



# بروني دارالسلام

## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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*His Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Al-Haj and The Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Siti Aishah were being welcomed on arrival at Istana Nurul Iman by His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam.*

## ***Further strengthen economic relations by encouraging investment - His Majesty***

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has urged Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia to further strengthen economic relations by encouraging their private sectors to in-

vest in the two countries.

Entrepreneurs from both countries should continue to work together to grab business opportunities available in the region, particularly in the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East Asian Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), as such cooperation would

help further upgrade trade between countries in the area, said His Majesty.

His Majesty was speaking in a titah (royal address) at a Royal Banquet held in honour of His Majesty Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Al-Haj ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Hisamuddin Alam

*\* Continued on centre page*



## **BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER**

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### **YOUR TURN**

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 29 February 2000. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-383941 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.

## ***His Majesty congratulates New Zealand on Waitangi Day***

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam expressed his happiness with the cordial relationship and close understanding which have been long established between His Majesty government and New Zealand under His Excellency The Right Honourable Sir Michael Hardie-Boys, the Governor General of New Zealand.

His Majesty believes that the existing ties between both governments and their people will continue to be strengthened in the future in the interest of both countries and their people.

His Majesty also expressed the hope that the people of New Zealand will continue to prosper under the lead-

ership of the Governor General and Prime Minister, The Honourable Ms Helen Clarke.

In His Majesty's message in conjunction with New Zealand's Waitangi Day on 6 February, His Majesty also congratulated The Honourable Ms Clarke, while expressing the hope that Ms Clarke will continue to enjoy prosperity and peace.

Meanwhile, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah Foreign Affairs Minister also sent a similar message to his New Zealand counterpart in conjunction with Waitangi Day.

His Royal Highness expressed his sincere appreciation to New Zealand for helping Brunei Darussalam in preparations to host the APEC summit this November.

## **Nigeria is keen on Brunei's oil and gas industry**

**B**runei Darussalam will become a role model for the Republic of Nigeria in the oil and gas industrial infrastructure, in view of the fact that the country has long been involved in the industry, and oil and gas is the Sultanate's main export.

The Republic of Nigeria will learn something about the industry, particularly in the aspects of development, education, social service and infrastructure practiced by the country.

Delegation consisting of senators

and members from Nigeria's Chamber of National Assembly met the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abd. Rahman, at the Ministry on 8 February, as part of their working visit and orientation.

During the visit, the delegation was also briefed on the development of Brunei industries, particularly in tourism, which now plays an important role in the country's development.



*The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman receiving a call from members of Nigeria's Chamber of National Assembly.*



# APEC - SOM 1

## Better and more effective outreach programme needed

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Senior Officials Meeting (SOM 1 Retreat) held from 12 – 20 February in Kuala Belalong in the Temburong district, had stressed the need for better and more effective outreach programme explaining the benefits of trade and investment liberalization.

Speaking at the Press Conference held at the International Convention Centre on 13 February, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Paduka Awang Lim Jock Seng, who also chaired the meeting said, the Retreat had an exchange of views on the outcome of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) meeting in Seattle, and reaffirmed its commitment to the WTO and explored ways by which APEC can contribute to progress the work in Geneva.

The Retreat noted that the Trade Ministers meeting in Darwin in June and the APEC Leaders meeting in November are vital dates for APEC and that these two meetings will provide the opportunities for APEC to give political impetus to

the work of the WTO.

The Co-Chairs of the APEC Finance Deputies from New Zealand and Brunei Darussalam were also present to brief the Retreat on activities in the Finance Ministers' process. There was also a very effective exchange during the Retreat with co-chairs of the APEC Finance Deputies process in response to the call by leaders to integrate all the processes of APEC.

In the evening, the Retreat had a general discussion on the future course of APEC and in looking to the future, senior officials saw the need to be well grounded and build upon the cumula-

tive wisdom of the past.

Senior officials from member economies as well as the APEC Secretariat, Chairs of the Committee on Trade and Investment, SOM Sub-Committee on Economic Technical Cooperation (ESC), and Budget and Management Committee (BMC) attended the meeting.

