



# برونى دارالسلام

## Brunei Darussalam

# Brunei Darussalam newsletter

Published by the Department of Information  
Prime Minister's Office

MAY, 2017  
VOLUME 32 ISSUE 5

## His Majesty Officiates New Mosque, Joins First Fardhu Friday Prayer

**Bandar Seri Begawan, May 19** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to attend and joined the congregation of the first Friday prayer at Pehin Khatib Abdullah Mosque, the new mosque in Kampong Kulapis in the Brunei-Muara District,

On arrival at the mosque, His Majesty was greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, the Minister of Religious Affairs and Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Doctor Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.

Shortly after the arrival, His Majesty proceeded to the mosque lobby where His Majesty con-



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to attend and joined the congregation of the first Friday prayer at Pehin Khatib Abdullah Mosque, the new mosque in Kampong Kulapis in the Brunei Muara District.

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## His Majesty Attends Arab Islamic American Summit



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to attend the Arab Islamic American Summit held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

**Riyadh, May 21** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Arab Islamic American Summit which was held at the King Abdul Aziz International Conference Centre in Riyadh.

Upon arrival at the conference centre, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was welcomed by His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques and King of Saudi Arabia.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam then proceeded for a luncheon hosted by

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MAY 2017 - VOLUME 32 ISSUE 5

## 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) please write to the Distribution Unit, Department of Information, Prime Minister's Office, Old Airport, Berakas BB 3510, Brunei Darussalam.

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## His Majesty receives audiences

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman :

**01**



**02**



**03**



**04**



**05**



**06**



1. His Excellency Doctor Awwad bin Saleh Al-Awwad, Minister of Culture and Information of Saudi Arabia as the Special Envoy of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, King of Saudi Arabia on May 12<sup>th</sup>.
2. Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Dr. Ali bin Hamsa, the Chief Secretary of the Government of Malaysia on May 12.
3. Awangku Muhammad Adibul Amin bin Pengiran Haji Marjuki and Dayang Hajah Siti Noor Dzuhairah binti Haji Awang Damit, whom were placed second in the male and female Al-Quran Recital categories of the 59th International Al-Quran Reading Competition held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on May 23.
4. His Excellency Roland Christian Grafe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany to Brunei Darussalam on May 25.
5. His Excellency David Campbell, British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam on May 25.
6. Her Excellency Noriko Iki, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam on May 25.

## Her Majesty receives audiences

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to receive in audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman :

**01**



**02**





03



1. Her Excellency Noriko Iki, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam on May 6.
2. Madam Chea Danyla, the wife of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Cambodia to Brunei Darussalam on May 6.
3. Yang Berbahagia Puan Sri Datuk Rohani binti Abdullah, the wife of the Chief Secretary of the Government of Malaysia on May 12.

## His Royal Highness The Crown Prince Receives Audiences

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Ministers' Office received in audiences at Qashr Al-Meezaan :

01



02



03



1. Her Excellency Noriko Iki, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam on May 2.
2. Her Excellency Marina Laker, High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam on May 23.
3. His Excellency Roland Christian Grafe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany to Brunei Darussalam on May 23.

## His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to send congratulatory messages to:

- His Excellency Moon Jae-in, on the occasion of his election as President of the Republic of Korea on May 10.
- His Excellency Edouard Philippe, on the occasion of his appointment as the Prime Minister of the Republic of France on May 16.
- His Excellency Emmanuel Macron, on the occasion of his election as the President of the Republic of France on May 17.
- His Excellency Hassan Rouhani, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the occasion of his re-appointment as the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on May 22.
- His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al Husein, King of Jordan, on the occasion of Jordan's Independence Day, on May 25.

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His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

After the luncheon, His Majesty then joined for a group photograph with His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud; His Excellency Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America; as well as other Head of States and Government from the other Arab and Islamic countries.

Then, His Majesty the Sultan and

Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, together with the other leaders, proceeded to the conference hall to commence the Arab Islamic American Summit.

The conference began with an address from His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, as the host of the summit. Followed by a speech from His Excellency Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of

America. Several Heads of State and Government of the participating countries also delivered some speeches in the summit.

The Arab Islamic American Summit with the theme: "Together We Prevail", focused and discussed greater collaboration in addressing threats of violence and extremism that is growing worldwide, by promoting tolerance and moderation.



His Majesty joined for a group photograph with His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud; His Excellency Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America; as well as other Head of States and Government from the other Arabs and Islamic countries.

\*From page 1

sented to sign a plaque, accompanied with three calls of "Allahu Akbar" led by the Minister of Religious Affairs.

Also present were His Majesty's sons, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel.

The Azan or Call for the Fardhu Friday Prayer was performed by Awang Haji Zainal bin Haji Othman, the Mosque Affairs Officer of the new Pehin Khatib Abdullah Mosque, Kampung Kulapis.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Doctor Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti delivered the first sermon at the mosque. The sermon, among other things, touched on the religious reward for building a mosque.

The State Mufti also said that as of December 2016,

close to \$4 million was collected by the fund for mosque construction since its launch in June 2015.

"The amount excludes contributions from all public servants totalling to 60,000 officers and personnel. The committee estimated that some 15 per cent of public servants or less has contributed to the mosque fund. Imagine if 80 to 90 per cent of public servants contributed, one would imagine the big amount that could have been collected," said the State Mufti.

The establishment of the fund was mooted by His Majesty to bring Muslims in the country to invest in the days of the Hereafter. Donations is on a voluntary basis and is not mandatory, the State Mufti added.

"We are optimistic that the fund is now more widely

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## His Majesty sends messages of condolence

**His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to send messages of condolence to:**

- Her Excellency The Right Honourable Theresa May, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland following the bombing in Manchester, on May 23.
- His Excellency Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt following the devastating bus bombing in the Oil Provinces, on May 27.



## Royal Banquet in Honour of the King of the Kingdom Of Bahrain's State Visit

**Bandar Seri Begawan, May 3** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiyah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam hosted a Royal Banquet in honour of the State Visit of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and his delegation.

