabatara.

The ceremony was held at Cheradi Laila Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman.



PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH



## His Majesty receives audience

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, His Excellency Vuk Jeremic on February 26.

His Excellency was in Brunei Darussalam for a two-day working visit.

The audience was held at the Istana Nurul Iman.



PHOTOS: MASRI OSMAN  
PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR

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



Yang Berhormat Dato' Nik Faizah binti Nik Mustapha, a member of World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) Friends of Asia Pacific Working Group on February 14.



The spouse of Thailand's Chief of Defence Force of Royal Thai Army, Datin Poranne Jaggabatara on February 21.

\* from front page  
(Royal speech in conjunction with 27<sup>th</sup> National Day of Brunei Darussalam)

It is for these reasons said His Majesty, that schools, training and higher education centres were established, without neglecting the provision of scholarships to more deserving students as the main investment towards developing human capital.

His Majesty also touched on civil service where it is a machinery and facilitator for the government to map out progress. Even at this point in time, the scope and needs of the public continue to increase, thus, requiring the civil service to provide a broader space, including the provision of policies, and quick and effective implementation. The civil service must identify any weaknesses that may exist and provide a mechanism to overcome the weaknesses. His Majesty further said that delay or failure in implementing government programmes should not occur because it carries high risks that can weakened our competition in attracting foreign investment.

Brunei Darussalam celebrates its National Day every February 23 where this year's celebration carried the theme *Negaraku Brunei Darussalam*.

## HM sends congratulatory messages

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

- ▶ The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency U Thein Sein on his appointment as the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on February 5.
- ▶ The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in conjunction with the republic's 32<sup>nd</sup> National Day on February 11.
- ▶ His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait on the occasion of the kingdom's 50<sup>th</sup> National Day on February 25.



# Human development forms perfect country and community

PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a *titah* in conjunction with Prophet Muhammad's (Peace Be Upon Him) birthday anniversary for the year 1432 Hijrah.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 14** – Prioritising human development before national issues is the contributing factor that brought Prophet Muhammad's (Peace Be Upon Him) success in forming a perfect country and community.

The matter was highlighted by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* in conjunction with Prophet Muhammad's (Peace Be Upon Him) birthday anniversary for the year 1432 Hijrah.

This is an example that should not be ignored where according to His Majesty, there are huge secrets why Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) prioritised human development prior to others.

Among the secrets identified, said His Majesty was because the human is machinery. The human is the initiator and also the pillar in making any developments.

His Majesty also called the people to emulate Prophet Muhammad's (Peace Be Upon Him) leadership.

The birthday anniversary of Prophet Muhammad's (Peace Be Upon Him) is celebrated nationwide every 12 Rabiulawal of the Islamic calendar. A *Zikir Maulud* was held at mosques and *surau* (smaller version of mosque) throughout the nation from 1 to 12 Rabiulawal as part of the anniversary.

## His Majesty leads Maulud gathering and procession

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 15** – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined scores of Muslims for a gathering and procession ceremony to commemorate the birthday anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) for the year 1432 Hijrah at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin in the capital.

Also present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and other members of the royal family.

This year's Maulud gathering and procession ceremony recorded participation from 139 teams with a total of more than 20,000 people. The teams were from uniformed personnel, ministries and departments, Mukim and Village Consultative Councils, higher learning institutions and schools, associations, non-governmental organisations and members of the public.

Similar ceremonies were also held at the three other districts. In Belait District, 6,357 people participated in the gathering and procession; while in Tutong District 6,510 people took part. Meanwhile, Temburong District recorded participation of 1,800 people.



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam leads scores of Muslims for a gathering and procession ceremony to commemorate the birthday anniversary of Prophet Muhammad at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin.

## Chinese New Year get-together

**BERAKAS, February 8** - 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 Saleh attended a Get-Together Ceremony organised by the Brunei Darussalam Chinese Community in conjunction with Chinese New Year 2011.

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

The event was also highlighted by a performance of the art of self-defence by Wushu Federation and schools throughout the country.

The ceremony took place at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

Their Majesties at a Chinese Community Get-Together Ceremony in conjunction with Chinese New Year 2011.



PHOTO: ABDUL KADIR MOHD. TAHIR



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and several members of the royal family at the prayers.

## Mass prayers for Brunei Darussalam's 27<sup>th</sup> National Day

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 22** – Celebrations to mark the 27<sup>th</sup> National Day of Brunei Darussalam began with a mass *Maghrib* and *Iyak* prayers, thanksgiving prayer and the recital of *Surah Yaa Siin* at all mosques and *surau* throughout the country.

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

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

Brunei Darussalam celebrates her National Day every February 23.

## Colourful 27<sup>th</sup> National Day extravaganza

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 23** – Brunei Darussalam celebrated its 27<sup>th</sup> National Day with a grand parade and colourful field performance held at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien in the capital.

The grand parade involved 117 teams with an estimated 21,350 people ranging from students, uniformed personnel, civil servants and representatives from the private sector and foreign citizens.

Present to witness the ceremony was His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Ministers' Office and other members of the royal family.



PHOTOS: HAJI MOHD. YUSSOF MOHD. YASSIN  
MASRI OSMAN  
RAMLI TENGAH  
ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT



## HM receives congratulatory messages

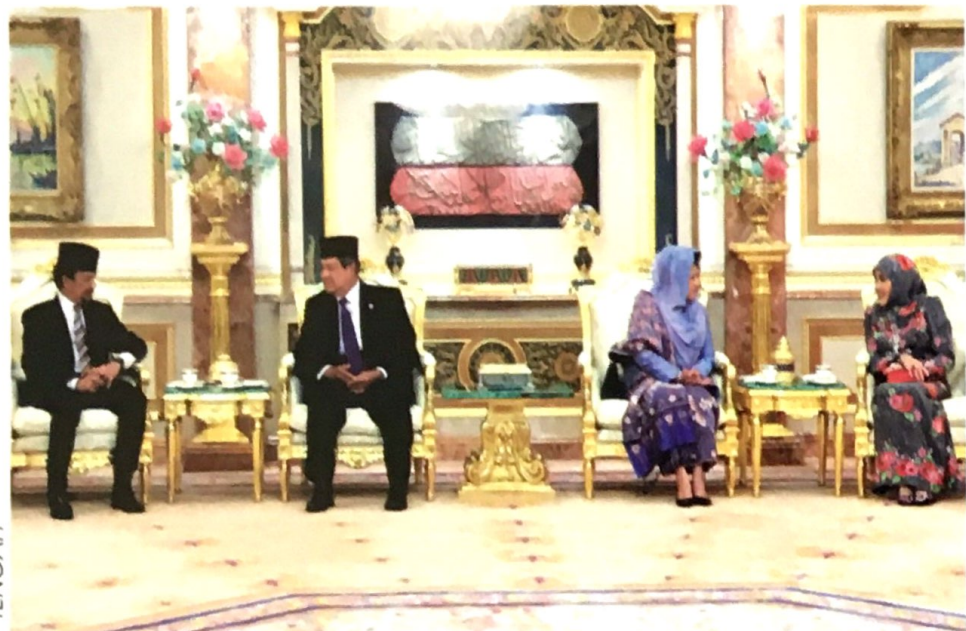
**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 22** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received messages of congratulations from heads of state and foreign dignitaries in conjunction with Brunei Darussalam's 27<sup>th</sup> National Day.

