



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam newsletter

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Royal speech on New Year 2009

HM: Vital to utilise and manage time



PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZI HAJI DURAWAN

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a *tiffah* (royal speech) at the Istana Nurul Iman.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 1 – Time, apart from knowledge, experience, skills and finance, is one of the main factors in the development and productivity of a nation.

Time is a unique element and different from attributes of knowledge, skills or finance.

These were said by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *tiffah* (royal speech) to mark New Year 2009.

According to His Majesty, it is a norm for man to pursue knowledge and wealth but not everyone sees that time is more than everything else. Hence, with a correct calculation, time is the main turning point in considering the nation's productivity and other developments where it must be implemented quickly and timely.

His Majesty also urged that every plan must be given a targeted implementation time as this is how to approach in valuing time and should be incorporated as a culture.

His Majesty further said that expediting action during the given time is one of the attributes needed to succeed and at the same time, expediency in making changes, improvements and enhancements are the practise of a thriving nation.

GADONG, January 5 – Another milestone has been set for Brunei Darussalam as a new education system known as the *Sistem Pendidikan Negara Abad Ke-21* (SPN 21) or the National Education System for the 21st century has been launched.

Present to officially launch the new education system was the Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Rahman at Rimba 1 Primary School.

According to the minister, the timing for the implementation of SPN 21 is right on time particularly in today's fast changing technology and world's economy that is easily restless. The ministry is also responsible in producing an education system that is relevant according to current and future needs when they set up a committee to analyse the education system in 2004. During that period, SPN 21 underwent several stages and actions which included consultations, dialogues and discussions with relevant parties.

The minister also distributed a book on SPN 21 at the ceremony where the book explains the concept and plans of SPN 21.

SPN 21 underwent a transitional stage in 2008 for Year 7 students with implementation for Year 1 and Year 4 students to be carried out in 2009. Full implementation at primary level is expected to be carried out in 2011.

New education system launched



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

Minister of Education (second from left) browsing one of the books on SPN 21.



7 Her Royal Highness graduates



8 His Majesty receives 'Order of Lakandula'



13 HRH receives Distinguished Service Order (Military)



14 Bukit Shahbandar Challenge



14 Brunei-Japan sign Double Taxation Agreement



15 Safety as top priority



16 Fisheries contribute to nation's food security



17 Mobile Library Service nurtures interest in reading



18 Brunei celebrates World Customs Day 2009



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

- ❶ His Excellency Zhou Tienong, the Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China on January 6.
- ❷ Her Excellency Dr. Ruth Penelope Adler, the outgoing High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam on January 15.
- ❸ His Excellency Major General (Rtd) Syed Haider Jawed, the outgoing High Commissioner of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam on January 27.



PHOTOS: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH
AK' AMIRULNIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI
MASRI OSMAN



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presented diplomatic credentials to two newly-appointed ambassadors on January 10 at the Istana Nurul Iman. They were:

- ❶ His Excellency Mohamad Alias bin Serbini, Brunei Darussalam's newly-appointed Ambassador to Japan.
- ❷ His Excellency Muharram bin Piah, Brunei Darussalam's newly-appointed Ambassador to Oman.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received diplomatic credentials from three newly-appointed envoys to Brunei Darussalam on January 10 at the Istana Nurul Iman.

They were:

- ❶ His Excellency Wendell J. Sanford, the High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam.
- ❷ His Excellency M. Shameem Ahsan, the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam.
- ❸ His Excellency Dr. Viktor Mashtabei, Ukraine's non-resident Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam.

PHOTOS: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN, MASRI OSMAN, MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN, HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN



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

- ❶ Her Excellency Dr. Ruth Penelope Adler, the outgoing High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam on January 5.
- ❷ Tengku Datin Seri Marsilla binti Tengku Abdullah, the spouse of Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Hishammuddin bin Tun Hussien, the Minister of Education of Malaysia on January 21.
- ❸ Yang Mulla Hajah Multazamah binti Hassan Asharih, the spouse of His Excellency Haji Muharram bin Piah, the Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Oman on January 21.
- ❹ Madam Fauzia Jawed, the spouse of His Excellency Major General (Rtd) Syed Haider Jawed, the outgoing High Commissioner of Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam on January 27.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received in audience:

- ❶ Her Excellency Dr. Ruth Penelope Adler, the outgoing High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam on January 12.
- ❷ His Excellency Awang Muharram bin Piah, the Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Oman on January 17.
- ❸ His Excellency M. Shameem Ahsan, the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam on January 17.
- ❹ His Excellency Wendell J. Sanford, the newly-appointed High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam on January 27.
- ❺ His Excellency Major General (Rtd) Syed Haider Jawer, the outgoing High Commissioner of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam on January 27.

PHOTOS: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN
 ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT
 MASRI OSMAN
 HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN
 MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN
 AK. AMIRULNIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent congratulatory messages to:

- His Excellency Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of Myanmar and to the Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency General Thien Sien in conjunction with Myanmar's Independence Day on January 4.
- His Excellency Barrack H. Obama as the new President of the United States of America on January 20.
- The President of India, Her Excellency Pratibha Devisingh Patil and the Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh in conjunction with the Republic Day of India on January 26.
- The Governor-General of Australia, Her Excellency Quentin Bryce and the Prime Minister of Australia, The Right Honourable Kevin Rudd on the occasion of Australia Day on January 26.

