



HM: UNISSA must possess practical programmes

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 3 – A call was made for Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) to have practical programmes for its students such as industrial attachment programme at government and private firms besides nurturing Islamic knowledge in classrooms.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan said in a *titah* (royal speech) at UNISSA's inaugural *Half Al-Takharuj* (convocation) and Proclamation of Pro-Chancellor. It was held at the International Convention Centre.

His Majesty said this also applies for programmes which are leadership oriented such as through co-curriculum and community service which is a strategic plan to produce leaders. Students who have never been exposed to these programmes will become awkward when facing the larger community.

At the ceremony, His Majesty was also awarded with Honorary Doctorate in Syariah and Law from UNISSA.

His Majesty also consented to



One of the recipients receives his degree from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

proclaim His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office as the Pro-Chancellor of UNISSA.

The convocation witnessed 149 graduates who received their Bachelor degree, Master degree, Philosophy degree (PhD) and Diploma.

Welfare of children a priority

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 22 – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has always given serious attention in providing welfare to its people including the children which include health, education and protection. With all the services and facilities for the children's health and education and welfare provided by the government, the country has achieved almost all the Millennium Development Goals that put the children and their rights towards life, health, education and protection as the main agenda.

Brunei Darussalam has also successfully reduced the children mortality rate from 10.3 per cent in every

1000 birth in 2000 to 6.1 in 2010. Around 95 per cent of the children in this country are given inoculation as the prevention against the infectious diseases.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair stated the matters at the Children's Day 2011 celebration held at the Brunei-Muara District Office.

In terms of education, the minister said that 99 per cent of the children in this country have the opportunity to attend primary school; while the literacy rate among the children was 96.4 per cent in 2009.

With the theme 'Appreciate Our Voice', World Children's Day is celebrated

throughout the world on the November 20. In Brunei Darussalam, it is celebrated through the Community Development Department. The format of this year's celebration included a two-day forum involving 300 children from 15 secondary schools including non-government secondary schools in the Brunei-Muara District.

Apart from that, this year celebration also have an exhibition; convention; Special Education Unit exhibition that showed their work services flow, the work and the achievement of the students under the Special Education Unit; and other activities that related with the participation of the students.



NOVEMBER 2011 - VOLUME 26 ISSUE 11

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

is published monthly by the Department of Information. It reports on government, social and business events in the country. All money values are expressed in Brunei dollars \$, unless otherwise stated. Any information in this newsletter may be reproduced; a clipping of the publication would be appreciated. For free subscription (excluding postage) please write to the Distribution Unit, Department of Information, Prime Minister's Office, Old Airport, Berakas BB 3510, Brunei Darussalam.

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PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGGAH

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 the ASEAN Ministers attending the 7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMMRDPE) on November 2.

Brunei-China: Bilateral relation achieves growth

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 20 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* (royal speech) highlighted on the long-existing relationship between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China, and touched on China's role in promoting stability and economic growth in and outside the region.

His Majesty made the *titah* at an official banquet in honour of the official visit of the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Wen Jiabao.

His Majesty said that in the second decade, the relationship between its people and country has helped in achieving the big improvement in its cooperation in various fields including trade, investment, energy and agriculture.

His Majesty added that China has played an important role in regional and world affairs, promoting stability and economic growth, in the region and beyond.

Prior to the dinner, His Majesty received in audience the visiting Premier of the State Council at the Cheradi Laila Kenchana.

Present 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, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik. Also present

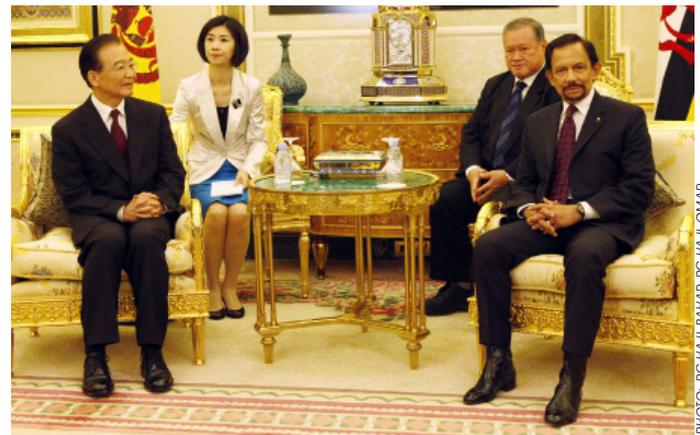


PHOTO: PG-HAJI BAHAR PG-HAJI OMAR

His Majesty and His Excellency during the audience at the Istana Nurul Iman.

was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, the Ambassador-At-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade as well as members of the royal family.

The banquet took place at Istana Nurul Iman.

Brunei-The People's China: Memorandum of Understanding signed



PHOTO: PG-HAJI BAHAR PG-HAJI OMAR

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 21 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Wen Jiabao, the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China held a bilateral meeting and signing of Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China.

The ceremony took place at Baitul Mesyuarah, Istana Nurul Iman.

Present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's office; and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

At the meeting, His Majesty and His Excellency discussed bilateral, international and regional issues of mutual concern.

The meeting was followed by the signing of four MoUs and

a Plan of Action between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China. The MoUs are for Cooperation in Forestry; the Plan of Action on Health Cooperation; the MoU on Energy; the MoU on the Establishment of Sister Cities between Bandar Seri Begawan and Nanjing; and the MoU on Commercial Cooperation in the Oil and Gas Sector between Petroleum Brunei and China National Offshore Oil Corporation Limited.

The signing was witnessed by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China.

The signing of the MoUs and Plan of Action will further strengthen bilateral relations and friendship between both countries. Since the establishment of the diplomatic ties 20 years ago, Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China have seen rapid, stable, healthy and comprehensive developments.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Majesty receives audiences

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 22 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in separate audience at the Istana Nurul Iman:

- ❶ His Excellency Min Yongnian, the outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam.
- ❷ His Excellency General Eduardo SL Oban Jr. AFP, the outgoing Chief-of-Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of the Philippines.

Her Majesty receives audiences

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

- ❶ The spouse of the Minister of Rural and Regional Development of Malaysia, Yang Berbahagia Datin Seri Hajjah Shuryani binti Datuk Haji Shuib on November 2.
- ❷ Madame Tan Dyna, the spouse of Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia to Brunei Darussalam on November 8.
- ❸ Madame Kim Kyung Soo, the spouse of Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam on November 8.
- ❹ Mrs. Kristine Von Jutrzehika Morast, the spouse of the Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany to Brunei Darussalam on November 8.
- ❺ The spouse of the Chief-of-Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of the Philippines, Madam Maria Concepcion P. Oban on November 22.



