



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam newsletter

Published by the Department of Information
Prime Minister's Office

JANUARY, 2011
VOLUME 26 ISSUE 1

AMBD ensures monetary, financial stability



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

AMBD will take effect on January 1, 2011 which aims to ensure the nation's monetary and financial stability. These were stated by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with New Year 2011.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, DECEMBER 31 – Brunei Darussalam marked another important history in its monetary and financial sector with the establishment of Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD).

AMBD will take effect on January 1, 2011 which aims to

ensure the nation's monetary and financial stability.

The matter was stated by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with New Year 2011.

The *titah* (royal speech) also stated that the Brunei Darussalam-Republic of Singapore's Currency Interchangeability Agreement will remain intact as it brings benefits to both nations.

His Majesty further hoped that efforts can be made continuously to realise our vision to make Brunei Darussalam as one of the world's renowned Islamic financial centre.

The New Year *titah* (royal speech) also touched on the amendment of excise duty for cigarettes, tobacco and its products in order to eradicate smoking habit which dangers the health.

On October 9, 2010, the government had introduced the new doctorate's service scheme in its bid to acquire services of high quality doctors from local and abroad. It is hoped that the new scheme will encourage locals to embark in the medical field until the specialist level.

The government will also continuously make integrated effort in ensuring its food safety which are free from contamination of poison and dangerous substances.

His Majesty also made announced a new regulation known as 'Peraturan Cuti Beranak 2011' (Maternity Leave

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AMBD effective by January 1, 2011

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, DECEMBER 31 – By command of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Ministry of Finance announced that His Majesty had consented for the Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam Order, 2010, to commence on January 1, 2011.

The Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam Order, 2010, amongst other things, provides for the establishment of Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD), its board and matters connected to the objects, operation, administration, functions, powers and duties of AMBD that includes relations between AMBD and the government; relations between AMBD and the banks and financial institutions; and consequential and related amendments to other written laws

that govern the activities supervised by AMBD.

AMBD is a corporate body, acting as the central bank of Brunei Darussalam including the formulation and implementation of monetary policies, supervision of financial institutions and currency management.

In accordance with section 12 of the AMBD Order, 2010, His Majesty had also consented to the appointment of AMBD Board of Members; which includes His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office as the Chairman.

In line with the introduction of the Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam Order, 2010, His Majesty had also consented to the amendment of the

Currency and Monetary Order, 2004, cited as Currency and Monetary Amendment Order, 2010, which shall also commence on January 1, 2010.

This order, amongst other things, provides for the transfer of Brunei Currency and Monetary Board (BCMB) power to AMBD, including its assets and liabilities. In addition, this order also provides for establishment of the Currency Fund for the purpose of currency management.

Following the establishment of AMBD, the Ministry of Finance wished to reaffirm that the Currency Interchangeability Agreement between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Republic of Singapore will remain intact.



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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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5 Brunei-Netherlands committed to tolerance, understanding and mutual respect



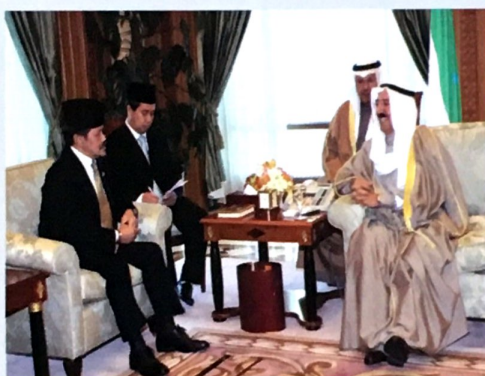
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16 Consultation Agreement for better crop management



17 BSB's Master Plan outlines areas for development

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



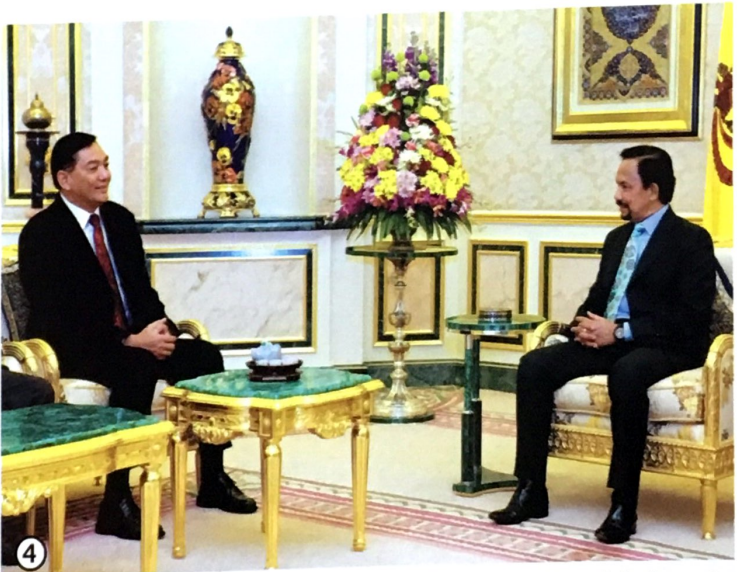
① The Commander of the United States Pacific Fleet, His Excellency Admiral Patrick M. Walsh on January 20.



② The Right Honourable Tan Sri Dato' Haji Muhyiddin bin Haji Mohamad Yassin, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Education of Malaysia on January 25.



③ His Excellency General Ricardo A. David Junior, the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of the Philippines on January 25.



④ The Deputy Minister of Defence of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Lieutenant-General (Rtd) Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin on January 26.

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 January 29 at the Istana Nurul Iman.

They were:



His Excellency Tahir P. Karimov, the non-resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Azerbaijan.



Her Excellency Serap Ataay, the non-resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Turkey.

PHOTOS: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT
AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH



His Excellency Shukur Sabitov, the non-resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Uzbekistan.



His Excellency Ferenc Somogyi, the non-resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Hungary.

PHOTOS: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT
HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

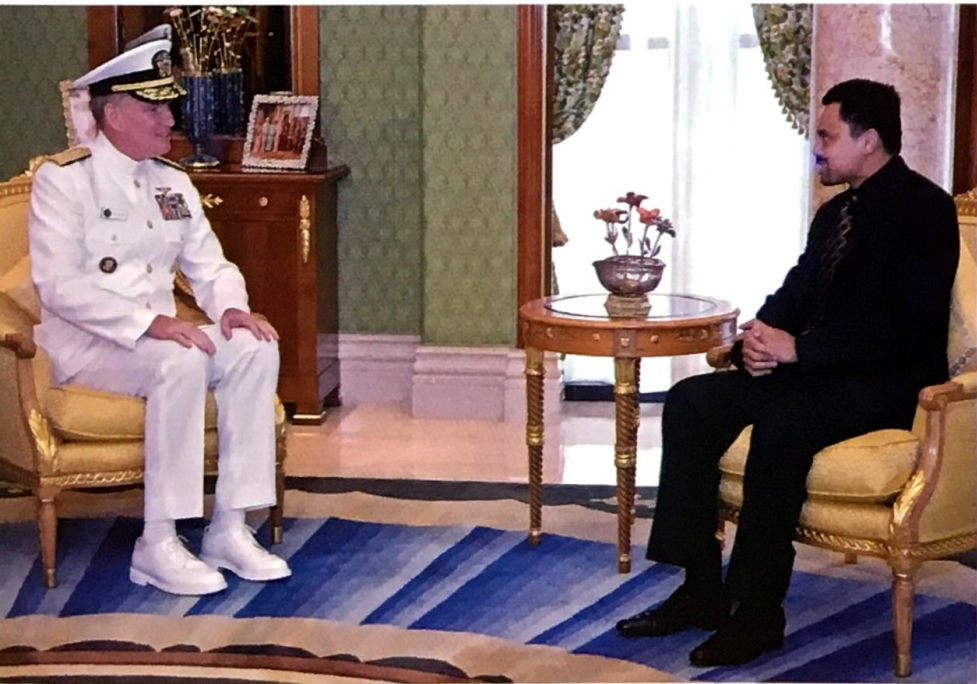
Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha consented to receive in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from:



The wife of the Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister, Puan Sri Noorainee binti Abdul Rahman on January 25.



