



# برونى دارالسلام

## Brunei Darussalam

# Brunei Darussalam newsletter

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## Brunei-Malaysia:

## Closer cooperation in various fields

Recent working visit made by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Right Honourable Dato Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi to Brunei Darussalam saw the strengthening of the bilateral relations between Brunei and Malaysia with the agreement to enhance cooperation in the fields of hydrocarbon, tourism, Islamic banking and production of *halal* foodstuffs. The mechanisms had already been set up under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of respective countries.

A conclusion was also reached on the issue of Double Taxation Agreement where it would be signed at a later date.

The Right Honourable Dato Seri Abdullah was in Brunei Darussalam for a



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Right Honourable Dato Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, the Prime Minister of Malaysia at an audience at Istana Nurul Iman

\* continue on page 3

## Brunei establish Tourism Board

Brunei Darussalam established a tourism board which is expected to focus on tourists arrivals.

The Brunei Tourism Board would take into effect from July 11.

The board would be chaired by the Deputy Minister of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR), Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamdillah, while the Permanent Secretary of the ministry would be the Deputy Chairman.

Other members comprise of the Director of Tourism Development Department as the Secretary; Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Finance; Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications; the Controller of Immigration and National Registration; the Director of Youths and Sports; Chief Executive Officer of Royal Brunei Airlines; and Presidents of the Brunei Hotels Association, Brunei Tourism Agency

and the Brunei International Trade Association.

Tourism Development Section of MIPR has also been renamed to Tourism Development Department led by Sheikh Jamaluddin bin Sheikh Mohamad.

The aim is to expedite the development of the tourism industry and ensuring its effectiveness towards enhancing its development, in the country's aspiration.



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**His Majesty and the Right Honourable at a dinner held at the Empire Hotel & Country Club**

\* From frontpage ( Brunei-Malaysia )

two-day working visit. The Prime Minister of Malaysia and entourage arrived in Bandar Seri Begawan on August 29. The Right Honourable was in Brunei Darussalam to attend the Ninth Brunei Darussalam-Malaysia Joint Commission.

During the two-day working visit, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience the Right Honourable at Istana Nurul Iman. A bilateral meeting was held soon after.

In the evening, the Right Honourable attended a dinner hosted by His Majesty at the Empire Hotel & Country Club in Jerudong.

On August 30, the Right Honourable went on a brisk walk with His Majesty and followed with a breakfast. He also held a press conference at the International Convention Centre in Berakas and met Brunei-based Malaysian community.



**Brisk walk along the Empire Hotel & Country Club**

## 228 receive Citizenship certificates

Recipients of Brunei's citizenship are urged to make more use of the Malay language in communication and interaction. This is because the language portrays the identity of the nation and race.

Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Adanan made the call at the 18<sup>th</sup> Citizenship Certificate Presentation on August 1 held at Serbaguna Hall of the Fire

Services Department in Berakas.

He also said that every citizen is responsible in keeping the peace and tranquillity of this nation-state.

He further added that since the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has allowed children of Bruneian mothers with non-Bruneian fathers to apply citizenship status under Chapter 6 (1) National Registration Act in 2002, a number of 4,208 people had

been granted citizenship under this Act.

The 18<sup>th</sup> Citizenship Certificate Presentation saw 228 recipients receiving their citizenship certificates.

The ceremony also saw six recipients receiving their citizenship after they had passed their Malay language oral test. The oral test was consented by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in 2003 for those whose educational background hinders them from completing the written tests.

## CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

**His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent congratulatory messages to:**

- His Excellency Sellapan Rama Nathan, the President of the Republic of Singapore and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong in conjunction with the republic's 40<sup>th</sup> National Day celebration on August 9.
- His Excellency Bambang Susilo Yudhoyono, the President of Republic of Indonesia in conjunction with the republic's 60<sup>th</sup> Independence Day anniversary on August 17.
- His Excellency S R Nathan on his recent re-appointment as the President of the Republic of Singapore on August 18.
- His Majesty Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Ibni Almarhum Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail, Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and his Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi in conjunction with Malaysia's 48<sup>th</sup> Independence Day anniversary on August 31.



## PALACE NEWSROUND...



## HM presents and receives credentials

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presented diplomatic accreditations and received credentials from newly appointed foreign envoys at the Istana Nurul Iman:

- ❶ His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Adnan bin Buntar, Brunei's newly appointed Ambassador to Japan on August 11.
- ❷ His Excellency Pengiran Haji Jabaruddin bin Pengiran Haji Mohd Salleh, Brunei's newly appointed Ambassador to Saudi Arabia on August 11.
- ❸ His Excellency Patrick Bonneville, newly appointed Ambassador of France to Brunei on August 11.
- ❹ His Excellency Abdel Rahman Hamza Elrayah Hamza, newly appointed non-resident Ambassador of Republic of Sudan to Brunei on August 11.
- ❺ His Excellency Folco de Luca Gabrielli, newly appointed non-resident Ambassador of Italy to Brunei on August 11.

