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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the official opening of the First Meeting of the Seventh Session of the State Legislative Council.

## State Legislative Council HM: Be more progressive in diversifying economy



**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 1** – For a sound economy and finance, productivity should be enhanced synonym with capacity-building. Therefore, in acknowledging the stiff competition faced as a result of globalisation, the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam prioritises capacity-building. It is also vital in the effort to fulfil the demands and opportunities in the work and business sector. Hence the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in its bid to enhance the capability of its human resources has continuously provided a budget suitable to the ministry and department. Youths who are job-seekers can also make use of the opportunity provided.

The matters were highlighted by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the official opening of the First Meeting of the Seventh Session of the State Legislative Council.

His Majesty also expressed his delight in seeing consolidated trainings given to youth to strengthen their business skills. Emphasis given on technical and vocational

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## Change of rate for vehicle excise duty

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 17** – Ministry of Finance has announced the change of rate of Vehicle Excise Duty through the Excise Order 2006 Amendment which will take effect from April 1, 2011.

The amendment aims to raise awareness among people and residents in this country on the effect of vehicle use towards protecting and conserving the environment.

The announcement among others includes the amended excise duty lists as below:

Types of Car (according to CC)	Current Rate (per cent)	New Rate (per cent)
1700 & below	20	15
1701 - 2500	20	20
2501 - 3000	20	25
3001 - 3500	20	30
3501 & above	20	35

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PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with ministers responsible for Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area, (BIMP-EAGA) and ministers responsible for Forestry and Coral Reefs.

## His Majesty receives audiences

**ISTANA NURUL IMAN, March 8** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience the ministers responsible for the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area, BIMP-EAGA and ministers responsible for Forestry and

Coral Reefs.

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

The audience took place at the Istana Nurul Iman.

## HM receives Special Envoy of the Republic of Korea

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 14** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience the President of the Chairman of Committee for 'Green Growth' of the Republic of Korea, His Excellency Doctor Young Soo-gil.

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



PHOTO: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN

## His Majesty receives audience

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 28** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience the Vice-Chairman of Standing Committee, National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Hua Jianmin at the Istana Nurul Iman.



PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH





PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH



PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 23** - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received diplomatic credentials and received separate audiences from four newly-appointed envoys to Brunei Darussalam.

- ① His Excellency Dato' Abdullah Sani Omar, the newly-appointed High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam.
- ② His Excellency Adam Jelonek, the newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Brunei Darussalam.
- ③ His Excellency Daniel Kwasi Abodakpi, the newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Ghana to Brunei Darussalam.
- ④ His Excellency Pavlo Sultansky, the newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador of Ukraine to Brunei Darussalam.



PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH



PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH

## His Majesty 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 Asif Ali Zardari, President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Syed Yousef Raza Gillani, as well as the government and people of the republic on the occasion of Pakistan Day

on March 23.

His Excellency Mohammad Zilur Rahman, President of People's Republic of Bangladesh and his Prime Minister, Her Excellency Sheikh Hasia Wajed, as well as the government and people of the republic on the occasion of Bangladesh's Independence Day on March 26.

## HM sends messages of condolences

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 12** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent messages of condolences to His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito, Emperor of Japan and His Excellency Naoto Kan, Prime Minister of Japan following the earthquake and tsunami that hit North-East Japan.

In the message, His Majesty stated he was deeply saddened to learn of the many lives lost and widespread damage caused by the earthquake and subsequent tsunami. His Majesty also conveyed his deepest personal condolences and the sympathies of his government

and the people of Brunei Darussalam to His Imperial Majesty The Emperor Akihito, Emperor of Japan and the Government and people of Japan, particularly to the families of the victims and all those affected by the disaster.

In similar message to the Prime Minister of Japan, His Majesty also expressed his deepest sadness to learn of the many lives lost and widespread damage caused by the earthquake and subsequent tsunami. His Majesty with the people of Brunei Darussalam conveyed condolences to the Prime Minister, the government and people of Japan. His Majesty and the people of Brunei Darussalam conveyed deepest sympathies to families of victims affected by the disaster.



# Brunei – Ukraine: Substantive cooperation of mutual interest

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 30** – The visit made by His Excellency Viktor Yanukovych, the President of the Republic of Ukraine to Brunei Darussalam has given the opportunity for both nations to strengthen its relation by adding substantive cooperation in a number of areas of mutual interest.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in his *titah* (royal speech) at a state banquet in honour of the State Visit of His Excellency Viktor Yanukovych, the President of the Republic of Ukraine to Brunei Darussalam. The state banquet was held at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty also expressed his delight that His Excellency's visit programme includes a visit to Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and to have a dialogue with Brunei's business sectors; and a signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in Defence will also be held where these will add a practical dimension to the bilateral relationship.

"My visit to Ukraine, although a brief one, enabled me to witness first-hand the ongoing efforts towards development, and I was much impressed by the level of technological achievement, especially in the area of aeronautical engineering.

In the field of sports, Ukraine has produced many top-level athletes, and it is therefore fitting that your country will be a co-host of next year's European Football Cup.

We wish you every success in hosting the final in Kiev.

In this and in all your country's undertakings, Mr. President, we wish you and the people of Ukraine continuous achievements, happiness and prosperity," said His Majesty.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency Viktor Yanukovych.



His Majesty and His Excellency at a state banquet in honour of the state visit of His Excellency to the sultanate.

## Brunei-Ukraine strengthen bilateral relation and cooperation

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 31** – Bilateral relation and cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Ukraine has been further strengthened with the state visit by His Excellency Viktor Yanukovych, the President of Ukraine to Brunei Darussalam. His Excellency made a state visit to Brunei Darussalam from March 29 to 31 upon the invitation of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Several agreements were reached such as the signing

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His Majesty awarded a state honorary medal to His Excellency Viktor Yanukovych, the President of Ukraine, – the *Darjah Kerabat Laila Utama Yang Amat Dihormati* (D.K.) or the Most Esteemed Family Order Laila Utama, which brings the title *Dato Laila Utama*.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives Ukraine's honorary medal – 'Order of Merit, 1<sup>st</sup> Class' from His Excellency.



