



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam newsletter

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Government to develop capital bond market

Brunei Darussalam through the Ministry of Finance would soon be developing a capital bond market that is in line with Islamic principles or *syara'* through the issuance of Sukuk Al-Ijarah (Islamic bonds). The first issuance would be made early next year.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said at the eve of Hari Raya Aidil Fitri (Eid Mubarak) on November 4.

"Taking reverence of this holy month, I would like to highlight a plan by the Government, through the Ministry of Finance, to develop a capital market based on Islamic Principles or *syara'* through (with) the issuance of *Sukuk-Al-Ijarah*. Insha Allah (God willing), the first issuance will be made early next year.

"We will initially issue Short-Term Sukuk (bonds) Al-Ijarah with maturity period of three months. Insha Allah (God willing), the maturity period will be extended from time to time according to its suitability. With this, Brunei Darussalam will be the first Islamic country to issue short-term Sukuk Al-Ijarah. Without a doubt, this is our contribution towards a model of Islamic capital markets, where it can be a reference to other Islamic countries.

"The main objective of issuing Government Sukuk (bonds), besides to develop a local capital market, is to encourage other entities in the country, including



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a royal titah on the eve of Hari Raya Aidil Fitri

major corporations in the country, so that they will issue their own sukuk (bonds). It is hoped that this will reduce their dependence on banks as source of funds. It is also to give opportunities to the public to invest in our domestic projects based on *syara'* principles. It is hoped to reduce the outflow of funds from the country," said His Majesty.

Brunei Darussalam celebrates Hari Raya Aidil Fitri (Eid Mubarak) after completing the fasting month of Ramadhan.

\$12.5 million to fight Bird Flu

A sum of \$12.5 million had been allocated as an initial preparatory budget to battle against bird flu. This amount would cover the cost of medicines, vaccines, equipments and other related necessities in the possible case of an outbreak of influenza pandemic.

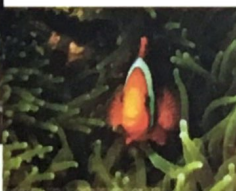
This was highlighted at the first National Influenza Pandemic Committee held on November 24 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to the formation of a National Influenza Pandemic Committee. It is chaired by the Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.

Main objective for the establishment of the Committee is to undertake actions at the highest levels by all Government agencies and the private sector to prevent and protect against incidents of bird flu from occurring in this country. It is also to create an established and consolidated Action Plan to handle the influenza.

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PALACE NEWSROUND...



HM presents and receives credentials

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on November 1 presented diplomatic accreditations and received credentials from newly appointed foreign envoys at the Istana Nurul Iman:

① His Excellency Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohd. Amin bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Dewa Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Rahim, Brunei's newly appointed High Commissioner to Malaysia.

② His Excellency Dato Paduka Awang Harun bin Haji Ismail, Brunei's newly appointed Ambassador to the Republic of Korea.

③ His Excellency Emil M. Skodon, the newly appointed Ambassador of the United States of America to Brunei.

④ His Excellency Hwang Wong-kun, the newly appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Brunei.

⑤ His Excellency U Tin Htun, the newly appointed Ambassador of the Union of Myanmar to Brunei.

⑥ His Excellency Ahmad bin Mohammed bin Zaher Al-Hinai, the newly appointed Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei.

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

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

His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni, the King of Cambodia and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Hun Sen in conjunction with Cambodia's National Day on November 9.

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al-Said, the Sultan of Sultanate of Oman in conjunction with Oman's National Day on November 18.

PALACE NEWSROUND...



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

❶ Leaders of the Ship of Southeast Asian Youth Programme led by the Ship Administrative Officer, Mr. Watanabe Kiyoshi on November 28.

❷ His Excellency Hirubalan VP, the outgoing Singapore's High Commissioner to Brunei on November 30.

❸ His Excellency Christian Bennett, the outgoing Australian's High Commissioner to Brunei on November 30.



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

❶ Madam Fabiola Moreno de Alboran, the spouse of newly appointed British' High Commissioner to Brunei on November 14.

❷ Madam Christiane Bonneville, spouse of the newly Ambassador of France to Brunei on November 14.

❸ Madam Amima Mohamed Said Al-Riyami, spouse of the newly appointed Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman on November 14.

❹ Madam Manoranchitham, spouse of the outgoing Singapore's High Commissioner to Brunei on November 22.

❺ Madam Daw Nan Phaung, spouse of newly appointed Ambassador of the Union of Myanmar to Brunei on November 22.

❻ Madam Hwang Kum-dan, spouse of newly appointed Ambassador of Korea to Brunei on November 22.



PALACE NEWSROUND...



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

① His Excellency Dato Paduka Awang Haji Harun bin Haji Ismail, Brunei's newly appointed Ambassador to Republic of Korea on November 3.

② His Excellency Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohd Amin bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Dewa Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Rahim, Brunei's newly appointed High Commissioner to Malaysia on November 9.

③ His Excellency Hirubalan V.P., the outgoing High Commissioner of Singapore to Brunei on November 9.

④ His Excellency Emil M. Skodon, the newly appointed Ambassador of United States of America to Brunei to Brunei on November 10.

⑤ His Excellency Ahmad bin Mohammed bin Zaher Al-Hinai, the newly appointed Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei.

⑥ His Excellency Wang Qishan, the Mayor of Beijing on November 16.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah on November 23 received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:

① His Excellency Hwang Wong-kun, the newly appointed Ambassador of Korea to Brunei and his spouse, Madam Hwang Kum-dan.

② His Excellency U Tin Htun, the newly appointed Ambassador of the Union of Myanmar to Brunei and his spouse, Madam Daw Nan Phaung.



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah received audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from Madam Manoranchitnam Hirubalan, spouse of the outgoing Singapore's High Commissioner to Brunei on November 23.

NGOs should assist tackle social issues

Non-governmental organisations (NGO) were urged to increase their efforts in tackling social issues and problems.