## BLNG announces refinery system upgrade

Brunei Shell Refinery continues to flourish and maintain a balance contribution by protecting the environment and the citizens. This was highlighted with the announcement of its Refinery Environmental Management system upgrade to the new ISO 14001:2004.

The Refinery was earlier certified with the ISO 14001:1996.

According to Brunei LNG Sdn Bhd, the Brunei Shell Refinery aims to operate its plants according to the safety standards – to protect the health of the people and preserving the environment.

Following the system upgrade, staff members of BLNG had undergone a series of trainings and workshops. Through these trainings, staff members were able to refresh their knowledge on the ISO 14001:2004 and learned in detail all the clauses of the standard, emphasising on the new requirements. A Gap Analysis was also done with the current Environmental Management System (EMS) where certain gaps were identified between the current EMS and the ISO14001:2004.

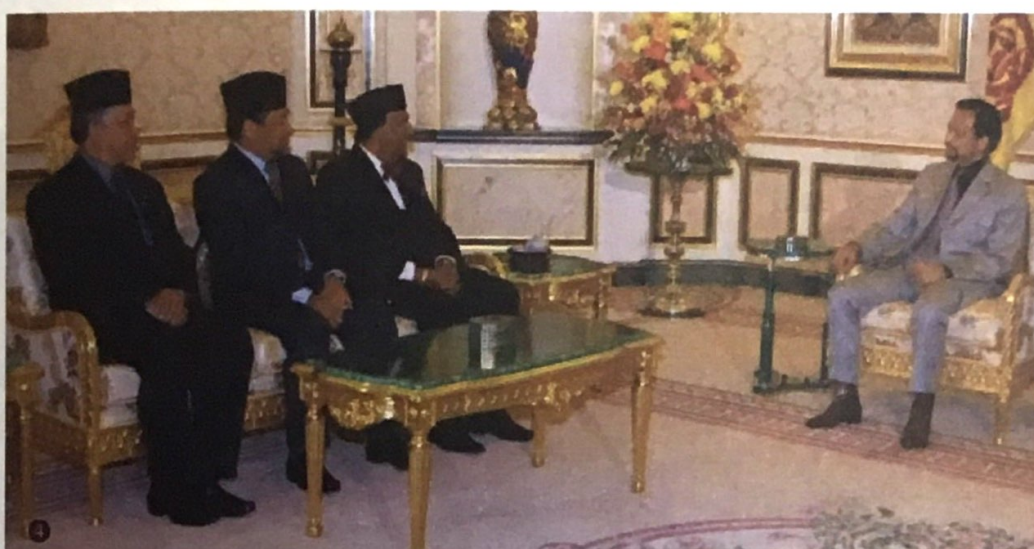
The upgrade audit was conducted on July 22 by BVQI, a certification body for the Quality and Environmental Management systems.

## HM sends condolence message

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent condolence message to His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the Custodian of the two holy mosques, following the demise of Al-Marhum King Fahd bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud on August 1.



# PALACE NEWSROUND...



**His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:**

- ❶ His Excellency Mr Major (Rtd) Badr-ur-deen, the outgoing Pakistan High Commissioner to Brunei on August 4.
- ❷ His Excellency Dr Yusbar Djamil, the outgoing Ambassador of Indonesia to Brunei on August 4.
- ❸ His Excellency Gene B Christy, the outgoing Ambassador of the United States of America on August 4.
- ❹ The Honourable Dato' Sri Abdul Kadir bin Haji Sheikh Fadzir, Information Minister of Malaysia on August 6.
- ❺ His Excellency Dr. Yaacob Ibrahim, Singapore's Minister for Environment and Water Resource on August 27.



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

- Yang Berbahagia Datin Sri Suraya binti Mohd. Noah, spouse of Information Minister of Malaysia on August 6.



**His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:**

- ❶ His Excellency Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd. Adnan bin Buntar, Brunei's newly appointed Ambassador to Japan on August 17.
- ❷ His Excellency Pengiran Haji Jabaruddin bin Pengiran Haji Mohd. Salleh, Brunei's newly appointed Ambassador to Saudi Arabia on August 17.
- ❸ His Excellency Kim Woong-Nam, outgoing Ambassador of Korea to Brunei on August 31.





## Konsert Muhibah Diraja

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty The Raja Isteri attended 'Konsert Muhibah Diraja' on August 5.

The royal concert took place at the Jerudong Park Amphitheatre in conjunction with His Majesty's 59<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary.

Information Minister of Malaysia, the Honourable Dato' Sri Abdul Kadir Haji Sheikh Fadzir was also present.

The first ever concert jointly organised by Brunei and Malaysia, showed close relationship between both countries particularly in areas of broadcasting.

The concert which took more than three hours was broadcasted live through Brunei and Malaysia's television stations.

The concert combined more than 100 artists from both countries including Malaysia's number one singer, Siti Nurhaliza, and Zul F, the winner of 'Passport to Fame (P2F)', Brunei's own reality television programme.