**\* From page 5**  
**(Brunei-Ukraine strengthen bilateral relation and cooperation)**

of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Brunei Darussalam and Ukraine in the field of defence. Another agreement reached was the Exchange of Notes on the Mutual Exemption of Visa Requirements for Holders of Ordinary Passport where it will increase the flow of tourists and businesses between the two countries.

His Excellency's itinerary began on March 30 where His Excellency was received in an audience by His Majesty at the Cheradi Laila Kenchana at Istana Nurul Iman. Both leaders

attended a four-eyes meeting where both leaders exchanged views on ways to strengthen bilateral relations as well as regional and international matters of common interests.

At the audience, His Majesty awarded a state honorary medal to His Excellency – the *Darjah Kerabat Laila Utama Yang Amat Dihormati* (D.K.) or the Most Esteemed Family Order Laila Utama, which brings the title Dato Laila Utama.

His Majesty also received Ukraine's honorary medal – 'Order of Merit, 1<sup>st</sup> Class' from His Excellency.

A signing ceremony was held for MoU on the cooperation in the field of defence held at Baitul Mesyuarah at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Excellency then visited Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) where His Excellency delivered a talk on 'Ukraine and Brunei: From Potential to Success'. The visit proceeded with a visit to Royal Regalia.

In the evening, His Excellency attended a state banquet hosted by His Majesty in honour of His Excellency's state visit to Brunei Darussalam.

On March 31, His Excellency's itinerary continued by attending Brunei-Ukraine Business Conference at Banquet Hall of Istana Edinburg. Soon after, His Excellency visited the Brunei Liquefied Natural Gas (BLNG) Head Office in Seria of Belait District.

His Excellency ended his state visit to Brunei Darussalam on March 31.



PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Viktor Yanukovych witness a signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Brunei Darussalam and Ukraine in the field of defence.

PHOTOS: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI



The nation's first university, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) is among the places visited by His Excellency Viktor Yanukovych.



His Excellency delivers a speech at the Brunei-Ukraine Business Conference.



PHOTOS: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN



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



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID



The Speaker of the Legislative Council, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa.



#### \* From frontpage

#### (HM: Be more progressive in diversifying economy)

education by the Ministry of Education is also timely, said His Majesty.

The government is also generating a more conducive business climate. One example is when His Majesty has consented for the formation of steering committee for 'Ease of Doing Business' where its objective is to facilitate business in this country. It is also to strengthen Brunei Darussalam's position in the 'Ease of Doing Business' index.

His Majesty expressed his hope for all levels of the society, especially to the private sector and youth to participate together progressively in the bid to diversify the nation's economy.

Also present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade who are ex-officio members and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah.

Prior to that ceremony, a swearing-in ceremony for the ministers appointed as State Legislative Council Members was held.

The ministers were Minister of Energy at Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Colonel (Rtd.) Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin; Minister of Religious Affairs, Pengiran Dato Dr. Haji Mohammad; Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Paduka Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin; and Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair.





PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

## \$5,130,785,600.00 for 2011-2012 budget

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 13** – An amount of \$5,130,785,600.00 has been approved by the State Legislative Council for 2011-2012's fiscal year budget. The amounted budget is allocated for the 12 government ministries and development.

The approved budget would take into effect on April 1, 2011.

Below is the detailed information of the allocated budget:

Prime Minister's Office	\$541,922,410.00
Ministry of Defence	\$513,952,450.00
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	\$175,179,410.00
Ministry of Finance	\$917,920,795.00
Ministry of Home Affairs	\$156,668,850.00
Ministry of Education	\$673,371,260.00
Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources	\$85,254,000.00
Ministry of Religious Affairs	\$236,367,285.00
Ministry of Development	\$304,153,700.00
Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports	\$93,441,400.00
Ministry of Health	\$306,854,370.00
Ministry of Communications	\$75,701,670.00
Development	\$1,050,000,000.00



## Commonwealth Day Message from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 14**

– His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered a *titah* (royal message) in conjunction with Commonwealth Day. The full text of the Commonwealth Day Message from His Majesty are as below:

The theme of Commonwealth Day 2011 describes women as 'Agents of Change'. In doing so, it celebrates the Commonwealth's long-standing commitment to the individuals, families and communities that comprise our societies and nations.

Above all, it directs our attention to the role of women in ensuring that our societies and nations are happy, healthy and prosperous. In Brunei Darussalam, our history testifies to the importance of that role.

For nearly five hundred years, our local economy was centred on what we call the 'Padian', a trading concept that became our basic business model. Day-in, day-out, it drove household budgets and strengthened whole communities. It created a spirit of enterprise and purpose that went far beyond basic trading and material profit. It enriched the human spirit and enhanced the cohesion of our communities.

It was truly a dramatic 'agent of change' and the reason for this was fundamental to every family. It was very largely inspired, managed and directed by women.

The days of the *Padian* are now long gone, but the lessons it has inspired in us has transcended the generations after it and reiterates the fact that the talents, skills and experience of every women are crucial in building a successful nation.

This is why we wish to do all we can to support the efforts currently being made at home by our Department of Community Development and non-government organisations and those being called for by ASEAN and the United Nations to assist all women to fulfil their own professional and personal aspirations.

As in all countries, much work remains and we greatly appreciate the lead taken by the Commonwealth in impressing upon us the need for urgency.

We join all our fellow members in recognising a basic fact of modern international life that is becoming increasingly clear.

No nation can meet rapid and extremely demanding changes of the twenty-first century successfully unless its women citizens are fully able to share in the task of shaping its future.

