



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam newsletter

Published by the Department of Information, Prime Minister's Office

SEPTEMBER, 2006
VOLUME 21 ISSUE 21

Call for establishment of a higher learning centre

TUNGKU, September 4 – A committee to evaluate the developments and achievements of the nation's tertiary education sector called the Ministerial Tertiary Education Review Committee has been introduced. The committee will simultaneously identify the direction of the nation's tertiary education sector.

The announcement was made by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a titah during the 18th Convocation of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) held at the university's Chancellor Hall.

This committee will shape a comprehensive strategy which hopefully



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince receives his Honorary Doctors of Letters Degree from His Majesty

will place the sector at a more established level. The higher learning institutions must have a reputation which can provide valuable examples as well as quality education by having different types of education that can produce successful students capable of bringing changes.

Touching on the establishment of an Islamic higher learning centre, His Majesty said that it is our aim to establish a pure Islamic higher learning centre that could

become a landmark in the world.

Some 726 graduates from various fields received their degrees ranging from Honorary Doctor of Letters Degree, Doctorate of Philosophy, Masters, Degrees and Bachelor Degrees from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Among the recipients was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda

** continue on page 3*



Bilateral talks to enhance cooperation

HELSINKI, September 10 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held a bilateral talk with the President of Republic of Finland, Her Excellency Tarja Halonen. The meeting was held at the Mantyniemi Residence, the official residence of the President.

The meeting discussed bilateral issues especially on the efforts to enhance the bilateral relations in the areas of academics and tourism.

** more story on centerpage*



His Majesty with the President of Republic of Finland, Her Excellency Tarja Halonen (left) and Prime Minister of Finland, His Excellency Matti Vanhanen (right) prior to the ASEM Summit Meeting.



Ulu Temburong National Park occupies approximately 50,000ha of the Batu Apoi Forest Reserve. Established forest trails through the park include 7km of wooden walkways which protect ground vegetation and help prevent erosion. A canopy walk affords visitors an opportunity to observe the rainforest's surprisingly diverse treetop ecosystems. Access to the park is by *temuai* (longboat).
(picture shows rafting activities; one of the common activities held at the Ulu Temburong National Park area)

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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

is published monthly by the Department of Information. It reports on government, social and business events in the country. All money values are expressed in Brunei dollars \$, unless otherwise stated. Any information in this newsletter may be reproduced; a clipping of the publication would be appreciated. For free subscription (excluding postage) write to the Distribution Division, The Department of Information, Old Airport, Berakas BB 3510, Brunei Darussalam.

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Palace Newsround



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

1. His Royal Highness Raja Nazrin Shah' ibni Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah, the Raja Muda of Perak Darul Ridzuan on September 20.
2. General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Ismail bin Nik Mohamed, Commander of the Royal Malaysian Air Force on September 2.



CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

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

- His Excellency Nguyen Minh Triet, President of Socialist Republic of Vietnam and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Nguyen Tan Dung in conjunction with the republic's 61st National Day anniversary on September 2.
- His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosque and the King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in conjunction with the Kingdom's 76th National Day anniversary on September 23.
- His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan on the occasion of His Excellency's appointment as the new Prime Minister of Japan on September 26.



Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received in audience at Istana Nurul Iman from Puan Rosna Abdul Rahman, the spouse of General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Ismail on September 2.

*** From frontpage
(18th Convocation of UBD)**

Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office. His Royal Highness who is also the Pro-Chancellor of UBD was awarded an Honorary Doctors of Letters Degree.

His Royal Highness was awarded the Doctorate as an appreciation to His Royal Highness' contributions towards the progress and development of the country and bringing honour to the nation at the international level through His Royal

Highness' state visit abroad or receiving audience from foreign guests.

Meanwhile a total of 346 graduates in various fields received their postgraduate certificates, diplomas and certificates from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.

Eight received Diploma in Islamic Law and Legal Practice; 140 Post-Graduate in Certificate of Education; three Post-Graduate Diploma in Counselling; 29 Diploma in Education; 94 Diploma in Primary Education; eight Certificate in

Lower Secondary Science Education; 26 Certificate in Technical Education; 10 Certificate in Special Education; nine Certificate in Counselling; 12 Certificate in Early Childhood; and seven Certificate in Creative Writing.

A total of 1,072 students graduated this year including 46 international graduates from Bosnia; Britain; Cambodia; Germany; Indonesia; Japan; Kosovo; Malaysia; Maldives; Pakistan; Singapore; Sri Lanka; Thailand and Vietnam.

Knowledge is essence

RIMBA, September 20 – Knowledge brings us to the truth. Truth projected by knowledge is distinct and cannot be shaken.

A Special Forum on the concept of Malay Muslim-Monarchy or Melayu Islam Beraja (MIB) was recently held in conjunction with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 60th birthday anniversary where His Majesty said it was an important platform to gain knowledge.

"Tonight we are singing a tune that doesn't lead to entertainment but towards progress. With it our minds and hearts will be infused with information that is appropriate," added His Majesty.

His Majesty also sent his congratulatory to the organising committee and welcomed His Royal Highness Raja Muda of Perak, Raja Nazrin Shah Ibni Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah for graciously attending and delivering the key note address.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah as the Chairman of the Mesyuarat Adat Istiadat and also chairman of the executive council for the events and

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

Four panel of discussion at the forum were Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, who spoke on Monarchy and Islam in Malay Muslim Monarchy or Islam dalam Melayu Islam Beraja; Professor Emeritus Dato Dr. Khoo Kay Kim from Malaysia on The Institution of Monarchy in the Malay Civilisation or Institusi Beraja dalam Tamadun Melayu; Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Yahya on The noble values and traditional

customs in the Malay Muslim Monarchy or Nilai-nilai Luhur dan Adat Istiadat dalam Melayu Islam Beraja and Yang Arif Datin Paduka Hajah Hayati on Malay Muslim Monarchy in the Brunei Constitution or Melayu Islam Beraja dalam Perlembagaan Negara Brunei Darussalam.

Meanwhile, the moderator of the forum was Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Doctor Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd Zain who spoke on Malay Muslim Monarchy. The forum was chaired by Proffesor Madya Doctor Haji Hashim.



His Majesty presents token of appreciation to His Royal Highness Raja Nazrin Shah Ibni Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah, Raja Muda of Perak



His Royal Highness Raja Nazrin Shah Ibni Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah, Raja Muda of Perak (second right) at the luncheon hosts by His Royal Highness The Crown Prince

Crown Prince host luncheon for Raja Muda of Perak

JERUDONG, September 20 - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office hosted a luncheon for Raja Muda of Perak, His Royal Highness Raja Nazrin Shah. The luncheon was held at Pantai Restaurant, the Empire Hotel & Country Club.

The Raja Muda of Perak was in the country as a key speaker at the Special Forum on Malay Islamic Monarchy held in conjunction with His Majesty's 60th birthday anniversary.

Teachers backbone of Education System

BERAKAS, September 21 - Teachers in this country are advised to continue to improve themselves with knowledge and skills, for the future benefit of the people and the country. As a backbone of the education system, teachers determine the success and failure of the system. Because of this, excellent teachers are those who are able to confront different challenges while being able to fulfill the expectations of the people and the nation.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said these at the 16th Teacher's Day celebration at the International Convention Centre.

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

The highlight of the Teacher's Day celebration was the presentation of Special Teachers Awards. His Majesty consented to present the awards to 11 recipients.

Dato Paduka Cikgu Haji Kifli bin Bujang and Cikgu Hajah Masura binti Haji Abidin received Meritorious Teacher awards.

Special Teacher's Day awards were presented to Cikgu Haji Abdul Hamid bin Talipuddin, Cikgu Pengiran Haji Mohd Yusof bin Pengiran Sabtu and Datin Seri Setia Cikgu Hajah Kamaliah Suhaimi binti Haji Md Fadzullah Suhaimi.

Meanwhile the Excellent Teachers Awards were given to six teachers. They were Cikgu Haidon Lim Beng Guan, Cikgu Sa'diah binti Haji Abdul Gapar, Cikgu Shim Guek, Cikgu Hajah Masnah binti Haji Lusin, Cikgu Saliah binti Haji Kahar and Cikgu Hajah Jaini binti Begawan Pehin Khatib Dato Paduka Haji Mohsin.

