



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam newsletter

Published by the Department of Information
Prime Minister's Office

DECEMBER, 2012
VOLUME 27 ISSUE 12



ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit 2012 Plenary Session of the ASEAN - India Commemorative Summit

NEW DEHLI, INDIA, December 20

- His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Plenary Session of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit 2012 which took place at Durbar Hall, Taj Palace Hotel.

At the Plenary Session, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* (royal speech) thanked Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh, officials and the people of India for hosting the meeting and for the warm hospitality.

His Majesty is confident that there is much more that can be achieved together by further expanding the existing cooperation in political security, economic and socio-cultural areas. There are also much potential in the work on connectivity, which has recently been embarked on together. This will not only bring the people together, but also expand the trade and business network.

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam being greeted by His Excellency Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of the Republic of India.

Brunei - Viet Nam explores cooperation in agriculture, fisheries sectors

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 19 - Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources received a courtesy call from Her Excellency Nguyen Thi Xuan Thu, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. The courtesy call took place at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.

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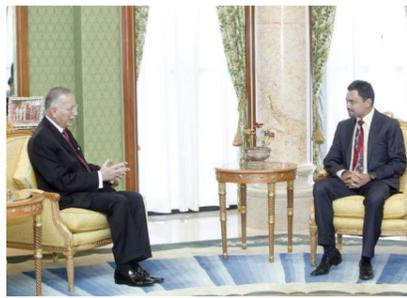
Bilateral relation Qatar - Brunei expanding

JERUDONG, December 21 - Mr. Fahad Ahmad Al-Hammar, Charge d'Affaires Ad Interim of the Qatar Embassy stated that bilateral relation between Qatar and Brunei Darussalam have been expanding with the visit of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of Qatar to Brunei Darussalam recently.

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3. His Majesty receives audiences



4. Crown Prince receives audiences



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7. Royal family meet Brunei citizens in London



8. President of Myanmar's State Visit to Brunei



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13. Signs condolences book for former Indian Prime Minister



14. Delegation from Aceh Besar visits the MoRA



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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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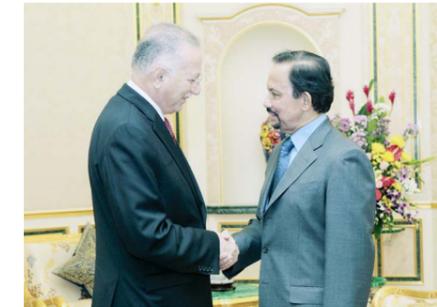
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 Brunei Darussalam

His Majesty receives audiences

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:



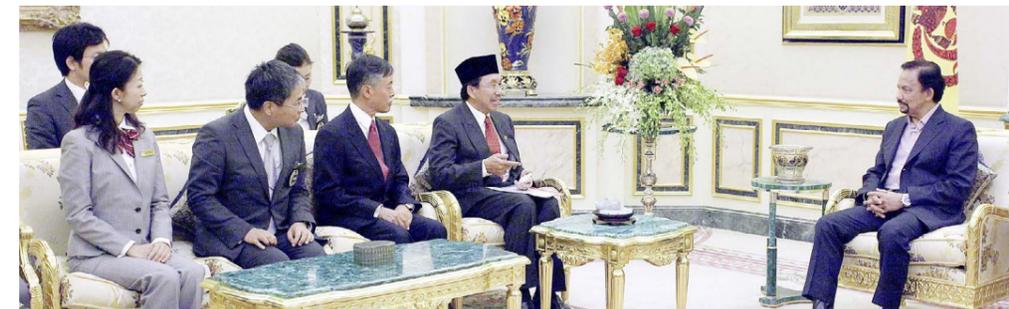
Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Heads of Delegation from countries attending the 7th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology on December 1 (above).



His Excellency Professor Dr. Ekmeleddin Insanoglu, Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on December 1 (right).



The Right Honourable Hugo Swire MP, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on December 10 (above).



Administrator and National Leaders of the 39th Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Programme (SSEAYP) on December 4 (left).

