



# برونى دارالسلام

## Brunei Darussalam

newsletter

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## National Al-Quran Reading Competition for Adults 1432 Hijrah HM: Al-Qur'an as torch and guidance

**BERAKAS, May 12** – The Al-Qur'an is the torch and guidance for mankind where whoever reads and takes guidance from the Al-Qur'an will be given light, the light of salvation.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in his *titah* (royal speech) at the National Al-Qur'an Reading Competition for Adults 1432 Hijrah held at the International Convention Centre.

Thus on this basis, His Majesty further said that he tirelessly encourages every Muslim *ummah* in this nation including civil servants to be conversant in reading the Al-Qur'an so as to reap its blessed light.

His Majesty also emphasised on the nation's determination in carrying on with the competition so that Al-Qur'an reading becomes a tradition through generations. His Majesty also said that in the half century that Brunei has held such a competition it has witnessed its benefits in the many readers who have been able to enjoy success not only at the national level but also at the internationally.

At the ceremony, His Majesty presented the prizes to winners of the National Qur'an Reading Competition for Adults 1432 Hijrah.

Also present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

The champion for the *qari* (male) category was Haji Ismail bin Haji Sulaiman; while Hajah Nurfaezah binti Haji Emran, the reigning champion was the winner in the *qariah*



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRZAL HAJI SAID

**His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* emphasised that National Al-Qur'an Reading Competition should be carried on so Al-Qur'an reading becomes a tradition through generations.**

(female) category.

Champions in both categories received a cash prize of \$7,000, the challenge trophy, a laptop contributed by Humaira Travel Centre (Borneo) Sendirian Berhad, another trophy and a certificate. Both champions of this year's competition will represent the country at the International Qur'an Reading Competition to be held later.

The theme of this year's competition is *Bersuluh Dengan Al-Qur'an* (loosely translated as 'Guided With The Light of

## Brunei-China strengthen bilateral cooperation

**JERUDONG, May 11** – Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China will continuously strengthen its bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture, fishery, tourism and promotion.

The matter was highlighted during a bilateral meeting between Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) and delegation from Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region's Governor, People's Republic of China.

In the bilateral meeting, the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources exchanged views and discussed on a number of ongoing issues.

The minister thanked Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region for extending their expertise in Brunei's rice project and conducting successful research where they have managed to increase the yield of the Laila paddy.

In the area of fisheries, the minister hoped for the successful outcome in the development of fisheries through the Technical Cooperation Agreement for joint research and development and capacity building in the areas of fisheries, aquaculture, seafood and feed processing that was signed between the Department of Fisheries of MIPR and the Bureau of Fishery, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

The ministry would also like to learn how to promote Brunei Darussalam as a tourist destination from Guangxi's experience on how they developed and promoted Quilin as a tourist destination.

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



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**6** Tenaga Surya Brunei, a milestone for sustainable natural environment



**8** PEKERTI celebrates Silver Jubilee



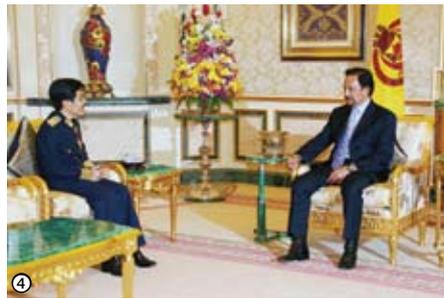
**12** Hornbill School receives royal visit



**13** Health forum for youths

**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:**

**They were:**



- ❶ The Honourable Albert F. del Rosario, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Philippines on May 10.
- ❷ His Excellency Ma Biao, Governor of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China on May 11.
- ❸ Yang Berbahagia General Dato Paduka Seri Tan Sri Dato Sri Haji Azizan bin Arifin, Commander of the Malaysian Armed Forces on May 17.
- ❹ His Excellency Nan Sy, out-going Ambassador of Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Cambodia on May 24.
- ❺ His Excellency Dr. Ali Akbar Salehi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran on May 28.
- ❻ His Excellency Chen Zongxing, Vice-Chairman of the National Committee of the Political Consultative Conference of the People's Republic of China on May 30.

PHOTOS: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR  
RAMLI TENGAH

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



Mrs. Sangeeta Shields, the spouse of Ambassador of Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of United States of America to Brunei Darussalam on May 10.



Datin Noorainee Abdul Rahim, the spouse of the Commander of the Malaysian Armed Forces on May 17.



Madam Nika Nan Sy, the spouse of the outgoing Ambassador of Cambodia to Brunei Darussalam on May 25.

PHOTOS: RAMLI TENGAH  
MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN

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



- ❶ The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan Parliament, Her Excellency Makiko Kikuta on May 7.
- ❷ His Excellency Nan Sy, the outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Cambodia to Brunei Darussalam on May 26.

PHOTOS: MASRI OSMAN

## Prioritise national interest

**LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, May 1** – Bruneian students studying abroad, irrespective if they are studying on their own expenses or borne by the government were reminded not to avoid their responsibility towards the government once they have completed their studies.

The matters were said by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* (royal speech) at a get-together ceremony with Brunei citizens and residents based in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland. The UK-based Brunei citizens and residents are mostly students and government officers working or attending courses; as well as those who are on holiday with their families in the UK. The event took place at Hilton Park Lane Hotel in London.

His Majesty added that the government is willing to spend an enormous amount to send students and officers to achieve related qualifications in the needed fields. This is because, said His Majesty, Brunei Darussalam is very much in need of intellectual people among its own citizens. Unfortunately, there are those who refuse to return home to serve their own country. His Majesty hoped such an attitude will not continue to persist, and will be replaced with a true Bruneian attitude, of abiding by their promises and knowing how to repay kindness.

Accompanying His Majesty at the get-together ceremony were Her Majesty The Raja Isteri, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, Her Royal Highness Princess Azimah Ni'matul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Nasibah along with other members of the royal family.



**His Majesty receives greetings and mingles with Brunei citizens and residents based in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland.**

According to the statistics, 1,901 students are registered at the Student Unit for the 2010/2011 intake undergoing their studies in a number of fields. The record showed 13 students are borne under the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation; 1,549 students borne by the government; 115 borne by Brunei Shell Petroleum and Royal Brunei Airlines; and 224 are private students. Whilst 225 people are government officers undergoing in-service trainings.



**His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Prime Minister of United Kingdom.**

## Brunei - UK discuss bilateral cooperation

**LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, May 3** – Matters related to bilateral cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the United Kingdom were discussed at a bilateral meeting between His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Prime Minister of United Kingdom, The Right Honourable David Cameron.

During the meeting, His Majesty and the Prime Minister also exchanged ideas on regional and international issues. Both leaders also discussed ways to enhance cooperation that exists between Brunei Darussalam and Great Britain.

The meeting was held at No. 10, Downing Street, London.

PHOTOS: HAJI MOHD. YUSSOF MOHD. YASSIN

### His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent a congratulatory message to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong on His Excellency's victory in the Ang Mo Kio constituency and People Action Party's (PAP) victory in the general election in the Republic of Singapore on May 8.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit's Retreat Session held at Jakarta Convention Centre.

## 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN SUMMIT

### ASEAN's external relations vital for its progress

**JAKARTA, INDONESIA, May 8** – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said that ASEAN's external relations have evolved in a number of processes which is vital for its progress. While ASEAN's external relation with its dialogue partner (Plus One) while looking at the best way to strengthen the relations, ASEAN should take advantage of the dialogue partners' strong points and look at how to cooperate with them.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in his *titah* (royal speech) at the second day of 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit's Retreat Session held at Jakarta Convention Centre.

