



# برونى دارالسلام

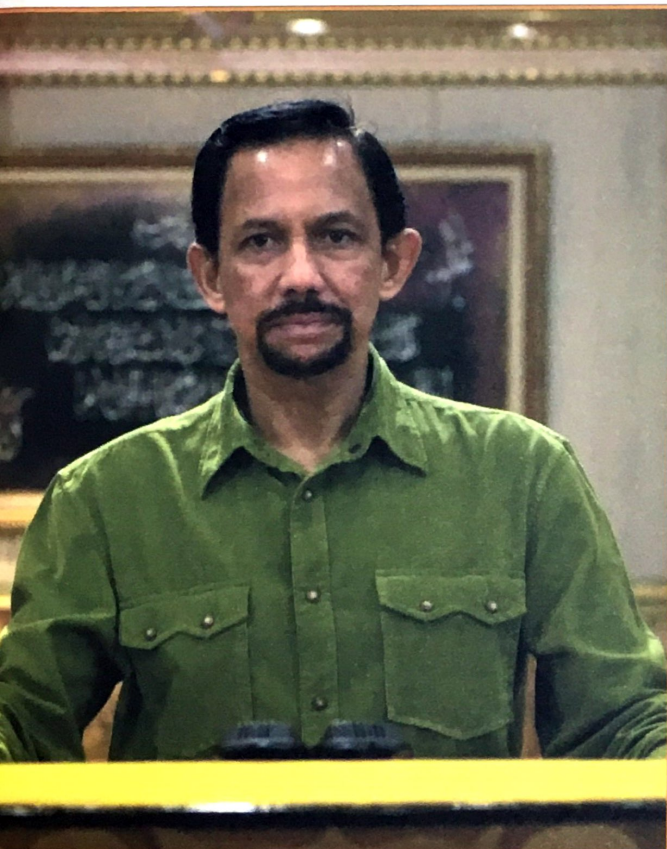
## Brunei Darussalam

# Brunei Darussalam newsletter

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**His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a royal titah on the eve of New Year 2006.**

## HM: Health & economic issues main concern

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 1** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam singled out three main issues of national concern at his New Year royal *titah*.

First, he touched on a concern which is now a global issue that is avian influenza. His Majesty expressed his concern of this latest infectious disease thus, he urged relevant authorities to be well-prepared for a possible outbreak in this country.

This led to his consent in creating the National Committee handling the influenza and chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.

Secondly, His Majesty stated that the Government is continuously diversifying the economy and boost the financial resource of the private sector. The economic activities in the private sector, according to the sovereign, not only will strengthened the sector but it can provide more job opportunities for locals.

Thirdly, His Majesty touched on unemployment. According to the sovereign, the Government will not stop in finding the ways to beat unemployment. This includes increasing the role of the private sector in supplying more new job opportunities. With these opportunities, this will reduce the dependence on seeking job at the public sector.

## \$250 million for human resources development

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 12** - An amount of \$250 million has been allocated to establish a special fund to implement various programmes that will strengthen the development of human resources in the country.

Among the objectives of the programmes are; to upgrade the human resources' capacity in line with developed countries; to fulfil the country's needs in the economic, political and social development; to fulfil the need for specialist and professional manpower in all strategic areas; to enhance the skill and advancement of manpower in all sectors; to inculcate the culture of continuous learning; to achieve full employment and low unemployment; and to reduce the dependence on foreign manpower.

The programmes to be implemented are:

1. Special Programme for Specialists and Professionals Manpower Development
2. Scholarship Programme
3. Special Programme for Unemployed Graduates
4. Special Programme for School Leavers
5. Programme for Skill and Knowledge Development
6. Programme for Entrepreneurial Development

Feasibility studies will also be conducted on the following schemes:

- i. Overseas Employment Inducement Scheme
- ii. National Service Scheme

This was announced by the Prime Minister's Office on January 12.



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## Palace Newsround...



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

① His Excellency Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Abd. Rahman bin Abd. Hamid, the newly-appointed Brunei's High Commissioner to the People's Republic of Bangladesh on January 14.

② His Excellency Haji Sidek bin Ali, the newly-appointed Ambassador of Brunei to the Lao People's Democratic Republic on January 14.

③ His Excellency Major General (R) Syed Haider Jawed, the newly-appointed High Commissioner of Pakistan to Brunei on January 14.

④ His Excellency Herijanto Soeprapto, the newly-appointed Ambassador of Indonesia to Brunei on January 14.

⑤ His Excellency Lauri Eero Ilmari Korpinen, the newly-appointed Ambassador of Finland to Brunei on January 14.

⑥ His Excellency Marcos Caramuru de Paiva, the newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador of Federation Republic of Brazil to Brunei on January 24.

⑦ His Excellency Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Jaafar, the newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Mauritania to Brunei on January 24.

⑧ His Excellency Jean Bret  ch  , the newly-appointed Head of Delegation of the European Commission on January 24.

⑨ His Excellency Mukhtar Tileuberdi, the newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador of Kazakhstan on January 24.



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

His Excellency General Generoso S Senga, Chief of Staff of the Philippines Armed Forces on January 26.



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

① Madam Dorothea Skodon, the spouse of Ambassador of the United States of America on January 10.

② Pengiran Datin Hajah Siti Mariam binti Pengiran Haji Ahmad, the spouse of Brunei's newly-appointed High Commissioner to the People's Republic of Bangladesh on January 23.

③ Dayang Mariaatnah binti Haji Apong, the spouse of Brunei's newly-appointed Ambassador to the Lao's People's Democratic Republic on January 23.

④ Madam Pilar Precilla Senga, the spouse of Chief of Staff of the Philippines Armed Forces on January 26.





His Majesty at the Aidil Adha celebration



Muslims performing the Aidil Adha prayers.

## Brunei celebrates Aidil Adha

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 11** – Brunei Darussalam celebrated Aidil Adha, a celebration on the 10<sup>th</sup> of Zulhijjah (the 11<sup>th</sup> month in the Islamic calendar). On this auspicious day, Muslims attend a service in the mosques and ritual slaughter of a sheep would be performed.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and male members of the royal family joined scores of Muslims to perform the Aidil Adha prayers.

The sovereign also delivered a *titah* on the eve of the celebration where he said that we are required to be patient and accept the test of Allah where amongst them include following religious obligations. Insya Allah (God's willing), happiness and safety can be achieved through the blessings of our faithfulness.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah on January 26 received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:

- His Excellency Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Abd Rahman bin Abd Hamid, High Commissioner of Brunei to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

- His Excellency Haji Sidek bin Ali, Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

## CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent 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 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 the Australia Day on January 26.