Brunei Darussalam celebrates Teacher's Day every September 23. This year's celebration was held on September 21 with the theme 'Quality Teachers Raise the Nation's Competitiveness' or 'Guru Berkualiti Meningkatkan Daya Saing Bangsa'.

His Majesty and members of the royal family receive greetings from teachers attending the celebration



His Majesty delivers a *titah* during the 16th Teacher's Day celebration



Group photo of the recipients for the Teacher's Day awards.

Titled persons entrusted to uphold monarchy



Their Majesties and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri at the Thanksgiving Ceremony

GADONG, September 2 – Titled persons or those bestowed with titles have defined positions and have certain roles that commensurate to their titles.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made the titah at the Thanksgiving Ceremony organised by dignitaries who have been bestowed with titles at the Rizqun International Hotel in Gadong.

"The titles are not only to use for official functions but those who have one is entrusted with the heavy task. The main

responsibility is to uphold the monarchy, to support and assist the monarchy in all aspects, for the prosperity of the people and the country," said His Majesty.

The ceremony was also attended by Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri

Pengiran Anak Sarah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul Azim, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Khalthum Al-Islam and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Noor Ehsani.

The ceremony was organised by dignitaries bestowed with titles in conjunction with the 60th birthday celebration of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Be cautious on any health treat

MUARA, September 1 – The public specially parents are called to be cautious on any health threat and practice the necessary hygiene. Parents and guardians are also urged to play a vital role in overcoming health treat such as the threat of hand, foot and mouth disease. Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha in a titah said, with Allah's protection and determined efforts by the Ministry of Health, the hand, foot and mouth epidemic only affected a small number of children in the country.

Her Majesty made the titah at the official opening and prize presentation of the National Level Baby Contest conducted by the Women Institute. The contest was held in conjunction with His Majesty The Sultan

and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 60th birthday celebrations, at the Hua Ho Manggis Mall.

Present were Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bulqiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bulqiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Noor Ehsani.

Sixteen children, four from each district took part in the competition which was divided into four categories. Muhammad Dhiya'ul Rahman bin Mohamad Jafni from Temburong District won the first place in

category 'A', for children aged between 6 to 9 months. Category 'B' for children between 9 to 12 months was won by Muhammad Aidil Aiman bin Haji Mohamad Azrimin of Brunei-Muara District. Aisar Muzakkar bin Mohamad Amin of Brunei-Muara District won the first place in category 'C' for children between 12 to 18 months and for category 'D', for children between 18 to 24 months was won by Dk Norsoffiyana binti Pengiran Yussof of Temburong District.

Her Majesty The Raja Isteri consented to present the prizes to the winners and viewed a health exhibition organised by the Ministry of Health. The exhibition focused on Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease and Bird Flu.

Brunei Darussalam attends 1st ASEM Meeting on Labour and Employment Ministers Conference

BERLIN, September 3 – Brunei Darussalam attended the First Asia-Europe Meeting on Labour and Employment Ministers Conference held for three days starting from September 3 to 5 in Potsdam, Berlin, Germany. The conference was held in conjunction with the 10th anniversary of the ASEM process. Present on behalf of Brunei Darussalam was the Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan.

With the theme, "More and Better Jobs Working Jointly to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Globalisation",

the participating ministers discussed opportunities and challenges related to globalisation, the international division of labour and restructuring and prospects and appropriate policy responses to jointly maximise the benefits of globalisation and extend its benefits to all.

The ministers welcomed the exchange of 'best practices' on labour market and employment policies and social protection in the ASEM context. At the end of the conference, the ministers agreed to cooperate in the relevant international arena and took note of the need for ASEM

to strengthen the substantive dialogue and cooperation in a number of areas, including employment and social policy.

ASEM comprises of 25 European Union (EU) member states, the European Commission and the 13 Asian countries including Brunei Darussalam, China, Japan, Indonesia, Cambodia, the Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The next ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers' Conference will be held in Indonesia in 2008.

Crown Prince on working visit to MINDEF

BOLKIAH GARRISON, September 7 – His Royal Highness Crown Prince General Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office continued his working visit to the Directorate of Personnel, Ministry of Defence at Bolkiah Garrison.

During the visit, His Royal Highness was briefed on the structure and organisation of the directorate delivered by Lieutenant Colonel Yussof bin Haji Abdul Rahman, the Ministry of Defence's Acting Director of Personnel.

After the briefing, His Royal Highness consented to visit the departments under the directorate that include Defence Personnel Administration Information System; Force Recruiting Office; Finance Division and the Military Legal Unit.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince General taking a closer look at an ongoing written test conducted by the Recruitment Office



The committee members of the competition greet His Royal Highness



Baking, one of the skills demonstrated during the exhibition

Human resources imperative for nation's development

BERAKAS, September 6 - Human resources development is one of the keys to the sustainable development of any nation. Brunei Darussalam is certainly well aware of the impact it will have on the current and future plan for economic diversification.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, made the *sabda* (speech) at the opening of the 6th ASEAN Skills Competition.

According to His Royal Highness, labour statistics demonstrated that just over half of the workers in the private sector come from neighbouring countries and other regional partners. "The contribution of manpower from ASEAN member countries towards the development of Brunei has been significant and is greatly appreciated," said the Crown

Prince.

His Royal Highness appreciates the initiatives by the ASEAN Labour Ministers in promoting the development of skilled manpower through the ASEAN Skills Competition which will benefit ASEAN particularly at the grassroots level. His Royal Highness went on to say that Brunei Darussalam will need a skilled workforce of the highest quality if any of the development objectives of the country's private sector are to be realised. In this regard, His Royal Highness said that Brunei Darussalam's Ministry of Education has developed strategies to strengthen the delivery of vocational and technical education programmes.

More than 130 participants from ASEAN countries namely Cambodia, Indonesia,

Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Brunei Darussalam as the host country took part in the competition. Twelve areas were competed this year, ranging from Automobile Technology to Ladies Dressmaking.

The objectives of the competition are to promote the development of quality vocational and technical skills and work values among youth and skilled workers, to foster technical cooperation in vocational and technical education, and training between governments.

The three-day competition was held simultaneously at International Convention Centre, Indoor Stadium of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex and the Sultan Saiful Rijal Technical College. The next skills competition will be held in Malaysia in 2008.

Deputy Sultan on working visit to Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources

GADONG, September 16 – His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Deputy Sultan was on a working visit to the departments and projects under the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.

The first venue on the itinerary was the Brunei Industrial Development Authority (BINA) located in Gadong. BINA has a role to facilitate development of new industry and to assist existing industry to expand and be competitive besides having export capabilities. It also facilitates a dynamic cooperative movement.

Among the function of BINA is to develop and manage industrial sites and complexes to encourage the formation of new industry. The development of the complex had shown satisfactory progress. According to Acting Director of BINA, Pengiran Sharifuddin; Beribi Industrial Complex in Brunei Muara District which comprises of 56 units, almost all are rented. Meanwhile in Tutong District, Serampang Industrial Complex which comprises of 32 units had rented about 65 per cent and Belait Town Industrial Complex which comprises of 84 units had rented about 92 per cent of its capacity.

The Deputy Sultan then visited Sunlit Advertising Sendirian Berhad at Beribi Industrial Site. Later, he proceeded to visit the Veterinary Laboratory Services Unit of Agriculture Department located at Mukim Kilanas. His Royal Highness concluded his morning session with visits to the Entrepreneurial Development Centre and Accreditation and Standards Centre at Sinaut in Tutong.

The working visit program was continued by visiting the Aquaculture Development Centre in Meragang. The visit concluded at Syarikat Seiwa Corporation Sendirian Berhad and Semaun Seafood Company Sendirian Berhad in Serasa.

His Royal Highness' working visit to Ministry of Industry and Primary

Resources and the departments under the Ministry begun on September 14. After the welcoming remarks from the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad, the Deputy Sultan consented to watch corporate video presentation and received briefing from

Permanent Secretary at the Ministry, Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Hamid.

