



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam newsletter

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) held in Saudi Arabia.

His Majesty attends OIC

Brunei Darussalam will continue to work with her partners from the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and will meet the challenges and successfully live up to its expectations.

The assurance was stated by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Third Extraordinary Session of OIC in Saudi Arabia on December 7.

His Majesty also touched on OIC's Ten-year Programme of Action where it is much clearer, comprehensive, practical and deeply inspiring. Each article subject it addresses proclaims the relevance of Islam in the present world. In all, it places OIC in front of world organisations seeking to build a tolerant, progressive and mutually respectful society.

"It is also a Declaration. It underlines our commitment to be part of the modern world; to share it justly with our fellows; and to play our part in helping to lead it. It is a powerful, humanitarian contribution by one fifth of humanity. To the rest of the world, it offers the noble challenge of matching its vision in spirit, hope, confidence and universal goodwill. In its vision and its inspiration, it is a tribute to the deepest principles of Islam," said His Majesty.

The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) was held in Saudi Arabia from December 7 to 8. Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The opening of the summit was held at Al-Safa Palace by His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud.

The two-day summit was aimed to strengthen the Islamic community as well as to restore the image of Islam in the eyes of the world that was harmed by terrorist attacks carried out in the name of the religion

New regulations imposed for petrol purchase

New regulations will be imposed from January 1, 2006 for the sale of petrol products. This was announced by the Energy Division under the Prime Minister's Office.

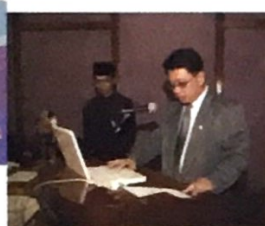
Under the new regulations, the purchase of gasoline or diesel that are filled directly into a vehicle's fuel tank will be limited to one full tank and should not exceed 250 litres.

The new regulations imposed also require the usage of approved container by the Brunei Shell Marketing Sendirian Berhad (BSM) and should not exceed 100 litres. The purchases are limited to Brunei Darussalam's identity card holders only.

Bulk buying of gasoline or diesel using drums or tanks above 100 litres are also limited to local registered companies.

The purchase of diesel at riverine stations by local registered vessels are limited to 1,000 litres and restricted to Brunei's identity card holders.

While foreign registered vessels and local registered vessels used in shipping or ferry business are required to purchase diesel from BSM's commercial bunkering sites.



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PALACE NEWSROUND...

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience at Istana Nurul Iman from General Dato Seri Abdul Aziz bin Haji Zainal, Malaysian Chief of Army on December 22.



Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha granted audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman for:

- ❶ Madam Kathleen Anne Buckley, spouse of the outgoing High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei on December 3.
- ❷ Datin Sri Rositah binte Haji Md. Naw, spouse of Malaysian Chief of Army on December 22.

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

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

- His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahayyan, President of the United Arab Emirates and the Ruler of Abu Dhabi and His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of United Arab Emirates and the Ruler of Dubai in conjunction with the country's National Day on December 2.
- His Excellency President Khamtay Siphandone of the Lao People's Democratic and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Bounnhang Voraachith in conjunction with the republic's National Day on December 2.
- His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Thaksin Shinawatra in conjunction with His Majesty's Birthday on December 5.
- His Majesty Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, the King of Bahrain and his Prime Minister, His Royal Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa in conjunction with Bahrain's National Day on December 16.
- His Majesty Emperor Akihito of Japan and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Junichiro Koizumi in conjunction with Emperor Akihito's birthday anniversary on December 23.

PALACE NEWSROUND...

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Deputy Sultan, received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from His Excellency Christian Bennett, the outgoing High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei on December 7.



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah on December 22 received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:

- ❶ Madam Kathleen Anne Buckley, spouse of the outgoing High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei.
- ❷ Madam Christiane Kirsch Bonneville, spouse of newly appointed Ambassador of France to Brunei.

Milestone of achievements for BSM

Brunei Shell Marketing Sdn Bhd (BSM) have reached a milestone of achievements for the year 2005.

The petroleum company which still maintains its position as market leader in the competitive lubricant market has recorded an increase of four per cent of sales on petroleum products compared to last year due to the country's stable economy growth.

This was stated by Pehin Dato

Paduka Haji Abd Rahman Haji Ibrahim, Minister of Finance II in his capacity as the Chairman of the Board of Director of Brunei Shell Marketing Sdn Bhd during an annual 'Marketing Night' gala event on December 10 at the Rizqun International Hotel in Gadong.

Such achievement by Brunei Shell Petroleum is due to the commitment and efforts of the BSM staff in the marketing and distributing of its products, he said.

The guest of honour also urged BSM

staff members to be more proactive and responsive in overcoming challenges posed by the unpredictable environment.

Although BSM have successfully achieved four continuous years with zero lost time injury, a number of safety campaigns have been launched to enhance safety awareness amongst road users and petroleum stations followed by the unveiling of 20 brand new petroleum road tankers, he added.

Pictures of OIC Summit



Leaders in a group photo at the OIC.



His Majesty upon arrival at the King Abdulaziz International Airport and received by Governor of Jeddah, Prince Meshal bin Majid Al-Saud.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness after the dinner banquet.



His Majesty with His Excellency Dr. N. Hassan Wira Juda, the Foreign Minister of Indonesia after the dinner banquet.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on December 7, received in audience the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Her Excellency Begum Khaleda Zia, followed by the President of Azerbaijan, His Excellency Ilham Aliyev during the OIC Summit in Saudi Arabia.

11th ASEAN SUMMIT
KUALA LUMPUR

12-14 DEC 2005



11th ASEAN Summit & 1st EAS in Kuala Lumpur

ASEAN Summit and EAS in Kuala Lumpur: Itinerary

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to attend the 11th ASEAN Summit and the First East Asia Summit (EAS) from December 12 to 14.

On the first day, His Majesty attended opening ceremony of 11th ASEAN Summit at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC) and later joined other ASEAN Heads of State and Government signing the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of ASEAN Charter.

Also present was His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

His Majesty also attended the luncheon hosted by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Right Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi; and banquet for Eminent Person's Group (EPG) for ASEAN Charter.

