



His Majesty with other APEC leaders in a group photo wearing Vietnamese traditional dress, 'ao dai' that showcase the beauty of Vietnamese traditional attires.



## Issues on security, health threats must be considered

HANOI, November 18 - APEC members are faced with the challenge of creating growth and sustaining development in a world filled with threats of terrorism, health pandemic and natural disaster.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah,

The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made the *titah* at the APEC Leaders Second Retreat Session in Hanoi.

For Brunei Darussalam, said His Majesty, the development of human resources, practicing good governance policy and narrowing

social and economic disparities had helped achieve economic growth and prosperity.

But this objective, added His Majesty, could not be achieved without addressing the challenges posed by security and health. In this connection, cooperation and collaboration as well

\* Continued on centrepage



His Majesty mingles with the students of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation's Primary School.

## Citizens urged to preserve identity

BERAKAS, November 14 - We must preserve our own identity, perfect it and do not change it easily.

The call was made by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation's Hari Raya celebration, held at the Plenary Hall of the International Convention Centre.

"As a race that has our own identity, it should not neglect any of its aspects. We must preserve, perfect it and not change it easily to suit the changing times," said His Majesty.

His Majesty also stated that a progressive race is one that maintains its identity. It is recognised by others through the attributes and characters of its identity. A race with an identity said His Majesty, will be valued and respected by others. His Majesty said one of the

\* Continued on page 5

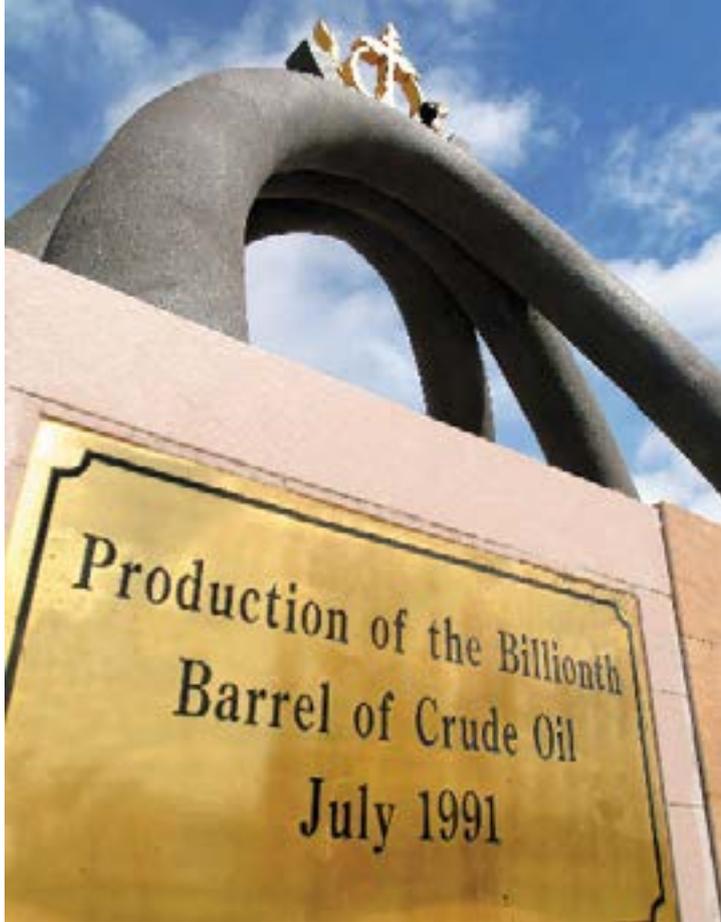


Photo Credit : David Kirkland

### The Billionth Barrel Monument

Commissioned by Brunei Shell Petroleum and designed by a local architect, the Billionth Barrel Monument commemorates the production of the billionth barrel of oil by the Seria oilfield. It is located close to the seawall, near the site of "S-1", the first well dug over 70 years ago.

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## Palace Newsround.....

**ISTANA NURUL IMAN, November 22 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to present diplomatic credentials and received the credentials from new envoys to the sultanate. The ceremony was held at Istana Nurul Iman.**

They were:

1. His Excellency Mohd. Sahrip bin Othman, the Sultanate's new High Commissioner to Australia on November 7.
2. His Excellency Leopold Alfred Battel, the new Canadian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam on November 7.
3. His Excellency Hashimoto Itsuo, Japan's new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Brunei Darussalam on November 7.
4. His Excellency Mpumelelo Joseph N Hlophe, the new High Commissioner of the Kingdom of Swaziland to Brunei

Darussalam on November 7.

5. Her Excellency Guisse Maimouna Dial, newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Mali based in Tokyo on November 22.
6. His Excellency Lajciak, newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic based in Kuala Lumpur on November 22.
7. His Excellency Marc Calcoen, newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belgium based in Singapore on November 22.
8. His Excellency Mustafa Mujezinov, newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, based in Kuala Lumpur on November 22.



## Palace Newsround.....



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



1. Heads of delegation from Asean member countries and Japan of the Ship of Southeast Asian Youth Programme (SSEAYP) 2006 on November 20.

2. Vice-President of the Supreme People's Court of China, the Honourable Justice Jiang Xiangchang on November 21.

3. The Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts of the Republic of Singapore, Dr. Lee Boon on November 25.



Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from the heads of delegation for the 12<sup>th</sup> Asean Confederation of Women's Organisation (ACWO) General Assembly (GA) on November 12.

**His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office on November 20, received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:**



1. The newly appointed High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Leopold Alfred Battel.

2. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Hashimoto Itsuo.

# HM receives Thailand's PM



His Majesty and His Excellency prior to one-to-one meeting.

**ISTANA NURUL IMAN, November 9** – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience the Prime Minister of Thailand, His Excellency Surayud Chulanot. Both leaders later held a one-to-one meeting.

His Excellency was in Brunei for an official visit.

The meeting was followed by a luncheon hosted by His Majesty. His Excellency left Brunei Darussalam on the same day for Singapore.



His Royal Highness receives in audience His Excellency U Kyaw Thu who are in the sultanate for five days visit.

## Minister of Foreign Affairs & Trade receives audience

**JALAN TUTONG, November 7** – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade received in audience the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency U Kyaw Thu at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan. His Excellency was in the country for a five-day visit.



His Majesty with other members of royal family during the Hari Raya celebration organized by Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation.

**\* From frontpage  
(Foundation Hari Raya celebration)**

identities is embodied in the Declaration of Independence which is 'Melayu, Islam, Beraja' (Malay, Islamic, Monarchy).

"The identity should not be mixed with other things that run contrary to our beliefs and customs. This could be done easily through various methods and channels such as entertainment in celebratory events,"

said His Majesty.