## Call for Brunei to have *Syariah* Criminal Act

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 15**

– In the bid to tackle *syariah* crimes, a call was made for Brunei Darussalam to have its own *Syariah* Criminal Act. While existing acts will remain to handle cases that are not suitable or does not fulfil the criteria of *Syariah* acts.

The call was made by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Brunei Islamic

Religious Council (MUIB) meeting held at the State Legislative Council building in Jalan Kebangsaan.

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

His Majesty further said the existing acts are still relevant to be sustained whilst there is a need for *Syariah*

Criminal Act which can be used at a certain time.

MUIB is the highest body who formulate policies towards determining the direction of Islam's administration in this country. It acts to assist and advise His Majesty in all matters pertaining to the Islamic religion.



PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZI HAJI DURAWAN

A call was made by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for Brunei Darussalam to have its own *Syariah* Criminal Act at the Brunei Islamic Religious Council (MUIB) meeting.

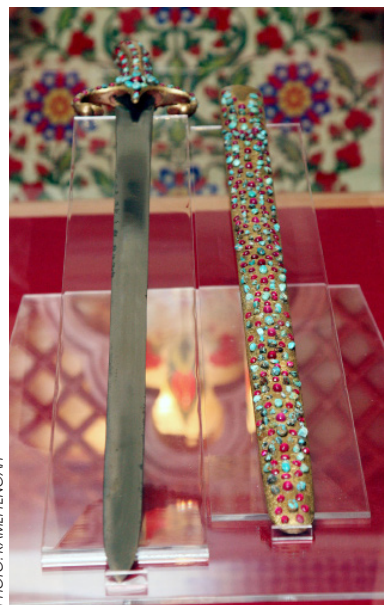


PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Islamic Tourism Exhibition held at Darulifta Exhibition Hall.

PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH



Among the exhibits at the Islamic Tourism Exhibition.

## Islamic Tourism Exhibition promotes Brunei as tourism destination

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 16** – An exhibition featuring historic Islamic artefacts is promoting Brunei Darussalam as a tourism destination. Some of the items exhibited are replicas of The Sacred Trust from Topkapi Palace in Istanbul; replicas a number of swords belonging to Prophet; and a replica of a Staff which belonged to Prophet Musa. Visitors will also be able to see a huge 'beduk' (drum); large wood fossil; and a 1000 years old Mushaf.

The exhibition was officially opened by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Brunei Darussalam Darulifta Exhibition Hall.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah; His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

To further promote Brunei as a tourism destination, a package has been prepared by Darussalam Holdings where it offers a four-day three-night package where it includes a visit to the Islamic Tourism Exhibition.

The Islamic Tourism Exhibition is jointly organised by the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Islamic Exhibition Gallery and the Tourism Development Department held from March 16 to April 5.



His Majesty looks on one of the exhibited items.

PHOTO: ABDUL KADIR MD. TAHIR

PHOTOS: RAMLI TENGAH



The large wood fossil is among the items displayed at the exhibition.



A huge Beduk (drum) is also exhibited at the Islamic Tourism Exhibition.



**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 17** – In its bid to provide shelter and comfortable living to its citizens, the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam continues to provide various housing schemes.

The latest saw 164 recipients received houses under the National Housing Scheme (RPN) at Kampung Rimba Gadong and terrace houses under the Landless Indigenous Citizens Housing Scheme (STKRJ) at Kampung Sungai Buloh in Brunei-Muara District.

Present to award the keys was His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a ceremony held at Dato Haji Mohd. Yassin Primary School in Kampung Mentiri.

At the ceremony, 83 people received standard type house under the RPN Kampung Rimba Gadong while 81 people received type 'D' terrace house under the STKRJ Kampung Sungai Buloh.

Soon after the presentation ceremony, His Majesty toured around the Dato Haji Mohd. Yassin Primary School. The school has 596 students from pre class to Year 6.

His Majesty also visited several houses of recipients in Kampung Rimba and Kampung Sungai Buloh.

Also visited was Sultan Sharif Ali Secondary School in Kampung Salambigar, project site for RPN Kampung Meragang in *Mukim* Serasa and park located at Agriculture Development Area Phase Four in Rimba Horticulture.

## More house keys to citizens



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presents the key to one of the recipients under the National Housing Scheme.

PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

## Call to strengthen the 'aqidah



His Majesty announces for the establishment of Ahli Sunnah Waljamaah Study Centre in his *titah* (royal speech).

PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 29** – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* (royal speech) announced for the establishment of Ahli Sunnah Waljamaah Study Centre at the Kolej Universiti Perguruan Ugama Seri Begawan (KUPU SB).

According to His Majesty, the establishment of the study centre is aimed for further strengthening the 'aqidah (faith) in Brunei Darussalam.

The announcement was made by His Majesty at the official opening of the International Seminar on the 'Aqidah of Ahli Sunnah Waljamaah' held in conjunction with the Silver Jubilee celebration of Islamic Dakwah

Centre (PDI) 1985-2010.

The opening ceremony was held at the Plenary Hall, International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas.

'Aqidah, said His Majesty, is important to be learned, understood and hold firmly, so the community will continue to be safe.

In regards to the topic of 'aqidah during the seminar, His Majesty stated that the topic was important to provide the right understanding to the community.

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 'Abdul 'Azim and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

At the ceremony, His Majesty consented to attend a presentation of working paper entitled 'Aqidah Ahli Sunnah Waljamaah unify the Ummah' presented by the State Mufti, Pehin Dato Paduka (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz.

His Majesty also visited an exhibition on the development and achievements of PDI in 25 years.

The three-day seminar was attended by more than 1000 participants from various agencies. The seminar was first held in September 16, 1985 during the opening of the PDI.





His Royal Highness presents a trophy to the winner of EPL Masters Football Brunei Cup 2011.

## EPL Masters Football Brunei Cup 2011

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 11** – The EPL All Stars Masters emerged as champion for the EPL Masters Football Brunei Cup 2011 after defeating Manchester United Masters 4-3.