The messages came from:

- ▶ His Majesty Al-Wathiqu Billah Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Mahmud Al-Muktafi Billah Shah, the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia;
- ▶ His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;
- ▶ Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
- ▶ His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand;
- ▶ His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia;
- ▶ His Majesty King Carl the XVI Gustaf, King of Sweden;
- ▶ His Majesty King Albert II, King of Belgium;
- ▶ His Majesty King Harald R, King of Norway;
- ▶ Her Majesty Queen Koningin Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgrad, Queen of The Netherlands;
- ▶ His Excellency Dr. Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia;
- ▶ His Excellency S.R. Nathan, President of the Republic of Singapore;
- ▶ His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino III, President of Republic of the Philippines;
- ▶ His Excellency Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar.
- ▶ His Excellency Nguyen Minh Triet, the State President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam;
- ▶ His Excellency Choummaly Sayasone, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic;
- ▶ His Majesty Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the President of the United Arab Emirates;
- ▶ His Excellency Asif Ali Zardari, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan;
- ▶ His Excellency Md. Zillur Rahman, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh;
- ▶ His Excellency Hu Jintao, President of the Peoples Republic of China;
- ▶ Her Excellency Quentin Bryce AC, the Governor General of Australia;
- ▶ Her Excellency Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of India;
- ▶ His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Socialist Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka;
- ▶ His Excellency Lee Myung-bak, President of the Republic of Korea;
- ▶ His Excellency Christian Wulff, President of the Federal Republic of Germany;
- ▶ His Excellency Dmitry A. Medvedev, President of the Russian Federation;
- ▶ The Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor-General of Canada;
- ▶ His Excellency Giorgio Napolitano, President of the Republic of Italy;
- ▶ His Excellency Colonel Muammar Al-Gadafi, Leader of the Great Al-Fateh Revolution, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamhiriya;
- ▶ His Excellency Dr. Heinz Fischer, President of the Federal Republic of Austria;
- ▶ His Excellency Bronislaw Komorowski, President of the Republic of Poland;
- ▶ His Excellency Islam Karimov, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- ▶ His Excellency Ivo Josipovic, President of the Republic of Croatia;
- ▶ His Excellency Anibal Cavaco Silva, President of the Republic of Portugal;
- ▶ His Excellency Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- ▶ His Excellency Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic Kazakhstan;
- ▶ Her Excellency Mary McAleese, President of the Republic of Ireland;
- ▶ His Excellency Viktor Yanukovych, President of Ukraine;
- ▶ His Excellency George Abela, President of Malta;
- ▶ His Excellency Lic. Felipe Calderon Hinojosa, President of the United Mexican States;
- ▶ Her Excellency Micheline Calmy-Rey, President of The Swiss Confederation;
- ▶ His Majesty Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai;
- ▶ His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa, Prime Minister of Bahrain;
- ▶ The Right Honourable Dato Seri Mohd Najib Bin Tun Abdul Razak, the Prime Minister of Malaysia;
- ▶ His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong; the Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore;
- ▶ His Excellency U Thein Sein, the Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar;
- ▶ His Excellency Nguyen Tan Dung, the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam;
- ▶ His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia;
- ▶ His Excellency Thongsing Thammavong, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic;
- ▶ The Right Honourable David Cameron MP, Prime Minister of Britain;
- ▶ His Excellency Vladimir V. Putin, Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation;
- ▶ Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina Wajed, Prime Minister of the Government of the People Republic of Bangladesh;
- ▶ His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations.



# Brunei – Indonesia share many similarities



Their Majesties received in audience the President of the Republic of Indonesia and spouse.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 25** – Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Indonesia share many similarities especially the language, culture and religion. These are the factors that establish understanding between both nations.

The matters were highlighted by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* (royal speech) at a dinner banquet hosted by His Majesty to honour the two-day state visit by His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Dr. Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, the President of Republic of Indonesia and wife, Datin Ibu Hajah Ani Bambang Yudhoyono to Brunei Darussalam.

His Excellency and spouse arrived in Bandar Seri Begawan on February 24. Soon after arrival, His Excellency and wife were received in an audience by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and members of the royal family at the Istana Nurul Iman.

This was followed by a bilateral meeting between His Majesty and His Excellency which took place at Baitul Mesyuarah of Istana Nurul Iman followed by a Joint Statement where both parties exchanged ideas on the bilateral relation and on regional and international matters. Both leaders also expressed their commitment to enhance the bilateral relation for the benefit of both parties. They also expressed their satisfaction on the good bilateral relation.

A signing ceremony was also held for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Indonesia in the field of agriculture;



His Majesty and His Excellency planting a local plant named ‘Marbujok’ tree to comemorate the walk at Tasek Lama Recreational Park.



Their Majesties and the President of the Republic of Indonesia and spouse in a group photo before a dinner banquet. Also in a group photo are His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri.

followed by the signing of Letter of Intent for cooperation in the field of fisheries. Present as signatory on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya; while representing the Republic of Indonesia were its Minister of Agriculture, His Excellency Dr. Haji Suswono and the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, His Excellency R.M Marty M. Natalegawa, Indonesia’s Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Meanwhile Datin Ibu Hajah Ani Bambang Yudhoyono on a separate itinerary visited Balai Pameran Islam of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah at Darul-Ifta of State Mufti Department. The exhibition centre consists of several galleries namely the Mushaf Exhibition Gallery, the Islamic Artifact Gallery, the Al-Quran and Manuscript Gallery, and Tasbih and Tongkat Exhibition Gallery.

In the evening, His Excellency and spouse attended a dinner banquet hosted by Their Majesties at the Istana Nurul Iman.

