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Nation needs capable generations

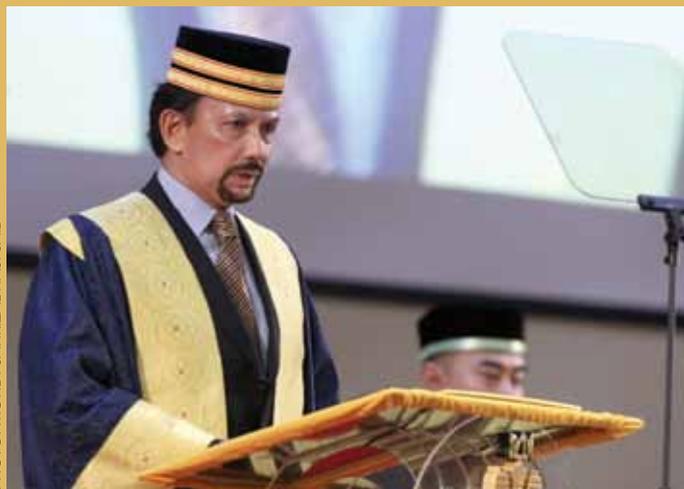


PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

His Majesty gives emphasis on the need to produce capable generations.

TUNGKU, September 29 - Graduates are valuable assets that support the development of the society and country. Thus, they must continue to be produced. However, the quantity alone would not suffice without adequate quality.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stated the matter in his *titah* (royal speech) at the 23rd Convocation of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

The event took place at the university's Chancellor Hall.

Present with His Majesty was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Doctor Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah as Pro-Chancellor of UBD. Also present were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Muta-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna.

His Majesty said that regarding quality, it cannot be reaped other than through efforts and vision to constantly improve. One cannot dream of reaching the apex merely through dampened efforts. This is where graduates are challenged to look into their innermost, and to do so with full of courage and with maturity. This means graduates will grow to become leaders and not remain as mere youth. This is what we want, that is to produce a capable generation. The traits of mature adults are that they are resilient and do not admit defeat easily. For example, when graduates look for employment, they must not easily give up when employment is not duly forthcoming, but instead continue to search and not being choosy.

On UBD's development effort, His Majesty also reminded about the role of the academic staff of the university, that is it is not only teaching alone. More so, they must also be active in carrying out research and publishing substantive research articles which can give wide impact. Likewise, these articles must be contained in broadcast journals scope so that they can project UBD to the international arena.

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International Transfer of Prisoner Order 2011 enforced

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 29 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to a new Order entitled 'International Transfer of Prisoner Order 2011' which has been enforced since April 20 this year.

The Attorney-General's Chambers in its statement said, the drafting of the Order was upon the department's initiative aimed at fulfilling Brunei Darussalam's commitment under the 'Scheme for the Transfer of Convicted Offenders Within The Commonwealth', in which all Commonwealth member nations are required to draft their respective legal procedures to facilitate the transfer of prisoners so that prisoners may serve their sentences of imprisonment in their countries or territories with which they have close community ties. Among the features of the Order are:

1. The transfer of prisoners who are Bruneian nationals undergoing prison sentences in foreign countries to carry out the rest of their prison sentence in Brunei Darussalam.

2. The transfer of prisoners of foreign nationality who are currently imprisoned in Brunei Darussalam to serve their remaining prison sentence in their home countries.
3. To allow Brunei Darussalam to become a transit country, if required, in order to facilitate the transfer of a prisoner from one country to another.
4. To bear the costs of prisoner transfer.

With the new Order, the transfer of prisoners to their home countries will allow parents and family members to visit the prisoner more easily if they are serving their sentence in the country of origin including Brunei nationals who are serving prison sentences on foreign soil. The presence of family members in a prisoner's life can encourage the prisoner to make a better effort in rehabilitating themselves and indirectly, their transfer will assist in preventing the prisoners from being involved again in criminal activities. Any transfer is subject to the agreement of the prisoner and the country of imprisonment.



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13 HRH attends Commemorative Meeting to celebrate NAM's 50th Anniversary

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 from:



His Excellency Kim Dae-Sik, the outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam on September 7.



The Honourable Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, the Second Minister of Planning and Resource Management and Minister of Public Utilities of Sarawak, Malaysia on September 14.



Retired Lieutenant General Sallah Ud'din, the outgoing High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam on September 19.



His Excellency E. Ahamed, the Minister of State for External Affairs of India on September 19.



Her Majesty receives audience

Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received in audience Madame Baseerat Un Nisa, the wife of the outgoing High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam on September 15.

The audience took place at Istana Nurul Iman.

PHOTOS: RAMLI TENGAH
MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN
AK. AMIRULNIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI

Istana Nurul Iman receives 94,431 guests

PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN



His Majesty and male members of royal family receive greeting from male guests.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 3 – A total of 94,431 guests attended this year's *Hari Raya Aidilfitri junjung ziarah* (revered greetings) to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and members of the royal family at the Istana Nurul Iman.

The palace, Istana Nurul Iman was opened for the public from September 1 to 3 (second to fourth of *Syawal*). From the three days, September 1 recorded highest attendance of guests with 36,149 people whilst September 2 recorded 24,300 people and September 3 recorded 33,982 people.

The *junjung ziarah* (revered greetings) at Istana



PHOTO: HERNE SULLIANA HAJI OTHMAN

Female guests to the Istana Nurul Iman revered greetings to Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and female members of royal family.

Nurul Iman is a much awaited ceremony where it gave opportunities to the residents and people of the country and also tourists to meet and personally greet Their Majesties and members of royal family on the joyous occasion in celebrating *Hari Raya Aidilfitri*.

At the ceremony, His Majesty and male members of the royal family received male guests. While Her Majesty and female members of the royal family received female guests.

As a token for remembrance, every guest was given a memento for their visit to the Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty attends *tahlil* ceremony

PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH



His Majesty sprinkles scented water on the tombs of His Majesty's late parents.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 5 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended a *tahlil* ceremony for His Majesty's late parents, Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit.

Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

The ceremony took place at the Royal Mausoleum.

SMEs reminded importance of trustworthiness

BERAKAS, September 10 – Small-and-medium enterprises (SMEs) were urged not to ignore an invaluable and primary ethic in business which is trustworthiness. This is crucial in the management of business because without trustworthiness, a business may face problems. Some of the possible problems that may be faced include untransparent management and financial mismanagement. If this happens, not only SMEs will unable to sustain but even big entrepreneurs.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said these in a *titah* (royal speech) at a *Hari Raya Aidilfitri* celebration for the year 1432 *Hijrah* organised by the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation. The celebration took place at the International Convention Centre.

His Majesty added that it is also vital for every SMEs to honour the trust of their customers especially restaurateurs or other eating outlet operators. They are obligated to ensure that all foods are clean not only in the sense that they are not dirty, but also that they are pure as demanded by *syarak* (Islamic law). To ensure that all foods are derived from *halal* sources is by avoiding those considered as dubious. His Majesty believed that if this is practiced, every enterprises or businesses will be blessed by Allah.

This year's *Hari Raya Aidilfitri* celebration saw a gathering of SMEs and cooperative companies registered at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, LiveWIRE and Innovation Centre (i-Centre).

With His Majesty 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 'Abdul Malik.

Brunei-Thailand: Share close relation

PHOTO: AK. AMIRUNIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI



Both leaders during a one-to-one meeting at the Istana Nurul Iman.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 10 – Brunei Darussalam and Thailand's bilateral relation has been further strengthened through the official visit by the Prime Minister of Thailand, Her Excellency Yingluck Shinawatra to Brunei Darussalam.

While in Bandar Seri Begawan, Her Excellency was granted an audience by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held at Cheradi Laila Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman.

Her Excellency's delegation included the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, His Excellency Dr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul; the Ambassador-Designate to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Apichart Phetcharatana; and other senior officials.