# Police celebrates 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary



**New crest hopes to inject new spirit and breath for the force.**



**His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as the Inspector General of Police, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah as the Deputy Inspector General of Police, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah as the Honorary Commissioner of Police, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna as the Commandant of Women Police and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Nor'ain as the Deputy Commandant of Women Police.**

**GADONG, January 18** – His Majesty

The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to the formation of the Department of Criminal intelligence.

These were stated at the 85th anniversary of the Royal Brunei Police Force. This year also saw the changing of the Royal Brunei Police Force's crest.

In his royal speech, His Majesty emphasised for a clean, authoritative and highly moral police force. As law enforcers, the police must be brave, trustworthy and loyal, until there will never be a question of the Police Force being used by any party for their own special interests.

To complement this, His Majesty has consented to the formation of the Department of Criminal Intelligence.

The sovereign has also urged the RBPF to consider the setting up of Computer Forensic Division. According to His Majesty, this nation-state is not exempted from information technology. The existence of information technology has certainly brought in good benefits but at the same time, it can be used for other intentions that can cause disastrous results among the citizens and residents of this country. Thus, His Majesty believes that it is high time for RBPF to establish the Computer Forensic Division.

His Majesty has also consented to the provision for a group insurance scheme for the welfare of the officers and members of the Police Force, and their civilian staff.

On the new crest, the sovereign hopes that the new crest will inject new spirit and breath for the force.

## Activities to celebrate anniversary

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 26** - Many programmes and activities were organised in conjunction with the 85<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Royal Brunei Police Force establishment.

The Marine Police on January 21 held 'Marine Police Open Day' at its head office in Muara. The open day included exhibition of equipment used by marine police while on duty. Other divisions from Royal Brunei Police Force also took parts in the exhibition.

The Royal Brunei Police Force also held a forum on the theme of the 85<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the force on January 25 at the Civil Services Institute in Rimba. The forum was attended by Police officers and staff including Pehin Dato Peduka Seri Zainuddin bin Jalani, the Royal Brunei Police Force Commissioner.

The forum on 'Developing Service Professionalism for the Betterment of the Community' among others touched on the true definition of the anniversary's theme.

A blood donation campaign was also held on January 26 at the Police Training Centre in Gadong. The blood would be donated to the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital's blood bank.



**Showcase by Marine Police.**



## Brunei celebrates new Islamic Year 1427



**His Majesty delivers a royal titah in conjunction with the new Islamic Year 1427.**

**KIARONG, January 30-** Religious education received special attention by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the new Islamic Year 1427 celebration.

In his royal titah, His Majesty emphasised the significant role played by the religious education in shaping our way of life.

The sovereign also stated that Brunei Darussalam is known for its religious practice which is healthy and has never caused a clamour as a result of our correct understanding of it.

He also stated that religious education not only improvised the surroundings but it also contributes to the development or creation of civilisation and livelihood. With that in mind, His Majesty wants to see the big role implemented efficiently. Thus, this calls for a revamp and update on everything that is related to religious schools and education including the revision of its syllabus and curriculum.

At the celebration, His Majesty also presented awards to recipients of Tokoh/Jawasan Ugama Award (Religious Exemplary Award) and two bakti Hijrah Awards (Hijrah Meritorious Awards).

The Tokoh/Jawasan Ugama Award was awarded to Pehin Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Yahya. While the Bakti Hijrah Awards were awarded to Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdullah bin Metassan and Orang Kaya Seri Wijaya Haji Abdullah bin Pehin Datu Panglima Haji Abu Bakar.



**His Royal Highness, the Chairman of the National Pandemic Influenza Committee at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting discussing the preparations**

### Bird Flu: \$15.7 million to compensate poultry farmers

**BERAKAS, January 9** – An amount of \$15.7 million has been allocated as a compensation package for poultry farmers in case the country is effected with the infectious avian influenza.

This was announced at the second National Pandemic Influenza Committee meeting chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office.

The meeting discussed the status of preparedness of the Ministries in preventing and controlling a bird flu outbreak from occurring in this country. The meeting also discussed the status of the Plan of Action against the pandemic.

As of January 6, 144 persons worldwide have been effected with 76 reported deaths. Continuous surveillance are currently carried out globally with the Asian region badly effected.



**Religious Exemplary Award for Pehin Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Yahya.**



**Bakti Hijrah Award for Orang Kaya Seri Wijaya Haji Abdullah.**



## Corruption Prevention Education launched



His Royal Highness taking a closer look at the items exhibited during the launch of the Corruption Prevention Education.

**BERAKAS, January 7** – Corruption Prevention Education is now part of the National School Curriculum. This was officially launched by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.



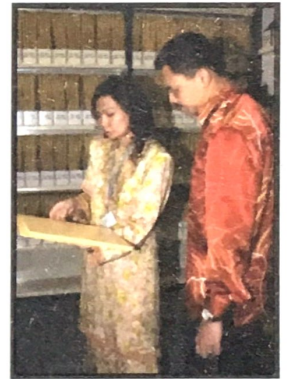
(inset) His Royal Highness officially launch the Corruption Prevention Education.

According to His Royal Highness, this move by the Anti-Corruption Bureau is relevant as outlined by the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. He further said that it is the responsibility of every heads of organisations to take proactive measures towards preventing and combating any acts leading to corruption. He also said that every member of the civil service should instill a clean and healthy mindset together with the attitude to always prioritise the country's interest as their main aim in discharging the responsibilities entrusted on them.

His Royal Highness also stated that the introduction of Corruption Prevention Education portrays our determination in eradicating corruption. Therefore, he called for all parties to give their support in our effort to ensure a clean, efficient and honest government, thus, giving foreign investors confidence to come to our country.



Group photo of officers and staff members of the Ministry of Finance with His Royal Highness.



An officer shows His Royal Highness on the daily operations.

## Crown Prince working visits to Ministry of Finance & Ministry of Defence

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 25** – His Royal Highness Crown Prince General Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office began his series of working visits for year 2006 on January 17.

His Royal Highness visited Ministry of Finance at Commonwealth Drive. The Senior Minister also officiated the opening of Currency Gallery of Brunei Currency and Monetary Board. Later on January 19 and 21, His Royal Highness continued to visit more departments under the ministry.

Ministry of Finance have five departments; Brunei Investment Agency, Information Technology and State Store, Treasury, Employees Trust Fund, and Royal Customs and Excise.

Established in 1984, the ministry have a vision to form a firm and dynamic financial system.

On January 25, His Royal Highness visited Commander Royal Brunei Armed Forces Secretariat Office at the Ministry of Defence in Bolkiah Garrison.