On December 13, His Majesty joined other leaders attending the First ASEAN-Russia Summit; Fourth ASEAN-India Summit; Ninth ASEAN-Japan Summit and Ninth ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also attended the banquet hosted by The Right Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, the Prime Minister of Malaysia to celebrate the leaders attending the 11th ASEAN Summit and the associated summit.

While on the December 14, His Majesty attended the First East Asia Summit (EAS) at the KLCC. His Majesty together with other Heads of State and Government signed the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the East Asia Summit.

His Majesty and royal entourage departed for Brunei on November 16.

The next ASEAN Summit will be held in Manila, Philippines.



His Majesty with the Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Right Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi.

His Majesty at Plenary Session

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam expressed his concern over issues related with terrorism, natural disasters and infectious diseases.

According to the sovereign, emergence of avian flu or other infectious diseases do not only pose a threat to the economy of ASEAN but also the well-being and security of its citizens.

The sovereign stated these at the Plenary Session of the 11th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur on December 12.

His Majesty also stated that the people have a straightforward demand from the summit, that ASEAN is well-prepared and able to work efficiently together. The summits held every year provided the chance to show that ASEAN could work together and efficiently, as well to ensure the vision of an ASEAN community was realised.



Leaders attending the 11th ASEAN Summit on their way to the conference hall.



Signing of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Charter.

11th ASEAN Summit & 1st EAS

11th ASEAN SUMMIT KUALA LUMPUR

12-14 DEC 2005



2nd BIMP-EAGA Summit: Roadmap to push economic development

A five-year roadmap commencing from 2006 was agreed at the Second Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-the Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Summit. The roadmap identified six priority areas to push economic development in the sub-region namely; transportation, infrastructure, information and communication technology, natural resources, tourism and small- and- medium enterprises.

Leaders of the four countries also welcome the participation of the Northern Territory of Australia and China as development partners in the BIMP-EAGA.

Present on behalf of Brunei Darussalam was His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. Accompanying His Majesty was the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and the Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng.

The Summit took place on December 11 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



His Majesty attending the 2nd BIMP-EAGA Summit where a five-year roadmap had been agreed.

9th ASEAN + 3 Summit

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also attended the Ninth ASEAN + 3 Summit (China, Japan and South Korea) on December 12.

The sovereign stressed on the importance of dialogue and consultation for the peace and stability of the region as well as for the cooperation and development that people were seeking all over East Asia.

In fostering a sense of identity with the East Asia region, His Majesty suggested enhanced cooperation in communication, transportation, air linkages as well as information and communications technology as one way of achieving it



Leaders from the ASEAN member states and China, Japan and South Korea at the 9th ASEAN + 3 Summit.

Declaration reached at 11th ASEAN Summit

The 11th ASEAN Summit saw the signing of Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Charter where it would serve as a legal and institutional framework of ASEAN to support the realisation of its goals and objectives.

The Declaration was signed by all leaders of ASEAN on December 12 in Kuala Lumpur.

Bilateral meeting discuss prospects of the economy

A bilateral meeting was held between His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Junichiro Koizumi, the Prime Minister of Japan.

Both leaders exchanged views on how to generate the bilateral relations shared on the economy. The leaders also agreed to hold a consultation for the bilateral Economic Partnership Agreement early next year.

The meeting took place on December 12 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



His Majesty with the Prime Minister of Japan, His Excellency Junichiro Koizumi.

11th ASEAN Summit & 1st EAS



Signing ceremony at the 9th ASEAN + 3 Summit.

Economic and Development Cooperation agreement achieved

At the summit, His Majesty also attended the 1st ASEAN-Russia Summit where His Majesty expressed his appreciation for Russia's commitment and strong interest in the development of the region.

This summit saw the signing of the Agreement on the Economic and Development Cooperation.

The summit took place on December 10 at the Plenary Hall of the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Economic cooperation generate opportunities to the people

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also attended the Ninth ASEAN-Japan Summit where issues of mutual interests were discussed.

At this meeting, His Majesty expressed his hope that the ASEAN-Japan Plan of Action would be successfully implemented. His Majesty also hoped that Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership would be successfully implemented as it would generate better opportunities and brings greater prosperity to the people.

His Majesty also stated again his agreement to launch a study for an Economic Partnership Agreement between Brunei Darussalam and Japan.

The Summit took place on December 13 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

* Continue on page 9



Signing ceremony at the ASEAN-Russian Summit.

Fourth ASEAN-India Summit

The fourth ASEAN-India summit was also held at the 11th ASEAN Summit. At the summit, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam expressed his satisfaction with the way ASEAN-India relations were progressing, particularly with the signing of ASEAN-India partnership cooperation last year.

The ASEAN-India summit was held on December 13 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

FTA supports economic stability

The Ninth ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit was also held where leaders exchanged views on regional and international issues of concern. The leaders also reviewed the progress of ASEAN-Republic of Korea cooperation.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stated that the eventual establishment of the Free Trade Area would be an important mechanism supporting economic stability, thus, contribute to overall regional peace and prosperity.

His Majesty also looked forward to the broadening cooperation in the areas such as disaster management, small and medium enterprises, information and communication technology, human resource development, youth and media exchanges.

After the meeting, the Framework Agreement on the ASEAN-Republic of Korea Economic Cooperation was signed.

The meeting took place on December 13 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

1st East Asia Summit takes place

A modest and flexible approach should be used by the East Asia Summit (EAS) so that everyone would feel comfortable with each other. The EAS should begin as forum where all parties could enhance dialogue amongst themselves and work closely together, reach common understanding and share responses in matters of strategic interest.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stated these at the 1st East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur on December 14.

The sovereign also said that EAS might wish to focus on broader, more strategic issues, covering political, economic and development areas. A comprehensive approach was required in looking at these subject matters. This was because in the last twelve months, the region had witnessed major natural disasters, environmental problems, the continued threat of terrorism, escalating oil prices, the onset of infectious diseases and a host of development concerns.

He also said that to manage these problems effectively, it was important for all concerned to work very closely together right across the region and even beyond. His Majesty also emphasised the necessity of the collective action that could be achieved by working together with close friends neighbours and partners.