The EPL Football Brunei Cup saw a gathering of famous local talents and United Kingdom's highly talented soccer players such as Robbie Fowler, Andy Cole, Steve McManaman and Faustino Asprilla.

In attendance to present the prizes was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office. Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

The competition was held at the Indoor Stadium, Hassanal Bolkiah Sport Complex in Berakas.

## Aberdeen Brunei Senior Masters 2011 Golf Championship

**JERUDONG, March 6** - Chris Williams from South Africa emerged as champion for this year's Aberdeen Brunei Senior Masters 2011 Golf Championship. While second place was won by Sang-ho Choi from Republic of Korea; and third place was won by Mike Harwood from Australia. The champion received a cash prize of US \$48,000.

In attendance to present the prizes was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

More than 70 golf masters from Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, Italy, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Portugal, Scotland, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Taipei, United Kingdom and United States of America participated in this three-day tournament.



His Royal Highness presents a trophy to the winner of Aberdeen Brunei Senior Masters 2011 Golf Championship.

## International seminar on Aqidah Sunnah Waljamaah

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 30** – A three-day international seminar was held on *aqidah* (faith) where a number of papers were presented involving local and foreign speakers.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah attended the presentation of the sixth paper held at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas.

The paper entitled 'Aqidah of Ahli Sunnah Waljamaah in Brunei Darussalam's Administration' was presented by Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Paduka Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin.

Also present at the seminar was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik at the seminar.

### \* From Frontpage (Change of rate for vehicle excise duty)

Besides the above excise duty, for vehicles consuming diesel, an additional five per cent excise duty will be imposed after counting excise duty for all types of vehicles.

Meanwhile, in encouraging more usage of hybrid type car that can help increase the conservation of petrol efficiency, the rate of duty for all types

of hybrid cars is reduced by five per cent after counting is made on excise duties imposed on all types of vehicle and vehicles using diesel.

In boosting the growth of the public transport sector in the nation, the excise duty for buses or vehicles that accommodate not less than nine passengers will be reduced by 15 per cent compared to the current rate of 20 per cent.

However, excise duty for other heavy vehicles such as lorries and tankers will be retained at the rate of 20 per cent.

For vehicles used as rental cars, taxis or vans that accommodate not more than nine passengers, the excise duty imposed is similar with individual vehicles like those imposed on all types of vehicles, those consuming diesel and hybrids.





PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN

Her Royal Highness in a group photo at the opening ceremony of the 9<sup>th</sup> International School Brunei (ISB) Borneo Global Issues Conference (BGIC).

## Equal opportunities for all youths

**BERAKAS, March 12** – Youths in Brunei Darussalam are fortunate as they are given access, regardless of gender, to all levels of education and healthcare. The country also recently witnessed the historic appointments of Brunei Darussalam's first woman Attorney General and first woman Deputy Minister.

The matters were stated by Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah in a *sabda* (royal speech) on the occasion of the opening ceremony

of the 9<sup>th</sup> International School Brunei (ISB) Borneo Global Issues Conference (BGIC) held at the International Convention Centre.

Her Royal Highness was also pleased to see that this year's BGIC showed young women prominent in their leadership as Secretary-Generals and Committee Chairwomen.

Her Royal Highness also spoke on the conference where Her Royal Highness hoped that through the conference, the students would gain an understanding and true

appreciation for the value of peace, security and stability, and how peaceful resolutions to all manner of disagreements, could be achieved through dialogue, discussion and deeper mutual understanding.

This year's ISB BGIC saw a participation of more than 284 students representing 18 schools throughout the country and four international schools from Thailand, Indonesia, Japan and Malaysia (Sabah, Sarawak and Selangor).

## HRH attends Jakarta International Defence Dialogue



PHOTOS: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

His Royal Highness delivers his *sabda* (royal speech).



His Royal Highness with one of JIDD representatives.



**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 23** – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended the opening ceremony of the Jakarta International Defence Dialogue (JIDD) at the Jakarta Convention Centre.

The ceremony was opened by His Excellency Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia.

His Royal Highness delivered a keynote address highlighting the concept of 'Defence Diplomacy' and the need for defence and diplomacy to complement each other.

"Recent events across the continent have caused great social, economic and political insecurity. As a result, the role and purpose of modern defence is being deeply questioned," said His Royal Highness.

Like everyone in this part of Asia, our thoughts and prayers in Brunei Darussalam are with the people of Japan and the Middle East at a time when their futures must seem severely at risk, added His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness also shared experiences from diplomatic prospective and took lessons from them.

## HRH officiates arts exhibition

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 19** – His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Azim officiated the Arts Exhibition 'Kaleidoskop' which was held in conjunction with Brunei Darussalam's 27<sup>th</sup> National Day celebration at the Brunei Museum in Kota Batu.

Among the painting exhibited were the 83 art-pieces by senior artists in the country.

The Arts Exhibition 'Kaleidoskop' was organised by the Brunei Darussalam senior artists with an objective to enhance and promote drawing activity and high quality art-pieces. It is also as part of strategies to fulfil Brunei Museum with various resources of educational, historical, national civilisation knowledge especially for students and tourists.



COURTESY OF DEPARTMENT OF MUSEUM

His Royal Highness consented to sign on one of the paintings.



## National Day Run 2011

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 27** – In conjunction with Brunei Darussalam's 27<sup>th</sup> National Day celebration, the Department of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports

conducted National Day Run 2011.

Present to launch and participate in the run was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

Also participating in the run was

Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah. Her Royal Highness participated in Women Open Category – 10 kilometres.

The National Day Run 2011 also collected a donation for humanitarian fund for flood victims in Australia and earthquake in New Zealand; and humanitarian fund for earthquake and tsunami victims in Japan.

The National Day Run 2011 was also held at three other districts in the country where six categories and a fun run were opened for participation.