HM attends Brunei Islamic Religious Council's special meeting



PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a *titah* at the opening of the meeting for the Brunei Islamic Religious Council (MUIB).

JALAN KEBANGSAAN LAMA, January 13 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended and chaired a special meeting for the Brunei Islamic Religious Council (MUIB) held at the State Legislative Council's building.

His Majesty consented to deliver a *titah* (royal speech) where among others discussed on *zakat* (tithe) and its rightful distribution.

His Majesty also invited members of the public who are Muslims particularly for civil servants to cultivate good deeds by contributing to the building of mosques throughout the nation. For example, this can be made through a program where salaries will be deducted monthly at an affordable rate according to the category.

MUIB which is established in 1956 is an organisation where its role is to create policies that determine the way in administering Islam in this nation. While the Ministry of Religious Affairs plays a role in the implementation and supports the policies made by MUIB. MUIB's main role is to assist and advise His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on matters related to Islam.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 24 – The National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) received an unscheduled visit from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office who is also the Chairman of the National Disaster Council.

During the visit, His Majesty and His Royal Highness took a closer look on NDMC's roles in coordinating emergency services, assistance and recovery works caused by flash flood and landslides and also organising vital preparations in facing any emergency from time to time.

His Majesty and His Royal Highness then received a briefing on the flash flood and landslide situations occurring throughout the nation caused by heavy rains beginning January 20. The briefing was presented by the Director of Fire and Rescue Department who is also the Director of NDMC, Awang Yahya bin Haji Abd Rahman. The briefing took place at the Conference Room of Multipurpose Hall, Fire and Rescue Department.

Prior to the briefing, His Majesty and His Royal Highness received a briefing from

Monarch visits areas affected by heavy rain



PHOTO: AK. AMIRULIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI

His Majesty and His Royal Highness at one of the shopping malls that experienced power outage.

Awang Yahya on the roles of NDMC at its headquarters. The centre which began operation since August 2006 is operating 24 hours daily and located at the Fire and Rescue Department in Old Airport, Berakas.

The heavy rains had led to several road closures and power outage in

various areas as one of the main station, Gadong Power Station 1 was affected by the flood.

Later, His Majesty and His Royal Highness also visited various areas affected by the heavy rain which included the power stations, commercial and residential areas.

Her Royal Highness graduates

LONDON, January 19 - Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bulqiah, the daughter of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was awarded MSc with honours in International Relations from the Faculty of Arts Social Sciences, Kingston University in London.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the graduation ceremony held at the Barbican Centre in London.

Accompanying His Majesty were His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim and Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolqiah.

A total of 435 graduates received their degrees in various courses during the graduation ceremony.

Her Royal Highness receives her Msc with honours in International Relations from the Faculty of Arts Social Sciences at Barbican Centre in London.



PHOTOS: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim, Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolqiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bulqiah.

HRH attends special meeting for National Disaster Council

BERAKAS, January 31 - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Deputy Sultan as chairman of National Disaster Council attended a special meeting of the National Disaster Council to discuss the recent flash floods and landslides that occurred throughout the country.

The meeting was held at the Fire and Rescue Department.

In the meeting, His Royal Highness received a briefing by the Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan on the flash floods and landslides and its effect which often happened in the monsoon season like those happened in the month of January. Meanwhile, the Director of the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC), Awang Yahya bin Haji Abdul Rahman briefed on the preparation measures, early action, recovery and measures to face any eventuality.

Soon after, His Royal Highness visited several effected areas due to landslides and flash floods. Extraordinary heavy rain took place with high tide especially on January 20 and 21 which submerged the electric power station in Gadong and caused power outage and affecting telecommunication lines.

The National Disaster Council is the highest council to implement the Disaster Management Board 2006



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness at one of the areas affected by landslides.

Order to ensure the effectiveness of disaster management to be developed and practiced in Brunei Darussalam.

Among the role of this council is to expand strategic policy framework of disaster management of Brunei Darussalam. The National Disaster Management Centre have the role to assist the council to implement its duties, advise and support the council on matters regarding to disaster management referred by the council.

On January 24, His Majesty The

Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam conducted an unscheduled visit to NDMC.

During the visit, His Majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office as chairman of National Disaster Council.

At the centre, His Majesty took a closer look on the role of NDMC in coordinating the emergency services, assistance and restorations due to the flash floods and landslides.

State visit to Manila

MANILA, PHILIPPINES, January 31

- His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, 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 were in Manila for a three-day state visit.

The royal entourage arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on January 29 where Their Majesties and Her Royal Highness were introduced to the Vice President of the Philippines, His Excellency Noli de Castro; Major General Oscar H. Rabena, the Commanding General of Philippines Air Force; His Excellency Hermogenes Esperon as the accompanying secretary with his wife, Dr. Lorna Esperon.

Their Majesties and Her Royal Highness began their state visit by attending an official reception ceremony held at Bahay Pangarap on January 30. The arrival of Their Majesties, Her Royal Highness and the royal entourage were welcomed by Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and the First Gentleman Jose Miguel T. Arroyo.

Their Majesties and Her Royal Highness had separate itineraries where His Majesty attended a bilateral meeting with Her Excellency the President of the Philippines; lays a wreath at the Rizal Memorial Monument; and visited the Special Operations Command (SOCOM) at the Philippines Army Headquarters at Fort Bonifacio.

While Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri visited the Bio-Research Garden; and the Museum of Malacanang Palace. During the visit to the Bio-Research Garden, Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness planted the 'Balitbitan Flowering Tree' and visited a garden named as 'Royal Brunei Garden' in honour of the royal visit. This garden will be featured with various plants produced by Brunei Darussalam.

In the evening, Their Majesties, Her Royal Highness and the royal entourage attended a state banquet hosted by Her Excellency the President of the Philippines and the First Gentleman held at the Rizal Hall of Malacanang Palace.

At the state banquet, His Majesty also received the 'Order of Lakandula' with the rank of Grand Collar (Supremo) from Her Excellency.

Their Majesties, Her Royal Highness and the royal entourage ended the state visit to Manila on January 31.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives 'Order of Lakandula' with the Rank of Grand Collar (Supremo) from Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo of Philippines.

PHOTOS: RAMLI TENGAH



A model of the Mosque in Cotabato, Mindanao named as Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Mosque is presented to His Majesty as a token of appreciation.



Inspecting the guard-of-honour at the Special Operations Command (SOCOM) at the Philippines Army Headquarters.

Brunei committed work closely with neighbours



His Majesty at Rizal Memorial Monument for a Wreath Laying Ceremony.

MANILA, REPUBLIC OF PHILIPPINES, January 30 – Brunei Darussalam is committed to work closely with its neighbours in the region in peace and respect for each other.

This was said by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* (royal speech) at state banquet hosted by the President of Philippines, Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo at Rizal Hall, Malacanang Palace.

His Majesty also said that the many regional and international problems require regional and international solutions where if these are to be found, they will only emerge out of successful relationships between individual countries.

In his royal speech, His Majesty also touched on the roles of the Philippines' citizens who are living and working in Brunei Darussalam. His Majesty took the opportunity to thank their families in the Philippines for their wonderful

contribution they are making to Brunei Darussalam; and to the vision of a true community that is the inspiration behind the ASEAN Charter.

His Majesty also expressed his deepest appreciation for the great honour – 'Order of Lakandula' with the rank of Grand Collar (Supremo) awarded to him earlier.

Also present at the state banquet was Her Majesty The Raja Isteri, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri and other members of the royal family.

The state banquet ended with a presentation to His Majesty by a representative from Cotabato, Mr. Didagen Dilangalen of a model of a mosque at Cotabato, Mindanao named as Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Mosque. The mosque is owned by the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and built by Palafox Associates.

PHOTOS: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH



Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri at the Bio-Research Fish, Birds and Butterfly Collection Facility.



Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri visit Library of Malacanang Palace.

Public Hospitals in Brunei Darussalam

The history of proper healthcare system in Brunei Darussalam began more than 100 years ago where it had undergone several changes and gone through many challenges in the government's bid to provide excellent healthcare to the citizens and residents of this nation.

In the olden days, a house made of leaves or known as 'rumah kajang' were made as a temporary hospital. On September 7, 1929; the history of hospitals in Brunei began with the official opening of a proper building named as General Hospital.

The General Hospital was officially opened by the late Sultan Ahmad Tajudin Akhazul Khairi Wadin ibni Almarhum Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam, the 27th Sultan of Brunei Darussalam. That hospital is the first building located between the Jalan Hospital and Jalan Sumbiling.

In his *titah* (royal speech), Sultan Ahmad Tajudin Akhazul Khairi Wadin stated that the government established the hospital in order to

provide assistance and care for any local who were suffering from illness and no charges would be imposed.

As years passed by, the capacity of the General Hospital was no longer sufficient enough to accommodate the numbers of admitted patients therefore a new hospital was built within the capital area.

The new hospital is based on a 42-acre site about 0.8 kilometres from the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan. On August 28, 1984; the hospital named as Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) was officially opened.

With the introduction of RIPAS Hospital, General Hospital was no longer in used and was later demolished. The site of General Hospital is now occupied by the Syariah Court. The only historical remains of the Brunei Hospital is its main entrance gate which is kept at the compound of Malay Technology Museum in Kota Batu.

Currently, RIPAS Hospital is the largest referral hospital in the nation. After more than 20 years, RIPAS hospital had gone through several expansion programs with regards to its infrastructure as well as its services to accommodate the growing demands of healthcare users.

The latest infrastructure expansions include the building of a Specialist Clinic Premise and an additional state of the art operating theatres to make 11 operation theatres.

In the pipeline is further expansion of facilities for the whole hospital, as well as expansion projects listed under the National Healthcare Strategic Plan mapped out for year 2000-2010. These include research facilities and upgrading the women and children healthcare services.

The hospital has more than 2,000

manpower which consist of highly qualified medical doctors of various disciplines, trained nurses, and professionals in the clinical support services including pharmacists, physiotherapists, scientific officers and many others.

In terms of specialists training, some departments in RIPAS Hospital have been accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Royal College of Surgeons, United Kingdom. RIPAS hospital also had been accredited for basic specialist medical training by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health Clinic.

In the year 2000, the hospital gained further accreditation as a teaching hospital by Queensland University Hospital.

As the main referral hospital in Brunei, RIPAS Hospital has 20 departments that offer various services.

The departments are Medical Services, Surgical Services, Women & Children, Critical, Diagnostic Services, Accident & Emergency, Internal Medicine, Psychiatry, Nephrology, Dermatology, Radiology, Pathology, General Surgery, Orthopaedic, Anesthetist, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Neurosurgery, Orthohinlarynglogy, Ophthalmology, and Oral Maxillo Facial (OMF).