Also present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

The event was highlighted by songs and dramas performed by 150 students that included the granddaughters of His Majesty, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Raheemah Sanaul Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Hariisah Widatul Bolqiah.

## CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

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

- His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, the King of Cambodia and His Excellency Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia in conjunction with the country's 53<sup>rd</sup> Independence Day on November 9.
- His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al-Said, the Sultan of Oman, on the occasion of the 36<sup>th</sup> National Day of the Sultanate of Oman on November 17.



A group photo of His Majesty and the Crown Prince with the ASEAN Eminent Persons

## Royal audience for ASEAN EPG

**ISTANA NURUL IMAN, November 28** - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam granted audiences for the ASEAN Eminent Persons who were in Brunei Darussalam to attend the Seventh Meeting of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on the ASEAN Charter starting from November 27 to 29.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The ASEAN EPG consisted of Dr. Aun Pom Moniroth of Cambodia, His Excellency Ali Alatas of Indonesia, His Excellency Khamphan Simmalavong of Lao PDR, Tun Sri Musa Hitam of Malaysia, Dr. Than Nyun of Myanmar, His Excellency Fidel V. Ramos of Philippines, His Excellency Professor S. Jayakumar of Singapore, His Excellency Sihasak Puangketkaew of Thailand, His Excellency Nguyen Manh Cam of Vietnam and His Excellency Chalermphanupap of ASEAN secretariat.

Meanwhile, representing Brunei Darussalam was Pehin Dato Seri Setia Awang Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The ASEAN EPG comprising the ten highly distinguished and well-respected citizens from ASEAN member countries examined and provided recommendations on the direction of ASEAN and the nature of the ASEAN Charter.

The EPG was established as ASEAN Leaders Meeting at the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur on December 12, 2005, signed at the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the Charter.



## Royal audience to intending haj pilgrims

**ISTANA NURUL IMAN, November 28** - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri, and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri granted separate audiences to intending haj pilgrims.

His Majesty received male intending haj pilgrims. Also present was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah. Meanwhile, Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness received female intending haj pilgrims. Also present was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah.

The Brunei's haj intending pilgrims will be leaving to perform the haj in six flights beginning December 7.



Her Majesty cuts a birthday cake at the gathering

## Birthday celebration for Her Majesty's birthday

**BERAKAS, November 4** - Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar consented to grace Her Majesty's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration at the International Convention Centre.

Also present were Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolqiah and other members of the royal family.

The royal birthday celebration was jointly organised by Women Council of Brunei Darussalam; Brunei Shell Ladies Association (BSLA); Brunei Darussalam Nurses Association (PENJURU) and Pertiwi Association (PEKERTI).

# Malaysian Agong on farewell visit to the Sultanate

**JERUDONG,**

**November 29** - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar received in audience His Majesty The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong XII, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin



The royal audience at Istana Nurul Iman

and Her Majesty The Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah, who were on a two-day farewell visit to Brunei Darussalam starting from November 29 to 30.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and other members of the royal family.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri also hosted a dinner banquet in honour of The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong XII and Raja Permaisuri Agong.

It was held at Indera Kayangan Ballroom of The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah and other members of the royal household.



A banquet hosted by Their Majesties and Her Royal Highness in honour of the farewell visit by His Majesty The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong XII and Her Majesty The Raja Permaisuri Agong

## Her Majesty proud of Girl Guides' progress

**JERUDONG, November 3** - The Girl Guides Association can be considered as the best example for other associations and bodies in shaping honourable and responsible persons since its establishment 55 years ago.

Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha, the Royal Patron of Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam made the *titah* in conjunction with Girl Guides Day 2006 celebration at the Royal Berkshire Hall, Jerudong Park and Country Club.

"I feel proud to have witnessed the progress of the Girl Guides Association which has also successfully adapted itself in accordance to the needs of time," said Her Majesty.

Her Majesty also praised the solid efforts made by members of the association in bridging closer ties between its members and members of other Non-Government Organisation associations and institutions as well as members from World Association

of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

The Royal Patron of Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam hoped that members of the Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam will continue to carry out more activities and implement projects to benefit the young generation and communities.

Her Majesty urged the association's administrators to increase the skill training for young leaders by instilling creativity and innovation, as they, as young leaders are heir to the Association.

Accompanying Her Majesty at the Girl Guides Day 2006 celebration were Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolqiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolqiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi-Kalthum Al-Islam, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah and Her Royal Highness

Princess Hajah Noor Ehsani.

At the event, Her Majesty consented to present certificates of appreciation marking the 55 years of establishment of the Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association.

Among the recipients was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, President of the association since 1983. Datin Paduka Hajah Jusnani received the honour on behalf of Her Royal Highness. Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Noor Ehsani, the State Commissioner from 1963 to 1970 also received the certificate of appreciation.

Her Majesty The Raja Isteri also consented to present Gold Badges for 20 years of Long Service to four recipients namely; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Hajah Siti Hafsa Haji Abdul Halim, Chief Commissioner, Hajah Viviyanti Haji Ali, the Deputy Chief Commissioner, and Datin Paduka Hajah Norsiah Haji Mohd Daud, the advisor in the development and training of Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam.

## Her Majesty: ICT Revolution changes lives

**BERAKAS, November 17** – The revolution of Information Communication Technologies (ICT) has brought with it the freedom of knowledge through access to the Internet and huge advances in mobile communications. These two basic advances in ICT have generated amazing changes to the lives of people in our region and the ways, in which we live, communicate and interact.

Her Majesty The Raja Isteri said at the opening of the 12<sup>th</sup> Asean Confederation of Women's Organisation (ACWO) General Assembly, at the International Convention Centre. The general assembly carried a theme "ICT Empowerment, E-Commerce and E-Government - Bringing a Higher Quality of Life In ASEAN."

Her Majesty believed that the ability of ICT will enhance the lives of communities' right at the grassroots level that makes it such as a valuable tool to women around the world.

She added that the government must provide the requisite basis for education in ICT to all children, along with legislative and policy frameworks that brings predictability

and security to the use of ICT in commercial environments.

Also present were Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar; Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah, and other members of the royal family.

At the ceremony, Her Majesty as the Royal Patron of Council of Women of Brunei Darussalam, cut a cake to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ACWO.

ACWO was formally established on November 20, 1981 in Jakarta. The general assembly was held in conjunction with the Reactivation of the ASEAN Women's Programme.

Nine heads of delegations participating in the general assembly were also introduced to Her Majesty.



Her Majesty, Her Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri receive greetings from the heads of delegations participating the General Assembly.