Also present at the audience 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 Haji 'Abdul 'Azim; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

After the audience ceremony, His Majesty and Her Excellency held a meeting. Soon after, His Majesty and Her Excellency attended an official dinner at Baitul Rahmah, Istana Nurul Iman.

Brunei Darussalam established a government agency in Bangkok in October 1983, which was subsequently upgraded to an embassy level on January 1, 1984 following Brunei Darussalam's full independence.

Brunei-Malaysia: Expand economic cooperation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 12 – A Letter of Agreement (LoA) and three Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) for economic cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia were recently signed.

The LoA is for the construction of a bridge across Pandaruan River which is based on the boundaries of both countries. Signing on behalf of Brunei Darussalam was the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdullah. Whilst his counterpart was Yang Berhormat Dato' Shaziman, Malaysia's Ministry of Public Works.

While the three MoUs are for cooperation in the economic and technical field between Brunei Darussalam and the Government of Sarawak. Present as signatories for the first MoU were Pehin Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II; and Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah, Malaysia's Second Minister of Planning and Resource Management and Sarawak's Minister of Public Utilities.

The second MoU is for cooperation in the oil and gas sector between Brunei National Petroleum Company Sdn. Bhd. (PetroleumBRUNEI) and Petroleum National Berhad Malaysia (Petronas). Present as signatories were Pehin Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II; and Petronas' President and Chief Executive Officer, Dato' Shamsul Azhar Abbas.

The third MoU is for cooperation in investment between Bandtree Sdn. Bhd. and Sabah Economic Development and Investment Authority (SEDIA). Present as signatories for this cooperation were Dayang Hajah Hartini binti Haji Abdullah, the Managing Director of Brunei Investment Agency; and SEDIA's Chief Executive Officer, Yang Berbahagia Datuk Dr. Mohd Yakub bin Haji Johari.

All of these signings took place in conjunction with the 15th Annual Leader's Consultation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia held at Istana Nurul Iman.

Prior to the signing ceremony, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty The Raja Isteri received in audience the Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Right Honourable Dato Laila Utama Dato' Sri



PHOTO: RAWLI TENGAH

Their Majesties and the Right Honourable and spouse prior to the dinner.

Mohd. Najib and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Sri Rosmah Mansor.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince 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; and other members of the royal family.

This was then followed with a one-to-one meeting between both leaders before proceeding to Baitul Mesyuarah for the signing ceremony. Also present at the signing ceremony was His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Their Majesties and The Right Honourable and spouse then attended an official dinner.

The Prime Minister of Malaysia and delegation were in the country for the 15th Annual Leader's Consultation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia.

Joint Statement on the 15th Annual Leaders' Consultation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 12 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and The Right Honourable Dato Laila Utama Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib, the Prime Minister of Malaysia welcomed the signing of the agreement between the Government of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of Malaysia relating to the construction of a bridge spanning the Pandaruan River.

The matter was among the statements included in the Joint Statement on the 15th Annual Leaders' Consultation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia.

The Joint Statement expressed both leaders' satisfaction on the excellent relations and underscore the commitment of the two countries in promoting regional peace and stability.

In this regard, both leaders expressed satisfaction with the continued participation of Brunei Darussalam in the United Nation Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the International Monitoring Team (IMT) in Southern Philippines.

Furthermore, both leaders also expressed satisfaction with the expanding cooperation in the field of education which had contributed to greater friendship and

understanding. They also welcomed the signing of the MoU in the field of Higher Education in October 2010, which reaffirmed the commitment to further enhance education programmes and activities.

Both leaders acknowledged the close cooperation by the Ministry of Health of both countries and noted the progress made on the Joint Work Plans comprising information exchange, capacity building, research and joint operations, traditional medicine and non-communicable diseases.

The proposed launch of the pioneer of the Frequent Travellers Facility (FTF) was also noted by both leaders; and both expressed confidence that it would further strengthen the people-to-people interaction and travel between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia.

Prior to that in the statement, both leaders welcomed the close and excellent relations between both countries and noted significant progress in trade and investment, energy, defence, education, agro-business and industries, tourism, health, information and communications technology (ICT), and information and broadcasting.

Both leaders agreed to meet in Malaysia in 2012 at the 16th Annual Consultation.

Three receive Sultan's Scholar

PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH



His Majesty, Theis Royal Highnesses and the Sultan's Scholar Award recipients in a group photo.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 15 – Three excellent students in academic and extracurricular activities have been selected to receive the Sultan's Scholar Award of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation for academic session of 2011/2012.

The Sultan's Scholar Awards were presented by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

The three students are Dayang Ainul Azzura binti Haji Mohd. Jaya, Awang Wafi bin Haji Abd. Manan and Dayang Siti Musfirah binti Misli.

With the scholarship, Dayang Ainul Azzura binti Haji Mohd. Jaya will be pursuing further education in Civil Engineering at Imperial College London in United Kingdom; while Awang Wafi bin Haji Abd. Manan will pursue his study in Politics and Philosophy at London School of Economics in United Kingdom. Meanwhile, Dayang Siti Musfirah binti Misli will pursue her study in *Syariah* at the University of Al-Azhar in Egypt.

The Sultan's Scholar Award of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation was first introduced in 2006 where there are currently 22 students who had received the prestigious scholarship.

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

- His Excellency S.R. Nathan, the former President of the Republic of Singapore on His Excellency's retirement on September 1.
- His Excellency Dr. Tony Tan on His Excellency's appointment as the new President of the Republic of Singapore on September 2.
- His Excellency Truong Tan Sang, the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and His Excellency Nguyen Tan Dung, the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in conjunction with the republic's 66th National Day on September 3.
- His Excellency Yoshihiko Noda on His Excellency's appointment as the new Prime Minister of Japan on September 3.
- His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of the Kingdom's 81st National Day on September 23.
- His Excellency Hu Jintao, the President of the Republic of China in conjunction with the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the People's Republic of China and Brunei Darussalam on September 28.
- His Excellency Hu Jintao, the President of the Republic of China in conjunction with the 62nd Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China on September 30.

July declared as language month

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 17 – In the bid to have citizens with positive spirit and attitude towards becoming a nation with respect and to uphold their own language, July has been declared as the month of language (Bulan Bahasa).

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam announced this in a *titah* (royal speech) during the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Language and Literature Bureau. The event was held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

In this regard, His Majesty suggested for government ministries and departments and the private sector to implement proactive actions towards conserving Malay language in their service segments.

His Majesty also gave emphasise on the fact that the Malay language has been legislated in the Brunei Constitution 1959 (Amended 2004) as the official language of this country is proof of acknowledgement by His Majesty's government on the role of the Malay language. It also signifies that no other languages will play the role of the Malay language in comprehending the concept, culture and minds of the Malay race.

His Majesty also pointed out that from the system of its writing and spelling, the Malay language has two forms - that is in *Jawi* writing and spelling, and the Romanised writing and spelling. His Majesty urged that this system be refined and observed by language experts so that the sound and pronunciation are aligned, and even religious experts are required to be involved.

The Language and Literature Bureau celebrated its Golden Jubilee where the highlight of the event was the presentation of Linguist Award and Literary Award to two recipients for their deeds in their respective fields.

The recipient of the Linguist Award was Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Dalam Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Haji Awang Mohd Jamil Al-Sufri who was involved in formulating the 1959 Brunei Constitution during the reign of Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien. He also made a number of contributions on the understanding of government circulars regarding government policies in the use of Malay language to the community at large. Yang Berhormat was the first Director



PHOTO: AK. AMIRUNIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI

His Majesty calls for proactive actions towards immortalising Malay Language in services segments.

of the Language and Literature Bureau from 1961 to 1976.

Meanwhile, the Literary Award was awarded to Yang Berhormat Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Awang Haji Yahya bin Haji Ibrahim who begun creative and non-creative writing since 1955 and is still active until today. He is actively involved in building and advancing Malay literature through research, paperwork presentation locally and abroad, producing critical literature book that are being used for research by graduates and currently is active in conducting research on the writings of Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien.

