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The 16th Annual Leaders' Consultation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia

PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA BINI THAJI OTHMAN



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 Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia witness the Exchange of Documents Pertaining to the Agreement on Economic Cooperation between Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam.

PUTRAJAYA, MALAYSIA, September 4 - The 16th Annual Leaders' Consultation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia was held in Putrajaya, Malaysia.

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 held four eyes meeting with Yang Amat Berhormat

Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia at Malaysia's Prime Minister's Office.

After the meeting, His Majesty and Yang Amat Berhormat proceeded to the Multipurpose Hall, Perdana Putra Building to witness the Ceremony for Exchange of Documents Pertaining to the Agreement on Economic Cooperation between Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam.

The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was represented by Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, while for Malaysian Government was Yang Berhormat Dato' Mukhriz Tun Mahathir, Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry.

After the ceremony, both leaders proceeded to the Perdana Meeting Room for a briefing on the Greater Kuala Lumpur/ Klang Valley Initiatives by the Performance Management and Delivery Unit (PEMANDU) by Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Idris Jala, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, who is also the Chief Executive Officer of PEMANDU.

Afterwards, His Majesty consented to proceed to Seri Perdana where His Majesty was greeted by the Yang Amat Berhormat Prime Minister of Malaysia and his spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Sri Rosmah Mansor; Yang Amat Berhormat Tan Sri Dato' Muhyiddin Yassin, Deputy Prime Minister; and Yang Amat Berbahagia Puan Sri Norainee Abdul Rahman, spouse of the Deputy of Prime Minister.

His Majesty and Yang Amat Berhormat then proceeded to the Blue Room.

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His Majesty attends 20th APEC

VLADIVOSTOK, RUSSIA, September 8 - 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 Retreat Session One of the 20th Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders Meeting held at the Far Eastern Federal University, Russky Island, Vladivostok.

During the session, Leaders focused their discussion on issues related to furthering trade and investment liberalisation; regional economic integration; and establishing reliable supply chains.

APEC Leaders at the session, among others, deliberated on efforts and initiatives undertaken by APEC this year aimed at achieving the Bogor Goals and establishing a Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific as a major instrument to further APEC's regional economic integration agenda. APEC Leaders also discussed on measures to achieve an APEC-wide target of a 10 per cent improvement in supply-chain performance by 2015.

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PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAUD

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency Vladimir Putin the President of Federal of Russia.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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1. The 16th Annual Leader's Consultation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia



4. Her Majesty receives audiences



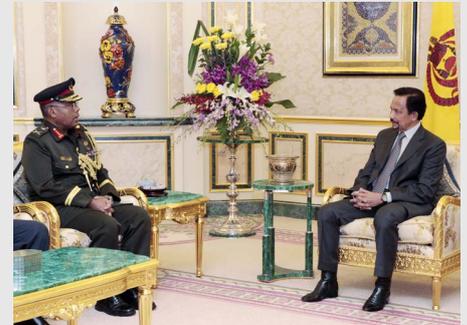
7. Their Majesties host banquet



9. Five receives Sultan's scholar



11. Royal Wedding of Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Muhammad Ruzaini



3. His Majesty receives audiences



6. Joint Statement on the 16th Annual Leaders' Consultation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia



8. Knowledge Convention 2012



10. 49th RBAF Officers receive promotions insignias

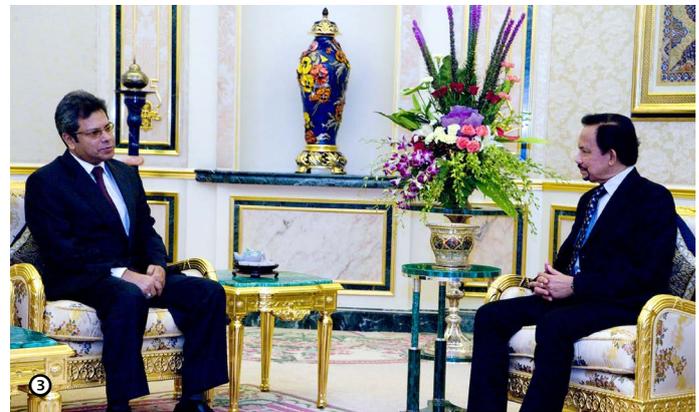
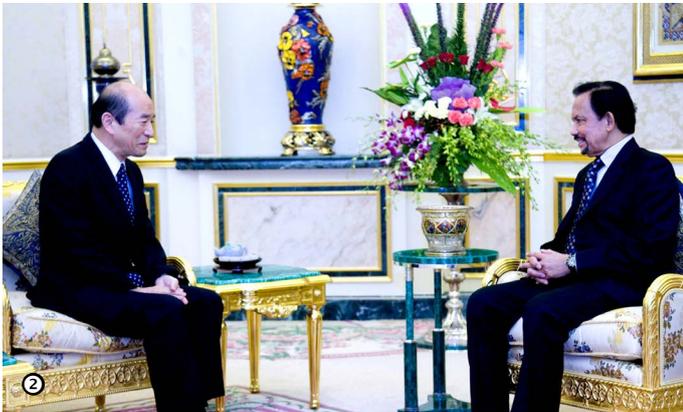


14. Compulsary Religious Education Order 2012 to be enforced

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, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) received audiences at Istana Nurul Iman from:

- ❶ His Excellency Lieutenant General Abdul Wadud, Principal Staff Officer (PSO) to the Prime Minister, Armed Forces Division of Bangladesh on September 5.
- ❷ His Excellency Noriki Hirose, the Outgoing Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam on September 10.
- ❸ His Excellency M. Shameen Ahsan, the Outgoing High Commissioner of People's Republic of Bangladesh on September 10.



His Majesty receives credentials

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 credentials at Istana Nurul Iman on September 29 from:

- ❶ His Excellency Nguyen Truong Giang, the newly-appointed Ambassador of the Republic Socialist of Viet Nam to Brunei Darussalam.
- ❷ His Excellency Todd Norman Mercer, the newly-appointed High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam.



His Majesty receives credentials

- 3 His Excellency Roland Christian Grafe, the newly-appointed Ambassador of Federation of German to Brunei Darussalam.
- 4 His Excellency Mohammed Abdul Hye, the newly-appointed High Commissioner of People's Republic of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam.



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 Istana Nurul Iman from:

- 1 Madam Begum Shamsun Nahar, wife of Principal Staff Officer (PSO) to the Prime Minister, Armed Forces Division of Bangladesh, His Excellency Lieutenant General Abdul Wadud on September 5.
- 2 Madam Momtaz Ahsan, wife of His Excellency M. Shameen Ahsan, the Outgoing High Commissioner of People's Republic of Bangladesh on September 8.