For cardiac patients who need further tertiary treatments not provided in RIPAS Hospital, the government will send them to overseas but now since Gleneagles JPMC Cardiac Centre are in operation, most patients are channelled there. JPMC is a private hospital based in Jerudong.

The RIPAS Hospital on the other hand also received other complicated



cases referred from JPMC for specialist services which are not offered there for example patients developing renal complications.

Besides RIPAS Hospital, there are three other government-owned hospitals in the nation.

The Suri Seri Begawan (SSB) Hospital is located in Kuala Belait, about 107 kilometres from Bandar Seri Begawan. Established in 1972, the hospital was built to serve the people of Belait District. With more than 180 beds available, SSB Hospital is the second largest hospital in the nation.

To accommodate current needs of medical and health services, SSB Hospital had undergone a multimillion

dollar programme of phased renovation.

Among the projects completed were commissioning of a modern Operation Theatre Suite and 16 private rooms.

A dialysis centre will be opened soon to accommodate renal patients residing in Belait district. The Belait District Dialysis Centre is built at a cost of \$2.7 million.

The SSB Hospital also provides specialist services such as internal medicine, general surgery, dentistry, dermatology, psychiatry, and intensive care unit and anaesthesia.

For residents of Temburong district, a hospital named as Pengiran Isteri Hajah Mariam (PIHM) Hospital was established. Located in Bangar, PIHM Hospital was opened in 1987.

The PIHM Hospital has about 50 beds and staffed with medical

the proclamation of His Royal Highness as His Royal Highness The Crown Prince.

The construction of the hospital is one of the Health Infrastructure Development project under the 6th National Development Plan 1991-1995.

The hospital provided comprehensive services to the residents in Tutong District from the aspects of medical, treatment, recovery, emergency, clinical assistance and operation.

This is the Health Ministry's vision to improve medical and health system towards enhancing life quality of the community in this country.

The hospital is also chosen as an isolation centre for any potential communicable diseases such as SARS, bird influenza and also tuberculosis cases.



PHOTOS: ABDUL KADIR MD. TAHIR & COURTESY MINISTRY OF HEALTH



and dental officers who provide medical, paediatric, obstetrics and gynaecological and also dental services.

In June 2008, a Renal Unit was introduced to provide dialysis treatment to patients in Temburong.

The Hospital of Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah (PMMPMHAB) is located between Sungai Basong road and Sungai Besar road in Bukit Bendera, Tutong District. The hospital was built with a cost of \$32 million and completed on September 1996. The hospital started its operation on July 24, 1997.

The hospital was officiated on August 11, 1998 by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah in conjunction with

The hospital will also have its Dialysis Centre for renal patients residing in Tutong District.

With the availability of the hospitals in each district, it is hoped that the citizens and residents of Brunei can seek treatment easily and at the lowest costs.

Healthcare in Brunei Darussalam continue to be one of the top priorities of the nation. Health treatment in government hospitals and medical health centres across the nation is only charged at minimal costs where currently, Brunei citizens with yellow identity card are only charged with B\$1.00 for medicinal supply. Admission to general ward is also free of charge and the medical expenses for patients who are referred to JPMC from RIPAS are covered by the government.

Did you know that...

- Brunei's literacy rate (for age 9 and above) had increased from 80.3 per cent in 1981 to 89.2 per cent in 1991 and further increased to 93.7 per cent in 2001.
- Agriculture Statistic on Brunei Rice Industry 2008 showed Brunei's total consumption is 32,000 metric tonnes.
- Most of the forests in Brunei Darussalam are located in the Belait district (88.3 hectares from 278,216 hectares of district area), followed by Temburong (80.6 hectares from 127,270 hectares of district area), Tutong (70.7 hectares from 121,667 hectares of the district area) and Brunei-Muara (49.6 hectares from 54,795 hectares of district area).
- Majority of the old-growth virgin forests are found in Temburong.

>> BRUNEI IN BRIEF

- Official name is Negara Brunei Darussalam.
- Capital is Bandar Seri Begawan.
- It is located on the north-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia.
- Land size is 5765 sq. km
- Population is estimated at 398,000 people (2008).
- It is divided into four districts – Brunei Muara, Tutong, Kuala Belait and Temburong.
- Malay is the official language but English is widely spoken.
- Islam is the official religion and it allows other religions to be practiced.
- National carrier is Royal Brunei Airlines.
- It has an equatorial climate, a uniform temperature, high humidity and heavy rainfall.

Public Warning: The trafficking of controlled drugs carries the death penalty in Brunei Darussalam

>> HOW TO GET TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM?

There are a number of ways to reach Brunei.

- By air - Brunei's national carrier, Royal Brunei Airlines travels to more than 20 destinations around the world. The airline also has worldwide office for you to book a return flight to Brunei (to know the nearest RBA's office at your place, please log to: www.bruneiair.com)
- International airlines such as Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and Thai Airways also fly frequently to Brunei. Beginning July 2006, Air Asia, the Malaysia's lowest airfare carrier also has direct flight from Kuala Lumpur to Brunei.
- Arrival by plane would land you to Brunei International Airport (BWN), the sole airport in the nation.
- For those who enjoy journey by sea, you can reach Brunei by boat or ferry. The main ferry terminal in Brunei is the Serasa Ferry Terminal at Muara. You can catch a ferry from Labuan, Sabah or Lawas and Sundar, both in Sarawak, a state of the neighbouring country, Malaysia. Another option is via a boat from Limbang, Sarawak which will arrive at the jetty around Jalan Residency area in the Capital.
- You would have two options of entry point to Brunei by land transport. You can enter through the Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post in Belait District or the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post in Brunei Muara District. The Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post in Belait is the entry point for those from Miri, Sarawak. While the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post is the entrance for those coming from Limbang, Sarawak; Kota Kinabalu; and Kalimantan.