Her Majesty receives audiences

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:



Madame Orieta Del Carmen Ossio Andia, spouse of the High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam on December 5.



Madame Dr. Tahmina Begum, spouse of the High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam on December 5.



Madame Do Quynh Le, spouse of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to Brunei Darussalam on December 15.



Ms. Anisamawati binti Osman, spouse of the Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland on December 15.

Crown Prince receives audiences

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received audiences at Qashr Al-Meezan from:



His Excellency Professor Dr. Ekmeleddin Insanoglu, Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on December 1.



His Excellency Abu Sufian bin Haji Ali, Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland on December 8.



Her Excellency Daw Yin Yin Myint, newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Brunei Darussalam on December 18.



His Excellency Kenichi Suganuma, Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam on December 29.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah receives audiences

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade received audiences at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan from:



His Excellency Professor Dr. Ekmeleddin Insanoglu, Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on December 1.



The Right Honourable Hugo Swire MP, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on December 10.

His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzadin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send congratulatory messages to:

- His Excellency Choummaly Sayasone, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and His Excellency Thongsing Thammavong, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic as well as the government and the people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the occasion of its National Day on December 1.
- His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand on the occasion of His Majesty's 85th birthday on December 4.
- His Excellency Shinzo Abe on the occasion of His Excellency's party in winning the Japanese General Election on December 20.
- Her Excellency Park Geun-Hye on the occasion of the recent appointment of Her Excellency as the President of the Republic of Korea on December 20.
- His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito, Emperor of Japan and His Excellency Yoshihiko Noda, Prime Minister of Japan and the people of Japan on the occasion of His Imperial Majesty's 79th birthday on December 23.
- His Excellency Shinzo Abe on the occasion of His Excellency's recent appointment as the Prime Minister of Japan on December 27.

His Majesty sends condolences message

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzadin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send condolences message to His Excellency Begino Simeon C. Aquino III, President of the Republic of the Philippines, as well as the government and Republic of Philippines following the tragedy of Typhoon Bopha, which struck the Southern Philippines recently on December 10.



ASEAN - India Commemorative Summit 2012

Plenary Session of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* at the Plenary Session of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit 2012.

From front page

His Majesty also expressed appreciation to the Government of India for its continuous support and commitment towards the ASEAN Connectivity Master Plan, and pleased that many of this year's commemorative activities such as the Car Rally and Sudarshini expedition reflected the effort in this area.

His Majesty strongly believes that the finalisation of the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will further intensify trade and investment which will certainly help to achieve the trade target of beyond USD100 billion.

The Plenary Session concluded with the adoption of the Vision Statement of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit that brings future direction in the areas of Political Security, Economy, Socio-Cultural and Development, Connectivity and Regional Architecture.

Prior to the commencement of the Plenary Session, His Majesty and other ASEAN leaders joined the Prime Minister of the Republic of India in a group photo session.

In the evening, His Majesty and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam graced a cultural show and Gala Dinner hosted by His Excellency Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of the Republic of India. The event took place at Rashtrapati Bhawan (President's Palace).

Shortly after the cultural show, Their Majesties proceeded to the stage with other ASEAN leaders as well as the President, Vice President and Prime Minister of the Republic of India and spouses for a group photo with the cultural troupe. Subsequently, Their Majesties proceeded to the Dining Hall for the Gala Dinner.

ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit

21 December, 2012

a partnership for peace and shared prosperity



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam together with other ASEAN Leaders in a group photo.

Ceremonial Flag Down of the ASEAN - India Car Rally 2012



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam holding a flag to be waved during the Ceremonial Flag Down of the ASEAN-India Car Rally 2012.

NEW DELHI, INDIA, December 21 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Ceremonial Flag Down of the ASEAN-India Car Rally 2012 held in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

During the event, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other ASEAN Leaders as well as the Prime Minister of the Republic of India moved forward and waved the flags as the rally cars passed by.