While on February 25, His Majesty and His Excellency took a morning walk at the Tasek Lama Recreational Park. During the walk, His Majesty and His Excellency commemorated the occasion by planting a local plant named ‘Marbujok’ tree.

After the morning walk, His Majesty and His Excellency enjoyed breakfast in front of the waterfall at the park. The Tasek Lama Recreational Park, situated in the capital with an area of approximately 10 hectares is among the places of interest that attracts both local and foreign visitors.

His Excellency and spouse ended their state visit to Brunei Darussalam on February 25.



The spouse of the President of Republic of Indonesia, Datin Ibu Hajah Ani Bambang Yudhoyono during a visit to Balai Pameran Islam of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah at Darul-Ifta of State Mufti Department.



# Women's Council plays important role towards women's development

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 4** – The Women's Council has successfully developed as a non-governmental organisation which plays its role not only on national level but as well as regionally and internationally. The council is currently planning to establish Counselling Unit to assist relevant parties in handling abuse cases and the likes.

The matters were highlighted by Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha in a *titah* (royal speech) at the Silver Jubilee celebration for Brunei Darussalam's Women's Council.

Her Majesty also believes that this council will be able to continue its role in enhancing the capabilities of women in this country in facing challenges related to national building. Her Majesty also said that with the prevalence of various current issues involving women, council members must work closely together in finding ways to overcome those issues.

At the ceremony, Her Majesty also launched a book entitled 'Mutiara Kenangan' in conjunction with the 25<sup>th</sup> year establishment of the Brunei Darussalam Women's Council. The book features the history and developments of the Brunei Darussalam Women's Council in which 13 women associations are affiliated to it.

At the ceremony, Her Majesty also consented to present certificates and gifts of appreciation to the Presidents of the Brunei Darussalam Women's Council from the year 1986 to 2012. Her Majesty also consented to present certificates of appreciation to the associations which are affiliated to the Brunei Darussalam Women's Council.



PHOTO: ABDUL KADIR MOHD. TAHIR

**Her Majesty launches a book entitled 'Mutiara Kenangan' in conjunction with the 25<sup>th</sup> year establishment of the Brunei Darussalam Women's Council.**

The ceremony took place this afternoon, at the International Convention Centre, Berakas. Also present were Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.

## Girl Guides Association celebrates 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary

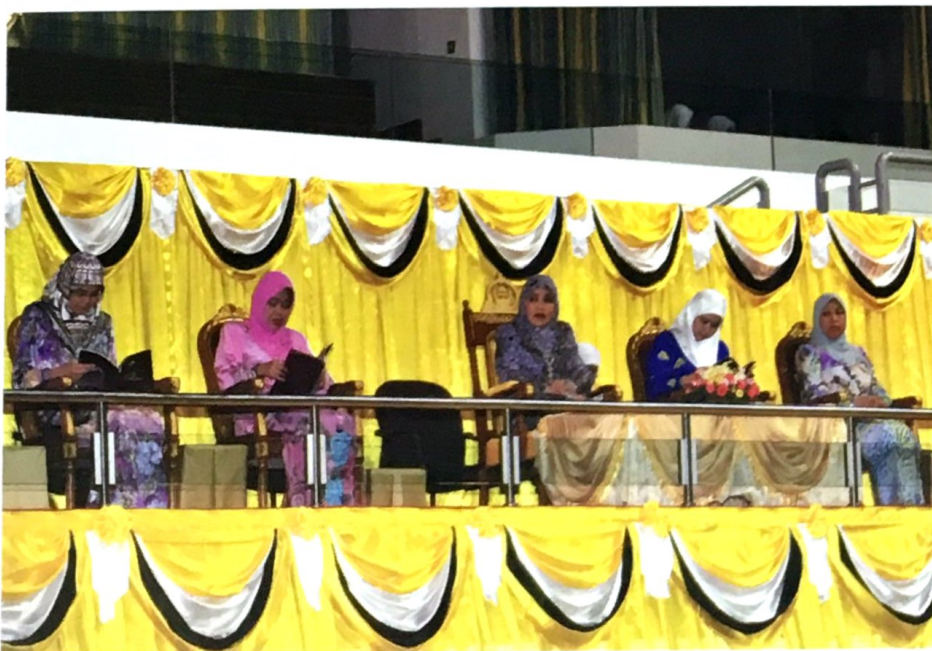


PHOTO: ABDUL KADIR MOHD. TAHIR

**Her Majesty The Raja Isteri at the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Girl Guides Association celebration ceremony.**



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

**Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah attends a forum as one of the activities held to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Girl Guides Association celebration ceremony.**

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 13** –The Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary held at the Hassanal Bolkiah Indoor Stadium in Berakas.

Present to grace the ceremony was Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha, the Royal Patron of the association held on February 6.

While on February 13, a forum on aspects of volunteering was also held as part of the celebration. Present to grace the ceremony was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah. Also present was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, the Vice-President of the association.

The forum was held at Dewan Raya, Radio Televisyen Brunei.

The Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam has progressed positively as an organisation that not only supports the development of girls and young women as individuals, but also to guide, heed for individual development and improve the lives of those in need.

Since December 2010, various activities such as religious activities and bazaar had been held to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Meanwhile through 2011, various activities also been planned; among others are Forum on Volunteerism, Post Card Drawing Competition, National Camp, and Cultural Exchange Programme.



## Special *Maulud* gathering for women

PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN



Her Majesty The Raja Isteri in a group photo with recipients of Special Hijrah Meritorious Award.

**BERAKAS, February 26** – A special *Maulud* gathering for women was held to commemorate the birth of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) at International Convention Centre.

Present to grace the ceremony was Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha.

Also present were Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of awards

to three women for this year's *Anugerah Bakti Hijrah Khas Wanita* or Special Hijrah Meritorious Award by Her Majesty The Raja Isteri.

The recipients were Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Misli binti Haji Awang; Dayang Hajah Johana binti Haji Mohd Isa and Dayang Hajah Tiafnah binti Haji Metussin. Each recipient received a cash prize of \$10,000, a certificate, a trophy and free medical facility at the First Class Ward of any public hospital in this country.

In conjunction with the ceremony, a three-day Health Exhibition was held which include information on women's health issues in this country.

## Full usage of Malay Language every August 1



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince officiates the seminar on Malay Islamic Monarchy.

**BERAKAS, February 11** - A total of 10 resolutions were adopted as a result of the two-day seminar on the nation's philosophy – *Melayu Islam Beraja* - MIB (Malay Islamic Monarchy).

One of the 10 resolutions is to uphold Malay Language whereby August 1 has been recognised as a day to fully use the Malay Language. This coincides with National Youth Day.