His Majesty also touched on the

ASEAN Plus Three cooperation where it has grown into one of the most progressive and comprehensive mechanisms in this region. In this context, His Majesty suggested for the East Asia Vision Group to examine measures to expand cooperation in human resource development, education, trade and economic cooperation as well as disaster management.

Speaking on East Asia Summit (EAS), His Majesty said that it also has become another important regional framework in East Asia and many progresses have been achieved in five main areas, namely energy, finance, education, protection from bird flu

and disaster management.

His Majesty also attended the Plenary Session of the 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit together with the Heads of State and Government of the other ASEAN member countries.

At this summit, ASEAN Heads of State and Government agreed to release a 'Joint Statement on the ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations'; a 'Joint Statement on the Establishment of an ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation'; and a 'Joint Statement in Enhancing Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons in South East Asia'.

## His Majesty attends 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit

**JAKARTA, May 8** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was in Jakarta, the Republic of Indonesia to attend the 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit.

The 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit was held from May 7 to 8 at the Jakarta Convention Centre, Jakarta, Indonesia and chaired by the President of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Doctor Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

The theme of the Summit was 'ASEAN Community In A Global Community of Nations'.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.



His Majesty together with other ASEAN Heads of State and Government at a dinner hosted by the President of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

## RBAF achieves another milestone

**MUARA, May 14** – The Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) and the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) marked another milestone in its history with the commissioning of two Darussalam Class Patrol Vessels.

Present to officially commission the new vessels was His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of RBAF held at Royal Brunei Naval Base.

The two Darussalam Class Patrol Vessels are known as Kapal Diraja Brunei DARUSSALAM and Kapal Diraja DARULEHSAN. With the new vessels, members of RBN will be able to enhance their capability through knowledge and modern technology and will continuously strive to develop in line with the Defence Whitepaper.

The Darussalam class ships will replace the Missile Gun Boat WASPADA class which had been in service with RBN for more than 30 years. The official commissioning of the ships are in conjunction with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RBAF.

His Majesty also took a closer look at the ship's equipment and facilities whereby the ship is one of the IJHTIHAD class ships.

The official acceptance ceremony of the two Darussalam Class Patrol Vessels took place in January this



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam takes a closer look at the ship's equipments and facilities.

PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

year at Lurssen Shipyard in Germany. The ships' maiden voyage back to Brunei Darussalam was manned fully by officers and personnel of RBN.

## Key Performance Indicators introduced in RBAF



PHOTO: HAJI MOHD. YUSUF MOHD. YASSIN

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a *titah* (royal speech) during a visit to Ministry of Defence.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 25** – In the bid to uphold discipline and best military ethics, the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) has introduced Key Performance Indicators (KPI), Performance Budgeting and a number of guidelines.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of RBAF delivered the matters in his *titah* (royal speech) during a visit to Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) in Bolkiah Garrison, Berakas.

These guidelines would be further strengthened with the establishment of RBAF Religious Department known as JAMA'AT.

His Majesty also consented for the Security Division, Intelligence Directorate to be absorbed into the Defence Minister's Department and Directorate of Strategic and Planning

as of July 1, 2011.

His Majesty also touched on the 50 years anniversary of RBAF which along the period, RBAF had developed including an increase in staff structure and modern equipments.

This matter is justified as RBAF play a huge role in protecting and contributing towards nation's development, where for that RBAF needs to be strong and equipped.

His Majesty also expressed his happiness with the enhancement and strengthening efforts made by RBAF like establishment of RBAF Counselling Centre in 2003; Military Performance Optimisation Centre; Defence White Paper; MINDEF's Strategic Planning; and Military Court.

His Majesty also consented for the promotion of five RBAF senior officials to Brigadier General.

## Tenaga Surya Brunei, a milestone for sustainable natural environment

**SERIA, May 26** – The government's efforts towards the sustainability of its natural environment has taken a major step forward with the introduction of Tenaga Surya Brunei (TSB) or Brunei Solar Energy. This solar energy project is the first instalment of a large-scale photovoltaic (PV) demonstration system in Brunei Darussalam where it provides a source of clean renewable energy.

The project is a cooperation between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Japan's Mitsubishi Corporation.

TSB is anticipated to generate electrical energy of approximately 1,344 MWh/year, saving approximately 340,000 liters of crude oil and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emission of approximately 940t-CO<sub>2</sub> per year. It is estimated that the electrical energy produced by TSB will be able to accommodate 200 houses.

Present to officially launch TSB was His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held at the Belait District.

The PV system has a capacity of 1.2 MW where it has six different modules of

PV installed at Seria Power Station. It is the first large-scale installation of PV in Brunei Darussalam. With this system, the Energy Division of the Prime Minister's Office and Mitsubishi Corporation for the next three years will continue to run confirmation test to evaluate the suitability of each module used in this tropical climate.

The main objective of TSB demonstration system is to identify the most suitable PV technology to be used in the local meteorology;

\* continue on page 7

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(Tenaga Surya Brunei, a milestone for sustainable natural environment)

and to collect data which can assist the government to formulate renewable energy policy. It is also to demonstrate Brunei's commitment towards developing and promoting renewable energy.

The launching ceremony also saw the President and CEO of Mitsubishi Corporation, Mr. Ken Kobayashi presenting 100 units of solar panels from the Mitsubishi Corporation to His Majesty to be used for the Kampung Ayer new homes project.

The TSB Project is part of Mitsubishi Corporation's contribution to the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in strengthening the 40 years of relationship between Brunei Darussalam and Japan particularly in the Brunei LNG project.

TSB is one of the projects conducted to support His Majesty's call to develop Brunei Darussalam into a low carbon economy, in line with the nation's commitment to reduce the energy intensity, by as much as 25 per cent by 2030 set during the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting held in Sydney in September 2007.



PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH

**His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam takes a closer look at the control room .**

## Department of Electrical Services' Seria branch officially opened

**SERIA, May 26** – The Department of Electrical Services' Seria branch is now operating in a new building where it ensures comfort as well as better products and services to the general public.

Present to officially open the new building was His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The new two-storey building is located next to the old building at Jalan Lorong Tengah, Seria. It was built at a cost of around \$ 903, 347. A total of 41 staff are working at this branch where various services are available such as bill payment services, application for extension of electric supply, and selling of prepaid metre tokens.



PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH

**His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam officially opens the new building of Department of Electrical Services in Seria.**

## Brunei Darussalam International Tattoo 2011



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

**Their Majesties grace BIT 2011.**

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 31** – In conjunction with the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Golden Jubilee Celebration this year, the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) is hosting an international military tattoo known as Brunei Darussalam International Tattoo 2011 (BIT 2011).

BIT 2011 is a three-day event with the first show on the evening of May 31, two shows on June 1 and two more shows on June 2.

In attendance to witness the first grand show of BIT 2011 were His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of RBAF and Her Majesty The Raja Isteri.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince General Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah. Also present were other members of the royal family.

The show showcased bands from Brunei Darussalam, Australia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, Sultanate of Oman, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

The BIT 2011 performances were held at the Indoor Stadium Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex, Berakas.

## Call for RBAF to be ready and relevant

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 31** – A call was made for members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) to be continuously ready and ensure that their abilities are relevant with current challenges.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of RBAF made the call in his *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of RBAF held at the Berakas Garrison.