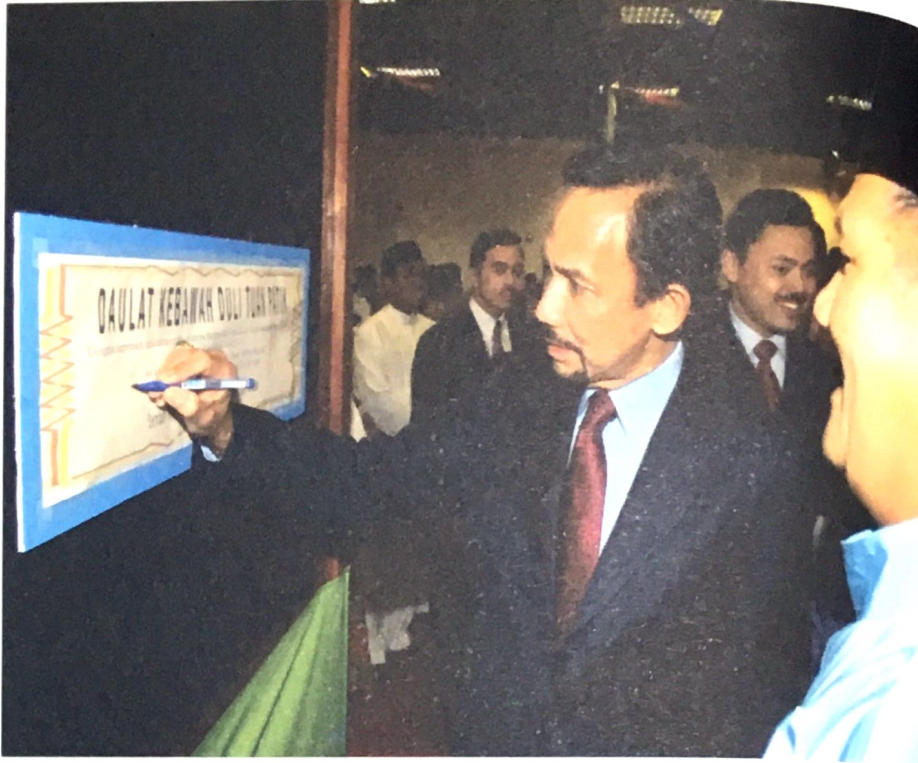
This was outlined by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Hari Raya Aidil Fitri celebration hosted by Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation. The celebration took place on November 12 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

In light of this, His Majesty was aware that big and new initiatives require financial support. With that, His Majesty said that the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation is ready to provide financial support for NGOs that are determine to implement programmes beneficial to the community.

The sovereign said the social issues today is becoming more complicated which require more commitment and attention. Those that received charity and tithe before were those considered as poor, majority were of old aged, ill or those that were mentally or physically disabled.

However, the situation today has changed. Those that require assistance are those at the age that has the ability to work.

With that, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam urged NGOs to think of the appropriate steps to deal with these situations.



His Majesty and entourage taking a closer look at the items exhibited during the Hari Raya celebration hosted by Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation



A choir by the pupils of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation School

Be more active to generate involvement in nation-building



Penghulu, Village Heads and Head of Long Houses at Istana Nurul Iman to attend an audience with His Majesty

Penghulu, Village Heads and Head of Long Houses are required to be more active with the Majlis Perundingan Mukim dan Kampung (Mukim and Kampung Council) as it is one of the methods for the people and residents to be involved in the nation's development and progress.

This was one of the 28 resolutions achieved at the National Level Seminar for Penghulus (Head of

Mukims), Head of Villages and Head of Long Houses 2005. The seminar was held from November 15 to 17.

The leaders also agreed to organise 'Penghulus, Village Heads and Head of Long Houses Day' and to create an awarding scheme for respective positions.

The seminar was attended by 192 Penghulus, Village Heads and Head of Long Houses. Besides attending paper presentations, the leaders

attended an audience with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Istana Nurul Iman.

This seminar was organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs where it was aimed to stabilise the quantity and effectiveness of the participant's leadership. It was also to enhance integration among the participants; enhance community's trust and confidence to their leader's charisma.

BICTA Awards

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah attended the Brunei Information Communication Technology Awards (BICTA) on November 11 held at International Convention Centre. Also in attendance was His Royal Highness Prince A'bdul Malek.

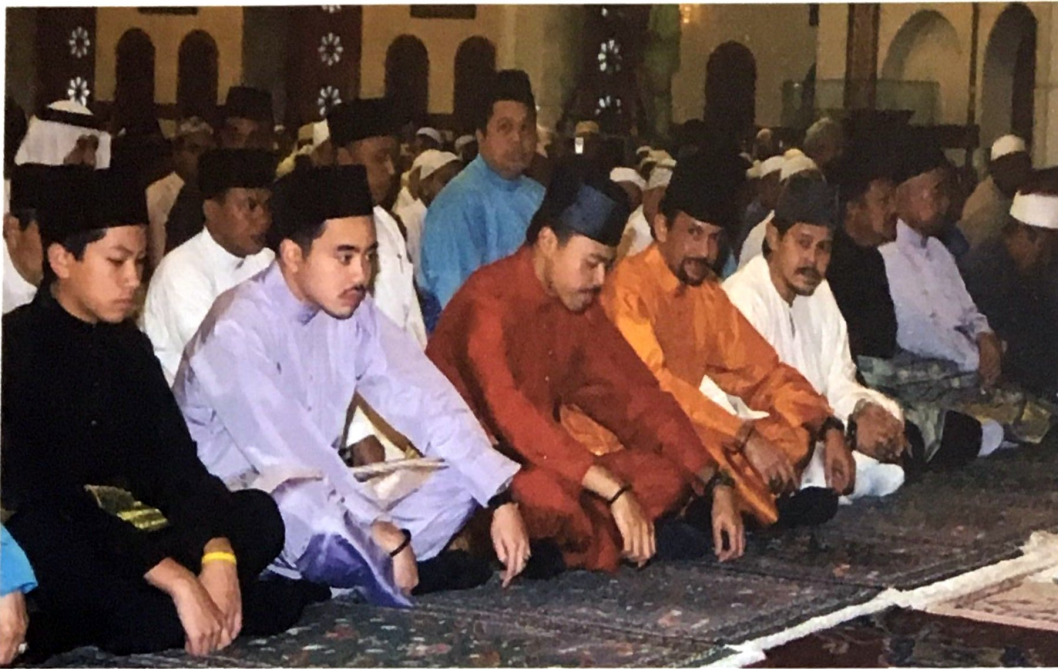
Forty entries were received including e-government and public services, education and training, secondary student project on tourism and hospitality, media and entertainment, communications, health, security, application and infrastructure tools, general applications, start-up company, primary student project, tertiary student project. Sixteen categories were competed in the BICTA Awards