Her Majesty officiates WAGGGS Leaders Gathering 2005



Brunei Darussalam hosted the WAGGGS Leaders Gathering 2005 from December 3 to 10.

The ceremony was officiated by Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha on December 5 at the Rizqun International Hotel, The Mall in Gadong.

Her Majesty in her titah (royal speech) said that strength and values of leadership are main issues for any organisation or association. For success and achievements of the association, the leaders must be able to share their experience and

knowledge and to implement their vision with innovation and creativity.

Her Majesty further said that the challenges of leadership are many and they should be faced with courage nurtured through understanding, strength and determination which joined by affection.

The WAGGGS Leaders Gathering 2005 was one of project by World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and organised by Brunei Darussalam's Girl Guides Association as host.

Her Majesty to Brunei Shell Ladies Association Celebration

Her Majesty The Raja Isteri attended the Brunei Shell Ladies Association *get-together* third anniversary celebration of the association on December 24 at the Indera Kayangan Hall, Empire Hotel & Country Club in Jerudong.

Her Majesty also launched an exhibition in conjunction with the anniversary.

Brunei Shell Ladies Association is currently led by President, Datin Paduka Hajah Hayati bte POKSDSP Haji Mohd Salleh. Among the activities of the association are organising charity bazaar, cleaning campaign and holding motivational seminars.



Her Majesty receives greetings by members of the Brunei Shell Ladies Association.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah delivering a speech at the 8th World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Meeting Conference.

HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah attends WTO Ministerial Conference

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended the 8th World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Meeting Conference from December 13 to 18 in Hong Kong, People's Republic of China.

In His Royal Highness's speech, he said, "We see the WTO as one of the most important pillars of the world order. For us, it reflects our people's commitment to multilateralism. By this, we mean sharing experiences, learning from each other and working together in partnership. We mean dialogue and negotiation no matter how difficult and frustrating the process may be and, above all, we mean diplomacy, compromise and consensus. So, we come here to this meeting to support this system"

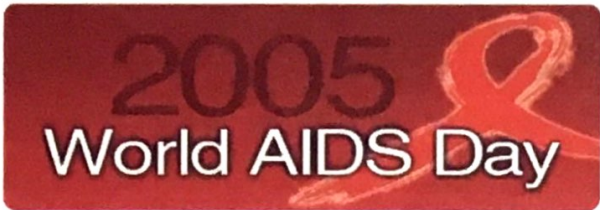
"We have two simple hopes. The first concern was technical aspects of international trade negotiations. We respect their complexity and political framework within they are set. We are encouraged that there has been progress made in the negotiations in Geneva. Like all developing nations, we would like to see this meeting build on the success and make further progress towards completing Doha round. We therefore hope that the framework I have mentioned will find a room for the equally complex principle of "fairness".

"Second hope is to leave this meeting able to assure our people that work of the WTO can offer them confidence in multilateralism and world order"

"For us, this confidence is as important as the details of any specific negotiations and we will do all we can to work with fellow members to strengthen it", said His Royal Highness.



His Royal Highness with counterpart attending the 8th WTO Ministerial Meeting Conference.



**GLOBAL STATISTICS ON
HIV & AIDS END OF
2005**

People infected with HIV and AIDS on 2005

	Estimated
Total	40.3 million
Adults	38.0 million
Women	17.5 million
Children	2.3 million

New HIV cases in 2005

	Estimated
Total	3.1 million
Adults	2.6 million
Children	0.57 million

Deaths caused by AIDS in 2005

	Estimated
Total	3.1 million
Adults	2.6 million
Children	0.57 million

Over 25 million people have died because of AIDS since 1981.

Until December 2005, women made up 46 per cent of total HIV cases worldwide.

Half of new HIV cases recorded around the world are those aged 15 to 24 years old where there are more than 6,000 people infected with HIV every day.

Only one million from 6.5 million people in both developed and developing nation-states receive treatment for AIDS.

**Brunei Darussalam
marks World AIDS Day**

Brunei Darussalam has maintained its long-term commitment and implementation towards the awareness of the AIDS epidemic.

Health education activities and campaigns on HIV/AIDS are continuously carried out in the country through government agencies, specifically the Ministry of Health as well as other NGOs including Brunei Darussalam Aids Council.

This was informed by Brunei's Health Minister, Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Suyoi at the event to mark World Aids Day at the International Convention Centre in Berakas on December 1, 2005.

The Ministry of Health has also shown its commitment by ensuring that the blood bank supply is free from the disease and its dedicated services of providing medical assistance to HIV/AIDS patients in the country.

It was also revealed that 28 local citizens so far have been infected by HIV/AIDS through sexual intercourse in which 17 have died.

Although the findings do not indicate an alarming rise, we should not be complacent but continue our commitment towards providing public awareness on the HIV/AIDS issue, the Health Minister informed.

This year the World Aids Day event features two broad themes, "Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise" and "Stop AIDS. Make the Promise".

Both themes are related with the overall aspiration of the World AIDS Day, which is to strengthen and support effective and continuous action against AIDS epidemic.

Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Suyoi added that the World Health Organisation (WHO) have estimated five million new infections this year and 40.3 million people will live with HIV throughout this world.

Preventive measures to fight against the epidemic have been highlighted by WHO including effective national planning, wider cooperation against HIV/AIDS, strengthening the role and effort of the local community, women and youth associations and adequate financial budget.

**Electrical Services & Petroleum
Unit now under Energy Ministry**

The Department of Electrical Services and Petroleum Unit, as of December 1 are now under the Minister of Energy in the Prime Minister's Office.

According to the Minister of Energy, Pehin Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Yahya, the main objective of the transfer is to achieve a coordinated and integrated energy policy and action which are handled by the two departments.

In this regard, both departments have separate objectives: Petroleum Unit as the custodian of the hydrocarbon resources regulates the production of the natural resources; and the Electrical Services Department is the Government Agency to provide services. This will not only unify under one roof but it will also bring them under one supervision and policy directive that is consistent with the needs of the country, and the needs of the present and future generations.

Previously, the Department of Electrical Services was under the Ministry of Development while Petroleum Unit was under the Prime Minister's Office.