All preparations, said His Majesty must be arranged and planned for national interest. These cover international relations, regional security, trade, environment and others. It is also related to cooperation process both regionally and internationally.

"Therefore, Ministry of Defence and RBAF need to develop bilateral and multilateral cooperation with other countries in Defence Diplomacy concept," said His Majesty.

It is important for Brunei to be active in regional cooperation in ASEAN frame, and between ASEAN and its dialogue partners, especially when Brunei becomes chairman to ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and ADMM-Plus in 2013.

His Majesty also touched on the nation's involvement in foreign peace keeping mission such as the International Monitoring Team (IMT) in the Philippines and United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) which had given exposures on international security and its challenges.

In the area of defence, we have also had made many progresses. For example in latest efforts, we are able to maximise the effects of reactions from military capability with integrated operation or jointery and joint planning operation. This objective is achieved by benefitting the C4I network and establishment of Joint Force Camp.

In the *titah*, His Majesty also announced his consent for the revision of condition of services and career development structures for all levels of RBAF. His Majesty has also consented for a change in remuneration package for some levels of RBAF. The reformation and changes will take effective on August 1, 2011. His Majesty hoped that the changes will further enhance excellence and quality



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

**His Majesty in his *titah* has announced for the revision of conditions of services and career development structures for all levels of RBAF.**

of military profession and also will provide value added to its members.

As recognition for RBAF's 50 years of excellence, His Majesty has also consented to award the Golden Jubilee Medal to all members of RBAF who are currently in service.

Also present at the RBAF Golden Jubilee Celebration were His Royal Highness Crown Prince General Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and General of RBAF; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

The RBAF was formed on May 31, 1961 where it was known as 'Brunei Malay Regiment' (Askar Melayu Brunei). It was honoured with the royal title on May 31, 1965 when the word 'Diraja' was added to the title. It was then known as 'Royal Brunei Malay Regiment' (Askar Melayu Diraja Brunei). When the nation achieved its full sovereignty on January 1, 1984, the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment was renamed as Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

## PEKERTI celebrates Silver Jubilee



PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

**Her Majesty The Raja Isteri cuts a cake to mark the Silver Jubilee of PEKERTI.**

**GADONG, May 17** – The Welfare Association for Police Wives and Families (PEKERTI) recently celebrated its Silver Jubilee.

A ceremony was held to celebrate the Silver Jubilee with presentation of certificates of appreciation to former Presidents of PEKERTI; and presentation of prizes to winners of the handicraft competition.

Present to grace the ceremony was Her Majesty The Raja Isteri, the Patron of PEKERTI. Also present were Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah; Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiyah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna.

The ceremony was held at Rizqun International Hotel.

# New Legislative Council members appointed

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 31** - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to the appointment of new members of the Legislative Council.

They are:

**Speaker** - The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa.

## **A) Ex-Officio Members (Prime Minister and Ministers) according to Section 1 Subsection (a) (i) of the Second Schedule of Article 24 Sub Article (1)**

1) His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Minister of Finance

2) His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office

3) His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

4) The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Education

5) The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mohd Yusof, Minister of Health

6) The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, Minister of Development

7) The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdullah bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Minister of Communications

8) The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources

9) The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, Second Minister of Finance at the Prime Minister's Office

10) The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

11) The Honourable Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Retired) Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar, Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office

12) The Honourable Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Religious Affairs

13) The Honourable Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, Minister of Home Affairs

14) The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports

## **B) Titled Persons according to Section 1 Subsection (a) (ii) of the Second Schedule of Article 24 Sub Article (1)**

15) Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Setia Negara Pengiran Dr. Haji Mohd. Yusof bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahim

16) The Honourable Pehin Datu Imam Dato Paduka Seri

Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Hamid bin Bakal

17) The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Maharaja Kerna Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Yaakub bin Pehin Orang Kaya Maharaja Diraja Dato Paduka Awang Haji Zainal

## **C) Persons Who Have Achieved Distinction according to Section 1 Subsection (a) (iv) of the Second Schedule of Article 24 Sub Article (1)**

18) The Honourable Pehin Kapitan Lela Diraja Dato Paduka Awang Goh King Chin

19) The Honourable Orang Kaya Maha Bijaya Awang Haji Othman bin Uking

20) The Honourable Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Salbiah binti Haji Sulaiman

21) The Honourable Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdullah bin Haji Mohd. Jaafar

22) The Honourable Awang Haji Morsidi bin Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Abdul Rahman

23) The Honourable Awang Haji Zulkipli bin Haji Abd. Hamid

24) The Honourable Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Zasia binti Sirin

## **D) District Representatives according to Section 5 Subsection (1) of the Second Schedule of Article 24 Sub Article (1)**

25) The Honourable Awang Haji A. Ahmad bin Hussin, Penghulu Mukim Berakas 'A', Brunei-Muara District

26) The Honourable Awang Haji Gapor @ Haji Mohd. Daud bin Karim, Ketua Kampung Belimbing, Mukim Kota Batu, Brunei-Muara District

27) The Honourable Awang Haji Tahamid bin Haji Nudin, Penghulu Mukim Gadong 'A' Brunei-Muara District

28) The Honourable Awang Haji Jumat bin Akim, Ketua Kampung Putat, Mukim Lumapas, Brunei-Muara District

29) The Honourable Awang Haji Mohd Shafiee bin Ahmad, Ketua Kampung Lumut 1, Mukim Liang, Belait District

30) The Honourable Awang Haji Mohd Yusof bin Dulamin, Ketua Kampung Mumong, Mukim Kuala Belait, Belait District

31) The Honourable Orang Kaya Jaya Putera Dato Paduka Awang Haji Muhammad Taha bin Abd. Rauf, Penghulu Mukim Keriam, Tutong District

32) The Honourable Awang Haji Ramli bin Haji Lahit, Penghulu Mukim Telisai, Tutong District

33) The Honourable Awang Haji Sulaiman bin Haji Ahad, Ketua Kampung Belingos, Mukim Bangar, Temburong District

## **E) Clerk to the Legislative Council**

Yang Dimulikan Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Jaya Dato Paduka Haji Awang Judin bin Haji Asar.

The date of the appointment of new members of the Legislative Council is effective from June 1, 2011.

## Post mortem needed to improve disaster management

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 10** – There is a need for the relevant government agencies to conduct post-mortems and also ongoing research in order to improve the country's existing guidelines and standards, which can be used in the planning of a more comprehensive disaster management plan.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah as Chairman of the National Disaster Council said these in his *sabda* (royal speech) at the National Disaster Council meeting held at the National Disaster Management Centre.

His Royal Highness also pointed that the council provides a platform for all involved agencies to share their experiences, voice their suggestions and provide input towards ensuring that mitigation measures that account for

many of the country's national interest are given adequate attention that encompasses all aspects of planning and execution of support systems, including a network of resilient public infrastructure.

The meeting was held for agencies to share reports and measures that have been taken and those that are to be executed with the purpose of adding value to the establishing short and long-term action plan in overcoming the risk of disasters in the country.

His Royal Highness also visited the Disaster Command Centre and was given a briefing on the C4I (Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence) System that is used to monitor and manage disaster operations.

## Al-Qur'an as panacea and cure

**BERAKAS, May 11** – The Al-Qur'an is not just as panacea and cure but also as educational source and mind opener for all mankind in the form of education and advices as well as essence of education.