## 'Malam Serumpun' a colourful royal extravaganza

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzadin Waddaulah and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha attended a magnificent Royal extravaganza, 'Malam Serumpun' on August 6, which was held in conjunction with His Majesty's 59<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

Accompanying Their Majesties were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Azim, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

Among the itineraries for 'Malam Serumpun' were Borneo tug-of-war competition won by Brunei Darussalam, float procession competition and fireworks display.

## His Majesty visits Law Building & STPRI

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made unscheduled visits on August 15.

The first destination was a visit to the Law Building based at Jalan Tutong. While the next destination visited was to Sekolah Tinggi Perempuan Raja Isteri (STPRI) which is an all girls' high school based in the capital.

Such visits made by the sovereign portray His Majesty's concern on the welfare of his citizens. His Majesty also spent some time mingling around with members of the public.





## MINDEF holds aerobic & hiking activities

His Majesty The Sultan And Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam took part in the aerobic and hiking activities organised by the Ministry of Defense at Bukit Shahbandar Recreational Park in Jerudong. His Majesty led the activities comprising of 1,200 participants from the Ministry of Defense.

Accompanying His Majesty were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Azim, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malek, Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzillah.

The activities took place on August 7.



His Majesty leading the walk at Bukit Shahbandar



Her Majesty The Raja Isteri taking a closer look at the Domestic Science Exhibition 2005

## Balance education for stronger family values

Parents should ensure that their children would grow up with a balance education – by possessing academic excellence, good morals and decent characteristics.

This was highlighted by Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha at the official opening of the Domestic Science Exhibition 2005 on August 14. It was held at the International at Convention Centre in Berakas.

Her Majesty said that when the balance education has produced strength and confidence in our children, our family would automatically practice unity in achieving an eternal harmony.

The Domestic Science Exhibition 2005 was organised by PERTIWI. PERTIWI is one of the most active women association in Brunei Darussalam.

## Citizens should be ready for well-being of nation

Citizens and residents of this country should be ready to play any form of role that is allowed by Allah The Almighty for the well-being of the religion, race and nation. This applies particularly in the ever challenging times, together with the rapidly evolving global economy and its unforeseen implications.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Senior Minister at the Prime

Minister's Office said at the opening of the National Level Adult Reading Quran Reading competition on September 1 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

According to His Royal Highness, peace, security, happiness and progress should be based on our inner strengths, which are faith and piety to Allah The Almighty.

His Royal Highness also consented to grace the finale of the



His Royal Highness presenting the trophy to the winner

Quran Reading Competition on behalf of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

This year's competition was participated by four *qari* (male) and four *qariah* (female) readers. His Royal Highness consented to present prizes on behalf of His Majesty to the winners as well as other participants and judges. At this year's competition, Haji Ismail bin Haji Sulaiman went for first place for male category and Dayang Siti Huzaimah Yadey Binti Haji Rosli for the female category. Both winners received \$5,000.00, trophies and certificates. They will be representing the country in the International Reading Competition which will be held in Kuala Lumpur. His Majesty Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was in Riyadh to attend the funeral of the late King Fahd.



Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Hamid, the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Ministers Office and his counterpart, Dr. Rongphol Charoenphandu, Permanent Secretary Office of the Prime Minister Thailand signing the Letter of Transmittal on behalf of Brunei Darussalam and Thailand

## Brunei-Thailand: Cooperation on Information & Broadcasting enhanced

Cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Thailand in the field of information and broadcasting received a boost through the 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Technical Meeting under the Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) between Brunei Darussalam and Thailand on Cooperation in the field of Information and Broadcasting.

The meeting took place from August 1 to 2 at Centrepont Hotel in Gadong.

In the field of Information, both nation-states agreed on a series of exchange of visits of

\* Continue on page 8





**His Royal Highness on a work visit to various departments under the Prime Minister's Office. Among visited were Management Services Department, Audit Department, Petroleum Unit and Economic Development and Planning Department, Internal Security Department, Anti-Corruption Bureau and Narcotics Control Bureau, Information Department, Government Printing Department and Department of Radio Televisyen Brunei.**



## Senior Minister visits departments under Prime Minister's Office



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office made a series of working visit to the departments under Prime Minister's Office.

The working visit began on August 9 where His Royal Highness visited the Prime Minister's Office located at the Istana Nurul Iman and Secretariat Building in Bandar Seri Begawan. Other department visited was ASEAN-EC Management Centre.

While on August 13, His Royal Highness visited Public Service Commission, Public Service Department and Civil Service Institute.

His Royal Highness' visit continued on August 16. The departments visited were Management Services Department, Audit Department, Petroleum Unit and Economic Development and Planning Department.

Three departments were visited on August 20; Internal Security Department, Anti-Corruption Bureau and Narcotics Control Bureau.

His Royal Highness visited other three departments on August 27; Information Department, Government Printing Department and Department of Radio Televisyen Brunei.