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PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

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PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

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PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

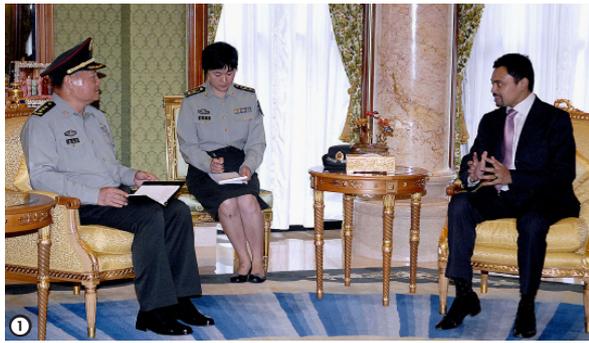
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PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

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His Royal Highness receives audiences



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

① General Zhang Youxia, the Commander of Shenyang Military Command, Chinese People's Liberation Army on November 1.

② His Excellency Min Yongnian, the outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam on November 8.

③ His Excellency Dr. Bernd Max Morast, the newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of German to Brunei Darussalam on November 8.

④ His Excellency Choi Byung-Koo, the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam on November 9.

⑤ His Excellency Chhay Sokhan, the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Cambodia to Brunei Darussalam on November 9.

⑥ The contingents Heads and Ship Administrator of the Ship for Southeast Asia Youth Programme (SSEAYP 2011) on November 17.

⑦ His Excellency Apichart Phetcharatana, the newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam on November 19.



PHOTOS: MASRI OSMAN





PHOTO: PG, HAJI BAHAR, PG, HAJI, OMAR

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers *titah* (royal speech) at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Aidiladha is a symbol of sacrifice

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 6 - Aidiladha is seen as a symbol of extraordinary sacrifice and courage. It is seen as motivator for the Muslim (*ummah*) to strive towards improving their destiny. This destiny or community will not change if the (*ummah*) do not want to change.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidiladha 1432 Hijrah celebration.

This is the optional rules of Allah The Almighty. Thus, do not hold on to the attitude of tending to postponing things. Good things must be acted upon immediately and this is the meaning of 'change'. It may be difficult and challenging, nevertheless it has to be done.

His Majesty said that a good example and lesson is the act of Prophet Ibrahim to sacrifice his son Prophet Ismail. Is this the hardest thing to do? But in order to submit to the demand of Allah the Almighty, it was nevertheless done without delay.

His Majesty also pointed out that if other grand events are man-made, Hari Raya Aidiladha and Hari Raya Aidilfitri, however, are absolutely from Allah The Almighty, and as such should be observed as a mark of gratefulness. The monarch asserted that during Hari Raya there is no revelling about, but it is all about pious devotion.

In the *titah*, His Majesty went on to outline that many challenges have still to be faced and much work still to be done. In this regard, His Majesty urged that these challenges and works must be confronted and acted upon immediately.

His Majesty performs Sunat Aidiladha prayer



PHOTO: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF, MOHD. YASSIN

One of the recipients receives (*qurban*) meat from His Majesty.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 7 – Brunei Darussalam celebrated Hari Raya Aidiladha with Hari Raya Aidiladha prayer at all mosques, *surau* and religious halls nationwide.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined the mass prayer at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah, Kampung Kiarong.

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

Soon after the prayer the *Sunat Qurban* was held. At the ceremony, His Majesty presented portions of the *qurban* (*sacrifice*) meat to 20 people registered as poor and destitute who had been selected as the recipients from the Brunei-Muara District. The rest of the sacrificial meat would be distributed at separate ceremonies in all districts.

For the Brunei-Muara District, a total of 1,678 people of selected underprivileged families received the sacrificial meat; followed by 150 people in Temburong District; 392 people in Tutong District; and 400 people in the Belait District.

Congratulatory Messages

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

- His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni, the King of Cambodia; and the Prime Minister of Cambodia, His Excellency Samdech Hun Sen in conjunction with the Kingdom of Cambodia's 58th Independence Day on November 8.
- His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al-Sais, the King of the Sultanate of Oman in conjunction with His Majesty's 71st birthday and the 41st National Day of the Sultanate of Oman on November 17.

Brunei – Liechtenstein establish diplomatic ties

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 15 - The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein established diplomatic relations with effect from November 15.

The signing of the Joint Communique took place at the Office of the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam to the Federal Republic of Germany.

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was represented by Pehin General (Rtd.) Dato Haji Mohammad Yusof, the Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Federal Republic of Germany whilst the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein was represented by His Serene Highness Prince Stefan, the Ambassador of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the Federal Republic of Germany.



HM: Brunei committed to Trans-Pacific Partnership

HONOLULU, HAWAII, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, November 12 - Brunei Darussalam is always committed to Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and will continue to support its high aspiration and to cooperate in achieving the goal.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei said in a *titah* at the TPP Leaders Meeting held at the Hale Koa Hotel, Honolulu.

His Majesty said that Brunei Darussalam is also facing some challenges in implementing the TPP initiatives as it needs intensive resource that involve new fields that need more time to handle it. In this regard, His Majesty appreciated the understanding by other members of TPP on the need for flexibility, assistance and capacity-building.

With regards to the countries that wish to join the TPP, His Majesty stated that TPP needed to be inclusive and welcomed such interest.

Prior to, His Majesty noted the

HM: energy efficiency and energy security are of great concern to Brunei

HONOLULU, HAWAII, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, November 13 - Efficient usage of energy and its security is a great concern for Brunei Darussalam. This is where the importance of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation's (APEC) role lies in 'Green Growth' as it addresses sustainable development issue and the need to balance it with the interest of the people.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said these in a *titah* (royal speech) at the Second Plenary Session of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders' Meeting (AELM) in JW Marriott Hotel, Honolulu.

His Majesty further said that although Brunei Darussalam exports energy, it realises the need to plan for a sustainable future through its initiatives on efficient use of energy and conservation.

Hence, Brunei Darussalam has embarked on a comprehensive review of its energy policies and has been promoting the awareness on the need to use the energy efficiently including the introduction of the revised electricity tariffs. His Majesty added that such initiatives have made the public more

progress of the on-going negotiations and expressed the appreciation to the officials involved, while also emphasising the need for them to look into innovative ways in tackling the challenges in their negotiations, taking into account that TPP is a comprehensive initiative and also handled the next generation issues.

At the end of the meeting, the leaders issued a statement 'Trans-Pacific Leaders Statement' where as the leaders stated their commitment to provide the resources needed to settle the agreement urgently.

The meeting was also attended by the leaders from Australia, the Republic of Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Republic of Peru, the Republic of Singapore, the United States of America and Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

His Majesty attends dinner

HONOLULU, HAWAII, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, November 12 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam who was in Honolulu, Hawaii attended a Social Night Dinner hosted by the President of the United States of America, His Excellency Barack Obama and the First Lady, Mrs. Michelle Obama.

The function was held at Hale Koa Hotel, Honolulu, Hawaii.

The dinner was held in honour of the APEC Leaders attending the APEC Summit and their spouses.

PHOTOS: PG.HAJI BAHAR PG.HAJI OMAR



aware against the importance of the use of the resources in a sustainable way.

Notwithstanding, in implementing various programmes under the inclusive growth, the effect on less affordable group of the society will be taken into consideration and the government will try to ensure that they are not adversely affected.

His Majesty then added, for this reason the efforts of APEC is particularly useful for Brunei Darussalam to balance the interests between the people and the future, with the need for capacity development and technology exchange which is also essential to achieve the newly revised of the energy intensity target by APEC.