Six working papers were discussed during the gathering which started from November 17 to 19. A total of 64 participants from other ASEAN countries and 82 local participants deliberated on the theme and formulated resolutions to enable ACWO to move forward in areas of ICT. The Assembly in Brunei Darussalam was also an auspicious occasion as 2006 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ACWO.

## Their Royal Highness on official visit to Philippines

**MANILA, November 1** - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah were in Manila, Philippines for an official visit from November 1 to 10. Their Royal Highness' visit was upon the invitation of the President of the Philippines, Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

On November 9, Their Royal Highness met the President and the First Gentlemen, Mr Miguel Tuason Arroyo at the Manila Polo Club.

During the meeting, His Royal Highness and President Arroyo exchanged views on bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Philippines and expressed satisfaction with the excellent progress of cooperation between the two countries.

His Royal Highness The Crown Prince receives the 'Order of Lakandula' award from the President of Philippines, Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.



During this official visit, His Royal Highness was awarded 'Order of Lakandula' by President Arroyo. It is an order of political and civic merit in recognition of His Royal Highness' leadership and dedication.

His Royal Highness also visited the Operations Centre of the Philippine National Disaster Coordinating Council in Camp Aguinaldo, Manila.

In Manila, His Royal Highness also competed in the 2006 World Pool Championship, which the republic was hosting it from November 4 to 12 at the Philippines International Convention Centre.

Throughout the official visit, Their Royal Highness was accompanied by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Abdul Qawi.



His Royal Highness at the 2006 World Pool Championship.



His Royal Highness at a briefing on the Operations Centre of the Philippine National Disaster Coordinating Council.

## Brunei supports EROPA vision

**BERAKAS, November 14** – Brunei Darussalam has established the public service vision towards the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, which sets out guidelines for government ministries and departments to achieve their desired goals for the improvement of the civil service as well as to meet the challenges of change.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office said at the opening of the International Eastern Regional Organisation for Public Administration (EROPA) seminar at the International Convention Centre.

His Royal Highness said the hosting of the seminar is most timely for Brunei Darussalam, as we continue our efforts in capacity building to achieve public service excellence.

"Brunei Darussalam supports the vision of the Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration, to promote regional

cooperation in developing public administration to help accelerate economic and social development," said the Crown Prince.

His Royal Highness also affirmed that international bodies including the United Nations, the World Bank, the IMF and the OECD have also played major roles in promoting the elements of good governance and establishing real world benchmarks of service excellence, to meet the challenges managing the public sector in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

The four-day seminar was organised by the Public Service Department from November 13 to 16. This year's theme is "Modernising the Civil Service in Alignment with the National Development Goals". The seminar tackled several sub-themes on Performance Management and Governance, Enhancing Integrity in the Public Service, Building Partnership for Public Service



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince delivers a *sabda* at the launching of EROPA seminar

Delivery, E-Governance and Capacity Building toward a Modernised Civil Service

Five locals and 38 foreign speakers represented their papers at the seminar, which brought together experts, policy makers, civil servants and managers.



His Royal Highness in a group photo with heads of delegation and committee members of EROPA Seminar.

## Involvement of private schools increase basic education

**SUNGAI AKAR, November 27** - The nation's education have undergone various changes and modernisation, in line with the latest developments in the educational methods and technology, as well as latest socio-economic developments in the country and globally.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office said in his *sabda* (royal speech) at the opening of the *Persatuan Guru-Guru Melayu Brunei* (PGGMB) new school complex in Kampung Sungai Akar.

His Royal Highness also said the involvement of private schools will further increase opportunities for basic education where the need has increased from year to year. He said, statistics in 2005 showed that there were 177 private educational schools registered with the Ministry of Education. This is a significant figure in the country's schools system, said His Royal Highness.

His Majesty's government, said His Royal Highness, welcomes the private sector's involvement in particular in the provision of the educational infrastructure. The participation of the private sector in the educational field is also hoped to uphold the nation's aspiration, in producing educated citizens of calibre, through quality educational system.



His Royal Highness mingles with the students of PGGMB school soon after the opening ceremony.



## Brunei supports Doha Development Agenda

**HANOI, November 18** – A forum like APEC is imperative as it provided dynamism and offered confidence especially to the business community.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in this connection, said that Brunei Darussalam supported the resumption of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) round which offers so much potential for economies, big or small.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made the *titah* at the first day of the 14<sup>th</sup> APEC Economic Leaders' Summit at the National Convention Centre.

His Majesty said that Brunei Darussalam supported the regional and International Trading Arrangement such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as long as there are comprehensive and supports the multilateral trading system.

During the two-hour meeting, chaired by Vietnam's President Nguyen Minh Triet, the leaders continued the ministerial discussion on WTO/DDA issues; Regional Trade Agreement (RTA); Free Trade Agreement (FTA); the Hanoi Action Plan to implement the Busan Roadmap and measures to advance the achievement of the Bogor Goals.



His Majesty with members of Trans Pacific Strategic partnership comprising of President of Republic of Chile, Her Excellency Michelle Bachelet, Prime Minister of New Zealand, Her Excellency Helen Clark and Prime Minister of Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Lee Hsien Long.



His Majesty with six other ASEAN leaders in a group photo with US President prior to ASEAN L

## Peaceful solution needed

**HANOI, November 18** – Issues on the threat of terrorism and nuclear proliferation were discussed by His Majesty during a meeting between leaders of the Southeast Asian APEC countries and the US President at the National Convention Centre.

In this regard, His Majesty said there is a need for peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict.

On bilateral issues, His Majesty noted with satisfaction the excellent bilateral relations between Brunei and the US in the areas of trade, investment, science and defence.

ASEAN-US meeting gathered seven ASEAN leaders comprising of His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah; President of the Philippines, Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo; Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Right Honorable Datuk Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Ali; Prime Minister of Indonesia, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono; Prime Minister of Thailand, His Excellency Surayud Chulanont; and Prime Minister of Vietnam, Nguyen Minh Triet.

During the one-hour meeting, the leaders exchanged views on international and regional issues of common interest including APEC, WTO, energy security and non-traditional security threats such as terrorism and transnational crime and South Korea nuclear issues.



His Majesty at the APEC second retreat at the National Convention Centre in Hanoi.



Leaders Summit in APEC and Unites States of America.

## in the Middle East

ation around the world were among those touched by His and the United States of America held at the Hanoi International

le East including Iraq.

relations between the two sides in areas such as education

y; President of Indonesia, His Excellency Susilo Bambang

Vietnamese President, His Excellency Nguyen Minh Triet;

Badawi; Prime Minister of Singapore, His Excellency Lee

ith President of America, His Excellency George W. Bush.

regional political environment, security and economic issues

curity challenges such as disaster management, infectious



\* From frontpage  
(APEC- HANOI)

as promoting respect and tolerance towards different cultures through dialogue and education especially for our youth would play a part to promote regional growth, stability and development.

