



# برونى دارالسلام

## Brunei Darussalam

# Brunei Darussalam newsletter

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## Support private sector for rapid advancement

**E**ach government agency should support the private sector in addition to giving it a high priority. This applies especially for the establishment and operation of small and medium-sized businesses owned by citizens. This is because our nation-state could not advance quickly and properly without a strong and dynamic private sector.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam addressed these on the eve of New Year 2005.

According to the sovereign, this task should be exercised with a strong sense of patriotism, which functions as a process towards a transparent and sensible government service. Actions that stifle business growth and illegality such as power abuse and corruption should be avoided.

Members of the public are also urged to cooperate with the

authorities to ensure that such disease does not take root. It should be eradicated if the disease prevails.

His Majesty also touched on international relations. He had made state-visits to several nation-states both within the region and beyond. Besides strengthening bilateral relations, the purpose was to improve joint efforts with the nation-states concerned so that we may enjoy benefits from such venture.

Multilateral dialogues and negotiations were also sustained through our membership in ASEAN, APEC, ASEM and other international organisations.

"Our involvement in those organisations is essential as a yardstick to show that we are not isolated or out of touch with current developments around the world, whether in politics, economics, or security," said His Majesty.

The sovereign also expressed his hope that with the upcoming New Year



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a speech on the eve of New Year 2005

2004, the nation-state would become stronger and more matured. Patriotism slogan, according to His Majesty, should not be reduced to mere slogan; it should take shape through our actions and attitudes.

"The current demands are clear; we deserve to become strong and matured," said His Majesty.

A strong nation, said His Majesty, is always viewed as a matured nation. Hence, to become a successful nation, two attributes should exist; - strong and mature. These motivate us to become self-sustaining.

## Second Public Mobile Telephone Service License awarded to local consortium

**C**onsortium of two local companies had been awarded the second Public Mobile Telephone Service License by the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. The award was made based on an open tender bidding process.

The matter was disclosed in press release dated January 14 by Ministry of Communications.

The companies are; QAF Comserve Sdn Bhd. and Telekom

Brunei Bhd. (TelBru).

Incorporated as a private limited company and had begun operations in 2003, QAF Comserve Sdn Bhd is an IT-Telecom systems integration and e-business enabler company. It is also part of QAF Brunei Group which is an investment holding company with diverse investments such banking, retailing, automobile distribution and news media and commercial printing.

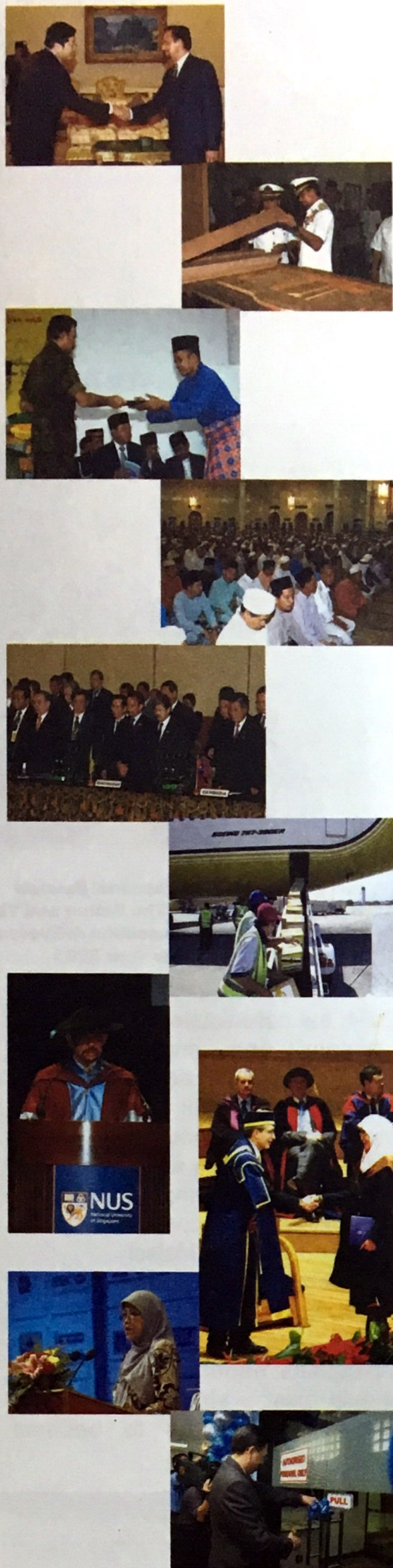
Meanwhile, TelBru Bhd. is a public

limited company registered under the Brunei Darussalam Companies Act and was formed on the May 30, 2002 and 100 per cent owned by the Government of Brunei Darussalam.

