



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam newsletter

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## HIS MAJESTY RECEIVES AUDIENCES



PHOTO:

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN,  
November 3 – 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, the Minister of Defence  
and the Supreme Commander of  
the Royal Brunei Armed Forces,

consented to receive in audience the  
Chief of Defence Force of Singapore  
Armed Forces, His Excellency Major  
General Perry Lim Cheng Yeow at  
Istana Nurul Iman.

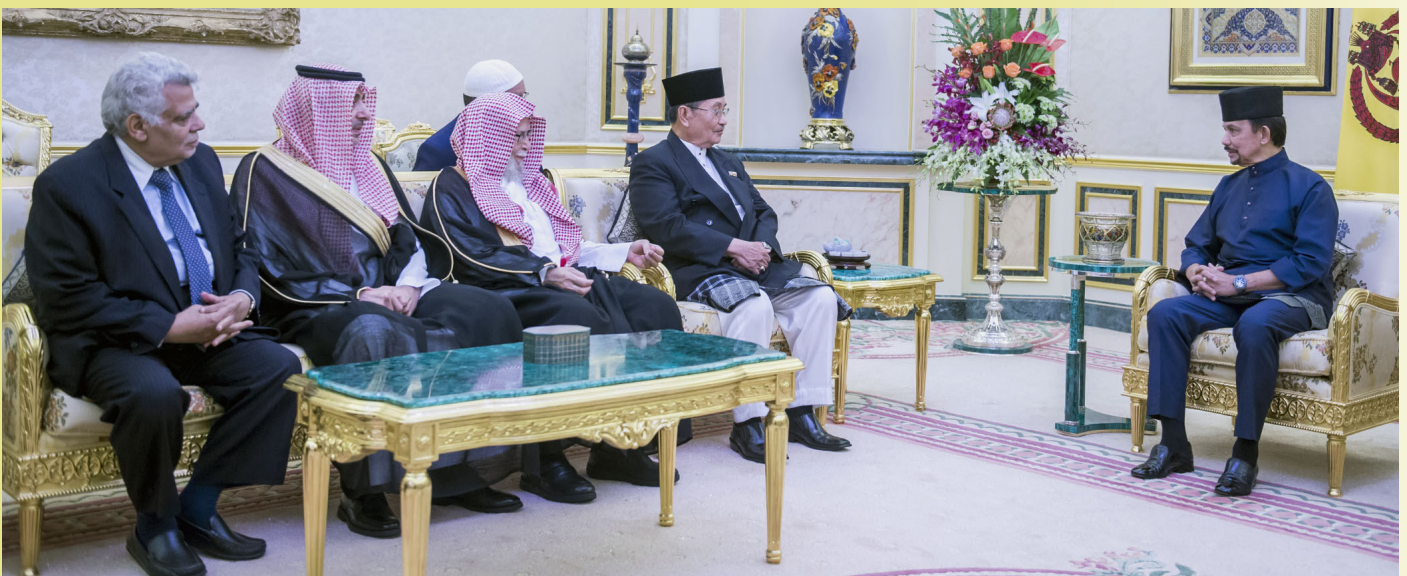


PHOTO:

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 10 – 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 consented to receive in audience Secretary General of the Muslim World League of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Rabithah Al-'Alam Al-Islami), The Honourable Dr. Abdullah bin Abdul Mohsen At-Turkey at Istana Nurul Iman.





4 His Majesty Receives Non-Resident Foreign Envoys



6 His Majesty Urges Civil Servants To Strengthen Leadership Skills



10 Her Majesty Graces Knowledge Convention 2015



12 Chogm Malta 2015: Brunei Darussalam Promotes Tolerance And Understanding



14 Minister Attends Asean + Young Leaders Summit



15 Port Development Crucial For Economic Growth



16 Tutong District Holds Ethnic Heritage, Art & Cultural Day



17 Woven Fabric Entrepreneurs Should Be More Innovative



18 Embassy Of Sultanate Of Oman Celebrates 45<sup>th</sup> National Day



19 Rise In Employment Rates Of IBTE Graduates



JUNE 2015 - VOLUME ISSUE

## *BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER*

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## HER MAJESTY RECEIVES AUDIENCE



PHOTO: AMIRUL

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 3 – Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji

Mohamed Alam consented to receive in audience the spouse of the Chief of Defence Force of Singapore Armed Forces, Madam Lynn Lim at Istana Nurul Iman.

## HIS MAJESTY SENDS CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

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 consented to send congratulatory messages to His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni, King of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen as well as the government and people of the Kingdom of Cambodia on the occasion of the kingdom's 62<sup>nd</sup> Independence Day on November 9.



## HIS MAJESTY RECEIVES NON-RESIDENT FOREIGN ENVOYS

**Bandar Seri Begawan**, November 12 – 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 consented to receive Letters of Credence from 13 non-resident foreign envoys to Brunei Darussalam at Istana Nurul Iman.

The non-resident foreign envoys are Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, His Excellency Walid Al Hadid; Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Bulgaria, His Excellency Sergey Michev; Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ireland, His

Excellency Geoffrey Keating; Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federative Republic of Brazil, His Excellency Carlos Ricardo Martins Ceglia; High Commissioner of New Zealand, His Excellency Dr. John Anton Subritzky; Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan, His Excellency Daniyar Sarekenov; Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland, His Excellency Marcin Kubiak; Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, His Excellency Aziria Abdelkader; Ambassador and the Head of Delegation of the European Union, His Excellency Vincent Guerend; Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Colombia, His



His Majesty receives a Letter of Credence from Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.



His Majesty receives a Letter of Credence from Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Bulgaria.



His Majesty receives a Letter of Credence from Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ireland.



His Majesty receives a Letter of Credence from Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federative Republic of Brazil.



His Majesty receives a Letter of Credence from High Commissioner of New Zealand.



His Majesty receives a Letter of Credence from Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan.





His Majesty receives a Letter of Credence from Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland.



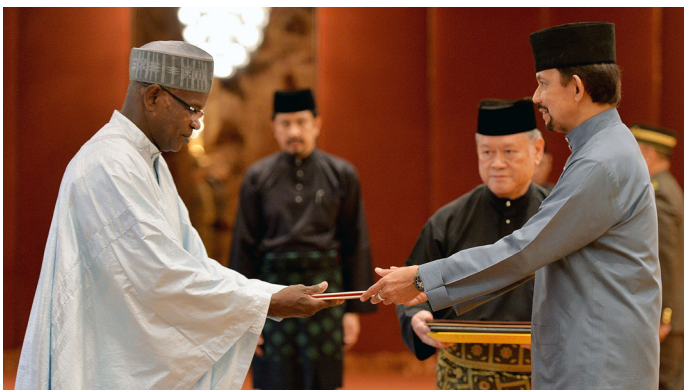
His Majesty receives a Letter of Credence from Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.