Later, His Royal Highness proceeded to visit three divisions under the Ministry; Policy and Planning, Management and Finance, and Promotion and Services and also three departments; Fishery, Tourism Development and Forestry. The Deputy Sultan then viewed the exhibitions from Entrepreneurial Development Centre, National Standard and Accreditation Centre, Jerambak Holdings Proprietary Limited and Semaun Holdings Sendirian Berhad. Also visited was the IT Data Centre.

In the afternoon, His Royal Highness continued the visit to Agriculture Department headquarter at Government Complex in Old Airport, Berakas. His Royal Highness received a briefing from Director of Agriculture, Pengiran Hajah Mariana.

His Royal Highness as the Chairman of National Disaster Council and also Chairman of National Committee Against Influenza Pandemic then visited Agriculture Department's 'Bilik Gerakan' for



His Royal Highness trying to catch one of the fish



Signing the Brunei Tourism signboard

handling Bird Flu, Animal/Plant Quarantine Unit and Import Permit Counter. His Royal Highness also visited Information Technology Unit and Agriculture Support Program Unit.

The working visit to the Ministry showed His Royal Highness concern to observe more closely the development and movement of projects in diversifying the nation's economy. His Royal Highness visit also mark one of the continues support to the efforts by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in ensuring that the government agencies would always be sensitive and responsive to current development for the country's peace and tranquillity.

DATES: A personal gift from His Majesty to citizens



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik presents the dates to one of the recipients

BERAKAS, September 7 - His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik said that the gift of the dates by His Majesty reflects the monarch's love and care for the people of Brunei and Muslims in the country.

"Dates contain nutrients such as protein, fibre, vitamins and minerals and is a good desert instead of snacks that are high in carbohydrates, salt, fat and sugar, which can cause illness," said His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness went on to say dates are a suitable staple food especially before doing a day's work and a meal that is 'Sunat' for the breaking of fast.

His Royal Highness said at the distribution of dates, which are a personal gift from His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to the people.

The distribution of dates, held at the International Convention Centre was in conjunction with the upcoming Ramadan month.

On hand to receive the dates were Commanders and Commandants of Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Commanding Officers of Royal Brunei Police Force as well as *penghulus* of mukims and village heads throughout the country.

A total of 116.5 metric tonnes of 'mabroom' dates from Saudi Arabia were brought in this year, an increase of about 3.5 tonnes from last year. Each Muslims in the country received a pack of 300 gram of dates.

ICT shapes ASEAN competitiveness

BERAKAS, September 18 –

Information Communication Technology, ICT plays a very important role in shaping the competitiveness of individuals, nations and groupings such as Asean.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Deputy Sultan, as the personal representative of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, made the *sabda* at the opening of the 6th Asean Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting, TELMIN at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

His Royal Highness said this year's 6th TELMIN theme of 'Enhancing The Competitiveness of Asean's ICT Mechanism Through Capacity Building' is therefore most timely.

"This theme signifies the importance of capacity building at all levels in enhancing Asean's ICT competitiveness, specifically in building capacity in areas such as ICT literacy, the full integration of ICT in education, training at all levels and the sustainable generation of a critical mass of qualified, skilled ICT professionals and experts," said His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness also underscored the importance of youths' participation in the formulation and implementation of



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince delivers a *sabda* during the opening of the 6th ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting (TELMIN)

national policies. Their presence in TELMIN meetings is vital in ensuring the relevant efforts on how best to equip them with the necessary skills in ICT.

His Royal Highness also applauded the ministers for spearheading the development in this sector for the past five

years encouraged by the setting up of a dedicated Asean ICT Fund with a fast track approval mechanism.

"This fund is one of the keys to accelerating the implementation of Asean ICT programmes, projects and activities, said His Royal Highness.

BICTA 2006 winners receive awards

GADONG, September 19 – The culmination of Brunei Information Communication Technology Awards or BICTA Awards 2006 was reached with the presentation of awards and prizes to the winners by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

His Royal Highness consented to present the awards and prizes to the winners of Brunei Information Communication Technology Awards or BICTA Awards 2006, held at the Rizqun International Hotel, Gadong.

There were 13 categories opened for this year's participation, which covered four domain areas, government, industry, education and consumers.

The Patron Award or 'Anugerah Penaung' was also introduced in the BICTA 2006 won by the WestEgret Technology & Services Sdn Bhd. The company also won the New Company category with their product Pink Point Payment Card, Mobile Payment System and Community SMS.

CfBT Education Services (B) Sdn Bhd emerged the winner in Education and Training category; eSuria Mentari Systems Sdn Bhd won the e-Government

His Royal Highness presents an award to one of the participant from Primary Students Projects.



and Services category; Fusion-Dalpus Technologies won in the Industry Application category; Rumbian Nation won the Research and Development category meanwhile St George's School won in two categories for the Secondary Students Projects and the Primary Students Projects.

The participants which were awarded the Special Mention-Plaques were Amar Pahlawan Primary School for the Education and Training category; Haji Mohidin bin Haji Mus and Marsita binti Omar for the Health category; BAG Networks Sdn Bhd for e-Government and Services category; and Bsearch Company for Public Application category.

Jefri Bolkiah Engineering College won the Special Mention-Plaques for

two products under the Tertiary Students Projects, Sayyidina Othman Secondary School and Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Science College for the Secondary Students Projects; and Dato Marsal Primary School and Masin Primary School for the Primary Students Projects.

Haji Mohidin bin Haji Mus and Marsita Omar received Local Talent Awards with their product BhealSys.

The BICTA 2006 winners will represent Brunei Darussalam at the Asia-Pacific ICT Awards (APICTA) 2006 in Macau, China except for the Primary Student Project category. Each winner received trophies, plaques, \$1,000 cash prize, return air-ticket, and hotel accommodation for the APICTA 2006.



Group photo of the ASEM Leaders



Encourage students exchange between Asian and European schools and universities

HELSINKI, September 11 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam highlighted on the importance of Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) to hold practical activities such as exchanges between Asian and European schools and universities at student level.

His Majesty stated the matters during the Second Closed Session held at the Helsinki Fair Centre. The discussion at the session focused on issues related to culture with theme 'Dialogue among Cultures and Civilisations'.

Besides the programme, said His Majesty, ASEM can also create an exchange that gives chances to young generation to experience directly life in different communities.

"We have hosted several ASEM projects related to youth, and I feel they have brought many benefits to our young people," said His Majesty.

His Majesty added, Brunei will

continue to organise similar projects in the coming years. Brunei hopes to bring together students and youth to exchange ideas and experiences, and to better understand and appreciate each other's cultures and values.

Prior to that, His Majesty also congratulated Indonesia, Britain, Cyprus and Malaysia for co-hosting the last two dialogues. His Majesty left for Brunei on the same day.

His Majesty attended the Opening Ceremony of the 6th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) at the Helsinki Fair Centre on September 10. The theme for this summit was 'Global Challenges, Joint Responses'.

During the two-day summit, His Majesty also joined other ASEM Leaders for Asian-ASEM Leaders Summit, ASEM Leaders Working Dinner and Working Lunch.

The 7th ASEM Summit will be held in the People's Republic of China in 2008.



His Majesty joining other ASEM Leaders at one of the meeting



In discussion with Prime Minister of People's Republic of China, His Excellency Wen Jiabao prior to the meeting with Asian leaders

Civil Service Day: Uphold government's aspiration

BERAKAS, September 30 – The Civil Service is the nation's prime institution which plays an important role in the provision of various aspects of services for the well-being of the citizens and residents of the country. In meeting the demand of time evolution and developing technologies, enhancing our capacity and capability as the prime mover and machinery of the Civil Service should be coordinated in tandem with the evolving times.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office made the sabda at the 13th Civil Service Day at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Effort towards modernising the Civil Service, said His Royal Highness, is of continuous importance in ensuring that it remains dynamic and responsive in facing current challenges and demands. Towards that end, the Prime Minister's Office as the focal agency responsible for the Civil Service has set out a Strategic Plan with the main theme, "Modernising The Civil Service" in embracing the "Civil Service Vision for the 21st Century".

"I hope all ministries and departments will continue to implement the strategic plan in embracing the vision concerned by virtue of their functions and fields in their respective ministries' and departments," said His Royal Highness.