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- ③ Madam Sumiko Hirose, the wife of His Excellency Noriki Hirose, the Outgoing Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam on September 8.



Crown Prince receives audiences

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

- ① His Excellency Noriki Hirose, the Outgoing Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam on September 8.
- ② His Excellency M. Shameen Ahsan, the Outgoing High Commissioner of People's Republic of Bangladesh on September 10.



Congratulatory Messages

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 send congratulatory messages to:

- The President of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, His Excellency Truong Tan Sang and the Prime Minister of Socialist of Viet Nam, His Excellency Nguyen Tan Dung, as well as the government and people of Viet Nam in conjunction with the republic's 67th National Day on September 1.
- His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as the royal family, the government and the people of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of the Kingdom's National Day on September 23.

Joint Statement on the 16th Annual Leaders' Consultation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia

PUTRAJAYA, MALAYSIA, September 4 - The joint statement on the 16th Annual Leaders' Consultation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia among others include discussion on overall bilateral relations, in particular the progress of the implementation of the Exchange of Letters signed by the Leaders of Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam on March 16, 2009 in Bandar Seri Begawan (BSB), and welcomed the significant achievements attained since the 15th Annual Leaders' Consultation held in BSB on September 12, 2011.

Other statement includes the leaders expressed satisfaction with on-going efforts to intensify economic cooperation between Sabah and Brunei Darussalam, particularly the signing of the Heads of Terms Agreement relating to the Keningau Integrated Livestock Centre between The Sabah Economic Development and Investment Authority (SEDIA) and Annam Corporation on June 16, 2012, and the Memorandum of Understanding relating to ICT Collaboration and Communication Infrastructure between the Government of Brunei Darussalam and the State Government of Sabah on July 10, 2012.

The leaders were encouraged that the collaboration in ICT infrastructure would also contribute to enhancing the implementation of the BIMP-EAGA Rink.

In the statement, both leaders commended the Joint National Committee on the Implementation of the Exchange of Letters for the significant progress achieved thus far and urged the committee to intensify its efforts in finalising the other elements of the Exchange of Letters currently being deliberated as soon as possible.

Both leaders also encouraged the Joint National Committee to continue discussion in other matters such as fisheries cooperation that would enhance beneficial collaboration between the two countries.

Furthermore, both leaders welcomed the signing of agreement between the Government of Malaysia and the Government of Brunei Darussalam on Economic Cooperation on September 2, 2012 in Kuala Lumpur as an important umbrella instrument for comprehensive economic collaboration between the two countries.

At the same, the leaders expressed hope that it would pave the way for an early finalisation of the proposed agreement on the financial services sector as well as more extensive trade and investment between the two countries.

In the joint statement, the Prime Minister of Malaysia welcome Brunei Darussalam's participation in Malaysia's economic corridor in Sabah, Sarawak, Iskandar Malaysia, and the East Coast Economic Region. Besides, Brunei Darussalam was welcomed to invest in the Greater Kuala Lumpur / Klang Valley Initiatives as well as the redevelopment initiatives of Kampong Bharu, Kuala Lumpur. In regard to this, both leaders urged the relevant agencies to look into potential opportunities offered by the initiatives.

The Prime Minister also very much appreciated His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's interest in the methodology behind Malaysia's Government and Economic Transformation Programmes (GTP and ETP).



His Majesty with Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia during the one-to-one meeting.

Meanwhile, His Majesty expressed appreciation to the Prime Minister for the participation of Malaysian companies in projects under the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) and the Brunei Industrial Development Authority (BINA) and also encouraged their involvement in other development projects.

Both leaders also welcomed on-going efforts aimed at enhancing connectivity and cooperation in the field of transportation that could further improve communication and movement of people as well as goods between the two countries.

In this regard, the leaders were pleased with the progress of the construction of the bridge spanning the Pandaruan River, and look forward to its timely completion and officiate its opening by the next Annual Leaders' Consultation in 2013.

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The 16th Annual Leaders' Consultation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia

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Both leaders then proceeded to Protocol Dining Hall, Seri Perdana Complex, Persiaran Seri Perdana, Putrajaya for a Luncheon hosted by the Prime Minister. Also present were the wife of Prime Minister, Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Sri Rosmah Mansor; Yang Amat Berhormat Tan Sri Dato' Muhyiddin Yassin, Deputy Prime Minister and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Puan Sri Norainee Abdul Rahman.

Also present were Yang Amat Berhormat Pehin Sri Dr. Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, Chief Minister of Sarawak; Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Seri Panglima Musa Haji Aman, Chief Minister of Sabah; several cabinet ministers and senior officials from both countries.

Later in the afternoon, His Majesty visited Grand Hyatt Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

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Furthermore, both leaders were also encouraged by on-going initiatives and measures in promoting better access for people-to-people interaction and travel between the countries and expressed pleasure with the on-going cooperation between the Defence Forces of the two countries in promoting regional peace and stability.

Also stated in the joint statement was both leaders acknowledgment on the importance of greater cooperation in the field of education to promote excellence and best practices in education and learning, as well as friendship and understanding between the peoples of the two countries.

The Prime Minister of Malaysia expressed appreciation for the continued and consistent participation of Brunei Darussalam in Sukan Malaysia (SUKMA) since 1996.

Both leaders also expressed satisfaction on the outcome of the 6th Bilateral Ministers of Health Meeting on

June 26, 2012 in Bandar Seri Begawan and happiness on the existing collaboration in media and information and valued the programmes and activities organised by the relevant authorities of both countries in enhancing mutual goodwill and understanding between the peoples of Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam.

Also considered is the cooperation in the fields of ICT as an effective means to promote collaboration in research and development between creative industries from Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam. The leaders urged relevant authorities in both countries to conclude a MoU on Information and Communication Technology before the next Annual Leaders' Consultation in 2013.

Both leaders acknowledged the importance of the exchange of visits between peoples of the countries at all levels and supported the various exchange programmes.

Both leaders also discussed the proposal for the establishment of the

World Zakat Organisation (WZO) to uphold zakat as the third pillar of Islam and religious devotion for the benefit of economic and social development of *Ummah*.

His Majesty and Yang Amat Berhormat also reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen ASEAN and the establishment of the ASEAN Community by 2015. His Majesty briefed Yang Amat Berhormat on Brunei Darussalam's Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2013. The Prime Minister of Malaysia also took the opportunity to express his best wished and utmost support to His Majesty in view of Brunei Darussalam assuming the ASEAN Chairmanship.