His Royal Highness signs a commemorative inscription.



A collection of rice at the Information Technology and State Store.



## New X-Ray Scanner and New Branch for Postal Service Department

**BERAKAS, January 25** - Postal services in Brunei Darussalam has been upgraded with the newly purchased X-Ray Scanner. The X-Ray Scanner which is internationally recognised is hoped to facilitate the department in organising postal items. It will also assist in checking dangerous and prohibited items sent via postal services. The cost of the scanner is about B\$145,000.

CIGS Enterprise has agreed to supply the X-Ray Scanner to Postal Services Department. The Acting Post-Master General, Haji Abdul Kadir was present on behalf of the Department at the contract signing ceremony with the Chief Executive Officer of CIGS Enterprise, Peter Yee on January 7. The new X-Ray Scanner has met the international safety regulation.

On January 25, a new post office branch was opened at Unit 3, Ground Floor, Block A, Uraiah Complex in Kiulap. With the new branch, it is hope that the products and services provided by the department will meet customers' expectations and needs. The new post office branch will provide stamps, bulk posting and IRC (International Reply Coupon), air/sea parcel service, air/sea" mail, express mail, Speed Post and registered mail. Other services also available are renewals of road taxes and driving licences.

The launching ceremony and the cutting of the ribbon were by the guest of honor, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd Yusof bin Haji Mohd. Hassan.



**Signing of MOU for the supply of X-Ray Scanner to Postal Services Department.**

## Brunei Fire Services' first female firefighters

**BERAKAS, January 1** - For the first time in history, Brunei Darussalam's Fire Services Department recently officiated the country's first team of female firefighters.

The ceremony to mark the first batch of female firefighters in the country was attended by the Acting Director of Fire Services, Haji Awang Johari bin Jaludin on January 1, 2006.

According to Haji Awang Johari, the historical occasion for the Fire Services Department is significant towards the department's goal to move forward.

Responsibilities and tasks carried out by the female firefighters include operating as the second responder in carrying out duties of handling cases involving women and assist in operational services including forward command posts, canteen vans and others, he added.

The ceremony that took place at the Central Fire Services station at Jalan Airport Lama in Berakas also saw the inspection of the female firefighters' guard of honour by Haji Awang Johari followed by the presentation of letters of appointment to Stir Supt. Awang bin Haji Tengah who then handed over to the Commanding officer of the Female Firefighters, Dk Hajah Hamidah binti Pg Hj Damit and another four female firefighting officers.

The team of 37 female Bruneian firefighters is expected to be in action alongside their male counterparts early this year.

## ASEAN Youth Camp

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 21** - About 50 youth from ASEAN member countries gathered in Brunei Darussalam for the ASEAN Youth Camp which was held from January 10 to 22.

The Sixth ASEAN Youth Camp was launched on January 11 by Pengiran Dato Dr. Haji Mohammad, Deputy Minister of Education at the Orchid Garden Hotel in Berakas.

The theme for this year's camp was "Adhesion: Water and the Arts. The theme was chosen to reflect the important role of water in shaping the civilisations and cultures of the ASEAN member countries. All presentations and activities during the camp were related to the theme.

Participants were divided into five different activities, namely: visual arts, photography, dance, creative writing/journalism and music. With workshops and visits, the camp was focused on creative interaction, artistic process as well as group and individual expression.

During the 12-day camp,

participants also had the opportunity to meet and join with Bruneians to learn the local culture and ways of life. The participants also visited places of interest like water village.

As part of the camp, a gala performance was held on January 21 at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas. The gala showcased fun and colourful performances from the camp's participants.

The ASEAN Youth Camp is a key project of the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (ASEAN COCI). It began as the ASEAN Youth Friend Programme, held in the Philippines in 1998 and Thailand in 1999.

The aim was to build a stronger regional identity by raising awareness of Southeast Asia's history and heritage through arts. Over the years, the aims of the Camp have also expanded to give participants a better understanding of ASEAN in general.

Previously, the ASEAN Youth Camp was held in Thailand (2000), Malaysia (2001), Myanmar (2002), Lao People's Democratic Republic (2004) and Cambodia (2005).

## CPI November 2005 increased by 1.4%

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the month of November 2005 went up by 1.4 per cent from the previous month with an index of 103.0. This was partly due to some prices reverting to their original prices after the end of the Brunei Grand Sale and higher prices of airfares.

The cost of food & non-alcoholic beverages increased by 0.3 per cent resulted mainly from higher prices of fresh fish and prawn, milk and other dairy products, cooking oils,

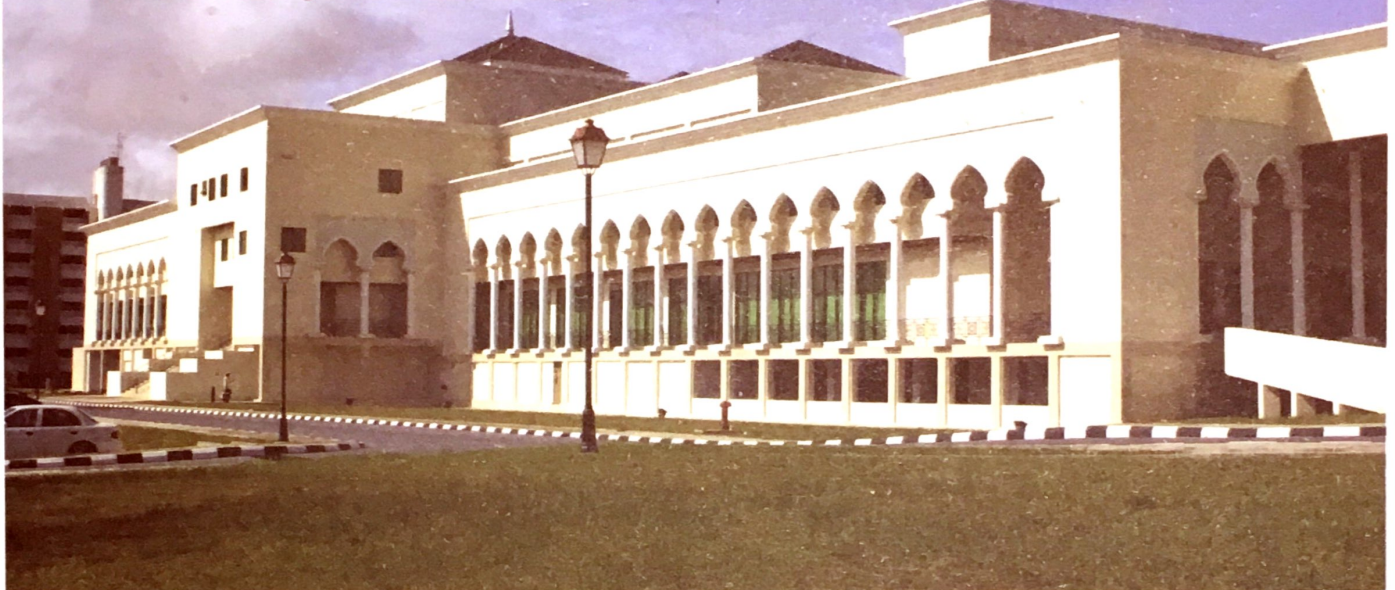


## Brunei has new Supreme Court & Syariah Court Building

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 2** – Brunei's new Supreme Court and *Syariah* Court building began its operation on January 3. All proceedings related to *Syariah* will now take place at the new court.