His Majesty receives a Letter of Credence from Ambassador and the Head of Delegation of the European Union.



His Majesty receives a Letter of Credence from Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Colombia.



His Majesty receives a Letter of Credence from Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Niger.



His Majesty receives a Letter of Credence from Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia.



His Majesty receives a Letter of Credence from Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Mali.

Excellency Victor Hugo Echeverri Jaramillo; Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of

Niger, His Excellency Dr. Oumarou Amadou Sonrhail; Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia, His Excellency Tumur Lkhagvadorj; and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Mali, His Excellency Niankoro Yeah Samake.

Following the ceremony, His Majesty received in audience the newly appointed High Commissioner and 12 newly appointed Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

The Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Erywan bin Pehin Dato Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd Yusof were also present at the audience.



## HIS MAJESTY URGES CIVIL SERVANTS TO STRENGTHEN LEADERSHIP SKILLS

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN**, November 24 – 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 said that as the government's backbone, civil servants play a major role in streamlining the country's administration.

In a *titah* (royal speech) delivered in conjunction with the 22<sup>nd</sup> Civil Service Day at the International Convention Centre, His Majesty called for strengthened leadership in the civil service, which is a key factor in fulfilling their roles.

Leadership is vital apart from having skills, His Majesty stated.

A quality leader does not only need to have a clear vision and direction, but also the diligence and earnestness in making improvements or necessary reforms, His Majesty said.

Such leader is willing to monitor issues that need to be handled and improved, which is an attribute of a good leader or officer.

The success of leaders or officers can be measured by the way they handle tasks and guide their subordinates. This is important, to ensure that all planning goals are effectively achieved, His Majesty said.

Touching upon economic activity, His Majesty stressed that civil servants must better understand the needs of the public, especially those of entrepreneurs and investors, as they expect the best service and fast leadership.

If they fail to deliver, this means a failure on the government's part, His Majesty added.

His Majesty also said that civil servants must possess a culture that embraces change, which is the key to becoming a pro-business country.

If such culture is not adopted, government agencies will not be able to streamline their respective duties effectively.

The world today is in the midst of an economic turmoil. This is the time for all civil servants to adopt prudent measures, in addition to enhancing their commitment and efforts towards developing the country for the present and future generations, His Majesty said.

Touching upon the aspect of policy implementation, His Majesty emphasised that government ministries need to be more proactive by enhancing their coordination through



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 Civil Service Day celebration.

a whole-of-nation approach at every level.

Intensive monitoring is also required to establish complete and accurate information, data and statistics. All agencies must therefore enhance their capacities in collecting and analysing the information, His Majesty added.

His Majesty also touched upon the importance of performance and productivity in the civil service, which are measured by an appraisal system based on work achievements.

In this regard, His Majesty welcomed the efforts by the Prime Minister's Office and Public Service Department in implementing a new appraisal system.

The new system is hoped to help change the government employees' mindset to become more competitive, thus improving their productivity.

His Majesty then expressed hope that the new system would be implemented as soon as possible.

Earlier, His Majesty cited the recent World Bank's Report on the Ease of Doing Business in Brunei Darussalam. His Majesty highlighted the country's ranking improved to 84 from 105 in the previous year and congratulated the concerned parties that worked hard to improve its position.



His Majesty and members of the royal family at the celebration.





His Majesty with other Heads of States at the summit.

**MALAYSIA**, November 21 – The Republic of India is a natural partner of ASEAN, with a history of cultural and trade links that dated back more than a millennium.

Trade relations between ASEAN and the Republic of India continues to flourish, with the Republic of India playing an active role in providing valuable contributions in support of ASEAN.

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 stated this in a *titah* (royal speech) at the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

His Majesty said economic relations of ASEAN and the Republic of India had achieved another milestone with the entry into force of the ASEAN-India Trade in Services and Investment Agreements.

Both sides should therefore maintain the current momentum with the early review of the Trade in Goods Agreement to ensure its continued relevance to businesses, His Majesty added.

His Majesty further stated that the agreements would further strengthen and facilitate trade and investment between ASEAN and the Republic of India and would help to achieve their trade target of USD100 billion.

The agreements would also give them further momentum to expedite their work on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), His Majesty added.

In the *titah*, His Majesty said the recently adopted Plan of Action took into account the importance of connectivity in the present globalised world.

In this regard, ASEAN appreciated the Republic of India's support through its contribution on the Republic of India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project.

His Majesty expressed hope that the geographical proximity between ASEAN and Republic of India would be further developed, particularly through maritime and air linkages.

ASEAN and the Republic of India, His Majesty stated, also have greater potential for cooperation, especially in the areas of disaster management and climate change, as both of their regions are prone to natural disasters.

Leaders should therefore work closely on improving the capability and preparedness on disaster management, His Majesty added.

His Majesty also expressed appreciation on the Republic of India's support for the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for



\*From page 7

Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), and encouraged more sharing of knowledge and experience to ensure the well-being and safety of the people of ASEAN and the Republic of India.

The 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit was attended by Heads of State and Government of ASEAN; Prime Minister of the Republic of India, His Excellency Narendra Modi; and ASEAN Secretary-General, His Excellency Le Luong Minh.

The summit commenced with an opening remark from the Prime Minister of Malaysia Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Laila Utama Dato 'Sri Mohd. Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak as Chairman of the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Summits welcoming leaders attending the summit.