His Royal Highness presenting an award to one of the winners of BICTA



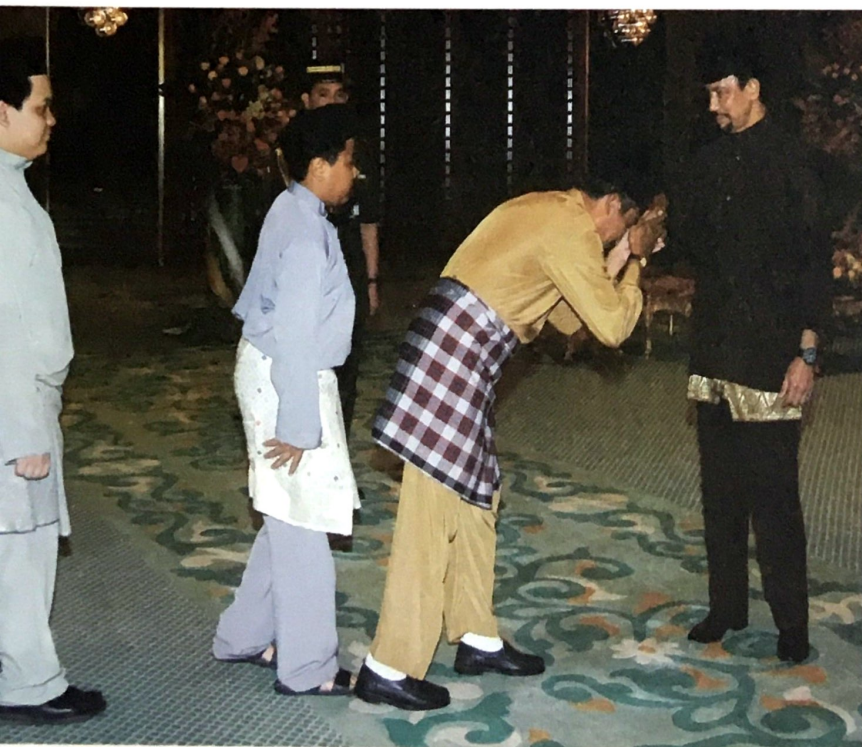
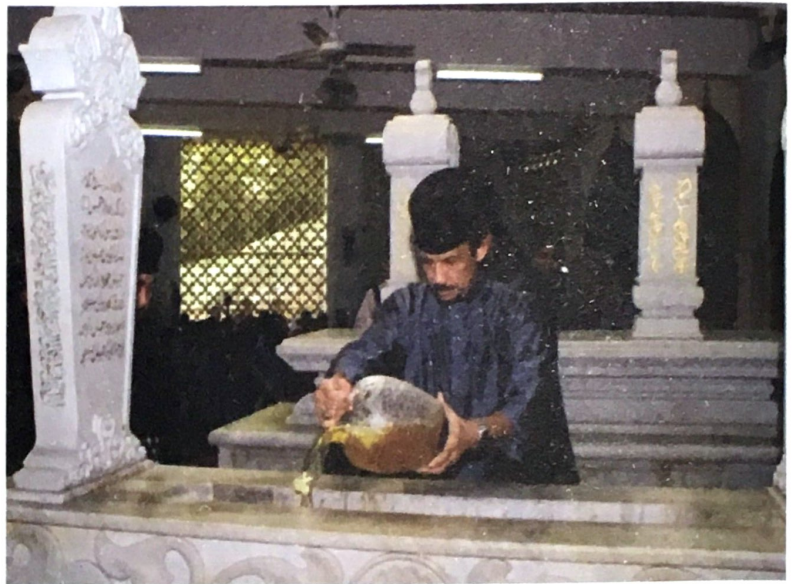
and each winner in every category received \$1,000 in cash prize, trophy and plaque. Winners will represent Brunei Darussalam in the Asia Pacific ICT Awards 2005 in February 2006. The organisers were the Authority for

Info-Communications technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam (AiTi), Brunei Darussalam Technology Council (BIT) and the Brunei Darussalam Computer Society (PKBD).



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and male members of royal family joined scores of Muslims for the Aidil Fitri prayer on November 4 at the Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkihah Mosque in Kiulap.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and male members of the royal family attended the *bertahlil* (recitation of prayers) ceremony on November 8 at the Royal Mausoleum near the capital for the late Al-Marhum Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit .



Audience for intending haj pilgrims

Around 1,000 intending haj pilgrims were granted audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman on November 29.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received male intending haj pilgrims.

Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha, and Yang Teramat Mulia Azrinaz Mazhar binti Hakim Mazhar received female intending haj pilgrims. Also present were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolqiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolqiah.

Action Plan to prepare and eradicate bird flu

Brunei Darussalam is currently on vigilant for possible outbreak of Avian Influenza that until November 29 has affected Indonesia, Viet Nam, Thailand, Cambodia and China.

The Department of Agriculture of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources has outlined an Action Plan for the possibility of an outbreak. The Action Plan is divided into two main divisions; Prevention and Eradication.

Those that come under prevention include; awareness campaign; surveillance; observation on cleanliness of farms, tightening control on imports of poultry and eggs; closure of agro market for live animals and to stop the selling of birds at pet shops in all four districts.

For further prevention, different types of birds should not be mixed. To reduce the risk of being infected, direct contact with birds should be avoided or minimised.

In case of an outbreak, a stamping-out would be implemented. Besides that, quarantine control on affected areas would also be done. The poultry-hut and its surroundings would be sprayed with disinfectants. Surveillance and zoning would be also be carried out.

However, the success of prevention could only be done when there is a close cooperation from farm operators and the public. Among others, poultry should be kept in clean and secure place. Different types of birds such as those that live on water and on land should be kept

separately.

Farm operators and the public should always clean themselves and wash their hands after handling poultry.

It is also the responsibility of farm operators to register their poultry to the Department of Agriculture. They should also be vigilant for any symptoms of avian influenza. Poultry that do not have legal permits are not advised to be imported to the nation-state. Farm operators and the public are also advised to report to the Department of Agriculture if high fatality rates, immediate death and signs of diseases among poultry are discovered.

National Influenza Pandemic Committee formed

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to the formation of a National Influenza Pandemic Committee.

This was stated by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, at the first National Influenza Pandemic Committee Meeting held on November 24 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas. His Royal Highness is the Chairman of National Influenza Pandemic Committee.

The Senior Minister emphasised that the establishment of the National Committee reflected the commitment of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to work together with members of the international community to handle bird flu and influenza pandemic. It also reflected the concern of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in protecting the citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam from the threat of bird flu and influenza pandemic.

His Royal Highness also said that the National Committee would make full use of the resources available in all ministries in a more optimal and effective manner, including the possibility of involving members from non-government agencies, organisations and the private sector.



A National Influenza Pandemic Committee was formed and chaired by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office

The terms of reference of the National Committee would include;

1. Prepare the National Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan outlining the roles and responsibilities of its members.