The building which costs more than \$14 million is located in Bandar Seri Begawan. It has nine courtrooms, multi-purpose hall, meeting rooms, offices and car park spaces for more than 400 cars.

The new court building was built under the Eight National Development Plan (8<sup>th</sup> NDP).



New Syariah Court Building based in Bandar Seri Begawan.

## Corruption Prevention absorbed in school's curriculum

**TUNGKU, January 9** – The embedding of Corruption Prevention Education in school curriculum will be carried out in phases from 2006 to 2011. In year 2006, primary one, secondary one and secondary four students will be introduced to the new curriculum.

These were stated by the Director of Anti Corruption Bureau, Datin Paduka Hajah Intan at a ceremony to mark the handing over of the curriculum to school principals, teachers and private schools. The ceremony took place at the Civil Service Institute in Tungku.

According to Datin Paduka Hajah Intan, the curriculum is not limited to theories only but it includes practical learning session. Trainings and workshops will be held at all four districts where it is hoped such effort will provide a more detailed picture on the curriculum



Director of Anti-Corruption Bureau presenting a curriculum to school principals, teachers and private schools.

vegetables, fruits, honey and snacks.

Higher cost of clothing and footwear by 5.2 per cent was due to dearer prices of ready-made clothing and accessories, materials for male and female, and footwear.

The cost of housing, water, electricity and maintenance was up by 0.1 per cent due to higher prices of housing maintenance equipments.

The increase in prices of furniture; floor covering; household

furnishings; crockery and cutlery; and household operations caused the cost of household goods, services and operation to climb up by 1.3 per cent.

Transportation cost went up by 0.6 per cent due to higher prices of airfares.

Lower cost of education by 0.1 per cent was due to cheaper prices of computer accessories.

The cost of medical and health fell by 0.1 per cent resulted from lower prices of therapeutical appliances.

The cost of recreation and entertainment increased by 8.7 per cent due to higher prices of toys, and package tours.

Higher prices of personal care products led to higher cost of miscellaneous goods and services by 0.1 per cent.

The cost of communication remained unchanged from the previous month.

The CPI in November 2005 was 1.3 per cent higher than that of the same month in 2004.





Affectionate ruler meets citizens and residents of three mukims under the Belait District.



Traditional headgear of the Iban community.



Residents of long house greet His Majesty.

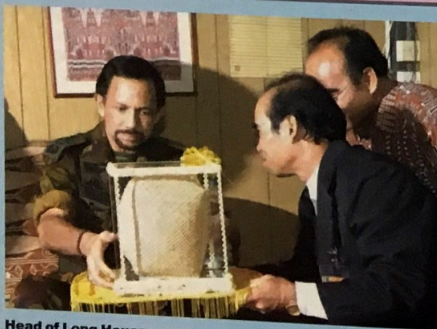
## HM visits Belait District

**KUALA BELAIT, January 23** – Residents of three mukims in the Belait district recently received an unscheduled royal visit from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The three mukims visited were; Melilas, Sukang and Labi.

During the visits, His Majesty visited the residents of village head, primary schools, health clinics, *balai-balai ibadat* (religious halls), long houses, police posts, and paddy plantation area.

Through this visit, the sovereign showed his concern on the development of education, health and the infrastructure of the mukims.



Head of Long House presents a token of appreciation to His Majesty.



Group photo of His Majesty with citizens and residents of Mukim Sukang.

## Crown Prince attends University's anniversary

**TUNGKU, January 14** – University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD) should continuously enhance its quality and performance by updating and reviewing the courses she offers. The courses offered should be aligned with the current development, relevant and marketable both domestically and overseas.

These were stated by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and the Pro-Chancellor of UBD, at a ceremony marking the 20 years anniversary of UBD.

His Royal Highness also said the field on Applied Research should be further enhanced in our effort to support the small-and-medium enterprises (SMEs). He also stated that the involvement of locals in carrying out researches on required fields will not only place a stolid image on UBD but it will contribute to the development of this country.

With that in mind, His Royal Highness urged public and private sectors to assist in expanding the courses and provide funds or sponsorships in the effort to achieve fruitful results from the programmes offered.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, His Royal Highness 'Abdul Malik and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna at the 20 years anniversary of UBD.



UBD students at the anniversary celebration.



## Brunei hosts 3rd International Conference on Delta

**TUNGKU, January 15** - Brunei Shell recently revealed that its existing fields in Champion are currently producing over 16,700 barrels of oil per day totaling over US\$1 million per day.

This was officially unveiled by the Deputy Minister of Development, Dato Paduka Dr Haji Mat Suny bin Haji Mohd Hussein at the launching of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Conference on Deltas (Borneo Venue) on January 15.

The event which brings together over 50 participants from 10 countries including 16 from Asia was held at the Chancellor's Hall of University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

The conference, which has brought together over 50 participants from 20 countries including 16 from Asia, hopes

to advance the understanding of petroleum reservoirs in deltas.

The conference is particularly important for Brunei Darussalam, which draws nearly all of its petroleum from deltaic deposits.

According to Dato Paduka Dr Haji Mat Suny, offshore discoveries have been recently discovered in shallow waters off the Seria surf zone below 80 meters in the South China Sea.

The rise in current oil prices have encouraged countries to step up exploration especially in deltas and deeper waters.

Deltas have always been an important source for human habitats, mainly for agriculture and water resources.

Due to this, Brunei's waters need

to be protected from industrial waste, household material and other pollutants such as used oil from workshops. Although water is not a limited resource, countries around the globe have taken major steps to clean up rivers and waterways and this is a challenge for all, he said.

UBD's Department of Petroleum Geoscience, which was first mooted over 15 years ago by Brunei Shell Petroleum Company, has progressed under the professional guidance of Professor Joe Lambiase.