Other resolutions include the inclusion of Youth Council under the official patronage of the MIB Executive Council; to organise a day, week or month of MIB; to provide exposure to all levels of the community on the history and culture of Brunei and ethnic language by organising more programmes like workshops, seminars, quiz, and trips to historical places.

The official opening of the seminar was held on February 10. Present to officially launched the seminar was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office where His Royal Highness in his *sabda* (royal speech) reminded youths, as has been underscored by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the National Youth Day 2008 celebration, not to neglect the purity of traditional customs and national identity which have been inherited through generations.

His Royal Highness said the Malay Islamic Monarchy concept indeed constitutes the core of the pure value of the culture of Brunei people where its future lies in the hands of youths as the generation to continue the national traditions and customs as well as the national and country's identity. To produce excellent Brunei youths as stipulated in the National Youth Policy, would not be complete if they are not based on MIB concept which has been embedded in the lives of the Brunei people.

A total of 400 youths aged between 15 and 30 from various backgrounds took part in the seminar.

PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID



## Officer Cadet School shows positive progress

**SUNGAI AKAR, February 17** – The Officer Cadet School of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) have shown positive development. The latest showed the school producing a military medical officer and an engineer. These developments portray the rapid progress in RBAF which covers many aspects of defence and the armed forces.

The matters were highlighted by His Royal Highness Crown Prince General Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office and General of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) at a Sovereign Parade Ceremony for the Fourth Intake Cadets of RBAF's Officer Cadet School at Sungai Akar Camp.

His Royal Highness also said that this intake saw women's participation in this challenging career becoming more visible. This intake saw women cadets obtaining top spots in training and receiving the 'Sword of Honour'.

At the ceremony, His Royal Highness conferred the awards to the best officer cadets in every category for the Fourth Intake of the RBAF Officer Cadet School.

The most prestigious 'Sword of Honour Award' was presented to 21623 Officer Cadet Dayang Siti Irmadaya binti Yahya. The 'Best in Academic Award' was presented to 21621 Officer Cadet Nida 'Ul Aqilah binti Haji Mayassin.

Meanwhile 'Best Military Skills Award' was presented to 19344 Officer Cadet Mohammad Aji bin Haji Abdul Rahman; while 17968 Officer Cadet Mohammad Hanis Fakhri bin Haji Bakri received 'Best in Physical Training Endurance Award'.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness presents the most prestigious 'Sword of Honour Award' to 21623 Officer Cadet Dayang Siti Irmadaya binti Yahya.

## Receptions and thanksgiving prayers celebrate Crown Prince's birthday anniversary



PHOTO: ABDUL KADIR MOHD. TAHIR

A reception hosted by Royal Brunei Armed Forces.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

A reception hosted by Royal Brunei Police Force.

**JERUDONG, February 20** – His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Deputy Inspector General of Police attended a reception in conjunction with His Royal Highness's 37<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary.

The reception was presented by Royal Brunei Police Force at the Jerudong Polo Club held on February 19.

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

His Royal Highness as the General of Royal Brunei Armed

Forces also attended similar reception hosted by the Royal Brunei Armed Forces held at the Bolkiah Garrison on February 18.

Meanwhile, several agencies such as the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation (YSHHB) as the Secretariat for Pengiran Muda Mahkota Al-Muhtadee Billah Fund for Orphans (DANA); the Authority Monetary of Brunei Darussalam (AMBD) and Universiti Brunei Darussalam also held a thanksgiving ceremony in conjunction with His Royal Highness's birthday anniversary on February 20; 18 and 16 respectively.



# 164 complete Darusysyifa' Warrafahah course



His Royal Highness presents a certificate to a member of Darusysyifa' Warrafahah who has completed 80 hours of Islamic Medical Study.

**TUNKGU, February 6** - A total of 164 members have completed 80 hours of Islamic Medical Study via a basic course programme provided by Darusysyifa' Warrafahah. Darusysyifa' Warrafahah was established with the objective to produce local Islamic medical specialists and to strengthen public's confidence towards Islamic medical practises.

Present to award the certificates was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik. His Royal Highness also attended the Syifa' Seminar held in conjunction with the certificate-presentation ceremony.

The event was held at Universiti Brunei Darussalam's Chancellor Hall.

## 'SMSPOS' boost for postal services

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 5** - The postal services received a boost with the introduction of 'SMSPOS', a service that involves three phases of short-message service comprising of 'Push', 'Pull' and 'Online'.

Thus a launching ceremony was held at Lumut Post Office by Deputy Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Communications, Awang Abdul Mutalib.

The SMSPOS services is one of the services that had gained popularity not only in Brunei Darussalam but also worldwide. It is one of the department's efforts in promoting and introducing post services and products to public. It will also become an alternative channel for their customers in making any enquiries.

The SMSPOS services will be managed through three phases, the first phase which had been launched was 'Push' SMS that is only providing information to customer.

The second phase will be launched on October 9; will be known as 'Push' and 'Pull' where a customer can communicate with the department automatically through supply codes. Meanwhile the final phase is expected to be launched at the end of the year.

With the introduction of SMSPOS, the department hopes that all important information and promotions can be delivered to public more efficiently and effectively and benefits the public especially its customers.

## Ministers attend receptions



On behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair attended a reception to celebrate the 32<sup>nd</sup> National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Also present was the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mohammad Reza Havaseli Ashtiani.

The reception was held on February 11 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.



On behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan attended a reception to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> National Day of the State of Kuwait.

Also present was the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Ghassan M. Al-Duwaisan.

The reception was held on February 25 at The Empire Hotel and Country Club, Jerudong.

PHOTOS: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI



## National Pap Smear Registry: Enhance prevention programmes



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

The Minister of Health officiates the National Pap Smear Registry in conjunction with World Cancer Day 2011.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 5** – A number of measures have been taken by the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to ensure that the citizen's welfare are well taken care of. One of the latest measures is by introducing National Pap Smear Registry.

The setting up of the National Pap Smear Registry is to enhance prevention and control programmes towards cervical cancer as it is the second most common type of cancer affecting women in Brunei Darussalam. This will be the data base for the Ministry of Health for a more proper record system pap smear tests and related test to women of this country including targeted groups for cervical cancer screening. It will also further improve the effectiveness of the prevention and control measures in an effort to reduce the number of cases and death rate due to cervical cancer. Through the

National Pap Smear Registry, women will be given reminder every three years to undergo tests besides ensuring that cervix cancer cases that have been identified at the early stage would be fully treated and ensure that the individuals would follow advices and undergo treatments.