This was why His Majesty added, that one of APEC's key responsibility was to continue to build the confidence and capacity of members in these diverse areas.

After the Second Retreat Session, His Majesty and other APEC leaders attended an official lunch hosted by Nguyen Minh Triet, Vietnam's President.

At the end of the session, APEC leaders adopted the Leader's Declaration and the Statement on Doha Development Agenda.



His Majesty in a meeting with the Prime Minister of Vietnam, His Excellency Nguyen Tan.

## Warm relations between Brunei and Vietnam

**HANOI, November 17** – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam arrived in Hanoi, Vietnam on November 16 to attend the 14<sup>th</sup> APEC Economic Leaders' Summit held on November 17 to 19.

In Hanoi, His Majesty met with the Vietnamese Prime Minister, His Excellency Nguyen Tan Dung. The meeting took place at the Prime Minister's Office. During the meeting, His Majesty and the Prime Minister discussed efforts to enhance further the relationship between the two countries in areas such as trade, investment and labour.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also made a separate call to Secretary-General of the Vietnamese Communist party, His Excellency Nong Duc Manh and President of Vietnam, His Excellency Nguyen Minh Triet.

During the meeting, the two leaders and His Majesty were pleased to note the excellent relations between both countries. The leaders also reiterated their commitment towards enhancing the cooperation at bilateral level and ASEAN.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with the President of Vietnam, His Excellency Nguyen Minh Triet.

His Majesty at a meeting with the Secretary-General of the Vietnamese Communist party, His Excellency Nong Duc Manh at the Party's headquarters.



## Cooperation on tourism, agriculture and trade discussed

**KUNMING, November 3** – Brunei Darussalam and Yunnan, China are confident that both have the potential to enhance cooperation in tourism, agriculture and trade.

The cooperation was discussed by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade with the Governor of Yunnan Region, His Excellency Xu Rongkai during a meeting at one of the leading hotel in Kunming. The meeting was followed by dinner.

Her Royal Highness was in Kunming as a guest to the Government of Yunnan Region and All-China Women Federation. Accompanying Her Royal Highness along the visit was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz. Her Royal Highness was on a one-day visit to Kunming that included a visit to Xiao-shao Nursery of Yingmao Flower Industry (Co.Ltd), the largest flower nursery industry of the region.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna during a visit to the Xiao-shao Nursery of Yingmao Flower Industry.

## SEAMEO VOCTECH - DTE sign MoU

**JALAN PASAR BARU, November 2** – The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation Regional Centre for Vocational and Technical Education and Training (SEAMEO VOCTECH) and the Department of Technical Education (DTE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the "VTET Information and Knowledge Management Network" project.

The MoU provides a basic framework, where SEAMEO VOCTECH will collaborate with DTE to strengthen and broaden cooperation in the implementation of the project.

Signing on behalf of SEAMEO VOCTECH was its Acting Director, Awang Mohamad bin Abu Bakar, while DTE was represented by Acting Director, Awang Jamal bin Haji Kahar. The signing ceremony was held at the SEAMEO VOCTECH Regional Centre.

Under the MoU, it is hoped that the project would lead to the setting up of an online learning management system and content management system. Among those involved in the project are DTE, Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatun



The signing of MoU between SEAMEO VOCTECH and the Department of Technical Education.

Bolkiah Nursing College, Jefri Bolkiah Engineering College, Sultan Saiful Rijal Technical College, Business School, Mechanical Training Centre, Nakhoda Ragam Vocational School, Sultan Bolkiah Vocational School and Wasan Vocational School.

### CPI September 2006 decreased by 0.1%

The month of September 2006 experienced a slight decrease by 0.1 per cent from the previous month with an index of 102.3 for its Consumer Price Index (CPI). The decrease was partly attributed to the Brunei Grand Sales which started from September 15 until October 2006.

The cost of food and non-alcoholic beverages rose by 0.1 per cent due to higher prices of fresh fish, fresh prawn and other seafood, vegetable and palm oils, fruits, apices and snacks.

While lower prices of ready-made clothing and accessories, materials for male and female, and footwear led to a 4.2 per cent decrease in the cost of clothing and footwear.

Due to cheaper prices of furniture; household furnishings; audio, video equipments and musical instruments; kitchen appliances and utensils; crockery and cutlery; and household operation; the cost of household goods, services and operation dropped by 1.5 per cent.

On the other hand, higher prices of certain air fares led to a 0.2 per cent increase in the cost of transport.

Cost of communication declined by 0.6 per cent due to cheaper prices of instrument including accessories.

Meanwhile, the cost of medical and health increased by 0.1 per cent as a result of higher prices of proprietary medicines and supplies.

The cost of recreation and entertainment went up by 2.8 per cent due to higher prices of holiday packages.

Lower prices of personal care and personal effects and other personal goods led to lower cost of miscellaneous goods and services by 0.1 per cent.

The cost of housing, water, electricity and maintenance; and education remained the same as in the previous month.

The CPI in September 2006 was 0.2 per cent higher than that of the same month in 2005.

### Brunei introduces 4<sup>th</sup> Issuance of Sukuk Al-Ijarah

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 2** - Brunei Darussalam through the Ministry of Finance announced the successful pricing of its 4<sup>th</sup> issuance of Short-term Sukuk Al-Ijarah.

The \$120 million issue carrying a maturity of 91 days begins on November 2, 2006 and matures on February 1, 2007, at a rental rate of 3.375 per cent.

This is the fourth issue of the short-term Sukuk Al-Ijarah by the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam following its successful maiden offering on April 6 this year.

**BERAKAS, November 4** – Various activities had been lined up in conjunction with the Royal Brunei Land Forces (RBLF) 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On November 4, RBLF held a parade at the First Battalion Parade Square of the RBLF in Berakas Garrison.

In attendance as the event's guest of honour was the Commander of RBLF, Colonel Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Rosli. He also inspected around 500 personnel from all RBLF units led by the Commanding Officer of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion RBLF, Major Haji Abdul Ghani.

This year's anniversary carries the theme "Unity Strengthens the Nation's Defence" or Bersepadu Memperkukuh Pertahanan Negara.

During the event, the presentation of certificates of appreciation to the first and second team of the International Monitoring Team (IMT) to Mindanao, Republic of the Philippines was also held. Other events were also held in conjunction with the RBLF's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary such as religious functions, a blood donation campaign, charity projects, a sports event and the cleaning up of a Muslim cemetery.

## Royal Brunei Land Forces celebrates 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary



A parade at the First Battalion Parade Square of RBLF in Berakas Garrison.