The members of the economies emphasised the need for APEC to stay alert towards new challenges that affected this region, including global economy crisis and the on-going natural disaster in the effort to widely-develop

trade, as well as encouraging the growth and creating jobs opportunity.

The matter was stated at the First Plenary Session of AELM.

His Majesty also attended the Dialogue Session with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) and discussed several matters including SME-inclusive development, Women in Trade and Innovative Development.

APEC Economic Leaders agreed to issue the 'Honolulu Declaration – Toward a Seamless Regional Economy' which outlined their commitment to continue working together in strengthening the regional economic integration and expanding trade; promoting green growth; and towards the alignment and cooperation. In looking forward, the leaders agreed to take concrete steps toward a seamless regional economy, in order to link their companies and market closer together for the benefit of all.

His Majesty attends 19th ASEAN Summit

BALI, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, November 17 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was in Bali, Indonesia to attend the 19th ASEAN Summit; Plenary Sessions; Retreat Session; ASEAN Leaders' Meeting with ASEAN Business Advisory Council; and Signing Ceremony.

First, His Majesty attended the Opening Ceremony of the 19th ASEAN Summit at the Bali Nusa Dua Convention Centre, Bali, the republic of Indonesia.

The 19th ASEAN Summit carried the theme 'ASEAN Community In Global Community of Nations'.

The Opening Ceremony was officially opened by the President of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Dr. Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono; and attended by other ASEAN Heads of States and Governments and their delegations.

After the Opening Ceremony, His Majesty attended the Plenary Session which was chaired by the President of the Republic of Indonesia. At the session, the leaders discussed, among others, issues related to 'ASEAN Community Building and the Implementation of the ASEAN Charter'.

During the discussion on 'ASEAN Community Building and the Implementation of the ASEAN Charter', His Majesty consented to deliver a *titah*

(royal speech), in which His Majesty commended that ASEAN has done well in pushing ahead with the implementation of its plan. Nonetheless His Majesty stressed the importance for ASEAN to continue putting in every effort towards realising the ASEAN Community by 2015 and remain committed to its objectives.

In the afternoon, His Majesty joined other leaders at a luncheon hosted by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Indonesia.

Following the luncheon, His Majesty attended the Retreat Session of the 19th ASEAN Summit. During the session, ASEAN leaders, among others, discussed on the ASEAN Community in the Global Community of Nation and exchanged views on regional and international issues.

After the Retreat Session, His Majesty attended the Concluding Plenary Session.

Later in the afternoon, His Majesty attended the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting with ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC).

Representing ABAC from Brunei Darussalam to the meeting was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Qawi.

After the meeting with ABAC, His Majesty and other ASEAN Leaders witnessed the signing ceremony by ASEAN Ministers.

At the ceremony, ASEAN Foreign Ministers signed the 'Agreement on the



Establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre)', Signing for Brunei Darussalam was Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II.

This was followed by the signing of the 'Declaration on ASEAN Unity in Cultural Diversity: Towards Strengthening the ASEAN Community by ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts'.

Signing for Brunei Darussalam was Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

His Majesty then joined other leaders in the Signing Ceremony of the 'Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations' or Bali Concord III. The declaration among others contained matters related to the three main pillars of ASEAN on politics-security, economy and socio-culture.

ASEAN-UN cooperation intensified

BALI, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, November 19 – Cooperation with the United Nations Organisation (UN) is a very useful experience; especially to assist ASEAN in capacity building and training needed to build the ASEAN community towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam expressed the support in his *titah* (royal speech) at the 4th ASEAN-UN Summit held at Bali International Convention Centre (BICC).

In an effort to enhance comprehensive partnership to the extent, His Majesty considered this move as timely and expressed agreement with the 'Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN'.

His Majesty believed that ASEAN and UN relation is parts of the significance steps implemented by ASEAN towards playing more active role at the global level and had potential to be improved.

At the 4th ASEAN-UN Summit, the leaders adopted 'Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN'. A Joint Statement was also issued. The session was co-chaired by President of the Republic of Indonesia and UN Secretary General.

On the same day, His Majesty also attended the 6th East Asia Summit (EAS) and the 9th ASEAN-India Summit.

At the EAS, His Majesty announced that

Brunei Darussalam had established its Biodiversity Centre for promoting research and development in forestry management and conservation.

In the 9th ASEAN-India Summit, leaders discussed on the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group and also Executive Report on the Implementation of Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2010-2015).

A chairman joint statement was also released for the 9th ASEAN-India Summit.

Later, the leaders attended the luncheon hosted by His Excellency President of the Republic of Indonesia.

After the luncheon, His Majesty attended the Retreat Session of the 6th EAS Summit. At the session, EAS leaders exchanged views on regional and international issues.

The EAS leaders also endorsed the EAS Declaration on Principles of Mutually Beneficial Relations' and Declaration on 6th EAS Summit on Connectivity. A Joint Statement was also adopted.

In the afternoon, His Majesty joined other ASEAN leaders attended the Official Closing Ceremony of the 19th ASEAN Summit and its Related



His Majesty, His Excellency President of the Republic of Indonesia and spouse.

PHOTO: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN

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Summits.

Prior to that, on November 18, His Majesty had attended the ASEAN-China Commemorative Summit; 14th ASEAN-Japan Summit; 14th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit; 14th ASEAN Plus Three Summit; and 3rd ASEAN-United States of America Leaders' Meeting.

During the ASEAN-China Commemorative Summit; His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) recalling the 20 years of ASEAN-China dialogue relations and the numerous achievements it has attained.

At the ASEAN-China Commemorative Summit, the leaders adopted the 'Joint Statement of ASEAN-China Summit to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Dialogue Relations'; 'ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Action Plan (2011-2013)'; and 'Agreement between ASEAN and People's Republic of China on Science and Technology Cooperation'.

A Chairman's Statement of the 14th ASEAN-China Summit was also issued. The ASEAN-China Commemorative Summit was followed by the launching of the ASEAN-China Centre.

Meanwhile during the 14th ASEAN-Republic of Japan Summit, His Majesty among others welcomed Japan's contribution and support for the 'Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity' and called for the full realisation of the 'ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement'. His Majesty stated that this will bring about more economic development and growth to the region.

At the end of the summit with Japan, the leaders also adopted 'Bali Declaration for Enhancing ASEAN-Japan Strategic Partnership' and 'Plan of Action of the ASEAN-Japan Strategic Partnership

(2011-2015)'. The Chairman's Statement of the 14th ASEAN-Japan Summit was also issued.

Later, His Majesty attended the 14th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit.

In his *titah* at the summit with Korea, His Majesty was pleased that relations between ASEAN and Republic of Korea have been moving from strength to strength as it is building on its strategic partnership. This is evident through the continued work on the free trade area and contributions made by the ASEAN-Korea Centre, which has helped to bring the people closer together.

A Chairman's Statement of the 14th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit was issued at the conclusion of the summit with Republic of Korea.

After the 14th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit, His Majesty joined other leaders for a luncheon hosted by His Excellency President of the Republic of Indonesia.