The matters were said by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office at the final of the National Al-Qur'an Reading Competition for Adults 1432 Hijrah / 2011 Masihi. Also present was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

"Alhamdulillah, we share the happiness that now there are children who are proficient in Qur'an reading although some may not fully understand its contents. We truly laud such effort to mould young Muslims in this country, especially efforts leading to empowering holy words in the heart and minds of succeeding generation. Hence, it is indeed timely for these young Muslims to continue to be moulded with education based on Al-Qur'an and As-Sunnah. Let

us hope that our aspiration to make the country as a Dikir Nation would be achieved and successfully produce a knowledgeable generation with noble morality, faith and piety. This is consistent with the Malay Islamic Monarchy Concept which is the core for the creation of exemplary individuals with lofty spirit so as to uphold the sovereignty of Islam and develop the country," said His Royal Highness.

Eight readers comprising of four males and four females competed in this year's final. The competition is organised annually by the Ministry of Religious Affairs. The champions in the male and female categories will represent Brunei Darussalam at the International Al-Qur'an Reading Competition. The theme for this year's competition is *Bersuluh Dengan Al-Quran* (loosely translated as 'Guided With The Light of The Al-Quran').

The two-day event was held at the International Convention Centre.

## Be sensitive on changes to remain relevant



PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAIMAN

His Royal Highness delivers a *sabda* (royal speech) at the 20<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony for ITB.

**JERUDONG, May 25** – The Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB) as a higher learning institution was urged to be sensitive and continuously monitor changes with its surroundings. This is to ensure that the institution would remain relevant as a knowledge centre that is able to contribute to nation building.

The matters were said by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office in his *sabda* (royal speech) at the 20<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony for ITB held at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

His Royal Highness said that ITB plays a number of

dimensional and dynamic roles in four fields. The first role is in the academic sector where ITB has a role to provide access or wider opportunities for the students to enter universities. She also plays a part in ensuring an increase in the number of students in various disciplines required by the industry and nation.

The second role is for ITB to increase its research activities where it is not only in the field of education but it should also focus on increasing research activities which can be practically benefited.

The institution, through its community services also plays a role to expand and disseminate knowledge to the community through conducting conferences, forums and seminars.

Furthermore, ITB in providing a conducive learning environment has a part in providing a comfortable atmosphere that encourages brainstorming amongst students and academic staff.

Thus ITB must play a more active role in preparing the students to face challenges more confidently; and to further generate opportunity to explore new idea and innovation until successful making a statement which is beneficial for the society and the nation.

Towards that, added His Royal Highness, it is high time for ITB to revise its vision and mission suitable with its role and position as a responsive and adaptive university; and capable to continuously contribute to a competitive human resource development.

The 20<sup>th</sup> ITB convocation witnessed 384 graduates obtaining Higher National Diploma in various courses such as accounting, finance, management, civil engineering, mechanical engineering and computer studies.

## 10<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan: Call for systematic and focused projects

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 28** – A call was made for the 10<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan (NDP) Executive Committee members to contribute and play an active role in planning a more orderly, systematic and focused projects. These are in line with the objective to contribute to the government's efforts in achieving the Brunei Vision 2035.

The 10<sup>th</sup> NDP will commence from the financial year 2012/2013 until 2017/2018 which will cover a period of five years. This NDP will be based on strategies and policy direction stipulated in Brunei Vision 2035 Long-term Development Plan.

The matters were highlighted by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office in his *sabda* (royal speech) as the Chairman of the 10<sup>th</sup> NDP's Executive Committee at the inaugural meeting of the 10<sup>th</sup> NDP's Executive Committee held at the Prime Minister's Office Building in Jalan Kumbang Pasang.

His Royal Highness highlighted a number of issues which His Royal Highness thinks the committee should look into. Among the matters addressed were for the committee to examine and review the achievements of the goals and objectives set in previous NDPs. It is also to learn from the failures faced in the effort to achieve the goals.

His Royal Highness also said that detailed, systematic and focused plan should be prepared in the bid to support the objectives. The committee also has a role to evaluate and conduct relevant coordination and policy direction with the ministries involved in the development projects. His Royal Highness further added that expenditure planning and project implementation should stress on "Value for Money". Thus all NDP projects should abide to the Financial Regulations, and to avoid spending on unnecessary matters or just for the sake of spending the allocated budget.

Speaking on the nation's economic growth, an annual growth of 0.7 per cent has been recorded for the past five years. This growth, according to His Royal Highness is low when compared to the set target by Brunei Vision 2035



**The 10<sup>th</sup> NDP Executive Committee member were called to contribute and play an active role in planning a more orderly, systematic and focused projects. The matters are highlighted by His Royal Highness The Crown Prince at the inaugural meeting of the 10<sup>th</sup> NDP's Executive Committee.**

which is to achieve an annual growth of five to six per cent. In this regard, His Royal Highness said evaluation should be made to identify the cause of failure in achieving the goal especially on issues of implementation, capabilities and planning.

The first NDP was drawn in 1953 with an allocated budget of \$100 million that covered a period of five years. Its main priority was the development of physical infrastructure particularly basic provision of water, electricity, radio transmission, roads from Bandar Brunei (now known as Bandar Seri Begawan) to Belait District and the building of Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Mosque. To date, Brunei has undergone eight NDPs and is currently undergoing the ninth NDP which covers the period 2007 – 2012.

## BSB Waterfront, latest landmark

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 28** – Bandar Seri Begawan (BSB), the capital of Brunei Darussalam has revealed its latest landmark known as 'BSB Waterfront'.

Present to officiate the BSB Waterfront was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office. Also present was Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah.

The official opening of the waterfront was accompanied with beautiful fireworks display, traditional dances, musical performances and water float procession.

An exhibition was also held at the BSB Development Exhibition Hall which is based at the former building of Royal Custom and Excise Headquarters.

The exhibition among others features early history of Brunei Town (now known as Bandar Seri Begawan) including the famous Kota Batu and

Kampung Ayer (Water Village), BSB's current development and its direction towards Brunei Vision 2035.

The Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin in his remarks said that, the construction of BSB Waterfront which costs \$5.6 million is carried out in three phases under the National Development Project (NDP) 2007-2012.

The BSB Waterfront is built on 1.8 hectares of land which originally was the site for the Royal Customs and Excise Wharf, a port and entrance for passengers and imports through sea.

The old building of the Royal Customs and Excise is preserved as a heritage building and converted into BSB Development Exhibition Hall by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

The BSB Waterfront with its facilities, said the minister, is a social support to citizens for achieving high quality living in keeping with Brunei Vision 2035 in the aspect of universal access to essential public facilities.

## RBAF's Golden Jubilee thanksgiving ceremony

**BERAKAS, May 30** – In conjunction with the 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Jubilee of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), a thanksgiving ceremony including mass Maghrib and Isyak prayers were held. The ceremony also saw the recitation of Surah Yaa Siin and Tahliil.

Present to grace the ceremony was His Royal Highness Crown Prince General Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office held at Surau Bolkiah Garrison.

The RBAF was established on May 31, 1961 where this ceremony was one of the religious events to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Jubilee of RBAF's establishment.

## Rank promotion for UBD's cadets

**TUNGKU, May 18** – More than 38 Cadet Platoon members of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) were promoted to Sergeant, Corporal and Lance Corporal.

One of the cadets promoted as Sergeant was Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah.

Present to award the promotion and certificates was Commanding Officer of Royal Brunei Malay Reserve Army,

Lieutenant Colonel Norsharinizam bin Haji Talib held at UBD.