2. Ensure the plan of action is implemented effectively and efficiently.

3. Prepare and coordinate all necessary preparations in areas such as finance, logistics, human resource, drugs, vaccines and medical equipments.

4. Ensure each Government agency involved has its own plan of actions and in state of readiness to respond to any situation related to the Influenza Pandemic.

5. Ensure formulation of

necessary new laws, and enforce existing laws and its amendments for prevention, control and management of the pandemic.

6. Prepare and implement communication plan, manage resources and take preventive actions to mitigate the social impacts of influenza pandemic.

Also present at the meeting was the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Suyoi as the Deputy Chairman I; the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Awang Ahmad as the Deputy Chairman II; and the Deputy Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Hazair.



APEC in BUSAN, KOREA Brunei to give close cooperation

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said that in meeting global challenges, Brunei Darussalam would always give cooperation with the regional and international communities.

The sovereign said at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' second retreat session. It was held at Nurimaru APEC House in Busan, Republic of Korea on November 19.

His Majesty also said that to meet global challenges, a continuous cooperation and cooperation among regional and international communities are essential.

The sovereign also touched on counter-terrorism where he outlined the importance of continuing APEC's valuable work by increasing the capacity of every member in playing a vigorous part in dealing with terrorist.

His Majesty also addressed issues of natural disasters and potential pandemics where there is a need to acquire necessary human and material resources to efficiently deal with such events and the impact on livelihoods especially on small businesses and employment.

First Retreat Session

His Majesty said that APEC 2005 represented a test for member economies to continue to make progress in free trade in view of the global challenges the world was facing such as natural disasters and Avian Influenza which had an impact on the people's economic live hood.

His Majesty joined other APEC Leaders to attend the First Retreat Session at the Busan Exhibition and Convention Centre (BEXCO) on November 18.

At the session, His Majesty and other APEC leaders discussed ways to advance free trade. In particular, the leaders emphasised the importance of achieving a successful conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda by the end of 2006; and agreed to release a Joint Statement on the Doha Development Agenda.

His Majesty stressed Brunei Darussalam's support of the Multilateral Trading Systems particularly the Doha Development Agenda and therefore supported the Statement on the Doha Development Agenda.

His Majesty also expressed support for initiatives undertaken by a number of economies to further accelerate the free flow trade.



Leaders at the ASEAN-US meeting in a group photo

A bilateral meeting between His Majesty and His Excellency Roh Moo-hyun, the President of the Republic of Korea was held which discussed issues of mutual concern

HM holds bilateral meeting with President of Republic of Korea

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held bilateral talks with His Excellency Roh Moo-hyun, President of the Republic of Korea on November 17.

During the meeting, both leaders discussed bilateral issues particularly efforts to enhance relations between both country in areas such as industrial and information technology cooperation.

Both leaders also discussed regional issues particularly efforts to enhance cooperation between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea; and other international issues of mutual concern.

Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Korea shared commercial and trade links long before the establishment of formal diplomatic relations in 1984. Brunei established its embassy in Seoul in 1986.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, the bilateral relations progressed in various areas such as cooperations in trade and investment, technical as well as cultural. Brunei Darussalam largely exports petroleum and crude oils to the Republic of Korea and mainly imports machinery and transport equipment.



Leaders at APEC 2005 in Korea wearing traditional Korean costume

Dialogue with APEC Business Advisory Council

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other APEC BEXCO on November 18.

The leaders had discussions with ABAC on various trade related issues including development of the Doha Development Agenda. The ABAC Dialogue also discussed counter terrorism, anti corruption and also cooperation to fight Avian Influenza.

The dialogue was attended by more than 800 entrepreneurs; and business executives worldwide.



His Majesty at the APEC Business Advisory Council



An APEC 2005 Korea Information Technology Exhibition held at the Glass Hall

ASEAN-US Meeting

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the ASEAN-US Leaders' Meeting in Busan on November 18.

At the meeting, the ASEAN Leaders and President George W. Bush discussed ways to enhance the partnership and cooperation between ASEAN and the US in the areas of energy, trade and counter-terrorism as well as efforts to deal with avian influenza.

The leaders also tasked officials to develop a Plan of Action to realise the ASEAN-US Enhanced Partnership and conclude the ASEAN-US Trade and Investment Agreement.

APEC Dinner

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other APEC leaders attended an official dinner at BEXCO on November 18.

The dinner was hosted by His Excellency President Roh Moo-hyun in honour of the APEC leaders attending the 13th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting.

Prior to dinner, His Majesty and other APEC leaders viewed the APEC 2005 Korea Information Technology (IT) Exhibition held at the Glass Hall.



His Majesty and male members of royal family received greetings by citizens and tourists



Brunei-based foreign diplomats at the junjung ziarah at the Istana Nurul Iman

Brunei Darussalam in rejoice atmosphere

Brunei Darussalam began celebrating Hari Raya Aidil Fitri on November 4. The Istana Nurul Iman was opened to the public for a *junjung ziarah* (revered greetings) ceremony to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and members of the royal family.

The palace was opened for the public from the second until the fourth day of Hari Raya Aidil Fitri.

On the first day of Hari Raya Aidil Fitri, the sovereign and members of the royal family received audiences and *junjung ziarah* from state officials and Brunei-based foreign diplomats. The ceremony took place on November 4 at the Istana Nurul Iman.

The Istana Nurul Iman received more than 90,000 visitors for the three days it was opened. Among the visitors include Brunei citizens and tourists.

At the *junjung ziarah*, His Majesty and male members of the royal family received the male visitors. While Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Yang Teramat Mulia Azrinaz Mazhar binti Hakim Mazhar and female members of the royal family received female and children visitors.

Visitors were given a sumptuous buffet at one of the foyers of the Istana Nurul Iman and a pack of local delicacies for each visitor. Children were given a green packet that contained \$5.

Hari Raya Aidil Fitri falls on the first day of Syawal where it is a celebration for Muslims who had successfully observed the fasting month of Ramadhan.

Mr. Geoff Applebee from Sydney, Australia said that the opportunity to meet His Majesty during the ceremony was an unforgettable experience. He commented that the tradition should be carried on as sign of the nation that still has a great monarchy system.

The *junjung ziarah* (revered greetings) ceremony to His Majesty and the royal family is something unique and able to enhance friendship said Mr. Yu Cheng Chie from Sarawak, Malaysia. The ceremony also creates goodwill among the local and foreign visitors.