In Belait District, the run was held at Sungai Liang Forest Reserve and attracted participation of more than 300 people. Meanwhile, more than 200 people joined the run held at Pengkalan Pinang Penanjong Recreation Beach in Tutong District; and more than 100 people joined the run held at Bukit Patoi Recreational Park in Temburong.



His Royal Highness participates in the National Day Run 2011.

## World Thinking Day



Her Royal Highness takes a closer look at the exhibition held at the World Thinking Day celebration.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 6** – Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association has observed World Thinking Day, in remembrance of each other and to convey appreciation and gratitude to every member of Girl Guides and Brownies throughout the world for carrying out voluntary charity works.

Present at the celebration was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, the President of Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association held at its Headquarters in Berakas.

Also present was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, the Vice-President of the association.

At the ceremony, Her Royal Highness presented contribution of uniforms donated by Girl Guides to members who are orphans and less fortunate.

Also presented were mementos commemorating 60 years of the establishment of the Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association to 50 heads and principals of schools that participate in the Girl Guides movement.

The 'World Thinking Day' is celebrated every February 22<sup>nd</sup> by Girl Guides Associations worldwide. This year's theme is based on the third Millennium Development Goal which is 'Empowering girls will change our world' and the aim is to raise awareness of the situation for many girls and young women and empower them to take a stand against inequality.

## Brunei hosts AWGIPC

**JERUDONG, March 14** – Brunei Darussalam for the first time hosted the 35<sup>th</sup> Association of South East Asian Nations Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation (AWGIPC). Among the matters discussed were on ASEAN Intellectual Property Right (IPR) Action Plan 2011-2015 and ASEAN – Dialogue Partner Activities.

The meeting organised by the Attorney General Chambers was held at the Indera Kayangan Ballroom, The Empire Hotel and Country Club from March 14 – 18.

Present at the meeting was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Muta-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah. Also present were the director-generals and senior officers from various Intellectual Property Office of ASEAN member-countries and ASEAN Secretariat.

The ASEAN IPR Action Plan 2011-

Her Royal Highness at the meeting of 35<sup>th</sup> Association of South East Asian Nations Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation.



2015 is designed to meet ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) goals through the transforming of ASEAN into an innovative and competitive region through the practicing of Intellectual Property (IP) for their use of respective citizens and ensuring the region remains an active participant in the international IP community.

ASEAN through AWGIPC, for the past several years had been working

towards the development of the IP system in the region.

Established in 1996, AWGIPC is ASEAN Framework Agreement on Intellectual Property Agreement which was signed by ASEAN member-countries at Bangkok, Thailand in 1995.

AWGIPC is given mandate to develop, coordinate and implement all IP related activities in the region.



# Opening Legal Year 2011

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 9** – Brunei Darussalam improved its ranking in 'The Doing Business Report 2011' by World Bank from 117<sup>th</sup> in 2010 to 112<sup>th</sup> out of 183 economies. The Registries Division of the Attorney General's Division is one of the 13 departments involved in the Business Licensing System (BLS), a project co-chaired by Ministry of Industry

and Primary Resources and Ministry of Home Affairs to provide a single online window of setting up business. The Companies Act has been amended to attract foreign investors and the Registry is working with the relevant ministry to ensure its smooth implementation.

The matters were highlighted by the Attorney General, Datin Paduka Hajah Hayati at the opening of Legal Year 2011 held at the Supreme Court Building.

The year 2010 also saw Islamic Family Law (Amendment) Order and the Married Women Act (Amendment) Order came into effect on June 26, 2010. The orders are aimed to deal with domestic violence or 'dharar Syarie' among family members in Muslim and non-Muslim families respectively. While the Criminal Justice Division is also currently looking into provisions affecting children and young persons that have developed in other jurisdictions, such as sexual grooming and child pornography.

The year 2010 also witnessed a long list of legislation and amendments including Money Laundering (Amendment) Order, 2010, Halal Meat (Amendment) Order, 2010; and various financial legislations notably the Income Tax (Amendment) Order, Authority Monetary Brunei Darussalam Order, 2010. As a result of Deposit Protection Order, consequential amendments were also made to the Islamic Banking Order and the Finance Companies Act.



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

Her Royal Highness at the opening of Legal Year 2011.

## HRH participates in cross-country

**TUTONG, March 20** – Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah participated in Merimbun cross-country challenges organised by Merimbun Consultative Council Mukim Rambai in Tutong.

The cross-country was held at the Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park

in Tutong where Her Royal Highness won second-runner up for the Women (above 16 years old) Open Category.

Also present and participating in the challenge was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Mu'min; Tutong District Officer, Awang Haji Suffian; and *penghulu* and heads of villages.

Five categories were opened for participation which more than 100 people joined. Present as guest of honour presenting prizes to winners was Head of Youth and Sports Department, Tutong Branch, Awang Haji Mohammad Rosfazillah.

## Call to strengthen ASEAN - India bilateral cooperation

**NEW DELHI, INDIA, March 3** – A call was made to further strengthen bilateral relation especially in the field of trade between India and ASEAN. In this regard, three matters were highlighted which could contribute to strengthening the bilateral trade relation. The first matter was the

implementation of trade agreement besides completing discussion on services and investments.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng outlined the matters at the Delhi Dialogue III themed 'Beyond the First Twenty Years of India-ASEAN

Engagement'. The dialogue was held at the Hotel Le Meridien.

The second matter, according to the minister, involves enhancing more efforts towards strengthening the relation. One measure was when ASEAN commenced its long term master plan last year, towards enhancing connectivity not only among ASEAN but also with India and China. This will benefit ASEAN and India as it not only facilitates movement across the border but it also facilitates movement of goods, services and investments.

The third matter is by supporting India-ASEAN economic relations through people-to-people context.

The minister also welcomed the commitment of India's government for the formation of a 21<sup>st</sup> century university, University of Nalanda which is a cooperation between India and East Asia Summit (EAS) member countries in its bid to make the aspiration a reality.