HRH on official visit to Singapore

PHOTOS: MASRI OSMAN

SINGAPORE, January 22 – His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office was on a four-day official visit to Singapore starting January 19.

Present to accompany His Royal Highness was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Abdul Qawi.

His Royal Highness' arrival at the Changi International Airport was received by the Singapore's Minister of State for Defence, His Excellency Associate Professor Koo Tsai Kee. Also present was the High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Singapore, His Excellency Awang Haji Abdul Ghafar bin Haji Ismail and the High Commissioner of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Joseph Koh.

On the first day of the official visit, His Royal Highness visited Sentosa Development Corporation based in Sentosa Island. Here, His Royal Highness visited 'Fort Siloso Tours'; the 'Images of Singapore'; rode on the Sky Tower; and visited the office of the Resort World.

While in the evening, His Royal Highness attended a dinner hosted by Singapore's Minister of Education, His Excellency Dr. Ng Eng Hen held at Equinox, Swissotel Hotel Raffles City.

On January 20, His Royal Highness as General for Brunei Darussalam's Royal Brunei Armed Forces was awarded the 'Distinguished Service Order (Military)' or *Darjah Utama Bakti Cemerlang (Tentera)*. The award which is Singapore's highest military award was presented to His Royal Highness by the President of Singapore, His Excellency S.R. Nathan at the Istana Negara. The 'Distinguished Service Order (Military)' was awarded to His Royal Highness in recognition of his significant role in enhancing the excellent defence ties between Brunei Darussalam and Singapore.

His Royal Highness then made a courtesy call to the President of Singapore and attended a luncheon hosted by His Excellency the President.

His Royal Highness also made two courtesy calls at the Istana Negara. His Royal Highness first made a courtesy call on Senior Minister of Singapore, His Excellency Goh Chok Tong; followed by Singapore's Minister Mentor, His Excellency Lee Kuan Yew.

In the evening, His Royal Highness attended a dinner hosted by Singapore's Minister of Defence, His Excellency Teo Chee Hean.

On the third day of the visit, His Royal Highness made a courtesy visit to the Prime Minister of Singapore, His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong at the Istana Negara; visited Singapore's Armour Training Institute; visited the Peranakan Museum at Armanien Street; and attended a dinner hosted by the Minister of State for Defence, Associate Professor Koo Tsai Kee.

Before ending the official visit, His Royal Highness visited Singapore's Paya Lebar Air Base.

His Royal Highness ended his official visit to the Republic of Singapore on January 22.



His Royal Highness receives the Distinguished Service Order (Military), Singapore's highest military award from His Excellency President S.R. Nathan of Singapore.



His Royal Highness with the Prime Minister of Singapore, His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong during courtesy call.



His Royal Highness with Minister Mentor of Singapore, His Excellency Lee Kuan Yew.



His Royal Highness with His Excellency Goh Chok Tong, Senior Minister of Singapore.

JERUDONG, January 4 – The 5th Bukit Shahbandar Challenge received a positive response as more than 300 people participated in this event.

One of the participants was Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah who won third place for the Category 'D' Women's Open.

The Challenge was seven kilometres long and divided into four categories. Category 'A' National was won by Sefli Ahar, the national runner; Category 'A' Amateur was won by Muhd Zulkifli Haji Muhd Jailani; Category 'B' was won by Guianos Salagan; Category 'C' was won by Wong Siew Ming; while Category 'D' was won by Azrinah Joharina Haji Ahmad; and Category 'E' was won by Hasny Salagan. Category 'C' was 4.5 kilometres long while both Category 'D' and 'E' were 3.5 kilometres in distance.

Among the objectives of this Challenge was to encourage members of the public to exercise and promote awareness on the importance of forest and maintaining good health through exercising.

Present to award the prizes was the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya.

Each winner receives \$500.00 and a certificate of participation.

Bukit Shahbandar Challenge



Her Royal Highness receives her prize (Category 'D' Women's Open) from the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya.

PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

Brunei-Japan sign Double Taxation Agreement

TOKYO, January 20 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and His Excellency Hirofumi Nakasone, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan signed the Double Taxation Agreement between Brunei Darussalam and Japan at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo.

This agreement would expand and strengthen cooperation in taxation beside strengthening investment between both countries.

Brunei Darussalam and Japan had signed Brunei-Japan's Economy Partner Agreement (EPA) in June 2007.

EPA also provide a wide scope of various cooperation projects in the fields of energy, science, technology and ICT in supporting development and diversity economy to the country.

His Royal Highness and His Excellency also discussed a number of current bilateral, regional and international matters.

Brunei Darussalam and Japan established diplomatic ties since April 2, 1984. Both countries since then continue to strengthen the relationship through various field



Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and his counterpart His Excellency Hirofumi Nakasone, Japan's Minister of Foreign Affairs sign the Brunei Darussalam-Japan Double Taxation Agreement.

including economy; education; cultural; tourism; agriculture, trade and investment.

Japan is also the main import for Brunei's liquified natural gas since 1973.