Another important task that should be given serious attention by all government ministries and departments, added His Royal Highness, is to uphold the government's aspiration, to deliver competent and efficient services conducive for the growth and development of the private sector in the country, by virtue of their respective roles and fields.

"The Civil Service as the centre of the nation's administration has undoubtedly played an important role in securing stability, prosperity and well-being of the citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam. This, when all Civil Servants are prepared to comprehend the nation's aspiration, right down from

the trivial matters to the major ones," said His Royal Highness.

Amongst the "major aspiration" is to uphold leadership of the monarchy, as the head of state and head of government, without transgressing our 'utmost foundation', that is the "Malay Islamic Monarchy Concepts". Our Civil Service, said His Royal Highness, is the Civil Service of the "Malay Islamic Monarchy", hence all civil servants should be a subject of the "Malay Islam Monarchy".

His Royal Highness Crown Prince also consented to present prizes to the winners of excellent civil service awards in service and finance categories.

'Kompos' of the Environment, Parks and Recreation with its project "Environmental-Friendly Practice" received bronze award in the finance

category. They received \$3,000 and a certificate.

In service category, "An Nur" of Mosque Affairs Department with its project "IQRA" system implementation for Quran literacy at mosques won the silver award. They received \$5,000, trophy and certificate.

'MTB 15' of the National Registration Section (citizenship) of Immigration and National Registration Department received bronze award. They received \$3,000 and a certificate with its project "To speed-up citizenship application under Section 0 (I) following Bruneian mother."

Meanwhile, Mohammed Redzuan bin Haji Jamaeh received a prize for his creative designing of the Logo Excellent Civil Service Award.

His Royal Highness also consented to present certificates to more than 1,500 pensioners.



Representative of Kompos Group from Department of Environment, Parks and Recreations with the project 'Environment Friendly Practice' receives the Bronze Award for Finance Category

3rd RBAF International Monitoring Team to Mindanao

RIMBA, September 1 – A total of ten personnel from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) departed for Mindanao, Southern Philippines to represent Brunei Darussalam as part of the International Monitoring Team (IMT) to monitor the ceasefire between the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

The Third Contingent is led by Lieutenant Colonel Mohd Arifin bin Haji Mohd Tarif. This contingent took over the duty from the Second Contingent that was due to return home to Brunei on September 9, 2006. They would be located at Cotabato City where their monitoring operations would cover the provinces of Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Bukidnon, and all cities located therein. Their tour of duty would last for 12 months. Their involvement would provide the much-needed experience and exposure to our personnel in overseas missions.

The RBAF IMT would be observing and monitoring the implementation of cessation of hostilities, as well as the socio-economic development aspects of agreements signed between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the MILF.

Present as the chief guest was the Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi.



The Commander of RBAF bids farewell to the personnel leaving for Mindanao

Prince Mohamed on official visit to China

BEIJING, September 3 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah were in the People's Republic of China for an eight-day official visit to the republic that included Beijing and Shanghai.

In Beijing, His Royal Highness held discussions with His Excellency Li Zhaoxing, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. The meeting took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing.

At the meeting, both ministers discussed bilateral and regional cooperation and highlighted the existing close relations between the two countries.

Soon after the meeting, His Royal Highness and His Excellency signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Tourism Cooperation. Both ministers also officially launched 'A Collection of Historical Documents Related to Bilateral Relations between China and Brunei Darussalam'.

A Pictorial Book was presented by His Royal Highness to His Excellency to commemorate the 15th anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between

Brunei and China. The diplomatic relations between the two countries were established on September 30, 1991.

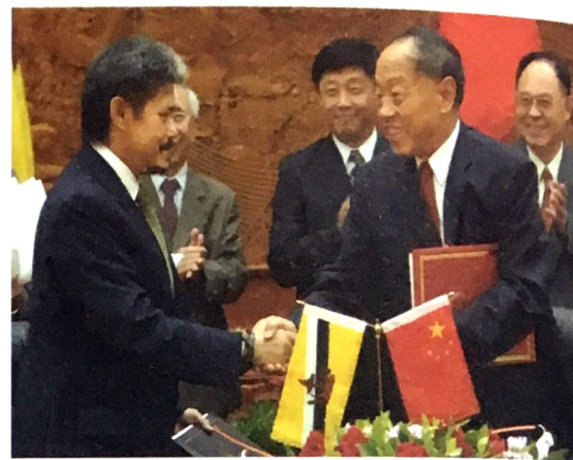
In Beijing, His Royal Highness held a meeting with Premier Wen Jiabao at The Great Hall of the People. During the meeting, His Royal Highness and Premier Wen exchanged views on ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah also paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Tang Jiaxuan, State Councillor, at Diaoyutai state Guest House.

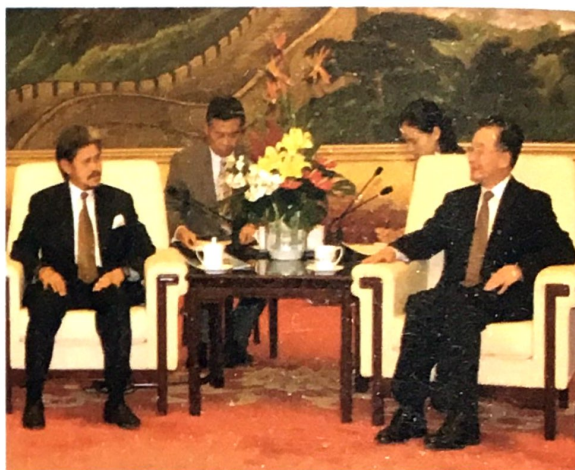
Meanwhile in Shanghai, His Royal Highness held a meeting with His Excellency Tang Dengjie, Deputy Mayor of Shanghai, at the Hongqiao State Guest House.

His Royal Highness and His Excellency exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and expressed satisfaction with the increasing level of cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Shanghai.

From Shanghai, – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah continued their official visit to Hongkong.



The launching of book 'A Collection of Historical Documents Related to Bilateral Relations between China and Brunei Darussalam'



His Royal Highness in a meeting with Premier Wen Jiabao at The Great Hall of the People

National Disaster Council's 1st meeting

BERAKAS, August 24 - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, in a *sabda* said, the word "Disasters" encompasses various contagious diseases, natural disasters and accidents which may be caused by human negligence. Ordinarily under such circumstances, the time taken to act in order to save human lives and properties is very critical. For this reason, the community must always be ready with well organised and coordinated capabilities so that swiftly and effective action can be taken. His Royal Highness the Crown Prince made the *sabda* when he consented to chair the first meeting of the National Disaster Council.

In his *sabda*, His Royal Highness said the council is the highest national authority to implement provisions of the order in ensuring the overall effectiveness of disaster management in Brunei Darussalam.

The objective of the establishment of the National Disaster Council is to ensure steadfast readiness in coordinating actions at all levels that involve the roles of all government ministries. This is in line with our citizens and residents in this country.

"In this respect, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his titah in the occasion of the New Year 2006 celebration, reminded the community that peace and prosperity is

the most invaluable gift to a nation, without peace and property life will be meaningless, for that reason efforts to maintain peace and prosperity must be placed on the top of our agenda," said His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness added that, aside from preparing a disaster management mechanism in the country, the Disaster Management Order 2006 also provides for the role and functions of the National Disaster Council in making decisions toward providing assistance pertaining to disaster operations to any country or territory.

"Subsequent to the provisions of the national Disaster Order 2006, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has also consented to the appointment of members of the council. Given the trust and faith granted to this council, I hope every member will take a proactive role in executing their duties with diligence and commitment. Our main task is to formulate a national strategic policy framework, in terms of long term and short term plans to tackle any possibility of disasters," said His Royal Highness.

In the meeting, His Royal Highness and members of the council also heard briefing on the Disaster Order 2006 delivered by the Attorney-General, Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Kifrawi. Meanwhile, talks on the management of the national disaster council center and its operations were delivered by

the officers of the council.

In his closing *sabda*, His Royal Highness urged those entrusted with the responsibilities and task to give their full cooperation.