During each visit, His Royal Highness received briefings, held question and answer session and toured the departments concerned.

\* From page 7  
( Brunei-Thailand )

Information Officers. The visits would be according to specific agendas set by each country such as 'National Identity' or on 'Media Management'.

Under the MOU, Brunei expressed her desire to exchange news via the Internet such as by linking 'Brunei Darussalam Daily Diary' to Thailand's Public Relations' Department's website. Brunei would also be launching two new websites in September

namely; Brunei Darussalam Newsletter Online and Brunei Darussalam News Online.

A Photo Exhibition Exchange was also agreed whereby both nation-states would be exchanging photographs to be exhibited in respective countries. The exhibition would be in honour of the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of His Majesty The King of Thailand's ascension to the throne.

In the field of broadcasting,

various agreements were reached. Among others, the exchange of series of documentaries and productions would be continued which is scheduled to take place in July 2006.

It was also stated that the existing cooperation between Brunei and Thailand under exchanges of news items are currently implemented under the ASEAN Television News Exchange and AsiaVision. Both nation-states agreed to explore the exchange of news items including video images via the Internet.



## Crown Prince visits MINDEF & HMS York

His Royal Highness Crown Prince General Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office was on working visit to the Ministry of Defence on August 22 at the Bolkiah Garrison in Berakas. During the visit, His Royal Highness received briefing and toured various units of the ministry. On August 25, His Royal Highness visited HMS York, the latest and most modern of the British Royal Navy's type 42 Defence destroyer. HMS York was in the country for a three-day goodwill visit.

## Protect the environment for a harmonious living

Natural disasters are mostly a result of pollution on the environment. These led to the loss of assets, lives and disruption to the ecological system.

These were highlighted by Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah at the opening of the Cleanliness and Landscaping competition, and an exhibition of live flowers at the International Convention Centre in Berakas on August 22.

Her Royal Highness said that although we have limited natural resources, if we could make use and protect it, we would always be in a clean and harmonious environment.

The competition and exhibition was co-organised by the Environment, Park and Recreational Department and Women's Institute. It was held in honour of the 59<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Also present was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bulqiah.



Her Royal Highness at the opening of the Cleanliness and Landscaping competition and exhibition of live flowers

## Royalty grace installation dinner

His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul Azim attended the sixth installation dinner of the Brunei Speakers' Club (BSC) on August 13.

His Royal Highness in his speech believed that BSC still has room in its membership demography that should

be filled by younger generation. He also assured that the students particularly those in lower secondary would gain benefits by participating in the Club.

The Club has strived to enhance the quality of speaking among Brunei

people since its establishment six years ago.

The installation dinner was held to celebrate the club's past achievement and introduced the incoming executive committee of BSC.

## HRH declares open Special Olympics event

Their Royal Highnesses Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah and Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bulqiah consented to attend the official opening of the first ever Special Olympics Asia Pacific Bocce Competition hosted by Brunei Darussalam.

The event that was held at the In-

door Stadium in Berakas on August 12 was officially declared open by HRH Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah, Patron of the Brunei Darussalam Special Olympics Committee.

On her opening remarks, Her Royal Highness praised the commitment and support by individuals, businesses, the general public and various Government agencies throughout the event as well as during the recent Torch Run event in July.

She added that such dedication shown by supporters is an indication of the awareness of those with intellectual abilities and the willingness to give them the opportunity to participate in sports with dignity.

Collaboration with various supporters will also help overcome ignorance, fear and division among the community while providing the necessary aid for the special athletes the opportunity to grow and realise their full potential.

Managing Director of the Special Olympics Asia Pacific, Mr Troy W. Greisen in his speech congratulated the committee for

organising an impressive event which adds another chapter in the history of the Special Olympics sports events around the globe.

Such positive participation by Brunei Darussalam will foster an even greater participation and acceptance by those with intellectual disabilities, he said.

Meanwhile Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Awang Haji Jemat bin Haji Ampal added that such sporting events is also in line with the government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's mission to assist needy individuals and encourage them to participate in healthy sporting events.

The Special Olympics Bocce Competition that was held from August 12 to 14 at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium was participated by five nations including Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Bangladesh.



Her Royal Highness meets participants of the Special Olympics Asia Pacific Bocce Competition



## HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah in Singapore



**Avoidance of Double Taxation was agreed between Brunei Darussalam and Singapore**

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah were on a three-day visit to Republic of Singapore on August 17.

The visit by Their Royal Highnesses to the Republic is at the invitation of Singapore's Foreign Minister, His Excellency George Yeo.

His Royal Highness and His Excellency George Yeo on August 19 signed the Avoidance of Double Taxation on behalf of their respective governments.

During the visit, His Royal Highness had a meeting with His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore; His Excellency Goh Chok Tong, Senior Minister; and His Excellency Lee Kuan Yew, Minister Mentor.