The banquet took place at the Royal Banquet Hall, Istana Nurul Iman. His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa and delegation were in the country for a two-day State Visit.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam welcomed the arrival of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa. Prior to the Royal Banquet, His Majesty received a courtesy call from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa at the Royal Lounge. Also present was: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiyah, His Royal Highness



Prior to the Royal Banquet, His Majesty received a courtesy call from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa at the Royal Lounge.

Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiyah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel.

Also in attendance was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. His Majesty and His Majesty King Hamad then proceeded for the Royal Banquet.

The relations between the two

countries are further strengthened with exchange visits by the leaders of both countries. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties 28 years ago, Brunei Darussalam and the Kingdom of Bahrain have enjoyed close friendship and cooperation.

Doa selamat was read by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Doctor Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam hosted a Royal Banquet in honour of the State Visit of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa.

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known and that contribution is strengthened through public servant's wage cuts. Let us contribute to the mosque fund, regardless of whether the amount is small or big," said the State Mufti. "But we must be sincere when making donations albeit in small amounts. If the contribution is not sincere, then it is considered showing off what you've contributed to the public and is meaningless."

Therefore, Muslims are urged to save funds for construction of mosques, even in small amounts, because, according to the State Mufti, people who build mosques have their very own status and will be bestowed with great rewards by Allah Subhanahu Wataala.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar led the Fardhu Friday Prayer.

The mosque, as a mark of remembrance for Kampung Kulapis is a 'Waqaf' or personal endowment from an anon-

ymous family.

The construction of the mosque, which was built on more than two hectares of state land began on September 14, 2015 and was completed on May 1, 2017.

The handing over ceremony for the mosque took place on May 15, 2017. The mosque can accommodate around 700 worshippers. Facilities include separate prayer rooms for male and female congregants, Imam and Bilal (Assistant Imam) room, kitchen, reading room, conference room, multipurpose room, parking spaces, toilets, separate ablution areas for male and female congregants as well as a mortuary.

The new mosque brings the total number of mosques in the country to 118.

It is hoped that the mosque would provide village residents a comfortable environment to perform the obligatory prayers, Friday prayer and to conduct religious activities to spread Islamic teachings in the village and the nation as a whole.

## Presentation of Land Lots and House Keys



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam awarded land lots and house keys to more than 950 recipients under the National Housing Scheme and the Indigenous Citizens Land Scheme in the Brunei Muara District. The ceremony took place at the Plenary Hall, International Convention Centre in Berakas.

**Bandar Seri Begawan, May 7** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam awarded land lots and house keys to more than 950 recipients under the National Housing Scheme (RPN) and the Indigenous Citizens Land Scheme (STKRJ) in the Brunei-Muara District. The ceremony took place at the Plenary Hall, International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Upon arrival, His Majesty was greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs; Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd Roselan bin Haji Mohamad Daud, Acting Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; Dato Paduka Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar, Acting Minister of Development; and Awang Misli bin Haji Abdul Karim, Acting Brunei-Muara District Officer. The ceremony began with the reading of Surah Al-Fatihah led by Pengiran Haji Shahril Azman bin Pengiran Haji Metussin, Syari'ah Subordinate Court Judge, Brunei-Muara District.

The Acting Brunei-Muara District Officer in his welcoming speech among other matters said the awarding of the land lots and house keys portrays His Majesty's care and attention to his subjects. It is hoped that the recipients of the homes will always maintain and preserve the harmony, unity and neighbourly spirit, well-being and prosperity in a peaceful environment and mutual respect as well as adhering to the conditions stipulated by the Housing Development Department.

The presentation of the land lots is for applicants under the RPN Lambak Kanan, Madang, Rimba, Meragang and STKRJ Kampung Mata-Mata (Katok 'B'), Gadong. Meanwhile the keys for houses, cluster homes and terrace houses are for applicants under the RPN Meragang, Tanah Jambu and Lugu as well as terrace houses under

the STKRJ Kampung Mata-Mata (Katok 'B'), Kampung Tungku (Katok 'A') and Lugu. Of the 954 recipients of the land lots and house keys, 222 people were awarded land lots while 732 received house keys. The presentation is an award that is invaluable and meaningful to recipients.

According to the statistics from the Housing Development Department, out of more than 28,000 houses constructed, 26,640 housing units have been awarded to qualified recipients throughout the country. From the number, more than 17,000 units were for recipients in the Brunei-Muara District. The award signifies the government's commitment through the Ministry of Development in planning and reviewing the housing provision under the National Housing Scheme to ensure the well-being and harmony of the citizens in line with the development strategy under Brunei Vision 2035.

In efforts to ensure the housing provision under the National Housing Scheme is capable of being sustainable, the Ministry of Development has set up a Housing Focus Group Committee to search new approaches by reviewing holistically the government subsidy policy, applicant qualification conditions and types of housing to be constructed by taking into account the availability of state lands.

To bless the ceremony, Doa Selamat was read by the Brunei-Muara District Syariah Subordinate Court Judge. His Majesty's presence portrays the monarch's leadership and personality that places serious attention on the interests and needs of the citizens as well as residents of the country.

It is also a clear indication of how the monarch and His Majesty's government gives serious attention and will continue to prioritise the people's housing through various schemes. The recipients expressed their thanks and gratefulness to His Majesty for this meaningful award.



## 'Riadah Dan Kayuhan Keluarga Harmoni 2017'



His Majesty and other members of the royal family Grace The Family Recreational Activities

**Bandar Seri Begawan, May 6** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Per-tuan of Brunei Darussalam yesterday took part in the "Riadah dan Kayuhan Keluarga Harmoni 2017", or the Harmonious Family Recreation and Cycling 2017.

The atmosphere in the capital was lively with all walks of life especially families coming together to take part in the highlight of this year's National Family Day. The event began and ended at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien.

Upon arrival, His Majesty was greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs; Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs; Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports; and Yang Berhormat Dato

Seri Setia Doctor Awang Haji Zulkarnain bin Haji Hanafi, Minister of Health.

Also present were His Majesty's children and brother, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah.

The 12-kilometre cycling event began with the release of 20 balloons by children. The event was also joined by cabinet ministers, deputy ministers, foreign envoys, permanent secretaries and deputy permanent secretaries, invited guests and the public including foreign nationals.

The cycling route covered main roads, several iconic buildings and historical sites as well as passing by several primary and secondary education institutions throughout the capital.