The wife of the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of the Philippines, Mrs. Merilou Malacay David on January 25.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Deputy Sultan received in audience at Qashr Al-Meezaan from His Excellency Admiral Patrick M. Walsh, the Commander of the United States Pacific Fleet on January 13.

HM sends congratulatory messages

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

- ❖ His Excellency Senior General Than Shwe and his Prime Minister, His Excellency General U Thein Sein the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, The Union of Myanmar in conjunction with the country's 63rd Independence Day on January 4.
- ❖ The President of the Republic of India, Her Excellency Pratibha Devisingh Patil and the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh in conjunction with India's Republic Day on January 26.
- ❖ The Governor-General of Australia, Her Excellency Quentin Bryce and the Prime Minister of Australia, The Honourable Julia Gillard and the government and people of Australia in conjunction with Australia Day on January 26.

PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

Brunei-Netherlands committed to tolerance, understanding and mutual respect



Brunei Darussalam and Netherlands committed to tolerance, understanding and mutual respect. His Majesty stated the matter in his *titah* during a luncheon banquet hosted by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgard in honour of His Majesty's visit to the Netherlands.

THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS, January 13 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam arrived at Amsterdam, Netherlands for a two-day official visit commencing from January 12 to 13.

His Majesty began his official programme in the Netherlands by visiting the Royal Dutch Shell Headquarters in The Hague; followed by a visit to the Shell Technical Centre in Rijswijk.

After the visit to the centre, His Majesty held a four-eyes meeting with Her Majesty Queen Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgard at Noordeinde Palace at The Hague. Following the meeting, His Majesty was introduced to His Royal Highness Crown Prince William-Alexander, Prince of Orange and his wife, Her Royal Highness Princess Maxima.

His Majesty then attended a luncheon banquet hosted by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix in honour of His Majesty's visit to the Netherlands.

During the luncheon, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) conveying the people of Brunei Darussalam's warm greetings, friendship and respect to Her Majesty the Queen and the people of the Netherlands. His Majesty recognised that the shared values of commitment and resolve between the two countries have led to the 80-year



The ways to strengthen bilateral relations especially in the fields of trade and investment, energy, defence and education are discussed by His Majesty and His Excellency Prime Minister Mark Rutte during a meeting at the Cathuis, the official residence of the Prime Minister.

old commitment between His Majesty's Government and the Royal Dutch Shell.

His Majesty believed that his visit to the Netherlands, especially to Royal Dutch Shell was very significant as it acknowledged the role of the company had played in Brunei Darussalam's development. The visit also provided an opportunity for His Majesty to express appreciation for the continued commitment of Royal Dutch Shell and to renew and strengthen the existing partnership.

His Majesty acknowledged The Hague as the birth place of international peace and it is the city which many vital institutions are based. His Majesty also highlighted that the idea of peace is in line with the meaning of Brunei Darussalam, the 'Abode of Peace'. His Majesty also stated that Brunei Darussalam and the Netherlands are committed to tolerance, understanding and mutual respect.

Following the luncheon, His Majesty and His Excellency Prime Minister Mark Rutte had a meeting at the Cathuis, the official residence of the Prime Minister. During the meeting, both leaders discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations especially in the fields of trade and investment, energy, defence and education. His Majesty and Prime Minister Mark Rutte also exchanged views on regional and international matters of mutual interest.



His Majesty in a group photo with Her Majesty Queen Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgard; His Royal Highness Crown Prince William-Alexander, Prince of Orange and his wife, Her Royal Highness Princess Maxima.



His Majesty during a visit to Royal Dutch Shell.

PHOTOS: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR

His Majesty visits areas affected by flood

PHOTO: INFOFOTO



His Majesty visits areas affected by flood in Tutong and Belait District.

TUTONG, January 19 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam showed his concern for the well-being of his citizens by visiting areas affected by flood in Tutong and Belait District.

His Majesty first received a briefing at the Incident Command Post in Kampung Lamunin followed by a visit to several areas inundated by flood in Mukim Lamunin and Mukim Rambai and Mukim Tanjong Maya.

His Majesty then continued the visit to several affected areas at Jalan Bukit Puan in Mukim Labi of the Belait District.

Brunei Darussalam has been experiencing heavy rainfall for the past few days which resulted to several areas particularly in the Tutong and Belait Districts to be inundated with flood.

AMBD strengthens nation's economic stability

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 10 - The establishment of Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD) marked another milestone in the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's effort in carrying out progressive steps toward strengthening sustainable financial stability besides enhancing the services of the financial sector.

The matters were highlighted by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, the Chairman of the AMBD Board of Director at the inaugural AMBD Board of Director's meeting. The meeting was held at the Ministry of Finance.

His Royal Highness said that the establishment of AMBD was implemented when the world is undergoing globalisation process with enhancement of integration among the most active innovative finance and economies. Whilst bringing positive side effects, the environment also makes the global economy to be more unpredictable.

As an example, said His Royal Highness, the recent economic and financial crisis proved that no economy is exempted from systematic risk and effects brought by the situation.

We should take lessons when developed economy experienced the burden of debts; and liquidity of banking system which effected public's confidence on the stability of the financial system. As a result, the respective economies had to obtain financial assistance from certain parties, said His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness also said that so far the direct impact of global financial crisis on Brunei Darussalam's financial system is limited and controlled. This ability among others is due to stable economic base, refined macroeconomic measures, strong banking sector and also effective supervised mechanism.

However, the truth is we are continuously exposed to risks which are able to affect the financial and monetary stability. Therefore, we need to be cautious and ready to introduce strategic policy and implement refined steps in facing any circumstances.

As a corporate body which functions as Central Bank for Brunei Darussalam, AMBD will play a very important role, particularly in ensuring that the stability of nation's monetary and financial system is continuously protected.

His Royal Highness further called for all AMBD's Board Members, the management and also officers and staff to



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

The establishment of AMBD marks another milestone in the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in enhancing the services of its financial sector.

be continuously be together in contributing their services with excellence, full dedication and more accountability.

His Royal Highness also gave strong emphasis on the importance for AMBD's management to continuously monitor financial development and global economic movement which are constantly changing.

Results from observation and assessment from the crisis should be made a lesson and benchmark in making continuous effort towards protecting a sound economy.

The management was also advised to continuously enhance their abilities in all aspects especially expertises in human resource and information technology, and legislation aligned with the development of a dynamic financial sector.

At the same time, said His Royal Highness, board members and management authority need to be proactive in increasing networking with relevant authorities, including central banks, monetary authority and also regional and international financial institutions beneficial in enhancing AMBD's capability.

Prior to the meeting, His Royal Highness consented to officiate the establishment of AMBD and visited divisions under the AMBD office.

HRH visits areas affected by flood



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

His Royal Highness visits areas affected by flood in Tutong and Belait District.

TUTONG, 22 January – His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office visited areas that were affected by flood in Tutong District.

His Royal Highness as the Chairman of National Disaster Council was given a briefing by the Director of Fire and Rescue, who is also the Director of National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC), Awang Yahya bin Haji Abdul Rahman at the Incident Centre Post (ICP) in Kampung Lamunin.

From the post, His Royal Highness visited Layong Control Post and surrounding areas. Other areas visited by His Royal Highness were Kampung Ukong and Bukit Udal.