The second Mobile License awarded calls for the rollout of 3G or third-generation wireless services. The 3G network to be implemented will be based on the WCDMA technology that is widely adopted by many countries around the world.

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## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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# PALACE NEWSROUND...



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

- ① His Excellency Wei Wei, the outgoing ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Brunei on January 3.
- ② His Excellency Thierry Borja de Mozota, the outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of France to Brunei on January 29
- ③ Admiral Shahid Karimullah NI (M) SJ, Chief of the Naval Staff, Pakistan Navy on January 31.



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

- Madam Sheng Weihong, the spouse of outgoing Ambassador of the People's Republic of China on January 4.



**His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from:**

- His Excellency Wei Wei, the outgoing Ambassador of the People's Republic of China on January 3.

# TSUNAMI...

## Brunei supports crucial assistance by donors for present and future tasks

**H**is Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam expressed deepest sympathy to the people from the countries that suffered due to the earthquake and tsunami. He also expressed his appreciation to all citizens, non-governmental agencies and humanitarian groups all over the world that responded generously.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said at Special ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on aftermath of earthquake and tsunami on January 6 in Jakarta.

According to the sovereign, there are few measures needed to be carried out urgently to ensure the safety and security in the affected areas, and to rebuild the lives of the people concerned.

His Majesty also emphasised the importance to increase the capacity to prevent future disasters and reconciling better ways of the consequences.

At this meeting, His Majesty also stated Brunei Darussalam's support for the crucial assistance given by donor countries at present and the future tasks of reconstruction.

Special ASEAN Leaders Meeting is part of regional efforts to coordinate measures to deal with the aftermath of the recent earthquake and tsunami.

The meeting ended with a declaration on action to strengthen emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention of the aftermath of earthquake and tsunami disaster.



His Majesty at the special ASEAN Leaders meeting



His Majesty upon arrival in Jakarta



Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair, Chairman of RBA hands over the donations to be delivered to Medan



Deputy Minister of Defence bids the delegate of humanitarian aid farewell



A group photo of the contingent before departing for Aceh



Royal Brunei Airline staff members in Medan to deliver donations

## TSUNAMI...

### Relief effort in Brunei to help tsunami victims

Brunei's tsunami relief effort received strong support by the government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and overwhelming response from the private sectors and individuals.

As an initial assistance, Brunei had contributed B\$670,000 in immediate aid to Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

### Relief Fund launch

In wake of the recent earthquake and tsunami waves that hit several Southeast Asia countries, the Relief Fund for Victims of the Tsunami Disaster was officially opened on January 3 with the first donations of \$250,000 contributed by the public.

Ministry of Education had also launched a donation fund where an amount of \$244,577 financial donations were received. Besides financial donation, clothes, towels, blanket, dried food, water, medicine and stationary were also donated.

### Brunei pledges \$6 million

Government of His Majesty also pledged a further BND\$6 million on January 12 following a meeting on Humanitarian Assistance to Tsunami-Affected Communities in Geneva.

### Advance delegation to assess situation for humanitarian relief assistance

In further response to the relief effort, an advance delegation of humanitarian relief assistance left Brunei for Aceh on January 9 to assess the situation, identify necessary relief assistance and undertake coordination and preparation for the arrival of Brunei's humanitarian assistance.

### Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation launch humanitarian aid

As an initial assistance, the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation had also donated B\$100,000 for the victims.

With the consent of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Brunei would also provide the reconstruction and building of mosque, orphanage and school. The early implementation of these projects would be by collecting sufficient amount of information and make contacts with the concerned agencies in Aceh.

### Brunei sends humanitarian mission to Aceh

For the first time in Brunei Darussalam's history too, a contingent comprising of 44 members left Brunei on humanitarian mission in Aceh on January 12.