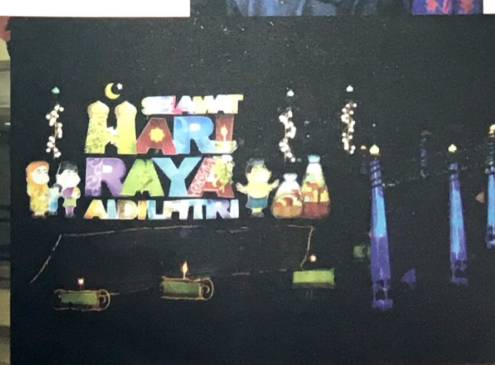
The *junjung ziarah* (revered greetings) ceremony gives special opportunity for the people to meet and greet His Majesty and the royal family closely; and the tradition of visiting the Istana (palace) is rare in other country, said Alessia, an eight year-old from United Kingdom. She is residing in Brunei with her family as her parents are working here.



Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Yang Teramat Mulia Azrinaz Mazhar binti Hakim Mazhar receives female well-wishers at the Istana Nurul Iman



Syawal is the tenth month in the Islamic calendar where it is a month of festivities after successfully observing a whole month of fasting from dawn to sunset in Ramadhan



Their Royal Highnesses on official visit

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah were on an official visit to the Republic of the Philippines on November 25.

The official visit was upon an invitation by Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, the President of the Philippines.

An audience was held between Their Royal Highnesses and Her Excellency on November 26 at the Malacanang Palace.



Their Royal Highnesses and Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, the President of the Philippines in an audience at Malacanang Palace

Brunei supports initiatives on broadcasting mechanism

Brunei Darussalam supports the efforts to establish NAM News Network (NNN). It would be practical and workable vehicle to advance the interests of NAM member countries. She has also welcomed the initiative to set up a working committee to make recommendation to revitalise the service of BONAC (Broadcasting Organisation of Non-Aligned Countries), a mechanism for the exchange for news broadcasting.

Brunei Darussalam has also raised her concern on the current global imbalance in the flow of information and called for Non-

Aligned Movement (NAM) to work closer together in enhancing cooperation between member countries towards correcting the imbalance. Brunei Darussalam has also agreed for NAM member countries to increase efforts to maximise the benefits from the development of Info-Communications technology (ICT) and to enhance human capacity building efforts.

These were raised at the Sixth Conference of Ministers of Information of Non-Aligned Countries (COMINAC VI) held in Kuala Lumpur

from November 21 to 22. Brunei Darussalam was represented by Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abu Bakar, the Minister of Communications. The meeting was attended by 74 member countries from NAM.

Several agreements were reached at the conference such as to continue the existing mechanisms for the exchange of news and information. It was also agreed to enhance the existing mechanisms to ensure a better exchange and distribution of news.

CIMB opens office in Brunei

The Commerce International Merchant Bankers Berhad (CIMB) had officially opened its fifth operating office in South East Asia with the opening of its Brunei Darussalam branch.

It was officially opened by Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Rahman, the Minister of Finance II on November 29 at PGGMB Building in the capital.

The launch follows the successful application for its International Investment Banking licence under the International Banking Order 2000 in June 2005. CIMB Brunei also received approval for the Investment Adviser's Licence under the Securities Order 2001 on October 26 of this year.

CIMB Berhad is the investment

banking arm of Bumiputra-commerce Holdings Berhad, Malaysia's second largest financial services group. She is a fully integrated investment bank which offers a full range of services in banking, debt and equity markets and corporate advisory. CIMB also provides services in funds management, private equity, Islamic capital markets as well as research economics and the equity and debt markets.

CIMB Berhad is listed on Bursa Malaysia with a market capitalisation of RM5.74 billion (USD1.5 billion) as at October 31, 2005. She is currently undergoing changes to transform itself into a universal financial services provider.



Minister of Finance II officially opens the Commerce International Merchant Bankers Berhad

ISO 4001 Certificate for BSP



Her Royal Highness officially opening the Brunei Environmental Conference

Brunei Shell Petroleum has been awarded the ISO 4001 Certificate. The award has portrayed the strong commitment of BSP towards health, safety and the environment.

The certificate was awarded at the official opening of the Brunei Environmental Conference on November 21 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Present to award the certificate and officially opened the conference was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bulqiah.

The two-day conference with the theme 'Our Environment – Our Responsibility' had gathered approximately 150 delegates comprising of local and foreign. Delegates had the opportunity to share and exchange relevant information on; environmental themes, environmental legislations, incorporating the environment into business, biodiversity and the natural environment.

Brunei participates in 23rd SEA Games



Brunei Darussalam joined other Southeast Asian countries competing in the 23rd SEA Games which is held in the Philippines from November 27 to December 5. Eleven countries will compete in the games which feature 41 sports with 395 events.

Brunei is represented by 185 athletes including His Royal Highness the Crown Prince who will take part in billiards & snooker. The contingent is led by Chef de Mission, Awang Japar bin Bangkol, Director of Youth and Sports; and will take part in 15 sports.

The 23rd SEA Games was officially opened by Her Excellency President of the Philippines on November 27 at the Quirino Grandstand, Luneta Park Manila. The President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC), His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah attended the ceremony.

The Southeast Asian (SEA) Games is the largest and most significant multi-sport event in the region and is held biennially to enable athletes to meet in friendly competition as well as to foster goodwill, friendship and solidarity, in line with the aims and aspirations of the Association of Southeast Asian

Nations (ASEAN).

Brunei's first participation in the games was in 1977, the Ninth SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and bagged three bronze. She managed to bag it first gold medal in 1987 at the 14th SEA Games in Jakarta, Indonesia through *Silat*.

In year 1999, Brunei became host country for 20th SEA Games. The Games witnessed Brunei collecting most medals since its participation.

Until the 22nd SEA Games in Viet Nam year 2003, Brunei had collected 172 medals; that are eight gold medals, 32 silver medals and 134 bronze medals. Most gold medals were obtained from *Silat*.



Colourful opening displayed at the opening of the 23rd SEA Games



His Royal Highness Prince Sufri Bolkiah as the President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council at the opening of 23rd SEA Games

CHOGM equipped to face challenges



CHOGM2005.MT
25 - 27 NOVEMBER 2005



A group photo of leaders at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in Malta

Leaders of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2005 firmly believed that the Commonwealth is a rich, globally representative, relevant and dynamic network of nations peoples, well equipped to respond to the pressing challenges of time.

This was reached at the CHOGM 2005 held in Malta from November 25 to 27. Present on behalf of Brunei Darussalam was the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamad Bolkiah. Accompanying His Royal Highness was Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah.