Both leaders expressed their satisfaction with the outcome of their meeting, and looked forward to the implementation of the decisions reached for a much strengthened bilateral relationship and cooperation between both countries.

Both leaders agreed that the 17th Annual Leaders' Consultation will take place in Brunei Darussalam in 2013.

Their Majesties host banquet

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 7 - 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 hosted banquet in honour of the visit of Her Excellency Hilary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State of the United States of America.

Present at the banquet were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah.

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

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty the Duli Raja Isteri hosted a banquet held in honour of state visit of Her Excellency Hilary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State of the United States of America.



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

His Majesty attends 20th APEC

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At the session, His Majesty consented to deliver a *titah* (royal speech) whereby His Majesty congratulated Russia's recent accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). His Majesty also expressed his condolences to His Excellency Hu Jintao and the People's Republic of China on the recent earthquake in South-Western China.

His Majesty then expressed concern on the present state of the global economy that will undermine economic development in the APEC region and the confidence of its people. In this regard, His Majesty commended the G-20 and their tireless endeavour to address this difficult situation. His Majesty believed that APEC has a vital role to play in complementing what is being carried out under the G-20 process.

APEC, added His Majesty, can capitalise on APEC's prominence at promoting trade and investment liberalisation. It is important for APEC to continue its effort to promote Regional Economic Integration (R.E.I.) and keeping their economies open which would provide APEC a better platform to facilitate trade and investment flows across its border. His Majesty also highlighted that APEC has already made good progress in this area, whereby last year in Honolulu, Leaders have extended their commitment to standstill until 2015. His Majesty also maintained Brunei's pledge to see this through.

His Majesty further welcomed APEC's efforts in undertaking the Supply Chain Connectivity Framework Initiative and the various initiatives on enhancing supply chain performances, which will ensure that, in spite of the current global economic situation, APEC region's capacity to facilitate trade and investment across borders will not be compromised. His Majesty also commended efforts that APEC has made in carrying out its pledges on promoting Green Growth, in particular advancing the environmental goods and services agenda, and reducing energy intensity by 45 per cent by 2035, which are in line with the Brunei's energy efficiency and conservation efforts. These efforts are useful, as APEC remain focused on promoting green growth.

Hence, His Majesty congratulated APEC's decision this year to emphasise efforts on promoting trade and investment at the core of its priorities as His Majesty believed this is the right way forward to support the global economy in ensuring sustainable growth for the future.

Before the Retreat Session One, His Majesty also consented to attend bilateral meetings with His Excellency Sebastian Pinera, the President of Republic of Chile at Far Eastern Federal University, Russky Island, Vladivostok.

During the meeting, both leaders discussed issues related to bilateral relations as well as regional and international matters of mutual concern.

Knowledge Convention 2012



PHOTO: AK. AMIRULNIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam takes a closer look at the exhibition.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 11 - As a measure to strengthen efforts toward more focus national health planning, the Government of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of

Brunei Darussalam had consented for appointment of consultant to prepare Brunei Darussalam's Master Plan on Health Infrastructure and System.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered the matter in a *titah* (royal speech) at the

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Official Launching of Knowledge Convention 2012 held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

The Master Plan, according to His Majesty is a step to continue effort to strengthen, enhance quality and further develop more focus healthcare system in line with Brunei Vision 2035.

This step, stated His Majesty, aim to foresee the nation's continuous peace and prosperity with the people and citizen are provided with quality and equally comprehensive healthcare.

Prior to that in the *titah*, His Majesty stated that the nation had its own comprehensive and complete healthcare system with the 'universal health coverage' concept and had successfully fulfilled health targets set by World Health Organisations (WHO) including the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

In relation to handling health challenges, His Majesty hoped all relevant stakeholders; particularly Ministry of Health will enhance its effort in making more holistic approaches according to good practise.

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

A Premier Paper presentation entitled 'Healthy Lifestyles and Healthy Eating Styles from Islamic Perspectives' was presented by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.

His Majesty and members of royal family also visited the Knowledge Convention Exhibition 2012. This year's Knowledge Convention carried the title: *'Nikmat Kesihatan Asas Kesejahteraan Negara'* featured conference, talks, forum, seminar and workshop related to health.

The Knowledge Convention 2012 was held in conjunction of His Majesty's 66th birthday anniversary. It was also held at the three other districts on a later date.

Five receive Sultan's Scholar



PHOTO: PG.HAJI BAHAR PG.HAJI OMAR

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

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 12 - Five excellent students in academic and extracurricular activities had been selected to receive the Sultan's Scholar Award of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation for academic session of 2012/2013.

The Sultan's Scholar Award was personally presented by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul Azim and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

The five recipients were Awangku Muhammad Wafiuddin bin Pengiran Haji Zulkarnain, Muhd. Hazman bin Haji Abu Hassan, Nurul Hani binti Haji Mohd. Tahir, Liyana Bazilah binti Haji Jamain and

Durrah Nafeesah binti Haji Idris.

With the scholarship, four recipients will be pursuing further education in United Kingdom while one in Egypt.

Awangku Muhammad Wafiuddin will pursue his study in Syariah at University Al-Azhar in Egypt; Muhd. Hazman will pursue his study in Biomedical Science at University College London, United Kingdom.

Meanwhile, Nurul Hani will pursue her study in Aeronautical Engineering at the Imperial College, London; Liyana Bazilah will pursue her 'A' Level at the Badminton Girl School, Bristol, United Kingdom while Durrah Nafeesa will pursue her study in Geology at Imperial College, London.

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.

49 RBAF Officers receive promotion insignias



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to bestow the insignia to Substantive Lieutenant to 920 His Royal Highness Second Lieutenant Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

BERAKAS GARRISON, September 14 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) consented to present the rank insignias to 49 RBAF Officers.

The ceremony took place at Officers' Mess in Berakas Garrison.

Three officers were promoted to Substantive Lieutenant Colonel; eight officers promoted to Acting Lieutenant Colonel; 12 officers promoted to Substantive Major; seven officers promoted to Acting Major; six officers promoted to Substantive Captain; two officers promoted to Acting Captain; seven officers promoted to Substantive Lieutenant and three officers promoted to Substantive Captain for Special Commission.

Among the promoted officer was 920 His Royal Highness Second Lieutenant Prince 'Abdul Mateen, promoted to Substantive Lieutenant.

Also present at the ceremony was Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah.

UBD 24th Convocation



PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZATI HAJI JURAMAN

One of the graduates receiving his degree from His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

TUNGKU, September 15 - With the unveiling of the digital era, it is also able to open up wider opportunities to the people and citizens to earn a higher level of knowledge, in line with the country's desire to build a knowledge society.