Majority of the contingent were from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces including army medical officers. Officials from the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation, Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports were among the personnel who joined in the mission. Humanitarian aid including medical supplies, food, clothing and cash were also delivered using the Royal Brunei Air Force's CN235 and two Black Hawk helicopters.

### Mercy Mission provides medical assistance

In Aceh, Brunei Darussalam's Mercy Mission set up urgent and immediate relief assistance for victims known as Regiment Aid Post (RAP). The two Black Hawk helicopters were used to ferry medical and other relief supplies as accessibility by land was impossible. Hundreds of victims from affected areas were seen using the facilities and medical supplies provided by the RAP.

### Ministry of Health sends volunteers to Aceh

Ministry of Health had also sent 15 volunteers as the first batch of the Tsunami Volunteer Medical Mission. From the 15 volunteers, five are doctors while 10 are nurses. Medical equipments were sent where 70 per cent of the medicine were donated by private companies as well as the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation.

### SMS rally effort collect donations

Technology was also used to its maximum potential to rally with the relief effort. The leading mobile telephone company in the nation-state, DST Group in a joint effort with the government and other private sectors had collected donations of more than \$230,000 as of January 29. Cellular phone users were given the opportunity to donate through short-messages-services (SMS).

### National carrier provides humanitarian flight

The national carrier, Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA) had also assisted by providing humanitarian flight to Medan to deliver Brunei's donations. The delegate was led by the Chairman of RBA, Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair. Boeing 767 was utilised to carry to transport approximately 17 tonnes of relief items collected and contributed by the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation, Ministry of Health and Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

RBA is also donating proceeds from the sale of airline tickets. Part of the proceeds from their online ticket sales to destinations including Thailand and Indonesia will be contributed towards the Tsunami Disaster Relief Fund.

RBA would contribute \$25 for every one way economy class ticket purchased online until February 5.



Minister of Culture, Youth & Sports receives donations from private sector



Tonnes of donations sent to Aceh



Students packing clothing items as part of donations contributed by Ministry of Education



## HM visits Royal Brunei Navy

**H**is Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on January 4 visited Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) in Muara.

The sovereign's itinerary began with inspecting guard-of-honour and followed by briefing on role and development of RBN. His Majesty was also briefed on the development of navy base extension project.

His Majesty then viewed the project site from the headquarter's roof top. The sovereign also visited one of the fighter ships, KDB Seteria, ship lift section and ship hanger.

The sovereign then visited the primary school, gymnasium and multipurpose hall based in the RBN vicinity. His Majesty also visited various workshops and Marine Technical Training School. Prior to luncheon, His Majesty visited homes of three navy officers.

His Majesty's itinerary continued with visit to the home of RBN's Commander; Decompression Chamber; and dental and health clinic.

The visit ended at Mariners Club, Navy Sergeant and Officers Mess.

His Majesty tours various sections of the Royal Brunei Navy



## Citizens receive keys and land lots

**H**is Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam issued land grants and keys to new homes to 296 recipients on January 5. The ceremony was held at Dato Othman Primary School in Lambak Kiri.

From the total recipients; 54 received land grants based at the Kampong Lambak Kanan; 22 received land grants based at the Kampong Rimba; 129 received land grants based at Kampong Rimba; 61 received house keys under the Kampong Rimba National Housing – level two; 19 received house keys under the Kampong Rimba National Housing – level four; three received house keys to semi-detached houses under



**A recipient receives his key for his new house**

Indigenous Landless Scheme based at Kampong Rimba; and eight received house keys to developed house by developer under Indigenous Landless Scheme based at Kampong Tungku, Rimba and Madang.

His Majesty also toured the school; Lambak Kiri Mosque; Lambak Kanan Industrial Area; several homes of recipients including the homes of village head of Lambak Kiri and village head of Lambak Kiri Indigenous Landless Scheme; Agriculture Department in Rimba; and DataStream Technology (B) Sendirian Berhad (DST) in Tungku.



Royal entourage at Aidil Adha prayer in London



His Majesty delivers a royal address on the eve of Aidil Adha celebration

## Education and guidance, values for nation-building

**A**dvises which are of virtue should not be irresponsibly rejected. This is especially when it comes from reliable sources such as speeches from leaders, sermons or in written form.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang

Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said on the eve of Aidil Adha on January 20.