His Royal Highness also visited areas affected by flood at Kampung Benutan, Kampung Rambai, Kampung Panchong, Kampung Penapar, Kampung Tanjong Maya, Lubok Pulau; and Mukim Bukit Sawat in Belait District through aerial view using Blackhawk.

Education system needs to respond creatively and effectively

JERUDONG, January 27 – Our educational systems need to be able to respond creatively and effectively to the dynamic needs of our developing economies and the consequent demand for skilled workforces professionals. Furthermore, in this day and age of globalised workforces, we now find that the horizons of education must be sufficiently broad enough to provide a scope and quality of skills that allows our people to work both domestically and beyond the borders of their nations.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office said in his *sabda* (royal speech) at the official opening of the 46th Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation Council Conference (SEAMEC) and 6th ASEAN Ministers of Education (ASEM) held at Grand Hall, The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

His Royal Highness further said that he found it heartening to see that SEAMEO has chosen to put emphasis upon the promotion of early childhood education as well as technical and vocational education.

"These two areas of education are crucial as they represent key milestones in the education of our people, firstly for those of a tender age about to embark in formal education and secondly for individuals with inclinations, interests and abilities that may be better catered for by technical and vocational education systems as alternative pathways to higher education and future careers.

Indeed, I feel that technical and vocational education has the potential to provide individuals from all walks of life, with essential skill bases that are critical to building human capacity, and thus can play a substantive role in helping our nations meet their requirements for industrial and



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness officiates the 46th Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation Council Conference and 6th ASEAN Ministers of Education.

economic development," said His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness also spoke on the conference where he said that the conference also offers opportunity to review and gain an appreciation for the work undertaken by SEAMEO, in utilising education as a key mechanism to enhance greater regional cooperation and understanding, whilst also developing the many social, economic and cultural ties between the peoples of our part of the world.

Brunei Darussalam became the host country for the 46th SEAMEC and 6th ASEM which started from January 26 to 29 attended by more than 250 delegates.

Deposit Protection Order 2010 introduced

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, DECEMBER 31 – By command of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Ministry of Finance announced that His Majesty had consented for the Deposit Protection Order, 2010, to commence on January 1, 2011.

According to the press release from Ministry of Finance, the Deposit Protection Order, 2010, amongst other things, provides for the introduction and administration of a deposit protection scheme, the establishment of *Perbadanan Perlindungan Deposit Brunei Darussalam* that is Brunei Darussalam Deposit Protection Corporation, its functions and for matters connected therewith.

The Brunei Darussalam Deposit Protection Corporation

stated the release, is a corporate body which administer the deposit protection scheme which provides protection to depositors in respect of their deposits of up to a maximum of \$50,000 placed with member institutions in the event that such member institutions are unable to meet its deposit liabilities. The scheme is in line with international best practise and has already been introduced in various countries.

Upon the commencement of the Deposit Protection Order 2010, all licensed banks and finance companies (whether Islamic or conventional) in Brunei Darussalam shall be deemed to be member institutions. The deposit protection scheme serves as an addition to the financial safety net currently in place.

HRH attends AMM Retreat

LOMBOK, INDONESIA, January 16 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade together with other Foreign Ministers and the Secretary-General of ASEAN attended the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) Retreat and Working Lunch held at The Oberoi Lombok.

The retreat included a Working Lunch and discussions which centred upon Indonesia's theme for their chairmanship in 2011 'ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations', especially the

At the meeting, ASEAN Foreign Ministers re-evaluated achievements reached by ASEAN in realising its three main

ideas that are towards ASEAN Critical Safety Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-cultural Community.

The ministers are making efforts to speed up the target of the ASEAN Community's ideas by year 2015.

Other joint interest topics include discussion on follow-up action and enforcement of ASEAN Charter and also strengthening ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Political Safety Framework, besides ASEAN Socio-cultural Action Plan.

The ministers also discussed on important matters including enhancing the ASEAN connectivity, ASEAN foreign relation and exchange views on various regional and international matters, particularly on food safety and energy.

The respective connectivity helps the trade commodity trend, service, capital and skilled human workforce.

Apart from it, it can also enhance the economic growth and bring various opportunities to ASEAN member countries.

Towards it, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers hope ASEAN Economic Community can be reach particularly with abolishing of almost all taxes last year, 2010.

ASEAN also reaches some great achievements including the legislation of ASEAN Charter even though facing various regional and global challenges.

The ASEAN Charter implemented had further strengthen ASEAN and also fixed the long-term strategy that apparent for the ten member countries.

Terms of Reference of ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee adopted

LOMBOK, INDONESIA, January 17 – The Foreign Ministers of ASEAN who attended the Special Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Council adopted the Terms of Reference of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee.

The ASEAN Connectivity is important as it will play an important role in building the ASEAN community.

The Foreign Ministers are attempting to speed up the target of the ASEAN Community's ideas by year 2015.

Prior to that, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade together with other Foreign Ministers and ASEAN Secretary-General attended the Concluding Session of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) Retreat held at The Oberoi.



His Royal Highness together with other Foreign Ministers and the Secretary-General of ASEAN at ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) Retreat.

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers also emphasised the East Asian countries to continuously cooperate in any activities implemented in EAS framework which written since EAS establishment in 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Many activities require attention and strength and also support of EAS members for ASEAN's development progress and stabilisation and growth.

Brunei Darussalam welcomed EAS in ensuring balance between members regardless its position.

Following the lunch, the ministers also took part in a tree-planting ceremony and releasing young turtles into the ocean, as a symbol of the growth of ASEAN and its new relations with the world at large.

Later in the evening His Royal Highness and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah attended a dinner co-hosted by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, His Excellency Dr. R.M. Marty M. Natalegawa and Governor of West Nusa Tenggara Province, His Excellency K.H.M. Zainul Majid.

Prior to that on January 15, His Royal Highness and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah together with other Foreign Ministers and spouses attended a dinner held in conjunction with the AMM Retreat.

The dinner was hosted by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, His Excellency Dr. R.M. Marty M. Natalegawa and spouse, Madam Sranja Natalegawa at Lumbun Restaurant, The Oberoi Lombok.



A tree-planting ceremony as a symbol of the growth of ASEAN and its new relations with the world at large.

PHOTOS: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

Their Royal Highnesses visit Kuwait City



His Royal Highness received in audience by His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait at the Seif Al Aamir Palace.

KUWAIT CITY, January 25 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah were in Kuwait City, the State of Kuwait for a three-day visit which began on January 23.

On arrival at the Kuwait International Airport, Their Royal Highnesses were met by His Excellency Sheikh Dr. Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait and Her Excellency Sheikh Feryal Duaij Al-Salman Al-Sabah; and His Excellency Pengiran Haji Mustapa Pengiran Haji Aliuddin, Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the State of Kuwait.

On January 24, His Royal Highness was received in audience by His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait at the Seif Al Aamir Palace. After the audience, His Royal Highness met His Highness Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and the State of Kuwait.

Their Royal Highnesses then attended a luncheon hosted by the Prime Minister, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at the Al Shuwaikh Al Aamir Palace. Their Royal Highnesses also attended a dinner hosted by His Excellency Sheikh Dr. Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Scientific Centre of Kuwait (Aquarium).



Kuwait Tower, located on the Arabian Gulf in the Sharq area is among the places visit by His Royal Highness.

While on January 25, His Royal Highness continued his visit to the State of Kuwait with an aerial tour of the Kuwaiti Government Port Project at Boubyan Island. The project is a major private and public sector enterprise designed to enhance the role of Kuwait's ports in international transportation.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah was then joined by Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah at an afternoon tea hosted by His Excellency Sheikh Dr. Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs at Al-Masilah Palace.