The event which ended on January 18 was organised by the Department of Petroleum Geoscience of UBD in conjunction with its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

## Curriculum evaluation Vital in VTET

**GADONG, January 16** - Reviewing the curriculum's content and objectives and its evaluation processes are one of the points of knowing whether a particular curriculum system is sustainable.

This was informed by Director of SEAMEO VOCTECH Regional Centre, Noorhaizamdin bin Haji Mosbi during the launching of the F.R.E.S.H and Quality Curriculum Evaluation in VTET (Vocational & Technical Education Training).

The ceremony took place at SEAMEO VOCTECH and attended by participants from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Curriculum evaluation is vital in improving the education system and to identify problem areas while evolving new approaches in VTET institutions to improve the administration system for necessary changes.

Institutions need to adapt to the curriculum developed at the national level so that they can address the needs of local industries and other stakeholders at the regional level.

Evaluating the current curriculum system is relevant to a country's socio economic setting where it is a fundamental area that needs to be planned, developed and implemented.



**eHealth infrastructure for the Ministry of Health.**

## New Network Infrastructure for eHealth

**BERAKAS, January 16** - A landmark contract signing ceremony was made to marking the latest developments in communications technology in the medical and health services. This is one of the Ministry's effort to improve the distribution and provision of quality healthcare of the country.

The signing ceremony for the Ministry of Health's Information Technology Network Infrastructure was held at the Ministry. Present on behalf of the Ministry was Dr Haji Sablee Bin Haji Aspar, the Director of Healthcare Technology.

The first phase of the eHealth project will involve the supply, delivery, testing as well as commissioning of category six in 52 locations in the four districts of the country including health centres, health clinics and other buildings belonging to the ministry.

Access to the health information system that will be carried out in a later phase will connect all treatment rooms, doctors' rooms and other relevant areas in affected buildings.

First phase of the project has been granted to four contractors including Commverge Solutions Holding (Asia) Inc., Brunei branch, while the work at Site Group Two will be done by Semara Sdn Bhd.

Perniagaan Dinamik Giat and Elite Computer System Sdn Bhd will undertake the network infrastructure at Site Group 3 and 4 respectively.

The project costing \$700,000 is scheduled for completion in six months.



## Workshop on dangerous goods launched

**RIMBA, January 18** - It is important to implement proper handling of dangerous goods for the interest of the environment, public health, safety as well as national security.

This was said by Captain Hans-Jurgen Roos, a representative from Gauss GmbH of Germany during the launch of the eight-day Asean/APA/GTZ Training Workshop, on 'Handling of Dangerous Goods in Selected Asean Ports'.

The event organised by the Ports Department was officially launched by Dato Paduka Haji Md. Yussof bin Haji Hassan, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications at the Civil Services Institute in Rimba, Gadong.

With the launch of the project, Brunei Darussalam through its Ports Department will develop an integrated Port Safety, Health and Environmental Protection Management System in line with one of the Asean Transport Action Plan 2005-2010 goals for the Maritime Transport sector - 'Achieving Globally Acceptable Standards in Maritime Safety and Security and Protection of Marine Environment', informs Captain Roos.

The workshop which took place at a strategic time will enable appropriate authorities to assist in the implementation of Protocol 9 - Dangerous Goods, which is one of the implementing protocols under the Asean Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit signed on September 22, 2002.

Protocol 9 delivers the simplification of procedures and requirements for the transit transport of dangerous goods in Asean, using internationally accepted standards and guidelines.

With the implementation of the project, prevention of unnecessary delays and restriction for every relevant agency and private company in the supply chain network in Brunei Darussalam will be achieved.

Ports have to be managed and run efficiently at competitive prices in order to maintain its status amongst rapidly increasing competition and to ensure such competitiveness, existing services need to be upgraded and enhanced through the application of information and communication technology, Captain Roos said.

The Brunei Ports Department through its e-Government projects is currently evaluating tenders for the design, supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of an e-Port together with other e-Government projects, which would enable various electronic transactions including payment of port services to be carried out, he added.

The vision to develop Muara Port as the hub port for the BIMP-EAGA region will open up new markets through AFTA and will require full commitment and support from both public and private sector in the shipping industry.

Cooperation and assistance from the Ministry of Communications will also continue with the new services established at Muara Port including the setting up of Regional Distribution and Logistics Centre.



**Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Yussof opens the workshop on dangerous goods.**

## UBD hosts international seminar

**KIARONG, January 18** -

Islamic banking system and Islamic finance has been widely recognised and well-received among non-Muslims in which most banks and conventional finance institutions in the country offering such products have realised its advantages.

The banking system that practices the law taught by Imam Syafi'e has enabled Muslim funds to be activated through the 'Bai Al Inah' concept.

This was stated by Minister of Religious Affairs, Pehin Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awg Md Zain Haji Serudin during the official opening of the International religious seminar on 'Consolidation and Understanding of Mazhab Syafi'e Legal Thought in the Globalisation Era'.

The two-day International Seminar on Al-Syafi'e Legal Thought was hosted by Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) with the cooperation of the Mazhab Syafi'e Research Department of the Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddin Islamic Studies Institute.

The seminar also aimed to expand the legal principles of the Mazhab Syafi'e in the region, Brunei Darussalam in particular, and to bring forward several theories and law in the Mazhab Syafi'e Law that had not been analysed based on the two main sources in Islam the Al-Quran and Al-Sunnah.

Topics on strengthening the position of the Sunnah Wal Jamaah law theory in the forming and receiving of the 'Ijmak' concept as the source of Islamic law was also discussed.

The two day seminar participated by over 150 individuals including international academic members, government and private firm officers, teachers and students.

Muftis from various Islamic nations, local and foreign "Fiqah and Usul Fiqah" experts and judges were also invited to facilitate the event.

Over 11 working papers on "Igto" or the handing over of land without an owner, land which is 'not for public use' or deserted land owned by a non-Muslim, given by the government or authorised party to individuals who had applied for a share to develop the land were also presented and discussed.

## Nine schools ready in 2008

**BERAKAS, January 13** - More schools are in the pipeline with nine schools expected to be ready in 2008. The nine schools will include; five secondary schools; three sixth form schools; and a sports school.

This was stated by the the Minister of Education, Pehin Orang Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman at a prize presentation ceremony for students that excelled in their PSR exams.

According to the Minister, the building of new schools is hoped to cope with the number of students increasing each year. The Ministry of Education has projected an increase in students attending high schools and sixth forms every year and hoped the students will find schools as a place for conducive in learning.

The Minister also said that 2005 saw an increase of passes in students taking the PSR exams. Statistics showed that there is an increase from 70.67 per cent to 85.73 per cent.