The matters were highlighted by 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 his *titah* (royal speech) at the 24th Convocation of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) held at its Chancellor Hall.

His Majesty believed that UBD is able to explore a reasonable approach, such as offering study programme through online learning using latest technology.

In terms of human resource development, His Majesty noted that UBD has made effort on new Academic

Resource Service Scheme as the catalyst for the best academic contribution, such as producing quality teaching and research.

With this new scheme, said His Majesty, it would attract foreign academics to serve and contribute to the development of UBD.

His Majesty further expressed favour for this scheme to be implemented before end of this year.

Other than for nation development, His Majesty had seen UBD's involvement in the regional development such as its contribution to ASEAN Community 2012 initiative, through organising programmes and training for English language teachers from ASEAN countries with cooperation with East-West Centre from the United States of America.

In this regard, His Majesty advised not to make this initiative as a tool for change or obscure the nation's aspiration to uphold the Malay Language as the mother tongue and the official language. Have our own stand like other bigger nations and not to be with people who has no vision.

Earlier in the *titah*, His Majesty also touched on the database to handle various important issues, research matters should be easier with the present rapid technology developments.

This year, 1,165 graduates received their educational credentials consisting of PhD graduates, MA graduates, and BA graduates.

Also present at the ceremony was His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office who is also Pro-Chancellor of UBD.

Royal Wedding of Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Muhammad Ruzaini bin Pengiran Dr. Haji Mohd. Yakub



PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZATI HAJI DURAMAN



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 and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam applies powdered paste on the palms of Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah during *Majlis Istiadat Berbedak Pengantin Diraja*.



The royal wedding between the fifth child 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 and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah and the second child of Pengiran Dr. Haji Mohd. Yakub and Dayang Hajah Zainon, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Muhammad Ruzaini was recently held in full Brunei Malay tradition and splendour, carried out in accordance with Islamic rites.

The royal wedding began with the *Majlis Istiadat Bersuruh Diraja* at the Istana Nurul Iman on September 16. This is when the groom's father, Pengiran Dr. Haji Mohd. Yakub delivered his son's intention to seek the hand of the daughter of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for marriage.

Soon after the *Majlis Istiadat Bersuruh Diraja*, the next event was *Majlis Istiadat Membuka Gendang Jaga-Jaga* on September 17 which denoted the beginning of the royal festivity called the *Musim Istiadat Diraja*. *Gendang Jaga-Jaga* is the collective name for the musical instruments that compose of the royal orchestra.

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Royal Wedding of Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Muhammad Ruzaini bin Pengiran Dr. Haji Mohd. Yakub

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Present at the ceremony was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; other members of the royal family, the *cheteria*, the nobility, the aristocracy, state dignitaries, members of the State Legislative Council and representatives of the Brunei-based diplomatic missions. A 21-gun salute soon followed when the tune of the *Gendang Jaga-Jaga* could be heard. The ceremony was held at the Lapau.

The event called for a display of a royal regalia item called *Nakara* (a type of kettle drum) which was then placed next to the gilded wing-eave canopy called the *Mahligai* that houses the sovereign's throne.

A distinguished feature of the royal festivity was the embellishment of a white colonnade called the *Balai Pemajangan* situated in front of the Istana Nurul Iman where ornamental decorations were installed. The showpieces that adorned the *Balai Pemajangan* include white fabric to cover the girders; and rows of ceremonial flags and umbrellas of various shapes and sizes that display the colours of the sovereign, the royal consort, the crown prince, the *wazir*, and the *cheteria*. Similar ceremony took place at the groom's residence.

Soon after was the *Majlis Istiadat Menghantar Tanda Diraja dan Pertunangan Diraja* and *Majlis Istiadat Menerima Tanda Diraja dan Pertunangan Diraja*. The ceremony was held on September 18 at the groom's residence where a delegation was sent to the bride's residence at Istana Nurul Iman. This formality is carried out to show that the couple are now engaged.

The gifts include: a piece of handmade traditional brocade embellished with gilded threads called *Kain Jong Sarat*, a complete set of attire, a pair of bangles, a pair of ear studs, four rings, a strand of necklace, and other essentials. 16 royal ceremonial candles called the *Dian Enam Belas* brought by 16 females and led by senior female palace officials. This entourage also include 40 male youths, each wearing a yellow sash called *Janar*. A letter called *Surat Mahar* (also known as *Berian*) that describes the groom's agreement to marry the bride and lists of all the things bought as gifts for the bride.

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Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Muhammad Ruzaini says his vows to solemnise his marriage to Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah.





A royal banquet was hosted to celebrate the newlywed royal couple. The ceremony was also attended by invited foreign dignitaries and senior government officers.

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A *Majlis Istiadat Berbedak Pengantin Diraja* was held on September 19. Dressed in Malay wedding attire comprising an exquisitely sequinned and embroidered *Baju Kurung*, the bejewelled bride holds court at the Indera Buana Throne Hall of the Istana Nurul Iman. Members of the royal family and the groom's parents have a choice of seven-colour powdered paste to apply on palms of the bride.

After the bride, the same sequence is arranged for the groom. Dressed in Malay wedding attire comprising of the elegant and gilded two-piece *Baju Melayu*, the groom holds court at the Indera Buana Throne Hall of the Istana Nurul Iman. Members of the royal family and the groom's parents have a choice of seven-colour powdered paste to apply on his palms.

Meanwhile on September 20, the *Majlis Istiadat Akad Nikah Diraja*, the groom reads his marriage vows in accordance with Islamic law. The ceremony was held in the presence of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; male members of the royal family; the groom's father; the *cheteria*; the nobility; the aristocracy; state dignitaries; members of the State Legislative Council and representative of the Brunei-based diplomatic missions.

The highlight of the royal wedding is the *Majlis Istiadat Bersanding Pengantin Diraja* held at Indera Buana Throne Hall of the Istana Nurul Iman on September 23.

The ceremony was also attended by His Excellency Benigno S.Aquino III, President of Philippines; His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia; Her Excellency Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand; His Excellency Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Thailand; His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Saud bin Abdul Mohsen bin Abdul Aziz, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Yang Amat Berhormat Pehin Sri Dr. Haji Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, Chief Minister of Sarawak and spouse; Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Haji Musa bin Haji Aman, Chief Minister of Sabah and spouse; His Excellency Dr. Ng Eng Hen, Minister of Defence of Singapore and spouse and Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Seri Rosmah Mansur, wife of Prime Minister of Malaysia.