The sovereign said nation-building is not sufficient if it relies solely on physical development. However, it requires education and

guidance. The absence of these two values would lead to an empty development.

That is the role of education and advise in the bid to build the *ummah*. When the education and advise are in the wrong, it would ruin the *ummah*, said His Majesty.



Muslims performing Aidil Adha prayers throughout the nation-state

## CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

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

- His Excellency Lt. General Soe Win, the Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar and His Excellency Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar in conjunction with the country's Independence Day Anniversary on January 4.
- His Excellency President George W. Bush in conjunction with his inauguration ceremony as the President of the United States of America.
- His Excellency President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam of the Republic of India and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Dr Manmohan Singh in conjunction with the republic's Proclamation Anniversary on January 26.
- His Excellency Major-General Michael Jeffery, Governor-General of Australia and The Honourable John Howard, Prime Minister of Australia in conjunction with Australia Day on January 26.



His Majesty and the Prime Minister of Singapore, His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong



His Majesty upon arrival in the Republic of Singapore greeted by the Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore, His Excellency Dr. Tony Tan



His Majesty and His Excellency Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew in a one-to-one meeting



Their Majesties and His Excellency President S.R Nathan and Mrs Nathan at a banquet

Her Majesty upon arrival in the Republic of Singapore



## His Majesty's visit to Singapore Bilateral relations enhance through visit

**H**is Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah and members of the royal family were in the Republic of Singapore for a two-day work visit.

Their Majesties and entourage arrived in Singapore on January 26.

The focal point of the visit was the conferment of His Majesty Honorary Doctor of Laws by the National University of Singapore. His Excellency S. R Nathan, the President of Singapore presented the award in a Special Conferment ceremony at the Cultural Centre of the National University of Singapore. The ceremony took place on January 27.

Their Majesties also attended a luncheon hosted by the Prime Minister of Singapore, His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong.

During the two-day work visit, His Majesty also attended a separate one-to-one meeting with His Excellency Senior Minister Goh Chock Tong and His Excellency Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew.

Their Majesties and members of the royal family attended a dinner banquet hosted by His Excellency S.R Nathan and consort.

The one-to-one meeting and dinner banquet was held on January 27.

On January 28, Their Majesties received in audience, the Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore and consort, His Excellency Dr. Tony Tan and Mrs Tan.

Brunei and the Republic of Singapore established diplomatic relations in 1984. Strong relations existed between the two nation-states with co operations in various fields. In 2003, exports to Singapore were valued at \$344.4 million while total import from Singapore to Brunei was valued at \$465.2 million.

Brunei-Singapore relations also established co operations in education, health, trade, defense, information and broadcasting, air services and technical co operations.



Their Majesties in an audience with the Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore and consort



Their Royal Highnesses upon arrival



Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness at a luncheon hosted by the Prime Minister of Singapore



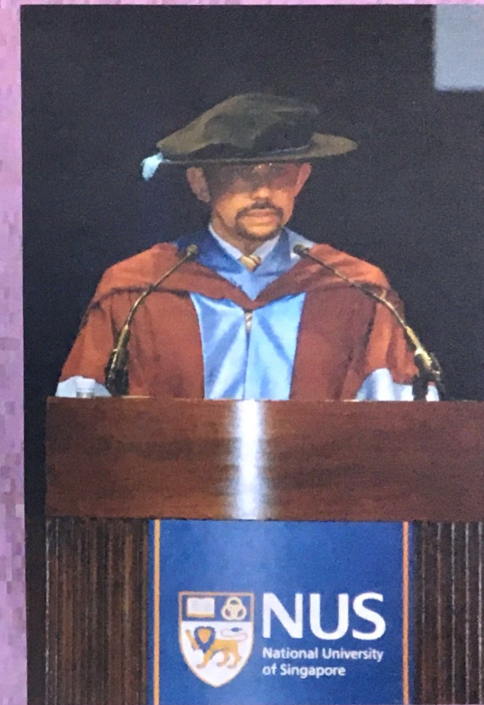
Their Majesties, His Excellency the President of Singapore with consort, Their Royal Highnesses in a group photo prior to dinner banquet



His Majesty signs a guestbook



His Majesty and His Excellency at a luncheon hosted by Prime Minister of Singapore, His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a royal address at the Special Conferment ceremony

## His Majesty receives honorary degree by NUS

**H**is Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was conferred with Honorary Doctor of Laws by the National University of Singapore (NUS) in a Special Conferment ceremony at the University Cultural Centre.