Their Royal Highnesses also attended luncheon hosted by His Excellency S R Nathan, President of Singapore and banquet hosted by His Excellency Professor S. Jayakumar, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Laws.

Brunei – Singapore diplomatic relations was established in 1984.



**Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Dr. Haji Awang Ahmad and wife with His Excellency Mr Hirubalan, the High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore and wife, cutting a cake to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> National Day of the Republic of Singapore on August 9 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas. Yang Berhormat was present on behalf of Brunei Darussalam.**



**Minister of Home Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Adanan and wife with His Excellency Bachrun Subardjo, the Charge D' Affaires of Indonesia to Brunei and wife at a reception to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of Indonesia on August 22 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.**

## Brunei-Malaysia: Closer cooperation on information & broadcasting

Cooperation in the field of information and broadcasting between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia received a boost which indicates further and closer cooperation.

Further cooperation were reached at the Joint Technical Meeting under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the Field of Information and Broadcasting between Brunei

Darussalam and Malaysia. The meeting was held in Bandar Seri Begawan from August 5 to 8 at the Centrepont Hotel.

Under the MOU, various agreements had been reached. In the field of Information, among those agreed were the exchanges of publications, expertise in journalism and photography, news and features. Malaysia had also agreed to provide

trainings on public speaking, environmental and scenarios analysis and issue management.

In the field of broadcasting, a wide scope of cooperations had been achieved. Collaborations were further strengthened especially in the exchange of news, training, live broadcasting, television productions, drama and sitcoms, and sports coverage.

## Tax relief for incomes earned in Singapore & Pakistan

Brunei individuals or organisations who are earning incomes from Singapore and Pakistan are now set to experience a system of relief. These came in light after each government had signed the Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement.

Brunei Darussalam and Singapore signed the agreement on August 19 in Singapore. The agreement enables the Brunei taxation system to allow income tax levied by Singapore to be credited against the tax due in Brunei. The net result is that the individual or

organisation pays the higher of the two taxes.

While Brunei Darussalam and Pakistan agreed on the draft for the Convention on Avoidance of Double Taxation on August 20 in Islamabad, Pakistan.





**Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Adanan, receives Malaysia's Minister of Information, The Honourable Dato' Sri Abdul Kadir Haji Sheikh Fadzir**

## Brunei-Malaysia Minister hold meeting

Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Adanan received a courtesy call from the Honourable Dato' Sri Abdul Kadir Haji Sheikh Fadzir, Malaysia Information Minister and entourage on August 5.

Among the matters discussed was ways to enhance the relationship between the people from both countries.

## Japanese Exchange students visits Brunei

Eight Japanese exchange students arrived in Brunei Darussalam on August 12 to broaden their understanding on the economic as well as cultural aspects of the country.

The group which is part of the invitational exchange programme sponsored by Japan's Yomiuri Newspaper and Mitsubishi Corporation also aims to foster relations between Japan and other countries.

Brunei Darussalam, which is the first destination for the group included a five-day program that covered tours to Brunei Liquefied Natural Gas (BLNG), to observe the production process and study the economic relationship between both countries.

Another study tour included a scheduled visit to Mc Farm, a subsidiary of Mitsubishi Corporation as well as other places of interest such as a trip to Ulu Temburong, a visit to Brunei Museum, Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque and the Water Village.

Get-together session with Bruneian youths and a courtesy call to the Japanese Ambassador were also held.

A the group of Bruneian students will also be expected to visit Japan next month as part of the exchange programme under the co sponsorship of the Brunei-Japan Friendship Association (BJFA), BLNG and Mitsubishi Corporation.

## Brunei-Phillipines UPT renewed

The governments of Brunei and the Philippines have renewed a mutual agreement on uniform port tariff (UPT) in a bid to spur cross-border trade movement within the Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines East Asian Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA).

According to a statement on August 22 by The Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCo), the agreement that provides more incentives and lower port charges, will be extended until 2007 in response to requests of private shipping firms.

Under the agreement, accredited vessels served by the ports of Brunei and Philippines are entitled to special charges including US\$0.040 per Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) for port dues and US\$0.020 per GRT for dockage fees.

The special rates are lower than the standard port dues of US\$0.81 per GRT and dockage fees of US\$0.039 per GRT charged for vessels engaged in foreign

trade.

Seaports covered under the renewed UPT agreement are the ports of Davao, General Santos, Polloc, Zamboanga, Jolo, Puerto Princesa, Cagayan de Oro, Iligan, Bbngao, Nasipit and Ozamis in the Philippines.

Meanwhile ports that are under the new agreement in Brunei Darussalam covers the Muara and Kuala Belait ports.

Meanwhile, MEDCo Secretary Jesus Dureza said the move is seen to continually increase vessel traffic among the ports within the BIMP-EAGA region where Mindanao's cargo traffic during the first quarter this year significantly increased due to the bustling exchange of sea cargoes in the economic region.

According to a data released by MEDCo, the volume of cargo passing through Mindanao's seaports have increased by 5.7 per cent during the first three months this year, with 4.7 million metric tonnes of cargo compared to last year's 4.4 million metric tonnes.