PHOTO: HAJI MASWALEH HAJI MOHD. AU

Girl Guides Association launch planting trees and development project

BERAKAS, January 25 – The Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association recently initiated a project of planting 100 trees as part of their pledge to the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts World Conference held last year.

This took place at its headquarters where the planting



Her Royal Highness at the launching of Girl Guides 'Development Project' in Berakas.

of the trees started in December last year with guidance from the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.

Among the types of plants used for this project are those of flowers, fruits, herbs and other plants that grow at a fast rate and easily maintained.

Eight schools are taking part in this project and once the plants have come into fruition, its products will be sold and proceeds will go to the Wakaf Pandu Puteri to help members that are less fortunate.

This project will run from December 2008 to 2010.

While another project entitled 'Development Project' was also launched. Present to launch this was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah. Also present were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nurul Bulqiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna.

This project aims to enhance the younger generation's appreciation for the environment and understanding of preservation. This project will be carried out in three phases where the initial stage will involve the planting of vegetables, the second will be planting of local vegetables and herbs, and the third stage will be involving the planting of local fruits.

PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

Safety as top priority

JALAN MENTERI BESAR, January 3 – The Ministry of Communications will place safety issues as a top agenda and will designate 2009 as the year to enhance safety. This is in view of several incidents that occurred in Brunei Darussalam's transportation sector in 2008 where the ministry takes the issue on safety seriously and gives strong emphasis to not only safety at work but also among operators, users, staff members and the public.

These were said by the Acting Minister of Communications, Dato Paduka Haji Yusoff bin Haji Abdul Hamid at the launching of a safety campaign called 'Year 2009 as The Year to Improve Safety For the Ministry of Communications & Departments Under It'. The ceremony took place at Dewan Amar Pahlawan of Ministry of Communications.

According to Dato Paduka Haji Yusoff, the ministry will enhance its 'Standard Operating Procedure' (SOP), regulations and measures to enhance safety at work at not just the transportation sector but the communications sector too. In light of this matter, several activities and initiatives will be organised by

The Acting Minister of Communications, Dato Paduka Haji Yusoff views exhibition on road safety.



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

the ministry and its departments throughout 2009.

He further said that we will be exposed to risk, loss and unwanted circumstances like loss of lives, injuries, damages to properties, psychological effects and lose public's trust in the transportation and communication system if safety in the transportations and communications sectors are not taken seriously and handled carefully.

He also said that although Brunei

Darussalam has fulfilled the national and international safety requirements, continuous monitoring is vital in ensuring that all measures, system and safety procedures are implemented continuously with full commitment, and frequently tested and improved. In this matter, it is a priority for all departments of the ministry to implement respective safety enhancing programs in 2009 including the enforcement of more effective rules and regulations.

ATF + 3 enhance ASEAN's tourism cooperation

HANOI, VIET NAM, January 8 – The 8th ASEAN Tourism Forum saw the ministers from ASEAN + 3 (People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea) member countries responsible for their respective tourism industry reiterate their support towards an enhanced continuous cooperation in tourism in realising ASEAN Community.

The ministers also agreed on focusing on the needs and additional technical assistance in developing tourism among ASEAN and the other three nations.

The meeting was chaired by Viet Nam's Vice Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, His Excellency Tran Chien Thang. While representing Brunei Darussalam was Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya, the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources who was also the co-chairman of the meeting.

The ministers also expressed their pleasure with the progress of APT Cooperation Plan (2007-2017) especially on the implementation of tourism measures.

The 9th ATF meeting will be held in Brunei Darussalam in 2010.

Two new Deputy Police Commissioners appointed



PHOTOS: HERNE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

GADONG, January 3 – By the command of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, two new Deputy Police Commissioners have been appointed effective November 1, 2008.

The Police Commissioner Pehin Datu Kerma Setia Dato Paduka Seri Zainuddin presented the promotion insignia to:

1. Senior Assistant Commissioner Pehin Orang Kaya Pendikar Alam Haji Hasrin (Operation).
2. Senior Assistant Commissioner Hajah Sharifah Salmah (Management).

Brunei – Australia Memorial Ground erected at Muara Beach

MUARA, December 13 – To commemorate the landing of Australian soldiers in Brunei Darussalam during the Second World War; and cooperation between citizens of Brunei Darussalam and Australia during that period, a Brunei-Australia Memorial Ground had been erected at Muara Beach.

Present to officiate the memorial ground was the Honourable Alan Griffin, Australia's Minister of Veteran Affairs.

Meanwhile, attending on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Pehin Colonel (Rtd) Dato Haji Awang Mohammad Yasmin.

Muara Beach was chosen as it was where the Australia Division 9 first landed when OBOE 6 operation was carried out. They landed in Brunei on June 10, 1945.

Fisheries contribute to nation's food security

MUARA, January 9 – In expanding and developing the fisheries industry in the bid to achieve fast growth, attention should also be given for its future sustainability. This is particularly for resources along the shoreline considered as productive and the place for fish to breed and grow.

These were highlighted by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya at the official opening of Fishery Carnival 2009 organised the Fishery Department. It was held at the Serasa Fish Landing Centre.

The Minister said that a number of 1,650 full-time fishermen and 3,891 part-time fishermen relied on Zone 1 for fish capturing as a source of their income. Hence it is vital to control this area in ensuring that the resources will not be extinct and to be benefited by the future generation.