Fourteen cadets were promoted to Sergeant, 11 to Corporal and 13 to Lance Corporal. UBD Army Cadets was the first to be established at the High Educational Institution and was the first to have a Women's Platoon in the country.

The promotion is effective from May 4, 2011.

## Hornbill School receives royal visit



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

Her Royal Highness tours around Hornbill's new learning environment which includes Cyber Research Zone.

**SERIA, MAY 26** – The newly transformed Hornbill School based in Seria of Belait District recently received a royal visit from Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah. The royal visit saw Her Royal Highness to officially open the expanded facilities available at this school.

Her Royal Highness also toured around Hornbill's new learning environment which includes the 'Reflection Garden', Cyber Research Zone, Language Hub, Early Years classrooms and outdoor learning environment.

Hornbill School is a school to more than 400 children aged three to eleven years old whose parents are serving in the British Armed Forces. Up to 87 per cent of the pupils are from Nepal and have English as an additional language. The school follows the English National Curriculum for all children. This multicultural school values and promotes a happy, safe and caring environment that is committed to helping all children experience success, regardless of their background or abilities.

## His Royal Highness attends NAM's XVI Ministerial Conference and Commemorative Meeting



**BALI, INDONESIA, May 25** – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkia, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade highlighted the importance of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in addressing the needs of its people. His Royal Highness also expressed confidence that the movement would continue to make a significant contribution to international affairs.

His Royal Highness delivered the statement at the General Debate of the XVI Ministerial Conference and Commemorative Meeting of NAM held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Bali. The meeting was opened by His Excellency Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of the President of the Republic of Indonesia and chaired by His Excellency Dr. Marty M. Natalegawa.

His Royal Highness also held bilateral meetings with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, His Excellency K. Shanmugam; Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, His Excellency Samuel Zbogar; and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Her Excellency Patti Londono Jaramillo.



PHOTO: AK. AMIRULNIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI

His Royal Highness delivers a statement at the General Debate of the XVI Ministerial Conference and Commemorative Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement.

In the evening, His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah attended a dinner hosted by Dr. Marty M. Natalegawa to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the movement at Garuda Wisnu Kencana.

Prior to the opening, His Royal Highness on May 24 attended a welcoming reception hosted by His Excellency Dr. R.M. Marty M. Natalegawa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, in honour of the Ministers and Heads of Delegations at the XVI Ministerial Conference and Commemorative Meeting of NAM.

## Health forum for youths

PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN



His Royal Highness attends the Health Promotion Forum.

**JERUDONG, May 5** – As one of its continuous measures to promote healthy lifestyle among the general public, a health forum for youths was held.

Present at the forum was His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim as the Patron of the Health Promotion National Committee.

The forum was conducted by four panellists where they discussed ways to carry out health promotional and educational activities especially in encouraging a healthy way of life through maintaining a healthy diet, regular physical exercise and health checks. Also discussed were the increasing numbers in smoking habits among youth; and how to overcome stress through spiritual and Islamic medical approach.

Some 600 participants took part in the one-day forum. They comprised of government officers, the private sector, students from institutions of higher learning, government and non-government secondary schools as well as members of associations and non-governmental organisations.

With the theme, 'Challenges In Healthy Lifestyle Among Youth', the Health Promotion Forum aimed to increase public knowledge on health issues. It also provided information on existing resources in the country to make it easier for youth to practice a healthy lifestyle.

## Health Promotion National Committee Meeting

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 12** – The Health Promotion National Committee acknowledged that Brunei Darussalam is now facing a reality that needs action from all government and non-government agencies. The increase in non-communicable diseases is a considered as 'time-bomb' for Brunei Darussalam. The meeting stressed that every government and non-government agencies should step up their efforts in further enhancing public understanding on this problem.

The matters were among the agendas concluded at the Health Promotion National Committee Meeting held at the Health Promotion Centre at Commonwealth Drive.

Present at the meeting was His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim who is the patron of the Health Promotion National Committee.

The meeting also discussed health issues resulting from unhealthy lifestyle that have caused a surge in chronic non-communicable diseases especially among school children and youths. Also discussed were health food issues in school canteens, development and effectiveness of the health promotion programme in schools, issues on tobacco and cigarette sales, and schools' policy and implementation on physical activities.

## Call for more consolidated efforts

**BERAKAS, May 15** - Brunei Darussalam's Girl Guides Association should consider the best ways and means to inculcate community values in the minds and hearts of the young people, especially youth girl guides members in planning the association's development.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, the President of Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association said these in her *sabda* (royal speech) at the association's meeting.

Also present was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna as the association's Vice-President.

Her Royal Highness also underscored the need for the association to strengthen its efforts in carrying out its projects so that they are more unified and will ease all its members' endeavour to effectively work together.

Her Royal Highness also expressed her happiness at seeing the development of the association each year in achieving excellence as desired in implementing welfare projects for the future of the young members of the association.

At the same time, Her Royal Highness stressed the need for the members to benefit from the dedication and steadfastness of the association's past members and leaders, who until now are still actively involved as supporters, guides and advisers for the association's progress and development. Without such dedication and commitment, Her Royal Highness added, the members might not be able to achieve the level of development and progress that the association is enjoying now.

The meeting discussed constitutional amendments that are to be approved for holders of positions for a five-year



PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

Her Royal Highness delivers a *sabda* at the Brunei Darussalam's Girl Guides Association meeting.

term. This was in view of the fact that three-year appointment is not a sufficient period for actions and implementation of projects. The meeting also studied closely proposals from the 2011-2013 Session's Executive Committee and approved the formation of the Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association Council for the 2011-2013 Session.

The meeting took place at the Association's Headquarters in Berakas.

## 650 receive warrant cards and badges

**RIMBA, May 22** – A total of 650 members of Brunei Darussalam's Girl Guides Association have received their warrant and badges. From the total number, 367 Brownies, 15 Brownies' leaders, 283 Girl Guides, 34 Girl Guides leaders and 15 Ranger Guides received their badges. While 32 received their Commissioner Warrant Cards; seven received their pre-warrant cards; and 24 received 24 warrant cards.

The Girl Guides and Brownies are from 21 primary schools

and 20 secondary schools from nationwide.

Present to award the badges and warrants was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, President of the Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association (PPPBD) held at Rimba II Primary School.

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

## Charity High Tea to raise funds

**JERUDONG, May 22** – The Women Graduates Association of Brunei Darussalam (PSW) has organised a Charity High Tea in its effort to raise its fund and for its 'Save Our Children' initiative.

The 'Save Our Children' programme is a charity made as flagship project by PSW in year 2000 which is aligned with Brunei Darussalam's commitment as a member to Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). This programme is aimed to assist students in finance and school stationeries. Funds are received through activities organised by the association and donations from public, companies and corporate bodies.

Present to grace the Charity High Tea was Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah. The event was held at Tarindak D'Polo, Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club in Jerudong.

PSW is an association established on February 5, 1980 which aims to gather women graduates in this country and nurture professional relationships among them. It is also to create a forum to discuss matters related to women in self development, family, community and nation. It also aims to organise and manage professional activities for enhancing the involvement of women graduates particularly and women in general in the nation's development.

## Total road accidents increased, mortality rate decreased



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

**Her Royal Highness receives a briefing at the launching of 'Blueprint Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011 - 2020'.**

**GADONG, May 26** – Brunei Darussalam for the past five years has recorded a decrease in its road fatalities; and an increase of about seven to eight per cent on its road accidents. The decrease in road fatalities is as a result of programme implemented by the Road Safety Council and support received from all stakeholders, as well as cooperation for its road users.