"I hope the officers entrusted will understand their respective tasks and roles, and immediate preparatory steps must be implemented by the National Disaster Management Centre from now. Ministries and Agencies must also constantly render rapid and effective cooperation at any time so required," said His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness added in realizing that disasters often happened unexpectedly, early preparation as well as logistical equipment and commitment from the National Disaster Management Centre with the integrated expertise and experience of the concerned agencies, are essential to achieve the objective of strengthening our capabilities to respond to any disaster.

"I must emphasise that Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is clearly devoting considerable attention through the provisions under the National Disaster Order 2006, that require the council to submit a written report about disaster management in the country before His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as soon as possible after the end of each calendar year," said His Royal Highness.



Group photo of the Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

Brunei support NAM



His Royal Highness delivers a statement, reaffirming Brunei's support for the objectives of the Movement



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Special Envoy of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Hajah Zariah with His Excellency Raul Castro Ruz prior to the Official Opening of the 14th Conference of the Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

HAVANA, September 16 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Special Envoy of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stated, Brunei Darussalam is proud to be associated with the many successes that Non Aligned Movement (NAM) had achieved; and honoured for being accepted as a member over a decade ago.

"We have admired the strong collective voice the movement has often brought to the conduct of international affairs. This has often been much needed moral voice," said His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah at the General Debate of the 14th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit.

His Royal Highness delivered a statement, reaffirming Brunei's support for the objectives of the Movement and emphasising the importance of South-South cooperation.

According to His Royal Highness, NAM had done all it can to promote peace and disarmament; and also to seek fairness and justice for oppressed people everywhere.

Other than that, NAM also asserted the rights of women, children, the poor and the sick and constantly stressed the need for South-South development and cooperation.

Above all, said His Royal Highness, it had given us all opportunity to work with fellow developing nations in mutual respects and friendship.

"It has also given us a unique chance to get to know each other well, share experiences and concerns and do whatever we can to work peacefully together," said His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness added, Brunei see no need for debate about the Movements' significance. What it stands for is the most significance aspect of international life. It upholds the quality of ordinary people's lives and voices their needs for confidence and hope for future.

"This is why we have been very pleased to join our neighbours in Indonesia in setting up the South-South Centre in Jakarta," said His Royal Highness. According to him, it was a small contribution and Brunei would like to see more use made of it. Brunei maintained support for it because it is practical and felt it is very much in line with the policy the Movement had adopted over

the last 15 years.

During the course of the day, His Royal Highness held a bilateral discussion with His Excellency Winston Baldwin Spencer, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Special Envoy of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah also had attended the opening ceremony of the 14th Conference of Heads of State or Government of the NAM on October 15.

His Royal Highness also attended a dinner hosted by His Excellency Raul Castro Ruz, Acting President of the Cuban Council of State and the Council of Ministers at Cubanacan Protocol Lounge Hall of International Convention Centre

Brunei Darussalam joined NAM during the Summit at Jakarta in 1992. Currently, the Movement had 118 countries as a member including new members; Haiti and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

RTB-AsiaSat signs five year deal

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 30 - Radio Televisyen Brunei (RTB) and Asia Satellite Telecommunications Company Limited signed a five-year Satellite Lease Agreement. Under the agreement, RTB will transmit its satellite programme channel, Brunei International, starting October 1.

For the last 10 years, the RTB Brunei

International channel used the Indonesian Satellite Palapa C2 to transmit its programmes.

The move to AsiaSat Satellite is due to the availability of its coverage areas to reach a wider audience covering the Asian continent, Australia, New Zealand, Turkey, Egypt, some parts of the Pacific, a major

part of Middle Eastern countries and parts of Africa.

Before the total switchover to AsiaSat Satellite on October 1, RTB will be simulcasting its Brunei - International programme to both its Palapa and AsiaSat viewers for one month starting September 1.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade delivers a statement at the 61st Session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly

Call for reforms on UN

NEW YORK, September 22 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade proposed reforms on the United Nations. He called for an approach that went further than purely administrative reform and aimed at providing the United Nations with the means to meet the 21st Century challenges on 21 Century terms, rather than those of the 20th or even 19th Centuries.

His Royal Highness delivered this address at the 61st United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The Minister also attended the Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting at the United Nations Headquarters, New York. It was chaired by His Excellency Alberto G. Romulo, Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Philippines and Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee (ASC). The Meeting discussed several ASEAN matters including ASEAN candidatures for various United Nations Bodies.

In the afternoon, His Royal Highness attended an ASEAN luncheon in honour of Her Excellency Sheikhha Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa, President of the 61st session of the United Nations General Assembly. Also present was His Excellency



Attending the ASEAN luncheon in honour of Her Excellency Sheikh Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa, President of the 61st Session of the UN General Assembly

Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Meanwhile, on September 19, His Royal Highness and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah attended a reception ceremony hosted by the President of the United States of America, His Excellency George W. Bush and Madam Laura Bush.

e-Government Programme review to ensure efficiency

GADONG, September 12 – Brunei Darussalam's Information Technology (BIT) Council have agreed to an e-Government Programme Review to be implemented with consultation services from Brunei Shell Petroleum. It is to ensure that the e-Government implemented is efficient, more cohesive and cost effective.

This was stated by Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abu Bakar at the opening of the Brunei Information Communication Awards or BICTA 2006 Expo was held at the Mall, Gadong started from September 12 to 15, 2006. Minister of Communications, during the launched of BICTA Expo, said

that the Brunei IT Council agreed to an e-Government Programme.

Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abu Bakar said that the consumer paradigm must change to make way for a creative, innovative society that has the capacity to market its creations. Therefore, an encouragement, support and guidance must be given so creations become intellectual properties that can be commercialised.

The BICTA Expo aimed to promote the development of ICT in Brunei Darussalam, an e-Government projects and products and services from telecommunication providers and ICT companies.

This year BICTA's theme is "Strengthening ICT Industry through Local Development and Innovation". It was participated by government agencies, BICTA 2006 nominees, telecommunication providers, and local and regional ICT companies. BICTA 2006 was organised by the Ministry of Communications with the support of the Authority for Information Communication Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam (AiTi), Brunei Darussalam Information Technology Council (BIT) Secretariat and Brunei Darussalam Computer Society.

New Investment Product of BIBD

BANDARSERI BEGAWAN, September 8 – Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD) introduced its latest series of product, BIBD Investment Certificate.

The investment is opened to all citizens and permanent residents of Brunei Darussalam with a minimum unit value of \$5,000. The product is a 100 per cent capital protected investment where

it is a *Syaria* compliant based on the *Al Wadia' Yad Dhamanah* (Safe Keeping and Guarantee) concept.

The product is one of the most attractive investment products in the market that provides a 3.875 per cent dividend per annum. It will be paid semi-annually and will be sourced from the underlying BIBD *Sukuk Al-Ijarah*

programme, the first corporate *Sukuk* issuance of the Sultanate signed in early August. BIBD acts as the lead arranger and underwriter for the overall business transaction.

BIBD is the largest Islamic banking institution in this country. The second Islamic banking in Brunei Darussalam is the Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei (TAIB).

BERAKAS, September 8 - The celebration of the Peace Day is an annual event of the World Association of Girl Guides. The event is celebrated globally to celebrate world peace, with emphasis on humanity and the environment.

In Brunei it is celebrated in the first week of September. The celebration was held at the Girl Guides Association Headquarters. Present was the President of the Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna.

This year's celebration in Brunei focused on community service, which saw 25 selected local Girl Guides from various schools and visiting Girl Guides from

Girl Guides celebrate Peace Day

Singapore carrying out several community services in Tutong district.

During the celebration, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna consented to launch the "Puteri Gemilang" compact disc (CD) in commemoration of the association's 55th anniversary. The CD contains Girl Guides' songs and songs specially composed for the association.

Her Royal Highness also presented certificates of appreciation and the Girl Guides Friendship Badges to senior members, support groups and sponsors who have contributed tremendously to the association.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna launches the 'Puteri Gemilang' Compact Disc

Brunei-China celebrate diplomatic relations



Cutting the cake to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China and the 57th anniversary of the National Day of China

BERAKAS, September 21 - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended a reception hosted by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China at the International Convention Centre, to mark the 15th anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China and the 57th anniversary of the National Day of China.

Also present was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz.