The matters were disclosed by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan at the National Pap Smear Registry opening ceremony in conjunction with World Cancer Day 2011.

The event took place at the Health Promotion Centre.

The minister also said that to further enhance the prevention and control measures, the Ministry of Health is currently preparing and planning to provide vaccine Human Papilloma Virus Vaccine to female students in Year 7 nationwide beginning 2012.

## \$11 million for Doppler Weather Surveillance Radar system

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 7** –The Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) is currently replacing its Doppler Weather Surveillance Radar (DWSR), a system that detects and monitors the movement of rain and thunderstorm. This high resolution system has the ability to carry out 'Numerical Weather Prediction' which will increase the accuracy of weather forecast and warning issued by Weather Forecast Centre.

The implementation of the new system with a cost of about \$11 million is one of the projects under the National Development Plan 2007-2012.

It is also hoped that the system can be benefited in supporting the effort in facing and handling disasters. This system is expected to be operational in August 2011.

The matters were highlighted during a work visit by the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdullah to DCA's Meteorological Service Division.

The division also works closely with National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) and other government agencies in handling rainy season which is currently experienced in Brunei Darussalam.



PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

The matters were highlighted during a work visit by the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdullah to DCA's Meteorological Service Division.

## UBD will implement 15 projects



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

The agreement on projects research signed by researchers made up of UBD lecturers.

**TUNGKU, February 7** – Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) with a cost of around \$18 million will implement 15 science and technology research projects. These projects are milestones in realising its vision toward a first class university.

A signing ceremony for the second phase of the Science and Technology Research Project was held at the Senate Room of UBD's Chancellor Hall.

The agreement on project research which covers academic research, new knowledge, development, commercial and innovation were signed by the researchers made up of UBD lecturers.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Vice Chancellor of UBD, Dr. Zulkarnain.

The first phase of the project which costs \$2.2 million had covered 10 projects which among others included new knowledge on pap smear awareness for cervical cancer.



# Brunei Darussalam allocates 58 per cent land for HoB initiative

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 8** – Brunei Darussalam had allocated 58 per cent of its land under the conservation management of Heart of Borneo (HoB) working principles.

In this matter, the HoB Project Implementation Framework has combined protection and production function of forest resources that correspond to the direction of Brunei's policy towards nature conservation.

Deputy Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dayang Hajah Normah Suria Hayati stated the matter in her remarks at the Official Opening of the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Experts Group on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (AEG-CITES) Meeting.

The trans-boundary management with our neighbouring countries has given special emphasis under the Brunei HoB project implementation framework to secure our national resources from informal and illegal utilisation.

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, she said, has continuously supported the environment and natural resources conservation initiatives.

She added that, under the HoB initiative, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia have presented to the world communities, commitment to conserve and protect one of the most diverse natural ecosystem on earth and

the largest contiguous tropical rainforest in Southeast Asia.

Brunei Darussalam has affirmed the importance of joint conservation initiatives to ensure the sustainable management of the 220,000 kilometres area of natural ecosystem with the HoB, she said.

We believed the involvement of CITES and this initiatives would benefit our technical capabilities in implementing our ongoing sub-regional collaboration like the HoB initiative and our trans-boundary cooperation with regards to the protection of our natural forests, she said.

The three-day meeting is chaired by Brunei Darussalam and co-organised by the Forestry Department and the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood.

Among the agenda is the latest progression and development on CITES committee meeting tasks that is Standing, Planting and Animal Committee Meeting.

The 8<sup>th</sup> AEG-CITES is participated by ASEAN member-countries, ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network Program Coordination Unit (ASEAN WEN PCU) and various intergovernmental organisations and public.

The meeting were also attended by officers from government departments namely; Attorney General's Office, Museum Department, Fishery Department, Royal Brunei Police and Royal Customs and Excise.

## 11<sup>th</sup> AGBEP held in UBD

**TUNGKU, February 9** – The Faculty of Business, Economics and Policy Studies (FBEPS), Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) conducted the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Graduate Business and Economics Programme (AGBEP) at Senate Room, Chancellor Hall, UBD on February 9.

With the theme 'Enhancing Regional Economic Integration through AGBEP', the meeting focused on improving institutional efforts by enhancing the Quality of Graduate Programme in Business and Economics and support and active engagement by member universities to reinforce research for ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

The two-day meeting were attended by AGBEP members of ASEAN countries. The countries are Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Brunei Darussalam as host country.



The 11<sup>th</sup> AGBEP participated by AGBEP members of ASEAN countries namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Brunei Darussalam as host country.

## Geospatial for efficient development



The Minister of Development at the opening of the Geospatial Technology Update Seminar.

**JERUDONG, February 10** – Changes in Brunei Darussalam's Geographical Information System (GIS) technology has become significant with the inclusion of geospatial in planning, management and monitoring of natural resources, facilities, infrastructure, agriculture and many more.

Geospatial technology is no longer a segregated section of information technology but it has become a perspective of information community and general infrastructure.

The matters were stated by the Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyol at the opening of the Geospatial Technology Update Seminar (GTUS) held at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

The minister also noted that

geospatial technology has an important role to play in development sector in its bid to make the national development plan to be more effective while its implementation to be more efficient.

The GTUS was conducted with the objective to provide a whole picture on the usage of geospatial technology in decision-making, planning and execution to increase business's income. The seminar also provided detail information on the usage of geospatial in daily operations.

Brunei Darussalam for the first time hosted the GTUS where it was jointly organised by GIS Development, Survey Department, Brunei Institution of Geomatics and Royal Institute Chartered Surveyors.



## Launching of CRoSS

PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI



**The Minister of Communications at the Launching of Centre for Road Safety Studies.**

**TUNGKU, February 16** – With the existence of detailed and systematic research and study and also the usage of latest technologies, causes for road accidents to occur will be recognised more precisely and faster. Therefore it will enable relevant parties to take effective and appropriate steps in reducing total number of accidents to the lowest level.

Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdullah stated the matters at the Launching of Centre for Road Safety Studies (CRoSS).

The ceremony took place at Main Conference Room,

Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB).

According to the minister there are several matters that need to be reviewed such as the syllabus and procedure for student driver, state and road system, road warning signs and road regulations enforcer. Awareness programmes for drivers and road users also need to be carried out continuously, he said.

Prior to that, he touched on the numbers of road accidents in Brunei Darussalam from 2007 – 2009 which had shown an increase.

He further added that the United Nations in cooperation with the governments worldwide will launch 'UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011 – 2020' where it is hoped will provide opportunity to globally tackle the occurrence of fatality from road traffic accidents.