His Royal Highness, earlier in the day, visited a number of Kuwait's centres of cultural interest. The programme included visits to the House of Islamic Antiquities, Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah, featuring Islamic art from all over the world ranging from the 8th to 18th century, and the outstanding Kuwait Tower, located on the Arabian Gulf in the Sharq area.

His Royal Highness also visited the Grand Mosque, which is the largest in Kuwait, accommodating more than 10,000 worshippers and housing a library of Islamic reference books and documents.

The programme concluded with a visit to the Kuwait House of National Works which commemorates those who lost their lives during the invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

The three-day visit concluded on January 25.

PHOTOS: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

* from front page
(AMBD ensures monetary, financial stability)

Regulation 2011) which effective on January 1, 2011, women officer and staffs in public sector are eligible for 105 days of maternity leave instead of 56 days.

This regulation also applies to local and permanent resident women workforce in private sector as an addition and amendment to the existing Employment Order 2009.

Prior to that, in the *titah* (royal speech), His Majesty recalled in 2010; Brunei Darussalam had written many success and faced a number of challenges. Efforts to strengthen our economy had shown its results beginning with the production of methanol for export.

It was further added with efforts to enhance continuous planting of paddy, as well as steps to promote and produce food products under the Brunei Halal brand which has been encouraging.

From this prospect, according to His Majesty, it will not make us negligent from continuously strengthen preventive

and protective measures from impacts of various crisis such as financial crisis, oil price, food, health and climate.

For this significance, for the nation's peace and stability, we will constantly evaluate government policies, long-term development plans, procedures to fulfil public needs and investment facility.

Further in the *titah* (royal speech), His Majesty also called for readiness in managing any unpredicted challenges and difficulties.

His Majesty also expressed his appreciation and contentment with the concern showed by the people and residents of this nation to unfortunate parties, particularly those hit by serious disasters. His Majesty also applauded the assistance given to neighbouring countries that experienced disasters such as flash flood, earthquake, tsunami, and volcano.

Collaborate to strengthen national sports

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 15 – In the effort to strengthen the quality of the national sports, comparable with other countries, the government and sports associations must collaborate and carry out research and re-evaluate the sports programme.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Committee (BDNOC) said at a post-mortem meeting for Brunei Darussalam’s participation at the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou and 2nd Asian Beach Games, 2010 in Muscat, Oman.

The meeting was held at the Conference Room of Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium in Berakas.

His Royal Highness said in order for the athlete to be more focus during a tournament, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and sports associations must find other methods especially in re-evaluating the athlete’s intensive training held locally or abroad.

Any potential young athletes, said His Royal Highness, should be absorbed into Sports School so that their talents can developed from early stage; and at the same time the ministry and sports associations need to make a long-term programme to guarantee the respective sports.

During the meeting, His Royal Highness also inquired on preparations which had and will be implemented for the upcoming 26th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games held in Indonesia this year.



A post-mortem meeting for the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou and 2nd Asian Beach Games, 2010 in Muscat, Oman.

Brunei-China: Cooperation based on mutual respect, trust and peaceful co-existence

JERUDONG, January 8 – Brunei Darussalam and the People’s Republic of China share deep-rooted historical ties where the relationship has thrived extremely well and spanned a wide spectrum of areas of cooperation.

The matters were said by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador At-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade at a reception to commemorate the 5th Anniversary of Brunei-China Friendship Association (BCFA). The reception was held at Royal Berkshire, Jerudong Polo Club.

The good relations shared is attributed to the solid formation laid down by the leaders of both countries for both countries to cooperate as neighbours and partners, based on mutual respect, trust and peaceful co-existence.

“We have also developed stronger bonds of friendship through frequent exchanges of visits at various levels and closer cooperation in many fields. I am please to say that what the association has done over the past five years has in fact also contributed to these friendly relations. So, your celebration here tonight is a meaningful one.

I am pleased to note that the economic cooperation between Brunei and China continues to strengthen. It is encouraging to see the presence of many Chinese companies in our country engaged in such areas as telecommunications, infrastructure, energy, aquaculture and agriculture,” said Her Royal Highness.

Trade between both countries has grown to the extent that China is now one of the largest trading partners of Brunei Darussalam.

Brunei Darussalam and China established formal relations on September 30, 1991.



A reception to commemorate the 5th Anniversary of Brunei-China Friendship Association (BCFA).



Her Royal Highness toured an exhibition to commemorate the 5th Anniversary of Brunei-China Friendship Association (BCFA).

PHOTOS: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

Significant milestone for RBAF

BERAKAS, January 7 - The Royal Brunei Armed Forces recorded another significant milestone in its history with the official acceptance of two DARUSSALAM Class Patrol Vessels, namely KDB DARUSSALAM and KDB DARULEHSAN.

The construction of these ships manifested the commitment of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in further enhancing the Royal Brunei Armed Forces capability, in particular the Royal Brunei Navy, to defend the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity as stated in the Defence White Paper 2004 and the update 2007.

The DARUSSALAM Class is the first of its class with a length of 80 metres and 13 metres wide. It is propelled by diesel engines and has an endurance of 21 days at sea. The ship is equipped with surface to surface missile and a medium calibre gun. Both ships are expected to start their maiden voyage back to Brunei in March and expected to arrive in May this year, in time for the 50th Anniversary of the

Royal Brunei Armed Forces. The ships will be manned fully by officers and men of the Royal Brunei Navy personnel.

The day before the acceptance ceremony, the third DARUSSALAM Class ship, DARULAMAN, was launched, marking the first time the ship was laid into the water. The ship will undergo the Harbour and Sea Acceptance Trials before the plan delivery in August this year.

Previously, a total of four 41 metre IJTIHAD Class Fast Patrol Boats have been commissioned into service with the Royal Brunei Navy, where two of the ships began operating since March 2010 followed by another two in August 2010. The IJTIHAD Class is also part of the project between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan And Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Lürssen.

The DARUSSALAM class ships will also replace the Missile Gun Boat WASPADA class whom had been in service with the Royal Brunei Navy for more than 30 years.

Infrastructure and logistic implement in line with SPN21



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

Ford Motor Company (FMC) through Premier Automobiles Sdn. Bhd. (PASB) contribute four wheel drive vehicles - Ford Ranger to Technical Education Department as part of their contribution to local community.

JALAN MUARA, January 10 - The enhancement of infrastructure and logistic of Vocational and Technical Educational institutions is being implemented in line with the need of 21st Century National Education System (SPN 21) to provide quality education, knowledge and skills to the people of Brunei; to be able compete in the current and future era of globalisation.

The matters were said by the Permanent Secretary (Higher Education) at the Ministry of Education, Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Daud at a vehicle key presentation ceremony.

He further said that the enhancement of infrastructure and logistics, and the establishment of excellent centres will be made feasible as desired by the ministry including a transformation of Mechanic Training Centre as Automobile Engineering and Excellent Centre targeted to be fully functional by 2012.

At the ceremony, Ford Motor Company (FMC) through Premier Automobiles Sdn. Bhd. (PASB) contributed four wheel drive vehicles - Ford Ranger to Technical Education Department as part as contribution to local community.

The Ministry of Education was represented by the Permanent Secretary (Higher Education), Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd. Daud and FMC was represented by its Manager, Mr. John Earp.

Book on 'Electrical Installation Requirements (EIR)' launched

BERAKAS, January 11 - In its bid to facilitate its stakeholders with the guidelines on installation and wiring recognised by the Department of Electrical Services (DES), DES has launched a book entitled 'Electrical Installation Requirements (EIR)'.

A number of preparatory measures were taken in publishing this book which includes a thorough research on local requirements; and international standards such as IEE Wiring Regulation.

It is hoped that a national standard for Brunei Darussalam will be made feasible through this publication. This publication also emphasised on issues in perfecting a design and installation of electrical system; where if it is practiced, may contribute to decreasing the risk of unwanted events such as fire.