At the Executive Session and the first day's Retreat, the leaders discussed a wide range of Commonwealth affairs, including a review of global developments and the work of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG).

The Commonwealth leaders also exchanged views on Governance and Capacity Building, Combating Terrorism and Promoting Tolerance, Trade, Poverty Eradication and Networking for Development.

At CHOGM 2005, the leaders had also reaffirmed their strong condemnation of all acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and recognised that terrorism continues to present a serious challenge to international peace and security.

The summit came up with the Malta Declaration on "Networking the Commonwealth for Development".

The three-day meeting was attended by 53 Commonwealth member nations. It was officially opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at the Republic Hall, Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valetta, Malta on November 26.

The next CHOGM would be held in Kampala, Uganda in 2007.



His Royal Highness and Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah meets Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



The arrival of Their Highnesses were received by Malta's Minister of Education, Youth and Labour, His Excellency Dr. Louis Galca



Cultural performance from Indonesian Students

Brunei hosts 6th ASEAN Student Exchange Programme

Brunei Darussalam was the hosting country for the Sixth ASEAN Student Exchange (ASE) Programme 2005 which ran from November 21 to 30. The theme for this year's programme was 'Building dynamic Youth for ASEAN Peace, Prosperity and Cohesiveness'.

Fifty two students from seven ASEAN countries took part in the programme comprising of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Wide ranges of activities were planned for the 11-day programme where among others include educational tours to the Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Science College, Jerudong International School, Brunei Liquefied Natural gas (BLNG) and Oil and Gas Discovery School in Seria. The participants also had the opportunity to visit the Royal Regalia Building and Ulu Temburong National Park.

Among the objectives of the ASE are to enhance various forms of exchange among ASEAN countries and to promote regional integration and development; and to provide a

platform by which students could experience the life in a community of fellow ASEAN which are slightly different from their own social and culture.

Zaza Hazadiah Iskandar, 15 years old, said that she was able to gain more knowledge on the culture of other countries. Through the home-stay programme, she had a first hand glimpse in experiencing the local way of living. She also said that Brunei was a great country and felt comfortable as Brunei share some similarities with her hometown, Indonesia.

While Joyan Mike B. Abagatnan, a 16-year-old student from the Philippines said that the programme provided experiences and proves that ASEAN countries are connected with each other. He also hoped that the programme would bring peace and prosperity to ASEAN. He also said that he wish to visit Brunei in the future.

Visuta Surassanant and Panuwat Chaistaparn, both 17-year-old students from Thailand said that ASE had taught them cultural insights; and Brunei herself is a country that has a variety of beautiful culture. They also

enjoyed the visit to Ulu Temburong National Park as it showed the beauty of green nature which are untouched by human; and Royal Regalia Building which exhibits the attractive and unique royal items.

The programme gave the opportunity for six secondary school students comprising of three boys and three girls of each ASEAN country. The students were accompanied by two supervising teachers.

Through ASE, students are given a chance to gain a first-hand experience on ASEAN culture through friendships established with other ASEAN students as well as home-stay activities in the hosting country. Educational visits and tours are normally included as part of the activities.

The first ASEAN Students Exchange Programme was held in Malaysia in July 2000. The project has been considered as one of the effective tools in fostering regional solidarity and understanding; and to help in creating better and more prosperous ASEAN countries in the future.



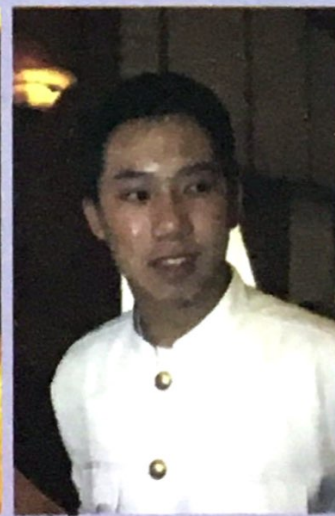
Zaza Hazadiah from Indonesia



Joyan Mike from Philippines



From Thailand, Visuta Surassanant and Panuwat Chaistaparn



Quality and comprehensive care for diabetes patients

Ministry of Health has outlined one of its important missions is to provide a high quality and comprehensive care to diabetes patients in the country. This is to reduce complications as well as to improve their life.

This was stated by the Acting Director of the Hospital Services, Dr. Hajah Norlila on November 14 at an event marking World Diabetes Day at Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital.

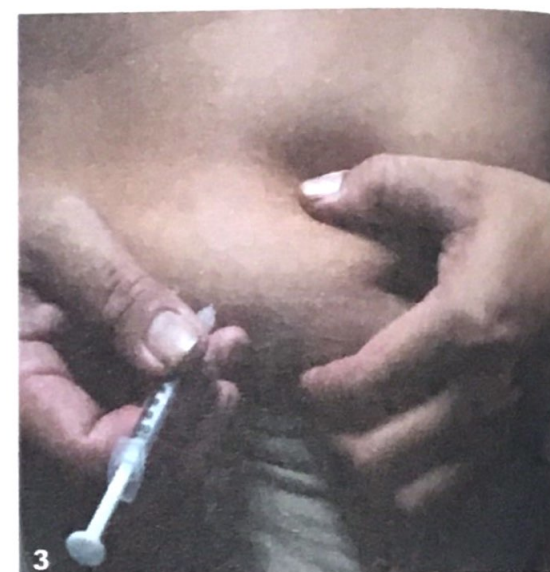
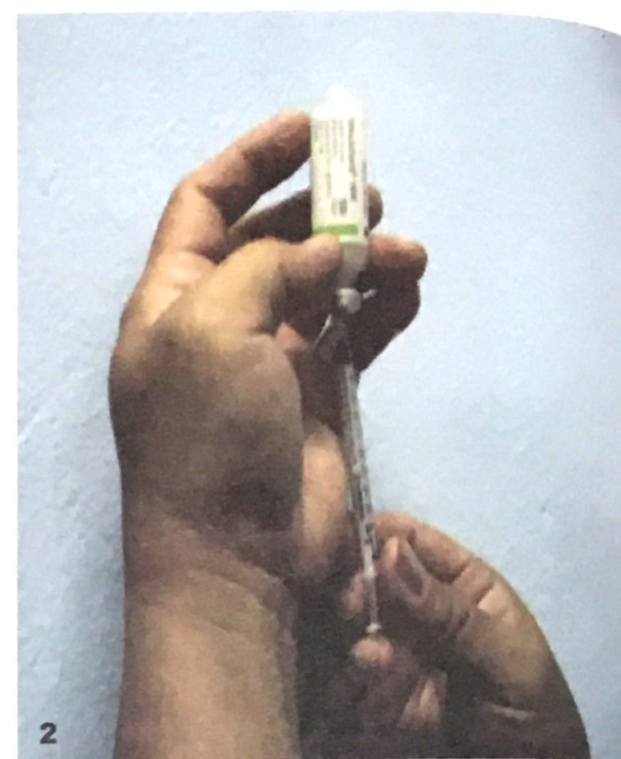
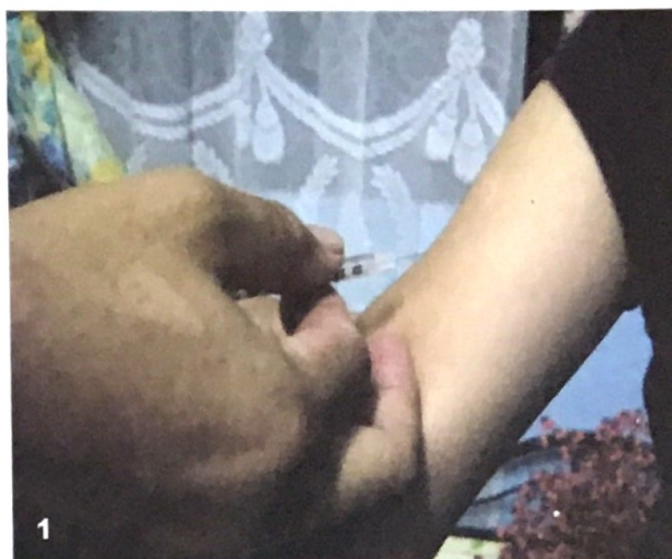
Diabetes is a chronic condition that occurs when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces. Hyperglycaemia and other related disturbances in the body's metabolism can lead to serious damage to many of the body's systems, especially the nerves and blood vessels.