His Majesty also consented to present certificates of appreciation to the former Directors of the Language and Literature Bureau who had given significant contributions towards shaping, building and developing the bureau to where it stands today and played an important role in turning the Malay language and *Jawi* writing as Brunei Darussalam's identity.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

Audience for intending *haj* pilgrims

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 19 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty The Raja Isteri received separate audiences from intending *haj* pilgrims for the year of 1432/2011 at the Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty received 562 intending male *haj* pilgrims while, Her Majesty received 572 intending female *haj* pilgrims. Also present with Her Majesty were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah.

Brunei's *haj* intending pilgrims will be leaving to perform *haj* in five flights beginning mid-October. They will be accompanied by a team of 26 medical officers and seven *haj* officers.

Meanwhile, the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation had distributed *ihram* cloth for intending male *haj* pilgrims and *telekung* (long veil) for intending female *haj* pilgrims. The *ihram* cloth and *telekung* are personal gifts from His Majesty.



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

His Majesty receives greetings from intending male *haj* pilgrims.

His Majesty officiates Brunei Energy Expo 2011

PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAWAN



The BEE2011 officially launched by His Majesty.

JERUDONG, September 21 – The Brunei Energy Expo 2011 (BEE2011) seeks to showcase the various activities in Brunei Darussalam's energy sectors as well as a business and investment opportunities in the sector. The exhibitions also enable local, regional and international companies to exhibit their activities, services and products in the energy sectors including those relating to green energy such as solar and others.

The exhibition also featured an interactive touch screen monitor where visitors can compare the amount they have to pay under the new electrical rates that will

be implemented in January 2012 with the existing rates.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam officiated the inaugural BEE2011 at the Brunei International Defence Centre (BRIDEX) in Jerudong.

After the officiating ceremony, His Majesty met with Energy Ministers from ASEAN, ASEAN's Dialogue partners and representatives from international energy agencies namely the International Energy Agency (IEA) and ERIA.

His Majesty then consented to visit the exhibition at the Hall 2 where 102 companies from 13 countries showcasing their involvement in the various sectors of energy and energy related activities ranging from upstream, downstream, to services and products.

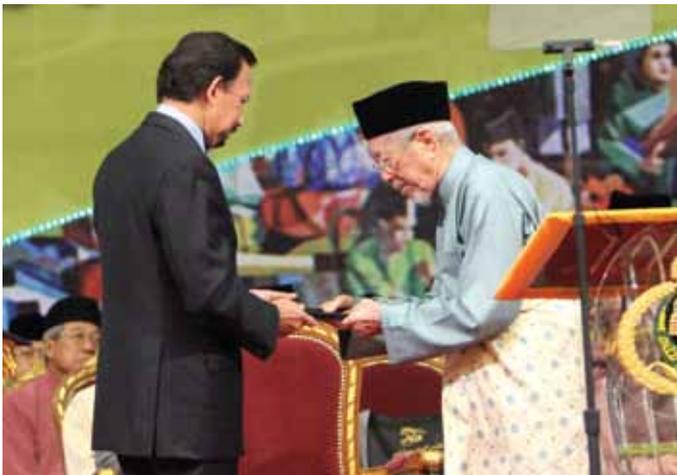
At the exhibition, His Majesty also witnessed the handover of a fully electrically-powered car from Mitsubishi Corporation to the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. His Majesty also consented to test drive one of the electric cars on displayed at the exhibition.

Later, His Majesty proceed to Exhibition Hall1 and toured booths showcasing the activities of 24 colleges and higher institutions promoting the use of new and renewable energies in the country as well as in instilling a culture that place greater empathised on efficiency and conservation in the use of energy.

Also being showcased at the hall were solar and low fuel-consuming vehicles designed and made in-house by local technical schools.

Teachers must be passionate with their profession

PHOTO: AK. AMIRULNIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI



His Majesty presents the Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Education Award to one of the recipients.

BERAKAS, September 24 - Teachers need to be passionate with their profession. In them lies the reliance of the young people in reaping knowledge and become a capable generation.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in a *titah* (royal speech) at the 21st Teacher's Day celebration held at the International Convention Centre. Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

For this matter, the teachers must improve. One of the methods to enhance the teacher's calibre is by providing opportunities or rooms for them to improve their existing quality such as through short and long-term trainings. In this regard, His Majesty suggested for a mechanism to be arranged including acknowledging work experience as

a general criteria for them to further their education to a higher level. Work experience is very appropriate to be made as additional criteria in evaluating the teacher's application as through this, the teaching profession will be more effective and prominent, and will gain high level of confidence from the community.

Speaking on opportunities, His Majesty expressed his happiness in knowing that a polytechnic has been planned to operate at a temporary campus beginning 2012. This will provide opportunities and path for students to further their studies.

In the *titah*, His Majesty also spoke on the country's performance in education. The monarch pointed out that currently Brunei Darussalam is in the 34th place out of 127 member countries which have been appraised in the 'Development Index for Education for All'. His Majesty believed that this standing can be further improved through various efforts, including efforts to overcome the problems of children from the underprivileged group by giving them equal education opportunities. Assistance provided such as transportation, finance and full time hostel boarding must be implemented properly.

The highlight of the celebration was the presentation of the Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Education Award, the Meritorious Teacher's Award and the Excellent Teacher's Award.

The Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Education Award was presented to three recipients. They were Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Mahkota Pengiran Anak Dr. Kemaluddin Al-Haj ibni Al-Marhum Pengiran Bendahara Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamad Yassin; Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Dalam Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Haji Awang Mohamad Jamil Al-Sufri bin Begawan Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Umar; and Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Begawan Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Umar. The award

* continue on page 9

* from page 8
(Teachers must be passionate with their profession)

recipients each received a certificate of honour, \$20,000 cash reward and a souvenir.

Four recipients received the Meritorious Teacher's Award. They were Awang Haji Omar bin Haji Ahai; Awang Haji Juned bin Mustapa; Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Jalil bin Abdul Rahman; and Pengiran Haji Tajudin bin Pengiran Haji Bustamam. Meanwhile seven recipients received the Excellent Teacher's Award. The recipients each received a certificate of honour, \$4000 cash reward and a souvenir.

The theme of this year's Teacher's Day celebration is Teachers Mould the Nation's Identity.

Rebranding of Youth Centre timely

BERAKAS, September 26 – Efforts undertaken by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports through the Department of Youth and Sports to provide a venue in every district for youths to gather and conduct beneficial activities and programmes are welcomed. Measures to enhance the progress through rebranding efforts on Youth Centres nationwide are timely. It is not only meant to fill in their time through interesting activities but more important is to make the venue to obtain advice and to produce beneficial works of art and cultural products.

The matters were said by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the 6th National Youth Day celebration held at the National Indoor Stadium of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex. Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

His Majesty noted that steps taken by relevant authorities for the rebranding of youth centres has been made following a dialogue between the authorities and target youth groups. This means that the formation of activities and programmes that will be implemented also takes into account the aspirations of the youths themselves.



PHOTO: HERNIE SULLIANA HAJI OTHMAN

His Majesty presents the award to the recipient of the Meritorious Youth Leader Award, Associate Professor Dr. Haji Hashim.

In this regard, His Majesty urged for the youth to together make the Youth Centres as a venue for recreation, learn, do good deeds and serve for themselves, the religion, race and country.

The highlight of the celebration was the presentation of National Youth Awards comprising of the Meritorious Youth Leader Award; Youth Association Award; and Excellent Youth Award.

The Meritorious Youth Leader Award was received by Associate Professor Dr. Haji Hashim bin Haji Abdul Hamid; the Youth Association Award to the Belait Association (PEMBELA); and the Excellent Youth Award was received by Dayang Nurfaezah binti Haji Emran.