## Halal Order enforced soon

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 24** – Brunei Darussalam will soon enforce a Halal Certificate and Halal Label Order 2005 through the Islamic Religious Council. Its aim is to provide information and better understanding of the Order of related parties directly connected with the implementation and enforcement of the Order.

The issuance of Halal Certificate and Halal Label Order 2005 will be enforced on processed food, separation of food storage and commercial place. This will help to boost consumers' confidence towards local products.

This was revealed at a talk organised by the Department of Islamic Religious Council on Halal Certificate and Halal Label Order 2005 at the Institute Tahfiz Al Quran Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah.

## MoE and UBD host first National Conference on ICT

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 26** – Brunei Darussalam recently held its first ever National Conference on ICT with the theme "Enhancing Education through Evolving Technology". The conference were jointly organised by Ministry of Education and University of Brunei Darussalam.

Through this conference, it provided awareness and understanding of education on the deployment and evolvement of computer technology in education, emphasise the role of ICT in providing quality education and addresses the misconception of "changing e-education by simply adding IT in education".

Seven plenary sessions were held; Information Technology in Learning, Beyond IT in Education in Transformation; Regional Best Practices in E-Education; Issues in E-Education; Contents and Intellectual Property; Creativity & Innovation; Pedagogies and Psychology; and Communication & Collaboration.

Teachers, researchers and practitioners were invited to present their work based on the seven plenary. Participants had the chance to listen to the vision, practices and experience of some renowned educationalists and practitioners in using innovative ICT solution in education as well as some leading technocrats in shaping the technology for education of today.

The use of ICT has a significant impact on teaching and learning environment for the last three decades. In addition, the advancement of the Internet and communication, including other content delivery technologies provide added impetus to the enhancement and effectiveness of education.



**National Conference on ICT officially opened.**



**Opening of the Anti-Doping Seminar.**

## Seminar highlights anti-doping in sports

**GADONG, January 27**– The launch of Brunei Darussalam's first anti-doping seminar is a key platform to raise the awareness for those related in the sporting arena on the topics of doping in sports and its fatal risks.

This was stated by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Major General (Rtd) Dato Awang Haji Mohammad Bin Haji Daud during the 1<sup>st</sup> Brunei Anti Doping Seminar in the country.

Over 200 individuals in various areas of sporting activities and medicine attended the two-day seminar, which covered topics on history of anti-doping, world anti-doping code, and self-medication, supplement and doping.

The seminar hosted by Brunei Darussalam plays a key role in the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) Play True campaign which aims to educate athletes, coaches, trainers, sports physiotherapists, pharmacists and sports administrators on the latest advancement in Anti-Doping policies through a care scientific programme.

Doping in sports is fatal to the health of the athletes as well as to the reputation of the countries they represent informs the Minister.

He hoped that through this seminar, participants will be able to maximise the opportunity to learn on how to achieve excellence in sports through legal and proper means without resorting to dangerous drugs.

A panel of internationally acclaimed reputable expert speakers on doping in sports facilitated the seminar.

The seminar also highlighted the publishing of a booklet on the list of prohibited substances for 2000 in sports published by Brunei Darussalam Anti Doping Committee.



## Relief package to reconstruct Aceh

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 22** – A 'relief package' worth about \$2 million will assist in the reconstruction of Aceh such as 70 units of houses, educational centre and a mosque. This is one of the contributions of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation and the citizens of Brunei Darussalam.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Brunei's Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs, who is also the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Badaruddin and Governor of Aceh Province, Dr.Ir.Mustafa Abu Bakar, was signed which symbolises an agreement towards the reconstruction of Aceh.

The reconstruction will include 70 units of houses where each house will have two bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom and a lounge area. The units will accommodate about 500 occupants. The building of the houses will cost B\$600,000 and expected to be complete in July 2006.

An educational centre (Pasentren) will also be built next to the housing area that includes hostel facilities. It will accommodate 80 male and 80 female students. The centre will be equipped with a multipurpose hall, a dining hall, four classrooms, restrooms, administration block as well as recreational facilities. The cost for building the Centre is estimated around B\$744,000.

A similar mosque like the Kampung Tamoi Mosque will be build at the centre of the reconstructed village that cost B\$368,000 and expected to be complete in September. It will accommodate 1000 Muslims during prayer times.

There will also be a health centre and an orphanage in Leupeng. It will be able to accommodate 60 orphans.

The whole project is built on four hectares of land at Desa Daerah Mernpan Kabupaten Leupung about 15 km away from Banda Aceh. Upon with the Governor of Aceh Province's gratitude, he would like to invite His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Of Brunei Darussalam to officially open the village once it is completed and to name the mosque.

## World Mental Health Day

**BERAKAS, January 28** - More programmes will be organised to create awareness among public that mental illness is treatable and the treatment is available in Brunei.

The programmes including road show and workshop will be held as part of World Mental Health Day celebration which falls on every October 10.

The matter was revealed by Dr. Hajah Kalsom binti Abdul Latif, Director of Health Services and Prof. Ramli Hassan, Specialist Psychiatrist, Chief Administrator of Psychiatrist Department during the press conference held at the Ministry of Health. The theme for the Day is "Mental Health and Physical Health throughout the Life Span".

The Ministry of Health through the Psychiatrist Department had planned various programmes in order to promote not only mental health but also physical health among the people and residents of the country.

According to Professor Ramli Hasan, mental and physical should be healthy as both are connected. For example, there are about 20 to 40 per cent chances for cancer patients to suffer depression, 25 per cent for diabetic patients and 40 per cent for stroke. Meanwhile, a depressed person also has high chances of getting heart attack.

Therefore, few programme and activities had been run to promote both mental and physical health since December, 2005. A psychiatry emergency workshop for nurses was held on December 20, 2005 in order to enhance expertise on handling psychiatry cases.

In aligning the mental health and physical health, a walkathon was also held on January 15 in Kiarong. On the same day, they also had an open day at the Psychiatrist Day Care Centre in Kiarong. Among the upcoming programme are talks on mental health to villages and mental health promotion through electronic media.

The programme conducted will also focus on children and teenagers. According to Specialist Psychiatrist, Children and Adolescent Psychiatrist; Professor Abang Bennett Abang Taha; children and teenagers can also suffer depression. For instance high expectation from parents for their child to achieve best grades in examination may led to stress and social or attitude problem to the children.

In order to create the awareness, a workshop for teachers and parents (particularly those with problematic students and children) will be conducted. A mental health promotion to schools which started in 2002 will also be continued.