Meanwhile in the afternoon, His Majesty attended 14th ASEAN Plus Three Summit.

During the summit meeting, His Majesty underscored the significance of the ASEAN Plus Three relations especially in view of the recent global economic uncertainty and the need to increase collaboration in order to enhance the level of confidence of the people, particularly the business communities.

At the end of the summit, a Chairman's Statement of the 14th ASEAN Plus Three Summit was issued.

The ASEAN Plus Three Summit was followed by the 3rd ASEAN-United States of America Leaders' Meeting.

At the end of the meeting the leaders adopted the 'Joint Statement of the 3rd ASEAN-United States of America



His Majesty welcomes by His Excellency President of the Indonesia prior to one of the session.

Leaders' Meeting' and the 'Plan of Action to Implement ASEAN - United States of America Enhanced Partnership for Enduring Peace and Prosperity (2011-2015)'.

In the evening, His Majesty attended a Gala Dinner hosted by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Indonesia and Datin Ibu Hajah Ani Bambang Yudhoyono in honour leaders attending the East Asia Summit and the Secretary General of United Nations Organisation and their respective spouses. The dinner was held at the Nusa Dua Convention Centre in Bali.



Leaders from ASEAN countries

HM : Determine to make Brunei as a nation of *zikir*

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 26 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *tifah* (royal speech) said that he is determine in making Brunei Darussalam as truly a nation of *zikir* upholding the commandments and laws of Allah within it and with noble morality as its attire.

His Majesty made the *tifah* (royal speech) in conjunction with the new Islamic Year of 1433 Hijrah.

His Majesty said that as an impression of *zikir*, prayers and pious deeds which have been and are being carried out steadily in the country, Allah The Almighty has thus bestowed blessings over flowingly to us, to the point that what we are enjoying in this country, cannot be obtained by others. His Majesty prayed that Brunei Darussalam will be permanently safe and will progress, obtain Allah's care also help and protect from all types of disasters and undesirable

elements.

His Majesty also urged the people to express gratitude and praise Allah The Almighty for the continuous blessings on the country throughout the year 1432 Hijrah up to the start of the new year 1433 Hijrah. His Majesty said that Allah's blessings and mercy are comprehensive among the people, be it individually, families and even the nation.

His Majesty said that in other places there are too many sad stories, but in this country, by the grace of Allah The Almighty, undesirable matters have been diverted from us. No one wants things that are frightening or undesired such as natural disasters, epidemics and upheavals. But when they do emerge, none can avoid them. Natural disasters, epidemics or domestic crises all come from Allah's decisions.



His Majesty urges the people to express gratitude and praise Allah The Almighty for the continuous blessings on the country.

PHOTO: MOHD. ZULIZI HAJI DURAMAN

Brunei celebrate New Islamic Year

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 26 - Brunei Darussalam marked the new Islamic Year of 1433 Hijrah with the reading of the end-of-year and beginning-of-year prayers at all mosques, *surau* and religious halls throughout the country. Apart from that, mass prayer of Maghrib and Isyak were also held.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the National Level Celebration of the New Islamic Year 1433 Hijrah at the Jame 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah in Kampung Kiarong.

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

The highlight of the ceremony was the conferment of the *Tokoh Ugama* (Religious Figure) and *Bakti Hijrah* (Hijrah Meritorious) Awards for 1433 Hijrah.

The Religious Figure Award was presented to the State Mufti, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz. He received a \$20,000 cash prize, certificate of appreciation, souvenir and free first class medical treatment at any government hospitals in the country.

Three recipients were awarded the Hijrah Meritorious Awards. They were Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Seri Wijaya



The award recipients with His Majesty and members of royal family.

Pengiran Haji Ahmad bin Pengiran Mohd Yusof; Yang Berhormat Orang Kaya Jaya Putera Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Taha bin Abdul Rauf; and Yang Mulia Dato Maharaja Setia Haji Mohd. Simpok bin Dato Maharaja Setia Dian. Each recipient received a \$10,000 cash prize, an honorary certificate, a souvenir and free first class medical treatment at any government hospital in the country.

The theme for the new Islamic year 1433 Hijrah is *Taqwa Asas Kecemerlangan Umat* or Piety The Basis of An Ummah's Excellence.

PHOTO: AMPLIAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPLIAN HAJI TENGAH

House keys presentation ceremony

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 30 - A total of 182 recipients received keys to terrace houses under the Landless Indigenous Citizens Housing Scheme in Sungai Buloh in the Brunei-Muara District.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presented the house keys at a ceremony held at Al-Falaah School of Kampung Sungai Akar.

Soon after the house keys presentation, His Majesty visited the Kindergarten (TASKA) of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation School in Jalan Sungai Akar; the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Primary and Secondary Schools; the Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Science College; the Mengkubau National Housing Scheme Project Site, developed by the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB); the Pengiran Anak Puteri Azeemah Nikmatul Bolkiah Religious School in Kampung Mentiri; and the residence of the Ketua Kampung Mentiri.

The monarch also visited a number of the key recipient's houses. The Sungai Buloh Terrace Housing scheme is built on an environment-friendly site surrounded on all sides by lush green nature. The conservation of the environment is one of the main



One of the recipients receives key to his new home.

considerations taken by the government in constructing housing estates throughout the country.

His Majesty ended his visit at the Virtue House Complex of Mukim Kota Batu at the Kampung Belimbing before having a Luncheon at the Tarindak D' Seni in the capital.

PHOTO: AMPLIAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPLIAN HAJI TENGAH



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

Their Majesties in a group photo with Brunei-based Heads of Diplomatic Missions.

Their Majesties attend the Diplomatic Corps' reception

JERUDONG, November 30 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha attended the Diplomatic Corps reception hosted by Heads of Diplomatic Missions accredited to Brunei Darussalam.

The event took place at the Berkshire Hall, Jerudong Polo and Country Club.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak

Hajah Zariah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, the Ambassador-At-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz.

The Diplomatic Corps reception was a demonstration of great respect and deep admiration for Their Majesties. It is also an expression of the profound appreciation of the nations involved for all the hospitality, graciousness and friendship that Their Majesties, along with other members of the royal family, His Majesty's Government and the people of Brunei Darussalam have extended to the diplomatic community in the country. Today, 161 countries have established diplomatic missions with Brunei Darussalam.

Brunei hosts 7th ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication

JERUDONG, November 2 - Eradicating poverty is a national agenda in Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has determined zero poverty as the nation's main objective. His Majesty has also established a special committee among ministries on poverty where its first task is to implement a comprehensive study on poverty in Brunei Darussalam that has been completed early this year.

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 opening of the 7th ASEAN



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness at the opening of the 7th AMMRDPE.

Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (7th AMMRDPE). The meeting was held at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

According to the report, said His Royal Highness, it proposed for a united strategy towards eradicating poverty that will coordinate all programmes on poverty eradication which will produce good results. It also proposed that all programmes and initiatives must overcome the cause of poverty especially weaknesses in employment, income, infrastructure, entrepreneurship, education and health.