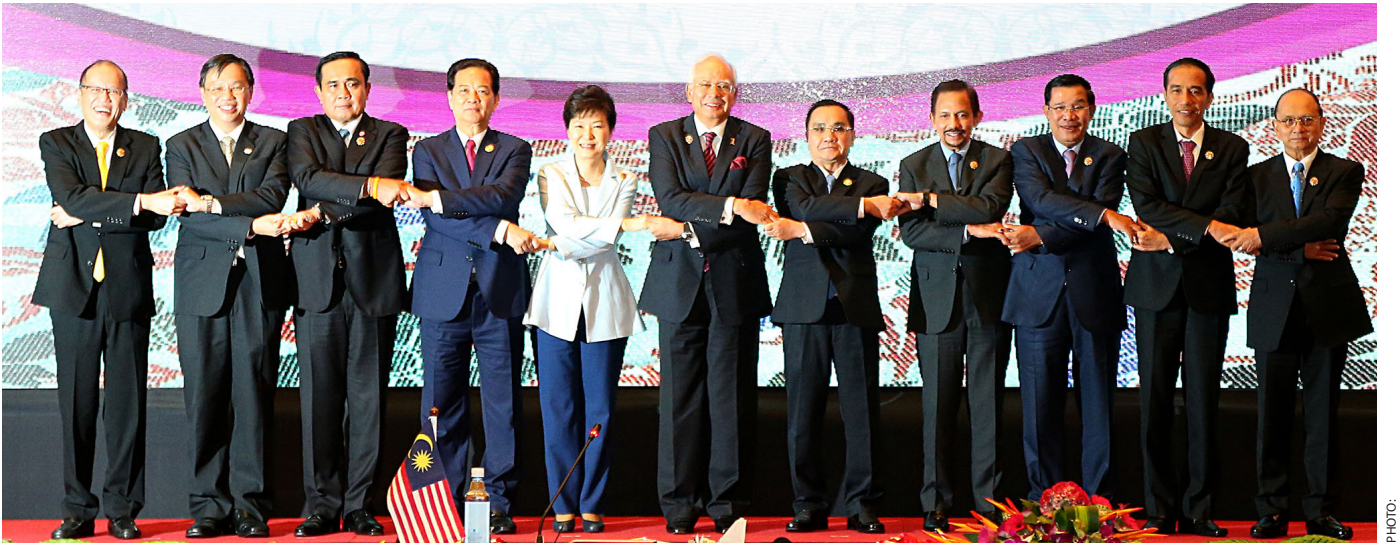
It was then followed with an opening speech from the Prime Minister of the Republic of India and President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, His Excellency Mr. Truong Tan Sang, as the coordinator of ASEAN-India relations.



His Majesty at the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in Malaysia.

At the end of this summit, the Prime Minister of Malaysia issued the Chairman's Statement of the 13th ASEAN-India Summit.

## ASEAN-REPUBLIC OF KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT TO CREATE MORE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES



His Majesty with other Heads of States at the 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit.

**MALAYSIA**, November 22 – The increase in economic cooperation between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea to achieve a bilateral trade target of USD200 billion by 2020 is one of the matters 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 a *titah* (royal speech) at the 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

In this regard, His Majesty welcomed the progress in enhancing and utilising the ASEAN-Republic of Korea Free Trade Agreement to create more business opportunities.

His Majesty also looks forward to the continued

commitment by the Republic of Korea in increasing the involvement between business communities through the ASEAN-Korea Centre.

In the *titah*, His Majesty highlighted that increased cooperation in areas such as the performing arts and cultural heritage has helped to develop partnerships in the creative industries, education and tourism.

The Republic of Korea's contribution towards the increasing number of cultural and people-to-people exchanges is commended and His Majesty expressed confidence that it would give the opportunity to develop deeper understanding.

\*To page 9



\*From page 8

His Majesty supports the ASEAN-Republic of Korea Cultural Exchange Year that will be held in 2017 and expressed hope ASEAN and the Republic of Korea will continue working together through the ASEAN Culture House.

His Majesty also expressed hope that the officials of ASEAN and the Republic of Korea will ensure the full implementation of the ASEAN-Republic of Korea Joint Declaration in the next five years.

In concluding the *titah*, His Majesty expressed confidence that the ASEAN-Republic of Korea relation will deepen and strengthen in the future.

The 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit was attended by Heads of State and Government of ASEAN; President of the Republic of Korea, Her Excellency Park Geun-hye; and ASEAN Secretary-General, His Excellency Le Luong Minh.

The summit commenced with an opening remark from Prime Minister of Malaysia Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Laila Utama Dato 'Sri Mohd. Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak as Chairman of the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Summits welcoming leaders attending the summit.

At the end of the summit, the Prime Minister of Malaysia issued the Chairman's Statement of the 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit.

## APEC NEEDS TO IMPROVE GLOBAL ECONOMIC RESILIENCE, SAYS HIS MAJESTY



PHOTO:

His Majesty during the First Retreat Session of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) 2015.

**MANILA**, November 19 – 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 First Retreat Session of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) 2015 at the Philippines International Convention Centre in Manila.

In a *titah* (royal speech) delivered at the session, His Majesty stated that as the global economy continues to recover at an uneven pace, APEC needs to strengthen cooperation to enhance the resilience of the world economy.

Strong economic progress broadens opportunities for people, improves living standards and leads to inclusive growth, His Majesty said.

His Majesty was pleased to support the APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth that will serve as a strategic guide for APEC to strengthen quality growth individually and collectively.

His Majesty then called for a structural reform that will help improve the way government works and increase the competitiveness of economies. In this regard, His Majesty welcomed the exchange of best practices and targeted capacity building.

His Majesty also welcomed the outcomes of the APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting that will further contribute to the region's growth. The growth will help reduce inequalities among people, create employment and provide better prospects to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), His Majesty said.

The 'Boracay Action Agenda to Globalise MSMEs' and the 'APEC Services Cooperation Framework' are practical means in helping small companies to have access to finance, contribute to the global value chains and benefit from the Regional Trading Agreements (RTAs) and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), His Majesty added.

His Majesty believes that the regional arrangements in the region including the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and the Pacific Alliance, will be good pathways towards realising the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific.

It is vital that the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific is of high quality, fully utilised and takes into account of how the global value chains operates, His Majesty said. His Majesty is also looking forward to the final report next year.

His Majesty also lauded APEC's support in promoting regional growth, especially the APEC 2012 List of Environmental Goods in which Brunei Darussalam has fully implemented.

His Majesty further expressed support for the 'Stand-alone Statement on World Trade Organisation (WTO)' and reaffirmed the pledge against all forms of protectionism until the end of 2018.

\*To page 10



\*From page 9

His Majesty then commended APEC for providing leadership in the ongoing work of the WTO and to contribute towards the achievement and meaningful outcomes of the 10th Ministerial Conference in Nairobi.

Following the first retreat session, His Majesty attended a luncheon at the Summit Hall, Philippines International Convention Centre together with other APEC Economic Leaders.

His Majesty was accompanied by Minister at the

Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Finance II, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim; Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng; Minister of Energy and Industry at the Prime Minister's Office; The Honourable Pehin Datu Singamanteri (Rtd) Colonel Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar; and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of the Philippines, Her Excellency Datin Paduka Malai Hajah Halimah binti Malai Haji Yussof.