At the reception, Her Royal Highness and Her Excellency Yang Yani, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China launched "A Collection of Historical Documents Related

to Bilateral Relations between Brunei Darussalam and China", a project under taken by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China. Bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China saw various cooperations reached in a number of fields including education, finance and legal matters. Two-way trade between Brunei Darussalam and China has also been increasing over the years. Exports from Brunei Darussalam to China in January to June 2002 amounted to nearly \$189 million, where as imports for the same period were \$48 million. Oil and gas makes the bulk exports from Brunei Darussalam to China.

Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China established diplomatic relations on 30 September 1991.



Reception - Malaysia

Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Ahmad and wife with His Excellency Datuk Ali bin Abdullah, Malaysian High Commissioner to Brunei and wife, at the reception to celebrate the 49th Independence Day anniversary of Malaysia on September 5 at The Empire Hotel & Country Club in Jerudong.



Reception - Saudi Arabia

Minister of Religious Affairs, Pehin Dato Seri Utama Doktor Ustaz Haji Awang Mohammad Zain and "Charge d'Affaires of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Excellency Yahya H AL-Qahtani at the reception to celebrate the 76th National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on September 21 at the Rizqun International Hotel, in Gadong.

Reception - Vietnam

Second Minister of Finance, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Abdul Rahman and wife with His Excellency Ha Hong Hai, Vietnam's Ambassador to Brunei and wife, at the reception to celebrate the 61st National Day Anniversary of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on September 2 at Bandar Seri Begawan.

100 per cent local fish production in the future

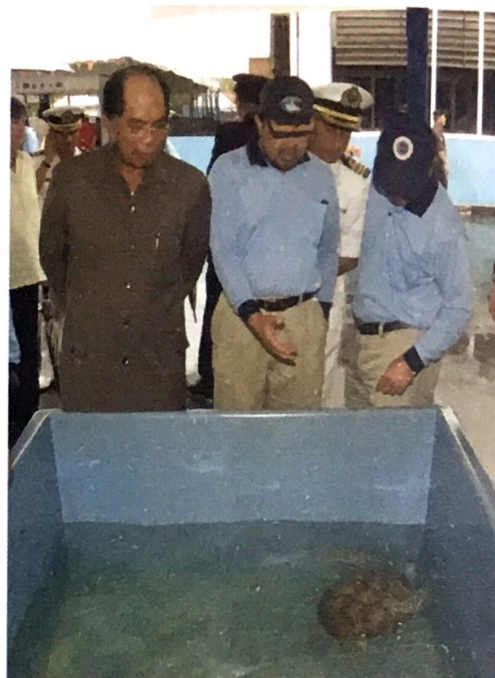
MUARA, September 1 - The fishery sector is one of the sectors contributing to the country's economic diversification with the Fishery Department achieving 70 to 76 per cent self sufficiency in fresh local fish production. This was disclosed by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources at the launching of the three-day Fisheries Carnival at the Fish Landing Complex in Serasa.

Pehin Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Ahmad believes that Brunei Darussalam could attain one hundred per cent self sufficiency in local fish production in the near future. He stressed that his ministry and departments under it, is implementing the state diversification economic policy to counterbalance the country's sole income from the oil and gas resources.

According to the Minister, the

government has approved the proposal by the Fisheries Department to procure consultant services and experts from the Integrated Aquaculture International Company from the United States to develop a high tech prawn industry in the country and the products exported. The consultant service will be on trial for three years with an annual expense of six hundred thousand US dollars. It is scheduled to commence in January next year.

The carnival has been organised annually by the Fisheries Department since 2001 and has successfully attracted the participation of entrepreneurs involved, in the capture industry, seafood processing, aquaculture and other industries that support the progress of the fisheries industry.



BERAKAS, September 15 - Four members from the Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) comprising of three officers from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and one officer from the Royal Brunei Police Force returned home after a year of tour duty.

This batch of monitoring contingent is part of the Brunei Darussalam's AMM contingent began their tour on September 15, 2005. Whilst the first batch consisted of 14 officers had already returned from Aceh in March this year. Altogether, 20 officers from Brunei Darussalam contingent joined together with other AMM contingents from European Union (EU) and ASEAN countries namely; Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Singapore.

Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) members return home



Members of Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) return home

E-Asean top agenda in 7th TELSOM

JERUDONG, September 14 - The aspiration of implementing e-Asean became top agenda of Asean delegates in the 7th Asean Telecommunications & IT Senior Officials Meeting, TELSOM. The meeting was held at Indera Kayangan Ballroom, The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

At the official opening session, Acting Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications, Awang Haji Ibrahim bin Haji Mohd Ali said that the Asean TELSOM Working Groups continue to push for an e-Asean vision, which was dealt by four main drivers namely the Asean Information Infrastructure, ALL; the e-Society and ICT Capacity Building; the e-Commerce and ICT Trade Facilitation and the Universal Access, Digital Divide and e-Government component.

Awang Haji Ibrahim added one of the major challenges posed in implementing any project or initiative is the lack of funding to fully accomplish ICT projects. To overcome the challenge, Asean TELSOM would have to come up with and agree on the establishment of an Asean ICT Fund, as a funding mechanism for the implementation of ICT projects.

The 7th TELSOM meeting was attended by senior telecommunications officials from each Asean member country.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR JULY 2006

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in July 2006 increased marginally by 0.1 per cent from the previous month with an index of 102.2. It was partly attributed to some prices reverted to its original levels after the Mid Year Sale.

The cost of food and non-alcoholic drink beverages increased by 0.2 per cent due to higher prices of flour, noodle, fresh fish, fresh tropical fruits, canned fruits, coffee, tea, spices, sauces and soup and snacks.

Higher prices of ready-made clothing and accessories, materials for male and female and footwear led to an increase of 4.5 per cent in the cost of clothing and footwear.

While the cost of housing, water, electricity and maintenance dropped by 0.1 per cent due to lower price of accommodation.

There was an increase by 0.8 per cent for the cost of household goods, services and due to higher prices of furniture, floor covering, household furnishings, audio, video equipments and musical instrument, crockery and cutlery, and household operation.

The cost of transport, however, declined by 0.4 per cent resulting from lower prices of certain air fares.

Meanwhile, the cost of communications went up by 0.3 per cent due to higher prices

of instruments including accessories.

Lower prices of selected computer and stationery contributed to a 0.1 per cent reduction in the education cost.

The cost of medical and health increased by 0.2 per cent due to higher prices of therapeutical appliances.

While the cost of miscellaneous goods and services dropped by 0.4 per cent as a result of lower prices of personal effects and other personal goods.

The cost of recreation and entertainment remained unchanged.

CPI in July was 0.2 per cent higher than that of the same month in 2005.

Guidelines introduced to promote reading culture

KAMPONG MASIN,
September 13 – In the effort to expand a reading culture, a guideline on reading programmes for schools in the country was introduced by the Ministry of Education early this year. The guidelines recommended various activities to increase students' interests in reading according to suitability and needs of respective students.

The Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Abdul Rahman, was speaking at the opening ceremony of a three-day Reading Carnival 2006. According to the Minister, reading materials can be obtained anywhere; at schools, libraries, bookshops and the most popular from the Internet. It is undeniable that the Information Communication Technology or ICT plays a vital

role and has a greater influence on students and teachers to get more useful information.

The Reading Carnival was a continuous effort of the Ministry of Education in promoting reading in schools through appropriate and continuous programmes. It aimed to instill awareness in students and the public on the importance and benefits of reading in the era of information and communication technology.

During the carnival, a presentation of books was held to several schools to support the carnival. Some books were given by several High Commissions and Embassies in the country and other organisations. The three-day carnival with the theme 'Reading Expands the Minds', was held at the Kampung Masin Secondary School.



Minister of Education receives a token of appreciation at the opening ceremony of the Reading Carnival 2006



Reading habits should be instilled during the child age

Brunei Grand Sale is back!

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN,
September, 15 – Brunei Grand Sale (BGS) is back for the 12th time. The BGS 2006 was launched by the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Paduka Kaji Kamis at the Bumiputera Trade and Commercial Centre in the capital.

The Permanent Secretary in his speech stressed all vendors to put the price tags where it is visible and easily seen by customers.