His Royal Highness also said that existing social security programmes in Brunei Darussalam comes in two forms aimed

at equipping one another which are social welfare and socio-economic development programmes. These programmes, said His Royal Highness are designed for more immediate welfare benefits in the form of cash and in-kind for those in need. While the socio-economic development programmes looks at long-term objectives and include assistance in education, health and health care and housing.

The AMMRDPE was established in 1997 with the objectives in strengthening and coordinating the ASEAN collaboration in the Rural Development and Poverty Eradication. It emphasised particularly on the development of the rural communities towards a caring society in the ASEAN member countries.

First Islamic Education convention

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 30 - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, in a *sabda* (royal speech) underscored the need for the Islamic religious education philosophy, which encompasses the principles of belief, knowledge and charity, to be fully assimilated. His Royal Highness said that Islamic education constitutes an important component in moulding the national character and reinforcing the Malay Muslim Monarchy philosophy as a progressive national identity.

His Royal Highness made the *sabda* at the inauguration of the first Islamic Education Convention 1433 Hijrah. The event took place at the International Convention Centre in Berakas. Also in attendance was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

His Royal Highness in the *sabda*, pointed out that the Islamic Education Convention is a platform for the enrichment of knowledge and brainstorming towards the empowerment of the Islamic education as well as further affirming Brunei Darussalam as a Nation of *Zikir*, consistent with the convention's theme, 'Islamic Education Consolidates The Nation of *Zikir*'.

His Royal Highness in his *sabda*, outlined the strategic measures that are actively being implemented towards further consolidating Islamic religious education in this country. The measures include legislation of the law stipulating that it is obligatory for Muslim children to attend religious school from the age of 7 years up to Primary 6, the updating of religious school curriculum and Islamic Religious Knowledge as a subject at all levels of the study as well as an introduction of the Categorical *Al-Quran* Studies.

The Islamic Education Convention, the first of its kind to be organised by the Ministry of Religious Affairs, brings together presenters of working papers comprising experts and intellectuals from within and outside the country, who hold vast experience in



His Royal Highness visits one of the exhibition booths.

Islamic religious education.

Six working papers will be presented and discussed during the convention. The convention is attended by some 600 local participants including 12 participants from the MABIMS member countries comprising officials and teachers at religious education institutions and several ministries and departments connected with education.

The convention objectives were to stabilise the Islamic education towards realising Brunei Darussalam as a nation of *zikir* besides strengthening the quality of Islamic education as regional idol, also in increasing and updating the latest teaching and learning quality in the Islamic education system in the country.



HRH attends 26th SEA Game opening ceremony

PALEMBANG, JAKARTA, November 11 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkihah, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) attended the official opening of the 26th South East Asia (SEA) Games at the Gelora Sriwijaya Stadium in Palembang, the Republic of Indonesia.

The event was officiated by the President of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

More than 3000 youths, students and undergraduates from Palembang and its surrounding areas were involved in the performances. The audiences were also entertained by fireworks display.

Brunei Darussalam is competing in 11 sports events where three events that are the Cue Sports, Sepak Takraw, Petanque will be held in Palembang, while the eight remaining events - Ten Pin Bowling, Football, Fencing, Karatedo, Pencak Silat, Kempo, Taekwando and Wushu will be held in Jakarta.

The ceremony was held at Menambak Complex, Jakabaring Sports Complex.

Meanwhile on November 10, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkihah, the President of BDNOC attended the raising of the national flags of the participants to the 26th Sea Games.

The event took place at the Athletes' Village, Jakabaring Sports Complex.

The Brunei Darussalam national flag was given the honour by the Indonesian Olympic Sports Council to be raised.

In the evening, His Royal Highness attended 'Glory of



His Royal Highness meets with His Excellency President of the Republic of Indonesia.

Sriwijaya' dinner in conjunction with the 26th SEA Games. The dinner was highlighted with song and dance performances from the Palembang Cultural Body as well as performances from ASEAN member nations.

The function ran concurrently with the presentation of souvenirs to the Presidents of National Olympic Councils and the representatives of the participating nations to the 26th SEA Games. Receiving on behalf of the nation was Brunei Darussalam's contingent Chef de Mission, Awang Haji Abdul Malik bin Haji Mohammad.

The 26th SEA Games will be held from November 11 to 22.

Strong nation spirit contributes to success of a nation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 22 – The success of a nation not only lies on its strong economy and development but it also lies on the strong national spirit of its people that never fades in safeguarding the dignity and prestige of the nation, enhancing peace, security and survival of their nation.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik made the *sabda* at the Final of the *Syair* or Poems on Brunei Constitution Competition for the Sixth Form Centres, and the Government



His Royal Highness delivers the *sabda*.

PHOTO: HAJI MASMALAH HAJI MOHD.ALI

and Non-Government Secondary Schools and Colleges 2011. The competition was organised by the Malay Muslim Monarchy Executive Council.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik in his *sabda*, also called for support and upholding of His Majesty's *titah* to upgrade Malay Language status and also acknowledged about the foreign languages to be studied. His Royal Highness also called on all ministries, departments and the private sector to implement proactive action to perpetuate the Malay Language in the service segment and for the citizens of the country to give full support on His Majesty's *titah* in using the Malay Language in all forms of their work and management.

His Royal Highness in the *sabda*, expressed the hope that the *Syair* Competition can give a positive impact on the presenters' self-confidence and create awareness as well as to instill the sense of love among the students towards the Malay heritage and culture.

Six participants took part in the final. Dayang Siti Nadhirah binti Mustapha from the Berakas Secondary School emerged as the winner in the category for secondary schools and colleges.

Meanwhile, in the category for Sixth Form Centres, the winner was Dayang Hajah Nurul Mahfuzah binti Haji Hassan from the Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Science College.

The winner in each category received a challenge trophy contributed by Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation, \$1000, cash a copy of Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddin *Syair* Collection, another trophy and a certificate of participation.

The competition was jointly conducted by the Academy of Brunei Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and the Co-curriculum Department, Ministry of Education.

His Royal Highness attends conference launching ceremony

JERUDONG, November 9 - His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik attended the launching ceremony of the 44th Eastern Regional Organisation for Planning and Human Settlements (EAROPH) Conference.

The function was held at The Empire Hotel and Country Club. The conference will be held for two days and it is in conjunction with World Town Planning Day 2011.

Also in attendance at the launching of the conference was Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi, Minister of Development.

The 44th EAROPH theme is 'Managing Urban Growth: Challenges for Leading Small Cities' and will bring a few experts and professionals in the field where they will share their experiences and best practices divided into three sessions, namely; Natural Resources and Climate Changes; Housing and Asset Management: Planning and Implementation; and Good Governance.

The objectives of the conference among others will discuss important issues related to urban growth and handle the rising challenges faced by small towns in the region namely in managing the natural resources and climate changes, and good governance towards sustainable developments.



His Royal Highness at the launching ceremony

PHOTO: DK. NUR HAFLAH PG. OSMAN

Positive growth in agriculture and fishery sectors

KAMPONG PARIT, November 1 – Brunei Darussalam has almost achieved self-sufficiency in several commodities such as chickens, eggs and local tropical vegetables. However, the production of the local rice is still at a low level and the efforts to increase its production continue to be carried out through certain strategies in order for Brunei Darussalam to not continue to rely on imports.