His Majesty's presence at such an activity portrays the monarch's determination to inculcate healthy lifestyle in the country by participating in sports and recreational activities. His Majesty also gives serious

attention on the importance of strengthening the family institution to create a harmonious and united society. Citizens who are healthy and united are able to establish a country that has a more sustainable and productive human resource that can help in the nation's sustainable development.

Before ending the cycling event, cyclists past by the Clock Tower where the first kilometre begins from Bandar Seri Begawan to other areas in the country.

His Majesty and members of the royal family then watched a march past by families comprising of parents, children, grandparents and grandchildren.

His Majesty then signed the appreciation plaque.

After the cycling event, His Majesty took a closer look at the activities organised during the Bandarku Ceria Programme. The theme for this year's National Family Day "Keluargaku Penyayang, Negara Gemilang", signifies the importance of a loving, united and caring family. Members of such a family always respect each other, communicate well and share the common responsibility of ensuring the future of the family, society and country.



Members of the public taking part in the 'Riadah dan Kayuhan Keluarga Harmoni 2017'.



## His Majesty Grace the Family Recreational Activities



His Majesty and other members of the royal family graced the National Family Day and Bandarku Ceria events which took place in and around Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien in Bandar Seri Begawan

**Bandar Seri Begawan, May 6** - The family recreation at and around Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien was part of the Bandarku Ceria Programme that takes place every Sunday.

The presence of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to witness the activities was a strong motivation to the participants and the general public.

Also present were His Majesty's son and brother, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah.

A number of activities took place at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien and its vicinity such as sports, business, bird singing competition, eagle and parrot show as well as family and community carnival.

While gracing the National Family Day and Bandarku Ceria events, His Majesty toured booths that sold a variety of items. For the vendors, His Majesty's presence was very meaningful and gave them the opportunity to express their gratitude to their beloved monarch. Befitting His Majesty's personal aspiration on the role of youth, many of the vendors were young people.

This proved that youths were responding positively to the call of His Majesty's government for them to engage in business activities or entrepreneurship. Family and business activities are part and parcel of the Bandarku Ceria Programme. Small enterprises have responded positively saying the business activities provide them the opportunity to earn extra income.

'Karnival Mudahnya Sembahyang' or "It's Easy To Pray Carnival" in conjunction with the National Isra' Mi'raj celebration attracted His Majesty's attention. There were briefings and other activities such as Ablution and Al-Fatihah Clinics, Evaluating Assets Tithe Payment and the State Mufti Department's Exhibition. The carnival was organised by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and departments under it.

Meanwhile, the Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Association held an exhibition marking World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day. This year's celebration carries the theme, 'The Power of Humanity'. Since its establishment, the country's Red Crescent association has gained one thousand seven hundred members nationwide.

His Majesty then watched the sports cluster that included demonstrations of martial arts such as Silat, Chinese



Wushu, Japanese Kempo and Korean Taekwondo. His Majesty also participated in the Tug-of-War competition organised by the Brunei Tug-of-War Association. The association also exhibited their championship trophies.

The National Family Day does not only focuses on family activities but was also aimed at making every person understand and practice the message and objectives of the celebration. It acts as an avenue for society to improve and strengthen awareness on the importance love and good relations in the family to develop happiness and harmony.

The Bandarku Ceria Programme is a government initiative through the Municipal Department to transform the capital into a cheerful, dynamic and unique destination. Apart from supporting the weekend No Car Day around the capital, Bandarku Ceria also aims to improve the people's life quality in line with the Brunei Vision 2035.

The excitement, cheerfulness and response of the community to the event reflects the people's strong and solid support to the country's His Majesty's vision and aspiration on the importance of family happiness and harmony for the future security of the families, society and nation.

The presence of the country's beloved Monarch at the event was a definite spark of life an energy that provided inspiration and completeness to activities organised under clusters such as Religion, Community, Creation and Sports. This in turn was in line with the celebration's theme, 'Keluargaku Penyayang, Negara Gemilang' which means My Loving Family Brings Prosperity to the Country.



## \$52-million FDI project Officially Launched



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office tours the threading plant and service centre of SCTSB

**Brunei Darussalam , May 10** - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office officially launched one of the largest foreign direct investment (FDI) projects in Brunei.

The \$52-million Sumitomo Corporation Group (SCTSB), a company which came into Brunei as a foreign direct investment company and VAM@ BRN OCTG (oil country tubular goods) threading plant and service centre, is a collaborative FDI project between Japanese firm Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation (NSSMC) and Sumitomo Corporation and Vallourec Tubes SAS from France, located on a 10-hectare government-leased site at Salambigar Industrial Park, is a joint venture between SC Tubular Solutions (B) Sdn Bhd (SCTSB) and VAM@ BRN Sdn Bhd, and a prestigious addition to the increasing list of foreign direct investment projects in Brunei, a new found destination for many top-tier global companies.

The threading plant and service centre has provided employment to 87 locals who make up 78 per cent of the total work force. The FDI proj-

ect is estimated to contribute about \$7 million in annual local spending, besides providing various spin-off opportunities to local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the fields of logistics, construction and engineering and metal fabrication. His Royal Highness the Crown Prince was greeted on arrival for the launching ceremony by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Rtd) Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar, Minister of Energy and Industry at the Prime Minister's Office; Stuart M'Cartney, General Manager of SC Tubular Solutions (B) Sdn Bhd; and Ohashi Tomoyuki, Managing Director of VAM@BRN Sdn Bhd.

Also in attendance were the cabinet ministers, Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam, senior government officials, representatives of Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP) Co Sdn Bhd and other investor companies. Some 120 guests from related organisations were also present at the event.

Ohashi Tomoyuki in his opening remarks said that the plant will bring new business development opportunities to Brunei not only in the form of direct hires and local spend but also ancillary support services.

"It also represents a fantastic op-

portunity for local staff to develop their technical and operational skill sets in learning from industry leading professionals, and will provide true, long-term and sustainable, value-creating capability to the oil and gas industry of Brunei Darussalam," he continue.

"Consisting of market leading technology and supply chain business concepts, this is the first time that a combined local threading and supply chain management facility is established outside Japan."