The ASEAN-India Car Rally kicked off to a grand start at the historic city of Yogyakarta, Republic of Indonesia on November 26. The rally traversed a total of 8,000 kilometres across nine countries over 22 days with 124 participants from 11 countries before ending its journey in Guhawati, India, on December 17.

The car rally aimed to demonstrate the close civilisation links with ASEAN nations, creating public awareness, promoting connectivity, and enhancing trade, investment, tourism and people to people links between ASEAN and India region.



One of the cars participating in the Ceremonial Flag Down of the ASEAN-India Car Rally 2012.

Royal family meet Brunei citizens in London



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah and other members of the royal family in a group photo with the recipients of The Chancellor's Scholar Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, December 30 - Students are the pillars for progress and excellence centred on the knowledge and innovation-based economy in line with the country's vision to develop knowledgeable, skillful and civilised citizens and residents.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stated the matter in a *titah* (royal speech) at the meet-and-greet session with the students as well as citizens of Brunei Darussalam in the United Kingdom (UK) and Northern Ireland.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah and other members of the royal family.

Their Majesties were greeted upon arrival by His Excellency Haji Mohd. Aziyan bin Abdullah, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the UK and Northern Ireland, and spouse; and Radin Abdullah bin Radin Mas Basiuni, President of Brunei Students Union in the UK and Northern Ireland (BSUnion).

His Majesty was pleased to note that the academic quality of scholarship recipients which more students were able to pursue their studies at leading universities. His Majesty expressed his regret to note that there are several students who seek away from their bond upon graduation.

His Majesty also stressed the importance of maintaining the Bruneian identity to be brought forward in any place and must be portrayed with pride in all circumstances and places.

The event began with the recitation of Al-Quran verses and a *Doa Selamat* by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, State Mufti as well as a welcoming speech by the President of BSUnion.

In his welcoming speech, the President of BSUnion stated that there are 1,427 students of Brunei are currently studying in the UK and Northern Ireland under Brunei scholarship. From the



His Majesty during the meet and greet session with the citizens and residents of Brunei in the United Kingdom (UK) and Northern Ireland.

total, 430 are sponsored by the Brunei Shell Petroleum Sendirian Berhad, Brunei Shell Tankers Sendirian Berhad and Brunei Gas Carriers Sendirian Berhad, while 187 comprised of government staff on in-service scheme.

According to Radin Abdullah, BSUnion is preparing a White Paper that highlights the Union's new objectives that befits its status as a national governing body for all of Brunei Student unions in UK.

"The White Paper features three major components: union policy making procedures, new services and intellectually-oriented activities," said Radin Abdullah.

For 2011/2012 academic year, 32 students have attained first class results for their bachelor degrees in various fields. While for the academic year 2012/2013, 191 have pursued post-graduate studies and three at doctorate level.

At the event, His Majesty awarded The Chancellor's Scholar Universiti Brunei Darussalam to three local PhD students, namely Dayangku Nuramalina Hakimah binti Pengiran Haji Mumin, who is pursuing her PhD in Oncology at the University of Oxford; Lim Chai Hoon @ Nicole doing her PhD in Chemistry at the University of Cambridge and Nurul Huda binti Haji Ramli, who is doing her PhD in Mathematics at University College London.

Prior to leaving, Their Majesties together with other members of the royal family consented to meet and greet with more than 2,800 citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam who are currently in the UK and Northern Ireland.

President of Myanmar's State Visit to Brunei



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency U Thein Sein during the bilateral meeting.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 5 - His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar values the close diplomatic relations with Brunei Darussalam that was established since 1993.

His Excellency U Thein Sein made the above statement in his speech at the State Banquet held in honour of His Excellency's three-day state visit from December 3 to 5.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* (royal speech) stated that the visit of His Excellency will certainly expand the mutual business, trade and investment opportunities particularly in oil exploration.