**Minister of
Energy, Pehin
Dato Seri
Paduka Awang
Haji Yahya
launching the
new logo of
the Department
of Electrical
Services.**



**New logo of the
Electrical
Services
Department**



ASEAN Cosmetic Committee (ACC) Meeting

Both the Regulatory Authorities and the cosmetics industry need to play major role in ensuring that the cosmetic products available in the market are of good quality, safe and with substantiated claimed benefits.

Acting Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health, Awang Yusof bin Amba stated the matters during officiating the 4th ASEAN Cosmetic Scientific Body (ACSB) and 5th ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality (ACCSQ), ASEAN Cosmetic Committee (ACC) Meeting on December 7 at the Empire Hotel & Country Club in Jerudong.

He added that all cosmetics products in Brunei Darussalam are imported. Therefore Brunei is in the process of formulating the control of cosmetics products in line with the ASEAN Cosmetic Directive.

In preparation for the implementation of ACD, the nation has participated in all the capacity

building activities which were jointly organised by the EC-ASEAN Economic Programme of Standards, Quality and Conformity Assessment.

While as part of the preparation, a preliminary dialogue was held in July this year between Ministry of Health and some major cosmetics importers in Brunei with the aim of providing an insight in to the ACD Requirements and future legislative control of cosmetics products in the nation.

He further added that the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, through the Ministry will continue to give its full support towards achieving the aims of the ACD.

The meeting was hosted by the Department of Pharmaceutical Services of the Ministry of Health; and attended by delegates from the ASEAN regulatory bodies, representatives from the ASEAN Cosmetic Association (ACA) and also major international industries and local cosmetics wholesalers.

The meeting in Brunei hopes to update the ASEAN Handbook of Cosmetic Ingredients; prepare further training programme and projects; and discuss the implementation of action plans and work programmes relating to ACD.

The ACCSQ was formed by the ASEAN Economics Ministers in 1992 to facilitate and complement the objectives of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA).

In 2003, the ACCSQ ASEAN Cosmetic Committee (ACC) was formed with the main objective to oversee the implementation of the Agreement on ASEAN Harmonisation Cosmetic Regulatory Agreement Scheme (AHCRS), including the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) and the ACD.

The ACSB was formed during the second meeting of ACCSQ ACC to assist the ACC in reviewing the ASEAN Handbook of Cosmetic ingredients and other technical matters relating to the ingredients used or intended to be used.

Brunei representatives at Asean Civil Society Conference

Four individuals from various Non-Government Organisations in Brunei Darussalam represented the country in the 'Asean Civil Society Conference' in Malaysia.

The event themed 'Building a Common Future Together' was held from December 7 to 9 at the Centre for Asean Studies, Technology University of Mara in Malaysia.

Representing Brunei Darussalam at the event were Pengiran Datin Paduka Hajah Mariam binti Pengiran

Hj Matarsat, Vice President II of Women Council; Dayang Mariya from BASMIDA; Dr Haji Azasahibul bin Haji Zainal Abidin from Brunei Youth Council; and Awg Damit bin Haji Awang Chuchu from Pembela.

According to the representatives, the conference aimed to provide the realistic plans and ideas in order for stakeholders to move forward while adapting workable solutions for Asean society.

The conference also discussed on

issues pertaining to understanding the role of civil society in the Asean community, to provide a platform for Asean Civil Society to discuss matters of common interest and to enhance rapport between the respective governments and civil society for the betterment of the Asean community.

The event featured various topics on Asean Identify & Media; Economy & Trade; Human Dignity; Natural Resources & Environment; and Women, Youth and Indigenous Groups.

Brunei Government and Microsoft Cooperation signed MOU

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in Brunei Darussalam continues to adapt to various innovative moves in order to progress forward and develop a more sustainable future.

This was mentioned by the Director of Information Technology and State Stores, Haji Mahmud bin Haji Mohd Daud in an MOU signing ceremony between the Government of His Majesty of Brunei Darussalam and Microsoft Corporation on December 12.

Developing new partnerships in the ICT development and operation is a significant milestone for our country where ICT continues to play a major role amongst the society, he adds.

Present to sign on behalf of Microsoft Corporation was the General Manager of Microsoft

Southeast Asia New Markets, Mr Faycal Bouchlaghem.

The ceremony was also witnessed by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Finance Dato Paduka Haji Ali bin Apong and other senior government officers.

According to Mr Faycal Bouchlaghem, the new partnership with the Government of His Majesty of Brunei Darussalam will enable a close digital development across the nation and improve digital access while creating opportunities and jobs in a healthy ICT ecosystem.

The MOU included a six-year partnership deal enabling Microsoft Corporation to provide close digital inclusion and technological progress and contribute technological expertise, resources, skills and training.

The new partnership will also

allow Microsoft Corporation to set-up a state-of-the-art Innovation Centre to access the latest software versions, technology and expertise, and a platform to incubate solutions and proofs-of-concept that will help drive further innovation.

Collaboration in the areas of Local Language Programme, Security Cooperation Programme, Government Security Program, Government Privacy Programme, Solution Market Place Program and Mobile Technology Solution will also be implemented.

Other major areas in ICT cooperation will also be negotiated among them include local ICT ecosystems such as eGovernment, education, software localisation programme, solution market place, human resources capacity building and up-to-date security best practices in the cyber environments.



Officials signing an MOU between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Microsoft Corporation.

Sites leased for food processing

More industrial sites for food processing especially seafood will be made available with the lease of sites to four local companies.

The companies, TMM Processing Sendirian Berhad, Semaun Seafood Sendirian Berhad, DBB Bumikum Sendirian Berhad and Hasmit Ice

Maker had signed the agreement of lease on December 14.

Processing industry is one of the sectors under the Fishery Department where it has the potential to be further developed. It is regarded as an industry with a wide marketing potential domestically and overseas.

To date, two local companies had successfully achieved the desired international market by exporting their products such as rostris and tiger prawn to the United States of America, Japan, Taiwan and Singapore.

Call to achieve high level of professionalism

Nurses should always improve, enhance themselves and be innovative in the effort to achieve a high level of professionalism. They should also instil a lifetime learning attitude so they will increase their knowledge and experience in the nursing field.