## Service Hub 2024 involves public & private sectors

A vision, "Service Hub 2024", adopted by the Ministry of Communications, is driven to the creation of a growing and self-sustaining domestic transport and communication. It is also to make Brunei as a competitive, efficient and significant regional service hub.

Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong said at the opening of the Public Private Partnerships in Infrastructure Development: The case for introducing Foreign Direct Investment seminar. The seminar was held at the Empire Hotel and Country Club in Jerudong on August 11.

According to the Minister, it is important in the bid to create an advanced Information Society. It is also to transform Brunei into a knowledge-economy which is supported by modern transport and communications infrastructure.

The Minister also said that Brunei would pursue liberalisation of air transportation by entering into open sky agreements with all ASEAN members to realise the creation of an 'Asean Economic Community' which is envisioned by its leaders.

He also touched on future plans by the Ministry whereby provision of services would be transferred to the private sector that are more business focused. While the Ministry would be focusing on providing a conducive legal and regulatory environment that are flexible, responsive and able to promote innovation and creativity.



**Minister of Communication outlines the importance of Service Hub 2024**

## Faces of Brunei insight to Brunei's legacy

Members of the public are now able to take a closer look at Brunei Darussalam's culture, interesting places and the friendly faces of the local people through the Faces of Brunei 2005 photo gallery.

The photo gallery is available at the Sultan Haji Hassanil Bolkiah Foundation Shopping Complex.

Present to launch Faces of Brunei 2005 was the Director of Brunei Tourism Board, Sheikh Jamaluddin bin Sheikh Mohammad on August 18.

The exhibition is a collection of photographs taken for a photography competition organised by Rakan Tiga media and Crisnobel.



## Environmental pact strengthens bilateral relation

Closer bilateral partnership between Brunei Darussalam and Singapore was further strengthened with the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Environmental Affairs.

Present as signatories were Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdullah, the Minister of Development who represented Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Dr. Yaacob Ibrahim, the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, for the Singapore government.

According to Pehin Dato, the

partnership would provide both nation-states' senior officials with the opportunities to share information and to exchange experiences on ways and means to enhance our environmental management and governance performance.

Cooperation from this MOU would include sharing and exchange of information and expertise through exchange visits, attachments, institutional twinning activities and trainings in several environmental protection and management areas.

## Healthy food for students emphasised

School canteen operators are reminded to adhere to the rules and regulations issued by the authorities. The operators should also ensure that the foods are according to 'syarak', nutritious, clean and carry price labels.

This was highlighted by the Head of School and Hostel Nutrition Service of the Ministry of Education, Awang Haji Azis bin Haji Nayan on August 22 at the Civil Service Institute in Rimba, Gadong at a health briefing for managers and canteen operators.

Awang Haji Azis said that the Ministry of Education would not hesitate to terminate the services of any canteen operator should failure to follow regulations occurred.

Currently, there are 197 canteens operating in schools, colleges and religious schools.

## New project for Brunei- Australia Agribusiness

Further developments in agribusiness between Brunei Darussalam and Australia will be further enhanced with the establishment and development of an efficient farm accreditation scheme for vegetables farms and selected fruit orchards.

This was enlightened during the signing of an agreement for a consultancy project entitled "The Establishment of Horticultural Farm Accreditation Scheme in Brunei Darussalam" between Brunei and Australia on August 25 at the Agriculture Department.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Pengiran Hajah Mariana bte PDNLDR Pengiran Haji Abdul Momin, Acting Director of Agriculture.

Meanwhile Australia was represented by Mr Colin Bunt, Managing Director of Macro Agribusiness Consultants Pty Ltd.

The project that comes under the 8<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan will assist the implementation of good agricultural practices and proper management of pesticide usage for the production of clean and safer farm produce in accordance with national and international standards for recognised good agricultural practices.

## Float Glass Plant generate job opportunities for locals

Brunei Darussalam would soon own a 600TPD Float Glass Plant. This was made visible through the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Bruglass Sdn Bhd from Brunei and Stein Heurtey, a subsidiary of Aompagnie de Fives Lille from France.

Present as signatories were Dato Mohd Alimin Abdul Wahab, the Chairman of Bruglass Sdn Bhd and Mr Francois Pahmer, Vice-President of Glass Division

for Stein Heurtey France and representing for Stein Heurtey Metallurgical Equipment Corporation China (a joint venture between Stein Heurtey glass and China Metallurgical Equipment Corporation) was its Managing Director, Mr Wei Bao Hua.

According to Dato Mohd Alimin, the plant is expected to produce job opportunities where 230 people would be in direct employment. It is expected to

## New explorations promise positive outcomes



Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Yahya at the launching of onshore blocks

Greater prospects such as work employment and the generating of the economy are envisaged with the launching of the onshore blocks 'L' and 'M' for oil exploration and production.