Mental health is also given a focus in the country. A department of Psychiatrist had been set up to provide various services such as in-patients, out-patients, daily patients and community psychiatrist service. Children and adolescent Psychiatrist Unit was also established.

The Psychiatrist Day Care Centre was also opened in April 2005, and provided psychosocial rehabilitation; that is to develop the patient capability in social interaction and daily activities.



**A walkathon as part of the activities celebrating World Mental Health Day.**





**Committee members comprising officers and staff members of Information Department and residents of Mukim Kota Batu.**



**Guests at the opening of Information Day.**



**A senior officer from the Ministry of Communications gives an explanation.**

## **Information Day foster closer relations between government & public**

**PINTU MALIM, January 15** - Citizens and residents in Brunei Darussalam should continuously strengthened its social awareness by giving more attention on issues that could harm the community and nation, such as drug abuse, vandalism, lack of discipline and spreading of false news which could create unrest among members of the community.

This was mentioned by the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Hamid at the launching of Information Day at Mukim Kota Batu in the Brunei-Muara district.

According to the Permanent Secretary, focus could be given to the development of the economy and social welfare when there is a healthy, clean and discipline community.

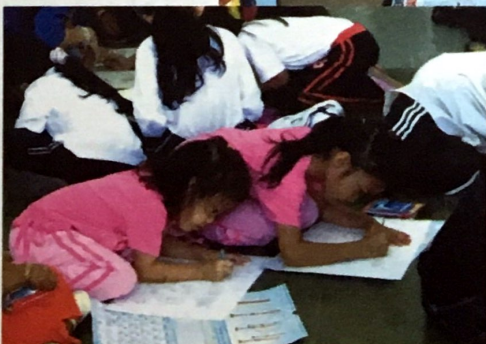
He also stated that government agencies should continuously increase their quality of service to the nation with a positive attitude, efficient and dedicated in carrying out their duties and responsibilities.

The Permanent Secretary added that government departments that deal directly with members of the public should be open-minded and serve them with respect.

Information Day is an annual activity organised by Information Department where it is hoped that through this activity, closer understanding between the government and the public could be fostered. Among the activities held were a dialogue between residents of *mukims* and villages with representatives from various government agencies. Also held during the day were fun activities for citizens and residents of the villages.



**Various items and products exhibited at Information Day.**



**Young children participating in the colouring contest.**



## Tourism industry receives a boost

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 17** – There will be nine chartered flights beginning from January 17 to February 14 with an average of over 100 passengers arriving in Brunei every Tuesday and Saturday from the Republic of Korea.

On January 17, around 140 Korean tourists arrived by chartered flight, Korean Air. On arrival at the Empire Hotel and Country Club, the tourists were greeted by cultural welcoming reception of traditional music and dances.

The Korean tourists were in the country for a holiday tour jointly organised by a Korean based tour operator, mainly Nettour and a few of Brunei's local tour agencies. There are also three other Korean Tour Operators namely; Hana Tour, Mode Tour and Lotte Tour involves in the carter.

The project is a follow up to the business matching efforts initiate by the Brunei Tourism Development Department at the Korean Travel Fair 2005. Brunei Tourism Development Department is playing its role in enhancing the package experience for tourists by organising a warm cultural welcome for every chartered flight.

The four to six days holiday package will include visits to Brunei's places of interests namely the water village, Royal Regalia, Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque, Gadong Food Market, the Proboscis Monkey Tours along the mangrove swamps of the Brunei River as well as playing rounds of golf at the country's various golf courses.

According to the Nettour spokesperson, they had started selling tour packages to Brunei Darussalam since the last three years; and had helped position Brunei on their market. They had previously organised nine successful chartered flights to Brunei from 2003 to 2005.



**Korean tourists receiving warm welcome at The Empire Hotel & Country Club in Jerudong.**

## Snippets...

### Brunei Book Fair 2006

**BERAKAS, January 4** - Brunei Book Fair 2006 will be held in February in conjunction with the 22<sup>nd</sup> National Day of Brunei Darussalam. It will be organised by the Language & Literature Bureau.

The ten-day book fair will run from February 25 to March 6. This fair will not only showcase local books but it will also be participated by neighbouring countries such as Singapore, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia and the Republic of Indonesia. This will be the first time that Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia to participate in the Book Fiesta.

Besides books, computer vendors will also be selling their products from hardware to software items.

Several activities have also been lined-up at the Brunei Book Fair 2006.

### Cosmopolitan College offers HND

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 13** - More academic institutions are offering Higher National Diploma (HND) with Cosmopolitan College as the latest private institution to offer such courses. The other academic institution offering HND is Institut Teknologi Brunei.

Cosmopolitan College (CCCT) has been given an accreditation by BDTVEC, Ministry of Education.

Cosmopolitan College has listed the courses offered to the public namely HND in Management and Finance, Informatics Advanced Diploma in Business Administration, Accounting and Business and IT, Integrated Preparatory Course (IPC), ICDL training and testing, short courses and professional training.

Aziz Latip as the Chairman of CCCT said, "Our goal is to prepare young Bruneians to be ready for the future challenges of the business world. We want to be the leading Human Resources Development Centre in Brunei, and not merely a college providing some qualification".

"Upon completion of the course, students have the option to choose to continue their final year degree studies with University of Wales or University of Portsmouth or several other British Universities".

"Others may also choose to enter the second year with Curtin University or other several universities in Australia, or Auckland University in New Zealand. If they are interested in studying in USA, they could join the final year at Salem International University".

### Brunei Attend Asean Tourism Forum

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 13** – Senior officers from Brunei Darussalam recently attended the Association of South East Asian (ASEAN) Tourism Forum (ATF) 2006. It was hosted in Davao City in Philippines.

Other members of the ASEAN countries namely; Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Vietnam, and non-ASEAN members from Europe, Australia, Middle-East, South Africa, Canada, South America, Japan, India/Pakistan, China, South Korea, Egypt, Russia and Turkey also attended the Asean Tourism Forum.

Delegates from Brunei Darussalam was led by Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Dr Awang Haji Ahmad.

Two big events were featured at the forum where delegates were given a first hand view on Philippine's finest handicrafts, garments, furniture and antiques through 'Fun in Paradise' held on January 17 and Trade Expo at the SM City from January 13 to 21.



# JON TAMPOI'S HOME - A JOURNEY BACK IN TIME

A visit to Jon Tampoi's home in Kampong Tamoi is like a journey through time where one can see for themselves the ways of lives of the local people even long before the coming of Islam.

Jon Tampoi, an avid writer and culturist has welcomed hundreds of tourists from all over Europe and Asia to his home in Kampong Tamoi, located in the water village.