His Majesty and other APEC leaders during the meeting.

PHOTO:

## HER MAJESTY GRACES KNOWLEDGE CONVENTION 2015

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN**, November 12 – Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha



Her Majesty touring the exhibition.

binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to attend the Knowledge Convention 2015 at the International Convention Centre. The convention was held to commemorate 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's 69<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Her Majesty was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

\*To page 11





PHOTO:

Her Majesty signing a plaque.

\*From page 10

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien were also present.

The event commenced with a recital of Surah Al-Fatihah led by The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar.

In his welcoming speech, the Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Roselan bin Haji Mohd Daud touched upon the theme of this year's convention, '*Wasatiah Asas Kesejahteraan Sejagat*' ('Wasatiah as Basis of Universal Prosperity'). The theme, he said, focused on '*wasatiah*' (moderation) as a principle in life and guidance from Allah Almighty.

The event was highlighted by a talk entitled '*Wasatiah membentuk keunggulan Wanita*' (Wasatiah Forms Women's Excellence) delivered by the Dean of the Syariah and Law Faculty at Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), Dr. Hajah Mas Nooraini binti Haji Mohiddin.

Her Majesty and members of the royal family then toured



PHOTO:

Her Majesty at the Knowledge Convention 2015 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

an exhibition, which emphasised on '*wasatiah*' from an Islamic perspective. The exhibition stressed on the aspect of faith and thinking, administration, communications, laws, industry, economy, health and medical, finance and banking, education and human resources.

Her Majesty also visited an exhibition themed 'Upholding the authoritativeness of 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 later signed a plaque.



PHOTO:

Members of the royal family at the convention.



# CHOGM MALTA 2015: BRUNEI DARUSSALAM PROMOTES TOLERANCE AND UNDERSTANDING

Vittoriosa, Republic of Malta.

During the Retreat Session I, the leaders discussed global development and challenges, specifically on violent extremism and radicalisation.

In a *sabda* (speech), His Royal Highness said the recent attacks in France, Lebanon and Mali had greatly heightened the climate of fear.

In this regard, Brunei Darussalam fully deplores these terrifying acts that have threatened the most basic sense of security, way of life and destroyed many homes and dreams.

These threats should be dissociated from any religion, nationality, race or ethnicity, His Royal Highness stressed.

His Royal Highness further emphasised the need to strengthen security measures, intelligence collaboration and to share the best practices in addressing terrorism.

His Royal Highness also urged for a long-term solution focused on the root causes in a comprehensive manner at all levels.

Brunei Darussalam, His Royal Highness stated, will continue to participate in interfaith dialogues as well as projects to promote tolerance and understanding in support of the initiatives led by the Commonwealth and United Nations.

During the Retreat Session II, the leaders discussed migration and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

His Royal Highness, in a *sabda*, said the irregular movement of people is a difficult and sensitive issue that has caused a global humanitarian problem.



PHOTO:

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen at the retreat session of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in the Republic of Malta.

**THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA, November 28** – His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah as the personal representative of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Retreat Session I and II of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) at Fort Saint Angelo,



His Royal Highness and other leaders during the retreat session.



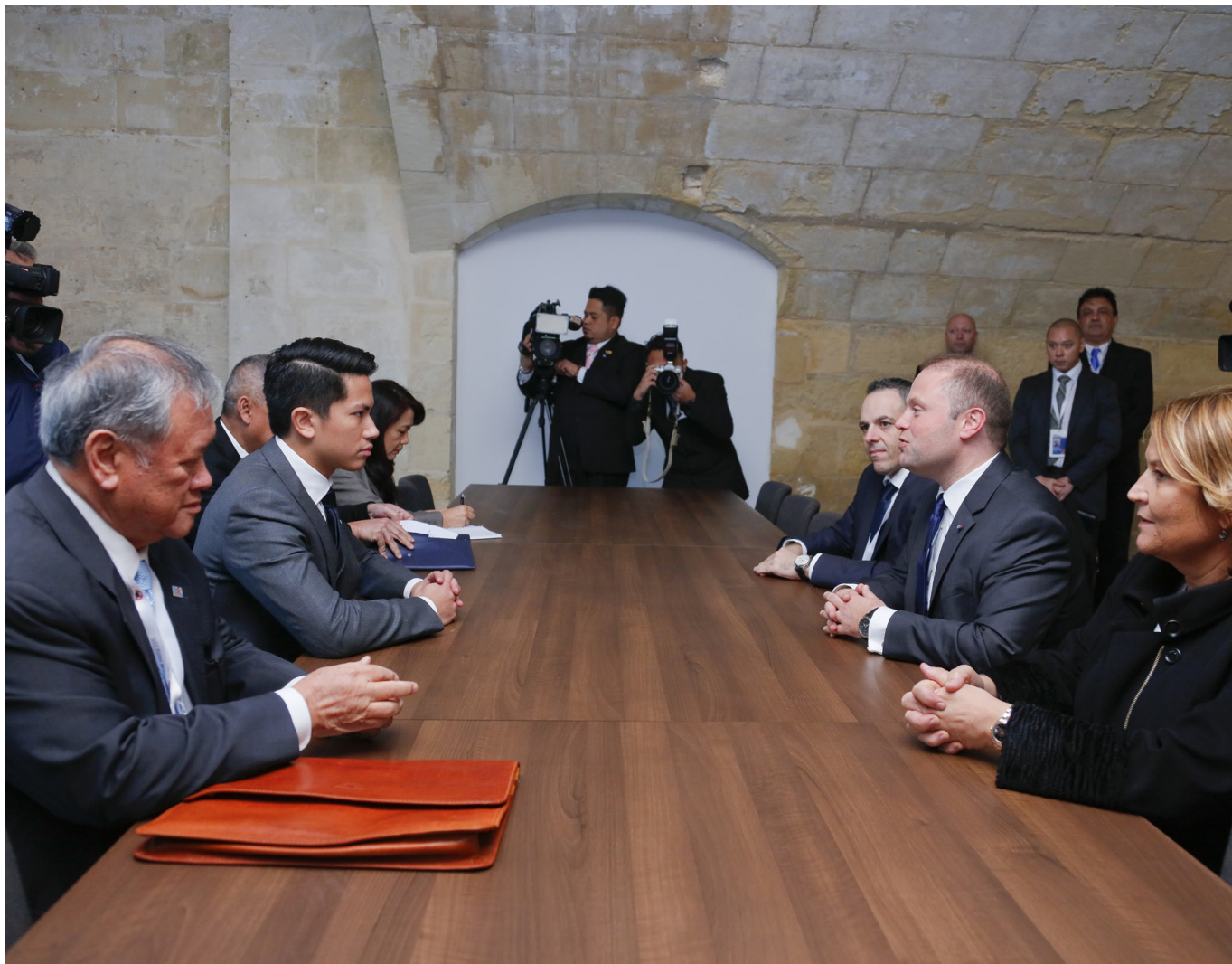


PHOTO:

His Royal Highness holds a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Malta.