The dialogue is an initial step for the Ministers of Trade from ASEAN and India to enhance trade, investment and services for the next 20 years.



PHOTO CREDIT: BORNEO BULLETIN

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II at the Launching of ASEAN-India Business Conclave and Trade Exhibition at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India.



## BIMP-EAGA WG ICT Meeting discusses current status

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 3** – One of the achievements of the 7<sup>th</sup> Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines – East Asia Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Working Group Meeting on Information and Communication Technology (WG ICT) was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 'Intelligent Clearance Identity' (i-CLID), a cross-boundary project of BIMP-EAGA.

The i-CLID project was established to facilitate cross-border trade by using information communication technology (ICT) as a tool by implementing RFID and web. The signing of the MoU marked an important milestone in its ICT working group in building cooperation with the private sector as the participation of this sector is one of the ways to move forward in developing the ICT.

The MoU was signed between ZimacSilicon Technologies Sdn. Bhd. of Brunei Darussalam; Sarawak Information Systems Sdn. Bhd. (SAINS) from Malaysia; Transport, Infrastructure and ICT Development (TIICTD) Cluster from BIMP-EAGA Business Council (BEBC); and chief of BEBC's ICT.

The WG ICT also discussed eight main ICT projects namely; Rink BIMP-EAGA; i-CLID; ICT Rural Outreach Programme; Tariff Rationalisation in BIM-EAGA; BIMP-EAGA Android; Green ICT; Satellite Consortium; and Heart of Borneo Satellite Monitoring Systems.

The two-day meeting was chaired by the Acting Director of Communications at the Ministry of Communications, Dayang Hajah Airah binti Haji Abdullah.

## Brunei – China: Cooperation in fisheries sector



A contract signing ceremony witnessed by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 10** - Cooperation has been agreed in the fisheries sector between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China. Some of the cooperation agreed is oyster rearing in waters of Brunei Darussalam where a company from Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region will carry out research and trial farming before operating commercially. This will open more opportunities for companies from Guangxi Zhuang to invest in Brunei's fisheries sector through strategic alliance and cooperation between companies of both parties.

Thus a signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was held between Fisheries Department, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) and Bureau of Fishery, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China. The signing ceremony was held at MIPR.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The

Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was the Director of Fisheries, Dayang Hajah Hasnah binti Ibrahim; whilst on behalf of People's Republic of China was the Deputy Chief Director, Bureau of Fishery, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, Mr. Wang Qiang.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya and the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Min Yong Nian.

The MoU will establish cooperation in research and development in the field of science and technology. It will also enhance human resource development such as through workshops, seminars and others related to fisheries' development.

Oyster is a type of seafood with high market value in the international market where its major producer is China with 80 per cent from total world's production.

## Commendable achievements by Brunei's women

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 8** – Women in Brunei Darussalam have shown commendable achievements in many aspects, in some cases might even overcome achievements made by men. Some of the achievements include literacy rate among female in Brunei Darussalam was 95 per cent in 2010 compared to only 8.3 per cent in 1947. While graduates of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) showed that 71 per cent of its graduates were women.

The matters were highlighted by the Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Datin Hajah Adina at an event to celebrate International Women's Day held at Dewan Digadong, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

The deputy minister further said that despite of these achievements by women, they are not exempted from threats such as crime, abuse, social problems and poverty. Thus to ensure that women issues and gender

perspectives are taken into account in policy planning and implementation including programmes organised, there are still many measures that needed to be implemented.

A special committee on women issues and family institution has been established where its main responsibility is to plan, implement and evaluate policies and programmes related to women's development. This is to ensure that their welfare and prosperity are guaranteed and enable them to continuously benefit from it.

Brunei Darussalam joined other nations in celebrating International Women's Day. This year celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary since International Women's Day was first declared on March 8, 1911. The celebration shows the commitment of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on the rights, role and contribution of women



The Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports highlights the many commendable achievements by Brunei's Women at International Women's Day celebration.

in the development of nation's socio-economy in line with this year's theme - *Equal access to education, training and science and technology, pathway to decent work for women.*



## Be positive, forward-thinking in handling paradigm shift

**JERUDONG, March 8** – A call was made for Prisons Department to enhance its community-based correctional programme and system. In a bid to bring the inmates closer and integrate them to the society, the department must also strengthen its knowledge and multi-specialty. Society's acceptance towards former convicts is vital which can assist them in not feeling isolated and not to commit their wrongful acts again.

The matters were highlighted by the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin (Rtd) Major General Dato Haji Awang Halbi at a national-flag presentation ceremony for the department's contingent participating in the 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Prisons Athletics Championship to be held in Singapore.

The deputy minister also said that the department must be aware on changes in today's era of globalisation. The department must

also be positive and forward-thinking in handling paradigm shift according to current needs.

At the event, the deputy minister handed over the national-flag to the Director of Prisons Department, Awang Haji Jasni bin Haji Latif as chief contingent. A number of 43 athletes comprising of 26 males and 17 females including 10 officers would be involved in the three-day event.

## Study on Land Optimisation Strategy agreed

**GADONG, March 15** – The Centre for Strategic and Policy Studies (CSPS) held a contract signing on Study on Land Optimisation Strategy with SGS Economic and Planning (SGS EP). The signing ceremony was held at Dewan Sukma Indera, CSPS Building.

CSPS was represented by its Executive Director, Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail while his counterpart was Roger Gibbons, the consultant at SGS EP.

The signing was witnessed by Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi.

The agreement enables CSPS to continue its national study on land optimisation as optimisation of effective land utilisation is one of the main challenge face by the nation in fulfilling its development objectives.

The study aims to determine terms of utilisation for commercial

and industrial lands for achieving and preserving Brunei Darussalam's economic diversification for the long term period until 2035 and further.

It is also in line with Brunei Vision 2035 to establish the nation as World's Top10 in Gross Domestic Product per capita besides achieving continuous dynamic economic development through progressive industry and economic diversification.