The recipients received a certificate of appreciation, a plaque, a Bruneian woven cloth for the individual category and cash prize of \$5000 for Category Youth Association and \$3000 for Excellent Youth Award.

The 6th National Youth Day Celebration focused on the creativity and innovation of youths in the country. The celebration was also enlightened by a youth performance on the theme of 'Youth with Innovation and Creativity Produce a Competitive Nation'.

* from front page
(Nations needs capable generations)



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah receives a Master's Degree in Public Policy in English Medium.

His Majesty also wants to see, irrespective of how small it is, the result of research or creation by UBD regardless of whether it is by lecturers or students or any other agency

in government. His Majesty also cited one example, who in this country has done a research on herbs. We have many studies on various types of herbs such as turmeric. Who thus far has researched these when in fact we, the Brunei people, have been eating them for hundreds of years. Who up to now have carried out scientific study on the content and nourishment of these things. This is only a small example. But its challenge is indeed great for us, especially for UBD. The challenge involves its academic workforce as generators and guide on research activities amongst students.

A total of 801 graduates of various disciplines received their Degrees in the 23rd Convocation of UBD.

One of the graduates was Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman. Her Royal Highness received a Master's Degree in Public Policy in English Medium.

Four graduates received their Doctor of Philosophy (PhD); 163 graduates received Master Degree; 634 received Bachelor's Degree and Diploma.

Meanwhile, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Dr. Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah as Pro-Chancellor of UBD presented diplomas and certificates to another 232 graduates.

UBD 23rd Convocation: UBD Convo Festival 2011 launched

TUNGKU LINK, September 8 – As part of the activities of Universiti Brunei Darussalam's (UBD) 23rd Convocation, the UBD Convo Festival 2011 was officially launched. In attendance to officially launch the festival was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Dr. Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office who is also the Pro-Chancellor of UBD.

UBD Convo Festival 2011 provides nine activities including Knowledge Activities, Cultural Performances, Sculpture and Art as well as Sports activities involving the undergraduates and lecturers of the UBD Undergraduates Association.

The activities include a programme with the community which will be held in all the four districts. The programme features UBD student's cooperation and interaction with the community towards identifying and understanding the issues concerning the community as well as assisting them in overcoming the setbacks. The programme also focuses on analysing skills and repaying their service to the community.

In conjunction with the launching of the UBD Convo Festival 2011, His Royal Highness also officially opened the Students Centre Building.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Dr. Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah officiates the 23rd UBD Convo Festival 2011.

BHC Tour de Brunei 2011



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness presents the prize to the champion for the Stage 5, Makemizan Ramin, cyclist from Tabriz Petrochemical Cycling Team from Iran.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 11 – The five-day Butra Heidelberg Cement (BHC) Tour de Brunei 2011 ended at Bandar Seri Begawan with prize presentation for its Stage 5 race – Bandar Seri Begawan Circuit.

Present at the prize presentation was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office. The ceremony was held at the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Foundation Complex.

Champion for Stage 5 was Makemizan Ramin, cyclist

from Tabriz Petrochemical Cycling Team from Iran, followed by Shinichi Fukushima from Terengganu Pro-Asia Cycling Team and Phuchong Sai-Udomsin from Thailand National Team.

The Stage 5 - Bandar Seri Begawan Circuit involved a distance of 146 kms which started and ended at Jalan Sultan in the capital.

The BHC Tour de Brunei began on September 7, with Stage 1 - Bandar Seri Begawan to Kuala Belait (stage distance: 149.6 kms). This stage was won by Muhammad Adiq Husainie Othman from Malaysia National Team.

Meanwhile, Stage 2 - Kuala Belait to Tutong (stage distance: 142.7 kms) was won by Anuar Manan from Terengganu Pro-Asia Cycling Team; while Mohamed Harrif Salleh from Terengganu Pro-Asia Cycling Team won Stage 3 - Tutong to Tutong (stage distance: 86.0 kms).

For Stage 4 – Tutong to Bandar Seri Begawan (stage distance: 104.7 kms), the champion went to Mohd Shahrul Mat Amin from Malaysia National Team.

The BHC Tour de Brunei was held for the first time in Brunei Darussalam. It was jointly organised by Brunei Darussalam Cycling Federation, Department of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and supported by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and Brunei Tourism, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.

It was estimated that 1.25 billion household worldwide were able to view the Tour de Brunei 2011 as the delayed telecast of all stages were broadcasted by ESPN Star Sports, Trans World Sports, Sports News TV and local broadcaster, Radio Televisyen Brunei (RTB).

Their Royal Highnesses on official visit to Canada

OTTAWA, CANADA, September 16 - His Royal Highness Crown Prince 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 were in Ottawa, Canada for a two-day official visit. Their Royal Highnesses arrived in Canada on September 15.

Also accompanying Their Royal Highnesses were His Royal Highness Pengiran Muda `Abdul Muntaqim and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolqiah.

His Royal Highness' official visit to Canada began with a visit to Carleton University Ottawa, Canada. At the university, His Royal Highness visited the bio-medical laboratory and

sport and athletic medical clinic; and received a briefing on the function and the role of the facilities.

University of Carleton was established in 1942 and currently offered various courses. In 2010, Times World University Rankings placed University of Carleton on the 10th position as the best university in Canada. Currently, there are three Bruneian studied at the university.

In the afternoon, His Royal Highness made a courtesy call to The Right Honourable David Johnston, the Governor General of Canada. During the call, both stated their satisfactory on the warm bilateral relationship shared

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(Their Royal Highnesses on official visit to Canada)

between Brunei Darussalam and Canada; and discussed on ways to enhance the relationship as well as exchanged views on the regional and international issues of mutual interest. The courtesy call was held at the Government House, Ottawa, Canada.

Prior to, His Royal Highness held a meeting with The Honourable John Baird, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada. During the meeting, His Royal Highness and The Honourable discussed on the bilateral issues particularly on the cooperation in the field of education and economy as well as exchanged views on the regional and international matters.

Accompanying His Royal Highness throughout the visit was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Abdul Qawi.

Meanwhile, in a separate itinerary, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah visited the Canadian Museum of Civilization, Ottawa, Canada.

Located at the Hull Gatineau, Quebec, Canada Museum was established in 1856. It is a very popular destination for tourists from around the world, as well as an important centre for research on the history of Canada, and arts collection.



His Royal Highness mingles with Bruneian students currently studying at the Carleton University Ottawa, Canada.

PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

Their Royal Highnesses on official visit to USA

WASHINGTON D.C, United States of America, September 20 – His Royal Highness Crown Prince 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 were in Washington D.C, United States of America (USA) for a three-day official visit starting September 18 to 20.

Accompanying Their Royal Highnesses were His Royal Highness Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolqiah.

His Royal Highness began the official visit in Washington D.C. with a visit to the George Washington University on September 18. At the university, His Royal Highness was given a presentation on the overview of George Washington University followed by a discussion session.

The George Washington University was created in 1821 and has more than 20,000 students from all 50 states of the United States of America and more than 130 countries. It offers a range of disciplines including forensic science, creative writing, international affairs, computer engineering, medicine, public health, law and public policy.

On the second day, September 19, His Royal Highness visited government institutions in Washington, D.C. and met with senior government officers.

His Royal Highness first visited the Pentagon and held a meeting with Admiral James A. Winnefeld Jr. During the meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction on the relations between Brunei Darussalam and USA in the field of military; and discussed ways to enhance the relationship.

Among other issues discussed were on cooperation in military education and training. Currently, there are a few Bruneian students studying in the United States' Military Academy under the scholarship of the Ministry of Defence.

While at the Pentagon, His Royal Highness also held a meeting with the Deputy Secretary of Defence, Mr. William J. Lynn III and discussed issues on bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and the USA particularly regarding cooperation in the area of defence and exchanged views on regional and international matters.

After the visit to the Pentagon, His Royal Highness went to the Department of Homeland Security to attend a meeting with the Secretary of Homeland Security, Ms. Janet Napolitano and discussed issues on bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and the USA particularly regarding cooperation in the area of security and disaster management.