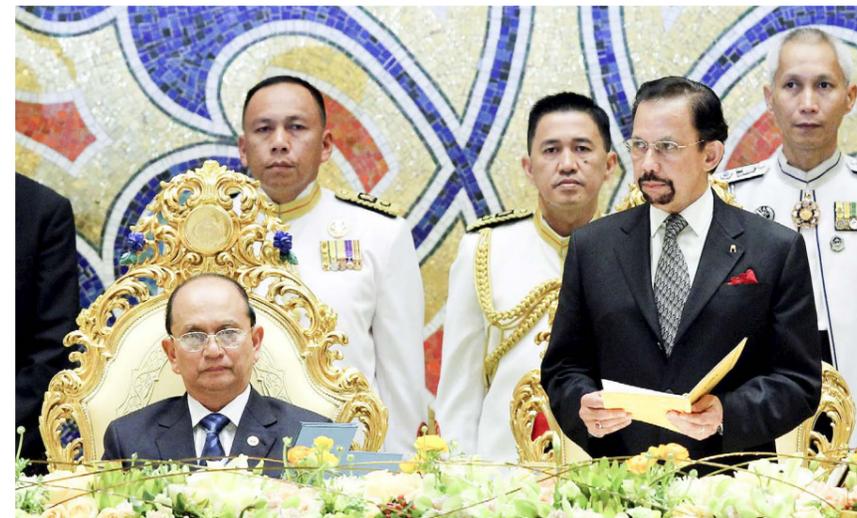
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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam together with His Excellency U Thein Sein during the audience ceremony.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar inspecting the Guard of Honour mounted by the Royal Brunei Land Forces.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the State Banquet held in honour of His Excellency U Thein Sein's State Visit.

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His Majesty added that Brunei Darussalam and Myanmar will work together with other ASEAN partners in realising the goal towards the formation of ASEAN Community by 2015.

Prior to the State Banquet, His Majesty welcomed the arrival of His Excellency at the Istana Nurul Iman on December 4. Both leaders went on the dais for the Salute of Honour, which was accompanied by the national anthems of both countries and proceeded to inspect the Guard of Honour. His Excellency was then introduced to the members of the royal family, state dignitaries, cabinet ministers, deputy ministers, diplomats, and senior officials.

Meanwhile, His Majesty was introduced to the members of delegation of His Excellency. The delegation included His Excellency U Hyat Oo, Head of the Pyithu Hluttaw's Citizens' Fundamental Right Democratic Affairs and Human Rights Committee; His Excellency U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs; His Excellency U Soe Maung, Union Minister at the President's Office; His Excellency Lieutenant General Thet Naing Win, Commander-in-Chief at the Ministry of Defence; and Her Excellency Yin Yin Myint, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Brunei Darussalam as well as senior officials from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Both leaders then proceeded for an audience ceremony at the Cheradi Laila Kenchana. Present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and the Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade; His Royal Highness

with His Excellency at the Cheradi Ratna Kenchana. Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and the Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

During the three-day state visit, His Excellency visited the UBD-IBM Centre, established by Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and International Business Machines (IBM) Corporation for collaboration in regional climate and weather modelling at the UBD. His Excellency then visited the UBD Global Classroom at the UBD Technology Hub.

His Excellency also visited the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital, where he took a closer look at the medical services facilities provided by the government.

At the end of the visit, His Excellency and his delegation held a photo session and interacted with medical officers and nurses of Myanmar who serves at the RIPAS Hospital.

Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade as well as other members of the royal family.

His Majesty then held a bilateral meeting



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam converses with the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.



Also in attendance at the audience ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and the 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 Jefri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

Inter-Ministry Golf Tournament

JERUDONG, December 9 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office presented prizes to the winners of the Inter-Ministry Golf Tournament on the occasion of the 19th Civil Service Day. The event was held at the Royal Brunei Golf and Country Club.

The arrival of His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah was greeted by Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Wahab bin Juned and Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Deputy Ministers at the Prime Minister's Office, as well as the members of the golf tournament committee.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) won the tournament with a score of 598. While, second and third went to the Ministry of Education and Prime Minister's Office respectively.