## RBAF Commander receives Honorary Pilot Wing



The Commander of RBAF receives the Honorary Pilot Wing (first Class) from Air Force of Indonesia's Armed Forces.

**JAKARTA, November 9** - The Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Pehin Dato Lailaraja Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi received an Honorary Pilot Wing (First Class) from the Air Force of Indonesia's Armed Forces (TNI-AU).

The presentation of the award was held at the TNI-AU main headquarters in Cilangkap, Indonesia on November 9. The award was presented by the Chief of Staff of the Air Force (KASAU TNI), Marshall TNI Herman Prayitno.

Pehin Dato Lailaraja Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi is the first RBAF Commander to receive such recognition from TNI Special Corps.



Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Awang Lim Jock Seng and wife with His Excellency H.E Conrad Cappell, Germany's Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam at a reception celebrating the republic's 16<sup>th</sup> Unification Day on November 7 at the Empire Hotel & Country Club, Jerudong.



Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman and wife with His Excellency Ahmed Mohamed Zahir Al-Hinai, Sultanate of Oman's Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam and wife at a reception celebrating the Sultanate of Oman's 36<sup>th</sup> National Day anniversary on November 19 at the Indera Kayangan Ballroom, Empire Hotel & Country Club, Jerudong.

Minister of Energy, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya and wife with His Excellency Won-Kun Hwang, Korean Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam and wife, at a reception celebrating the republic's 58<sup>th</sup> National Foundation Day on November 1 at the Rizqun International Hotel in Gadong.

## APA Environmental Forum discuss environmental challenges posed by air transport

**JERUDONG, November 28** – Brunei Darussalam hosted a forum aimed to heightened awareness on environmental challenges and communicates joint industry messages or data aimed at sustaining air transport's development in securing its future growth.

The forum known as the Asia-Pacific Aviation Environment Forum 2006 was launched by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nurul Bolqiah at Indera Kayangan Ball Room, The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

The forum was organised by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) and hosted by Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA).

Over 200 participants and presenters from the aviation industry, non-government organisations and service providers from AAPA member nations took part in the forum.

## Brunei wins an award at APICTA

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 6** - Westegrets Technology & Services Sdn Bhd of Brunei Darussalam won the 'Recognition Award' for its project "Mobile Payment System, Point Payment System, Community SMS", in the Start-up Company Category of the Asia Pacific ICT Awards (APICTA) 2006. The competition was held in Macau, from November 2 to 5.

The awards were presented during the APICTA 2006 Gala Night on November 5.

APICTA is an international awards aiming to stimulate ICT innovation and creativity, promote economic and trade relations, facilitate technology transfer, and offer business matching opportunities

via exposure to venture capitalists and investors.

Participants of the awards programme are members of the APICTA Network and comprised 14 member-economies including Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Hong Kong China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Macau, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

Besides competition, business networking and experience sharing sections were organised during the event, which played an important role in facilitating exchange between ICT industries from different countries. The APICTA 2007 will be hosted by Singapore.



The Acting Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Haji Ahmad bin Haji Abd Rahman, bids the delegation farewell at the Brunei International Airport.

## Kidney cases rise each year

**JERUDONG, November 12** - The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through the Ministry of Health has set up a renal department aimed at finding ways to tackle kidney problems.

Currently, there are around 430 patients with kidney problems nationwide. It is expected that the number will increase between 40 and 60 each year. The main cause for the rise is due to the prevalence of diabetes.

The seriousness of the steep rise in patients suffering from kidney problems was highlighted by Dato Paduka Serbini, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health, during the 7<sup>th</sup> Kidney Patients Association's gathering at Goodview Hotel.

In curbing the rising number of kidney patients, the Permanent Secretary also urged restaurants and food vendors to assist the Ministry of Health in combating chronic diseases by reducing the use of oil, sugar and salt in the food sold.

The Permanent Secretary also hoped the Association of Kidney Patients could play a vital role in helping to raise awareness on kidney diseases among members of the public through campaigns that could see a reduction in the number of cases.

## Postal services still significant

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 7** - The contribution of the post office to our country during the last 100 years is significant and cannot be ignored. The existence of the Postal Services Department today proves that postal services are still relevant despite the existence of competitors.

The matter was stated by the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abu Bakar during officiating the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of Postal Services Department held at the General Post Office in the capital.

The minister said the existence of private couriers in providing express mail service and also lately the Internet, e-mail, SMS, MMS and others, has undoubtedly challenged the existence of postal services not only locally but globally where the volume of mail handled by postal operators has dropped drastically.

However, the minister added the existing competitors should not be seen as a threat but as an opportunity for the Postal Services Department to develop and be more efficient.



The Minister launches the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of Postal Services Department.

## Info Dept launches books

**BERAKAS, November 13** – Information Department launched two books titled 'Milestone: 7<sup>th</sup> Conference of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information' and 'Milestone: The Reopening of the State Legislative Council'. Both books were narrated by Musa Mohidin, an Information Officer from the Annual Report and Special Affairs Division of the department.

'Milestone: 7<sup>th</sup> Conference of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information' is a pictorial touching on Brunei's hosting the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN information ministers conference. Meanwhile 'Milestone: The Reopening of the State Legislative Council' is considered as a quick guide for journalists, states, and non-state actors on Brunei's legislature and its constitutional significance. The books are distributed for free and can be obtained from Information Department.



The books published by the Department of Information.

## Brunei's representatives attend fisheries conference in United States

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 13** – A delegation from Brunei Darussalam attended the fisheries conference which was held in Miami, Florida in United States.

The delegation was led by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Hamid.

The conference provided an opportunity for the Brunei delegation to learn and

understand current development trends of the global shrimp market as well as issues on health, organic food, food safety and issues relating to the global fish market.

It also allowed the Brunei delegation to form a business network with famous international seafood buyers. The delegation met and held a discussion with Darden Restaurants Company from the United States. The restaurant chain is one of the biggest in the United States with over

1,400 outlets.

Also discussed was the production of quality product such as the need for a seafood processing plant to be Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) certified and the traceability system of product in place.

The conference with theme 'Global Shrimp Outlook/Global Fish Outlook 2006' was held from November 6 to 9.



The Minister launches the World Town Planning Day celebration.

## Brunei celebrates World Town Planning Day

**GADONG, November 15** - World Town Planning Day falls on November 8 every year. In Brunei Darussalam, the Department of Town and Country Planning celebrated the World Town Planning Day 2006 on November 15, at The Mall, Gadong.

The event was officiated by the Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdullah. This year's theme was "Planning Today for Better Tomorrow", which depicted the department's role in planning, facilitating and regulating the development of the country, in line with the national philosophy.