The matters were said by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, the Patron of Brunei Darussalam's Road Safety Council at the launching of 'Blueprint Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011 - 2020' held at Rizqun International Hotel.

Her Royal Highness added the five key areas of road safety that had been implemented namely Speeding; Enforcement; Driver Impairment; Road User Education; and Creation of Safer Road Environment should be continued.

The United Nations, said Her Royal Highness, has declared the year 2011 to 2020 as a 'Decade of Action for Road Safety' and will provide a plan of action that aims to reduce the number of fatalities. In this regard, Brunei Darussalam will cooperate with the international community in ensuring that this vision will be realised. ASEAN, said Her Royal Highness, is also preparing 'ASEAN Regional Road Safety Strategic Plan 2011-2020) to be aligned with WHO's resolution and Moscow Declaration.

## Increase dental human resources needed

**JERUDONG, May 3** – There is a need to increase the capability to produce personnel for oral healthcare who are not just dentists but also dental hygienists and therapists. These personnel will be responsible to provide dental services and healthcare; and to implement prevention programmes.

The matters were said by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan at the Second Convocation Ceremony for Dental Hygienists and Therapist Tutors and Cohort Two Dental Hygienists and Therapists.

The minister said the strategy of increasing the capacity of the dental human resources and professionalism, is not only to meet manpower needs but also to fulfil future challenges in dental services in Brunei Darussalam, whilst

enhancing the universal coverage, accessibility and availability of oral healthcare to all Bruneians. It is very encouraging to note the increase in the number of dental hygienists and therapists every year.

Six Dental Hygienists and Therapy Tutors and Six Cohort Two Dental Hygienists and Therapists received their diplomas at the function. The Cohort Two Dental Hygienists and Therapist completed a three-year course Diploma in Dental Therapy and Hygiene with collaboration of the Department of Dental Services and Kings College London Dental Institute.

The ceremony was held at the Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club, Jerudong.

## Brunei-Muara District Plan in the pipeline

**BERAKAS, May 2** – A number of contracts were signed which will produce the Brunei-Muara District Plan; the construction of a six form centre, the construction of women and children's hospital; better roads at Jalan Jerudong; construction of a mosque at Kampung Sengkarai; and the building of more houses for one of the national housing schemes.

The first signing ceremony was to produce a Brunei-Muara District Plan between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Karya Bumi Planning Consultants. It is hoped that through this plan, the vision, direction and development strategy especially for Brunei-Muara District would be identified.

The Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi in his speech said that he hoped that the plan will analyse the socio-economic structure of each *mukim* (a cluster of villages) and able to produce recommendations for developments.

The minister said that detailed planning at district level begun with the preparation for Temburong District Plan, Belait District Plan and Tutong District Plan. The district plans are land use plans comprising of strategic recommendations for each district aligned with Brunei Darussalam Land Use Masterplan 2006-2025.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for the Preparation of the Planning and Revision of the Brunei-Muara District Plan was the Permanent Secretary for Administration and Finance at the Ministry of Development, Awang Haji Rozan bin Dato Paduka Haji Yunus; and the

Commissioner of Town and Country Planning, Awang Hong Kok Seng. Meanwhile on behalf of Karya Bumi Planning Consultants was its Managing Director, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Idris bin Haji Belaman and its Manager, Dato Paduka Haji Noordin.

Meanwhile another signing ceremony was held for the construction of Sengkurong Form Six Centre. It is a project under the National Development Plan 2007 – 2012 based in Kampung Mulaut. This new centre is estimated to be built at \$28.4 million which can accommodate 1,000 to 1,500 students.

Representing the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to sign the contract were Awang Young Chee Yen, the Acting Director-General of Public Works Department and Pengiran Anak Norhasimah binti Pengiran Haji Ibrahim, Acting Director of Development of Public Works Department. Their counterparts were Awang Teo Choon Kok, Managing Director of Metrobina and Partners Sdn. Bhd. and Awang Masri bin Haji Mohd. Taha from Consultant Arkitek Opfis.

Meanwhile four contracts were also signed between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Tobishima Sdn. Bhd. for the construction of women and children hospital; Pahayttc Sdn. Bhd. for the construction of double lane roads and upgrading works at Jalan Jerudong; BK Global Sdn. Bhd. for the construction of Kampung Sengkarai Mosque; and Tong & Tong Sdn. Bhd. for the construction of 180 units of terraced houses for Kampung Lumut/Sungai Liang, Contract H9 National Housing Scheme.

## National Standard Act to be formulated

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 4** – Formulating the National Standard Act is one of the government's initiatives through the National Standard Council of Ministry Industry and Primary Resources to strengthen the council's administration. This is to ensure that all of the actions taken by the council are implemented systematically and effectively.

Through this act, the council will strengthen its position as an authority with legal entity to systematically and consensually authorise and authenticate national standards.

Thus a signing ceremony was held between the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources and SKRINE, a consultant

firm from Malaysia for the Provision of Consultancy Services on the Formulation of a National Standard Act of Brunei Darussalam.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Amin Liew bin Abdullah; while on behalf of SKRINE was Dayang Faizah binti Jamaluddin.

Present to witness the signing ceremony was the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya.



PHOTO: AK. AMIRULNIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI

## Drainage and Sewerage Department to have new building

**BERAKAS, May 4** - The Drainage and Sewerage Department of the Public Works Department will soon have its own new building by early next year. With a cost of \$4 million to build, the new building is located in Berakas.

A ground breaking ceremony was held and led by the Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi.

The construction of the building is in line with Public Works Department's mission towards providing quality services to customers and to cater the increasing public demand for their services. Currently the Department of Drainage and Sewerage shares a building with the Road Department. Upon completion, the building will house the National Hydrology Centre, the Sewerage Telemetric System and the Asset Management System.

**The Minister of Development led the ground breaking ceremony for the new building of the Department of Drainage and Sewerage.**

## MoU for collecting beverage cartons for recycling



PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR

The Minister of Development witnesses the signing ceremony on MoU to collect beverage cartons for recycling.

**BERAKSA, May 5** – More efforts have been taken to minimise waste disposal which forms an integral part of the waste management system for Brunei Darussalam.

The latest saw the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collect beverage cartons for recycling was held between the Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation, Ministry of Development with Tetra Pak and Daikyo Environmental Recycling Sdn. Bhd.

Signing on behalf of the Ministry of Development was the Permanent Secretary for Administration and Finance, at the Ministry of Development, Awang Haji Mohammad Rozan bin Dato Paduka Haji Yunos. While, Tetra Pak was represented by its Director of Communications and Environment, Miss Terryz Tan; and Daikyo Environmental Recycling was represented by its Managing Director, Mr. Hung Ah Hing.

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

## Minister of Religious Affairs receives courtesy visit

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, MAY 9** – The Minister of Religious Affairs, Pengiran Dato Dr. Haji Mohammad received a courtesy visit from the President of University of Yarmouk, Jordan, Profesor Dr. Sultan Tawfiq Talab Abu Orabi Al-Adwan and delegate.

The visit saw both parties discussing opportunities and efforts on implementing bilateral cooperation particularly on religious education.

While in the country, the delegation also paid a visit to the Deputy Minister of Education; conducted a working visit to Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA); and Kolej Universiti Perguruan Ugama Seri Begawan (KUPU SB).

The delegation also visited Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah, Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Mosque and Royal Regalia.



PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH

The Minister of Religious Affairs and the President of University of Yarmouk, Jordan, discussed opportunities and efforts on implementing bilateral cooperation particularly on religious education.

## RBAF participates in international peace mission

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 9** - Six Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) personnel will participate in the seventh group of the International Monitoring Team (IMT) to the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

The ceremony to bid farewell was held at Rimba Air Base. In attendance was the Deputy Minister of Defence, Dato Paduka Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat and Commander of RBAF, Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin

Ihsan.

This overseas operation is another milestone to Brunei Darussalam's continuous commitment in contributing towards regional cooperation in supporting the peace and stability of neighbouring states. This involvement will give opportunities to the RBAF personnel in acquiring the much-needed experiences and exposures in overseas missions such as IMT.

## Brunei receives visitors from Guangxi Zhuang Territory



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 12** - The relationship between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China continues to be strengthened through various activities including bilateral visits from both parties.

Currently, the Governor of Guangxi Zhuang, People's Republic of China, His Excellency Ma Bio and delegation are on working visit to this country.

While in the country, the delegation conducted a visit to Brunei Museum in Kota Batu; Royal Regalia; and Sungai Liang Industry Park (SPARK).

The delegation was in the country for a four-day working visit beginning May 10.

The Governor of Guangxi Zhuang, People's Republic of China during a visit to the Royal Regalia.

## \$1.05 billion for social service sector

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 16** – A sum of \$1.05 billion from the total National Development Allocation Budget 2011-2012 has been allocated for the development of Brunei Darussalam's social service sector.

The Acting Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Datin Hajah Adina highlighted the matter at the official opening of Family Day Symposium held in conjunction with International Family Day 2011 celebration.

The two-day symposium was held at the Sejahtera Hall in Sumbangsih Bahagia, Beribi.

She added that efforts to provide social assurance for the people and citizens of this nation includes monthly welfare assistance for the need by the Department of Community Development (JAPEM) and Brunei Darussalam Islamic Religious Council (MUIB), pension for senior citizens and allowance for disable person.

Various training schemes have also been introduced by government agencies like JAPEM, Youth Development and MUIB to help them to exit from the poverty cycle.

The government recently also had endorsed a large sum of allocation for Ministry of Education and Ministry of Religious Affairs to assist underprivileged students as it is known that educational achievement can assist unfortunate people to exit from the poverty cycle, she said.

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang

Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through Department of Housing Development is also providing housing at affordable costs. Meanwhile for underprivileged people, the construction or repairing of the house is provided through the Housing Assistance Development Project, a joint effort between Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and MUIB.

The Acting Minister stated it is believed that poverty is closely related to the human spirit and not only material, therefore poverty management requires both management of spirit and material.

She further added that everyone on the family especially the parent, husband and wife must be responsible, cooperate and play their respective roles.

Organised by JAPEM, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, the symposium was attended by 150 participants from government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The International Family Day 2011 celebration carries the theme 'Confronting Family Poverty and Social Exclusion' which emphasised on the importance of focusing on family oriented strategies towards eradicating poverty and also to strengthen policy and handling action for the relevant party so that they can be exit from the poverty cycle.

## Brunei celebrates ICT week



PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

The Minister of Communications officiates the World Telecommunications and Information Day.

**TEMBURONG, May 17** – Brunei Darussalam beginning this year will be celebrating info-communications technology (ICT) week from May 17 to 24. Thus the first ICT week was held at Temburong District.

The matters were highlighted by the Minister of

Communications, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdullah at the launching of World Telecommunications and Information Day held at the Belalong Hall, Community Hall Complex in Bangar.

The minister stressed on the importance of ICT in rural communities as it is a challenge to the ministry to implement such a service in the Temburong District. The ministry pays due attention and is committed to ensure that the service can be accessed by the residents in the district. The ministry is currently evaluating the best industry practice to oversee how broadband internet facility known as wideband technology can be provided to rural communities specifically in the Temburong District.

This year, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) chose the theme for the World Telecommunications and Information Day which is 'Better Life in Rural Communities with ICT'.

At the event, the minister also presented certificates to participants of ICT Course and officiated the ICT Community Centre.

The ICT Rural Outreach Programme Project (IROP) is a joint collaboration between the Authority for Info-Communications Technology of Brunei Darussalam (AITI), the InfoCom Federation Brunei (IFB), the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Temburong District Office.

## Health Minister attends 64<sup>th</sup> WHO Assembly

**GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, May 18** – Ministers of Health and representatives from 193 World Health Organisation (WHO) member countries attended the 64<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly.

The assembly was held at Geneva, Switzerland commencing on May 16 to 24.

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

In his opening address, the Minister of Health said that Brunei Darussalam is not exempted from experiencing the transition of epidemiology of diseases. The threat of non-

communicable diseases is also a major contributor to morbidity and mortality in Brunei Darussalam.

The minister also said that as a precautionary measure to prevent non-communicable diseases, Brunei Darussalam has reformed its health system so that the diseases will be given comprehensive focus.

This year's conference carries the theme 'Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases'. The theme is timely, considering that the diseases are a threat to the socio-economic development and a hindrance to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

## Four students receive RBAF Supreme Commander's Scholarship

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 20** – Four students have been awarded the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Supreme Commander's Scholarship.

The recipients are Ak. Mohammad Fadhil bin Pg. Ali; Dayang Hajah Hamizah binti Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Nor; Awang Haji Mohmmad Hazwan bin Haji Mohammad Azni; dan Dayang Syazirah binti Kuan.

Present to award the certificate and souvenirs to the recipients was the Deputy Minister of Defence, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat.

Representing the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) at RBAF Supreme Commander's Scholarship signing ceremony was MINDEF's Permanent Secretary for Administration and Finance, Hajah Suriyah Haji Umar.

This scholarship programme is awarded annually by MINDEF where it is implemented to identify and nurture excellent students to become future leaders where they will be able to contribute to the development of national defence and security. The recipients are selected based on their academic performance; good personality; and has the potential to become leaders who are brave to make changes; and committed to become a future leader.

This prestigious scholarship was first introduced in 2005 where scholarships are awarded for students who had undergone their GCE 'O' and 'A' Level and STPUB examinations.



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

**The signing ceremony of RBAF Supreme Commander's Scholarship witnessed by MINDEF's Permanent Secretary for Administration and Finance, Hajah Suriyah Haji Umar.**

## Young Entrepreneurs Award 2010-2011



PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN

**The Minister of Education presents a mock cheque to the winner of the 4<sup>th</sup> Young Entrepreneurs Award 2010-2011.**

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 21** – Green Gems from Katok Sixth Form Centre (PTEK) with the project entitled 'Your trash makes great cash' won the 4<sup>th</sup> Young Entrepreneurs Award 2010-2011. The champion received a cash prize of \$3,000 and trophy for each group members.

First-runner up went to White Rose from Business School and Masin Secondary School; both groups received \$2,000 and trophy. Second-runner up was Net Circle from Universiti Brunei Darussalam, received \$1,000 cash prize and a trophy.

The awards were presented by Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar. The ceremony was held at the Dewan Raya, Radio Televisyen Brunei.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Young Entrepreneurs Award 2010-2011 was organised by The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Corporation (HSBC). The champion, Green Gems will represent Brunei Darussalam to regional competition which will be held in Hongkong in June.

## ABMF platform to increase standard market practices

**BERAKAS, May 30** – An ASEAN + 3 Bond Market Forum Workshop (ABMF) was held to introduce ABMF members to related parties in Brunei Darussalam. The workshop was conducted by financial experts and consultants from the Asian Development Bank.