The ceremony took place on January 27 during the two-day working-visit by His Majesty to the Republic of Singapore.

The honorary degree was awarded in recognition of His Majesty's achievements in leading Brunei and for the outstanding contributions to the bilateral relations between Brunei and Singapore.

In his acceptance speech, His Majesty said that Brunei and Singapore share a common aspiration for peace, security and stability through good governance.

To achieve this, His Majesty believes that good governance would require a commitment to both rules of law and the code of tolerance.



His Majesty gives his blessings to Her Royal Highness



Their Majesties look upon as Her Royal Highness receives her certificate in Master of Arts in Environment Development



Her Royal Highness greets Her Majesty after the convocation ceremony



Her Royal Highness upon arrival at the Royal Festival Hall in London



Her Royal Highness receives her certificate from the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of King's College London, Professor Richard Trainor

## Her Royal Highness graduates at King's College London

**H**is Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty The Raja Isteri were in London to attend the convocation ceremony of their daughter, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bulqiah.

Her Royal Highness completed her Master of Arts in Environment Development at King's College London, University of London.

The convocation ceremony took place at the Royal Festival Hall in London on January 24.

More than 600 graduates received their certificates which

were presented by the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of King's College London, Professor Richard Trainor.

Her Royal Highness began her Masters in September 2003 and completed in September 2004.

King's College London is one of most distinguished international university based in London. It was established in 1829. When University of London was built six years later, King's College London became one of the institutions of the University. King's College London celebrated its 175<sup>th</sup> year anniversary in 2004.

**C**ultivation of mushroom plantations can further contribute in Brunei Darussalam's economic developments if it is marketed.

Department of Agriculture under the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources signed an agreement on January 4 with Piccone Horticultural Consultancy Private Limited to cultivate and commercialise mushroom plantations in Brunei.

Dr Haji Mohd Yussof bin Haji Mohidin, Director of the Agriculture Department said that the 15 month project will be managed and consulted by Piccone Horticultural Consultancy in its short and long term plan periods.

The project will include the collecting, grouping, cultivation and identification processes of the species of mushroom to be commercialised. It will also include proper training for culturing, cultivating as well as preservation techniques and maintenance of the mushroom plantations.

In the long term, more skilled work force will be developed and strategic plans can also be documented for future reference, he said.

## Cultivation of mushroom plantations to be developed



An agreement was reached between the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources with Piccone Horticultural Consultancy Private Limited to cultivate and commercialise mushroom plantations in Brunei



Fishing industry receives a boost with the newly purchased surveillance boat

## Brunei fishing industry gets boost

**B**runei Darussalam's fishing industry which is valued at B\$112 per annum has been given a boost with the recent purchase of another surveillance boat estimated to cost about \$1,445,799.

A contract agreement between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam represented by Brunei Fisheries Department under Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources was made with Tidewater Marine Engineering & Service on January 6.

With the purchase of the surveillance boat, Brunei's marine resources will be further protected and assist in the prevention of illegal fishing activities around the waters of Brunei in accordance with the country's resources and fishing management act, said Dayang Hajah Hasnah binti Ibrahim, Deputy Director of Fisheries Department.

In the effort to maintain the country's marine resources, the 16 meter long boat constructed in Batam Island of Indonesia is powered with a 40 knots speed complete with a radar, eco sounder, Gyro compass, GPS as well as communications radio, is expected to be complete between 10 to 11 month period.

## Brunei marks World Braille Day

**A**t least 180 million individuals globally are visually impaired while 40 to 50 million individuals have visual and hearing impairments due to injuries as well as diabetic illnesses.

World Blind Union, a non-profit agency is providing support to develop and build rehabilitation programs, education and trainings as well as personal care for visually impaired individuals.

Awang Haji Ishaaq bin Haji Abdullah, Assistant Permanent Secretary III at the Ministry of Education stated during an event held at the Wisma Haji Mohd Taha building to mark the 'World Braille Day' on January 8.

According to him, the event was also one of the programs in the 'World Blind Union' calendar which aims to increase the awareness of the public on the global use of Braille communication tool for those visually impaired.