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya said at the official opening of 'Farmers and Fishermen Day' celebration.

The minister said that the production of the local seafood has reached to about 80 per cent. In the eagerness of Brunei Darussalam to increase the local productions whether in agriculture or even fisheries, the country needs to take into account the effect on the environment. Many examples can be seen where irresponsible efforts in increasing the food production has made negative impact on the environment such as flood, river pollution and poisoning. The marine resources are also depleting while the breeding ground for fishes are damaged.

Towards this, farmers are advised to practice an Integrated Management of Pests and Soil Fertility, whilst fishermen are recommended to practice responsible fishing.



The minister looks at one of the displays.

PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

Producing local food is more challenging because of the global climate changes. The food security and the climate changes now had become a world issue.

The highlight of the Farmers and Fishermen Day celebration was the presentation of awards to seven successful local agriculture entrepreneurs who are actively involved in the industry as recognition of their diligent efforts.

This is the second year that the Farmer

and Fisherman Day is celebrated since His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made the declaration in his *titah* (royal speech) on November, 19, 2009 at the Agricultural and Agrifood Expo. The Farmer and Fisherman Day celebration is an annual event falls on every November 1.

The year celebration was held at the Kampung Parit Community Hall.

5th ASEAN Post Plus Meeting



PHOTO: HERNIE SULJANA HAJI OTHMAN

The APBM launched by Dato Paduka Haji Awang Alaihuddin.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 15 -Brunei Darussalam is currently hosting the 18th ASEAN Postal Business Meeting (APBM) including the 5th ASEAN POST Plus Meeting.

The APBM is a platform for postal service operators from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries to exchange views and share their best practices. It is among the best efforts for improving and further developing the postal industry among ASEAN member nations.

The APBM was launched by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Alaihuddin.

APBM was first held in 1992 and now has 10 postal service operators from all ASEAN member countries. The meeting was chaired by Post Malaysia's Chief Executive Officer who is also the Chairman of APBM, Dato' Syed Faisal Albar.

The meeting discussed several main agendas such as the multilateral terminal rate, review of inward land rate and the marketing plan for the International Express Money Order (IEMO).

The meeting was attended by members of ASEAN countries, several Postal Service Operators from among the ASEAN Post Dialogue Partners or ASEANPOST+; namely People's Republic of China, Japan, South Korea, the Republic of India and Hong Kong. They shared their experiences and best practices in managing the projects such as e-Business, the logistics, packaging and Express Mail Service (EMS).

The three-day meeting was held from November 15 until 17 at the Centrepont Hotel, Gadong.

Increased the national rate of urbanisation

JERUDONG, November 9 - The national rate of urbanisation has increased from 59.4 % in 1981 to 71.7% in 2001. There are a number of contributing factors to this urban growth namely due to the large availability of land for the development with fewer physical constraints and direct accessibility to the main infrastructure network in the Brunei-Muara District.

It is also due to Brunei-Muara's traditional dominance as the population and employment centre, given its established role as the economic, commercial and administrative hub and international gateway to the country.

The Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi highlighted the matters in his keynote address at the launching of the 44th Eastern Regional Organisation for Planning and Human Settlements (EAROPH) Conference held at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

Present at the ceremony was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

The minister went on to say being a small country, managing urban growth is even more challenging caused by the small land size, the imbalanced

Minister of Development at the launching of 44th EAROPH



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALAH HAJI MOHD ALI

development, the need to accommodate the competitive use and as well as fulfilling the conservation initiatives of the country's natural resources. His Majesty's Government is continuously undertaking various strategies and measures to ensure that Brunei Darussalam will continue to develop within the framework of Sustainable Development.

The two-day conference is in

conjunction with World Town Planning Day 2011 and is the first EAROPH conference to be held in Brunei Darussalam. It was jointly organised by the Department of Town and Country Planning in collaboration with EAROPH and the International Federation of Planning and Housing (IFHP). This year's theme is 'Managing Urban Growth: Challenges for Leading Small Cities'.

Brunei needs to improve its business regulatory environment

JERUDONG, November 15 - Brunei Darussalam needs to continuously strive to improve its Brunei Darussalam needs to continuously strive to improve its regulatory business environment driven by a proxy indicator as used by the World Bank if it wants to provide a highly conducive environment for the local and international businesses to operate in, as well as creating a competitive and a respectable position in the ease of doing business.

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya stated the matter at the Opening of World

Bank Workshop and Technical Discussion on Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) in Brunei Darussalam.

The three-day workshop took place at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

The minister who is also the Chairman of the EoDB Steering Committee, said that the business environment in the country requires improvement across different agencies and looking at the different sets of regulation and procedures especially those agencies that needed to focus, cooperate and also an alignment is required.

The workshop was attended by

nearly 200 participants comprising representatives from the business communities and private sectors, government agencies, and academics and others.

The objective of the workshop was to provide a venue for policy makers and business communities to use the World Bank's experience and knowledge on business regulations that are negatively affecting several businesses and learnt how to business environment regulation. The workshop was organised by the Working Committee of EoDB with the cooperation of the World Bank.

ASEAN-Japan: Closer cooperation fostered through SSEAYP

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 16 - ASEAN and Japanese youths are more closely intertwined through the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Programme (SSEAYP). The role and responsibility hold by this programme's participants are tough and need to be carefully implemented with sense of high commitment.

The matter was stated by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan as Acting Minister of Youth, Culture and Sports at the Welcoming Ceremony of the 38th SSEAYP 2011. The event took place at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

He further added that as the future leader, the youths inspire for a more progressive and dynamic cooperation in this region which has already existed with the people of ASEAN and Japan.

The ship - Nippon Maru - that carries more than 300 youths from Japan and ASEAN countries arrived at Muara Port as its second stop after the Republic of the Philippines. Brunei Darussalam is represented by 28 youths. The participants will be in the country for four days. Various programmes have been arranged during their stay in the country including visits to several government institutions and the home-stay programme. The programme runs for 53 days starting on October 25 to December 16.



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALAH HAJI MOHD ALI

Participant from Japan mingles with the guest of honour

Minister attends reception

JERUDONG, November 18 - Present on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya attended a reception to celebrate the 41st National Day of the Sultanate of Oman.

Also present was the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Sayyid Fakhri bin Mohamed Said Al-Said.

The reception was held at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.



PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

Reforms needed to improve road safety

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 19 - In the bid to curb road safety issues, several reforms have been suggested to be implemented such as improving the learning quality of the driving schools, including in extending the practical training hours from 10 hours to 15 hours. The status of driving schools in the country also need to be raised by introducing the Grading System according to the capacity, quality of learning and instructors quality as well as the condition of the area around the driving school.

Driving school entrepreneurs and driving instructors who had undergone defensive driving course are also urged to share this information with new drivers. This will produce more skilled and knowledgeable drivers. Another step is by introducing the demerit point system for monitoring the driving school instructors' performance. This monitoring system will develop more disciplined driving school instructors and emphasis on the effectiveness in their teaching methods.