The onshore blocks; Block 'L' is 2,253 sq. km that lies onshore in the Brunei Muara district, part of Tutong and Temburong districts; and the 3,011 sq. km Block 'M' is based at the southern part of Belait district.

Present to launch the onshore blocks was Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Yahya, the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office. The launching took place on August 29 at the Empire Hotel & Country Club in Jerudong.

Between 1955 and 1962, over 600,000 barrels of oil were produced after the discovery of Jerudong Oil field in Block 'L'.

Block 'M' has been explored since the beginning of the last century with the first successful well, Belait -2 which produced a total of 33,000 barrels. The exploration was done between 1924 and 1931.

## TAP declares 4.25% dividend

Brunei Darussalam's Employee Trust Fund (TAP) has earned profits of more than \$43 million (unaudited) for the financial year - January 1 to March 31, 2005.

With this, a 4.25 per cent dividend had been declared for members of TAP.

This was stated at a Dividend Declaration and Launching of TAP's Corporate Video ceremony on August 25 at the Ministry of Finance.

According to the Chairman of TAP, Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Awang Haji Mohammad who is also the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, TAP is expecting to achieve the \$3 billion mark within the next 12 years.

The Board of Directors for TAP was officially established on February 20, 1992 where it would be chaired by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports. In September 1992, an act on TAP was passed.

generate hundreds of jobs for locals.

The plant is foreseen to produce float or sheet glass which are generally used in building construction, automobile and other specialty industries such as mirrors and table tops.

Brunei has the advantages in setting up this industry as she owns the basic raw materials required to produce float glass which are silica sand and natural gas.



RBAF Commander receives courtesy call

Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Pehin Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi received a courtesy call by Admiral Sampop Amrapala, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Navy on August 4 at the Ministry of Defence in Berakas.

On August 22, he received Major General Lim Kim Choon, Commander of Singapore Air Force.



Commander of RBAF receives Major General Lim Kim Choon, Singapore's Air Force Commander

Brunei participates E-Games Six-Nation Championship

Brunei took part in the first ever E-Games Six-Nation Championship "Zzap! E-Games Asia 2005". The tournament was held on August 20-21 in Cyberjaya, Malaysia. Brunei's representatives competed in Counter Strike PC Version 1.6 Category and Warcraft Three.

The competition is Malaysia's first ever international E-Games tournament. Besides Brunei and host, Malaysia, the E-Games competition featured players from Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand and Philippines.

DTTB to enhance ASEAN Digital Broadcasting

Television broadcasters from ASEAN member-states had the opportunity to share knowledge, experience and formulate a plan in the bid to introduce Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting (DTTB). This was realised at the third ASEAN Digital Broadcasting (ADB) meeting held at Centrepont Hotel in Gadong on August 29. The meeting was co-organised by Radio Televisyen Brunei (RTB) and

MediaCorp of Singapore. The sharing of knowledge and information is a demonstration of unity of ASEAN as a dynamic region which is also in the effort to narrow the digital gap among ASEAN member-states. More than 50 delegates from seven ASEAN countries attended the meeting comprising of; Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Myanmar and

the Republic of the Philippines. A number of agreements were achieved at the meeting such as an agreement for the task force to continue collect information from ASEAN members in preparing and consolidating specifications for a common Set Top Box (STB). It was also suggested that ASEAN member countries should consider adopting a common standard for digital TV.

Travel documents fees revised

The Department of Immigration and National Registration on August 9, announced a review with its International Certificate of Identity and charges for several travel documents. It was announced that the International Certificate of Identity is now known as Certificate of Identity. This certificate is issued for permanent residents who are described as stateless. Travelling documents had also been reviewed namely;

Document Title	Current Price	New Price
Certificate of Identity (Valid for not more than five years)	\$20.00	\$50.00
General Certificate of Identity (Valid for 10 years)	\$30.00	\$35.00
Emergency Certificate	\$10.00	\$20.00
Single entry visa (For visit visa, employment visa, student visa and dependent visa)	\$15.00	\$20.00
Multiple entry visa for:- i. Less than three months ii. Three to 12 months iii. More than 12 months	\$20.00 \$30.00 -	\$30.00 \$50.00 \$50.00 (Per year of part thereof)
Transit Visa	\$1.00	\$5.00
Collective or group visa	\$20.00	\$50.00

Changes would take into effect from September 1, 2005. The Department of Immigration and National Registration also announced that effective September 1, two types of travel documents – General Certificate of Identity and Certificate of Identity would be changed from a conventional type certificate to Machine Readable which contains high security printing based on the standard stipulated by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). The Department also advised members of the public to ensure that their travel documents or passport are valid with not less than six months. It was also advised that these documents should have enough space for exit/entry endorsement stamp issued by the local and foreign Control Post.



## Retail industries contribute to economy

Brunei Darussalam has seen positive progress in the establishment of retail industries around the country.

The growth of retail industries in the country are also positive indications of more contributions to the developing economy of the country.

Recently, more newly-built local retail outlets have provided local shoppers with a greater shopping experience.