The Deputy Director of DES, Awang Musa bin Metali stated the matters at the launching ceremony of EIR Book held at its headquarters.



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

A book entitled 'Electrical Installation Requirements (EIR)' emphasise on issues in perfecting a design and installation of electrical system.

Various measures undertaken tackle social issues

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 12 – In the effort to tackle social issues, various efforts have been taken. One of the measures is the setting up of National Council on Social Issues on September 24, 2008. Among the responsibilities of this council is to identify social issues that exist in this country; legislate laws, policies and plans of actions to tackle social issues; conduct research on the reasons why social issues occurs and strategies to overcome it.

The matters were said by the Acting Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Datin Hajah Adina in her working paper entitled 'Social Issues in Brunei Darussalam' (Isu-Isu Sosial Di Negara Brunei Darussalam). The acting minister was delivering a working paper for the National Seminar on Social Issues held at Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

According to Datin Hajah Adina, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports which is responsible in handling youth and community affairs has implemented a number of projects and programmes as continuous efforts towards handling social issues; and the making of a competitive society in line with Brunei Vision 2035.

Some of the programmes implemented are *Belia Cinta Tanah Air*, *Hari Komanwel*, *Program Anak Angkat Belia*, *Kem Program Rapi Diri Belia*, *Program Pembangunan Keluarga*, *Perkhidmatan Kaunseling*, *Hari Keluarga Antarabangsa*, and roadshows to secondary schools on social issues.

The National Seminar on Social Issues was launched by the Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin.



The Acting Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports delivers a working paper for the National Seminar on Social Issues.

With the theme 'Towards Brunei Society', the two-day seminar will focus on discussions on social issues and how to overcome it - to make the society clean from deviants, delinquents and criminals.

The seminar is organised by Supreme Council of Melayu Islam Beraja (MIB) jointly organised by Anti-Corruption Bureau and Brunei Academic Studies of UBD.

Royal Brunei Police Force celebrates 90th anniversary



The Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office highlights the importance of leadership as the main key for any matters related to an organisation's development.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 15 – A parade was held to mark the 90th anniversary for the Royal Brunei Police Force.

Present as guest of honour was Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abd Wahab, the Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office where in his speech, he highlighted the importance of leadership as the main key for any matters related to an organisation's development.

He further added that, leadership must be fair, sincere and coherent. These are the main elements of integrity in leadership. As leadership is in all level of an organisation, efforts to create leadership in all level are though and require consistent effort and continuity.

At the event, the Deputy Minister also presented Certificate of Distinction to two personnel from Royal Brunei Police Force and a member of the public.

The 90th Police Day Parade was held at the Parade Field, Police Training Centre in Gadong.

Amendment to Companies Act (Chapter 39)

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 13 – Ministry of Finance announced that His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam had consented to the amendment to Companies Act (Chapter 39) through the Companies Act (Amendment) Order, 2010 which takes effect on December 31, 2010.

According to Ministry of Finance, the amendment aims to update the law which regulate the incorporation of companies in the country and to ease the management of business operation and investment activities in the country. Among the amendments are the amendments to Section 138 of the Companies Act which is in relation to the composition of the Board of Directors of companies that are registered in this country.

Prior to the amendment, for companies registered in Brunei Darussalam, one of the two directors; or which there are more than two directors, two or not less than half of the number of such directors whichever is greater shall be nationals of Brunei. This requirement has now been amended to "one of the two directors or, where there are more than two directors, at least two of them shall be ordinarily resident in Brunei Darussalam."

This move was intended to ease businessmen and investors, especially foreign investors to incorporate and register their companies in Brunei Darussalam, in addition to this it allows them to increase their control and manage their investment effectively. This amendment also requires that any director of a company must be 18 years old or above.

10th ASEAN TELMIN: ASEAN ICT Master Plan 2015 launched

KUALA LUMPUR, January 14 - The 10th ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministers Meeting (10th ASEAN TELMIN) which was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, ended with the launching of the ASEAN ICT Master Plan 2015 (AIM2015) by The Right Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib Tun Abdul Razak, the Prime Minister of Malaysia,

Brunei Darussalam's delegation was led by Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdullah.

The 10th ASEAN TELMIN which carries the theme 'ICT: Positioning ASEAN for the Future' was attended by Ministers responsible for telecommunications and IT from ASEAN as well as from ASEAN Dialogue Partners, China, Japan and Republic of Korea.

The key achievement of this ASEAN TELMIN was the adoption and launching of the ASEAN ICT Master Plan 2015 (AIM2015), with its vision 'Towards an Empowering and Transformational ICT: Creating an Inclusive, Vibrant and Integrated ASEAN', which was a result from 10 years of ICT cooperation in ASEAN.

The AIM2015 is a comprehensive plan of specific actions and projects with clear targets and timelines in six strategic thrusts with the aim to deliver the four key outcomes, that are; ICT as an engine of growth for ASEAN countries; recognition for ASEAN as a global ICT hub; enhanced quality

of life for the peoples of ASEAN; and contribution towards ASEAN integration. As a way forward, 12 key actions items have been identified for immediate implementation.

The ministers further called for the engagement of all relevant stakeholders and parties to support and actively contribute to the implementation of actions and measures embodied in the AIM2015 for the successful realisation of its objectives in a timely manner.

The adoption of AIM2015 was further reiterated in the Kuala Lumpur Statement on 'ICT: Positioning ASEAN for the Future' which was issued by ASEAN Ministers.

At the 10th ASEAN TELMIN, Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdullah joined other ASEAN Ministers in supporting the endorsement of AIM2015 including 12 key action points that presented a good synthesis in the plans to be achieved.

He further envisaged the importance of member countries to promote AIM2015 to their respective industry players and stakeholders.

ASEAN TELMIN Ministers also endorsed the Work Plans 2010-2011 in further strengthening collaboration on ICT development with the respective ASEAN Dialogue Partners China, Japan and Republic of Korea. The ministers adopted the 2010-2011 ASEAN-China

ICT Work Plan.

In the ASEAN TELMIN + Japan Meeting, the Ministers of ASEAN and Japan adopted the 'ASEAN-Japan ICT Work Plan 2011' and the 'ASEAN-Japan Collaboration Framework on Information Security'.

Meanwhile with Korea, the ministers welcomed Korea's future plan for ICT cooperation with ASEAN. The plan includes cooperation for joint use of ICT infrastructure, support for expansion of ICT infrastructure, enhancement for capacity building and expansion digital opportunities through cooperation with international organisations.

The 10th ASEAN TELMIN was preceded by the 11th ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology Senior Officials Meeting on Telecommunications and Information Technology (11th ASEAN TELSOM) was held from January 10 to 14, 2011.

Brunei Darussalam's delegation to 11th ASEAN TELSOM was led by Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Dato Haji Mohd. Yusof, Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications accompanied by senior officials from the Ministry of Communications and AiTi.

The next TELMIN and its meetings with Dialogue Partners will be held in Myanmar tentatively at the end of 2011.

Youths participate in Youth Run

BERAKAS, January 16 - More efforts are undertaken to promote healthy life style such as through sports activities among communities, especially youths. The latest saw 'Youth Run' where more than 300 youths took part.

'Youth Run' was organised by Youth and Sports Department jointly conducted by Health Promotion Centre; Youth and Sports Organisation; and Superwater Marketing Sendirian Berhad.

The event was held simultaneously in four districts.

In Brunei-Muara District, the run was participated by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair as Acting Minister of Health. The five-kilometre run started and ended at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium.

In Belait District, more than 200 youths participated the run which started and ended at Taman Persiaran, Jalan Sungai. The Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Datin Hajah Adina participated in the run.