ASEAN is facing the same complex situation and Brunei Darussalam is working together with ASEAN member states to address the migration issue, His Royal Highness said.

Touching upon the SDGs, His Royal Highness highlighted the steps taken by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's Government

to achieve the SDGs through an agenda that is people-centred, inclusive and comprehensive.

In this regard, Brunei Darussalam has taken initial steps to ensure that its national plans are aligned with SDGs, including a green economy, environmental sustainability and greater employment opportunities.

His Royal Highness also emphasised the importance for Brunei Darussalam to enhance its partnership with all stakeholders, particularly through capacity-building and the sharing of best practices.

Following the retreat sessions and a luncheon, His Royal Highness held a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Malta, His Excellency Dr. Joseph Muscat. His Royal Highness and His Excellency exchanged views on enhancing bilateral relations and the efforts to improve cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Malta.

His Royal Highness was accompanied by the Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng and the Minister of Energy and Industry at the Prime Minister's Office, The Honourable Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Rtd.) Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar.



PHOTO:



## MINISTER ATTENDS ASEAN + YOUNG LEADERS SUMMIT

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN**, November 17 – The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, The Honourable Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof attended the opening ceremony of the ASEAN+ Young Leaders Summit at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur.

The ceremony of the Young Leaders summit, themed 'Youth Driving the ASEAN Community', was officiated by the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

In his keynote address, the deputy prime minister stated that ASEAN youths, comprising 60 per cent of the total population, are key to the advancement of ASEAN, as it strives to integrate and strengthen its engagement in developing a progressive and inclusive regional mindset for an ASEAN Community that is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

ASEAN youths must respect cross-cultural obligations in the region as well as appreciating the effort from the ASEAN forefathers and continuing the peace in the region, he said.

Meanwhile, in a welcoming speech, the Minister of Youth and Sports of Malaysia, The Honourable Khairy Jamaluddin stressed that ASEAN, as an entity, has a very significant status, particularly in terms of its economics and cultural strengths.

The minister then called for youths participating in the summit to come forward with new ideas and proposals towards enhancing the ASEAN identity and development agenda.

In this regard, the minister highlighted the need for a balanced growth in ASEAN, supported by the shared values

of innovation, empathy, social justice, good governance, respect of sovereignty and multilateral consensus.

The ASEAN+ Young Leaders Summit was attended by more than 300 youths from ASEAN member countries, nine dialogue partners (Australia, Canada, People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and the United States of America) and Timor Leste.

Brunei Darussalam was represented by 10 youths from various sectors related to the four pillars of the summit, namely: Leadership, Volunteerism, Entrepreneurship, and Education and employment.

The summit was held in conjunction with Malaysia's Chairmanship of the ASEAN Summit.

It was aimed at providing a platform for youths of diverse backgrounds to interact, discuss and brainstorm various pertinent issues and challenges facing the region, particularly matters that concern the youth.

The main outcome from the youth summit will be a Youth Manifesto for ASEAN, comprising a set of concise, practicable, and comprehensive recommendations that will be presented to the Heads of States at the forthcoming ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur.

According to a press release from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, the minister also paid a call on Malaysia's Minister of Youth and Sports. During the call, both ministers reiterated their commitments to further strengthen the existing close relations between the two countries and explored new areas of cooperation due to be implemented, particularly in the areas of youth and sports development.



The Brunei Darussalam delegates at the Brunei International Airport before leaving for the ASEAN Young Leaders Summit.

PHOTO:



## PORT DEVELOPMENT CRUCIAL FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH



PHOTO:

Acting Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications launches the 41<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Ports Association (APA) Meeting at The Rizqun International Hotel.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 3** – The development of ports plays a significant role in ensuring the growth of a country's economy.

Sea transport remains the most cost effective method of trading compared to highways, rail or air and has a critical role in the development of trade.

The Acting Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications, Awang Mohd. Riza bin Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Yunos said this in a speech delivered at the opening ceremony of the 41<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Ports Association (APA) Meeting at The Rizqun International Hotel.

There are obstacles to achieving an effective and low cost maritime transport system in the region, including the great variation in the port infrastructure quality and port performance as well as poor accessibility of gateway ports to land transportation.

The APA meeting, he said, is very important in reaching new milestones through initiatives developed to create value and competency in order to address these challenges.

Earlier, the permanent secretary said that the APA meeting serves as a platform for ASEAN port members to share experiences and best practices.

Its objectives are to reduce challenges, accelerate the development of opportunities and enhance strengths.

The platform is also used to further discuss and propose joint initiatives as well as possible joint operations via training, seminars and workshops.

The meeting, he added, is hoped to strengthen ties among the member ports and enhance their capabilities to ensure the survival of the ports, as the shipping industry is facing increasing challenges in the rapidly changing global trade and economy.

Connectivity is crucial for facilitating the realisation of ASEAN integration, building of the ASEAN Community and ensuring ASEAN's centrality in the evolving and dynamic regional architecture.

The two-day meeting was attended by about 65 delegates, including senior government officials and representatives of the ASEAN port officials.

The Brunei Darussalam delegation was led by the Acting Director of Ports, Haji Awang Bujang bin Haji Tinkong with the Acting Deputy Director of Ports, Awang Helmi bin Haji Talib as the chairman of the organising committee.

The APA Meeting was first held in Manila, the Republic of Philippines in September 1975. The association has nine ASEAN member countries, namely, Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Republic of Philippines, Republic of Singapore, Kingdom of Thailand and Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

The meeting, chaired by APA chairman Mr. Juan C. Sta. Ana, also discussed the APA budget for 2016, APA Strategic Programme, Sustainable Port Development and Electronic Transmission and Exchange of Information.



PHOTO:

Some of the delegates attending the meeting.



## TUTONG DISTRICT HOLDS ETHNICS HERITAGE, ART & CULTURAL DAY

**TUTONG**, November 2 – The Ethnic Heritage, Art & Cultural Day aims to provide knowledge about the heritage, arts and culture of the five ethnic communities in Tutong District.