The smooth progress is also expected to significantly benefit the country's economy in the long run by encouraging more local consumers to shop locally.

Brunei Darussalam, which also records the lowest Consumer Price Index in the region as per 2004 is also a good advantage to attract more price wise consumers to shop in the country.

A boost in the economy is also expected with the recent launch for the Brunei Grand Sales in September offering huge discounts in time for the Hari Raya festivities.

Over 345 retail outlets have registered to take part in the 2005 Brunei Grand Sales organised by the Brunei Economic Development Board.

The event which is the 11<sup>th</sup> such event of its kind is expected to run up to 52 days until the first week of the Hari Raya celebrations.





## Snippets...

### Brunei entrepreneurs participate in MIHAS 2005

Bruneian entrepreneurs participated the 2nd Malaysia International Halal Showcase (MIHAS) 2005 in Kuala Lumpur.

According to the trip organiser and Chairman of Sapco (B) Sdn Bhd, Pg Shahminan Pg Hj Ismail, MIHAS 2005 was also participated by over 500 booths from 17 countries.

He added that 18 booths were operated by the Brunei-based exhibitors that participated under the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.

MIHAS 2005 that was themed "Repositioning the Global Halal Business", was considered the ultimate platform for international buyers and sellers to congregate and explore their options in food and beverages, cosmetics, fashion, pharmaceuticals, publications, information technology as well as the Islamic capital market and financial services.

Next year will also see two additional MIHAS events including the KL Halal Food Festival and three-day World Halal Forum in May next year.

### Australian High Comm moves to a new premises

The Australian British High Commission has relocated to a new premises at Level 6, DAR Takaful IBB Utama, Jalan Pemancha, Bandar Seri Begawan BS 8711, Brunei Darussalam.

The contact numbers are (+673)222 9436 and fax (+673)222 1652. The email address is austhicom.brunei@dfat.gov.au.

Working hours are from 0800 to 1700 hours, from Mondays to Thursdays, and 0800 to 1305 hours on Fridays.

### PUJA unveils new office and website

Brunei Darussalam's Association of Surveyors, Engineers and Architects (PUJA) unveiled its new head office.

The new office is based at Unit 3, Level 2, Block B9, Simpang 32-66, Kampong Anggerek Desa.

Present to officially open the building was Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Abdullah, the Minister of Development who is also the President of PUJA on August 19.

PUJA also officially launched their website – <http://www.puja-brunei.com>

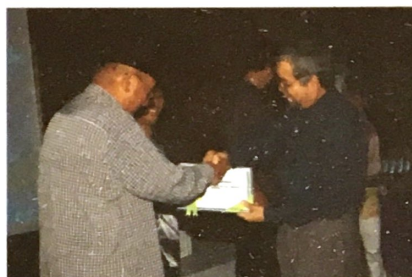
PUJA was established in 1984 after her application to the Registrar of Societies to form PUJA (B) was approved on January 31, 1984.

### Braille Course for Sight-Impaired Students

Special Education Unit, Ministry of Education conducted a course on how to use the Braille code and Brailier Perkins. The course was conducted in an effort to help visually-impaired students.

Twelve teachers from government schools were involved in the course. The teachers are qualified Braille teachers that had passed the Braille Competency test from the New Zealand Royal Foundation for the Blind.

Currently, there are eight students who have sight problems undergoing the course which was held twice a week throughout August. The Unit planned to aid more students who have similar problems, including their parents and teachers.



Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Abdullah present as chief-of-guest at the opening of PUJA's new office.

### Brunei participates in 4<sup>th</sup> ABU-ROBOCON

Seven students from the Jefri Bolkiah Engineering College (MKJB) took part in the Fourth Asia Broadcasting Union-ROBOCON which took place from August 25 to 30 in Beijing.

Senior Education Officer from the Science, Technology and Environment Partnership (STEP) Centre, Ministry of Education, Dayang Sarimah binti Abu Bakar expressed her hope for the students to take the opportunity to enhance their knowledge from other participants especially in the field of robot manufacturing.

A handing over of the national flag to the students and officials was held on August 23 at STEP Centre in Berakas.

Asia Broadcasting Union (ABU) is a professional association on radio and television broadcasting. It has more than 100 members from 52 countries. ABU was established in 1964 with the objective of promoting the development of broadcasting in the Asia-Pacific region.

ROBOCON is a robot competition which started since 2002. It involves universities, colleges and polytechnic students from the Asia-Pacific region.

Next year's ABU-ROBOCON would be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

## Brunei In Brief

**Official name:** Negara Brunei Darussalam

**Capital:** Bandar Seri Begawan

**Land size:** 5765 sq. km

**Geographical Position:** North-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia

**Population:** 349,600 (2003 estimate)

**National Carrier:** Royal Brunei Airlines

**Official Language:** Malay

**Official Religion:** Islam

**Official Website:** [www.brunei.gov.bn](http://www.brunei.gov.bn)



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