Availability of hi-technology devices in the market to aid individuals with visual impairment can also help them develop their self-confidence and interact with the community locally or regionally, he adds.



Officers tour the exhibition showcased in conjunction with the World Braille Day

## 236 receive Brunei Citizenship

There is no such thing as "life's spectator", which refers to citizens in name only for the purpose of securing benefits but without holding any commitment in exercising citizenship.

The matters were stressed by Awang Haji Jemat bin Ampal, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports at the 17<sup>th</sup> Citizenship Certificate Presentation on January 11 in Berakas.

Obtaining citizenships status is not easy; it involves a long procedure and following respective regulations.

He further said that, as a citizen of the country they had their own role and responsibility to the nation and the government, community and respective families. The citizenship recipients are also called to support the nation sovereignty.

Two hundred and thirty six recipients received their citizenship certificate and became Brunei citizen under Negara Brunei Darussalam Nationality Status Act Chapter 5 (1), Chapter 5 (6) and Chapter 6 (1).

## Human capacity constantly enhance for thriving future

Brunei Darussalam wishes to develop a modern, diversified and sustainable economy. To achieve this, there is a need to enhance the human capacity in the bid to provide the community lasting confidence for the future.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, the Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs said at the opening of the International Human Resource Development (HRD) Convention on January 18 at the International Convention Center in Berakas.

Her Royal Highness also reflected on His Majesty's statement during the APEC High Level Forum on Human Capacity Building for Common Prosperity held in Beijing about four years ago.

His Majesty said that due to the rapid advancement of technology and communications, it is important to constantly update the skills of our people. Such skills must be brought to an international level of competitiveness; and for them to prosper in the New Economy, they must feel that they had a personal stake in its success.

"The challenge here was obviously the complexity of the skills and knowledge required of our people to absorb and master them," said Her Royal Highness.



Her Royal Highness said Brunei is currently undertaking a consultative study to review and improve on the present state of human resource development policies and programs

Brunei has since placed more effort on developing her human resources as key investment to her economy. It has been given the utmost priority in her National Development Plan.

Her Royal Highness also said that Brunei is currently undertaking a consultative study to review and improve on the present state of Human Resource Development policies and programs. It essentially takes into account the evaluation of education, academic, vocational, technical and related programs carried out in the country.

"What we are aiming at is a comprehensive formulation that best serves the objectives of the human resource development need of our country," said Her Royal Highness.

The International HRD Convention a three-day conference held from January 18 until 20.

## UBD International Conference

**As our people are our only renewable resource, we have to ensure that they are equipped to face the challenges of the future.**

Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Education, Dato Paduka Haji Sheikh Adanan said on behalf of Dato Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad, Minister of Development at the opening of the International Conference 'Contemporary Issues in Economic Development of Small States' on January 5 at the University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

The Permanent Secretary further said that economic growth and competitiveness of a nation depend more on the resourcefulness and resilience of its people compared to its natural resources.

Currently, unemployment particularly among young and educated people is one of main issue in Brunei. Another primary issue is the

diversification of economy from reliance on oil and gas.

Even oil and gas industry is the main contributor to Brunei's economy but it only hired less than three percent of the total labour force.

Therefore the government has instigated many initiatives, through its various agencies to overcome the situation. The nation is now striving to attract foreign direct investment and developed projects in fisheries, agriculture and industrial sector.

Other potential activities such as tourism, Islamic banking and finance, business services, transportation and logistics, and education are also considered.

Brunei is small in size but has stable government; educated people, good infrastructures, and its strategic location make it suitable as a regional hub. These features are advantages for Brunei to initiate activities such as

proposed deep-water port at Pulau Muara Besar and Sungai Liang Industrial Project.

The institutional aspect of the Brunei economy is also undergoing change. The Government is looking to reduce its role in the economy and to promote the development of a vibrant private sector.

This may involved the privatisation of some government functions and the promotion of the entrepreneurship and small and medium enterprises.

The two-day conference was organised by Faculty of Business, Economics and Policy Studies of UBD with the objective to serve as a forum for interested parties to consider and discuss the current trends, challenges and opportunities for economic development of small states.

## Call for PR practitioners as front liners

**P**ublic relation officers play an important role in disseminating and delivering information for their own Ministry or department. They are the front liners of these agencies. As the channel for information, information delivered should be accurate, clear, easy to comprehend and meets the target audience.