In Tutong District, the run was held at Tutong Sports Complex and was participated by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abd. Hamid.

Meanwhile in Temburong District, the run started at Batu Apoi Sports Complex and ended at Bumiputera Buidling. The run was participated by the Acting Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health, Dayang Hajah Siti Mariam

The theme for the run was 'Free From Smoking'.



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports participates the five-kilometre run at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium for Brunei-Muara District.

PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN

BICTA 2011 launched



PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH
The Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Communications, the Chairman of BICTA launched BICTA 2011.

BERAKAS, January 18 – The Brunei Info-Communications and Technology Award (BICTA) 2011 has been officially launched. BICTA 2011 will see three categories being competed namely; Secondary School; Information-Communications Technology Industry and Higher Education.

BICTA 2011 was launched by Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Communications, Dato Paduka Haji Alaihuddin, who is also the Chairman of BICTA.

This year's BICTA will also see a series of workshops held from February to July. The workshops will be using the concept of 'Idea, Design and Development (IDD)'. It will assist participants to produce ideas and find methods to solve their problems. It will be followed by transforming ideas to reality. The workshop will also be touching on efforts towards developing the products so it can achieve its full potential and usage.

The winner of BICTA will bring home cash prize, trophy and will represent Brunei Darussalam to APICTA competition in Thailand this year.

Kota Batu Archeological Site, centre for historic and archaeology studies

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 19 – Efforts are being taken to preserve the rich history of Brunei Darussalam. The latest saw the establishment of Kota Batu Archaeological Site where it is hoped that it would preserve and protect our national heritage from the threat of destruction. This site is also being made as a centre for historical and archaeological studies for students and the public as it has many artefacts and testimonies of the country's historical events.

Thus, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair, made a working visit to the site to oversee its progress.

The archaeological site is one of the projects under the 8th National Development Plan where construction works have been completed and handed over to the Brunei Museums Department on December 5, 2010.

A number of facilities are made available for visitor's convenience throughout the site such walk path, resting hut and bridge which connects Terindak Island to the Brunei River.

600 students participates in 'Amazing Kids Race'

TEMBURONG, January 20 – A total of 600 primary school students in Temburong District participated in 'Amazing Kids Race' which was held in conjunction with National Children Day celebrations.

The event was launched by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair held at Belalong Hall, Community Hall Complex.

Various games were held in conjunction with the 'Amazing Kids Race'.

The celebration was organised by the Community Development Department as one of their efforts in supporting the declaration and convention of children's rights in this country.

The celebration for this year brings the theme 'The Rights to Play' ('Hak Untuk Bermain') which among others emphasised on the need for children to be provided with opportunities to play in order to enhance children's growth.

Children's welfare receive top priority



PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR
The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports officiates the National Children's Day celebration.

TEMBURONG, January 20 – The welfare and well-being of children in this country receive top priority in nation-building. Thus, a number of measures have been implemented involving both government and non-governmental organisations (NGO) in the effort to ensure the welfare and well-being of the children. The Children and Young Persons Order 2006 enforced on March 1, 2010 is one of the efforts by the government towards the children's welfare especially for protection and rehabilitation.

The matters were highlighted by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair at the official opening of the National Children's Day celebration held at Dewan Belalong, Temburong Community Hall Complex.

The minister also called for parents, guardians and the community to take relevant measures to ensure the welfare of the children. This is because young children need protection from birth so they can live prosperously and safely as well as able to contribute positively to the formation of an excellent and developed society.

The minister also called for parents and guardians to continuously look after their children particularly on their education.

Order to fulfil safety requirements

BERAKAS, January 20 – The Ministry of Development in its bid to fulfil safety standard on amenity and matters of public policy are in the midst of preparing Building Control Orders. This order will control services related to buildings and proper surroundings.

The Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi stated the matters at a Contract Signing Ceremony for Projects of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held at the Ministry of Development.

Earlier on, the minister called for all companies selected to implement government projects to take into account the security, environmental cleanliness and efforts towards beautifying the surroundings.

The minister hoped that the companies would be able to complete their projects within the given time period and provide cooperation by producing high quality construction works.

The contract signing ceremony saw the signing for construction of houses for the Landless Indigenous Citizens housing Scheme (Skim Tanah Kurnia Rakyat Jati – STKRJ) Kampung Katok 'B': Package 2. Present on behalf of the government were the Acting Director-General of Public Works Department (PWD), Awang Marzuke bin Haji Mohsin and the Acting Director of Development of PWD, Pengiran Anak Hajah Norhasimah binti Pengiran Haji Ibrahim; with the Director of Alisan Jaya Sendirian Berhad, Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Japar and Consultant Architect Opfis, Awang Masri bin Haji Mohd. Taha.

For the High Technology Industry Project (Brunei Darussalam Technology Park Project) the Development of Agrotechnology Park Area Phase 1A was signed between



The Minister of Development witnesses the signing contract ceremony.

the Director of L.C.Y Sendirian Berhad, Francis C.Y. Lau and the Consultant Sepakat Setia Perunding Sendirian Berhad, Awang Haji Mirhasan bin PDLRDP Haji Abu Bakar.

Meanwhile, the Project on Flood Prevention for Kampung Ban/Mulaut Phase 2 – the first contract was signed by the Acting Director General of PWD, Awang Marzuke bin Haji Mohsin and Kok Yuh Huh; with the Director of Chung Hsing Construction Sendirian Berhad, Dayang Kartina binti Zakaria and Consultant TCB Ibrahim Sendirian Berhad, Gregory James Cumming.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Minister of Development.

PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

More houses by 2013



The foundation-laying ceremony of this project was led by Minister of Development.

KAMPUNG LUGU, January 22 – More than 500 units of new houses will be built under the Landless Indigenous Citizen Housing Scheme. These houses are expected to be completed in 2013 built spread over 130 acres of land in Kampung Lugu.

The project which costs more than \$65 million involves the building of 18 units of Semi-Detached House; 206 units of Terrace – Type 'D'; 150 units of Terrace – Type 'E'; and 146 units of Terrace – Type 'F'.

The foundation-laying ceremony of this project was held by Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi.

The project is divided into two phases; the construction of houses; and the development of commercial area infrastructure like mosque, school, health centre, and community centre. Both phases will involve an area of 582 acres.

PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

Inter-Ministries Sports Fiesta



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports officiates the Inter-Ministries Sports Fiesta.

BERAKAS, January 22 - The Inter-Ministries Sports Fiesta has been launched involving 11 sports events. A total of 2,353 civil servants are involved competing for medals in athletics, badminton, dart, futsal, netball, nine-pool ball, sepak takraw, tenpin bowling, top-spinning, tug-of-war and volley ball.

Present to officially launch the sports fiesta was the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair held at Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium.

The sports fiesta held is one of the initiatives in implementing 'National Sport Policy' especially in developing sports among the community; besides being the basis and platform for social activities for the officers and staffs of the ministries.

The sports fiesta is held from January 22 to 29.

PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN

Consultation Agreement for better crop management



The signing ceremony witnesses by the Assistant Director of Agriculture and Agrifood, Dayang Fuziah binti Haji Hamdan; and Dr. Lum Keng Yeang, CAB ISAEA's Head of Scientist.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 22 – The Department of Agriculture and Agrifood has signed a Consultation Project Agreement Contract on 'Reduction of Pesticide Residues on Economic Crops through the use of IPM Methods and Strengthening Capabilities in Insects Identification and Revenue Management' with CAB International Southeast and East Asia (CAB ISAEA).

The signing ceremony was held at the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood in Berakas.