Brunei Darussalam has an Act known as 'Price Control Act' which required the goods for sale must have a price tag.

According to the Permanent Secretary, surveillances would be done continuously by the Department of Economic Planning

and Development on participating vendors in ensuring all the BGS terms and orders were followed.

He further added that in developed countries, the trade and retail sector provides job to diploma and degree graduates. But in Brunei, only a small percentage of local diploma and degree graduates are hired in the sector compared to foreigners. However, there are chances for locals to fill the vacancy on the management and professional level in the sector.

"I believe with the increase in numbers of locals holding the management posts, it would more easily for other posts in various level be filled by locals too," said the Permanent

Secretary.

Brunei Grand Sale 2006 was kicked start on September 15 and would end on October 29, 2006. The 45-day sale carried a theme 'Bargain prices to boost sales and hence, economic growth'. BGS is an annual project of the Department of Economic Planning and Development.

Among of the objectives of BGS are to encourage the public; in particular Brunei citizens and residents to spend locally and to attract tourists to shop in Brunei. In conjunction with the launching of BGS 2006, a Local Products Fair was also held at launching venue. More than 30 local entrepreneurs participated in the seven-day fair.

Production Sharing Deal for Two Blocks

JERUDONG, August 28 – In its pursuit to secure a sustainable energy future for the nation, PetroleumBRUNEI signed a Production Sharing Contract with consortiums that had been awarded the rights for onshore Blocks L and M. The signing ceremony was held at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

Loon Energy Inc. and QAF Brunei Sendirian Berhad consortium had been the tender for Onshore Block L, which covers an area of 2,253 square kilometres. The block occupies the whole District of Brunei-Muara, and parts of Tutong and Temburong Districts.

Signing on behalf of Petroleum BRUNEI was its Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mohd Reduan Haji Mohd Yusoff while his counterparts were Mr. Timothy M Elliot, CEO of Loon Energy Inc and

Dato Paduka Chua Pheng Siong, Genreal Manager (Business Development) of QAF Brunei Sdn Bhd.

Meanwhile, the Onshore Block M was awarded to consortium comprising ChinaOil USA (Macao) Company Ltd (ChinaOil), Valiant International Petroleum Ltd and Jana Corporation Sendirian Berhad.

Signing on behalf of PetroleumBRUNEI was its Acting CEO, while his counterparts were Pengiran Anak Haji Ja'afar ibni Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohd Alam, Chairman of Jana Corporation; Mr. Lam Nam, Chairman and Managing Director of ChinaOIL USA (Macao) Co. Ltd; Mrs Ann King for Valiant International Petroleum.

These onshore blocks were opened for tender in August, 2005 and the winners were announced in February 2006.

Acting CEO of PetroleumBRUNEI in his speech, called the event as another historical milestone in the nation's oil and gas industry.

"For us in PetroleumBRUNEI, what potentially lies underneath those two onshore blocks are more than just prospects of hydrocarbons or returns on investments," he said.

He further added that, both blocks held the prospect of providing greater opportunities for everyone. With the willing of god, both blocks would bring with it's the prospects of adding to the nation's petroleum reserves and for the people greater employment opportunities.

Present as the chief guest was Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya, who also witnessed the historic event.

Fishery industry shows promising development

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in its effort to diversify the economy has given a strong prominence on the fishery industry.

The Government is opening opportunities for more investments in this sector especially in pelagic or tuna fishing.

Fishery, as one of the thriving industry, has progressed tremendously, significantly after the announcement of 200 nautical-mille Brunei fishery limits and the Exclusive Economic Zone.

In 2005 alone, the industry collected almost \$100 million. This could be seen as small compared to other members of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC), however, the figure had shown that there are potentials for the development and investment in the mentioned sector.

Brunei Darussalam still imports about 40 per cent of its sea food products. Nevertheless, the fishery industry has the potential to achieve \$400 million by 2023, an increase of 17 per cent per annum.

Meanwhile the aquaculture sector offers vast opportunities and it is very lucrative with an estimated potential to be worth \$71 million per annum based on the existing available sites.

Some of the identified investment opportunities include; 459 hectares allocated for shrimps farming located at Kampong Telisai, Tutong District; the domesticated *Litopenaeus Stylirostris* has revolutionised the shrimp culture industry of Brunei Darussalam by the assurance of stability in the fry supply, good culture performance such as fast growth and high survival rate that can withstand higher stocking density and is disease free; potential sites of about 200 hectares for offshore cage culture at Pelong Rocks; and breeding beautiful local species such as *Betta Macrostoma*.

At the moment the existing aquaculture sites are based at Kaingaran Channel, Tanjong Pelompong, Telisai, and Pengkalan Sibabau. Kaingaran Channel and Tanjong Pelompong are for the floating cages of fish while Telisai and Pengkalan Sibabau host a shrimp culture area with an area of about 92 hectares and the latter, 50 hectares wide.

As a strong sign of the support by the government, an infrastructure for fisheries had been introduced that could assist the development of the industry.

The Meragang Hatchery was introduced to assist the development of the aquaculture industry where it is equipped with an up-to-date hatchery system including duplicate water supply lines to allow regular cleaning and disinfection, mechanical, chemical, biological as well as ozone for water treatments. The design also allows multi-species production which at present includes *Peneaus* shrimp, Sea bass, Groupers and freshwater prawn.

Another agency to assist is the Aquaculture Development Center where it is designed and equipped with closed recirculatory system to produce potential species such as grouper, mangrove snapper, domestication of white shrimp and tiger shrimp, and SPF seabass fry and freshwater prawn. It has supporting facilities such as laboratory, feed room, office and storage facilities. She also has broodstock tanks, larval rearing tank, algal tanks that are equipped with recirculatory system and ensures a production of good quality fry.

Meanwhile, the Broodstock Development Centre based in Serasa complements the Meragang Hatchery. It supplies good quality shrimp broodstock; and serves the research and development aspects of pond culture in verifying and demonstrating the culture technologies.

Another centre is the Freshwater Fisheries Centre where it produces aquarium fish such as koi carps; and conducts breeding of local indigenous aquarium fish.

Also provided are the Fish Landing Complexes where it provides jetties and berthing facilities; and sorting areas, stores, net-mending areas, cold and chill stores. The complex also



PHOTOS BY: FISHERY DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND PRIMARY RESOURCES

provides flake-ice machines, weighing machines, potable water and electricity supply.

Recently, a Fisheries Carnival 2006 was organised where it successfully recorded a total of more than \$131-thousand revenue through the sales on fresh fish and prawn including other related products participated by the entrepreneurs.

The three-day Fisheries Carnival was held at the Fish Landing Complex Serasa, Muara. It attracted more than 17,700 visitors who intended to buy fish and prawn on a low price compared to normal business pricings. The visitors also had the opportunity to witness the progress and the development of fisheries sector in the country.

Fisheries Carnival was not only to promote the fisheries industry and showcase the activities of local entrepreneurs in the fisheries sector but it was also an opportunity for entrepreneurs in the fisheries and other related industries to get together to share their experiences and views.

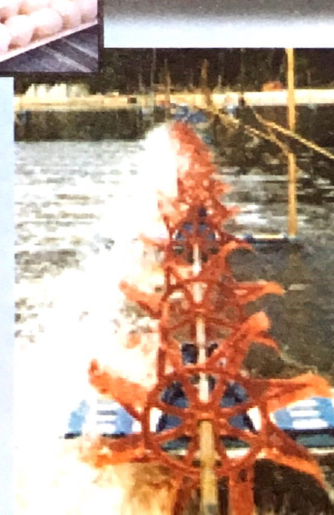
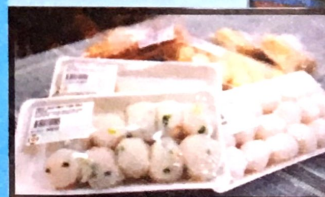
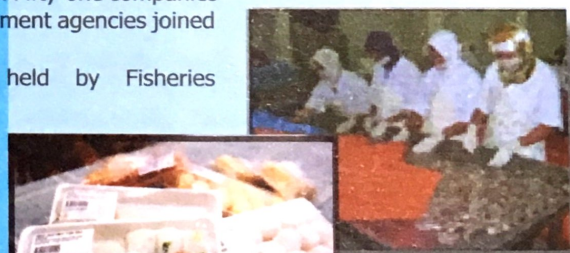
The fisheries carnival, an annual activity of the Fisheries Department, promoted and assisted related fisheries industries entrepreneurs to the market and upgrade their sales and to develop fisheries ecotourism activities to boost the local tourism industry.