He also expressed appreciation for the conducive investment and business environment created by the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, especially the many reforms under the Ease of Doing Business (EODB) initiative under the leadership of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, with the support of the Energy and Industry Department at the Prime Minister's Office and BSP, that has made this foreign direct investment project a reality.

He also thanked the Foreign Direct Investment and Downstream Industry (FDI-DI) Steering and Working Committee and the FDI Action and Support (FAST) Centre for their support. "We firmly believe that this project will allow us to contribute to Brunei Vision 2035 and we are committed to delivering our promises as a responsible corporate citizen of Brunei Darussalam," he said.

For more than 40 years, NSSMC and Sumitomo have been supplying seamless oil country tubular pipes for drilling activities to BSP, the leading upstream oil and natural gas company in Brunei.

Oil country tubular goods (OCTG) is a family of seamless rolled products consisting of drill pipe, casing and tubing subjected to loading conditions according to their specific application. In 2014, BSP, NSSMC and Sumitomo signed a contract to develop integrated supply chain management and local threading services for seamless tubular in Brunei, as part of their effort to increase local content including opportunities for local employment. "On behalf of Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn Bhd, I would like to relay my congratulations to SC Tubular Solutions (B) Sdn Bhd (SCTSB) and VAM@ BRN SDN BHD (VAM@ BRN) on the opening of their

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facility at the Salambigar Industrial Park today,” said Haji Kamaludin bin Haji Bungsu, Deputy Managing Director and HR Director of BSP. “BSP is extremely proud to be part of the success in creating one of the largest FDIs in Brunei and demonstrates the strong relationship between His Majesty’s Government, BSP, NSSMC and Sumitomo Corporation to mature this business opportunity. This is crucial as part of the supply chain

activity in supporting the oil and gas industry in the country,” he said. “This will generate not only added value to the company, but also has a significant spin-off from the local business development standpoint, thus creating jobs for our locals. BSP believes this will attract more foreign investments into Brunei,” he added.

Since the contract signing with NSSMC and Sumitomo Corporation in 2014, VAM® BRN had commenced OCTG local threading services in

November 2016 and has enabled SCTSB to commence its provision of supply chain management services in 2017.

Since then, both companies have been actively operating and supporting BSP hydrocarbon maturation activities.

BSP and both Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation and Sumitomo Corporation have a long partnership of over 40 years.

## The Crown Prince CIPTA Awards 2017



His Royal Highness Prince Doctor Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) presenting a prize to one of the winners.

**Bandar Seri Begawan, May 25** - His Royal Highness Prince Doctor Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's and Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) graced the Crown Prince Creative and Innovative Product and Technological Advancement (CIPTA) Awards ceremony.

The 7th CIPTA Awards is meant to encourage youths and the public to build, process products or creative technology to fulfil the aspirations of the country and ASEAN. The event took place at Serambi Suluh Hall of Tarindak D'Seni.

Upon arrival, His Royal Highness as the Patron of the Crown Prince CIPTA Awards was welcomed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi Bin Haji Osman, the Minister of Education; Professor Doctor Hajah Zohrah binti Hj Sulaiman, the Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Brunei; and Doctor Thomas Jenke, the Managing Director of Brunei LNG Sendirian Berhad.

The ceremony began with the reading of Surah Al-Fatihah and Doa Selamat led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Imam Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Hamid bin Bakal.

In the welcoming address, Professor Doctor Hajah Zohrah among other things highlighted UTB's important

role in nurturing interest in the teaching and learning of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Doctor Hajah Zohrah said that the Crown Prince CIPTA Competition provides an eco-system capable of generating top quality creative and innovative talents as well as adding value to the country's productivity. This is in line with the competition's theme, 'Innovation for Sustainable Economy'.

The Crown Prince CIPTA Awards is a top priority initiative as it is in line with the national aspiration to produce creative and innovative designers in science and technology, particularly among local youth and students.

This year's theme reflects the country's desire to diversify the economy through knowledge and innovation. The biennial competition is organised by UTB with the cooperation and sponsorship of Brunei LNG Sendirian Berhad.

Doctor Hajah Norzainah binti Haji Siau, the Co-Chair of CIPTA 2017 Technical Committee comments on the judging of the event disclosed that some of the products of the Crown Prince CIPTA Awards are environmental friendly and some of the products have the potential for further expansion through laboratory testing aimed at improving their quality.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince then consented to present the awards to the winners of the Crown Prince CIPTA AWARDS 2017. There were no first and second place winners in the Product Creation, Process or New Technology Category and the third place goes to Awang Haji Weston bin Sulaiman with his Revolving Griller project. Awang Haji Weston received \$2,000, a certificate and a trophy.

There was no first place winner in the Product, Process or Existing Technology Category. The second place was won by Awang Haji Muhd Zuwaini bin Haji Aliyani and Dayang Syazana binti Mohd Jaluddin who entered the Geography Teaching Aid project. They received \$4,000, a certificate and a trophy. The 'Great Hanger' project designed by Dayang Amanina @ Nur Fatin binti Haji Bakar and Dayang Nurul Bahriah binti Haji Latip were the third place winners and received two thousand dollars, a certificate and a trophy.

The 'Green Smart Portable Aquaponics, SPA' System designed by Dayangku Nurul Syasya Aqilah binti Pengiran Haji Omardani, Dayang Rasyidah binti Shahrani and

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His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) in a group photo during the Crown Prince Creative and Innovative Product and Technological Advancement (CIPTA) Awards ceremony.

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Dayang Nur Syakirah binti Shahbuddin of Meragang Sixth Form Centre won in the New Creation or Product Modification, Process or Existing Technology for Young Creators Category. They received three thousand dollars, a certificate and a trophy.

The second place winners were Dayang Nurul Nabiah binti Zulsekin, Awang Mohd Waleed bin Haji Masri and Dexter Poh Tzi Siang of Sayyidina Hassan Secondary School with their project, a 'Vacuum on Water'. They received \$2,000. The 'Footfall Energy Harvester' project designed by Dayang Ammera Fazia @ Adiva binti Sulaiman won third place and received \$1,000.

There was also no winner in the Smart Junior Category. However, the second place was won by Dayang Hasya Darwish binti Johar and Awangku Muhd Nurimtiyaz Syuwar Ili Izzuddin of Berakas Secondary School with their 'Quenching the Thirst- A Self Watering Vase/Pots for Plants' project.