Acting Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Adanan said at a dinner hosted by the public relation practitioners of

government ministries and departments.

According to the Acting Minister, public relations at these agencies should find measures to enhance and activate their roles in the bid to promote and protect the name, image and credibility of their agencies and the government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

He also said that good rapport between the public relations and media is important in our bid to deliver

accurate information. There are various methods that could be used by public relation practitioners in the bid to promote their agencies and even the nation. Among others; to constantly hold press conference; issue press releases; updated website; and media friendly.

The dinner was attended by Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries, heads of departments as well as public relation practitioners.

It took place on January 24 at Orchid Garden Hotel in Berakas.



Public relations practitioners in a group photo with Acting Minister of Home Affairs, Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries and Director Generals from various ministries

## Royal Brunei Police Force celebrate 84<sup>th</sup> anniversary

**R**oyal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) celebrates her 84<sup>th</sup> year anniversary this year. As the leading and one of the oldest government agencies in the nation, RBPF had recorded many significant histories not only for the country but also worldwide.

RBPF was officially established in January 1, 1921 after the approval of Police Laws in 1920 and known as Brunei Police Force. Brunei Police Force was bestowed with title 'Royal' ('*Diraja*') by Late Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali

Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien in December 23, 1965.

After 50 years of establishment, in August 14, 1971; RBPF was given 'royal' honour when His Majesty The Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah bestowed 'Royal Crest' (*Panji-Panji Diraja*) to RBPF with His Majesty himself as the Inspector General.

The force moved forward with introducing the first intake of Women Police in August 4, 1971.

After the nation gained full

independence in 1984, RBPF joined International Police Association (INTERPOL) on September 4, 1984 and ASEAN Association of Police (ASEANAPOL) on November 20, 1984.

RBPF was also praised for their involvement in United Nations Transitional Authority of Cambodia (UNTAC) in 1992 and became as an observer in Southern Africa (COMSA) in 1993.

In 84-years of service, RBPF had made many progress and developments. The philosophy of the force is aligned with the nation's ideology; Malay Muslim Monarchy (*Melayu Islam Beraja*).

RBPF had chosen 'Stabilising Nation's Peace Together with the Community' (*Memantapkan Keamanan Negara Bersama Masyarakat*) as the theme for the 84<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. The theme defines RBPF as a prominent law enforcement body in the country would continuously enhance and strengthen any relevant police's tasks and activities for the safety and peace of the nation with cooperation from members of the public.



Commissioner of Royal Brunei Police Force at a parade inspection in conjunction with the 84<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the agency

# Enterprise Data Centre to enhance work performances



**Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair opens the Enterprise Data Centre**

**P**rime Minister's Office (PMO) has moved one step closer in its bid towards a full implementation of its PMONet by launching its Enterprise Data Centre (EDC).

The launching took place on January 26 at the Secretariat Building in the capital.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair, the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, said that PMONet would be the main constituent which would alleviate the service performances of the PMO and its departments.

A significant effect by this launching is PMO's ability now to interact via inter or intra communication in PMO itself and the departments and agencies under it.

**B**runei Darussalam's fisheries industry is worth B\$200 million annually on a sustainable basis with B\$17 million from it derived from the seafood industries.

At least 80 metric tones of frozen shrimp products valued at approximately B\$1 million were exported last year to the United States, Taiwan, Hongkong, Singapore and Malaysia.

The construction of the B\$3.158 million storage centre which is under the 8<sup>th</sup> National Development Project will develop the use of fisheries resources through effective distribution, marketing channels and ensuring high economic returns.

Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industrial and Primary Resources, Haji Hamid Haji Jaafar said these during the officiating of the laying of foundation for the project at Serasa, Muara on January 27.

The project which is expected to be complete in November this year will enhance the development of the seafood processing industry in the country and ensure the distribution and marketing of quality fisheries products.

## Construction of new fish centre underway



**An officer briefs on the construction of storage centre**

## IBB Kredit Berhad unveils new name and office

**I**slamic Bank of Brunei (IBB) credit card, IBB Kredit Berhad, has successfully implemented its strategies and action plans to overcome stiff competitions in the car financing and consumer goods industry since its establishment in 1997.