The carnival was participated by local entrepreneurs in the capture, seafood processing, aquaculture and related industries. Fifty-one companies from government and non-government agencies joined the carnival.

An exhibition was also held by Fisheries Department, Agriculture Department, Accreditation Centre, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources and other non-government agencies such as Brunei Shell Petroleum Co. Sdn. Bhd, financial institutions and several schools involved in the Young Scientist Badge Award Scheme Fisheries Project 2006.

Brunei Darussalam offers a favourable and conducive environment for a profitable investment. She is strategically located within the ASEAN member countries where she does not impose personal income tax, sales tax, payroll, manufacturing or export taxes and an approved foreign investors could enjoy a accompany tax holiday of up to eight years.

The regulations relating to foreign participation in equity are flexible where in many instances, there could be a 100 per cent foreign ownership. The cost of utilities are also among the lowest in the region and there are no difficulties in securing approval for foreign workers, ranging from labourers to managers.



Briefly

SEAMEO - VEDC Malang sign MoU

GADONG, September 7 - SEAMEO VOCTECH and Technical Teacher Upgrading Centre - Vocational Education Development Centre (PPPGTVEDC) Malang, Indonesia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a collaboration on five areas of programmes and projects. It was held at the SEAMEO VOCTECH Regional Centre in Gadong.

Singing on behalf of SEAMEO VOCTECH was its director, Mohamad bin Abu Bakar, and his counterpart, Dr. Murtoyo.

The signing of the MoU is to enhance cooperation on several areas including sub-regional regular training, customised training, staff exchange programme as well as consultancy services. It will be maintained on a three-year duration.

RBA increase surcharges

BERAKAS, September 7 - Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA) announced an increase of fuel and insurance surcharges as a result of the continuous rise of jet fuel price. As of September 1, 2006, RBA will impose certain rates to all tickets issued or reissued on or after September 1, 2006. The charges are based on per way of travel and apply for ticket issued and commencing in Brunei to travel to the respective destinations unless stated. For further details on the amount of charges, logged on to: www.brunelair.com

Latest update on HFMD

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 9 - Latest report for the Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease saw 142 new cases Brunei Darussalam from September 1 to 18. Most HFMD cases reported were not severe and did not require medical attention. Only 11 per cent of the related cases required medical attention.

The Ministry of Health's statistics showed that the total cases has reached to 1,823 where the number of HFMD cases reported from January 1 until August, 2006 was 1,681. The HFMD pandemic claimed two lives in March and April earlier this year.

The Ministry of Health are actively monitoring for HFMD on a daily basis. The public is advised to continue practicing good personal hygiene, which is said to be the most effective way to control and combat HFMD.

Brunei will participate in 24th SEA Games

BERAKAS, September 9 - Brunei Darussalam will take part in the 24th Southeast Asian Games (SEA games) at Korat, Thailand next year.

The nation stated its willingness to participate in the biennial regional games at the Southeast Asian Sports Federal Council Meeting. The meeting was held from September 6-9 at Pattaya, Thailand and Brunei was presented by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council. The meeting also had approved that 441 sports events will be featured at the upcoming 24th SEA Games.

Brunei Darussalam celebrates World Heart Day

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 10 - Brunei Darussalam recently celebrated World Health Day 2006. It was jointly organised by the Ministry of Health, Gleneagles JPMC Sdn Bhd and facilitated by the Mukim Kianggeh Consultative Council.

Present to officially launched the event was the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi.

With the theme "How Young is Your Heart", the event tackled healthy heart issues and ways to increase the heart's health through good diet, exercise, sufficient rest and releasing stress through relaxation. It also aimed to cultivate family spirit through leisure activities.

As part of the celebration, the Minister led a 1.7-kilometre walk around the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan participated by 600 participants. In conjunction with the World Health Day, a number of activities was organised which involved government and non-governmental organisations.

Brunei Muara District champion

BERAKAS, September 10 - Brunei Muara District became the overall champion for the Third Pesta Sukan Remaja (Teenage Sports Fiesta) defeating five others contingents. The Contingent collected 65 medals which were 29 gold, 21 silver and 15 bronze. Brunei Muara District was also the champion for the first and second PSR.

The closing ceremony of the Third PSR was held at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium. Present as the guest of honour was Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dato Paduka Haji Jemat.

First runner up went to Tutong District and second runner up was Sports Schools Council. Other contingents took part in the sports fiesta were Belait Districts, Temburong District, and Royal Brunei Armed Forces Sports Council. Also presented were the Best Male and Female Athlete Awards.

More than 2,000 teenagers participated in the 10-day sports fiesta which featured 13 sports events. The biennial sports fiesta was first held in 2002, a project by Youth and Sports Department, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Contract signs to develop E-Learning courseware

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 14 - The E-Learning Courseware is an innovative development project implemented by the Ministry of Education to create a set of courses of instruction by embracing the educational use of digital technology. Therefore, a signing of contract between three companies and the Curriculum Development Department was held to support the, E-Learning Courseware.

Alif Technologies Sdn. Bhd. Enterprise was represented by its Chairman and CEO, Pg Mohammad bin Pg Hj Kamaluddin; The Executive Director of Yi Ecomodern Solution Sdn Bhd Enterprise, Philip Yeo Boon Guan, signed on behalf of the company; And Hajah Dayang Msuri bte POKDGSDRDLU Haji Awg Rahman, Business Development Director, signed on behalf Qasya Technologies Sdn. Bhd. Enterprise. Meanwhile, the Curriculum Development Department was represented by Hajah Aishab bte Haji Muhammad Husain.

Present as the guest of honour, was Haji Ghani Bin Haji Ornar, Director of the Information Technology and Communication Department at the Ministry of Education.

Brunei In Brief

Official name: Negara Brunei Darussalam

Capital: Bandar Seri Begawan

Land size: 5765 sq.km

Geographical Position: North-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia

Population: 349,600 (2003 estimate)

National Carrier: Royal Brunei Airlines

Official Language: Malay

Official Religion: Islam

Official Website: www.brunel.gov.bn



Spend Wisely, Shop Locally



With the launching of the Brunei Grand Sale 2006 (BGS 2006) on September 15; various sales activities, trade fair and bazaar are held throughout the nation. The most populated district, Brunei Muara, counts the highest numbers of these activities as it is the centre of business activities and administration.

The sale period which will end on October 29 shows business establishments such as department stores, textiles companies and furniture shops introducing a price war by offering discounts up to 50 and 70 per cent on selected items in their effort to attract customers.

A number of attractive promotions to lure customers were also introduced by some establishments such as a lucky draw that promises an extravagant grand prize of a car.

Another famous type of promotion is the 'crazy midnight sale'. The method had been adopted by one of well established textiles companies in the country. The sale, which started from 10 pm and ended by 4 am, offered varieties of textiles at affordable prices. Every single customer was also given a free voucher meal for *sahur* (meal taken before dawn during the fasting month of Ramadhan) at the nearby restaurant. The promotion has attracted hundreds of customers which was held at least three times before the festive month of Eid Fitri.

With Hari Raya celebration in less than a month, the BGS has been receiving an overwhelming response. The recent salary increment for public servants are also expected to lead more spending for this upcoming festive season.

However, members of the public are advised to spend wisely, buy necessities, and to check the prices carefully before purchasing.

To avoid foul play in prices, the organiser of BGS 2006, the Department of Economic Planning and Development has set-up a hotline number for consumers to complaint and make report.

The objective of BGS is to encourage local people to shop locally and also to attract tourists to shop in Brunei. It is also hoped to assist local business establishments especially the Small Medium Entrepreneurs (SME) to generate more incomes.

Special textile Sale
25 August - 17 September
.....
Brunei Grand Sale
15 September - 29 October

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER is now available online

➔ www.bruneinewsletter.info and email us at: info@bruneinewsletter.info