Ministry of Communications and Road Safety Council, he said, fully support ITB's desire to make CRoSS as a quality and relevant road safety study centre; and results from the research and study centre would contribute to policy making correlative to road safety in the nation.

The establishment of this centre has three objectives, which are; understanding and identifying profound scenario and problem causing accident; arrange and implement responses to mitigate related problem; and monitor and evaluate effectiveness of responses taken.

The establishment of the centre is one of the activities arranged to commemorate and celebrate 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ITB's establishment and in line with the institute's strategic plan and planning in an effort to enrich more research activities as a technical university in the nation.

## National Cancer Centre signs MoU with Southern Tohoku General Hospital

**JERUDONG, February 16** – National Cancer Centre of Brunei Darussalam (NCC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Southern Tohoku General Hospital, Japan.

The signing of ceremony was held at the Indera Samudera Grand Hall, The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

Signing on behalf of NCC was its Chairperson, Dr. Hajah Norlila while her counterpart was President of Southern Tohoku General Hospital, Dr. Kazuo Watanabe.

Present to witness the ceremony were Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan and Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Hirose Noriki.

As part of NCC's mission is to enhance living through quality cancer service, the MoU will focus on cooperation with Southern Tohoku General Hospital, Japan in exploring possibility for providing state-of-art cancer treatment like Proton Therapy.

This MoU will also recognise several fields in training, education, exchange of information and enable proton



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

**The signing of MoU between National Cancer Centre of Brunei Darussalam with Southern Tohoku General Hospital, Japan witnesses by the Minister of Health.**

therapy for cancer patients in Brunei Darussalam.

Also present at the ceremony was Minister of Energy at Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin as Chairman of Jerudong Park Medical Centre.

## ITB signs MoU with UNSW

**TUNGKU, February 16** – Two degree programmes, Petroleum and Chemical Engineering is the two Articulation Degree Programmes newly introduced in Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB) in 2009 following the upgrading of the institute's status to a university on October 18, 2008. Both articulation degree programmes are partnership with the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia.

In regards to this, ITB has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UNSW.

The signing ceremony took place at the Main Conference Room, ITB.

Signing on behalf of ITB were its Vice-Chancellor, Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Omar; Registrar and ITB Secretary, Jennifer Hiew Lim, while their counterpart were UNSW's Dean of Engineering Faculty, Professor Graham Davies and Associate Professor Dr. Rodney Chaplin from Faculty of Engineering, UNSW.

Present as guest of honour at the ceremony and to witness the signing was Deputy Permanent Secretary (Higher Education) at Ministry of Education, Dr. Haji Junaidi.

Also present was High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Marl Sawers.





## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX OCTOBER 2010

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in October 2010 increased marginally compared to September 2010.

Compared with October 2009, the CPI decreased marginally in October 2010.

For the period January – October 2010, the CPI was 0.3 per cent higher with the same period in 2009.

The food and non-alcoholic beverages Index increased marginally over September 2010. On a year-on-year basis, the food and non-alcoholic beverages Index was 1.3 per cent higher in October 2010. On a period-to-period basis, the index increased by 0.8 per cent.

The increase in cost of food and non-alcoholic beverages mainly attributed to the higher costs of fish and seafood (0.3 per cent); oil and fats less (than 0.05 per cent); vegetables (2.1 per cent); sugar, jam, honey, chocolate and confectionery (0.4 per cent); and other food products (less than 0.05 per cent).

On the other hand, the non-food index increased marginally over September 2010. Compared with the same month last year, the non-food index was 0.4 per cent lower in October 2010. On a period-to-period basis, the index increased by 0.1 per cent.

Meanwhile, the increase in the cost of non-food were recorded in clothing and footwear (0.6 per cent) as a result of higher prices of men's, women's and children's shoes; recreation and culture (0.3 per cent) as a result of higher prices of computers and computer accessories, games, toys and hobbies as well as articles for pets; and miscellaneous goods and services (0.3 per cent) due to higher prices of articles for personal hygiene, beauty products, other products for personal care, jewellery and watches.

Based on the contribution to change, clothing and footwear (88.9 per cent) and recreation and culture (66.4 per cent) were the main contributors to the increase in the overall index.

For year-on-year changes showed that CPI in October 2010 decreased marginally.

The cost of food and non-alcoholic beverages rose by 1.3 per cent compared to the same month last year. This was attributed to the increased process of fish and seafood (0.1 per cent); milk, dairy products and egg (1.9 per cent); fruits (5.9 per cent); vegetables (10.9 per cent) sugar, jam, honey,

chocolate and confectionery (0.5 per cent); other food products (2.7 per cent); and coffee, tea and cocoa (3.8 per cent).

The non-food cost went down by 0.4 per cent compared to the same month last year. Decreases were recorded in clothing and footwear (0.1 per cent); milk, dairy products and eggs (1.9 per cent); fruits (5.9 per cent); vegetables (10.9 per cent); sugar, jam, honey, chocolate and confectionery (0.5 per cent); other food products (2.7 per cent); and coffee, tea and cocoa (3.8 per cent).

The non-food cost fell by 0.4 per cent compared to the same month last year. Decreases were recorded in clothing and footwear (0.1 per cent) due to lower prices of women's shoes; furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance (0.6 per cent) on account of lower prices of bedroom and other furniture, carpets and other floor coverings, major and small electric household appliances, cleaning and maintenance products, other non-durable household goods and household services; transport (1.2 per cent) due to cheaper costs of spare parts and accessories of vehicles, maintenance and repair of vehicles as well as passenger transport by air; and recreation and culture (3.1 per cent) due to decreased prices of audio-visual and sound equipment, unrecorded and pre-recorded recording media, games, toys, hobbies, balls, sporting equipment and sports footwear, equipment for camping and open-air recreation, articles for pets and sports footwear, television and radio broadcasting, magazines and periodicals, stationery and drawing materials as well as package holidays.

Based on contribution to change, transport (848.0 per cent); and recreation and culture (698.8 per cent) were the main contributors to overall decrease.

Meanwhile, the period-on-period changes (January – October 2010 compared with January – October 2009) the CPI for January – October 2010 rose by 0.3 per cent compared with the same period of previous year. Increases were recorded in food and non-alcoholic beverages (0.8 per cent); tobacco (0.1 per cent); housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (0.1 per cent); health (1.8 per cent); transport (0.4 per cent); education (0.2 per cent); restaurants and hotels (0.8 per cent); and miscellaneous goods and services (0.5 per cent).