According to the annual financial statement for 2004, that has not been audited, gross income increased by 36 per cent from the previous year

totaling B\$6.26 million. The bank has listed a profit of B\$1.45 million before zakat (tithe) and tax deductions.

Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abu Bakar, the chairman of IBB said at the official opening ceremony of the new office and the change of name of IBB's credit card on January 24 at the Scouts Association Headquarters in Gadong.

The IBB Kredit Berhad is now known as IBB At-Tamwil Berhad. 'At-

Tamwil' refers to Arabic word which means 'finance'. According to the chairperson, 'At-Tamwil' portrays the true Islamic principles in conducting business activities, as has been carried out by IBB.

Meanwhile, in its effort to introduce its revamped and efficient services, IBB At-Tamwil Berhad will also be operating its new computer system for its world processes which is expected to be fully operational by August this year.

## Snippets...

### Brunei celebrates 21<sup>st</sup> National Day

Brunei Darussalam would be celebrating its 21<sup>st</sup> national day on February 23. This year carries the theme '*Bersepadu Memperkasa Mandiri Bangsa*' (Together We Strengthen National Self-Reliance).

The celebration marking the national day would be held at the Taman Sir Muda Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien in Bandar Seri Begawan.

### Display of latest ICT products

Brunei International Information Technology (BIIT) showcase 2005 was held at The Mall from January 13 until 16.

The four-day exhibition showcased latest development in ICT hardware and software products and services.

### Customs upgrade to meet demands

The quick progress of global commercial development had force customs to upgrade their facilities in effort to reduce handling cost and to quicken release of goods and customs control.

Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Finance, Awang Haji Ali bin Apong said during the International Customs Day 2005 celebration on January 26 at the Royal Customs and Excise Department in Berakas.

Due to globalisation, many changes had occurred therefore all the customs officers are called to complete themselves to meet any

challenges.

Controller of Royal Customs and Excise, Dato Paduka Mohd Eusoff Agaki in his speech revealed that customs revenue collection for 2003 is \$103.7 million and the amount had increase to \$106.6 million for 2004.

The ceremony also included award presentation to the 'Royal Customs and Excise Department Standard and Quality Awards 2004' winners; and launching of startup operation CCTV system installed at the Kuala Lurah checkpoint.

The International Customs Day is celebrated every January 26 since 1983. For the Royal Customs and Excise Department this is the fifth celebration of this event.

The theme for this year entitled "Customs and Commercial Fraud". The Royal Customs and Excise Department became the 140<sup>th</sup> member of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) on July 1, 1996.

### Local products showcase at International Airport

Several action plans and strategies have been implemented to ensure and urge to the community a sense of patriotism especially to its future generations for the sake of the nation's development.

Future generations should also reinforce itself as a nation of creativity and not be a nation without innovation.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Paduka (Dr) Haji Awang Hussein said at the official launch of the 'Gallery Patriotisma' at the Brunei International Airport on January 27.

He added that locals and business people should participate in the national development

especially in the socio-economic areas.

The gallery which is strategically located at the departure lounge of the airport will give the opportunity for foreigners and locals alike to appreciate the cultural values with the textiles and handicrafts of local communities exhibited.

Gallery Patriotisma promotes as well as market local traditional handicrafts including silver and bronze items along with traditional weavings.

### Committee formed for better infrastructure at Kampung Ayer

Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has formed a committee to provide a better basic infrastructure for Kampung Ayer.

The committee, Reconstruction of Kampung Ayer Committee, would handle the task of providing better basic facilities. It would also rearrange the housing allocations to assure a comfortable and safe housing area.

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Adanan said at the opening of Kampung Ayer Regional Seminar on January 29 at Chancellor Hall in University of Brunei Darussalam.

Kampung Ayer or houses on stilts above the water, is a historic housing settlements valued by Bruneians. It has existed since the 15<sup>th</sup> century where it was the center of administration and trade. It has encountered several challenges but it remains standing proudly today.

## 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)



## Ulu Temburong National Park

**U**lu Temburong National Park occupies approximately 50,000 hectares of the Batu Apoi Forest Reserve. The National Park is the ultimate location for exhilarating river cruises, unique natural ecosystems, scenic natural landscape, fascinating topography and hydrology, amazing flora and fauna and many more. (Picture shows one of the scenery at the National Park).