There are two basic forms of diabetes:

- Type 1 - People with this type of diabetes produce very little or no insulin.

- Type 2 - People with this type of diabetes cannot use insulin effectively. Most people with diabetes have type 2.

A third type of diabetes, gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM), develops during some cases of pregnancy but usually disappears after pregnancy.



Pictures 1,2,3 - Diabetic patient takes insulin injection

Picture 4 - Proper care of feet is strongly advised to avoid infections

28 Bruneians on board SSEAYP

Twenty eight Brunei youths participated in the 32nd Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Programme (SSEAYP). The SSEAYP is held from November 8 to December 20, 2005.

The ship would be visiting Japan and six of ASEAN countries namely; Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Each country has one national leader

Brunei Darussalam joined SSEAYP

in 1985. The SSEAYP commenced in January 1974 based on joint statement issued between Japan and five ASEAN countries, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

It is an annual programme sponsored by the Japanese Government and supported by the ASEAN member countries. The programme brings together about 300 youths from ASEAN countries and Japan.



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports meets contingent leaders of SSEAYP

28 Bruneians participate in the 32nd SSEAYP



Snippets...

Five detainees released

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Of Brunei Darussalam has consented for the release of five detainees who were involved in counterfeit of Brunei currency in the sultanate in February 2004. They were Awang Sabli bin Haji Tuming, Awang Ghani bin Tamin, Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman bin Pengiran Haji Zainal, Macky Paraji Hunang and Alwi bin Budiman.

MOE records best PSR results in two decades

Results for the 2005 Primary six Primary School assessment results have reached the highest record in students' passes in two decades.

Ninety per cent of 7,152 students sitting for the PSR examinations in the country showed a significant improvement in terms of grades.

This was disclosed by Brunei Darussalam's Ministry of Education which stated that the results released recently reached its highest improvement since the exam was introduced in the country's education system in 1985.

A significant increase in students achieving the top five A grades increased from 7.36 per cent to 9.45 per cent from the previous year.

Meanwhile, students achieving four grade A and B or C recorded an increase of 3.48 per cent compared to 2004.

Rate of failure decreased by 10 per cent compared to 22 per cent in 2004 which is a highpoint for the education development in the country.

Government schools have also seen a steady increase in 100 per cent student passes this year where 33 government schools achieved the target out of 54.

Mathematics and English also reached a 92.53 per cent and 95.54 per cent pass rates which highlighted the significant improvement of passes in the Mathematics subject which has increased by 11 per cent.

More products for Islamic banking

Islamic banking continues to strive in Brunei Darussalam with the launching of new products through one of its local Islamic banks, Islamic Development Bank of Brunei (IDBB).

IDBB through the Takaful Bank Pembangunan Islam Sdn Bhd (TBPISB) launched a product called 'Mawaddah Takaful Plan' where it gives customers the means of saving money and protecting their family when unexpected occurrence happens. The Plan also offers additional benefits such as family income rider, accidental death and disability rider, non-accidental disability rider, funeral expenses, repatriation expenses and hospitalisation and medical expenses (for in-patients only).

Customers could embark on the plan with a minimum of \$50 per month. The plan also offers flexible year coverage from range of 10 to 25 years.

TBPISB is a subsidiary of IDBB whose vision is to climb the ranks of the leader in the Takaful insurance industry. It offers a range of general and life Takaful products.

Further information on TBPISB products could be found at <http://www.takafulbpisb.com>

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.brunel.gov.bn

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

Scuba Tech Unveils Brunei Underwater Treasures

Brunei Darussalam's first PADI Certified Dive Resort operator at the Empire Hotel & Country Club, Scuba-Tech International Pte Ltd has unveiled its strong potential as Southeast Asia's promising diving resort.

The recently launched World-Class diving centre at The Empire Hotel & Country Club is run by Chairlady of Scuba-Tech, Pengiran Anak Hajah Ameenah.

The top diving destination of Southeast Asia is a collaboration of the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI), International Resorts Association and SCUBA-TECH International with the support from the Brunei Tourism Department is expected to target local as well as International Diving Enthusiasts.

Scuba Tech International Diving Centre is strategically located at the Empire Hotel and Country Club, Marine Centre that offers various water activities for adults and children including the availability of water sports facilities at the resort such as single and double-seater kayaks, sailing, windsurfing, jet skiing and Banana Boating.

Other than that, the centre also offers training for both adults and children, as well as escorted diving trips for the experienced and other fishing expeditions.

The variety of magnificent dive sites discovered by Scuba-Tech International Diving Teams includes the Oilrig Wreck, Clown Fish Avenue, Princess Avenue and Brunei Patches.

Brunei Darussalam's spectacular coral reefs, shipwrecks and oilrigs off the coast of

Brunei's have been widely regarded as 'Brunei's Best Kept Secrets' by International adventure-seeking scuba divers.