They received eight hundred dollars. The 'Perpetual Spring Charger' project submitted by Awang Habib Abdul Hakim bin Habib Abdul Rashid, Awang Albert Chong Kim Seng and Dayang Seline Phang Min Sing of Sayyidina Hassan Secondary School was in third place and received five hundred dollars.

In the ASEAN Category for New Design and Innovation, the winners were Awang Mohd Shiradzi bin Ishak, Wan Khairul Aswandi bin Wan Mohd Ali and Awang Syarifuddin bin Ismail from Sarawak's Miri Industrial Training Institute with the 'Welder Arm V 1.0' project. The team received six thousand dollars. Meanwhile, there were no winners in the ASEAN Young Designers Category.

In this year's event which is the seventh of the biennial series, no winners qualified to receive the Crown Prince Trophy from His Royal Highness the Crown Prince.

His Royal Highness then received a 'Pasambah' from the CIPTA 2017 Organising Committee. His Royal Highness the Crown Prince later toured the CIPTA Awards 2017 exhibition.

The competition provides a platform for designers with keen interest and good creativity to produce innovative products of top quality which are beneficial to the well-be-

ing of the universal population.

The competition received 47 entries, 10 of which were from ASEAN countries. The other 37 were local entries. The ASEAN entries also acted as catalysts to competition among local participants as well as a benchmark of quality for every CIPTA Awards competition.

Inspiring the youth and public to develop products, processes or creative technology in line with the national aspiration, as well as encouraging designing and innovation in the country are among the objectives of the competition.

The Crown Prince CIPTA Awards also assists the country's agenda in the field of Science, Technology and Engineering towards achieving the target ratio of 60:40 for Science and Literature degree graduates. The presence of His Royal Highness reflected His Royal Highness's care and concern for the development of design and innovation in Science, Technology and Engineering.



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince views an exhibition by one of the participants.



## Crown Prince Unveils Made in Brunei Initiative



The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, inaugurated and officially launched Made in Brunei Initiative.

**Bandar Seri Begawan, May 6 –** His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, inaugurated and officially launched Made in Brunei Initiative.

The launching ceremony took place at the BRIDEX International Conference Centre in Jerudong in conjunction with the 1st Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Innovation Conference and Expo and the Brunei China-Asean Expo (CAEXPO) Exhibition 2017, which was officiated by His Royal Highness.

The Made in Brunei initiative aims to create awareness locally and internationally that Brunei produces high quality products. It will especially help MSMEs to enter high value segments that may have high entry costs, thereby increasing their visibility and sales.

In the first phase, the Made in Brunei initiative will be launched in three areas– an in-flight brochure; displays in key locations; and

supermarket shelves.

THE MSME Innovation Conference and Expo, held jointly with the CAEXPO Brunei Exhibition 2017 at the BRIDEX Hall from May 6-8, provided a valuable platform for local small businesses in acquiring more public exposure for their products and services.

About 200 enterprises joined the expo, selling food, baked goods, pharmaceuticals, ICT services,

cosmetics and clothes. There was also participation from several local companies promoting inbound tours and travel.

Currently, over 40 products including food, health and beauty, handicraft, heritage and unique hand-made items are part of the first phase of the initiative and Darussalam Enterprise (DARe) is considering to increase the line of products.

After the launching ceremony, His Royal Highness also launched the businessBN website and the Made in Brunei initiative before proceeding to tour the exhibition.

The businessBN website is a portal, which provides a whole-of-government service connecting the local and international business community as well as aspiring entrepreneurs to all the latest information on government services related to doing business in Brunei Darussalam.

The Made in Brunei initiative is an initiative by DARE which aims to create awareness locally and internationally that Brunei produces high quality products.

The expo provides a platform for local Bruneian companies to showcase their products and services. About 200 local MSMEs are participating in the Made in Brunei Market Fair.

In addition, 31 MPK (village consultative councils) from all four districts are showcasing their products from the One Village, One Product initiative at the event, which range from traditional crafts

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About 200 enterprises joined the expo, selling food, baked goods, pharmaceuticals, ICT services cosmetics and clothing. There was also participation from several local companies promoting inbound tours and travel.



## Crown Prince attends religious ceremony to mark 56th RBAF anniversary

**Bandar Seri Begawan, May 31** - His Royal Highness Prince General Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and the General of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) attended a religious ceremony at the Ministry of Defence's Surau Ad-Difa' in the Bolkiah Garrison, to commemorate the RBAF's 56th anniversary.

His Royal Highness arrival at the Bolkiah Garrison was welcomed by the Deputy Minister of Defence, First Admiral (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Abdul Aziz bin Haji Mohd Tamit; and the Commander of the RBAF, Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Mohd Tawih bin Abdullah.

The ceremony began with a recitation of selected verses from Surah An-Nahl, by Corporal (U) Musa bin Haji Sahat from the Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF).

This was followed by congregational Zohor prayer accompanied with recitation of the Surah Yaasiin, Tahliil

and thanksgiving prayers, led by Imam Zulfadhli bin Haji Awang and Imam Shuib bin Abdullah.

After the prayers, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince received a 'Junjung Ziarah' from the army personnel present at the ceremony, and signed a royal parchment to commemorate the event.

RBAF marked its anniversary on 31st May, which is normally observed with a grand parade mounted by all units of the armed forces. This year's grand parade, however, has been postponed to a later date, out of respect for the holy month of Ramadhan.

The theme of the RBAF's 56th anniversary celebration is 'Bersama Menjayakan Wawasan Negara' (Together in accomplishing the National Vision).

Also present at yesterday's religious ceremony were Captain (Rtd) Abdul Rahman bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence; service commanders; deputy permanent secretaries; and senior officers from the Ministry of Defence and RBAF.



His Royal Highness Prince General Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and General of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) attended a religious ceremony at the Ministry of Defence's Surau Ad-Difa' in the Bolkiah Garrison, to commemorate the RBAF's 56th anniversary.



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and treats. Several companies from Sabah, Sarawak, Vietnam and Indonesia are also set to participate in the expo.