His Royal Highness during a meeting with Under Secretary for International Affairs, Ms. Lael Brainard held at the Department of Treasury.

PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

On September 20, His Royal Highness visited the Department of Treasury and the Department of State.

His Royal Highness first went to the Department of Treasury and held a meeting with the Under Secretary for International Affairs, Ms. Lael Brainard. The meeting discussed issues on bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and the USA particularly regarding cooperation in the area of finance and exchanged views on regional and international matters.

His Royal Highness then visited the Department of State. The visit started with a luncheon hosted by Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Kurt Campbell. His Royal Highness and Mr. Kurt Campbell expressed satisfaction on the increase of bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and the United States particularly with the beginning of the annual Brunei-US dialogue session during this official visit.

His Royal Highness also held a meeting with the Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. William J. Burns. During the meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction on the warm and friendly relations between Brunei Darussalam and the United States of America and discussed ways to enhance the relationship as well as exchanged views on the regional and international matters of mutual interest and concern.

Also accompanying His Royal Highness throughout the visit was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Abdul Qawi.

Their Royal Highnesses in New York

NEW YORK, United States of America, September 21 – His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah were in New York for 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Accompanying Their Royal Highnesses were Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolqiah.

The General Debate for the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly began on September 21 at the United Nations Headquarters, New York.

On September 21, His Royal Highness as a Personal Representative of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the opening of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly with the theme 'The role of mediation in the settlement of disputes'.

His Royal Highness also attended a luncheon hosted by the United Nations Secretary-General, His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon in honour of Head of States and Governments participating in the 66th Session of the General Assembly.

His Royal Highness also held a meeting with the Prime Minister of Kosovo, His Excellency Hashim Thaçi. Among the issues discussed were the opportunities to establish cooperation between the two countries, and exchanged views on the regional and international issues.

Accompanying His Royal Highness was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Qawi.



Their Royal Highnesses with the President of United States of America, His Excellency Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama at a reception held at the New York Public Library.

His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah attended a reception hosted by the President of United States of America, His Excellency Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama in recognition of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The reception was held at the New York Public Library.

Brunei Darussalam supports mediation through dialogue



His Royal Highness delivers a *sabda* (royal speech) at the General Debate for the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

NEW YORK, United States of America, September 26 – His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, in a *sabda* (royal speech) highlighted the address by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to the General Assembly in 1984 on Brunei Darussalam's commitment towards

mutual respect for territorial integrity and the principles of dialogue and negotiation in dispute settlement.

His Royal Highness made the *sabda* (royal speech) at the General Debate for the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

His Royal Highness also outlined the various challenges of the new century from political, physical, economic to sustainable development. His Royal Highness then reiterated Brunei Darussalam's support to the work of the United Nations, including those institutions of which Brunei is a member, in addressing these challenges.

His Royal Highness expressed support for the ideal of successful mediation which has always been a cherished objective of the United Nations. His Royal Highness, however, said that mediation could not be successful unless involved parties shared common ground.

His Royal Highness also acknowledged the guidance by the United Nations especially in the completion of the Millennium Development Goals. His Royal Highness stated that this guidance would help everyone to achieve the common ground, which was an immense task for the present and future generations.

His Royal Highness The Crown Prince was as the Personal Representative of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to the General Debate for the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Also present was Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah.

While in New York, His Royal Highness held a meeting with Her Excellency Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State of the United States at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York. During the meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction on the warm and friendly relations between Brunei Darussalam and the USA and discussed ways to enhance this relationship, and exchanged views on regional and international matters of mutual interest and concern.

His Royal Highness also held a meeting with His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations at the United Nations Headquarters. Among issues discussed were concerning the United Nations initiatives which are of importance to Brunei Darussalam as well as regional and international matters.

HRH hosts banquet

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 29 – His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office as representative of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam hosted a dinner for Vice Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Hui Liang Yu.

His Excellency and delegation were in the sultanate for a brief stopover to Brunei Darussalam.

Also present was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

His Royal Highness The Crown Prince, His Excellency and Her Royal Highness at the banquet.

HRH attends Commemorative Meeting to celebrate NAM's 50th Anniversary

BELGRADE, Republic of Serbia, September 5 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade was in Belgrade to attend the Official Commemorative Meeting to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). His Royal Highness was accompanied by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Mansurah Izzul Bolkiah.

The meeting was officially opened by President Boris Tadic of the Republic of Serbia and chaired by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mohamed Kamal Amr, of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement. It was attended by more than 100 leaders comprising of NAM's Foreign Ministers and held at the National Assembly of the republic.

His Royal Highness in the evening attended a dinner hosted by President Boris Tadic of the Republic of Serbia at the General Secretariat.

Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah attended a separate dinner for spouses of Heads of Delegations hosted by Ambassador Ivan Mrkic, State Secretary of the Serbian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The dinner was held at Continental Hotel.

Palestine core issue of NAM

BELGRADE, Republic of Serbia, September 6 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade in his *sabda* (royal speech) emphasised that the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) provided a voice for the people.

His Royal Highness also expressed appreciation to the founders of the Movement for the Ten Principals of Bandung which he described as a 'Charter for International Relations'. His Royal Highness also thanked Egypt as the current Chairman for its fine leadership and stated that Palestine was a 'core issue' not only for the movement but also for Brunei Darussalam.

His Royal Highness made the *sabda* at the Official Commemorative Meeting to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of NAM held at the Palace of Serbia.

His Royal Highness also held bilateral meetings at the Serbia Palace with Serbian President, His Excellency Boris Tadic; Serbian Minister of Interior, His Excellency Ivica Dacic; and Bulgarian Foreign Minister, His Excellency Nikolay Mladenov.

In the evening, His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah, accompanied by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah at the Opening Commemorative Meeting to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah delivers a *sabda* (royal speech) at the 50th Anniversary of NAM.

Mansurah Izzul Bolkiah attended a dinner hosted by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Alexander Karadjordjevic of Yugoslavia and Her Royal Highness Princess Katherine at the Royal Palace.

The dinner was attended by Foreign Minister, His Excellency Vuk Jeremic and Mrs Natasa Jeremic.

PHOTOS: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

HRH expressed appreciation on MCYS cooperation to BDNOC

BERAKAS, September 22 – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) in a *sabda* (royal speech) expressed appreciation and gratitude to the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and the Department of Youth and Sports for the cooperation and support given to the BDNOC.

His Royal Highness hoped such cooperation and support will be continuously given in future especially in stimulating the National Sports Policy whereas sports and sports development is a co-responsibility between government and non-government sectors consist of organisations and

associations, youth and sports that runs voluntarily with the roles and responsibilities that need to be adjusted.

His Royal Highness made a *sabda* at a get-together ceremony between BDNOC and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports held at International Convention Centre.

His Royal Highness said the ceremony discussed problems faced by sports associations in the country as well as to discuss the preparations to be made for the country's participation in sports events regionally and internationally to be held this year and in 2012.

Olympic Scholarship for two Brunei athletes



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALLEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah with the two Brunei athletes who have been awarded the London 2012 Olympic Scholarship.

BERAKAS, September 22 – Two Brunei athletes - Dayang Maziah binti Mahusin (athletics) and Chee Wei Lin Anderson (swimming) have been awarded the London 2012 Olympic Scholarship.

In this regard, a signing ceremony between the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) and the athletes and their respective sports associations (Brunei Amateur Swimming Associations and Brunei Amateur Athletics Association) took place at the International Convention Centre.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of the BDNOC, signed on behalf of the BDNOC; while the two athletes signed through their representatives.

The scholarship given by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is the first obtained by local athletes through the Olympic Solidarity Programme through BDNOC. The athletes will receive US\$1,000 each month to help with their training from September 2011 to August 2012.