PHOTOS: AK. ABU BAKARUDDIN SHAH DINNY PG. HAJI KAMARUDDIN



## Health Ministry committed enhance nursing services



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

**Awang Muhammad Morni receives his certificates from Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan.**

**JERUDONG, February 17** – The Ministry of Health in its efforts towards achieving healthy citizens will continue to emphasise on the quality of its nursing services. This is further emphasised as 34 per cent of the ministry's workforce is made up of nurses.

However, the quality envisioned will only be achievable through high quality nurses and who are committed in their profession. Health care is also facing challenges as technology advances in medical treatment not only requires high investment but also workforces who are caring and provide good services.

The matters were highlighted by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan at a convocation ceremony for Diploma in Cranio-Maxillofacial held at Royal Berkshire Hall, Jerudong Polo and Country Club.

The minister further said that the ministry is committed in providing infrastructure for health care, medical tools, facilities and skilled workforce to ensure the delivery of high quality health and medical services to patients and public as a whole.

The recipients of the diploma were Dayang Siti Faridah binti Haji Mohamed Sabli and Awang Muhammad Morni bin Abdullah Chuat who received their certificates from the minister.

Both recipients are from Department of Maxillofacial, Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital.

The Diploma in Cranio-Maxillofacial Surgical Nursing is one-year programme organised by Department of Maxillofacial, Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, RIPAS Hospital and accredited by National Accreditation Centre, Ministry of Education's Brunei Darussalam. The tutors for this programme were from Department of Maxillofacial, Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery RIPAS Hospital and Department of Cranio-Maxillofacial of University of Berne Hospital, Switzerland.

The main objective of the programme is to enable registered nurses to gain specific knowledge, experience, understanding, skill practice and professionalism in Cranio-Maxillofacial Nursing through Diploma Level Study Programme.

## MSC agrees measures reduce haze

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 20** – As haze occurred almost every year in some of ASEAN member countries, the 11<sup>th</sup> Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) On Transboundary Haze Pollution Meeting has achieved an agreement on tackling and reducing haze.

Among the agreements achieved include approving strategic research programmes and activities towards enhancing control on haze.

The meeting was held in Singapore for two days from February 17 to 18. Brunei Darussalam was represented by the Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji

Suyoi.

The Minister of Development in his capacity as Deputy Chairman for Authoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD) also paid a courtesy call to the Senior Minister of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Goh Chok Tong as Chairman of Monetary Authority of Singapore.

The meeting was held at Astana on February 17, where both parties exchanged views and shared experience towards the implementation of authority and related fields.

## DAA signs contract to increase crop production



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

**The Deputy Permanent Secretary (Industry and Entrepreneurship), the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Awang Mohd. Riza witnesses the signing ceremony of a project on 'The Development of Bacterial and Fungal Disease Identification and Management on Agricultural Crops and Ornamental Plants'.**

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 22** – The Department of Agriculture and Agrifood (DAA) signed a project contract agreement 'The Development of Bacterial and Fungal Disease Identification and Management on Agricultural Crops and Ornamental Plants' with CAB International Southeast and East Asia (CAB ISAEA).

Signing on behalf of Department of Agriculture and Agrifood was its Acting Director, Dayang Hajah Aidah binti Haji Mohd. Hanifah; meanwhile CAB ISAEA was signed by its Regional Director, Dr. Loke Wai Hong.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Deputy Permanent Secretary (Industry and Entrepreneurship), the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Awang Mohd. Riza bin Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Yunus; Assistant Director of Agriculture, Dayang Fuziah binti Haji Hamdan and CAB ISAEA Chief Scientist, Dr. Soetikno S. Sastroutomo.

Among the objectives of the project is to increase crop production and reducing losses as a result of disease infection. It is also meant to produce sustainable, safe and high quality yields, which could increase rural incomes and food security.



## Deputy Defence Minister receives courtesy visit

**BERAKAS, February 21** – The Deputy Minister of Defence, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat received a courtesy visit from Thailand's Chief of Defence Force of Royal Thai Army, His Excellency General Songkitti Jaggabatara.

His Excellency and delegate were in the country for a three-day official visit. The visit aimed to strengthen the warm relationship between Brunei Darussalam and Thailand apart from to enhance defence cooperation between the two army forces.

During the visit to the Ministry of Defence, His Excellency also paid a courtesy call to the Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan.

The ceremony was held at Bolkiah Garrison.

## Brunei History Centre launches 8 publications

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 24** – The Brunei History Centre has launched eight publications held in conjunction with the 27<sup>th</sup> National Day of Brunei Darussalam.

The eight books launched were; 'Royal Poet: Al Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien'; Tarsilah Brunei II: Period of Splendour and Fame (translated version); Pemerintahan Sultan Ahmad Tajuddin 1924-1950: Kerajaan, Masyarakat dan Pembaharuan; The Catalyst Towards Victory; Brunei Dalam Sejarah China; 100 Tahun Hubungan Brunei-British (1906-2006) Kumpulan Kertas Kerja Seminar Sejarah Brunei III; Jurnal Darussalam bilangan 9 dan 10 serta Pusaka bilangan 19 dan 20.

Present to officially launch the books was the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair.

## Brunei Darussalam gains benefits in APPA

**GADONG, February 25** – Brunei Darussalam hopes to benefit through the exchange of information and experience among members of Asia Pacific countries through the Asia Pacific Producer Association (APPA). Some of the information and experience that could be shared are on new methods and strategies on widening publication and to improve sales of books.

The matters were said by the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Awang Haji Ismail bin Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Setia Dato Paduka Haji Hashim at the 18<sup>th</sup> APPA Annual General Assembly held at the Rizqun International Hotel.

According to him, APPA provides an opportunity to Brunei Darussalam to gain experience and to increase

knowledge in editing and publishing books especially for better quality, design format and layout. Besides that, APPA also provides trainings to publishers in Brunei Darussalam

The Deputy Permanent Secretary said through the training, Language and Literature Bureau and local publishers would be exposed to the knowledge and various skills in publishing from APPA members countries. They would also have an opportunity to attend world level book fiesta and to meet publishers worldwide.

The assembly was organised by the Language and Literature Bureau in conjunction with 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bureau's establishment. It is also one of the events to celebrate the 27<sup>th</sup> National Day of Brunei Darussalam.

## Brunei hosts South East Asia Mathematic Competition



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

More than 230 students from Brunei Darussalam, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, and Vietnam participated in the SEAMC.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 26** – Brunei Darussalam recently hosted the South East Asia Mathematic Competition (SEAMC) where students from South Islander of Hong Kong, Alexander Cooke won the individual category. Emerged as champion for the team category were students from West Island School of Hong Kong.