## Course on conservation of collections and intangible heritage



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD ALI  
The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports launches the course in conservation of collections and intangible heritage.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 14** - Brunei Darussalam hosted a two-week international course on 'Conservation of Collections and Intangible Heritage' where it enables professionals involved in conservation, particularly on Asian and intangible cultural heritage to share knowledge and methods.

The course is a part of programme planned by 'The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation-SEAMEO' and 'Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts-SPAFA' and between 'International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property'-ICCROM based on CollAsia 2010 Programme.

The course was launched by Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

The course was attended by 26 professionals particularly in the field of conservation, researchers and cultural practitioners from ASEAN member countries.

## Youth Fiesta 2011

**JERUDONG, March 18** – Youth movements and associations should be able to produce dynamic and progressive leaders among the youths. They should also be able to produce youths with critical and building thinking, mature and has intellectual ability in line with the national vision to become a develop country by 2035. The youths should also be able to uphold the Malay Islamic Monarchy concept.

The matters were stated by Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair during the official launching of Youth Fiesta 2011 held at the Jerudong Park Amphitheatre.

He also called for the youth throughout the country to become a physical and active member of the community with progressive mind and impressive spirit.

The inaugural Youth Fiesta 2011 is appropriate with our objective to acknowledge and activate youth involvement in beneficial activities and further strengthen youth associations and movements in the nation, said the minister.

The minister further said that, the fiesta also become indicator on the development and achievement of youth movements particularly the youth associations.

The three-day fiesta features various activities and events and involved participations of government agencies and non-government organisations.

## Fire & Rescue celebrates 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 18** – The Fire and Rescue Department celebrated its 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary in a ceremony held at Fire and Rescue Training Centre in Kampung Lambak Kanan. Present as guest of honour was Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin.

The minister in his speech said that the government is placing high expectation on effectiveness of the services provided by the department.

At the ceremony, the minister presented Exemplary Awards for Officer and Staff and Exemplary Fire Station. The minister also presented a donation to representatives from Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam and SMARTER Association.



## Minister call for agricultural good practise

**TEMBURONG, March 19** – Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya called for those involve in farming and fisheries to implement agricultural good practise.

He stressed the matter in an interview with media during his working visit to Temburong District.

He also suggested the entrepreneurs to strengthen bio-security control as few prawn farms had been infected with diseases.

Various places around Temburong had been identified for carrying out activities like rearing fish in pond and cage as alternative for catching fishes in some restricted river zone. The alternative is provided in order to make ways for hatchery and breeding of fishes.

Among the minister's itinerary were meeting with farmers, fishermen and cooperative's representative; visiting paddy field and visiting fish and prawn farming.

## Government committed to sustain nation's forestry

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 21** – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is committed to maintain the country in group of top10 forestry countries in the world.

The matter was stated by Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya at the launching of World Forestry Day celebration held at the ministry building.

Brunei Darussalam, said the minister, has allocated about half of its land for the Heart of Borneo initiative where it shows Brunei's seriousness in ensuring its environment is protected and the nation is still green and clean.

The Brunei Darussalam's Heart of Borneo (HoB) Initiative will not intend to stop the usage of natural resources but will encourage the usage of science-based approach which will produce sustainable forestry products and services, explained the minister.

As we implement HoB strategy, added the minister, new prospect and economic opportunity will be opened to investors without damaging our natural resources eco-system integrity.

At the ceremony, the minister launched a book entitled Sustainable Forestry in Brunei Darussalam and presented prizes to the winners of World Forestry Day Essay Writing Competition.

The International Forestry Day 2011 carries the theme 'Forests for People'. The theme provides unique opportunity for enhancing awareness of the global community towards various challenges faced by forest around the world and community dependent on forestry resources.

World Forestry Day was first celebrated on March 21, 1972 by Food

and Agriculture Nation while Brunei Darussalam first celebrated the day about 29 years ago.



Minister of Industry and Primary Resources takes a closer look at the exhibited items.

## Two new health centres in the pipeline

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 23** – The public particularly residents of Mukim Gadong will receive better and more health services with the upcoming new health centre in Kampung Rimba.

The signing ceremony of Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for the building of the new Gadong Health Centre was held between Ministry of Health and its counterparts at the Ministry of Health.

Signing on behalf of Ministry of Health was its Permanent Secretary, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Salam and Acting Assistant Director of Project Development, Awang Haji Zalidi.

Meanwhile their counterparts were consultant from Arkitek Rekajaya who will lead the project, represented by Awang Md. Billy Lim and Richard D. Whittaker; and representative from Sepakat Setia Perunding (B) Sendirian Berhad and MRBC Partnership.

Present as guest of honour and to witness the ceremony was Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan.

With the upcoming new building, it is hoped it will provide comfortable and more health services and offer more comprehensive services with latest treatment facilities.

Meanwhile, residents in Mukim Pengkalan Batu will also have their own health centre. The building of \$4.2 million Pengkalan Batu Health Centre is expected to be completed at the end of this year. The health centre will replace Limau Manis Health Clinic.

The Pengkalan Batu Health Centre among others will provide outpatient clinic, accident and emergency department, women and children department, flu clinic, dental division, and administration.

## Meeting on Climate Change

**MEXICO CITY, March 28** – Brunei Darussalam will continue to play its role and support towards the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol as well as the successful outcome of the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) and 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties (CMP7) to be held in December 2011 in Durban, South Africa.

The matters were stated by Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi during the Informal Ministerial Meeting on Climate

Change 'Implementing the Cancun Agreements' in Mexico City, Mexico from March 23 – 24.

Despite the positive outcome of the COP16 and CMP6, held in Cancun, Mexico in December 2010, said the minister; there are still unresolved and complex issues relating to mitigation, adaption, finance and technology transfer, and issues related to REDD+ that has to be addressed.