Haji Mohd. Som bin Haji Ali from the Ministry of Culture, Youths and Sports was declared champion of the Best Nett category with 70 Nett, while Omar bin Asmat from MoHA won the Gross category with 76 Gross.

The winner for Division A went to Haji



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office presenting a prize to Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Home Affairs.

Omar bin Haji Baha from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade with 73 on count black (OCB); Division B winner was Haji Md. Lufti bin Haji Abdullah with 71 OCB; and Division C winner was Haji Saidi bin Haji Ahmad with 70 OCB.

As the representative of the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Wahab bin Juned won first prize for the VVIP category.

Consolation prizes went to Md. Azmi Ashadi bin Haji Jawawi, Ministry of Defence for securing the nearest to line category in hole number 1; winner of the longest drive in hole number 17 went to Nujaimi bin Haji Jumat, Prime Minister's Office; and the winner for the nearest to pin in hole number 3 went to Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Wahab bin Juned, Prime Minister's Office.

Crown Prince presents awards to ICT innovators



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office presenting prize to one of the APICTA's winner.

JERUDONG, December 5 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office attended the Asia Pacific ICT Alliance (APICTA) Awards 2012 held at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

Also present was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

Upon arrival, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah was greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdullah bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Minister of Communications.

In his welcoming speech, the Minister highlighted the new features in APICTA this year, whereby judges used a new scoring system - created by a Bruneian company. The scoring system has enhanced the features of previous scoring system and will continue to be used in APICTA in the coming year.

His Royal Highness then presented prizes to the winner of the APICTA's 17-category contest.

The Viet Nam National Institute of Software and Digital Content Industry (NIZCI) received the Special Mention prize for its product, Sensors Monitoring System by iDragon Clouds (SMS-IDS). While, Brunei's Chung Hwa Middle School won the Secondary Student Project Category for its product called Brunei Treasure. Brunei's organisations also won Merit Awards for their entries in the e-Government, e-Learning, e-Logistic and Supply Chain Management, and Tourism and Hospitality categories.

APICTA 2012 involved the participation of 153 contestants, 16 of which came from Brunei.

The annual contest enables participants from 16 nation-states and non-sovereign territories to enhance their experience and networking in addition to provide a venue that acts as the regional benchmark in ICT innovation.



Minister of MoFAT graces Official Opening Ceremony of the OVOP/OTOP



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade attending the Official Opening Ceremony of the 'One Village, One Product/One Tambon One Product' (OVOP/OTOP).

BANGKOK, THAILAND, December 16 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MoFAT) attended a special event organised by the government of the Kingdom of Thailand in conjunction with His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand's 84th birthday celebration and 10th anniversary of the 'One Village, One Product/One Tambon One Product' (OVOP/OTOP) project on December 13.

The ceremony Official Opening Ceremony of the OVOP/OTOP was officiated by Her Excellency Yingluck Shinawatra,

Prime Minister of Thailand. The event was held at the IMPACT Exhibition and Convention Centre, Thailand.

On December 16, His Royal Highness graced a Gala Dinner held in conjunction with the Official Opening Ceremony of the OVOP/OTOP, which was hosted by His Excellency Kittirat Na-Ranong, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Thailand, on behalf of Her Excellency Yingluck Shinawatra.

OVOP/OTOP is one of Thailand's prestigious entrepreneurship programmes that have been established to enhance local product quality and marketing.

Launching of the 3rd TechXpo

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 1 - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade officiated the 3rd TechXpo at the International Convention Centre.

The highlight of this year's event was an eight-foot height robot named Titan, that can sing and dance, and has toured several nation-states. The expo featured 80 companies and institutions from local and abroad that focused on education and information associated with technology.

A showcase of educational activity, 'Innovative Learning is Fun!' introduced by the Science Technology Environment Partnership (STEP) Centre of the Ministry of Education also participated at the expo.

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Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade at the launching of the 3rd TechXpo at the International Convention Centre.

Launching of the 3rd TechXpo



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien touring the 3rd TechXpo exhibition.



private sector.