World Town Planning Day was also celebrated at Tutong Mall on November 26. While the Belait District will celebrate the day on December 3. In conjunction with the Town Planning Day, exhibitions, competitions, walkathon, quizzes and other events were also organised.

## New leaders of RBTS announced

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 28** – Royal Brunei Technical Services Sdn Bhd (RBTS) now has a Temporary Acting Chairman for its Board of Directors. The Temporary Acting Chairman is the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat to replace the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya.

While Senior Special Duties Officer at the Ministry of Defence, Datin Paduka Hajah Intan bte Haji Mohammad Kassim, has been appointed as the Temporary Acting Chief Executive Officer of RBTS replacing Awang Haji Kamaruddin bin Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Wahab.

Both appointments took effect on November 28, 2006.

**BERAKAS, November 11** – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council hope that the 'GOLD PROJECT' or *Projek Gold* initiated by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, to be implemented by the entrusted officers with full confidence.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah stressed the matter during the national flag presentation to Brunei Darussalam contingent to the 15<sup>th</sup> Asia Games in Doha, Qatar at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium in Berakas.

His Royal Highness said this good effort must be supported by all parties. Its implementation said His Royal Highness, must be done with full confidence and responsibilities towards producing more nation's athlete who will represent the nation to the international level.

His Royal Highness said that the selected athlete to represent the nation to international games must be selected through open selecting and receive support from selecting and evaluating athlete committee.

"GOLD PROJECT" was conducted by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports aimed to give practice in appropriate ways and continuously to selected athletes as a preparation to face international games in the future.

## GOLD PROJECT – Implement with full responsibility



His Royal Highness handing over the national flag to the Brunei's chef-de-mission for the 15<sup>th</sup> Asia Games

## 1,000 joined Teacher's Day walkathon

**BERAKAS, November 12** - More than 1,000 people including Ministry of Education's personnel, teachers and students joined the annual walkathon to celebrate Teacher's Day.

The guest of honour was the Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abd Rahman. The male participants walked around five kilometres while the women covered three kilometres. The event was held in Berakas.

Proceeds from the event went to the welfare fund, sports activity fund and orphans fund of the Ministry of Education. Among other things, the walkathon aimed to strengthen ties among the ministry's staff and to give them a chance to donate for charity and enliven Teacher's Day celebration.



The annual walkathon to celebrate Teacher's Day.

## Brunei contingent bags 20 medals at 5<sup>th</sup> BIMP-EAGA Friendship Games



The handing over national flag to the Brunei's chef-de-mission for the BIMP-EAGA games

**BERAKAS, November 27** – Brunei Darussalam's contingent bagged 20 medals at the 5<sup>th</sup> BIMP-EAGA Friendship Games at Makassar, Sulawesi Indonesia. The friendship Games was held from November 23 to 26.

The contingent consisted of 28 athletes and 13 officials, led by the Deputy Director of Youth and Sports, Pengiran Sabri bin Pengiran Haji Mohamad. Brunei joined in four events namely; *silat*, tennis, swimming, *sepak takraw* and athletic (track and field). The twenty medals; one gold, 11 silver and eight bronze; were mostly collected from swimming (13 medals). Brunei's only gold medal was collected from *sepak takraw*.

This was the third time for Brunei to take part in the games. The BIMP-EAGA Friendship Games are held every two years to foster solidarity among BIMP-EAGA countries member.

## KACA celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 12** – In conjunction with its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Handicapped Children's Association (KACA), organised a walkathon at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddien in the capital.

Some 500 people including special children, parents, KACA volunteers and officials from various government agencies joined a walk around the capital with a distance of two kilometers. It was led by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Suyoi and Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Seri Pahlawan Major General (Rtd) Awang Haji Mohammad.

Among other things, the events were aimed to raise the association's fund.

KACA was formed in 1986. At present, KACA has two permanent centres, one located in Kiulap near the RIPAS Hospital in Brunei-Muara District and the other in Tutong town. Currently, there are 531 KACA children in all four districts.

## Agriculture and Agribusiness incentive programs signed

**B E R A K A S ,**  
**November 4** – In a continuous effort to improve agriculture sector, the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through the Department of Agriculture has planned several projects.

The project includes the appointment of Agrodev Canada Incorporation with the collaboration of Sacammas Sdn. Bhd. to implement 'New Agricultural and Agribusiness Incentive Programs for Brunei Darussalam'.

The signing ceremony for the programs was held at the Department of Agriculture's headquarters. Signing on behalf of the Agriculture department was its acting director, Hajah Normah Suria Hayati while the Canadian-based company was represented by its Project Manager, Neal Carter.



Agrodev Canada Incorporation appoints to implement 'New Agricultural and Agribusiness Incentive Programs for Brunei Darussalam.'

The programs are designed to enhance the agrobased processing sector, to attract more private sector involvement in agribusiness and in general to meet the country's economic diversification goal.

Agriculture Department hopes that the project would evaluate the effectiveness, efficiency and appropriateness of its current programs to meet the national and department's objectives, and to formulate new incentive programs.

## Nippon Maru arrive in Brunei

**GADONG, November 23** – Nippon Maru carrying the 328 participants of the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Programme (SSEAYP) 2006 arrived at Muara Port, Brunei on November 19. The welcoming reception was held a day later at the Rizqun International Hotel in The Mall, Gadong.

The guest of honour was Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Seri Pahlawan Major General (Rtd) Awang Haji Mohammad.

Later in the afternoon, participants of

the youth ship met their foster family at the Homestay Matching Ceremony. The event was held at the Indoor Stadium of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium in Berakas. There were also cultural presentations by participants of the SSEAYP.

The SSEAYP offer participants to experience different cultures and traditions on the Nippon Maru and through their home stay with their foster families. Nippon Maru left Brunei Darussalam for Manila on November 22.



Welcoming reception of SSEAYP participant at the Rizqun International Hotel in The Mall, Gadong.

## Ministers of agriculture, forestry from Asean+3 ink pact

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 20** – Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry from ASEAN member countries as well as from China, Japan and South Korea agreed to an extension for East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR) pilot project activities.

The agreement was reached at the 6<sup>th</sup> Asean Plus Three Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry meeting in Singapore on November 17.

Brunei Darussalam was represented by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Ahmad. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Mr Mah Bow Tan, Minister for National Development of Singapore. The pilot project includes stockpiled emergency rice reserve projects in Indonesia, Laos and Philippines for another year.

The ministers agreed that there is a need for Asean+3 countries to further strengthen collaboration with international agencies such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and World Animal Health Organisation (OIE), to improve transparency, coordination and synergy to control and eradicate Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).