This was stated by Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair, the Deputy Minister of Health at the official opening of a four-day orientation for the new recruited nurses of 2005. The opening took place on December 17 at the Multipurpose Hall of the ministry.

A number of 61 nurses attended the orientation where they were briefed by officers from the Ministry of Health, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Islamiah Dakwah Centre and the Department of Protocol.



Deputy Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair at the opening of the four-day orientation for newly recruited nurses.

More libraries for the public



Minister of Culture, Youth & Sports signing the memorabilia to mark the opening of the Muara Town public library.

Four new libraries have been approved in the 8th National Development Plan. The four areas are in Muara Town, National Housing Scheme in Kampong Lambak Kanan and Kampong Pandan, and Mukim Sengkurong. Two libraries have been completed this year namely Muara Library and Kampong Pandan Library. The other two are expected to be complete in 2006.

The Public Library in Muara Town was opened by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Haji Mohammad on December 8. The opening of the Muara library would facilitate the residents living around Muara Town to be more educated and knowledgeable especially for the students as an informal institution to mount up their academic performance.

According to Dr. Mataim Bin Bakar, the Acting Director of Language and Literature Bureau (DBP), the facilities and services provided would be lending of books, photocopying services, Internet services and an online public access catalogue. In addition, there is a special children's corner to nurture them in books and make them fond of reading.

Another new library in Kampong Lambak Kanan in the Brunei Muara District is expected to be complete in August 2006. The foundation laying on December 19. The project is worth nearly one million dollar. This is the third project of Language and Literature Bureau.

Acting Director of Language and Literature Bureau receiving sponsored items from the Islamic Development Bank of Brunei (IDBB).



The Muara Town Public Library.



Fifth oil discovery marks significant breakthrough for BSP

Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn Bhd (BSP) recently recorded its latest achievement in a series of exciting discoveries that is expected to boost BSP's existing oil position.

The fifth discovery that was successfully unveiled along the Seria Shallow Marine north Flank is a significant breakthrough in BSP's oil drilling history which is expected to be a significant contributor to the future oil production of Brunei Darussalam.

The successful exploration is located approximately one kilometer offshore of the Anduki Oilfield that was drilled in October 2005.

The 100 per cent exploration strike in that area also successfully unveiled more than 100 metres of net oil sands where the well will be expected to be complete by 2006.

Evaluation work which is well underway to assess the depth of the discovery and production is expected to proceed two to three years from now.

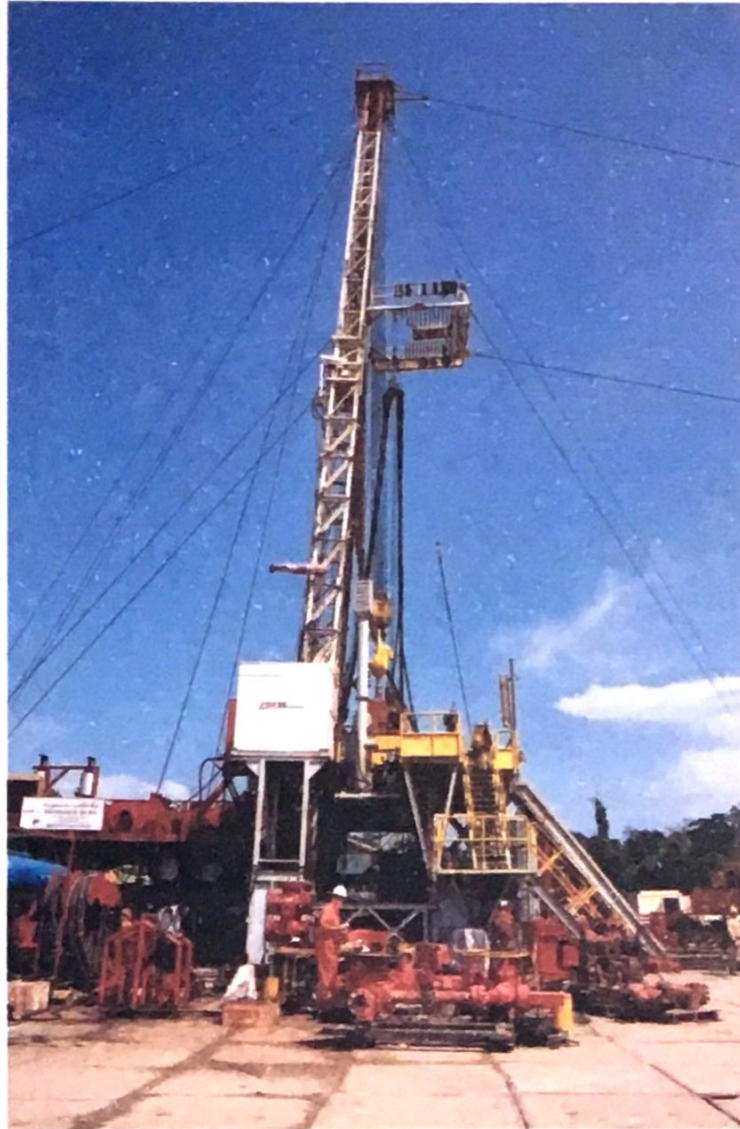
The discovery that was made in the northern flank of the Seria structure was located along a water depth of four to ten metres.

According to BSP, the latest findings are expected to contribute to the company's overall production in the long run.

The Seria field currently produces 25,000 barrels of oil per day.

According to Mr Grahaeme Henderson, Managing Director of BSP, BSP has made an impressive accomplishment to achieve a 100 per cent exploration strike which is a strong result of high specialist skills and expertise of the exploration team.

Plans for 2006 and 2007 include drilling up to five more exploratory appraisal offshore wells into the Seria North Flank area from a land based drilling location to assess the total potential of the Seria North Flank.



Part of the plant for oil exploration.



Aerial view of BSP's offshore plant.

Baiduri Bank Group holds appreciation dinner

Baiduri Bank Group held a banquet "Malam Silaturahmi 2005", an appreciation dinner to her customers. at Royal Berkshire Ballroom in Jerudong Park Polo Club on December 21.

Present as the guest of honor was Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah, the Chairperson of Baiduri Bank Group.

Accompanying Her Royal Highness were other members of the royal family. Over 500 customers of Baiduri Bank were present.