The matters were stated by the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdullah at a ceremony to present the Driving School Curriculum Book and Driving Instructors' Certificates. The ceremony took place at the Training and Driving Test Circuit Complex in Sungai Akar.

A signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to train drivers for government vehicles, the heavy vehicles, the public transport and franchised transportation was also held. Signing on behalf of His Majesty's Government was the Director of Land Transport Department, Awang Haji Khalid bin Awang Haji Mustafa. Meanwhile, Megamas Training Company Sendirian Berhad was represented by its Managing Director, Dayang Hajah Khadijah binti Mohammed and witnessed by the Minister of Communications.



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALLEH HAJI MOHD ALI

Minister of Communications presents the Driving School Curriculum Book and Driving Instructors' Certificate.

Brunei receives China Premier State Council

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 21 - His Excellency Wen Jiabao, the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China concluded his two-day official visit on November 21.

While in the sultanate, among the places that His Excellency visited were the Univesiti Brunei Darussalam; and the Waterfront in Bandar Seri Begawan.

In conjunction with the official visit, Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD) and the China Development Bank (CDB) also signed a Bilateral Cooperation Framework.

Signing on behalf of BIBD was its Managing Director, Javed Ahmad while CDB was represented by its Chief Planning Officer, Chen Jian Ying. The signing was a follow-up to a framework agreement inked on October 20, 2010 for the establishment of a China-ASEAN Inter-Bank Association (CAIBA) by the CDB and the Representative Banks of ASEAN countries.

The signing were witnessed by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya, also as the BIBD's Chairman and in attendance was the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Min Yongnian.

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



PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

Minister of Industry and Primary Resources witnesses the signing between BIBD and CDB.

National Service Programme reveals community life aspects

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 21 – The National Service Programme (NSP) Pioneer Project will place emphasis on four important components namely, Self-Esteem and Nationalism and Religion; Discipline and Physical Training; Entrepreneurship; and Community Service.

This was stated by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair in a media conference on NSP Pioneer Project at the Brunei Sports Village Complex in Berakas.

The NSP aims to enhance the spirit of patriotism, commitment and sustainability among youths apart from strengthening the understanding as found in the nation's Constitution and the Malay Muslim Monarchy (MIB) concept. The programme among others is to produce excellent Brunei youths in line with the National Youth Policy through components provided.



PHOTO: Dk. NUR-HARLAH Pg. OSMAN

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports during the Press Conference.

The project will be conducted in three sessions starting from December 4, 2011 until February 25, 2012 from April 1 until June 23, 2012 and from December 10 until March 4, 2013.

The pioneer project will be carried out in two locations, namely the Brunei

Sports Village and Outward Bound Brunei Darussalam (OBBD) in the Temburong District. The project will be supervised and conducted by the representatives of agencies with the relevant expertise as well as local and overseas consultants.

Senior citizens celebrated

JERUDONG, November 20 – The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports as a ministry that is responsible for the rights, welfare and well-being of senior citizens in the country, acknowledged that an inclusive development involving the community including senior citizens is a progressive and compact development.

This was stated by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair at the Opening Ceremony of the Senior Citizens Day Celebration 2011 held at the Jerudong Park Playground.

Hence, a Senior Citizens and Special Needs People Special Committee has been established under the patronage

of the Social Issues National Council.

The minister said that the committee will among other things, ensure that the policy, law and action plan are set to tackle issues of senior citizens and special needs people. It is also to ensure close cooperation between the government and non-government organisations (NGO) including the private sectors, voluntary associations, corporate and business bodies, penghulu and village heads, parents, family members, children and the public in tackling the senior citizen and special needs people issues.

The minister added that the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports has also begun discussions on developing a Recreation

Centre for senior citizens that will be built as an extension to one of the existing Civic Centres in the Brunei-Muara District. The establishment of this Recreation Centre is timely and in line with the nation's strategy for senior citizens in this country to continue living an active and productive life by keeping themselves well-occupied with beneficial activities.

Senior Citizens Day falls on the October 1, throughout the world. Brunei Darussalam celebrates Senior Citizens Day annually by holding various activities and programmes. This year's theme is Pursue Age in Healthy Way or Meniti Usia Secara Sihat.

Brunei–Japan: Tourism, platform to foster closer relations

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 23 – The relation between Japan and Brunei Darussalam has long been established through the oil and gas sector. This relation should be continued and tourism is one of the platforms that can be used to foster them.

The matter was stated by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dayang Hajah Normah Suria Hayati during the Opening Ceremony for the Quality Service Training Workshop in ASEAN held at the Orchid Garden Hotel.

The Permanent Secretary said that Japan which is considered as one of a matured tourism market with some 16

million experienced and well-travelled tourists could help Brunei Darussalam. The main appeal for the Japanese market would be Brunei's natural aspects, being the only country in the region able to offer pristine tropical rainforest experiences besides its unique Malay and Islamic heritages, seen in its famous Water Village, Royal Palace, richly endowed museums and magnificent mosques. These are cultural assets that can be of interest to the Japanese visitors and which will be promoted alongside the nature aspect.

The Permanent Secretary added, based on these strengths and with the help and cooperation of the appointed marketing representatives, the ASEAN-

Japan Centre and Brunei's Embassy in Japan, Brunei Tourism and the private sector will embark on road shows and marketing missions to target Japan based wholesale and specialised tour operators, and seek for joint marketing opportunities with them in order to promote Brunei to their clients and the travelling public in general.

The two-day workshop discussed various topics related to the tourism industry delivered by the Japanese speakers. The workshop is being attended by front-liners in the tourism industry in Brunei Darussalam including hoteliers, tour operators, tourist guides, restaurant staff, souvenir market sales clerks and museum staffs.

MoU between SEAMEO VOCTECH and Rajabhat University

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 23 - The Regional Centre of The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education for Vocational and Technical Education (SEAMEO VOCTECH) and Rajabhat University of Thailand signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) held at SEAMEO VOCTECH Regional Centre.

Signing on behalf SEAMEO VOCTECH was its director, Awang Alias bin Haji Bakar meanwhile Rajabhat University was represented by the President Pkrnakhon RU, Associate Professor Dr. Preang Kitratporn.

The MoU will facilitate cooperation between both institutions on related matters concerned specifically in continuing to achieve their programme and services. Both institutions hold the responsibilities to develop human resources.

With the signing of the MoU, both institutions can expand their capacities in providing services through sharing knowledge, relevant information and documentation, learning and research and practice the best practices.



The MoU will facilitate cooperation between both institutions.

PHOTOS: MASRI OSMAN

National Diabetic Control Plan

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 24 - The Ministry of Health will provide a more comprehensive National Diabetic Control Plan by underlining the strategic plan containing more effective action programmes on control and prevention planning against diabetes.

The strategic plan will take into account best practices and also based on international guidelines such as the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) Global Diabetes Plan 2011-2021 published recently.

This matter was stated by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan at a ceremony held in conjunction with World Diabetes Day 2011 at the Health Promotion Centre in collaboration with the Butra Heidelberg Cement.