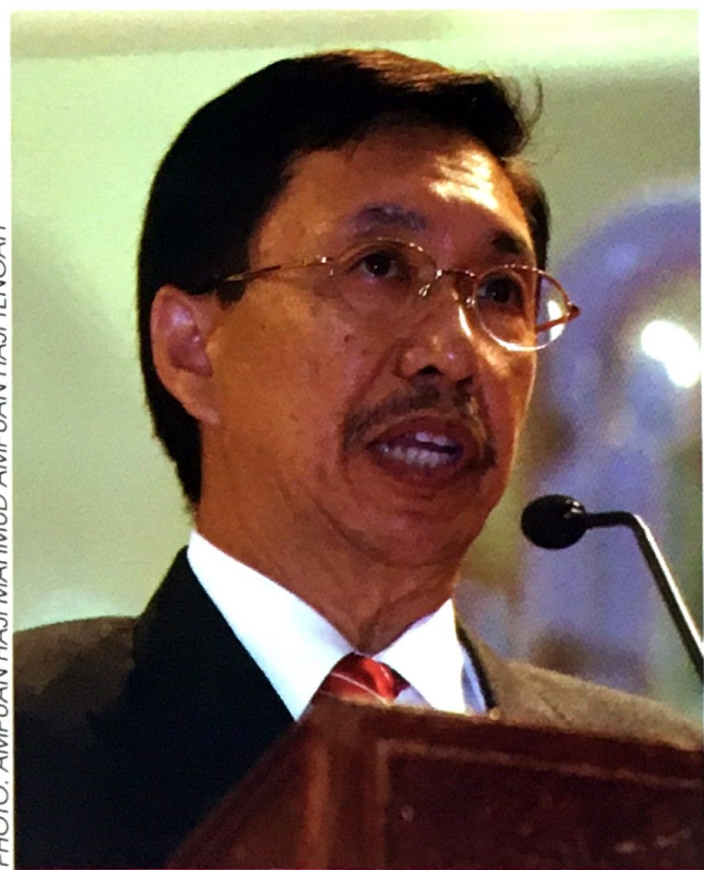
Signing on behalf of the Department was its Acting Director, Dayang Hajah Aidah binti Haji Mohd. Hanifah while her counterpart was Dr. Loke Wai Hong, Regional Director of CAB ISAEA.

Witnessing the ceremony were Assistant Director of Agriculture and Agrifood, Dayang Fuziah binti Haji Hamdan; and Dr. Lum Keng Yeang, CAB ISAEA's Head of Scientist.

Present as guest of honour was Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR), Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Mohd. Amin Liew.

The main aim of the project under the National Development Plan 2007-2012 is to reduce the usage of agricultural chemical pesticide which is dangerous to crops and paddy through enhancement of skills and expertise of officers and staff in implementing integrated and environmental-friendly management for crops diseases and enemy.

Musical Motivational Programme encourages positive attitude



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports officiates the Musical Motivation Programme.

BERAKAS, January 26 – The Musical Motivational Programme is the latest measure to promote awareness among the youths on the importance of having positive values in themselves. The programme uses direct interaction with the youth where among the messages relayed were on the importance of valuing time, the significance of studying, reading and learning, respect towards the parents, cherishing their family and care towards to the community.

Present as guest of honour was the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair held at Indoor Stadium Hassanal Bolkiah National Complex.

This programme also promotes awareness and motivation to the youth on the importance of their involvement as the nation's asset towards developing the nation.

The Musical Motivation Programme was organised by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports which among others aimed to raise awareness among the young people so that they will become citizens who are responsible, highly-motivated, law-abiding, and disciplined.

Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity welcomed

JERUDONG, January 29 – The 6th ASEAN Ministers of Education Meeting welcomed the agreement on the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity by ASEAN leaders at the 17th ASEAN Summit Conference in Ha Noi.

The ASEAN Ministers of Education stated the matter in the joint statement at the 6th ASED meeting held at the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

The ministers also agreed that education sector play a critical role in the realisation of the connectivity among its society which unify socio culture towards supporting and strengthening various physical connectivity initiatives as

well as needed procedure reformation and institution to ensure connectivity in the ASEAN region.

Two key strategies in improving connectivity among the society under the stated master plan are to increase social understanding and Intra-ASEAN culture as well as to promote Intra-ASEAN movement.

The joint statement also stated that the ministers noted on the success of other activities in the year 2010 including the 4th ASEAN Primary School Sports Olympic (APSSO) in Indonesia held from November 4 to 10, 2010.

BSB's Master Plan outlines areas for development

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 27 - The Master Plan of Bandar Seri Begawan (BSB) is a road map for a more planned and focused medium and long-term development of BSB.

The Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Paduka Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin stated the matter at the handing over of the BSB Master Plan.

The preparation of the master plan involved a number of stages and parties. Some of the measures taken were through organising forums, workshops, interviews and meetings. The preparation also involved the public where opinions and recommendations were received through consultations and workshops.

The objectives of the master plan are three-fold namely; to maintain the status of BSB as one of the top ten most livable cities in Asia; to ensure orderly development so as to make BSB a safe, friendly and livable place; to craft immediate, medium and long-term development policies and strategies for BSB until the year 2035 and beyond.

While four economic generator had been identified to develop the economy of BSB which are education and research hub, health and living hub, international and regional tourism, and Islamic-centric activities.

The official report of the Master Plan Progress of BSB was presented by the Director of HOK International, Robert Marshall to the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs, Dato Paduka Awang Sa Bali as representative for the government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-



PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

The Director of HOK International present the official report of the Master Plan Progress of BSB to the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The Master Plan was then presented to the Chairman of Municipal Board of BSB, Pengiran Haji Mohammad Ali.

The contract for preparation of the Master Plan of BSB between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and HOK International (Asia Pasific) Limited was signed on September 8, 2009.

Brunei - Singapore share views, experience in education

JERUDONG, January 27 - Brunei Darussalam and Singapore continue to strengthen its bilateral relations in various fields which include the education sector.

In this regard, a bilateral meeting was held between the Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar with Singapore's Minister of Education and the Second Minister of Defence, His Excellency Dr. Ng Eng Hen.

In the meeting, both ministers shared ideas, experiences and the best practices in education as well as to continue

to collaborate in the field of technical and vocational education.

Other matters discussed were on efforts to conduct programmes such as exchange of students, School Leadership Twin Programme, Technical Education, Co-Curriculum activities and cooperation in higher learning institution.

His Excellency Dr. Ng Eng Hen was in the country to attend the 46th SEAMEC and 6th ASED.

Brunei - Malaysia strengthen cooperation in education

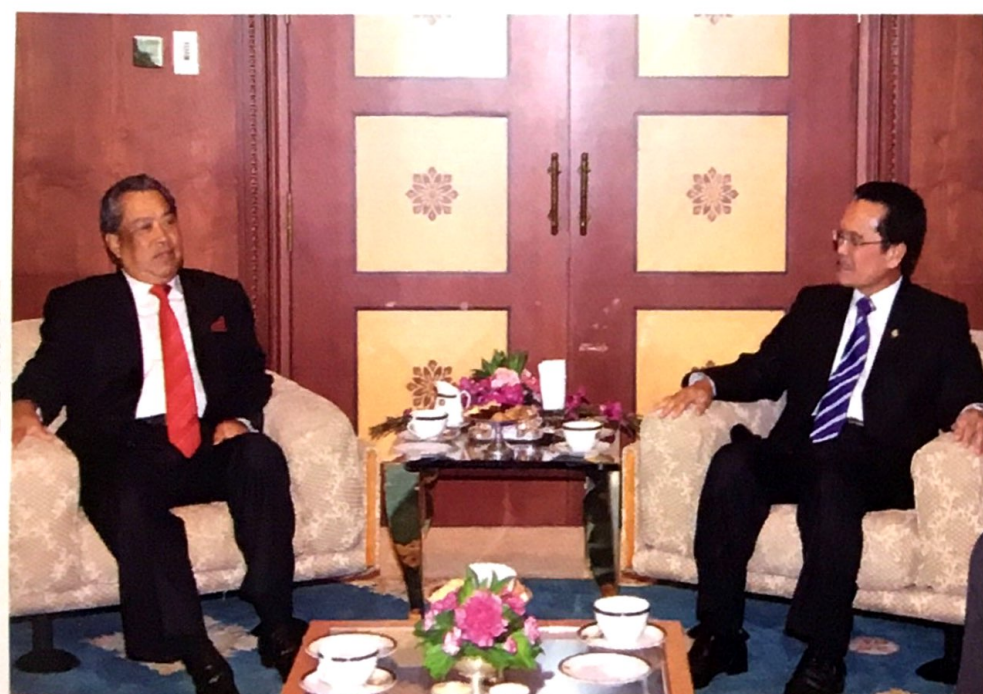


PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

The ways to enhance cooperation in education especially in the field of technical and vocational are among the issues discussed by the Minister of Education and the Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister.