The Made in Brunei Market Fair provides the opportunity for local MSMEs to shine through with their best marketing and packaging strategies and showcase their products so that consumers and buyers will choose to support local businesses. The market fair also provides the opportunity for potential investors and distributors that attend this fair to meet their future partners and help local enterprises grow and increase their overseas export potential.

THE MSME Innovation Conference and Expo, held conjointly with the China-Asean Expo (CAEXPO) Brunei Exhibition 2017 at the BRIDEX Hall.

## Inauguration Ceremony of New Building of the Oxford Centre For Islamic Studies



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen, son of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as personal representative of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to attend the Inauguration Ceremony of New Building of The Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies at Oxford, United Kingdom.

**London, May 31** - His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, as the personal representative of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to attend the Inauguration Ceremony of New Building of The Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies at Oxford, United Kingdom.

Upon arrival at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, His Royal Highness was greeted by Dr Farhan Nizami, Director of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies and His Royal Highness Prince Turkey Al-Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen has also consented to attend a reception at the Oman Hall. During the reception, His Royal Highness had the opportunity to meet His Royal Highness Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales and other special guests including His Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di-

Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, Sultan Muhammad V; His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Crown Prince of Bahrain; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin Salman Al-Saud from Saudi Arabia; and His Highness Sayyid Haitam bin Tariq Al Said from the Sultanate of Oman before proceeding to a luncheon together with His Royal Highness Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales and other special guests.

Prior to the launching ceremony, Dr Farhan Nizami, the Director of the Oxford for Islamic Studies gave welcoming remarks followed by a speech by His Royal Highness Prince Turkey Al-Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies. The launching of the new building of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies commenced with a speech by His Royal Highness Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales and followed by the official plaque launching of the new building.

## His Majesty Consents for the Promotion of His Royal Highness 920 Acting Captain Prince 'Abdul Mateen to Substantive Captain (Air Force)

**Bandar Seri Begawan, May 26** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) has consented for the promotion of His Royal Highness 920 Acting Captain Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah to Substantive Captain (Air Force) in the Royal Brunei Air Force. This promotion took effect on May 9, 2017.

Last year, His Majesty the Sultan

and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces consented to promote and put on the rank insignia of an Acting Captain on His Royal Highness in a ceremony held at the Bolkiah Garrison Officers' Mess on August 31, 2016. The promotion was effective as of May 9, 2016.

His Royal Highness is an outstanding military officer with a career path that began as an Officer Cadet undergoing basic training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS), which started



His Royal Highness 920 Substantive Captain (Air Force) Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah.

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on May 9, 2010. He graduated from RMAS as a Second Lieutenant on April 15, 2011. His Royal Highness further progressed up the rank when he was promoted to Substantive Lieutenant on July 9, 2012.

His Royal Highness is pursuing a career as a military pilot and successfully completed a seven-month Elementary Flying Training at Royal Air Force (RAF) Cranwell, United Kingdom on April 28, 2017. His Royal Highness Captain (U) Prince 'Abdul Mateen will join the Single Engine Rotary Wing (SERW) Flying Training at RAF Shawbury in the United Kingdom in September 2017 prior to qualifying as a helicopter pilot.

## International Banking Conference



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Home Affairs, who is also the Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors of Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam, AMBD at the International Banking Conference, IBC 2017. The conference took place at the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

**Bandar Seri Begawan, May 14** - Small and Medium Enterprises (SME)'s must have the ability to adapt to changing conditions as well as perseverance and entrepreneurial skills to enable them to ride through the near term challenges. This will allow them to grow and enhance their contribution to the country's economy, thereby supporting the country's efforts in economic diversification and growth.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Home Affairs, who is also the Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors of Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD) highlighted the matters in his Keynote Address at the International Banking Conference (IBC) 2017. The conference took place at the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

According to Yang Berhormat Pehin, the development of a strong and dynamic SME sector is a priority on most countries' national agenda including Brunei Darussalam. The development and growth of SMEs will have significant potential to contribute to the country's prospects and become a key source of future growth. Indeed, Yang Berhormat Pehin added, this will support the country's efforts in economic diversification which is in line with the aspiration of the Government of His Majesty Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam towards Vision 2035.

The conference themed, 'Future Development of

SMEs- Unlocking the Potential', aimed to provide a platform for the local small and medium enterprises and financial institutions to share their experiences and provide new perspective especially from the standpoint of the development of SMEs in the ASEAN region.

The one-day conference was organised by the Centre for Islamic Banking, Finance and Management (CIBFM) in association with the Brunei Association of Banks (BAB) and with the support of AMBD.

## The Republic of the Philippines held Diplomatic Reception

**Bandar Seri Begawan, May 23** - The diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and Republic of the Philippines was further strengthened by the recent State Visit of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to the Philippines, back-to-back with His Majesty's attendance in the 30th ASEAN Summit last April in Manila, and the State Visit of His Excellency President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to the country in October last year.

His Excellency Meynardo LB Montealegre, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to the country highlighted the matter at a Diplomatic Reception to mark the 119th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence.

Representing His Majesty's government at the ceremony was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Home Affairs.

In his speech, His Excellency said that the MoU between the Brunei Darussalam and Philippines on Halal Industry and Halal Export Development and Promotion aims to boost trade figures between the two countries through cooperation initiatives for halal products and services. The Agreement on Cultural Cooperation on the other hand, among others enhances and facilitates exchanges of visits and materials, and the protection of cultural heritage. His Excellency also expressed the Philippines' appreciation to His Majesty, the government and the people of Brunei Darussalam for the hospitality accorded to more than 20,000 Filipinos in the country.

## Philanthropy for Humanitarian Aid Conference

**Bandar Seri Begawan, May 23** - The government of Brunei Darussalam has introduced numerous initiatives to inculcate humanitarianism through a whole of nation approach, whereby continuous efforts aimed at helping the vulnerable and less fortunate are actively initiated in the country by all levels of society.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohamad Yusof, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports who is also the Acting Minister of Health stated

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this matter at the opening ceremony of the Conference on Philanthropy for Humanitarian Aid (CONPHA) 2017.

According to Yang Berhormat Pehin, the multi-sectorial initiatives have not only helped those in Brunei Darussalam but have also improved the lives of those who need help in other parts of the world.