He further added that divergent of views amongst parties need to be narrowed down in order to move forward the negotiation process on these issues.

In this regards, he stressed building

on the success modality of COP16 and CMP6 the negotiation process should involved all parties in an open, transparent and inclusive manner.

The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Patricia Espinosa, the President of the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the COP17 to the UNFCCC and the 6<sup>th</sup> CMP to the Kyoto Protocol.

At the meeting, ministers and ambassadors responsible for climate change from 41 invited countries exchange views and ideas on how to sustain the momentum of agreement reached in Cancun in 2010 as well as road map and deliverables of the upcoming COP17 and CMP7.



## Brunei commemorates World Glaucoma Week

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 7** – Brunei Darussalam commemorated World Glaucoma Week 2011 by organising a public awareness campaign on eye health. The campaign focuses on glaucoma where it provides related knowledge to the public on the disease.

The campaign organised by the Department of Ophthalmology was launched by Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Salam, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health as the guest of honour held at the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital.

A 'Brunei Glaucoma Guidelines Manual' was also launched at the ceremony by the guest of honour. The World Glaucoma Week is celebrated annually from March 6 to 12. This disease is usually referred to as 'silent blinding disease' or 'sneak thief of sight' as it does not show any symptoms and causes pain.

## CIPTA seminar represents working paper

**TUNGKU LINK, March 12** - Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB) conducted a seminar for Crown Prince's Creative, Innovative Product and Technological Advancement (CIPTA) Award 2011. Three working papers were represented namely; From Ideas To Market Place; Intellectual Property Rights and Patents in Brunei Darussalam; and Opportunities for Innovator in Brunei Darussalam.

Present as a chief guest was the Vice Chancellor of ITB, Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Omar bin Haji Khalid.

CIPTA is a biennial project that promotes creativity, innovative product and technological advances to support creativity and innovation in this country.

## Semi marathon celebrates National Day

**MUARA, March 13** - The Kampung Masjid Lama, Pekan Muara, Sabun and Pelumpong Consultative Councils with cooperation from Brunei-Muara District Office held a Semi Marathon in conjunction with Brunei Darussalam's 27<sup>th</sup> National Day celebration. The semi marathon began from Muara Beach and ended at Serasa Beach.

Also taking part in the semi marathon was Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah. Seven categories were contested including open category for male and female contestants aged between 13 and 18 years old; a similar category for residents of Mukim Serasa; an open male and female category for ages 19 years and above; and a veteran category for those above 40 years old.

Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah won second place in the female open category.

Prizes were presented by the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs, Awang Haji Ismail bin Haji Abdul Manaf.

## UNISSA student 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up International Oratory Competition

**KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, March 13** – A student of University Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), Awang Haji Abdul Rashid bin Awang Haji Damit who represented Brunei Darussalam won 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up in the International Malay Oratory Competition in Category Malay Archipelago.

The competition was held on March 11 at Putrajaya International Convention Centre (PICC) in Kuala Lumpur.

Awang Haji Abdul Rashid brought home a trophy, RM 9,300 cash prize, and memento from the Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Right Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak.

A total of 61 schools from Russia, America, United Kingdom, China, Korea, Japan participated in the competition.

## Brunei establishes two humanitarian funds

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 17** – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented for the establishment of humanitarian fund committees known as humanitarian fund committee for flood victims in Australia and earthquake in New Zealand as well as humanitarian fund for earthquake and tsunami victims in Japan.

Both committees are jointly chaired by Permanent Secretaries from Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Public donations for both humanitarian funds are opened until June 16, 2011.

## 'No Plastic Bag' Weekend

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 26** – Ministry of Development through the Department of Environment, Park and Recreation (JASTRE) with cooperation and support from more than 20 department stores nationwide launched the initiative of 'No Plastic Bag' Weekend.

The initiative is expected to reduce the usage of about 13,700 plastic bags in department stores. It is hoped that it will enable JASTRE to achieve its strategic planning in waste management that is to reduce, reuse and recycle waste on the rate of 10 per cent in year 2015 and 20 per cent in 2020 with the implementation of waste minimisation programme by reducing plastic waste particularly plastic bags.

Awang Haji Mohd. Rozan, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Development led the surveillance team to visit several participating stores and distributed free recycling bags to public.

The theme of the initiative is 'Plastic bags are so last year, Reusable bags are here'.

## No import duties for computer and bicycle accessories

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 29** – The Ministry of Finance announced the waive of rate of import duty rate for computer and bicycle accessories effective from April 1, 2011.

The abolishment of import duty for computer accessories is aimed to encourage creation and creativity by the people and citizen of the country particularly among the students in schools and technical institutions.

Meanwhile the waiver of bicycle accessories is in line with the government's step in abolishing the import duty for bicycle which will be effective by April 1, 2011.

## Earth Hour campaign saves 28,000 kWh

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 30** – Surveillance made by the Department of Electrical Services (DES) and Berakas Power Management Company (BPMC) during the Earth Hour campaign on March 26 recorded a decrease in electrical energy usage by about 28,000 kWh, if compared to energy used in the same time for the past two weeks.

Brunei Darussalam joined other countries around the world in Earth Hour campaign by switching off electricity in various buildings for one hour.

Although the sum recorded was still low that is around 0.3 per cent if compared to average of energy daily usage in this country but the campaign had instilled awareness to the public on the importance of electrical power efficiency and saving.



## Did you know that...

- Brunei Darussalam became a party to Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on August 2, 1990.
- More than 30 wildlife species are considered as endangered in Brunei Darussalam under the Wildlife Protection Act 1975 (Revised 1984) and this includes birds, mammals and reptiles.
- Brunei Darussalam introduced Antiquities and Treasure Trove Act in January 21, 1967 (revised in 1984, 1991 and 2002) among others for control and preservation of antiquities and archaeological sites; and to control export of antiquities by license.
- Crab Culture was introduced in Brunei Darussalam in 2002.

## >> 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, 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.