According to the minister too, it is important as fisheries could contribute to the nation's food security which is an issue that should be dealt with together. This is one of the main reasons why a moratorium is imposed on Zone 1 effective January 1, 2008.

The minister also revealed that the nation's fisheries sector in 2007 was valued at \$97.94 million where \$83.29 million are from fish capturing sector; \$6.26 million from aquaculture; and \$8.29 from seafood processing. He further said that local fish capturing activities have fulfilled 88 per cent of the demand for fresh fish.

The Fishery Carnival is a four-day event participated by 70



PHOTO: ABDUL KADIR MD. TAHIR

Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya looking closely at the breaded turtle.

local entrepreneurs involved in the capturing industry, seafood processing, aquaculture and related-government agencies that support the development of the fisheries industry.

Technical cooperation on fisheries discussed

GADONG, January 13 – Technical cooperation in the field of fisheries especially in the fields of capturing, aquaculture and seafood processing sectors were discussed at the 2nd Joint Technical Fisheries Working Group meeting between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Philippines held at the Centrepoint Hotel.

Brunei's delegation was led by the Director of Fisheries, Dayang Hajah Hasnah binti Ibrahim while her counterpart was Mr Malcolm I. Sarmeinto, Philippines' Director of National Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic.

The meeting discussed on collaborations including capturing of tuna fish in Zone 4; monitoring of red tide; and opportunities in exchange and attachment programs of officers between both nations. Issues on the capturing of fishes using explosives and cyanide were also discussed.



PHOTO: HATRAI HAZMI ABD. HAMID

Brunei Darussalam's delegation to the meeting led by Director of Fisheries, Dayang Hajah Hasnah.

Reception

The Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi with the Ambassador of Myanmar to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Thura The Oo Maung at a reception to mark the 61st anniversary of Myanmar's Independence Day on January 4 at International Convention Centre.



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

Brunei- Laos discuss health cooperation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 19 – Brunei Darussalam and Laos discussed cooperation in the health sector including information exchange and experience as well as professional exchange program.

The discussion was held during bilateral meeting between the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi with the Laos's Minister of Health, His Excellency Dr. Ponmek Dalaloy.

The visit aimed to explore cooperation and to increase field of networking besides enhance relationship between the two ministries. The Laos's Minister of Health is in the country for two days starting from January 19 to 20.



Bilateral meeting between Ministry of Health Brunei Darussalam and Laos.

PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

Mobile Library Service nurtures interest in reading

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 22 – Many efforts have been undertaken by the government to nurture an interest in reading particularly for students and the public; and mobile library service is one of the ways besides providing district and community libraries at all four districts.

The matter was stated by Acting Director of Language and Literature Bureau, Hajah Aminah Haji Momin at the launching of Mobile Library Service at Al-Falaah School in Jalan Muara.

Mobile Library Service was introduced on June 6, 1970 at Sengkurong Primary School and it is still operating until now. The service is not only limited to government schools but also extended to non-government schools that require such services.

Few changes had been made especially to the bus exteriors which are colourful with the slogan 'Membaca Nadi Kejayaan Bangsa' ('Reading is the Nation Success' Initiator). These changes are made as a step to attract students to keep reading books.

The Language and Literature Bureau is under the purview of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. It is responsible for language and literary development, cultural research and documentation and book publication besides to provide library services to all over the country.

The Acting Director of Language and Literature Bureau, Hajah Aminah Haji Momin at the launching of Mobile Library Service at Al-Falaah School in Jalan Muara.



PHOTO: HATRAI HAZMI ABD. HAMID

ASEAN-Japan delegates study BEDB's major initiatives



PHOTO: ABDUL KADIR MD. TAHIR

The delegation attending an economic briefing presented by the Brunei Darussalam Economic Development Board.

BERAKAS, January 20 – Brunei Darussalam Economic Development Board (BEDB) held an economic briefing to ASEAN – Japan delegate held at iCentre, Anggerek Desa.

The briefing was given by BEDB's Chief Executive Officer, Vincent Cheong where among others touched on the measures taken by BEDB for the construction of new growth centres in Brunei Darussalam which have the potential of cooperation and be a partnership with foreign investment.

The Japanese delegate was led by the Director of Investment of the ASEAN-Japan Centre, Dr. Vong Sam Ang.

Formed in 1981, the ASEAN-Japan Centre with its headquarters in Tokyo is an international organisation which promotes trade, investment and tourism ties between ASEAN and Japan as well as international community.

SEAMEO Council President on courtesy call to Brunei

The Honourable Dato' Seri Hishammuddin during a courtesy call to the Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Rahman.



PHOTO: HERNIE SULLANA HAJI OTHMAN

BERAKAS, January 20 – The President of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) Council, the Honourable Dato' Seri Hishammuddin bin Tun Hussein who is also Malaysia's Education Minister was on courtesy call to the Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Rahman at the Ministry of Education.

In the meeting, both parties

discussed on education bilateral relation and cooperation and also training especially in the fields of agreement based on Memorandum of Understanding sealed on February 14, 1992.

The Honourable Dato' Seri was on a working visit to SEAMEO members-country as part of his role as SEAMEO Council President. The two-day visit also

aims to closely monitor Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation Regional Centre for Vocational and Technical Education and Training (SEAMEO-VOCTECH).

It was also aimed to gather information on the council towards strengthening and developing the quality of education, technical and vocational training through Southeast Asian human resources.