The ceremony continued with a keynote presentation entitled "Philanthropy and humanitarian aid" presented by Professor Abdul Ghafar bin Ismail, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Economics and Islamic Finance, Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University (UNISSA). More than 30 papers were presented during the conference, which discuss issues on almsgiving, endowment, general charity, Sukuk, micro finance and other related economic and Islamic finance. The participants consists of academics, practitioners, researchers, policy makers and others from local and foreign countries as well as post-graduate students of institutions of higher learning in the country and abroad.

With the theme "Philanthropy for Humanitarian Aid as a mechanism to alleviate poverty and maintain human dignity", the two-day conference aims to bring together researchers, practitioners and policy makers related to the issues of humanitarian aid. It is also intended to be a platform for discussion of issues relevant to the resolution, the ideas and the sharing of knowledge and experience, which is expected to submit proposals that



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohamad Yusof, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports who is also the Acting Minister of Health at the 'Opening Ceremony of Conference on Philanthropy for Humanitarian Aid CONPHA 2017'.

can be implemented to improve the management of humanitarian aid generosity.

CONPHA is jointly organised by UNISSA; the International Research Centre of Islamic Economics and Finance of Selangor Islamic University College (KUIS), Malaysia and the Islamic Research and Training Institute, International Islamic Development Bank (IRTI-IDB), Saudi Arabia. Also present were Datin Paduka Doctor Hajah Norlila binti Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Jalil, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and Doctor Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, the Rector of UNISSA.

## International Museum Day Celebration



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports at the launch of International Museum Day 2017 held at the Royal Wharf Art Gallery in the capital.

### Bandar Seri Begawan, May 17

- Historical artefacts can only be assessed by selected individuals who are capable of evaluating and appreciating the said items. Identifying a historical artefact means identifying the previous generation's culture, history and civilisation.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohamad Yusof hoped that such an initiative could be targeted to the youth as the continuing generation. This was stated during the launch of International Museum Day 2017 at the Royal Wharf Art Gallery in the capital.

Hence, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports stressed on the need of collaboration and work partnership enhancement among the Museums Department, the Brunei History Centre, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) as well as collectors to increase research and documentation of historical values.

According to Yang Berhormat Pehin, the country's citizens and residents should also appreciate historical artefacts, and it is the duty at various levels to preserve and search for items that can benefit the future generation. The celebration ran concurrently with the launching of a book published by the Museums

Department titled "Mengenal dan Mewarna: Kraftangan Brunei Kain Tenunan".

At the gathering, participants received certificate and souvenirs while the appreciation certificate was presented to sponsors and contributors for the year 2016. This year's celebration carried the theme "Muzium dan Cabaran Sejarah: Menyatakan yang Tidak Terungkap dalam Muzium", or 'Museums and Contested Histories: Saying the Unspeakable in Museums'.

A KRAF Exhibition was also held which was co-organised by the Museums Department, UBD and Creative Space Art Gallery and Studio. More than 30 artists were involved in the exhibition which focused on the values of art and culture based on the context of globalisation. It showcased contested histories between arts and handicrafts, traditional and modern as well as the young generation and senior citizens. The exhibition aimed to involve local art enthusiasts in celebrating the International Museum Day 2017 by providing the opportunity to display their respective arts.



## Agree To Rebalancing Oil Prices

**Bandar Seri Begawan, May 6** - Brunei Darussalam and the Government of Saudi Arabia have agreed to explore and collaborate in potential areas of interest including the supply of crude oil from Saudi Arabia to develop Brunei Darussalam's growing downstream petrochemical sector and potential investment by companies from Saudi Arabia.

The agreement was reached during a courtesy call made by His Excellency Khalid Al-Falih, the Minister of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Singamanteri Retired Colonel Dato Seri Setia Doctor Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar, Minister of Energy and Industry at the Prime Minister's Office.

During the bilateral meeting, His Excellency also invited Brunei Darussalam officials to learn Saudi Arabia's experiences in oil and gas industry.

His Excellency's visit to the country is timely with the directive of both leaders, where both countries can have the opportunity to explore further bilateral cooperation and economic opportunities. Both ministers also discussed the potential of extending the existing OPEC and Non-OPEC Declaration of Cooperation signed in December 2016, which has set out the production



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Singamanteri Retired Colonel Dato Seri Setia Doctor Awang Haji Yasmin bin Haji Umar, Minister of Energy and Industry at the Prime Minister's Office and His Excellency Khalid Al-Falih, Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

adjustment of crude oil from participating countries including Brunei Darussalam and Saudi Arabia, for another six months from July to December 2017 that has the main objective of stabilising and rebalancing oil prices.

His Excellency disclosed the matters during a luncheon hosted by the Minister of Energy and Industry at the Prime Minister's Office before departing the country.

## National Savings Day 2017 and Financial Showcase



Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd Roselan bin Haji Mohd Daud, Acting Minister of Energy and Industry at the Prime Minister's Office as a member of the Board of Director of Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam.

**Bandar Seri Begawan, May 25** - Financial investment is one of a sophisticated financial management aspect and needs specific financial knowledge in the form of understanding and managing related risks. Hence, such financial investment products will only be offered by professional institutions and individuals whom are licensed by the authoritative party.

The matters were among other things touched by Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd Roselan bin

Haji Mohd Daud, Acting Minister of Energy and Industry at the Prime Minister's Office as a member of the Board of Director of Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD) at the National Savings Day 2017 Ceremony and a financial Showcase.

Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd Roselan said that AMBD statistics has shown that the number of individual financial investment has increased to 13 per cent last year compared to the year before. However, effort to disseminate information on investment products and services in the country need to be further enhanced.

According to the survey carried out by AMBD with the cooperation of Brunei Darussalam Capital Market, BCMA, only 36 per cent from the respondents surveyed have financial investment apart from savings in the bank.

Among the reasons given by the respondents were lacks of knowledge on the matters. As such, that Dato Paduka believes with the official establishment of BCMA, they can cooperate with

other stakeholders in making the country's aspiration a realisation in enhancing the public's knowledge and their level of financial literate on financial products as well as investment.

The establishment of Brunei Darussalam Capital Market Association, BMCA, was also officiated by Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd Roselan at the ceremony.