The event was launched by the Minister of Home Affairs, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apang at the Sungai Basong Recreational Park.

In an interview, the minister said that the Ethnic Heritage, Art & Cultural Day not only provides an avenue for tourism, but it is also hoped to enhance the image of the indigenous groups in Tutong District.

The presence of ambassadors and high commissioners at the launch, he said, consequently introduces the groups to people outside the country.

The minister also expressed hope that the increase of tourism activities will help to provide employment opportunities to the younger generation and reduce unemployment.

The event is co-organised by the Mukim Pekan Tutong and the Mukim Keriam Consultative Councils, in association with the Tutong District



The Minister of Home Affairs visits one of the houses of the Tiong Hua community.

Tourism Promotion and Coordination Body as well as the Tutong District Office; the Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation of Tutong; and the Tourism Development Department, under the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism.

The park has a potential to be a cultural and heritage centre due to its strategic location, interesting landscape and facilities.

It also offers recreational, sports, educational and economic activities



The minister signing a plaque to commemorate the occasion.

that are resilient, viable and beneficial.

## WOVEN FABRIC ENTREPRENEURS SHOULD BE MORE INNOVATIVE

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN**, November 11 – Entrepreneurs who

produce woven fabric in Brunei Darussalam are urged to be more

innovative so that their product range can continue to evolve with the changing time without diminishing the quality and originality.



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports tours the Wastra Borneo Exhibition 2015 at Muzium Teknologi Brunei.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, The Honourable Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof stated this at the opening ceremony of the Wastra Borneo Exhibition 2015 at Muzium Teknologi Brunei.

The entrepreneurs, he said, need to be more creative and innovative in order to produce high quality products that are able to meet customer expectations and to penetrate the global market. This includes such aspects as patterns and colours that are not only diverse, but also of high manufacturing quality.

\*To page 17



\*From page 10

They also need to be more creative in adding variety to the use of the Brunei Darussalam woven fabric, which is not merely restricted to making garments or clothing.

The minister believes that this is the only way forward for the Brunei Darussalam woven fabric to penetrate foreign markets in competition with other woven textiles from other countries.

He also expressed his pleasure to learn that the exhibition also displayed Brunei Darussalam woven fabric creations with new motifs developed by a graduate from Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

UBD has produced graduates whose skills lie in the creative arts, and this will certainly help the



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports tours the Wastra Borneo Exhibition 2015 at Muzium Teknologi Brunei.

development of the woven textile industry in Brunei Darussalam, he highlighted.

The minister also expressed hope that such exhibition will be held again in the future.

## RBAF HOLDS CARAT EXERCISE WITH UNITED STATES NAVY



Joint Force Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) at the opening ceremony as the guest of honour.

**MUARA**, November 2 – The 21<sup>st</sup> Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Brunei Darussalam exercise commenced with an opening ceremony held at the Multi National Coordination Centre in Muara.

The joint military exercise between Brunei Darussalam and the United States of America will continue through November 11 and will be participated by the Royal Brunei Land Force, Royal Brunei Navy and Royal Brunei Air Force as well as the US Navy.

The CARAT exercise aims to enhance regional cooperation, develop relationships and strengthen professional skills between the participating forces.

It will feature sea, air and land training events, including military operations in urban terrain (MOUT) and aviation search and rescue exercise.

Professional symposia to share best practices in military operations and law, public affairs and aviation maintenance and operations will take place throughout the exercise.

In addition, community service concerts will also be played by the US and Royal Brunei Navy band.

The Commander Task Group (CTG) for the exercise is led by Captain HB Le, Commodore of Destroyer Squadron 7 from the US Navy with Commander Shamsul Bahren bin Haji Taweh of the Royal Brunei Navy as Deputy Commander Task Group (DCTG).

The event was officiated by Commander Logistics Group Western Pacific and Commander of Task Force 73, Rear Admiral Charles Williams and attended by Joint Force Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), Brigadier General (U) Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sahat as the guest of honour.

In his speech, the rear admiral said that the USS Constitution first visited Brunei Darussalam in 1845.

The RBAF has been a part of CARAT since the exercise series began in 1995, which provides a venue to address shared maritime security challenges and strengthen maritime partnerships.

CARAT is a bilateral exercise series between the US Navy, US Marine Corps and the armed forces of nine countries, including People's Republic of Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, The Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Singapore, Kingdom of Thailand and Timor-Leste.



## BRUNEI-CHINA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



PHOTO:

The Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism at the Brunei-China Friendship Association's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN**, November 3 – The Brunei-China Friendship Association (BCFA) celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Royal Berkshire, Jerudong Park and Country Club.

The celebration was attended by the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, The Honourable Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong as the guest of honour.

In her speech, China ASEAN Association (CAA) President Madam Gu Xiulian said that since its establishment in 2005, the BCFA has been actively maintaining close relations with the CAA and other ASEAN friendship associations and has produced numerous constructive results.

The association is innovative and opens up channels,

she said.

Apart from having good performance at the multilateral stage, it also positively conducts bilateral activities such as staff exchange and promoting communication between local government and non-governmental cooperation in economy and trade, she further stated.

The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries is an organisation that engages in people-to-people diplomacy of the People's Republic of China.

The BCFA aims to enhance people's friendship, further international cooperation, safeguard world peace and promote common development.

## EMBASSY OF SULTANATE OF OMAN CELEBRATES 45<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL DAY

**JERUDONG**, November 18 – Cooperation in defence as well as in energy, oil and gas sector is another dimension to further enhance bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Sultanate of Oman.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed bin Hashil Al-Maskari stated this at a reception held to commemorate the 45<sup>th</sup> National Day of the Sultanate of Oman at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

His Excellency noted that the participation of the Sultanate's military officers in the 11<sup>th</sup> Brunei International Skill at Arms Meet (BISAM) earlier this year had been a success and achieved satisfactory results in the competition.

The Sultanate of Oman, His Excellency said, offered scholarships to four Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) students to study Arabic language at Sultan Qaboos College for Teaching Arabic Language to Non-Native Speakers, which lasted eight weeks.

His Excellency also expressed gratitude to 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 for the help and support given that plays an important role



PHOTO:

Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Sultanate of Oman cutting a cake during the reception on the occasion of the 45<sup>th</sup> National Day of the Sultanate of Oman.

in further strengthening bilateral relations throughout the year.

The Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism The Honourable Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong attended the reception on behalf of Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's Government with his spouse, Datin Hajah Norhaida binti Haji Sulaiman.