SOAS Centre for Islamic Studies International Conference

TUNGKU LINK, September 17 - A 'Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Centre for Islamic Studies (SOAS CIS) International Conference' with the theme 'Envisioning the future of the Islamic world in the era of uncertainties: views of scholars' was recently organised.

Present to grace the conference was His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim held at the Chancellor Hall of Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

The event was highlighted with a video presentation on the conference and a presentation by Tan Sri Professor Dr Muhammad Kamal Hassan, advisor to SOAS CIS and a distinguished professor at the International Islamic University, Malaysia.

The three-day conference saw as many as 16 plenary presentations

delivered by scholars from overseas and local scholars. The presenters comprised of scholars, intellectuals, educators, propagators, artists, economists and scientists who are involved directly in the theory and application of Islam.

Organised by SOAS CIS, the conference aimed to identify contemporary aspects and issues in the 'era of uncertainties' that need to be studied academically from the Islamic perspective. It also aimed to strengthen the roles of Islamic scholars and institutions in addressing problems in the community. Other objectives included discussing effective Islamic methods and approaches in facing various aspects and issues experienced by Muslims.



PHOTO: HAJI MOHD. YUSSOF MOHD. YASSIN

His Royal Highness officiates SOAS CIS.

Peace Day Celebration

BERAKAS, September 25 – In conjunction with 'Peace Day 2011', a walkathon – Walk for Peace was held. The walkathon involved 100 participants which started and ended at Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association's Headquarters Building.

"Walk for Peace" intended to remind the community of the importance of peace in the country, and the world. This is to enable everyone to live peacefully and happily without fear of war and in a clean environment. Peace Day is an annual activity of the Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association and is held every September.

In attendance at the celebration was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, the President of the Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association. Also present was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Vice-President of the association.

Ambassador-at-Large attends reception

JERUDONG, September 29 – Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended a reception in conjunction with the 62nd Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China and the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the People's Republic of China and Brunei Darussalam.

The reception took place at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

Since the establishment of the relation, both countries have cooperation in various fields as in the field of the economy.

His Majesty bestows Al-Falaah School's new complex

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 11 – A new complex was bestowed and fully funded by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for Al-Falaah School. This new complex is based at Jalan Sungai Akar where a blessing ceremony upon the completion of the building was held followed by a handing over ceremony of the new building.

At the ceremony, LCY Development Berhad's Contractor, Mr. Francis handed over the key to the Key Consultant of Gemilang Latif Associates, Awang Mahri bin Haji Abdul Latif, who then handed it to the Permanent Secretary for Technical and Professional Matters at the Ministry of Development, Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar, as the Head of the Project Management Group.

His Majesty's Private and Confidential Secretary, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Mohammad Nawawi, as the Chairman of the Al-Falaah School Building Project Steering Committee then received the key and presented the letter to the State Mufti, Pehin Dato Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz who then

handed them over to the Principal of Al-Falaah School, Ustaz Syed Hamid bin Syed Ibrahim.

Al Falaah School offers a comprehensive educational package which encompasses all academic subjects including language, arts, math, social studies, and science. The curriculum is rounded out by physical education, art, health and career planning, and information technology programs. Students are enriched as well as challenged by the program offerings.

A primary objective in teaching Arabic as a Second language at Al Falaah School is to enable students to communicate with verbal and written competence in Arabic according to their respective levels. The student is moved gradually from kindergarten to junior high towards this objective through the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The curriculum presents teaching Arabic as a Second language in an integrated manner where all four language skills are systematically integrated.

Ministers attends receptions



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

Present on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Religious Affairs, Pengiran Dato Dr. Haji Mohammad and spouse attended a reception to celebrate the 81st anniversary of Unification Day of the Republic of Saudi Arabia.

Also present was the Ambassador of the Saudi Arabia, His Excellency Mohamed bin Jameel Abdul Jaleel Hashim.

The reception was held at the Songket Ballroom, Rizqun International Hotel on September 23.



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

Present on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Dr. Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong attended a reception to celebrate the 54th National Day of Malaysia.

Also present was the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Dato' Abdullah Sani bin Haji Omar.

The reception was held at the International Convention Centre, Berakas on September 27.

Call for collective, comprehensive and effective oral care

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 12 – A call was made for a collective effort in together face the challenges and control and monitor matters related to oral health care comprehensively and effectively. In this regard, oral health care should not only be handled by the Department of Dental Services but also in need of cooperation from doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and all related officers in the Ministry of Health. This also includes stakeholders such as patients and all members of the community.

The matters were raised by the Ministry of Health, Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Adanan at the World Oral Health Day 2011 and 10th Anniversary Celebration of the National Dental Centre.

Oral health status in Brunei Darussalam is still at an unsatisfactory level and this causes for concern. Many studies have proven this as one of the public health problems, as the increasing trend and cases have resulted in a heavier burden and negative impact on productivity and socio-economy of the community and nation.

The minister said the National Oral Health research in 1999 showed that 90 per cent of five to six-year-old children in the country had caries and every child aged 12 had an

average five teeth with cavities; and adults aged 35 to 44 had an average 14 teeth with cavities; while more than 80 per cent of 12-year-old children and adults aged 35 to 44, suffered from gum disease that needed treatment.

The minister added that the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through the Ministry of Health had been and will continue to be committed to enhance efforts in carrying out various comprehensive oral health care programmes for all citizens and residents in the country not only by providing treatment but also diverse oral health promotional activities directed towards control and prevention of oral disease.

At the ceremony, the minister also launched four books namely: Memoirs in conjunction with the 10th anniversary of the National Dental Services; Oral Health Promotion Book; Guide Book on Cross-Infection Control in Dental Clinics; and Information on Oral Health.

The World Oral Health Day is celebrated every September 12 as stated by the World Dental Federation (FDI) and the theme for this year is 'Non-Communicable Diseases' which means with limited provision available for dental treatment, prevention is the key to success.

Culture important shape future

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 12 – Understanding one another through culture is one of the keys to accepting, respect, establishing and sustaining good relations towards peace and harmony among mankind.

These were said by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair at 'The Cultural Presentation of Uzbekistan' held at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

The minister also said that culture is the beginning of civilisation besides reflecting social changes during the course of history. Culture also reflects the past besides being an important element in shaping the future.

The Republic of Uzbekistan's cultural performance is the first to be held in Brunei Darussalam. It was not only to enrich the understanding of Uzbekistan but also provided valuable opportunities to continue to organise wider programmes to be included in a concert, arts and handicrafts exhibition and other fields of culture and arts.

The performance was organised by the Republic of Uzbekistan in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. It among others aimed to introduce the people in the country on the Republic of Uzbekistan through art and culture as well as strengthen the relation between both countries.

Minister for Finance (Incorporation) Order, 2011 introduced

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 15 – Ministry of Finance announced that His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam had consented for the order known as Minister of Finance (Incorporation) Order, 2011.

The main objectives of the order is to allocate the minister responsible for financial affairs certified as the one corporate body known as Minister of Finance Corporation which will be under jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance.

Minister of Finance Corporation will function as corporate body that will hold and safeguards the assets and interests of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in government-linked companies.

Towards that, Minister of Finance Corporation will also take over the responsibility on the assets and interests which are currently hold by the Prime Minister Corporation.

The effective date for the order will be determined later by the Ministry of Finance, in which the Minister for Finance Corporation will exercise the powers provided by the establishment on the date.

Brunei committed protect its environment

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 16 – Brunei Darussalam is committed in protecting its environment; and through relevant institutions, it is continuously strengthening its regulations and policies on the management its environment. It is the nation's desire to protect its environment and natural heritage with the aim of possessing an undisturbed environment for its future generations.

The matters were said by Permanent Secretary (Administration and Finance) of Ministry of Development, Awang Haji Mohd. Rozan at the 3rd East Asia Summit Environment Ministerial Meeting.