Kampong Ayer which retains much of the historical features of the 16th century when Ferdinand Magellan's chronicler first discovered was the main hub for various cottage industries for the fishermen, river traders and artisans making and selling traditional handicrafts such as silverware, brassware, woodcarving and cloth weaving.

The priceless 125-year-old home brought down to him by his grandfather houses various artifacts from the early 1400 including traditional music instruments, Chinese crockery and old photographs.

Visitors can almost immediately feel the strong and rich colourful culture of the Bruneian people in the olden days as Jon welcomes his visitors in his traditional gear into his home.

The attire, which consists of a sarong, features an authentic 'Tenunan Brunei' or weaved fabric that is embossed with gold leafed designs over 100 years ago.

According to him, local weaving were designed using gold leafing decorations rather than using gold threads, which is widely used nowadays.

The entrance of his home, which is decorated with a gold leaf embossed teak wood door décor, aligned on each side and above his door entrance was made by local Peranakan craftsman over 200 years ago.

The Peranakan is a sub ethnic group created between an intermarriage between Chinese and local Malays in the ancient times.

According to him, such décor were normally placed in front of kitchen entrances of homes in those days.

So one can just understand how the rich cultural life play such an important role in the lives of the people from the way they dress to the things they own.

Ceilings which have been remodeled and replaced with colourful cloth to form a canopy was also replicated from the ancient Malay homes where constructed canopies can prevent dust from falling while providing heat insulation for homes.

Ceiling chandeliers, which are called 'Dian Lampung', is fixated on a 'Ranyah' where the 'Ranyah' prevents smoke from spoiling the canopies.

Meanwhile walls inside the home are covered in 'Daun Pucuk Nipah', which were used to construct roof tops of village homes in the ancient days.

The house which has been preserved and remodeled to replicate water village homes in the olden days features 4 rooms including a British Room, National Anthem Room, Gata Room and 'Bilik Pengangunan'.





The 'Gata Room' and 'Bilik Pengangunan' features two rooms, were used during the consummation of marriage between couples which were held over 40 days during that time.

Bilik Pengangunan is where the groom would stay in the bride's home during the period of consummation while the 'Gata room' meant for the bride will also be used by the couple after the consummation of the marriage in that home.

The British room which contains furnishings from the British colonial days in Brunei Darussalam is also preserved and displayed in that room.

What is unique about the National Anthem room is that all items in that room once belonged to the late Haji Besar Sagap, the renowned composer for Brunei Darussalam's National Anthem 'Allah Selamatkan Sultan'.

Among items that are displayed inside the room include a Gramophone that is still in mint condition.

Haji Besar Sagap is also Jon's grandfather from his father's side, an avid traveler during his early days where he enjoyed trading goods amongst Indian merchants in China and other regions.

A variety of artifacts including a collection of hundreds of year old weaponry once used by the Malay community is also displayed inside a room including spears and traditional Malay daggers.

A collection of 'Keris'- a traditional Malay dagger is also displayed with a particular piece standing out which according to Jon was made from substances from the meteorite.

According to a legend, black magic was used to mould the hot meteorite material into the tough, narrow and sharp dagger called Keris Picit.

Fingerprints of the maker is still visible on the weapon and one cut from the weapon is known to be fatal.

The piece that is called 'Keris Picit' features a slit in the center of the dagger to place poison and kill enemies in any attack.

According to Jon, the slit also plays a role to extract human organs and kill instantly where an attacker will use three motions on his opponent which are to stab, twist and pull the 'Keris Picit'.

In the old days, the Ibans and Muruts are known to keep deceased families inside a special vase that is kept inside their homes.

The vases containing the human remains are also said to protect the house and the people from harm.

Vases that are said to contain the ancient human remains are also displayed inside a room.

A collection of crockery and other Chinese porcelain which dates back from the year 1400 to 1500 from the Tsung Dynasty tells a story of the glory days when merchants sailed into the country to trade goods.

Traditional musical instruments which decorates the music room is made over a hundred years ago.

The coming of Islam into Brunei in the 13<sup>th</sup> century has changed the ways of lives and culture of the local people.

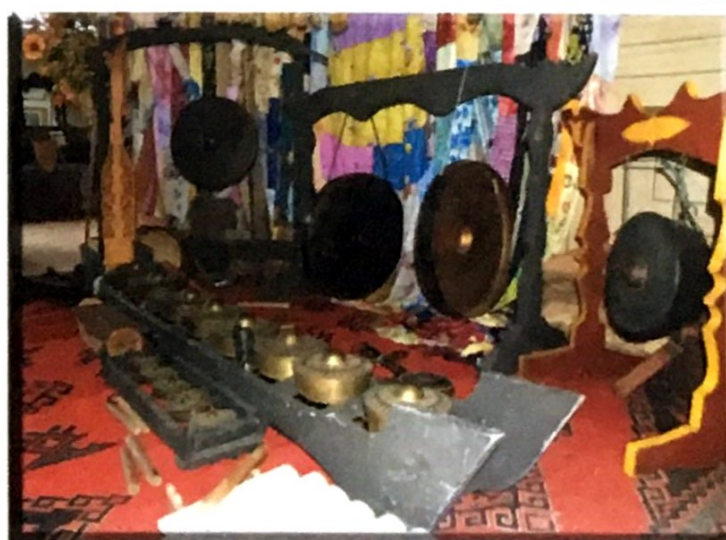
This is evident in the disappearing art of animal sculpture that once adorned various ancient artifacts including musical instruments, boats and various house décor.

Back in those days the presence of detailed animal sculptures of birds, dogs as well as dragons on personal possessions are said to protect and bring good luck to the owner.

Jon's 125 year old home, which is also been a place of interest for scientists and researchers from Europe have brought in some income which generated to hold seminars and lectures on Malay civilization and culture in Brunei, Asia as well as Europe.

Jon continues his endeavor as a culturist and writer to preserve and share the dying culture of the lives of the village people that once was with tourists around the world.

According to him, Kampong Ayer is a national heritage and efforts are being made to preserve this lifestyle so that the legacy of the 'water' people of Brunei will be retained, not only as a tourist attraction, but also for the future generation of Brunei.





# Back to school 2006



Brunei Darussalam's school terms for 2006 kicked start on January 3. Statistics have shown that the number of students enrolling this year has increased compared to previous years with 3,903 enrolled as new pre-school students.

Bookstores were seen as the most popular spot among parents and students since last December. Also popular were textile shops where parents were seen busy buying new clothes for their children's school uniform. While some were seen buying ready-made uniforms available in most shops.

There are four term holidays in Brunei Darussalam; one week break in March, June and September; and a one month break in December.



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