The General Manager, Mr. Pierre Imhof in his welcoming speech said that Baiduri Bank will try to maintain it's innovative, creative and professional, and continue to deliver customers need and expectations.

The Bank also contributed donations of \$50,000 to Pusat Ehsan in Bengkurong, Child Development Centre, Association of Autism Management in Educational Training and Resources or SMARTER and the Association of Disable Children, KACA which was presented by Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah.



Minister of Development (front row second from right) at the site.



Projects currently undergoing to increase water supply of the Brunei-Muara and Tutong districts.

Water supply increase under 8NDP

The supply of clean water under the Brunei-Muara-Tutong Water Supply Scheme will be upgraded, implemented under the Eighth National Development Plan.

Two projects are currently in progress; construction for raw water intake with the ongoing construction of a pump station and main pipe channel installation in Kuala Abang; and the construction of a new \$17.8 million water treatment plant at Bukit Barun. The construction of the new

water treatment plant will take at least 20 months to complete.

Through the two projects, the supply of clean water is expected to increase from 218 million litres per day to 278 litres per day.

A foundation laying ceremony was held at the new water treatment plant on December 12 at Bukit Barun. Present to grace the ceremony was the Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdullah.



Athletes showing the medals won at the Borneo Games 2005.

Borneo Games 2005

Brunei Darussalam took part in Borneo Games I which was held in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah from December 17 – 21. Brunei competed along side Malaysian states namely Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan.

The Borneo Games was launched by His Excellency Tun Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Ahmadshah bin Abdullah, Yang Di-Pertua of Negeri Sabah on December 18 at the Kota Kinabalu Sports Complex.

Brunei Darussalam's contingent

was represented by 153 athletes and 48 officials led by Chef De Mission, Awang Haji Harris, Deputy Director of Youth and Sports. Brunei took part in 59 events from 10 sports namely football, *sepak takraw*, rugby, hockey, athletics, badminton, tennis, boxing, tenpins bowling and top-spinning.

Brunei finished third with 39 medals - seven gold, 14 silvers and 18 bronzes.

The Borneo Games was a prestigious game in Borneo since

early fifties until it was stopped in the 1984. After 20 years, the Games resumed this year and will be organised biennially.

The main objective of Borneo Games is as a track to the development and progression of sports among Brunei Darussalam, Sarawak, Sabah and Labuan; and to spot new sports talents.

Sarawak will become the next hosts for Borneo Games while Brunei Darussalam is schedule to host the Games in year 2009.

ASEAN Para Games in Manila

Brunei Darussalam took part in the 3rd ASEAN Para Games 2005 in Manila from December 14 – 20. Brunei sent a contingent of 23 athletes and 16 officials led by Chef de Mission, Awang Haji Rosmadee bin Haji Mohd. Daud.

Brunei finished eight from 11 countries; and managed to bag 17 medals; seven gold, six silver and four bronze.

The ASEAN Para Games is a biennial multi-sports championship of the ASEAN Para Sports Federation (APSF). It follows the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games and is hosted by the same country where the SEA Games take place.

Among the objective of ASEAN Para Games is to promote friendship and solidarity among persons with disabilities in the ASEAN region through sports.



Athletes showed good performances at the ASEAN Para Games held in Manila.

Beaches of Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam is located on the North West Coast of Borneo Island which is constituted of a land area of 5,765 square kilometers facing South China Sea.

Beaches in the country features coastal waters that are less saline and relatively warm at 29.5 degrees Celsius.

There are a number of recreational beaches in the country including the popular Jerudong beach in Brunei Muara district, Seri Kenangan Beach in Tutong district and a number of scattered beaches along Kuala Belait District.

Other than providing some facilities for recreation, Brunei Darussalam's waters have a number of popular fishing spots with its rich fishing grounds.

Approximately some 500 species of fish including 12 shrimp and prawn species have been identified by the Fisheries department along the Brunei waters.

With coastal waves which are approximately between one to three meters high, beaches in the country are also popular spots for family activities as well as holiday and leisure activities for anyone.

The popular beach in Tutong District which faces directly to the Tutong river that is separated by a long stretch of road is the 'Pantai Seri Kenangan'.

During weekends, a variety of water sports activities are available at this beach including water jetskis and beach scooters are available for lease around the beach area.

Seri Kenangan beach area features a unique long stretch of sandy beach rather than a wide area of coastal sands making the place perfect for strolling along or jogging during the morning or afternoons.

In Brunei Muara, the Tungku and Jerudong beach features reconstructed beach shore areas which are deposited with boulders that align along its man made spits.

These concrete boulders also ensures that the sandy shores are protected from further erosion from the waves.

These two locations which are also quite popular for fishing as well as watching the sun set are also located next to each other.

The Jerudong beach also features its own fish and vegetable market that is conveniently constructed within the area also features the day's fresh catch.

Muara beach that is located at the further end of the Brunei map is also named as 'Crocodile beach', one of the most popular recreational beaches in the country for family picnics and other leisure activities.

The protected beach which also features concrete shades and seats are located around the area for the convenience of the beach visitors.

Small food stalls, parking areas as well as showers and toilets are also available at the area.

Meanwhile the Serasa beach features a long stretch of spit which has been reconstructed to conserve the coastal area and is a popular spot

for water activities especially during His Majesty's birthday celebrations.

The Water Sports Complex is also located within the Serasa beach where competitions such as Kayaking, Jetskis and other motor powered engine water board competitions usually take place.

Yachts can also be seen docking along these areas near the Royal Brunei Yacht Club.

A number of smaller beaches located along the Muara area also include Pantai Meragang.

For those who enjoy trekking, the beach along the Berakas Forest reserves provide protected forestry that is conveniently located beside a beach which is quite popular for picnickers due to the availability of shady areas.

Brunei Darussalam also accounts for over 33 islands within the Brunei border covering over 7,939 hectares or 1.4 percent of the country's total land area.