Brunei Darussalam underscored the importance of enhancing capabilities in the diagnosis of animal diseases especially those related to HPAI; and welcomed the Republic of Korea's new project proposal to hold a symposium for the sharing of its Avian Influenza (AI) control system, facilities and equipment for diagnosis, as well as providing Asean member countries with AI rapid diagnostic kit on a pilot basis.

## 23 attend workshop on drug prevention

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 27** - The 16<sup>th</sup> International Federation of Non-Governmental Organisations (IFNGO) ASEAN Workshop on the prevention of drug and substance abuse was held in Bangkok from November 27 to 29. Brunei's delegate of 23 members of the Narcotics Eradication Association of Brunei Darussalam (BASMIDA) was led by their president, Datin Hajah Masni binti Haji Mohd Ali.

This workshop gave a good opportunity for our members to interact with delegates from other ASEAN member countries. At the event, Datin Hajah Masni chaired the plenary session on "Family Role on Drugs Vigilance and Prevention" and a workshop on "Role of Community in Reducing the Incidence of Relapse among Substance Abusers".

This year's workshop bring the theme "Youth and Family Networking for Asean Drug-Free 2015". BASMIDA will host the 17<sup>th</sup> IFNGO ASEAN Workshop, themed 'Overcome the Incidence of Recidivism to Ensure Asean Drug Free 2015' next year in Bandar Seri Begawan.



Photo Credit: Jubilee Hotel

**B**runei Darussalam offers you an abundant of enjoyable places for sight seeing ranging from museums to historical sites, recreational to beaches, and landmarks and to shopping centres. All the tourist attractions stretch off from the smallest to the most populated, Brunei Muara district to the other three districts; Tutong, Belait and Temburong.

After a day of activities, you are surely seeking for a comfortable place to stay in which offers you tranquillity and relaxing milieu. Rest assured, Brunei offers you a number of accommodations which runs from luxury resort, business and tourist types, hotel apartments, hostel and also guest and lodging house.

Most of the accommodations, in tune with time, provide you with basic convenience such as business centre, café and lounge, fitness facility and swimming pool.

The capital, Bandar Seri Begawan itself offers a number of accommodations. Currently, there are seven accommodations well-known to visitors namely; Sheraton Utama Hotel, Terrace Hotel, Capital Hotel, Jubilee Hotel, Brunei Hotel, APEK Utama Hotel, KH Soon Resthouse, and a Youth Hostel.

Sheraton Utama Brunei Darussalam is the only international hotel who opened up a base in Bandar Seri Begawan. It is convenient for you if you decide to stay in the heart of the city as it is only a walking distance to many of Brunei's attractions such as the Royal Regalia, Brunei History Centre, Water Village, and Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque. It is also conveniently near to the airport as it is only about a 10-15 minute-drive from the Brunei International Airport. The four-star Sheraton Utama recently celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Right in the heart of Bandar Seri Begawan, within walking distance from Tamu (Market) Kianggeh, major banks and shop houses, embassies and airline offices, is the Brunei Hotel. If you are on a budget vacation but need a pretty comfortable accommodation, this hotel may suit you. Another budget accommodation is Terrace hotel located right next to Sheraton Utama Hotel.

KH Soon Resthouse is among the accommodation that offers low price in the capital, located just in front of the Brunei Hotel. But the lowest price accommodation will be the Youth Hostel, which is under the Department of Youth and Sports. The hostel is located not far from the Lapau (Ceremonial Hall) and the oldest Chinese private school in Brunei; Chung Hwa School.

Approximately a five-minute drive from the capital and 15-minute drive from the Brunei International Airport, there are three more accommodations; Kompleks (Complex) Mohd. Yusoff Service Apartment; the unique boutique hotel - the Le Gallery Suites Hotel; and Abdul Razak Plaza Apartments. These accommodations are within Seri Complex area of Jalan Tutong and are the closest to the Istana Nurul Iman (royal palace), the Damuan Recreational Park and the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital. It is also close to one of the villages of the Water Village, Kampung Tamoi, where you can find Jon Tampoi's 125-year old home which houses various ancient artefacts (this house is

## Wheretostay?

opened for visits). You can also go for bowling at the Utama Bowling Centre. Shopping especially for textiles can be done at the Plaza Atirah which located within the area.

Still in city perimeter, another two favourite accommodations are the Orchid Garden Hotel and the D' Anggerek Service Apartment in Berakas. Both are located only about five minutes drive from the Brunei International Airport. For those who enjoy jogging, walking or strolling, both accommodations maybe the perfect choice, as it is quite close to the country's national stadium and its sports facilities. These accommodations are also the closest to government offices and the International Convention Centre where regional and international events are usually held. Shopping can be done at the Serusop and Delima Jaya area and the Hua Ho Mall in Manggis.

Also located in the city's perimeter is Riverview Hotel which is about 10 minutes drive from Brunei International Airport. From Riverview Hotel, it only takes you five minutes to reach the bustling commercial area call Gadong. Among the luxuries you can indulge in are the poolside barbeque and steamboat, riverbank 24-hour café, sauna room and jacuzzi.

But for those who prefer to stay in the hustle and bustle area, accommodations in Gadong are the best. Gadong is one of the *mukims* located in Brunei Muara District. You can choose from a five-star to budget accommodations. All these accommodations are about five to ten minutes from Brunei International Airport and the capital.

The Centrepoint Hotel and The Rizqun International Hotel are the place to stay in Gadong. Within these hotels you can find shopping malls, departmental stores, saloons, banks, international fast food outlets like Pizza Hut, Mc Donald and the Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, private clinics, wet market and of course money exchanges.

The five-star hotel, The Rizqun International Hotel shares the same complex with The Mall, which houses various shops, banks, food court and Cineplex. From the hotel, you can just walk down to the Tamu Malam (Night Market) where varieties of local delicacies are available at cheap price; fresh vegetables and fruits are also available. One block away is The Centrepoint Hotel; the favourite hotel for business and tourist as its offers affordable rate. For more budget accommodation yet comfortable, you can choose Grand City Hotel, Traders Inn; and SEAMEO



Photo Credit: Le Gallery Suite Hotel

Voctech International House.

One of fast growing area but situated on outer city perimeter is Jerudong (about 15 to 25 minutes from Brunei International Airport and to the capital). It is where Brunei's famous Jerudong Park Playground; private specialist hospital, Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC) and cardiac centre Gleneagles JPMC are located. Jerudong road also connects to the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Highway which lead to Tutong, Kuala Belait and Muara.

Within this area there are located five accommodations; namely Nazira Guesthouse, Goodview Hotel, LR Asma Hotel, The Holiday

Lodge, and Empire Hotel & Country Club. Most of these accommodations offer affordable rates.