Diplomatic relations between the two countries was established on March 24, 1984 and continues to be developed in various areas including trade and investment, oil and gas, education, air services, religious affairs, agriculture and fisheries, culture and information.



## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM HOLDS ASEAN TASK FORCE ON MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH'S FOURTH MEETING

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN**, November 24 – Improving maternal, neonatal and child health should be one of the highest priorities on the ASEAN development agenda.

Director-General of Health Services, Pengiran Dr Haji Mohd Khalifah bin Pengiran Haji Ismail said this in a speech at the opening ceremony of the fourth meeting of the ASEAN Task Force on Maternal and Child Health (ATFMCH) at the Kiulap Plaza Hotel.

He further stated that significant achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) targets have been made worldwide.

Under the MDG 5 (improving maternal health), South and East Asia have made the most progress in reducing mortality at 64 per cent and 57 per cent.

Similarly, for MDG 4 (reducing child mortality), there has been a decrease of more than 50 per cent globally and 62 per cent in the Southeast Asia.

The approach on maternal and child health, he said, is

a significant initiative in supporting the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Health Development 2010-2015.

The ASEAN Task Force on Maternal and Child Health was therefore established in 2011 to achieve the MDG 4 and 5.

The three-day meeting will focus on the maternal and child health, especially for getting treatment as well as adequate and affordable health services in promoting healthy lifestyles for all ASEAN citizens.

It will also discuss the pending matters from the previous ATFMCH meeting and to submit and review the strategies in the Policy Paper of Post-2015 Maternal Neonatal Child Health ASEAN Advocacy Tools.

The meeting will be attended by representatives from ASEAN member states, ASEAN Secretariat, World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Fund for Population Activities and other relevant agencies.

## RISE IN EMPLOYMENT RATES OF IBTE GRADUATES



PHOTO: The Minister of Education delivering a speech during the 23rd IBTE convocation.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN**, November 26 – The Minister of Education The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman stated that there is an increase in the number of Institute of Brunei Technical Education (IBTE) graduates securing employment within six months of completing their courses.

Speaking during the 23rd IBTE convocation, the minister announced that 71.6 per cent of the graduates were able to find employment within six months. Out of the figure, 75 per cent were able to find work relevant to their field of study.

Meanwhile, in 2012, only 63.8 per cent of the graduates secured

employment after six months of completing their courses. Out of that percentage, only 65 per cent found work that is relevant to their studies.

According to an Employers' Satisfaction Survey released by IBTE in July this year, 91 per cent of employers were satisfied with the quality of work provided by IBTE graduates, he said.

The minister also urged IBTE to continue and organise the ongoing efforts and initiatives to produce

more graduates who are educated, skilled, creative, innovative and who have a progressive attitude with an entrepreneurial mind. This is to enhance the marketability of graduates who can meet the demands of employers.

In our efforts to remain relevant and greatly responsible in developing the country, technical education needs to collaborate with industry sectors to offer work attachment programmes that would help close the skills gap

\*To page 20



PHOTO:

A total of 1,929 graduates received their certificates in National Diploma, Higher National Technical Education Certificate (HNTec) and Industrial Skills Qualifications (ISQ) this year.



\*From page 19

between graduate skills and what is required by industry, he said.

IBTE has financial autonomy and is able to recruit its own educators. It is hoped that with this autonomy, IBTE will always be responsive in meeting the needs and demands of the industry.

The minister also touched upon the subject of human resources. Highly skilled manpower is a main driving force of a country. Therefore, IBTE must be more comprehensive, especially in terms of developing the professionalism of students to produce quality and skilled human resources.

Students, he further stated, must



The minister presenting a certificate to one of the graduates.

be able to adjust their mindset to positively adapt to changes and must also get out of their comfort zones.

This year, a total of 1,929 graduates

received their certificates in National Diploma, Higher National Technical Education Certificate (HNTEC) and Industrial Skills Qualifications (ISQ).

## RBLF CELEBRATES 54<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



The Royal Brunei Land Force Commander at the field of the First Battalion Royal Brunei Land Force in Berakas Garrison.



Some of the RBLF personnel during the parade ceremony.

**BERAKAS GARRISON,** November 4 – The Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF) has evolved into a highly skilled organisation that is in line with its development plan.

At 54 years, the RBLF has successfully implemented schemes that are aligned with its strategic plan and has carried out efforts sternly that are always relevant to its vision and mission as stated in the Defence White Paper 2011.

The RBLF Commander, Brigadier General Pengiran Dato Seri Pahlawan Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, stated this in a speech delivered in conjunction the RBLF's 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the field of the First Battalion Royal Brunei Land Force in Berakas Garrison.

The RBLF, he said, has seen improvements in its organisational structure that includes the development of RBLF units such as the Signal Squadron and Force

Transport and the establishment of the 'E' Company of the First Battalion RBLF in Bangar Camp, Temburong as the focal point for the Fourth Battalion.

The RBLF also saw the establishment of Company 'D' in each of the Company's Ceremonial Infantry Battalions, which will be merged into a special ceremonial Battalion that specialises in carrying out ceremonial duties.

Some of the efforts to increase the RBLF's capacity included enhancing the team spirit so each individual is always proud of his or her own unit and consequently increasing the sense of responsibility in keeping the name and image of the unit from being tainted, he explained.

For this reason, the RBLF has made changes to its uniform, which incorporates the use of symbols to increase the sense of pride within the unit and a badge of expertise for each individual. Military vehicles will also

be fitted with special identification emblems representing each unit as well as a newly-adopted and amended RBLF flag that came into force on November 4, 2015.

He further stated that the RBLF is currently in the process of publishing the book 'Shaping the Army towards Vision 2035' that will act as a blueprint for future plans that will be carried out in three phases with the first being implemented this year, the second in 2025 and third in 2035.

Two supporting documents – the RBLF Strategic Plan and the RBLF Land Operating Concept – will also be published, which will be the main guides in the development of the army towards 2035.

The commander also urged all members of the RBLF to maintain a high level of discipline and to avoid from indulging in negative activities such as the misuse of social media and drugs.



# BRUNEI DARUSSALAM HOSTS 7<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN SCHOOL GAMES



PHOTO:

The Minister of Education officially launches the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN School Games.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN,** November 22 – The Minister of Education, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman officiated the opening ceremony of the 7th ASEAN School Games (ASG-7) at the National Indoor Stadium of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex in Berakas.

A total of 621 athletes from ASEAN member states, including 86 local athletes are competing in the tournament.