JERUDONG, January 29 - The Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar and the Prime Minister of Malaysia who is also the Minister of Education of Malaysia, The Right Honourable Tan Sri Dato' Haji Muhyiddin held a bilateral meeting at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

During the meeting, both ministers discussed bilateral relationship and ways to enhance cooperation in education especially in the field of technical and vocational, teachers' training, communication programmes among school such as the field of info-communication technology, the usage of media in English language and other fields that could be developed in the future for school improving programmes.

The Right Honourable Tan Sri Dato' Haji Muhyiddin was in the country to lead the Malaysian delegate to the 46th SEAMEC and the 6th ASEAN Education Minister Meeting (ASEM) which was held in the country from January 26 to 29.

While in the country, the Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister who is also the Minister of Education also visited the Nakhoda Ragam Vocational School.

The bilateral meeting took place on January 25.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SEPTEMBER 2010

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

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

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

The food and non-alcoholic beverages Index increased by 0.4 per cent over August 2010. On a year-on-year basis, the food and non-alcoholic beverages Index was 1.2 per cent higher in September 2010. On a period-to-period basis, the index increased by 0.7 per cent.

The increased in cost of food and non-alcoholic beverages mainly attributed to the higher costs of meat (0.2 per cent), fish and seafood (1.5 per cent); milk, dairy products and eggs (1.1 per cent); fruit (0.4 per cent); vegetables (1.1 per cent); other food products (0.6 per cent); and mineral waters, soft drinks, fruits and vegetables juices (0.2 per cent).

On the other hand, the non-food index decreased marginally over August 2010. Compared with the same month last year, the non-food index was 0.3 per cent lower in September 2010. On a period-to-period basis, the index increased by 0.2 per cent.

Meanwhile, the decreased in the cost of non-food were due to decrease in housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (less than 0.05 per cent) due to lower cost of materials for the maintenance and repair of the dwelling, furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance (0.3 per cent) as a result of decreased prices of furniture and furnishings, major and small electric household appliances, tools and equipment for house as well as cleaning and maintenance products; transport (0.1 per cent) as a result of lower prices of spare parts and accessories of vehicles, maintenance and repairs of vehicles as well as passenger transport by air; and recreation and culture (3.0 per cent) due to decreased prices of audio-visual equipment, computers and computer accessories, recording media, games, toys and hobbies, television and radio broadcasting, magazines and periodicals as well as stationery and drawing materials.

Based on the contribution to change, communication (241.5 per cent); clothing and footwear (182.0 per cent); and food and non-alcoholic beverages (172.3 per cent)

were the main contributors to the increase in the overall index.

For year-on-year changes showed that CPI in September 2010 decreased marginally compared to September 2009.

The cost of food and non-alcoholic beverages rose by 1.2 per cent compared to the same month last year. This was attributed to the increased process of rice and cereals (0.4 per cent); milk, dairy products and egg (2.9 per cent); fruits (7.1 per cent); vegetables (9.1 per cent) sugar, jam, honey, chocolate and confectionery (0.3 per cent); other food products (2.7 per cent); other food products (2.7 per cent); and coffee, tea and cocoa (5.1 per cent).

The non-food cost went down by 0.3 per cent compared to the same month last year. Decreases were recorded in furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance (0.3 per cent) as a result of decreased prices of furniture and furnishings, tools and equipment for house, cleaning and maintenance products as well as household services; transports (1.3 per cent) as a result of lower prices of spare parts and accessories of vehicles, maintenance and repairs of vehicles as well as passenger transport by air; and recreation and culture (3.5 per cent) due to decrease prices of audio-visual equipment, computer and computer accessories, recording media, games, toy and hobbies, balls, sporting equipment and sports footwear, equipment for camping and open-air recreation, television and radio broadcasting, magazines and periodicals, stationery and drawing materials as well as package holidays.

Based on contribution to change, transport (9048.3 per cent); and recreation and culture (7685.7 per cent) were the main contributors to overall decrease.

Meanwhile, the period-on-period changes (January – September 2010 compared with January – September 2009) the CPI for January – September 2010 rose by 0.3 per cent compared with the same period of previous year. Increases were recorded in food and non-alcoholic beverages (0.7 per cent); tobacco (0.1 per cent); housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (0.1 per cent); health (1.8 per cent); transport (0.6 per cent); education (0.2 per cent); restaurants and hotels (0.8 per cent); and miscellaneous goods and services (0.4 per cent).

Communications Minister attends ASEAN TELMIN Meeting

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 13 – The 10th ASEAN TELMIN Meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia from January 12 to 13.

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

This annual meeting was attended by ASEAN Ministers responsible for Telecommunications and IT to discuss matters of mutual interest for regional development; and conducting a meeting with partners such as China, Japan and Korea in exploring opportunities for cooperation and mutual initiative.

Minister of Education appointed new SEAMEC President

JERUDONG, January 27 – The Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar was appointed as the new President of the Southeast Asian Minister of Education Organisation Council at the 46th SEAMEC held at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

SEAMEC aimed to promote cooperation in the field of education among its member countries and alliance. It is also to promote cooperation among ASEAN member countries through regional centres under SEAMEC and its network.

Minister of Education receives Secretary Education of Philippines

JERUDONG, January 25 – The Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar received a courtesy call from the Secretary Education of the Philippines, His Excellency Brother Armin Altamirano Luistro FSC who is also the President of the South East Asia Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO).

The Secretary of Education of Philippines was in the country to attend the SEAMEO Council Conference (SEAMEC) which will be held from January 26 to 29 at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

During the meeting, both leaders discussed the bilateral relationship and cooperation in the field of education and hoped to increase the cooperation with all the members of SEAMEO.

Ministry of Defence inter-ministries sports champion

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 29 – The Ministry of Defence emerged as overall champion in Inter-Ministries Sport Fiesta in conjunction with the 17th Civil Service Day.

The Ministry of Defence bagged 11 gold; eight silver; and six bronze medals. Second place was Prime Minister's Office with nine gold; 13 silver and 11 bronze medals. Meanwhile third place was the Ministry of Home Affairs with nine gold; seven silver and 10 bronze medals.

The sports fiesta was officially closed by the Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Wahab.

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 first's 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 406,200 people (2009)
 - It is divided into four districts – Brunei Muara, Tutong, Kuala Belait and Temburong.
 - Malay is the official language but English is widely spoken.
 - Islam is the official religion and it allows other religions to be practiced.
 - National carrier is Royal Brunei Airlines.
 - It has an equatorial climate, a uniform temperature, high humidity and heavy rainfall.
- Public Warning:** The trafficking of controlled drugs carries the death penalty in Brunei Darussalam

>>> HOW TO GET TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM?

There are a number of ways to reach Brunei.

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