For those who wish to experience luxurious accommodation, Empire Hotel & Country Club is a great choice. Located in Jerudong, Brunei



Photo Credit: Sheraton Utama Hotel

Muara District; it is about 15 minutes drive from the Brunei International Airport and about 20 minutes from the capital. It is also located close to Bukit Shahbandar Recreational area and two beaches, namely Tungku beach and Jerudong beach. The Empire Hotel & Country Club offers among others Jack Nicklaus designed golf course and Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) certified dive centre. The hotel also had won Best Resort Award.

If you wish to stay in Tutong, Halim Plaza Hotel is the choice. This hotel situated in the centre of Tutong town which is about 35-45 minutes from the airport. Tutong District is located in between of Brunei Muara District and Belait District. Among the attractions in Tutong are the Merimbun Lake Heritage Park; and Seri Kenangan Beach where activities like Paramotor and Jet Ski are often organised.



Photo Credit: Orchid Garden Hotel

Belait, the oil-production district provides about five accommodations for you to choose; namely Riviera Hotel, The Swiss Hotel Apartment, Sea View Hotel, Sentosa Hotel and Hotel Koperasi Seria. All these accommodations are located at the Kuala Belait and easily accessible to shops and offices.

Last but not least, Temburong district which is famous for its Ulu Temburong National Park. The accommodation for visitors available here is the Likut Intan Guesthouse which is about 5-10 minute drive from Bangar, the main town of the district. For accommodation at the National Park, it will be arranged by the park's management.

For contact details of all accommodations above, the information are available at [www.tourismbrunei.com](http://www.tourismbrunei.com)

Photo Credit: Sheraton Utama Hotel



## Briefly

### Brunei host Environmental Management Systems programme

**KUALA BELAIT, November 6** – Twenty four personnel from human resource institutions of nine ASEAN countries attended the 'Environmental Management Systems and Standards for the Industry' programme.

The six-day programme was held at the Jefri Bolkiah Engineering College in Kuala Belait and launched by Second Secretary, Embassy of Japan, Mr. Hiroshi Okouchi.

The programme was organised to promote wider adoption of cleaner production and environment management systems by industries in the ASEAN region. The programme was conducted for the second time and jointly organised by Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (OATS) of Japan, Jefri Bolkiah Engineering College and SEAMEO VOCTECH with the support from Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (METI). The programme included briefings on practical works, visit to various industries and group discussions.

### Brunei's AIDS Council launches website

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 7** – Brunei Darussalam AIDS Council (BDAC) launched their website recently. The website, [www.bdac.ws](http://www.bdac.ws) was created for the general public to be familiar with and understand what HIV/AIDS are all about.

Among the contents of the website are the council activities calendars, relevant information on HIV/AIDS, information on women and HIV/AIDS, youth and HIV/AIDS and HIV/AIDS – Myths versus Facts.

BDAC was established in the year 2000 to assist in educating and creating awareness amongst every individual in the country about HIV/AIDS, possible prevention methods, and to assist those infected and affected with HIV/AIDS.

Brunei Darussalam recorded 675 cases of HIV/AIDS from the year 1986 to 2005. Twenty-eight out of the total number of 675 HIV/AIDS cases recorded in the country comprised locals while 17 out of the 23 dead from HIV/AIDS are locals between the ages of 20-49 years old.

### Brunei athletes join 15<sup>th</sup> Asian Games

**BERAKAS, November 11** – Brunei Darussalam will take part in the upcoming 15<sup>th</sup> Asian Games in Doha, Qatar from December 1 to 15. Fifteen Brunei athletes will compete in two events; Karatedo and tenpin bowling. The delegation will be led by Chef de Mission, Japar bin Bangkol.

### Brunei joins IMSO 2006

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 12** – A delegation of nine people, including six Primary 6 students from various schools, competed in the International Mathematics and Science Olympiad (IMSO) 2006 held in Jakarta, Indonesia from November 12 to 17.

Three of the students representing Brunei in the competition were winners of Primary School Science Olympiad (PSSO 2006), while the other three were winners of Primary School Mathematics Olympiad (PSMO 2006). Both competitions were organised by STEP Centre, in collaboration with Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn. Bhd. earlier this year.

The objectives of the Olympiad are to improve competencies of elementary school students in mathematics and science and foster friendly relationships between primary school students of participating countries. It also aims to motivate students as well as to increase and develop their talents and interest in mathematics and science.

The handing over national flag to the Brunei's chef-de-mission to the FESPIC Games by Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

### Brunei official attends Earthquake Disaster Relief course

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 13** – A training course on Earthquake Disaster Emergency Relief for Developing Countries was held from November 13 to 27. Brunei Darussalam was represented by two officers from the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) and the Ministry of Health

The training course on earthquake disaster emergency relief for developing countries was organised by the Ministry of Commerce of The People's Republic of China with the aim of strengthening cooperation between China and Asian countries.

The training workshop included a visit to earthquake related sites, simulation exercises and case study in order to make participants familiar with earthquake disaster preparation especially in the field of mitigation, preparedness, response and rehabilitation.

### BRUNEI joins FESPIC Games

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 19** – Nine local special athletes competed in the 9<sup>th</sup> Far East and South Pacific (FESPIC) Games, a sporting event for the disabled held since 1975.

The 2006 FESPIC Games was held from November 25 to December 1 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Brunei's best record was in the 8<sup>th</sup> FESPIC Games in Busan, Korea 2002 where Brunei won two gold, three silver and two bronze medals.



## 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: 370,100 (2005 estimate)  
 National Carrier: Royal Brunei Airlines

Official Language: Malay  
 Official Religion: Islam  
 Official Website: [www.brunei.gov.bn](http://www.brunei.gov.bn)

# Hari Raya celebration in Brunei Darussalam

**H**ari Raya Aidil Fitri is a celebration, an awaited day by all Muslim after successfully observing the fasting month of Ramadhan. In Brunei Darussalam, Hari Raya celebration began with the sunat Aidil Fitri prayers in the early morning at all mosques throughout the country.

The month of Syawal in Brunei Darussalam is unique where all the citizens and visitors in Brunei Darussalam have a special opportunity to convey their greetings personally to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the royal household where the Istana Nurul Iman is open to the public for three days starting from the second day of Hari Raya Aidil Fitri.

"Open House" culture during Hari Raya is not only aimed at strengthening ties among families or within the Muslim community but is used by Muslims and non-Muslims to reinforce unity in a multi-racial society. They were served with food and drinks and other delicacies. This is one way to promote the traditional culture of Brunei, where people would make visits to friends and relatives during the festivities.

One thing that cheer the children up during the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration is the "duit raya". It is a tradition for the elders to give envelopes containing money or "duit raya" to the children during the celebration.



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