The Permanent Secretary as the head of Brunei's delegation said that the progress could not be achieved without cooperation and solidarity among ASEAN and its partners. The cooperation and collaboration are vital in the bid to achieve a clean and green environment in our region.

The dialogue session was attended by senior officers from 10 ASEAN member countries namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam as well as representatives from ASEAN Secretariat and the delegates from Japan.

ASEAN concerns on energy security

JERUDONG, September 20 – Energy security remains at the top of the list of common challenges facing ASEAN member countries, with fluctuation in crude oil prices remaining a concern for many economies.

Pehin Dato (Dr.) Haji Yasmin, Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office stated the matters at the Joint Opening Ceremony of the 29th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting, the 8th ASEAN+3 Energy Ministers Meeting, the 5th East Asian Summit Energy Ministerial Meeting (EAS EMM) and the ASEAN Energy Business Forum (AEBF 2011).

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

"There is also growing understanding of the need to endure a sustainable and clean environment through the implementation of various initiatives including new and renewable sources of energy, encouraging the use of more energy efficient vehicles and even developing an industry and economy based on low carbon emission," said Pehin Dato (Dr.) Haji Yasmin.

He further commented that collaborative and

cooperative dialogue between policy makers regionally and internationally, and between policy makers and the main players in the energy sectors (including international energy bodies) are crucial if we were to confront various challenges in the energy sector.

Present at the Joint Opening Ceremony were the Ministers of Energy and senior officials from the ASEAN member countries and their dialogue partners in the East Asia Summit – Energy Ministers Meeting.

The 5th EAS EMM is historic as it also marked the first occasion where ministers are joined by State Secretary, Deputy Minister of Energy of the Russian Federation and a senior representative from the United States of America.

Later, the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation between ASEAN and the International Energy Agency (IEA) took place. ASEAN was represented by His Excellency Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN while his counterpart was Madam Maria van der Hoeven, the Executive Director of International Energy Agency (IEA).

ASEAN Energy Awards

JERUDONG, September 20 – The 29th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting and its associated meetings had managed to cover wide range of areas, including the most current challenges of energy security and the future roles of renewable.

The matters were stated by Pehin Dato (Dr.) Haji Yasmin, Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office during the Gala Dinner and ASEAN Energy Awards of the 29th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting and its associated meetings and activities held at the Indera Samudera Hall of The Empire Hotel and Country Club in Jerudong.

The ministers have had several fruitful discussions leading to an agreement on how further enhancement can be made on the ties cooperation and collaboration that had been built over the years in the energy and energy related sectors, said Pehin Dato (Dr.) Haji Yasmin.

He also expressed happiness on behalf of the ministers with the outcomes of the work that had been faithfully carried out by the various working groups and task forces; and further urged them to double these efforts in the face of the greater challenges that are to come.

Pehin Dato (Dr.) Haji Yasmin also called the awards winners to share their experiences with other organisations and companies, not only in their respective countries but also with others in the regions.

"It is through this mutual sharing of resources and experiences that we draw our greatest strength," added Pehin Dato (Dr.) Haji Yasmin.

Various categories of awards were presented at the ceremony, namely: ASEAN Best Practises Competition for Energy Efficient Building; ASEAN Best Practices Competition for Energy Management in Buildings and Industries; ASEAN Renewable Energy Project Competition; and ASEAN Individual Excellence in Energy Management.

The ceremony were attended by the Minister of Energy, senior energy officials and delegates from ASEAN and their dialogue partners from Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, the Federation of Russia and the United States of America as well as participants of the 2011 ASEAN Energy Business Forum and the Brunei Energy Expo.

Energy White Paper to be launched

JERUDONG, September 22 – Brunei Darussalam will be launching its first Energy White Paper at the end of this year.

The matter was revealed by the Permanent Secretary (Energy Department) at Prime Minister's Office, Dato Paduka Matsatejo Sokiauw to the media at the Brunei Energy Expo (BEE) 2011 held at Brunei International Defence Exhibition (BRIDEX) Hall.

The Energy White Paper is far reaching and it also sets out strategies for energy industry in Brunei.

It has a vision for sustainable energy for Brunei prosperity with a clear mission to drive Brunei's economy well into 2030 and beyond. It defines clear strategic goals and goes even further, with focused key performance indicators (KPI) and stretching targets consistent with Brunei Vision 2035.

Strategic initiatives have been identified that required concerted efforts from all – government, private and non-government sectors. The ultimate goal is to increase energy sector contribution to Brunei's gross domestic product (GDP) from current \$10 billion to \$45 billion in 2030 that will bring social and economic benefits. This is part of the country economic diversification effort that is to sustain and expand what we have today and to develop new sectors in the future.

The backbone of its strategic goals is to strengthen and grow upstream exploration and development activities. It will leapfrog the downstream industry development and

transform the energy service sector to a new level. It wants to put Brunei to become a regional centre of excellence in energy.

In tandem, it calls for public commitment to be more responsible in energy usages whilst ensuring a secure, reliable and efficient supply of energy in the country.

In its bold effort to ensure full alignment of purpose and prioritises for all stakeholders, the Energy White Paper goes further by setting out clear and transparent KPIs and 2030 targets as follows:

1. Sustain reserve replacement ratio of more than one;
2. Double oil and gas production to 800,000 barrels oil equivalent per day;
3. Increase economic output from downstream industry from under \$0.5 billion to more than \$5 billion;
4. Reduce energy intensity by 25 per cent;
5. Improve the reliability of electricity supply by six times;
6. Expand share of renewable in electricity to 10 per cent;
7. Increase local contents in the total energy spending to 60 per cent;
8. Create 50,000 employment opportunities;
9. Produce 5000 Bruneian professionals; and
10. Develop five Bruneian companies to compete regionally.

Call to practise healthy lifestyle

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 25 – Members of community are called to be fully involved and committed in practising healthy lifestyle as ways of daily living in preventing of chronic and non-communicable disease.

The matters were stressed by Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan during officiating the Healthy Mukim Programme for Mukim Gadong 'B' held at Katok Sixth Form Centre.

It is the best step categorised as a cost-effective way, said the minister.

The challenges in ensuring the effectiveness of measures to address chronic and non-communicable disease is not only accountable to the government particularly Ministry of Health but also to all stakeholders including various government and private agencies, non-governmental

organisations (NGOs), grassroots leaders and all people and community in the country, he added.

"Our country is no exception from the threats of chronic diseases like cancer, heart disease, diabetes and stroke which became the leading cause of fatality for more than two decades beginning the 90s until now," said the minister.

These diseases can be avoided by practising and nurturing healthy lifestyle and regularly practise appropriate physical activities.

"The Healthy Mukim Programme is specialised to provide knowledge, increased awareness, warned and involved local community on the importance of healthcare, personal and environmental hygiene and also prevention of chronic diseases by practising healthy lifestyles particularly

doing physical activities regularly, overcoming stress, not smoking and adopting healthy diet," added the minister.

The best and very effective step, stated the minister, is through prevention and also awareness, commitment and highly discipline in managing own healthcare.

Mukim Gadong 'B' was the 17th mukim organising the Healthy Mukim Programme organised by Ministry of Health. At the ceremony, 15 golden citizens from Mukim Gadong 'B' received Healthy Golden Citizen Award.

The two-day programme also involved various activities such as bicyclethon, walkathon and free health screening.

Department of Agriculture and Agrifood signs agreement with Agwest International

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 26 – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood signed a contract of agreement 'The Study of Nutritional Status of Animal and Livestock Feed in Brunei Darussalam' with Agwest International of the Department of Agriculture and Food of Western Australia.

The project aims to support the

development of ruminant livestock such as buffalo, cattle and goat production through production of sustainable animal.

Hence, the signing ceremony for the project was held at the headquarters of the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood, Berakas.

Singing on behalf the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood was its Acting Director, Hajah Aidah binti Haji

Mohd. Hanifah, meanwhile, Agwest International was represented by its consultant, Dr. Steve Sutherland.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dayang Hajah Normah Suria Hayati and the High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mark Sawers.