To celebrate the royal wedding, members of the royal family and the newlywed royal couple held a *Majlis Persantapan Diraja* or Royal Banquet at the Royal Banquet Hall of the Istana Nurul Iman on September 23. Among those who attended the royal banquet were His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia; Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia and spouse; Yang Amat Berhormat Pehin Sri Dr. Haji Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, Chief Minister of Sarawak and spouse; Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Haji Musa bin Haji Aman, Chief Minister of Sabah and spouse; His Excellency Dr. Ng Eng Hen, Minister of Defence of Singapore and spouse; His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Saud bin Abdul Mohsen bin Abdul Aziz, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Mr. Baskoro Yudoyono.

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Royal couple, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkih binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Muhammad Ruzaini bin Pengiran Dr. Haji Mohd. Yakub.



Compulsory Religious Education Order 2012 to be enforced

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 24 - An order known as Compulsory Religious Education Order 2012 has enacted and will be effective on January 1, 2013.

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 announced the legislation of the order in a *titah* (royal speech) during the 22nd Teacher's Day celebration 2012 held at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas.

"With my own consent, one special act had been legislated which is known as Compulsory Religious Education Order 2012 will take effect beginning January 1, 2013.

With the implementation of this order, *Insyaa-Allah*, there will be no more Muslim children in the nation be left out in understanding the basic knowledge of Islamic Knowledge. There will be no more people not knowing how to pray and read Al-Qur'an," said His Majesty.

Earlier in the *titah*, His Majesty urged to enhance the mastery of Malay language and not only the English language.

Also being touched in the *titah* was Ministry of Education's initiative in enhancing education through international best practices including implementation of projects such as Model Schools and Learning Educators Advancing Pedagogy for 21st Century (LEAP21); which His Majesty hoped will produce excellent students in respective fields.

In technical education, His Majesty highlighted on the study being made and expressed hoped it will be examined for implementation.

His Majesty also consented to present the Teachers' Day award to 12 recipients. Two received the *Anugerah Pendidikan Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin*. The recipients were Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran



The award recipients with His Majesty.

Setia Negara Pengiran Haji Mohd. Yusof and Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Md. Zain. Both recipients received certificate of honour; cash prize of BND20,000; gift and free medical facility including all expenses for first class ward in government hospitals in the country.

Meanwhile, three received *Anugerah Guru Berjasa* and awarded with certificate of honour; cash prize BND12,000; gift and free medical facility including all expenses

for first class ward in government hospitals in the country.

Nine received *Anugerah Guru Cemerlang* and awarded with certificate of honour; cash prize of BND4,000; gift and subject to the conditions of in-service training will be given priority and supported to pursue education to the next level.

The 22nd Teachers' Day celebration carries a theme of *Guru Berkualiti Pelajar Berinovasi* (Quality Teacher Innovative Student).

Royal Wedding of Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Muhammad Ruzaini bin Pengiran Dr. Haji Mohd. Yakub

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The royal wedding was concluded with the *Majlis Istiadat Membaca Doa Selamat* and *Menutup Gendang Jaga-Jaga* where by Islamic prayers and the royal orchestra was played at the Istana Nurul Iman and the groom's residence on September 25. This was followed with the dismantling of the *Balai Pemajangan*.



Her Majesty attends Premier Lecture



PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received a briefing on one of the items displayed at the exhibition.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 12 - Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam attended the Knowledge Convention 2012 Premier Lecture at the International Convention Centre (ICC), Berakas.

The Premier Lecture is part of Knowledge Convention 2012 which was held in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 66th birthday anniversary.

Also present were Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.

The Premier Lecture entitled *Peranan Utama Wanita Dalam Menjana Kesihatan Rohani dan Jasmani Keluarga* or 'Key Role of Women in Generating Family Physical and Spiritual Health' was presented by Associate Professor Dr. Hajah Roselina, Consultant Expertise, Division of Obstetrics and Gynecology of Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital.

At the event, Her Majesty also took a closer look at the Knowledge Convention Exhibition 2012.

UBD Convo Festival 2012 launched

TUNGKU, September 5 - As part of the Universiti Brunei Darussalam's (UBD) 24th Convocation's activities, the UBD Convo Festival 2012 was officially launched. In attendance to officially launch the festival was His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown

Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and the Pro-Chancellor of UBD.

His Royal Highness also visited Arts Installation Exhibition which exhibited UBD student's artistry and UBD's College Residence Complex.

The UBD Convo Festival which opened from September 5th until October 28th includes various activities such as thanksgiving prayer and *Khatam Al-Qur'an*, Islamic Poem competition, basketball tournament and the 2nd UBD Convo Run.

HRH Crown Prince attends Knowledge Convention Forum



PHOTO: DK. NUR HAFILAH FG. OSMAN

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik at Knowledge Convention 2012 Premier Forum.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 13 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office attended the Knowledge Convention 2012 Premier Forum.

The event took place at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 66th birthday celebration.

Also present was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

The Premier Forum entitled: *Nikmat Kesihatan Asas Kesejahteraan Negara* was discussed by the three invited professionals; Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Mohd. Isham bin Jaafar, Executive and Medical Director of Jerudong Park Medical Centre; Pengiran Dr. Haji Khalifah, Acting Head of Director of Health Services, Ministry of Health, and Professor Dr. Muhaya Muhammad, Motivator and Ophthalmology Practitioner from Malaysia.

148 receive diploma in various disciplines

TUNGKU, September 15 - 148 graduates received their diploma in conjunction with the Universiti Brunei Darussalam's (UBD) 24th Convocation held at the Chancellor Hall.

Upon arrival, His Royal Highness was greeted by the Minister of Education, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong as the Chairman of the Convocation Ceremony, the Permanent Secretary (Higher Education) at the Ministry of Education and Vice Chancellor of UBD, Dato Paduka Doctor Haji Zulkarnain, as well as members of the convocation committee.

The diplomas were presented by His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and the Pro-Chancellor of UBD.

The recipients were those receiving Advanced Diploma in Community Health Nursing as well as Diplomas in Primary Education, Education (In-Service), Technical Education, Nursing, Midwifery, Health Science (Midwifery), Health Science (Nursing) and in Health Science (Paramedic).

To bless the ceremony, Doa Selamat was read by Ketua Hakim Syarie, Yang Berhormat Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Awang Haji Yahya.



One of the graduate receiving his certificate presented by His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and the Pro-Chancellor of UBD.

PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

HRH attends 67th Session of UN General Assembly



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office delivers a *sabda* (royal speech) at the General Debate for the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

NEW YORK, September 28 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office in his *sabda* (royal speech) expressed satisfaction on many aspects of the United Nations (UN) work including the long-term work done on sustainable development and on-going efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and continuous efforts by UN agencies in contributing to enhancement of public living.

Further in the *sabda*, His Royal Highness expressed hopes for that UN structure to be adjusted to meet with twentieth century challenges.

"It is personified in the 64 years of suffering by the ordinary people of the Palestine and in all other desperate situations in which the root causes of conflict and confrontation are still buried in the last century," stated His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness as the personal representative of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered the *sabda* at the 67th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Therefore, stated His Royal Highness, the form that we hope to take will be like other regions today including ASEAN that operate from a basis of consensus, rather than compromise and confrontation.

"It is the spirit behind ASEAN's present focus of building a peaceful and mutually respectful community of nations regardless of background, economic resources or national preoccupations," said His Royal Highness.

It is why, added His Royal Highness, we greatly appreciated the strong support that is constantly shown to us by our partners from outside the region.

In this context, His Royal Highness expressed that Brunei Darussalam feel honoured and privileged to be the ASEAN Chairman for 2013.

ASEAN is an association of neighbours who have deliberately chosen to 'adjust' their region's previous identity, said His Royal Highness.

Until 45 year ago, stated His Royal Highness, it was one of the most unstable regions on earth, a confrontation point

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for the national interest of great powers and a focal point of the Cold War.

Now, it had been adjusted and determined to operate in the interests of its community of 600 million citizens and will continue to do so, not by conflict or confrontation and not by compromising national values, but by peaceful consensus, added His Royal Highness.

Further in the *sabda*, His Royal Highness expressed hope that the structure of the UN can be gradually and carefully adjusted.

Prior to that, His Royal Highness had touched on this year's general debate theme in which the key word is 'adjustment'.

"I think it is well-chosen. It suggests change that is carefully and gradually done. It does not invite confrontation," added His Royal Highness.

For us in Brunei Darussalam, stated His Royal Highness, it matches the main purpose of this annual meeting.

"We see it as an opportunity to express our satisfaction and our concern about how successful the UN is managing the process of globalisation that we have nationally embraced," said His Royal Highness.

The General Debate of 67th Session of the UN General Assembly was held at the UN Headquarters in New York, beginning on September 25 to 29 and will end on October 1.

This year's general debate carries a theme 'Bringing about Adjustment or Settlement of International Dispute or Situations by Peaceful Means'.



His Royal Highness meets with His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon, United Nations' (UN) Secretary-General.

PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

UN stories - HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah

HRH attends Annual Coordination Meeting of OIC and Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting

NEW YORK, September 28 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended the Annual Coordination Meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Foreign Minister Meeting held at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York, United States of America.

In a *sabda* (royal speech), among others, His Royal Highness stressed that Brunei criticised the film that embarrasses Islam which was produced in America, and rejects all kinds of violence and extremist in some countries.

Prior to that, His Royal Highness said that this annual meeting is always vital. However, this year's meeting maybe more important than the previous ones.

Later in the afternoon, His Royal Highness attended the ASEAN Foreign Minister Meeting with President of 67th Session of the UN

General Assembly, His Excellency Vuk Jeremic and Secretary-General of UN, His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon.

Also present was His Excellency Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Meanwhile on September 27, His Royal Highness attended the Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, followed by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting with United States Secretary of State, Her Excellency Hilary Clinton at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

Prior to that, on September 26, His Royal Highness had attended Reception Ceremony hosted by His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed, Foreign Minister of United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The ceremony was held at Morgan Library and Museum, New York

The reception was held in conjunction with the 67th Session of the UN General Assembly.

HRH attends 11th Meeting of Commonwealth Countries' Foreign Ministers

NEW YORK, September 29 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended the 11th Meeting of Commonwealth Countries' Foreign Ministers at the Westin Grand Central Hotel, United States of America.

His Royal Highness said in evaluating the future priority of Commonwealth, highlighted the importance of Commonwealth Fund for The Technical Co-operation (CFTC) in fulfilling the daily needs of people and citizens of commonwealth countries.

Among the matters discussed include endorsement of agenda and draft of commonwealth charter.

Other than that, the meeting also proposed on enhancement of political values in commonwealth and held briefing on the direction of commonwealth secretariat strategic plan in the future presented by Commonwealth Secretary-General.

Also being discussed in the meeting were preparations for Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2013.

Meanwhile on September 28, His Royal Highness held three separate bilateral meeting at the UN Headquarters.

The first bilateral was held with His Excellency Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Foreign Minister of Bahrain; followed by His Excellency Vuk Jeremic, President of 67th Session of the UN General Assembly.

The final bilateral meeting was held with His Excellency Albert Fdel Rosario, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Philippines.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, attended the Annual Coordination Meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Foreign Minister Meeting held at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York, United States of America.

Brunei-US Language Enrichment Project for ASEAN

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 7 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Secretary of State of the United States of America, Her Excellency Hilary Rodham Clinton jointly launched the 'Brunei-US Language Enrichment Project for ASEAN' at the VIP Lounge, Chancellor Hall of Universiti Brunei Darussalam

(UBD).

The project, which aims to enhance international English language for ASEAN member countries, is jointly implemented by UBD and East-West Center (EWC) and coordinated by the government of Brunei Darussalam and the United States of America.

Tour de Brunei 2012



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik presented prizes to one of the winner.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 30 - 19 teams involving 115 cyclists participated in the Brunei-Butra Heidelberg Cement (BHC) Tour de Brunei 2012 was held from September 26 to 30.

The five-day tournament ended at Bandar Seri Begawan (BSB) with prize presentation for its Stage 5 race - Bandar Seri Begawan Circuit.

Prizes were presented by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik at the Waterfront in the capital.

Champion for the Stage 5 - Individual Classification (stage distance 104.3

kilometre) was presented to Mohd. Zamri Salleh from Terengganu Cycling Team; followed by Van Duan Le from Viet Nam National Team and Hossein Nateghi from Tabriz Petrochemical Team, Iran.

Meanwhile, the winner of Team category for Stage 5 was VIE with total time of seven hours, 47 minutes and 27 seconds.

The winner for Intermediate Sprint at 51.1 km was Muradjan Halmuratov from Uzbekistan Suren Team while at 77.7 km, the winner was Mohd. Harif Salleh from TSG.

Also competed was the Best Climbers

category won by Nur Amirul Fakhruddin Mazuki.