The minister said that the number of diabetics among adults and youths in Brunei Darussalam is increasing from year to year. Since 2001, diabetes has been the third killer disease after cancer and heart diseases, whereby in 2010 alone, 100 diabetic patients passed away. The growing number of diabetics among children in the country is the most worrying phenomenon.

He also spoke on government's expenditure in tackling the problem of diabetes and obtaining the medicines for its treatment. The ministry has spent more than \$2.9 million on medicines for treatment of diabetes. The minister also called on allied health professional staff treating the diabetics to continue to apply the healthcare method for diabetic patients according to the specified procedure.

The theme of World Diabetes Day 2011 is 'Act Against Diabetes NOW'. In conjunction with the World Diabetes Day 2011, various events and activities have been planned and will be held throughout the months of November and December.



Minister of Health delivers his keynote address.

PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD.ALI

Ministry of Health reviews relevant law

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 26 - The Ministry of Health is presently carrying out an inspection and update towards the proposal to draft a more suitable and relevant law taking into account changes in time, environment and also the development of mental health care. Legal reformation on mental health is hoped to provide protection, treatment rights, health and well-being of those suffering from mental illness.

The Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan stated the matter at the World Mental Health Day Forum 2011 held at the Goldstone Ballroom in The Centrepoint Hotel, Gadong.

Aside from ensuring the provision of treatment and rehabilitation services, another aspect that should be given priority in mental health is advocacy. This specifically, is in relation to the provision of information and raising the awareness of the public and stakeholders on the issue of mental health in Brunei

Darussalam. Such measures can have a positive impact including changing the perception of the community on patients and those who are mentally disturbed. The country does not want them to have a stigma or be discriminated, but instead they should be supported and helped not only to receive treatment and rehabilitation, but also to enjoy the facilities available.

The success of a country's mental health programme is also dependent on the development of the work force capacity including health professionals. The minister said, for medium and long-term programmes, the Ministry of Health will further solidify the capacity development including the specialists in mental health for more effectiveness in the treatment, rehabilitation, control and prevention measures of mental health issues.

The minister proposed for the psychiatric services in the Ministry of

Health to update their information system on mental health in the country that covers not only the information on mental health care services and its usage, but also to carry out studies and analysis on the need for the service. The result of such efforts is vital for the planning of the future system and services as well as the evaluation of the effectiveness of the policy and programme that had been carried out.

World Mental Health Day is celebrated every October 10 under the World Federation for Mental Health to raise public awareness on the importance of promoting and the good treatment of healthy mental. This year's celebration is themed 'Increasing Investment in Health Mental'. The day-long forum was attended by more than 400 peoples from *penghulu mukim*, *ketua kampung*, principals, headmasters, doctors, nurses as well as the stakeholders from the government and the private sector.

Athletes urged to raise the country image

BERAKAS, November 5 - The athletes of Brunei Darussalam participating in the 26th SEA Games in Palembang-Jakarta, the Republic of Indonesia 2011 were urged to not only have a strong spirit and far-sightedness, but also be more enthusiastic and focused to compete until the end in a professional way to become a respected and prominent champion.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) made the *sabda* (royal speech) at the National Flag Hand-Over Ceremony to Brunei Darussalam's 26th SEA Games Contingent.

The function took place at the Indoor Stadium, Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex.

His Royal Highness handed over the national flag to the contingent's Chef-de-Mission, Awang Haji Abdul Malik bin Haji Mohammad.

The 26th SEA Games will be held from November 11 to 22. Also in attendance was His Royal Highness' son, Yang



PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

His Royal Highness hands-over the National Flag to the contingent's Chef-de-Mission

Six major plans identified for Draft Action AMMRDPE

JERUDONG, November 2 - Six major plans have been identified for the Framework of Action Plan for The Rural Development and Poverty Eradication for the year 2011 to 2015.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair stated the matter during the media conference of the 7th AMMRDPE held at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

The six major plans outlined a new core strategic and a concrete actions including a sustainable rural development and rural economic growth, food safety and food sovereignty in the midst of climate change, social protection and networks safety, infrastructure development and human resources in the rural area, constituency building for the rural development and the poverty eradication and the monitoring and assessing the reduction of the poverty in this region.

The 8th AMMRDPE will be held in the Republic of Indonesia in 2013.

Asian Pacific ICT Alliance Award (APICTA) 2011

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 12 - Product Professional Diploma Online Islamic Banking and Finance (PDIF) created by Dayang Hajah Salma Bee binti Haji Abdul Latiff from the Crescent Sendirian Berhad emerged as champion in APICTA 2011.

The competition was a part of continuous efforts and initiatives by the Ministry of Communications in developing nation ICT industry by encouraging ICT developer to compete at the international level.

Each APICTA winner from Brunei Darussalam will be given a grant amounted \$50,000 by AiTi to continuously develop and improve their product that can be commercialised. Meanwhile, the winner who received Merit Awards will be given a grant amounted \$25,000 which is hoped to give excellent intensive to the team participated to make better efforts and compete.

The event took place at Pattaya, the kingdom of Thailand from November 8 until 11.

Bruneian second in Al-Qur'an reading competition

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 16 - Ak. Muhd. Amirul Aiman bin Pengiran Haji Marzuki won the 1st runner-up in the 2011 ASEAN Higher Education Institution Al-Quran Reading Competition. He received a cash prize of RM1000.

The competition was the first organised by the Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) with cooperation of the Malaysia Islamic Development Department (JAKIM) from November 10 until 14.

The competition was held in Negeri Sembilan, Kuala Lumpur.

Solar energy appropriate alternative in Brunei

TUNGKU, November 24 - Brunei Darussalam's economy is largely dependent on oil and gas and in this case, countries cannot rely on fossil energy all the time. Various surveys carried out have shown that solar energy can be one of the most appropriate alternative energy for Brunei Darussalam.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Choi Byung-Koo stated the matter at a Korea-Brunei Energy Forum held at the Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

The forum carried the theme 'Feasible Green Energy Projects in Brunei'.

According to His Excellency, the Republic of Korea laid out the vision of green growth and became a global leader by pro-actively responding to climate change. The Korean Government has transformed the Republic of Korea's entire system of resources and practices the energy utilisation over the whole range of sectors.

The forum will be discussed and handled issues that related to an efficient energy and energy security also the needs for developing and maintaining the sustainable energy initiatives for the future.

Did you know that...

- There are three sectors in Brunei Darussalam's fishery industry; capture fisheries sector, aquaculture sector and seafood processing sector.
- Brunei Darussalam officially endorsed the Brunei Halal Brand in August 2007 where it is an initiative by the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources along with cooperation from the Brunei Islamic Religious Council, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Finance.
- The Civil Service is the largest employer in Brunei Darussalam, employing about 12 per cent of the total population. In 2010, the Civil Service was made up of more than 47,000 employees.
- There are four government hospitals in the Brunei Darussalam. The main hospital is the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital based in Brunei-Muara District.

>> 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)
- 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 and Kalimantan, and While the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post is the entrance for those coming from Limbang, Sarawak; Kota Kinabalu.