The TechXpo supported by the Prime Minister's Office; Ministry of Communications; Ministry of Education; and the Authority for Info-communications Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam (AiTi), aimed at bringing together local and foreign entrepreneurs to expand their business network and find potential partners.

The first TechXpo was held in 2010.

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Also attending the ceremony was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources in his capacity as the Acting Minister of Communications; Abdul Ghani Pengiran Haji Metusin, Chairman of the InfoCom Federation Brunei (IFB) as the organiser of the 3rd TechXpo; as well as Permanent Secretaries, foreign representatives in the country, Deputy Permanent Secretaries, senior officials of the government and

Soft computing contributes various tech industries

TUNGKU, December 11 – Soft computing and Pattern Recognition is important and emerging field that has made a direct impact on innovations contributing to the success of multinational giants such as Microsoft, Apple, Oracle, Hewlett Packard and others.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdullah bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Minister of Communications said that Brunei Darussalam's involvement in the field will definitely contribute to a wide range of high tech industries in the future.

The Minister in his speech during the International Conference on Soft Computing and Pattern Recognition 2012 (SoCPaR 2012) said that the conference which was held at The Core, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) enabled researchers in the UBD along with key industry partners in Brunei to engage directly with their international collaboration particular with United State and European Union (EU) industries and related projects under MIR Labs.

The Minister also made to understand that MIR Labs has identified the needs of establishing such collaboration for this region, particularly for the rising economy in the ASEAN region, thus making a big impact on research in UBD and related industries worldwide.

The results obtained from SoCPaR 2012, added the Minister, will give a great influence to the scientific community and also help in producing a knowledge-based economy in Brunei Darussalam.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdullah bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Minister of Communications listening to speakers at the conference.

Present at the conference was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Mu'min ibni His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah.

More than 30 speakers from different countries would be addressing significant achievement on designing and implementation of computing platforms for global needs and humanity.

SoCPaR 2012 will address key challenges and state-of-the-art new development of society friendly computing platform that will allow the automation in industries applicable in the real world.

Brunei - Thailand relationship straighten

BERAKAS, December 3 - Brunei Darussalam and Kingdom of Thailand have established 25 years of official diplomatic mission since January 1, 1984.

This was noted by His Excellency Phithak Phrombubpha, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam

in his speech at the auspicious 81st birthday celebration of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand which was held at the International Convention Centre.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Haji Awang Abdul

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Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, Second Minister of Finance at the Prime Minister's Office attended the event as a representative of the Government of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The event saw the cake-cutting ceremony by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim and His Excellency Phithak Phrombubpha.

His Excellency in his speech stated to carry out his responsibilities as the representative of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam and will further expand cooperation in the field of diplomatic, trade, education, labour, defence, broadcasting and information.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, Second Minister of Finance and His Excellency Phithak Phrombubpha, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam during the cake-cutting ceremony.

His Excellency also pointed out the countries.

official visit by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to the Kingdom of Thailand to attend 60th celebration of King Bhumibol's on the throne has further deepened the relationship between the two

Meanwhile, Prime Minister His Excellency Yingluck Shinawatra's visit to Brunei Darussalam last July also spoke of the enhanced bilateral ties between the two countries.

Signs condolences book for former Indian Prime Minister



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Awang Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade signing the condolence book for late Prime Minister of India.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 5 – The India High Commission to Brunei Darussalam has opened a condolence book to be signed by public at its embassy in Kampung Sungai Akar.

The condolence book is for Inder Kumar Gujral, the late Prime Minister of India who was born on December 4, 1919 in Jhelum town. He was the 12th Prime Minister of India since April 21, 1997 to March 18, 1998.

Signing on behalf of the Government of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Awang Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Also signing the condolence book were foreign diplomats in the country.

Minister of Home Affairs receives courtesy calls



Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, Minister of Home Affairs receives courtesy call from His Excellency Mohammed Abdul Hye, High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, receives courtesy call from and His Excellency Kenichi Suganuma, Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam.

Brunei Darussalam.