Brunei celebrates World Customs Day 2009

BERAKAS, January 27 – A call was made for customs officers to look after their integrity; their department's image and credibility by distancing themselves from power abuse and any acts that contravene the laws and regulations.

The nation will face a loss due to negligence and failure of the enforcement agencies in implementing the tasks given where it will also give a negative impact on the nation's peace, security, prosperity and stability.

These were stated by the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Awang Sa Bali bin Abas at a ceremony to mark the World Customs Day 2009 held at the headquarters of the Department of Royal Customs and Excise.

The Permanent Secretary also believed that the department is committed on the government's effort in developing the tourism and business sector which will cause positive effect to the nation's economic development.

In this ceremony, Awang Sa Bali also presented an award 'Anugerah Piawaian 2008' to the Customs' branch in Belait district. Souvenirs were also presented to officers that have retired.

In conjunction with World Customs Day 2009, an exhibition was held participated by five government departments.



Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Awang Sa Bali presents 'Anugerah Piawaian 2008'.

PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMI

MABIMS discuss seven working papers

JERUDONG, January 29 – Seven working papers in various strategic fields on religious topics were discussed at the 34th Senior Officers Meeting (SOM) for religious ministers of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore (MABIMS), which was held at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

Brunei hosted the two-day meeting starting from January 28 to 29. The meeting also discussed the

development of Islamic community outside MABBIMS through social and humanitarian programmes apart from highlighting the Islamic understanding and good deeds within MABIMS' region and its role in the international arena.

The meeting was chaired by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Rahman. In

the meeting, Brunei Darussalam was represented by 14 representatives. Indonesia and Malaysia sent two delegates respectively; and Singapore sent five delegates.

The meeting also reviewed and updated the guideline with the new format which have been agreed at the 33rd SOM summit held at Melia Purosani Hotel on November 10 to 12, 2008.

Universiti Brunei Darussalam introduces four programs

TUNGKU LINK, January 10 - Commencing August 2009, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) will be introducing four programs which are Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Health Science and Bachelor of Business.

UBD is the oldest university in Brunei Darussalam where UBD opened its doors to the first intake of 176 students on October 28, 1985. In 1988, the Sultan Hassanah Bolkiah Institute of Education was integrated with the university.

Today the university accommodates more than 300 academic staff and 2,800 students in seven faculties, namely Arts and Social Sciences, Business, Economics and Policies Studies, Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddin Institute of Islamic Studies, Science, Sultan Hassanah Bolkiah Institute of Education, Academy of Brunei Studies and Institute of Medicine.

Book Fair 2009

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 10 - The Language and Literature Bureau will be organising the Brunei Book Fair 2009 at the International Indoor Stadium.

The 10-day book fair is held in conjunction with the National Day of Brunei Darussalam. The fair will commence from February 27 to March 8 with the theme 'Book Is The Future' or *Buku Adalah Masa Depan*.

A total of 120 booths will be provided this year. The participants are not only from Brunei but also from ASEAN countries and other countries such as Jordan, China and Iran.

Four students join International Youth Science Forum

BERAKAS, January 17 - Four local students will be participating in the International Youth Science Forum which will begin on January 19.

The forum will be held at Hwa Chang Institution in Singapore.

The students are accompanied by two teachers.

Ministry of Communications launches Online Newsletter

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 24 - Ministry of Communications launched its Online Newsletter known as 'i@mincom' as part of its effort to achieve the ministry's vision; 'Towards a sophisticated society and excellence in communications for enhancing national competitiveness'.

Present to launch was the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Dr. Haji Awang Abu Bakar.

The online newsletter provides access to the ministry's officers and staff members and its departments to communicate digitally in sharing of information, experiences and current knowledge. The launching of the newsletter also fits the ministry's aim to move to a paperless environment.

The newsletter is published fortnightly and available at www.mincom.gov.bn.

SPN21 increases students entrance to higher education

GADONG, January 29 - The new education system - SPN21 is inline with the nation's vision 2035 which emphasise on the people's achievement in education and have a higher quality of life and dynamic and sustainable economy.

The Permanent Secretary of Education (Higher Education), Awang Haji Mahmud bin Haji Daud said that inline with the vision, the new education system among others will increase the students' registration to higher education from 14 per cent to 30 per cent towards 2018.

Apart from that, it will provide various way towards higher education besides to increase nation education level to world's standard.

The Permanent Secretary stated the matter at the 2nd ASEAN University Rector's Conference held at the Senate Hall Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

The one-day conference entitled 'A strategic management and new challenges ahead for university collaboration' was participated by the university Rectors in ASEAN University Network (AUN) and five working papers were represented.

Brunei hosts 3rd Borneo Games

BERAKAS, January 31 - Brunei Darussalam will host the 3rd Borneo Games from November 29 to December 6, 2009. The games will be participated by Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan, Kalimantan, Melaka and Brunei Darussalam itself.

The game is one of the platforms towards the development of the nation's sport apart from being the basis to produce new sports talent to be exposed in the international level.

A total of 12 sports events will be competed in the tournament. The game was first introduced in 1954 in Seria, Brunei Darussalam.

The first Borneo game with new concept was held in 2005 in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah and the second game was held in Kuching, Sarawak in 2007.



PHOTO: ABDUL KADIR MD. TAHIR

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Physical Education (PE) is included as part of the education's extra curriculum activities in schools. Pictures show:

- A. Primary school students enjoying doing light exercises.
- B. A group of primary school students in their PE attire.



PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

B