The students from South Islander of Hong Kong, Alexander Cooke won the South East Asia Mathematic Competition (SEAMC) for individual category; meanwhile the group category from West Island School of Hong Kong won the group category.

A prize presentation was held at a Gala Night to celebrate participants of SEAMC where the prizes were presented by the Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim.

The SEAMC is an annual competition where more than 230 students from Brunei Darussalam, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, and Vietnam took part.

Jerudong International School hosted the competition from February 24 to 27.

## Brunei Book Fair 2011 offers assortment of books

**BERAKAS, February 26** – A total of 105 booths representing 52 companies from Brunei Darussalam, Philippines, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand are taking part in the 10-day Brunei Book Fair 2011.

Present to officially open the book fair was the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair held at International Convention Centre.

The opening ceremony also saw the launching of 29 books published by the Language and Literature Bureau;

and presentation of token of appreciation to the authors of the newly-published books.

Members of the public are invited to attend the book fair where assortments of books are available for adults and young children. A number of activities will also be organised throughout the book fair such as quiz, a workshop on story book drawing illustration, colouring competition and many more.

The book fair will end on March 7.



## HRH attends the Kempo Performance

**BERAKAS, February 7** – A Kempo Art of Self-Defence demonstration was held with the objective to introduce this art of self-defence to members of the public especially the youth. It is also to encourage the public in general to participate actively in sports in the bid to enhance their health, well-being and physical and mental endurance.

More than 1,000 youths from various associations and schools watched the Kempo performance. Also present was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC).

The Kempo Art of Self-Defence Performance was showcased by Shorinji Kempo Federation from Indonesia organised by the Youth and Sports Department with cooperation from BDNOC.

The performance was held at the Indoor Stadium of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex in Berakas.



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) introduces to members of Shorinji Kempo Federation.

## Brunei Cambridge Exam results show improvement

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 5** –The Brunei Cambridge GCE October/ November 2010 results for the Ordinary and Advanced Level showed an improvement compare to those in 2009.

The results for Brunei Cambridge GCE 'A' Level showed an increase of 1.28 per cent where 2,951 candidates sat for the October/ November 2010 examination and 2,402 or 81.40 per cent passed with at least 1'A' Level. Overall percentage of candidates getting at least 2'A' Level are 63.57 per cent. The result also showed 77 candidates or 2.61 per cent obtained 4'A' Level and this achievement increased by 0.40 per cent compared to 2009.

Meanwhile, the results for Brunei Cambridge GCE 'AS' Level also showed an improvement compare to the results in 2009. From 1,507 candidates, 1,226 or 81.35 per cent obtained at least 1'AS' Level; this showed an increase of 2.44 per cent compared to last year. Overall results showed 95 candidates or 6.30 per cent have grade A in at least two subjects; this achievement improvement by 0.92 per cent compared to 2009.

The results for the Brunei Cambridge GCE 'O' Level October/ November 2010 showed that from 7,781 candidates, 4,078 (52.41 per cent) obtained at least 3'O' Level. For this year, 988 candidates or 12.70 per cent obtained eight to 11'O' Level. Based on the 3'O' Level achievement, six schools had obtained results more than 90 per cent pass and these included two schools which achieved 100 per cent pass.

## Local fruits planting campaign continues

**TUTONG, February 12** – Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources continues its local fruit planting campaign at the Rural Agriculture Development Farm in Tabalu, Kampung Kiudang.

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

At Tabalu, the minister planted Durian Otak Udang Galah (Durio graveolend Becc.).

The Rural Agriculture Development Farm in Tabalu, Kampung Kiudang consists of an area of 20.24 hectares. The area was opened for development since 2004.

The local fruits planting campaign was first launched in July 2010.

## Walkathon marks World Cancer Day

**JERUDONG, February 13** – As a continued effort to promote healthy lifestyle, the Ministry of Health held a walkathon to mark World Cancer Day 2011.

Present to join the walk was Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan and spouse.

Among the objectives was to emphasise the importance of physical activities and exercise in tackling non-communicable diseases like diabetes, high-blood pressure, high-cholesterol and obesity which all shared similar risk factors with cancer.

The walkathon started and ended at the Jerudong Park Playground.



## Did you know that...

- Royal Brunei Armed Forces was formed on May 31, 1961. It was known as 'Askar Melayu Brunei' or Brunei Malay Regiment. It was honoured with the royal title of 'Diraja' or Royal on May 31, 1965.
- After the nation-state achieved her independence on January 1, 1984, the agency was renamed to 'Angkatan Bersenjata Diraja Brunei (ABDB)' or Royal Brunei Armed Forces.
- Royal Brunei Police Force was established on January 1, 1921 after the Brunei Police Force Enactment was passed. It was given the royal honour of 'Diraja' or Royal on September 23, 1965.
- Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) is the nation's first university. It was established on October 28, 1985.

## >> 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, Kuala Belait and Temburong.
- Malay is the official language but English is widely spoken.
- Islam is the official religion and it allows other religions to be practiced.
- National carrier is Royal Brunei Airlines.
- It has an equatorial climate, a uniform temperature, high humidity and heavy rainfall.

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

## >> HOW TO GET TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM?

**There are a number of ways to reach Brunei.**

- By air - Brunei's national carrier, Royal Brunei Airlines travels to more than 20 destinations around the world. The airline also has worldwide office for you to book a return flight to Brunei (to know the nearest RBA's office at your place, please log to: [www.brunelair.com](http://www.brunelair.com))
- International airlines such as Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and Thai Airways also fly frequently to Brunei. Beginning July 2006, Air Asia, one of Malaysia's lowest airfare carrier has direct flight from Kuala Lumpur to Brunei.
- Arrival by plane would land you to Brunei International Airport (BWN), the sole airport in the nation.
- For those who enjoy journey by sea, you can reach Brunei by boat or ferry. The main ferry terminal in Brunei is the Serasa Ferry Terminal at Muara. You can catch a ferry from Labuan, Sabah or Lawas and Sundar, both in Sarawak, a state of the neighbouring country, Malaysia. Another option is via a boat from Limbang, Sarawak which will arrive at the jetty around Jalan Residency area in the Capital.
- You would have two options of entry point to Brunei by land transport. You can enter through the Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post in Belait District or the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post in Brunei Muara District. The Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post in Belait is the entry point for those from Miri, Sarawak. While the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post is the entrance for those coming from Limbang, Sarawak; Kota Kinabalu; and Kalimantan.