The courtesy calls which took place at the Ministry of Home Affairs' building were made to foster better understanding and cooperation between both countries and also to serve as an opportunity to exchange views and information over important issues for both nations.

Bilateral relation Qatar - Brunei growing

From front page

In the visit, various Memorandums of Understanding covering cooperation in several areas were signed.

Mr. Fahad Ahmad Al-Hammar made the statement at the National Day reception for the State of Qatar which was held at the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, and spouse.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports and Mr. Fahad Ahmad Al-Hammar, Charge d'Affaires Ad Interim of the Qatar Embassy during the cake-cutting ceremony.



Delegation from Aceh Besar visits the MoRA



Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar, Acting Minister of Religious Affairs with the delegation of Himpunan Ulama Hidayah or Pimpinan Pondok Pesantren Kabupaten Aceh Besar during the courtesy call.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 19 – Thirteen delegations of Himpunan Ulama Hidayah or Pimpinan Pondok Pesantren Kabupaten Aceh Besar, religious scholars from Aceh made a courtesy call to Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar, Acting Minister of Religious Affairs. The delegation led by Mukhlis Basyah, Regent of Aceh Besar is in the country for a three-day visit.

The Acting Minister welcomed the delegation to Brunei

Darussalam, particularly to the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA), in its agenda to gain knowledge in the field of Islamic studies to improve the existing Islamic school system.

The Acting Minister hoped that the visit will be a source of inspiration for both parties to seek and carry out their responsibilities especially in facing the ever-expanding technological advances.

Brunei - Viet Nam explores cooperation in agriculture, fisheries sectors

From front page

The working visit is a follow up from recent State Visit by His Excellency Truong Tan Sang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, who has indicated among others the possibility of cooperation and collaboration in the fields of agriculture and fisheries through programmes of capacity building, technical assistance, consultancy and investment opportunities.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Minister of Industry and Primary and Her Excellency Nguyen Thi Xuan Thu, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam during the courtesy call.



Brunei - Korea enhance defence cooperation

SEOUL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, December 4 – Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat, Deputy Minister of Defence made an official visit to Republic of Korea to further enhance cooperation between both countries.

During the visit, the Deputy Minister paid a courtesy call to His Excellency Lee Young Geol, Vice Minister of National Defence of Republic of Korea. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the positive and cordial defence relations between Brunei Darussalam and Republic of Korea (ROK).

Both leaders strongly recommended establishing formal defence cooperation in the form of Memorandum of Understanding.

It is hoped that this will pave the way for cooperation especially in the field of science and technology, defence industry and exchange visits.

In the agenda of the meeting, both countries also discussed on the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and ADMM-Plus meeting. The Deputy Minister of Defence also extended an invitation to the ROK to attend the ADMM-Plus to be held in Brunei Darussalam in August 2013.

They also discussed on Brunei Darussalam's hosting the first ADMM-Plus Human Assistance and Disaster Relief Military

Medicine (HADR/MM) Exercise that will be held in June 2013.

ROK assured of its support for Brunei Darussalam's ADMM chairmanship, and concurred to increasing the frequency of the ADMM-Plus Meeting from three years to two years, in line with the dynamic regional security situations.

The Deputy Minister also extended the invitation to the ROK's Ministry of National Defence and the country's defence industry for the 4th BRIDEX in 2013.

Both leaders continued their discussion during the working lunch hosted by His Excellency Lee Young Geol.

During the two-day visit, the Deputy Minister also visited the War Memorial of Korea in Yongsangu.

The Deputy Minister also met His Excellency Kim Tae Young, former Defence Minister of ROK, who was invited as the keynote speaker during the BRIDEX Conference held in Brunei Darussalam in 2011.

Brunei Darussalam established diplomatic relations with ROK in 1984 and the defence relations between the two countries have been positive, bilaterally and multilaterally, including exchange of visits (defence exhibition) and ship visits.

OIC committed empowering women



Yang Mulia Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Adina binti Othman, Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports delivering her speech at the conference.

JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, December 6 – In line with the teachings and aspiration of Islam to uplift the status of women, the effort undertaken by the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) is relevant in strengthening the role of women in promoting and enhancing the development and participation of women in the development of *ummah* including in the field of economy.

This was said by Yang Mulia Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Adina binti Othman, Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports at the 4th OIC Ministerial Conference on the role of women in development for OIC countries which was held December 4-6.

As one of the Islamic state, Brunei Darussalam welcomed the continuous

efforts undertaken by OIC towards achieving the aspiration.

Thus, various efforts made by Brunei Darussalam to enhance the status of women whereby women in Brunei Darussalam have made progress in many fields.

The steps are in line with the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW).

Being a small population and close to half of the population are women, Brunei Darussalam realised the importance to use and develop all human resources to achieve growth and sustainable development.

This is because the involvement of women in the country's development is crucial, not only in the human rights and social justice but also to initiate towards the socio-economic development of the nation.

Therefore, a special committee on women issues that was established had been approved by the national action plan on women and family institution.

Among the issues included in the action plan were legal, policy, economy, education, health and work-life harmony.

With the theme, 'Strengthening the Participation and Role of Women in

Economic Development in OIC Countries', was officiated by His Excellency Professor Dr. H.Boediono, Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia as representative of President of Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

A total of 172 participants from 43 OIC countries attended the conference chaired by Her Excellency Linda Amalia Sari Gumelar, Minister of Women Empowerment and Child Protection of the Republic of Indonesia.

Though OPAAW has been agreed upon at the 2nd OIC meeting in 2008, but for Brunei Darussalam, several advancements and developments have been achieved by women in the country in the field of education, health, employment, participation in decision-making process and protection in any sorts of abuse and domestic violence.

In education, Yang Mulia Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Adina said, the Mandatory Education Order 2007 required all children to go to school and the Mandatory Religious Education Order which requires children to attend religious school will take effect in January 2013.

In the tertiary education, more female student enrolled than male and according to Global Gender Gap report 2012, Brunei Darussalam has been ranked 11th globally

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in the participation of women in tertiary education.

In employment, there has been an increase in the number of women with the ratio of 62 female to 78 male. Female workers receive the same salary as male and Brunei Darussalam has been placed in the 35th position in terms of the involvement of women in law, management and holding of

senior positions.

The conference has approved the 'Jakarta Declaration' which, among others, outlines the commitment of member countries towards empowering women, including in the fields of economy, education, health, employment and training, especially in efforts to eradicate poverty.

Sustain, develop minerals



The 12th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Minerals (ASOMM) and 5th ASOMM Plus Three Consultation.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 5 – ASEAN Member States need to realise how the era is so much different than before.

The environment with much turbulence and high unpredictability force the need to be readily resilient with high creativity and innovativeness to face various challenges affecting ASEAN states indirectly, in relation to minerals at whatever culture and background endeavour.

Awang Haji Muhammad Lutfi bin Abdullah, Permanent Secretary (Administration and Finance) at the Ministry of Development highlighted the matter during the 12th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Minerals (ASOMM) and 5th ASOMM Plus Three Consultation which was held at Gadong.

According to Awang Haji Muhammad Lutfi, the minerals also foresee as our resourceful reserves that need to have proper expertise not only in sustaining them but also in developing minerals as factors that may contribute to add value to the socio-economic as well as to foresee the kind of potential

investments.

In this regard, the Permanent Secretary further added, the progress and achievement of ASEAN Member States' initiatives on minerals have been possible with the support and guidance from those who have been long in the sector.

Awang Haji Muhammad Lutfi also hoped that all countries remain committed to work together to successfully realise the meeting.

Brunei Darussalam host the two-day meeting from December 5-6.

More than 40 foreign delegates participated the meeting along with seven delegates from Brunei Darussalam.

The purpose of the meeting is to seek support from the three non-member countries on identified measures and projects proposed and recognised by ASEAN member countries during the Working Group Meeting held from September 26-27, in order to procure an effective implementation by ASEAN member countries.





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