Later, he gave away prizes to winners of the Radio Promo Competition which was opened to government and private secondary school as well as Video Promo Competition which was opened to the public in conjunction with National Savings Day 2017.

Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd Roselan also took a closer look at a Financial Showcase at the Lobby of The Mall, Gadong. The one-day exhibition showcased financial management products and services. Among the institutions taking part in the showcase were AMBD, Tabung Amanah Pekerja, Baiduri Bank Berhad, Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam and Standard Chartered Bank.

## The 14th Asean Chiefs Of Defence Forces Informal Meeting (ACDFIM)

**Manila, May 17** - Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Mohd Tawih bin Abdullah, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), attended the 14th Asean Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting (ACDFIM).

Themed 'Asean Chiefs of Defence: Partnering for Change and Collaborative Engagement', the conference was held in Manila, Philippines from May 17-19.

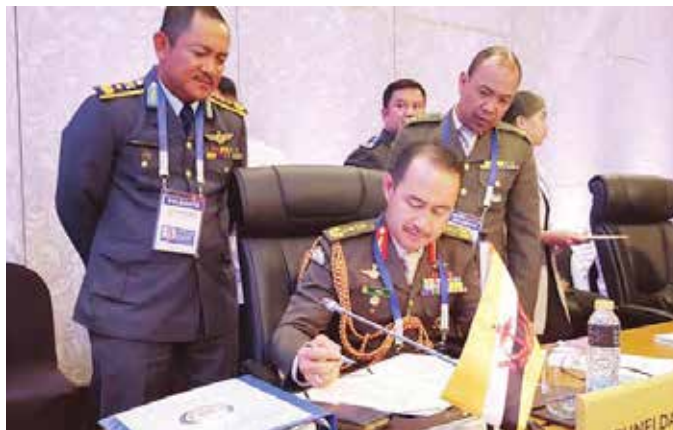
During the meeting, the Asean Chiefs of Defence Forces agreed to enhance their cooperation through confidence-building initiatives and practical cooperation activities such as organising meetings, exchanges and exercises as agreed upon in the Asean Militaries Two Year Activity Work Plan (2017-2019).

Prior to the ACDFIM, the 7th Asean Military Operations Informal Meeting (AMOIM) and 14th Asean Military Intelligence Informal

Meeting (AMIIM) were also held on May 16, 2017. Representing the RBAF for AMOIM and AMIIM were the Joint Force Commander and the Director of Intelligence respectively.

At AMOIM, the Asean Heads of Military Operations continued to pursue the voluntary two-year Activity Work Plan (2017-2019) as

a guideline for multilateral activities of Asean militaries. Meanwhile, AMIIM continued its progress in furthering the potentials of an Asean-centric network, promoting intelligence exchanges and interactions between the Asean military intelligence communities.



Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Mohd Tawih bin Abdullah, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), attended the 14th Asean Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting (ACDFIM).

## Legal Framework For Insolvency

**Bandar Seri Begawan, May 29** - The Ministry of Finance announced that His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented for the introduction of the Insolvency (Amendment) Order, 2017; Insolvency (Winding Up) (Fees) Rules, 2017; and Insolvency (Judicial Management) Rules,

2017 which are aimed to further strengthen the insolvency legal framework in Brunei Darussalam and took effect starting 29th May 2017.

The Insolvency (Amendment) Order, 2017 includes amendments which give greater creditors' participation in any insolvency matters of a company. With these amendments, the nomination of a liquidator is to be approved by the creditors.

Also, the creditor has the right to access all information about insolvency proceedings relating to the company, including financial records of the company to ensure that the creditors are well informed on the company's financial position.

By further strengthening the creditors' protection and participation in insolvency proceedings, it is hoped that it will improve the rate of recovery for the creditors of an insolvent company.

## UNISSA Endorsed MoU With Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University

**Bandar Seri Begawan, May 23** - an effort to raise the status of one of the education institutions in this country to the international level, the Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University, (UNISSA) today, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Turkey's Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University. The

ceremony was held at the Auditorium Hall, UNISSA.

The MoU was sanctioned by Doctor Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, the Rector of UNISSA and Professor Doctor Mehmet Bulut, the President of the Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University.

Through the MoU, both parties

have agreed to cooperate in various fields including in exchanging experts and students, exchanging publications, to organize workshops and training programmes, research and development projects, joint learning programmes and other fields that are related to both universities' expertise.



## World No Tobacco Day

**Bandar Seri Begawan, May 31** – Each and every person has his or her own roles and responsibilities in the war against tobacco, and working together, we will create a tobacco-free Brunei. Those of us who do not smoke can commit to never take up tobacco products, while those who do use tobacco can seek help in quitting the habit and making the right choice for their health.

Brunei Darussalam joined the global community to mark World No Tobacco Day on the 31st of May. This year's theme is 'Tobacco - a threat to development', and highlights tobacco's use as a

threat to individuals, families and communities, and the real human cost it brings in terms of suffering, disease, and death, impoverishing families and the socio-economic development.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Doctor Awang Haji Zulkarnain bin Haji Hanafi, the Minister of Health stated that money that are not used on tobacco products can be spent on other basic needs including health, food and education.

“Despite the enforcement of the Tobacco Order 2005, tobacco products are still sold illegally in the black market. This poses a serious

threat to our society and the whole community needs to take action to ensure that as a society, the health and wellbeing of us and our children remains a top priority,” stated the Minister.

The Minister of Health in a message in conjunction with World No Tobacco Day, added that quitting smoking can be difficult for many people and the Ministry of Health will provide assistance in supporting those individuals who are trying to stop smoking.

**World No Tobacco Day | 31 . 05 . 17**

**Tobacco use** affects the health of individuals, families & communities

Tobacco use affects **productivity** & increases **healthcare costs**

**“Tobacco – a threat to development”**

**20%** of the adult & **11%** of the youth population in Brunei Darussalam continue to smoke

Smuggling, distributing & buying tobacco products on the black market is a criminal activity

**Non-smokers:** never take up tobacco products and e-cigarette such as vape

**Smokers:** quit today

Seek help to quit: visit your nearest health centre or hospital

**Do your part**  
Spread the word

For more information: 123