Brunei-Butra Heidelberg Cement Tour de Brunei 2012 involves five stages which began on September 26 with Stage 1 (93 km) that started at BHC factory in Muara and ended at Waterfront, BSB. The race continued with Stage 2 (117.4 km) on September 27, a journey from Waterfront, BSB to Tutong Sport Complex. Stage 3 was held on September 28, involved a distance of 96.5 km from Tutong Sport Complex to Kuala Belait while Stage 4 was held on September 29, was 185.3 km distance that started at Kuala Belait and ended at Waterfront, BSB. Meanwhile, Stage 5 involved 104 km distance which was divided into eight laps that began and ended at Waterfront, BSB.

Brunei-Butra Heidelberg Cement Tour de Brunei 2012 which was registered in the class 2.2 UCI Asia Tour calendar was organised jointly by the Brunei Darussalam Cycling Federation in collaboration with Department of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and supported by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and the Tourism Development Department, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources. While Heidelberg Butra Cement Company Sendirian Berhad is the main sponsor for the tour.

The tournament among others had objectives to make Brunei Darussalam as a tourist destination that is dynamic and can increase the mapped name of the world as one country that can handle a world-class sport.

'BIBD Mobile', first mobile banking platform launched



PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik at the launching ceremony of new product 'BIBD Mobile'

JERUDONG, September 10 - Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD) marked another milestone with the launching of its new product 'BIBD Mobile', a first mobile banking platform in the country which provides access to numbers of banking services through smartphones and tablets to customers.

Present to launch 'BIBD Mobile' was His Royal Highness Prince

'Abdul Malik at The Empire Hotel & Country Club in Jerudong.

Among the important characteristics of 'BIBD Mobile' includes all accounts balance inquiry, history of account and credit card transaction, facilitate payment of bills to all major payment counter in the country, credit card payment facility, transfer of money transaction to any banks locally or overseas.

Walk for Peace



PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, President of Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association joined the walkathon.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 9 - A 'Walk for Peace' walkathon was held in conjunction with World Peace Day 2012. More than 200 participants consisting of committee, leaders and members of Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association (PPPBD) joined the walkathon.

Present to grace the walk was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah

Sa'adatul Bolkiah, President of PPPBD. Also present were Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Raheemah Sanaul Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Hariisah Widadul Bolqiah.

The 'Walk for Peace' is hoped to remind the awareness on the importance of peace in the country and world generally so that people could live peacefully and

happily without war besides enjoying clean environment.

Peace Day is one of PPPBD's annual activities that held every second week of September by World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scout (WAGGGS) which among others aim to jointly maintain world peace with compromise, respect and helping each other.

ASEAN HRD Tourism Programme



PHOTO: AK AMIRULNIZAM PGHAJI MOHD ALI

Mohd. Riza Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Yunos, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Industry and Primary Resource officiates the programme.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 3 - More than 40 people from various public and private agencies participated in the ASEAN Tourism Human Resources Development (HRD) Programme co-organised by the ASEAN-Korea Centre and Brunei Tourism Development Department, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources. The programme was held at Rizqun International Hotel

in Gadong.

Present to officiate the programme was Mohd. Riza Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Yunos, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Industry and Primary Resource.

The programme aims to build the capacity of tourism professionals and boost tourism exchange between Brunei and Korea by further enhancing awareness in Brunei Darussalam.

The two-day programme provides a series of lectures on Korean tourism, culture and language. Specific lecture will discuss on in-depth analysis of tourism trends and prospects of the Korean tourism market; beside general overview of Korea including its history, culture, and lifestyle that will facilitate the understanding of Korean tourists; and practical language training course on basic Korean expressions that can be used by tourism professionals in providing better services for Korean tourists.

By utilising its beautiful nature and historical monuments' assets, Brunei Darussalam plans to promote eco-tourism, culture, heritage, and Islamic tourism through the Brunei Tourism Master Plan 2012-2016.

Through this Master Plan, the country has set its target to increase the number of tourists' arrival from 242,061 in 2011 to 417,157 in 2016 and also to double the tourism's revenue from BND155 million in 2011 to BND351 million in 2016.

The ASEAN-Korea Centre is an inter-governmental organisation aiming to increase trade volume, accelerate flow of investment, invigorate tourism and enrich cultural exchanges between the ASEAN member states and the Republic of Korea.

Ministry of Education ensure education quality comparable to international standard

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 8 - Brunei Darussalam was on 34th position out of 127 UNESCO countries in 'Education for All Development Index' for year 2011.

Ministry of Education also stressed on the aspect of quality in ensuring education offers are comparable with education in international arena.

Awarding scholarship is one of the efforts to enhance the quality of education and also the quality of human resources for the nation particularly for programmes not offered by local universities.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Education, stated the matter at *Majlis Doa Kesyukuran* (Thanksgiving prayer) for students awarded government scholarship held at in Kampung Manggis.

"In 2011, 344 overseas scholarship graduates had passed with excellent. From the numbers, 14 or 4.1 per cent passed with first class. 39 medical doctors had obtained Medical First Degree and currently undergo housemanship training.

I believe that students who are awarded

scholarships here will also be able to follow in their footsteps and will be able to achieve excellent result," said the Minister.

196 students will pursue they study in New Zealand, Australia, German, United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada, Malaysia, Republic of Singapore and People's Republic of China under Government Scholarship Scheme, Human Resource Fund Scholarship through Department of Economic Planning and Development (DANA) and Brunei Administrative System Scholarship through Public Service Commission (BAS).

New Health Centre opens

MUKIM PENGKALAN BATU, September 19 - New health centre is opened in Mukim Pengkalan Batu, Brunei Muara District. The Pengkalan Batu Health Centre was built under the 9th National Development Plan allocation with the aim to enhance accessibility and quality of health services to community particularly the people residing at the mukim area.

Construction of the health centre started in November 2009 costing around

\$4.2 million to replace the Limau Manis Health Clinic and to accommodate the people under Mukim Pengkalan Batu which currently under the catchment of Sengkurong Silver Jubilee Health Centre.

The Pengkalan Batu Health Centre which had been in operation since July 10, 2012 was officiated by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Haji

Mohd. Yusof, Minister of Health. Among the services and facilities provided at the health centre are outpatient services and facilities; Accident and Emergency Division, Women and Children Division; and Flu Clinic.

At the ceremony, the minister also received sponsored wheelchairs and presented certificate of appointment to Promoting and Practising Healthy Lifestyle's committee for Mukim Pengkalan Batu.

Ministry of Health signs Master Plan

JERUDONG, September 22 - Ministry of Health had appointed The Innova Group (USA), an American Consultancy Firm to prepare Master Plan for the Health System and Healthcare Infrastructure. The signing of contract was held at Indera Kayangan Ballroom, The Empire Hotel & Country Club in Jerudong.