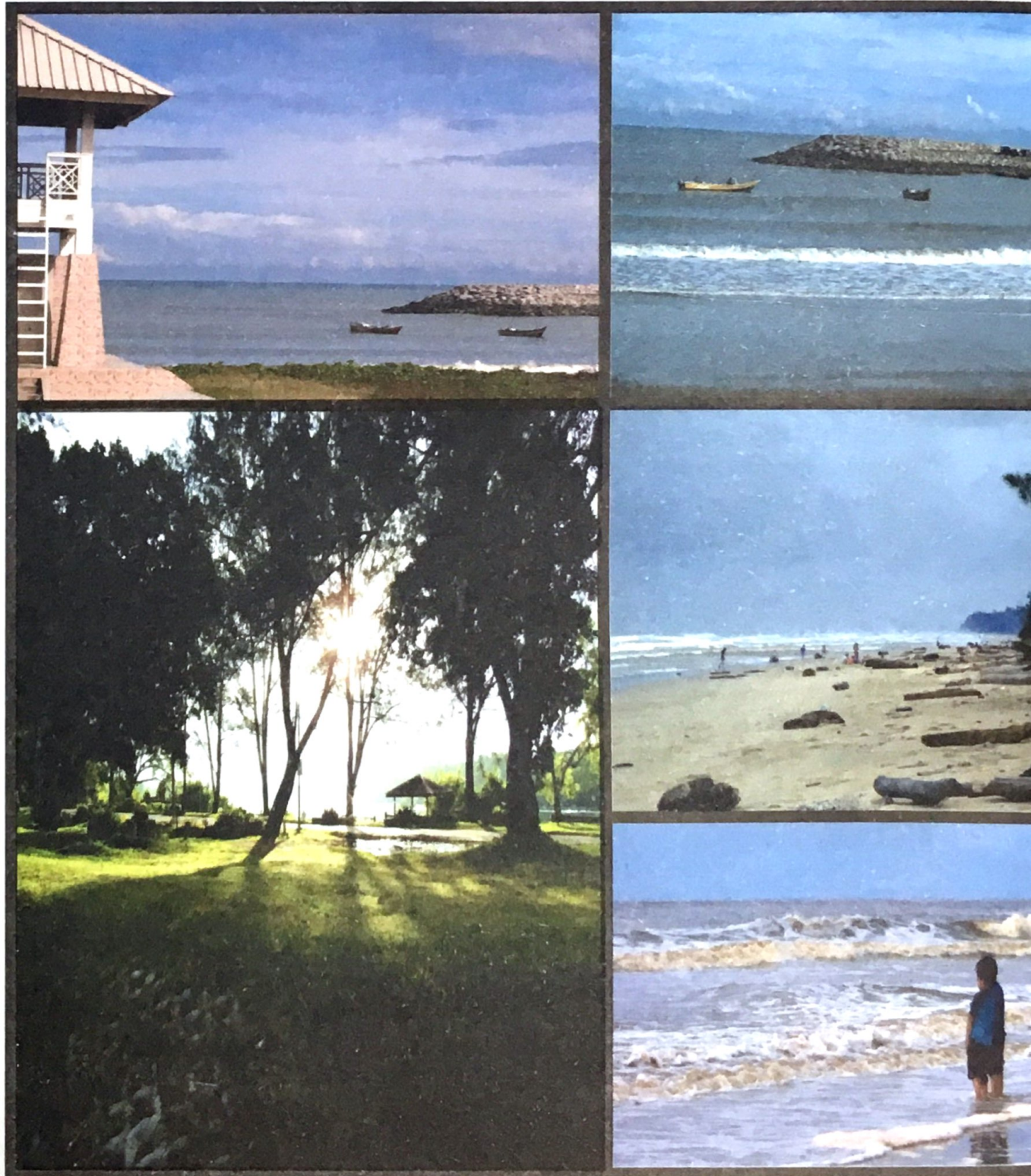
There are two islands located in the offshore area while others are located within the inner bay and along the country's major rivers.

The islands which are jungle covered are largely uninhabited and are breeding grounds for endangered species.

The sandy beaches face the open sea and mangroves plantations are also available in areas which face inland.

Often turtle nesting are also found amongst these areas with sandy beaches.

However, a number of these islands are also home to a huge breed of 'Proboscis Monkeys' an endangered breed which are only found in Borneo.



Snippets...

Brunei to host ASEAN Youth Camp of Creative Arts

Brunei will host the ASEAN Youth Camp of Creative Arts next year from January 10-22.

Fifty-five talented youths in the fields of music, dance, visual arts, creative writing and photography are expected to participate in the camp.

The ASEAN Youth Camp of Creative Arts' objectives are to foster a wider exchange of ideas among the ASEAN youth and thereby attain greater understanding and friendship.

Carrying a theme 'Adhesion: Water and The Arts', the camp aims to encourage interaction, discussion, exchange and express ideas among youth with the topics related to the arts and its connection to nature and the environment.

ASEAN Schools Sports Council (ASSC) Meeting

Brunei Darussalam through Ministry of Education became host country and secretariat for the 42nd ASEAN Schools Sports Council (ASSC) Management Meeting and 52nd ASSC Technical Committee Meeting from December 6 to 8.

The meeting was attended by eight ASEAN member countries; Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and

Vietnam; and also Cambodia as the new member to ASSC.

ASSC was established in 1978 on the initiative of the Republic of Indonesia. It was established to make easy management and administration for ASEAN schools sports competition.

Among the ASSC objective is to encourage cooperation, goodwill and understanding among ASEAN youths through sports activities, exchange programmes and trainings.

Pilgrimage to Mecca (Haj)

Brunei Darussalam recorded more than 900 people registering to perform haj for the year 1426 *Hijrah* (year of Islamic Calendar). Four flights had been assigned to transport the intending haj pilgrims.

Performing haj is one of the Pillars of Islam, and is an obligation only for those who are physically and financially able to do so.

23rd SEA Games

Brunei Darussalam finished at ninth place at the 23rd Southeast Asian (SEA) Games 2005 in the Republic of Philippines.

The contingent managed to collect five medals; one gold, two silvers and two bronzes. Brunei's sole gold was gained from Triples Lawn Ball event. The other medals were from karate-do, lawn ball, taekwando, and sepak takraw.

The next SEA Games will be held in Bangkok, Thailand in 2007.