The abundant marine treasures including its breathtaking corals and sea-creatures such as giant manta rays, barracudas, moray eels, sea turtles and an astonishing 200 species of hard coral and numerous varieties of soft coral also makes it a perfect underwater photography choice.

Day trips offered by Scuba Tech starts as low as B\$225 which includes two boat dives, use of weights, weight belt, two tanks, light refreshment and a PADI dive master guide.

PADI scuba diving training, "Discover Scuba" is also available for first timers while advanced divers may opt for the open water PADI Dive Master.

Meanwhile diving lessons for young children, "Bubble Maker" is taught in the swimming pool, which also feature a wide variety of fun activities while learning about the underwater realm.

Fishing excursions takes about 20 minutes by speedboat into the South China Sea with reefs which are swarming with fish and the day's catch will be cooked free of charge by the hotel chefs.

Also offered in its exciting water activities are the Brunei Patches, a popular reef for Snorkel diving tips

Eve's Garden, which is located close to the resort, features a fabulous carpet of soft coral only 15 minutes away by dive-boat.

Other nearby diving sites includes Barracuda Point, Anenome Garden, Grouper Patch Reef, Atago Mari Wrecks

and Sea Fan Garden.

Brunei Darussalam's ship wreck which is the most favoured in Southeast Asia features the magnificent beauty of the American Wreck, Australian Wreck, Cement Wreck and Blue Water Wreck.

According to Sheikh Jamaluddin Sheikh Mohamed, Head of Brunei Tourism, the first PADI certified resort in the country will inevitably place Brunei Darussalam on the tourism map specifically for great underwater activities.

Several beautiful reefs have been identified as diving spots such as Brunei Patch, Princess Avenue, Clownfish Avenue and Burn's Patch can be reached within 15-20 minutes ride in the Scuba Tech International catamaran.

For experienced divers with a flair for thrill-seeking adventures, they can also explore Brunei's deep blue for wreck diving.

Reefs are generally shallow to about 12 metres with exceptional fish and coral life, but the sites are exposed to currents and visibility is at best an average of 10 metres.

The rigs are overwhelmed with soft corals and lush sedentary growth of sea fans, sponges, shells and tunicates can be seen.

About 25 minutes from Scuba Tech Dive Centre is Rig Reef, a complex reef created out of decommissioned oil platform structures.

The 'Bolkiah Wreck' is easily accessible, but further offshore are a number of wrecks including the S.S. De Clerk which is a 100metre long Dutch passenger/cargo steamer, the USS Salute AM 294, Admirable Class Minesweeper and the MV Tung Hwang in Brunei Bay which are all part of the repertoire of dive sites offered by the new dive centre.

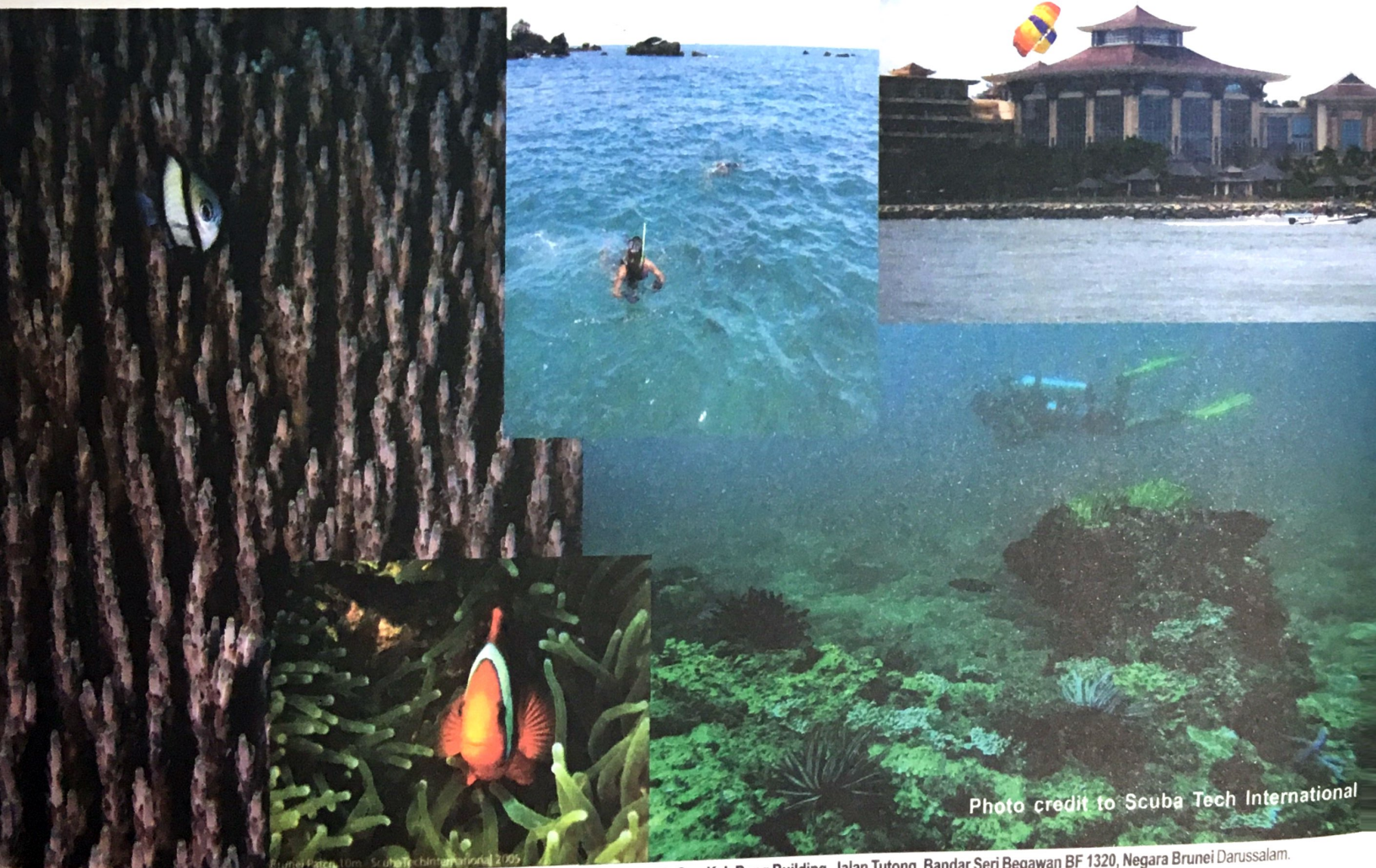


Photo credit to Scuba Tech International