Brunei-Thailand: Letter of transmittal on broadcasting and information signed

JERUDONG, September 28 – The 10th Joint Technical Committee Meeting under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of The Kingdom of Thailand on Cooperation in the Field of Information and Broadcasting ended with the Signing of Letter of Transmittal.

The event took place at Member's Grill and Lounge, Country Club Building, Empire Hotel and Country Club.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was the Acting Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Awang Haji Amer Hamzah, meanwhile on behalf of The Kingdom of Thailand was the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister, Thailand, Mr. Anek

Permvongseni.

The Acting Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office in his closing remarks expressed his happiness that both on broadcasting and information sides have discussed and agreed on onwards programmes to be implemented. The Acting Permanent Secretary hoped that both sides will take into account the solidarity, friendship, and harmony between the people of two nations.

"We all know that media is the most efficient tool in bringing our two nations together. It is through media that we are able to share diversities around our respective countries that inspire us to do more," said the Acting Permanent Secretary.

Meanwhile, Mr. Anek Permvongseni said that at the closing stage of consultation, on behalf of the Government of The Kingdom of Thailand, expressed his satisfaction at the successful outcome of the

10th Thailand-Brunei Darussalam Joint Technical Committee Meeting.

Mr. Anek also touched on some of the main areas that have been agreed. On the field of broadcasting, both sides agreed to continue the cooperation on news exchange, exchange of radio programmes, exchange of visit by media personnel, and co-production for radio and television.

On the Joint Musical Variety Show, both agreed to carry on this programme with theme 'Hand in Hand, Moving Forward to ASEAN Community'.

Meanwhile, in the field of information, both sides agreed to continue the exchange of publications, exchange of media content through the internet, and exchange of visit by Information and Print Officers.

'Le Tour De Brunei': Promotes Brunei as tourism sports destination

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 6 – The Butra Heidelberg Cement Tour De Brunei 2011 can promote Brunei Darussalam as a tourism sport destination.

This was stated by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair at the welcoming Butra Heidelberg Cement Tour De Brunei 2011 participants.

The minister added the event will also strengthen the nation's capability as a host country to international sports events that not only attracts the athletes and sports enthusiasts but also the tourists to the country.

'Le Tour De Brunei' will be held in Bandar Seri Begawan from September 7 to 11. Some 102 cyclists from 15 teams will take part in the event including Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Indonesia; Iran; Malaysia; Philippines; Netherlands; Singapore; Thailand; Uzbekistan; and Vietnam.

Brunei continues support for peace and stability

RIMBA, September 8 - Brunei Darussalam continues to give its support towards the cause for peace and stability in Philippines by deploying eight personnel from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) in the 8th International Monitoring Team (IMT) mission. The mission is to oversee the ceasefire agreement between the Philippines government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

The contingent was given an official send-off at a ceremony held at Hangar B in Rimba. Present was the Commander of RBAF, Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan.

SEAMEO VOCTECH – CPSC: MoU facilitate and share knowledge, training and research

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 12 – A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed which will further strengthen cooperation in the field of technical and vocational education. This will also include training especially in research and sharing of sources and information. The MoU was between the Regional Centre for Vocational and Technical Education and Training, Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO VOCTECH) Brunei Darussalam and Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) of the Republic of Philippines.

Signing on behalf of SEAMEO VOCTECH Centre was its Director, Awang Alias bin Haji Abu Bakar. Whilst CPSC was represented by its Director General, Dr. Mohammad Naim bin Yaakub.

The signing ceremony was held at SEAMEO VOCTECH Centre.

Pandaruan River: Site for construction of bridge officially opened

TEMBURONG, September 13 – The site for the construction of a bridge across Pandaruan River that will connect Temburong District and Limbang, Sarawak has been officially opened.

In attendance were the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdullah, and Malaysia's Minister of Public Works, Yang Berhormat Dato' Shaziman Abu Mansor.

According to Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdullah, it has become a desire for Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia to construct the bridge. He also stated that no toll charges will be imposed for those using the bridge.

At the ceremony, both ministers signed a plaque marking the official opening of the site, followed by a tour of the project site.

A bridge across Pandaruan River that separates the Temburong District and Limbang, Sarawak will be built in April next year. The proposed bridge measures 200 meters long with a height foyer up to 5.5 metres under the bridge to facilitate passage of ships using the Pandaruan River.

UBD – TelBru: MoU sealed for closer cooperation

TUNGKU LINK, September 19 – A platform has been created for Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and Telekom Brunei Berhad (TelBru) to explore ways to promote the exchange of education and academic through training programmes, workshop, multimedia conference, telecommunications, innovations and leadership.

This was made feasible with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at Core Residential College, UBD in Rimba.

The MoU was signed by the Vice Chancellor of UBD, Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Zulkarnain bin Haji Hanafi and the Acting of Chief Executive Officer of TelBru, Awang Haji Umar Ali bin Haji Abdullah.

Agreement sealed to increase crop production

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 20 – An agreement was sealed between the Agriculture and Agrifood Department, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) and Mitsubishi Corporation of Japan to increase crop production by improving farm management.

Present as signatories to the MoU on the 'Development and Improvement of Agricultural Technology and Practices in Brunei Darussalam' on behalf of the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood was its Acting Director, Dayang Hajah Aidah binti Haji Mohd Hanifah; while Mitsubishi Corporation was represented by the General

Manager of the company's Brunei Project Unit, Mr. Takashi Kuroko.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya.

Brunei Tasek Climbathon 2011

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 25 – The 2nd Brunei Tasek Climbathon 2011 witnessed Philip Ranoh from Kenya becoming the champion with a record time of 28.35 minutes.

The 25-year old Kenyan was the past winner of Brunei Tasek Climbathon 2008. He recorded the fastest time and received USD3500 for completing the challenge for less than 38 minutes, the time set by the organiser.

Other champions include: Guianok Salagan for the Men Veteran Category (40 years above); and Kona Liew for the Women Category. Also receiving prizes were winners of Interschool category.

Prizes were presented by Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair.

The climbathon was organised by Blue Waters Advertising Sendirian Berhad with support from Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and other various government agencies with the mission for promoting an international sporting event in Brunei Darussalam while supporting charity and also to promote sports tourism.

The fund gathered would be channelled to Pusat Ehsan and also be used to train and develop the skills and knowledge of the unemployed.

Committee meeting for evaluation and selection of national athletes

BERAKAS, September 28 – A meeting for the Committee for Evaluation and Selection of National Athletes was held where it discussed Brunei's participation at the 26th SEA Games to be held from November 11 to 22 in Palembang and Jakarta, Indonesia.

In attendance at the meeting was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC). The meeting was held at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium.

The meeting agreed and corroborated a total of 11 events for the games. However, a resolution to recommend athletes and teams depends on five important basic requirements of the athlete which they have to pass a fitness test, have strong discipline, on-going in-training improvement, satisfactory attendance and have the potential to win medals. The decision of recommendation for athletes and teams also depends on approval from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- To realise the National Vision for 2035, Brunei Darussalam has identified eight strategies with reference to different dimensions of development. These strategies are education, economic, security, institutional development, local business development, infrastructure, social security and environment. (Source: Brunei Darussalam MDGs and Beyond: Revisited)
- Brunei Darussalam's literacy rate for women has shown an increase for the past 30 years; that is from 73.3 per cent in 1981 to 84.7 per cent in 1991 and further progressed to 91.5 per cent in 1991; and expected to increase up to 96.0 per cent by 2010. (Source: Brunei Darussalam MDGs and Beyond: Revisited)
- The main countries of destination of Brunei Darussalam's exports in 2009 were Japan, Republic of Korea and Indonesia while the main countries of origin of Brunei Darussalam's imports were Singapore, West Malaysia and United States of America (USA). (Source: Brunei Darussalam Statistical Yearbook 2009)

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