Asian Strategy Conference for 2006 to be held

Asian Strategy Conference for 2006 will be held in Brunei Darussalam by the Royal Bank of Canada. Brunei Darussalam was one of the targeted countries in continuing the bank's network around Asia. The Conference will further increase the profile of Brunei office within the bank's network.

Brunei International Finance Centre (BIFC) has granted permission to the first foreign bank to be under the BIFC three years ago. The bank has been expanding over the years since it was first established in Brunei. Local employees have benefited knowledge and experience by undergone training in London, Dubai and Singapore.

Asian Regional Head, Mr. Trevor Wynn has been very pleased on the establishment of the bank's network in Brunei with the growing number of clients who are willing to undertake their business with the bank's office in Brunei.

The Royal Bank of Canada is one of the largest financial services enterprise and also the largest banks in the world. The Royal Bank of Canada has opened many offices throughout the world mainly in Canada, United States, Caribbean, South America, British Isle, European and Middle East and Asia.

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)

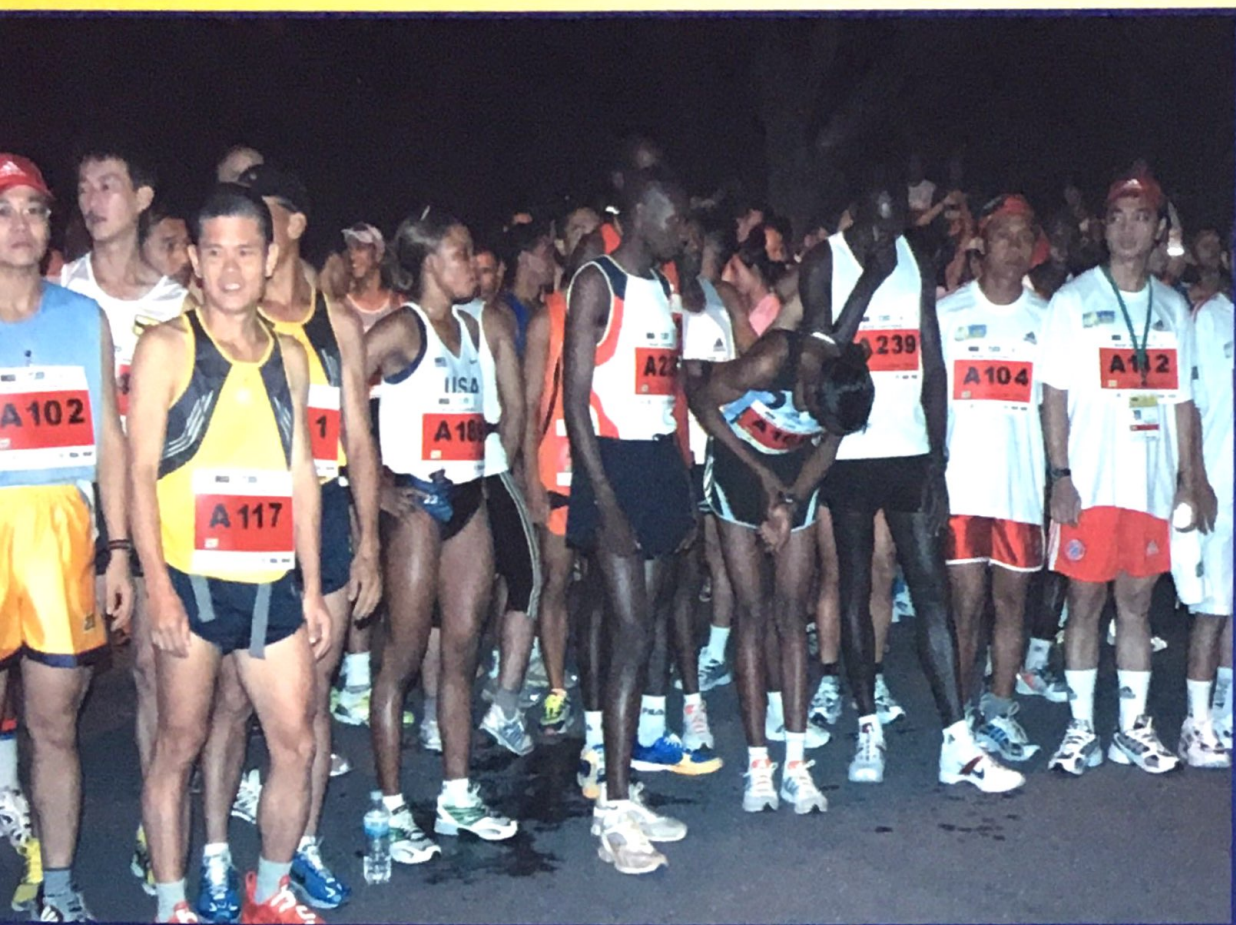
National Carrier: Royal Brunei Airlines

Official Language: Malay

Official Religion: Islam

Official Website: www.brunei.gov.bn

PUBLIC WARNING. The trafficking of **controlled drugs** carries the **death penalty** in Brunei Darussalam.



Athletes from both domestic and foreign waiting for the run to commenced.



Her Royal Highness officially flagged off Brunei Marathon.



Fun runners having a good time at the marathon.



Colourful scenario seen at the marathon.



First Brunei Marathon was participated by more than 2,700 local and foreign runners.



Brunei Marathon flagged off in the early hours of the day.

First Brunei Marathon

Brunei Darussalam's inaugural marathon made its significant mark with the marathon officially flagged off by Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah on December 11. The first Brunei Marathon was participated by more than 2,700 local and foreign runners.

The winner of the Open Men category (42km) was Matolo Benjamin Mutua. He won a prize money worth US\$30,000. While second place was won by Simon Kibiwott with US\$15,000 followed by third-place winner, Wilson Kipsongok Chepkwony with US\$7,000.

In the Women's category (42km), Ann Jelagal became the champion and won a prize money worth US\$30,000. Second place was won by Mary Akor followed by Sharla May Hall in third place.

In the Brunei Men category (42km), Sefli Anak Ahar emerged as winner who finished fifth in the overall standing and won \$10,000.

While the Brunei Women category was won by Jenny Tan who bagged the top prize of \$10,000 followed by Dayangku Siti Khatamazzariah and Tan Siew King.