Signing on behalf of Ministry of Health was its Permanent Secretary, Saifulbahri bin Haji Awang Mansor while his counterpart was represented by Peter Trice, Vice President of The Innova Group.

Present as guest of honour and witnessed the signing ceremony was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Haji Mohd. Yusof, Minister of Health.



The signing ceremony is witnessed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Haji Mohd. Yusof, Minister of Health.

PHOTO: HAJI MANSALAH HAJI MOHD ALI

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Ministry of Health signs Master Plan

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Hajah Siti Mariam binti Haji Md. Jaafar, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Administration and Finance) at Ministry of Health as the Joint Chairman of Project Technical and Evaluation of Consultant Service for preparation of the Master Plan said that, the preparation of Master Plan for the Health System and Healthcare Infrastructure project is one the ministry's milestones this year as the appointed consultant will carry out detailed research that involves number of studies and analysis on Brunei's current healthcare infrastructure and health system status.

Furthermore, the consultant will provide best proposals for long-term healthcare infrastructure and health system in the country, she added.

It is hoped that the appointed consultant will be able to provide work plan which includes work programmes, complete schedules and output, perform requirement evaluation including consultancy to stakeholder, population survey and its related matters and also prepare a master plan based on the policies and its direction that is relevant to the ministry.

Other than that, it combines the master plan with the requirement of current healthcare and provides proposal for long term; ensuring proposal on development and strategy; policy and project requirement in the master plan and also provide proposals for budget mechanism and other financial agreement such as Public Private Partnership.

Minister attends reception

Present on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports and spouse attended a reception to celebrate the 63rd Founding Anniversary of People's Republic of China.

Also present was His Excellency Zheng Xianglin, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China and spouse.

The reception was held at the Indera Kayangan Ballroom, The Empire Hotel & Country Club in Jerudong on September 24.



PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZATI HAJI DURAWAN

1.0% GDP growth in Second Quarter 2012

In the second quarter of 2012 (Q2 2012), Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for Brunei Darussalam at current prices was estimated at BND4,776.4 million compared to BND5,364.4 million in Q1 2012.

In terms of GDP growth at constant prices, Q2 2012 recorded a growth of 1.0 per cent. This was mainly attributed to the growth of the Non-Oil & Gas sector by 3.6 per cent. However, the Oil & Gas sector fell by 2.0 per cent.

The Agriculture, Forestry & Fishery sector grew by 8.3 per cent due to the increase in Forestry activity, production of Livestock and Poultry by 10.0 per cent, Vegetables, Fruits and Other Agriculture 4.8 per cent and Fishery 2.7 per cent.

The Industrial sector fell by 1.3 per cent due to the negative growth of Mining sector by 4.9 per cent. Meanwhile, Manufacturing increased by 5.0 per cent followed by Construction 3.3 per cent and Electricity & Water 2.6 per cent.

The Services sector grew by 3.4 per cent. Transport &

Communication recorded the highest growth of 5.0 per cent, followed by Trade 4.1 per cent, Government services 3.5 per cent, Finance 3.4 per cent, Private Services 3.0 per cent and Real Estate & Ownership of Dwellings 1.5 per cent.

By the expenditure approach, GDP growth was due to the Imports of Goods and Services which recorded the highest growth of 25.6 per cent, followed by Capital Formation 4.4 per cent, Personal Consumption Expenditure 4.0 per cent and Government Consumption Expenditure 2.8 per cent. Meanwhile Exports of Goods and Services recorded a decrease of 0.5 per cent.

Note: Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a measure of the total value of goods and services produced in a particular period after deducting the cost of goods and services used up in the process of production. The GDP full reports for the Q2 2012 are available from Department of Economic Planning and Development's website: www.depdp.gov.bn.

Brunei hosts 6th ANCM

JERUDONG, September 3 - Brunei Darussalam through the Royal Brunei Navy hosted the 6th ASEAN Navy Chiefs' Meeting (ANCM) at the Indera Kayangan Ballroom, The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

The meeting which was officiated by Dato Paduka Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat, Deputy Minister of Defence; carries a theme of 'Friendship at Sea for Regional Maritime Peace and Security'.

ANCM is an initiative by which ASEAN Navy's leaders meet and seek opportunities to promote regional maritime security and stability through various initiatives and confidence building measure. It had proven to be an important milestone for ASEAN.

The meeting was attended by nine navy chiefs from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, Union Republic of Myanmar, Republic of Philippines, Republic of Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Brunei Darussalam takes part in AFF Suzuki Cup Qualification match

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 12 - Brunei Darussalam will take part in the AFF Suzuki Cup 2012 Qualification match held in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar beginning October 5. National team will be place together with teams from Cambodia,

Laos, Myanmar and Timor Leste.

This will be the second time Brunei Darussalam takes part since 2010.

PPNBD joins 'Clean up the World 2012'

JERUDONG, September 14 - Brunei Darussalam Scout Association (PPNBD) together with more than 30 million people around the world joined the 'Clean up the World 2012' organised by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with support of World Organisation of Scout Movement (WOSM) and several other non-government organisations (NGOs).

In conjunction with the campaign, more than 200 members of PPNBD had gathered to clean Jerudong Beach and collected more than 450 kilogrammes of wastes.

The 'Clean up the World 2012' has carries a title 'Our Place... Our Planet... Our Responsibility'. The campaign is held simultaneously around the world annually on every third week of September. It

aims to provide awareness and nurture understanding on keeping clean wherever we are.

The campaign has been held since 1993 and this year marked the 20th. This year is the third time that PPNBD took part in the campaign. The first was in 2010 at Serasa Beach and 2011 was at the Tungku Beach.

Did you know that..

- The first mosque built within the Brunei Town (now known as Bandar Seri Begawan) was during the reign of Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam (1906-1924). The mosque was known as Masjid Marbut Pak Tuggal or Masjid Pekan Brunei but it was destroyed by bomb during the Second World War in 1948.
- Brunei Darussalam's total land area of 5,756 sq. km are made of 4 per cent of private land, 3 per cent for institutional used, 37 per cent of forest reserve, and 56 per cent of government land that are not yet allocated.
- In January 2009, Ministry of Education has embarked on the National Education System for the 21st Century or (Sistem Pendidikan Negara Abad ke-21) (SPN21). SPN21 brought three major changes in the education system namely, the education structure, the curriculum and assessment, and technical education.

>> 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 422,700 people (2012).

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, Sabah.