The event commenced with a march-past by the athletes, accompanied by the Police Cadet Band from secondary schools and colleges and followed with army cadets carrying the 'ASG-7' and ASEAN Schools Sports Council (ASSC) flags as well as the flags of the participating countries.

In his welcoming address, the Director General of Education cum Chairman of the Working Committee of ASG-7 Awang Haji Abdul Rahim bin

Derus said that apart from competing with each other, the athletes are encouraged to get acquainted with one another and enhance the existing relations among the students from member countries.

The tournament, he said, can promote ASEAN Solidarity in youths and provide opportunities for school athletes to engage in cultural exchange.

Meanwhile, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Tourism and Sports of the Kingdom of Thailand, Pongpanu Svetarunda, as a representative of the ASSC President, in his speech said that ASG is about sharing, learning and meeting new friends around the region.

He also urged for the gifted student athletes to build lasting friendship among the ASEAN member states.

The event continued with the official opening of ASG-7 by the Minister of Education, followed with the raising of the ASSC flag. The minister was then introduced to the heads of contingent and presented souvenirs.

The sports pledge was afterward read by a Bruneian athlete Awang Mohd Ammar Safwan bin Haji Saidin, while the technical pledge was recited by Awang Mohammad bin Haji Mohammad Saat.

The ceremony was attended by the Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Imam Nahrawi; the Deputy Minister of Education, Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar; the

Deputy of High Performance Sport of the Republic of Indonesia, Professor Dr. Joko Pekik Irianto; and the Deputy Minister of Education and Training of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Nguyen Thi Nghia.

Special guests, Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and High Commissioners of ASEAN Countries in Brunei Darussalam, Permanent Secretary (Core Education) at the Ministry of Education Dr. Haji Junaidi bin Haji Abdul Rahman and the deputy permanent secretaries at the Ministry of Education were also present.

The ASG-7 will be held for four days starting from November 23 to 26.

ASG is an annual sporting event organised by ASSC, a regional sports organisation established in 1987 that aims to encourage sports participation in the country.

The members of ASSC comprised of nine ASEAN countries, namely the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Republic of the Philippines, Brunei Darussalam, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The objectives of ASG are to promote ASEAN Solidarity in youths through school sports, provide opportunities for school athletes to benchmark their sporting talents in the ASEAN region and provide opportunities for them to interact and engage in cultural exchange within ASEAN.



PHOTO:

Army cadets raising the 'ASG-7' flag.



PHOTO:

One of the national athletes reciting the sports pledge.



# FIRST TRADITIONAL BOAT RACE CHAMPIONSHIP FOR STUDENTS HELD IN MUARA



PHOTO:

The Director of Co-Curriculum Education with the winners of the first Traditional Boat Race Championship for secondary schools, colleges and higher learning institutions.

**SERASA**, November 8 – The Brunei Darussalam National Boat Race Association in collaboration with the Department of Co-Curriculum Education, Ministry of Education held the first Traditional Boat Race Championship for secondary schools, colleges and higher learning institutions at the Serasa Water Sports Complex in Muara.

A total of seven teams consisted of students from various secondary schools, government and private colleges and higher education institutions as well as supervising teachers participated in the race.

The one-day tournament offered two categories: 800 metres (20 paddlers) and 800 metres (10 paddlers) events.

The Department of Co-Curriculum Education has introduced the traditional boat race particularly to students as an effort to restore the glory of our country's sporting heritage and is hoped to continue and preserve this sport as the national treasure for future generations.

The Director of Co-Curriculum Education, Pengiran Suhaimi bin Pengiran Haji Bakar as Chairman of the Boat Race Committee (Fibre Glass) attended the event and presented prizes to the winners of the categories.

Under the 10 paddlers category, Sultan Hassan Secondary School won first place, Mechanical Training Centre secured second place and Tanjong Maya Secondary School came in third.

Meanwhile, under the 20 paddlers category, Sultan Hassan Secondary School secured first place with Mechanical Training Centre as the runner-up and



PHOTO:

The traditional boat race is hoped to restore the glory of Brunei Darussalam's sporting heritage.

Meragang Sixth Form Centre as the second runner-up.

The tournament provides exposure of one of Brunei Darussalam's traditional sports to students in the country. It aims to spark an interest in boat racing as well as fostering the spirit and reviving the glory of the race within the younger generation.

It is one of the new types of team sports that can be participated by students and can provide opportunities for students to show their talents and ability in boat racing.

It is also an effort to improve the health and vitality of the body and mind through participation in a challenging and enjoyable sporting event as well as to strengthen the relationship between the Ministry of Education and students as well as the public through recreational activities.



## POLITEKNIK BRUNEI WINS OGFEST '15 TROPHY

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN**, November 24 – A team of students from Politeknik Brunei that competed in the Oil and Gas Festival 2015 (OGFEST '15) in Johor Bahru, Malaysia returned home with an award.

The event, which took place on November 16 and 17, was organised by the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) Society of Petroleum Engineers Student Chapter at UTM.

The representatives of Politeknik Brunei comprised four students – Awang Mohammad Wafiuddin bin Ya'akub, Dayang Nadiah binti Haji Hassan, Dayang Nurol Azfifah binti Mohammad Roszaimy and Dayang Nurul Haziqah binti Azhar – and three lecturers – Haji Abdul Muiz bin Haji Matali, Haji Awang Morni bin Haji Madali, and Chai Soon Fu from the Oil Well Engineering programme – secured second place in the Oil Rig Design.

Politeknik Brunei was the first and only polytechnic team to ever enter the international competition that is usually contested by teams from universities.

Among the other participating institutions were Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, the Frigerg University of Mining and Technology, the Southwest Petroleum

University, China University of Petroleum (Beijing), Institut Teknologi Bandung, Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember, Trisakti University, UPN 'Veteran' Yogyakarta and the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) UI.

During the competition, the team had to compete in a series of tests such as building an oilrig within four hours, load testing, buoyancy testing and doing a five-minute presentation to explain their oilrig design to a panel of experts.

They named their oilrig model 'Zafr', which means 'success' in Arabic.

In an interview, Dayang Nurol Azfifah said, "Never underestimate yourself and be confident in what you are doing. Competing with students from other universities was very difficult, but it motivated us to try and achieve our objective of winning the competition."

With their participation in OGFEST'15, the students have gained a broader and deeper understanding of the latest developments and technology in the oil and gas industry.

Additionally, the competition has brought students and experts together by providing them with a platform to share ideas and build ties.