Assistant Managing Director of Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD) in her welcoming speech said that ABMF was endorsed by the ASEAN + 3 Finance Ministers at the 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Ministers Meeting held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on May 2, 2010. One of the roles of ABMF is as a platform to foster standardisation of market practices and harmonisation of regulations related to this region's cross-border transactions.

The workshop was attended by representatives from government and private agencies such as the Attorney General's Chambers; Department of Economic Planning and Development; sections under the Ministry of Finance comprising of its Investment Division, Brunei Investment Agency, the Employees Trust Fund; and Authority for Information Technology Industry (AITI).

The workshop aimed to share the current status of market development in countries of ASEAN + 3 markets and to increase the understanding and practical knowledge of key infrastructure solutions market.

The workshop was held at Theater Hall, Ministry of Finance.

## New Technical and Vocational Education System in 2012

**BERAKAS, May 5** - The Ministry of Education through the Department of Technical Education will introduce a new Technical and Vocational Education System in 2012 that is directed towards achieving Brunei's Vision 2035 and the objective of the Ministry of Education's Strategic Plan 2007-2011.

This was stated by the Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Dr. Haji Awang Abu Bakar at the 15<sup>th</sup> Technical and Vocational Education Institutions, Ministry of Education National Convocation.

The minister said that one of the steps being taken by the Department of Technical Education is to re-evaluate the existing system in order to maximise the potential and capacity of technical and vocational institutions.

Some 1,035 students received their National Diploma in various technical and vocational courses. Two students received the Best Student Award and another two students received the Engineering and Technology Organisation Award.

## Trade cooperation strengthen

**JAKARTA, INDONESIA, May 6** – Efforts to further strengthen bilateral trade and investment cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and European Union (EU) was discussed at a meeting between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng and the Commissioner of Trade of EU, Karel de Gucht.

The ASEAN-EU summit in Jakarta was the first to be held in conjunction with 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and attended by 500 entrepreneurs from ASEAN and EU.

The bilateral meeting was held at Mulia Hotel.

## Malay Islamic Monarchy Seminar issues 19 resolutions

**TUNGKU, May 19** - A total of 19 resolutions were issued at the Malay Islamic Monarchy (MIB) seminar where among others touched on the importance of preserving Malay language, and the role of info-communications technology (ICT) as tools to disseminate, sustain and answer enquiries on MIB.

The two-day seminar was held in conjunction with 27<sup>th</sup> National Day of Brunei Darussalam.

The seminar with the theme 'Malay Islamic Monarchy Way of Life of the Brunei Community: Future, Implementation and Challenges' was attended by more than 500 participants and tabled 14 working papers which focused on the implementation, challenges and the future of the MIB philosophy.

## Brunei collects four gold, six silver and five bronze

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 16** - Brunei Darussalam's contingent for the Arafura Games 2011 in Darwin, Australia has successfully bagged four gold; six silver and five bronze medals.

The gold medals were achieved through Christian Nazario anak Nikles through free-style in swimming event; Md. Izaat bin Haji Abd. Majid in open triple jump event; Shari bin Haji Jumat in man-javelin wheelchair; and Ak. Haify Tajuddin bin Pg. Rositi through 800 meter open run event.

Six silver medals were won by Siti Fatimah binti Yusop through open long jump in women category; Awang Mohd. Izzat bin Haji Abdul Majid through open long jump in men category; Hirdan bin Haji Abd. Kadir through shot put and throwing disc event; Haidir Fadzillah Noor Ismadi in Tenpin Bowling men master open; and men trio Tenpin

Bowling team comprising of Haidir Fadzillah Noor Ismadi, Ak. Md. Rudisofi bin Pg. Haji Tajuddin and Ahmad Arthery bin Haji Abd. Samad.

And the five bronze medals were won by Shari bin Haji Jumat through shot put event and throwing disc (wheelchair); Christian Nazario Nikles through 50 metres free-style in swimming event; Maziah Mahusin through 400 meter hurdles; and Ak. Md. Rudisofi bin Pg. Haji Tajuddin in Tenpin Bowling men single.

## Green Initiative instils awareness

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 22** – Department of Environment, Park and Recreation (JASTRE) in conjunction with World Earth Day 2011 has organised a Green Initiative. Its main objective is to instil awareness and cultivate moral obligation and responsibilities amongst the community in Brunei Darussalam towards a green environment.

As part of the initiative, a number of plants were planted around the vicinity of the ministry's headquarters led by the Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi. Also present were the ministry's permanent secretaries, deputy permanent secretaries, senior officers, and officers.

## RBAF's personnel awarded UN Peacekeeping medal

**TIBNIN, LUBNAN, May 20** - United Nation Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has awarded UN Peacekeeping medal to 30 members of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) who are currently undergoing their peacekeeping mission in Lebanon.

The medal was presented by Major General Alberto Asarta Cuevas (Spain), UNIFIL Military Commander in Tibnin.

Brunei Darussalam is one of the countries active in participating peacekeeping mission in regional and international level including sending RBAF personnel to Aceh, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Among the task and role of RBAF personnel in Lebanon are conducting patrolling such as Counter Rocket Launcher Operation (CRLO), Check Point Patrol (RCP); and Civilian-Military Cooperation (CIMIC).

## World Ocean Day on June 8

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 28** – Brunei Darussalam through the Fisheries Department, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources will be celebrating World Ocean Day on June 8, 2011 at the Fisheries Complex in Muara.

Brunei Darussalam first celebrated World Ocean Day in 2009 where it is an annual event celebrated every June 8 to commemorate and appreciate the great contribution of sea to humanity as contributor to the food supply, income, transportation, research and many more.

Beginning 2011, the United Nations will biennially designate the theme for World Ocean Day. The theme for 2011/2012 is 'Our Oceans: Greening Our Future' where it is to provide the space and time to appreciate the role of our oceans and for full participation of all individuals especially the next generation.

## Minister receives courtesy call

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 28** – The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya received a courtesy call from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Dr. Ali Akbar Salehi held at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.

During the courtesy call, both parties discussed efforts to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries. His Excellency and delegate were in the sultanate for two days starting from May 27 to 28.

## Did you know that...

- Brunei International Airport begun its operation on October 28, 1974 to replace the Berakas Airport which was opened in 1959.
- The Brunei Shell Petroleum Company (BSP) was established in 1957 and took over the role previously played by the British Malayan Petroleum Company.
- Vocational and Technical Education was formally introduced in Brunei Darussalam in 1970 with the formation of two trade schools. They were Building Trade School in the Brunei-Muara District and Government Engineering School in the Belait District.
- In 1958, an English medium school for girls known as Sekolah Tinggi Perempuan Raja Isteri was set up in Brunei Town (now known as Bandar Seri Begawan).

## >> BRUNEI IN BRIEF

- Official name is Negara Brunei Darussalam.
- Capital is Bandar Seri Begawan.
- It is located on the north-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia.
- Land size is 5765 sq. km
- Population is estimated at 414,400 people (2010)
- It is divided into four districts – Brunei Muara, Tutong, Kuala Belait and Temburong.
- Malay is the official language but English is widely spoken.
- Islam is the official religion and it allows other religions to be practiced.
- National carrier is Royal Brunei Airlines.
- It has an equatorial climate, a uniform temperature, high humidity and heavy rainfall.

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

## >> HOW TO GET TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM?

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

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