On 12 February, the 21 members of APEC Economies attended the SOM Informal Meeting in Bangar, Temburong. The officials also visited the Amo Longhouse, Brunei Darussalam Logistic Outward Bound at Batang Duri and the Ulu Temburong National Park.



*The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Paduka Awang Lim Jock Seng, chairing the 12<sup>th</sup> Informal Senior Official Meeting, APEC held in Bangar, Temburong.*

## APEC 2000 'Delivering to the Community'

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference (APEC 2000) to be hosted in Brunei Darussalam this year bears the theme 'Delivering to the Community'. The theme will be the foundation to series of meetings in effort to achieve prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

Speaking at the Press Conference

at the International Convention Centre on 10 February, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Paduka Awang Lim Jock Seng said, attention will also be given to all cooperative efforts by member countries in establishing a strong basis for economic re-

covery.

He said, this year long, APEC would seek several new possibilities as well as broaden existing cooperation to strengthen the economy of APEC member countries.

In the midst of the technology

*\* Continued on page 11*



The Islamic Bank of Brunei (IBB) has set up his 12<sup>th</sup> branch in Temburong, which not only offers banking and insurance services but also serves to ensure that the bank operation's is based on the 'Syariah' or Islamic law.

"The setting-up of the Islamic Bank of Brunei (IBB) branch as well as Takaful or Islamic Insurance services in the Temburong district will ensure a complete unit in the bank's service network throughout the country," said the Chairman and Managing Director of the Islamic Bank of Brunei Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Rahman during the opening ceremony of the bank's and Takaful Insurance branches in Temburong on 3 February.

He added, IBB will continue its effort to upgrade and improve their ability and efficiency in providing services at all IBB and Insurance branches. It is the responsibility of the IBB to ensure high quality of services, as the insurance sector is crucial to the socio-economic mechanism in Temburong in particular and the country in general.

The Takaful Insurance office had been previously incorporated with the Postal Service Office in the district.

# IBB's new branch in Temburong



*The Chairman and Managing Director of IBB, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Lela Raja Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Awang Abdul Rahman, officiating the IBB and IBB Takaful's new branch at the Bumiputera Commercial Complex in Bangar, Temburong.*

## Medical practitioners urged to be continually self-renewing

Medical practitioners in the country need to be continually self-renewing, to be aware of and perhaps be able to apply the latest that medical research has to offer to enrich their practice, said the Acting Minister of Health.

"As saying goes, 'No one knows everything and you don't know what you don't know'. Thus, it would be sheer arrogance for anyone, including the best medical practitioner, to presume that he or she has nothing more to learn from others. Moreover, such an attitude could ultimately jeopardise the health and well-being of their patients," he reminded.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji

Awang Abdul Aziz, who is also the Temporary Acting Minister of Health made the reminder before he launched the Diploma in Primary Health Care held at Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) on 9 February.

The initiative was the first post-graduate programme of its kind for medical practitioners, which represented a significant milestone in the development of medical and health services in the country, and provides doctors the unique opportunity to continue with their professional development after obtaining their first medical degree.

The Minister also advised doctors to attend medical conventions and courses, in addition to the local Con-

tinuing Medical Education (CME) Programme currently undergoing in the hospitals, and cultivate the habit of reading current medical journals and medical research literature, and discussing with their colleagues the relevance and practicality of these findings to Brunei Darussalam in order to keep up to date with the latest in medical breakthrough.

He said, a good doctor should undergo continuous self-renewal through the process of self-audit by asking who she is and how does she go forward to improve herself.

His Majesty's Government through the Health Ministry is currently in the

*\* Continued on page 5*



process of re-directing and expanding the role of the Primary Health Care System, and is giving high priority and allocating more resources to improving the system.

The implementation of the Primary Health Care Diploma is timely as we aim to develop a comprehensive and continuing, individualized and personalised health care system, that places emphasis on prevention rather than cure, said the Minister.

He hoped our doctors who are at the forefront of health services would take a greater interest in the long-term health of their patients by applying a holistic approach in maintaining or improving their physical, psychological and social well-being.

“Our doctors ought to demonstrate a caring approach in taking responsibility for co-ordinating their patients’ total health care needs. They should therefore help their patient to take preventive measures, rather than resort mainly to the traditional practice of providing curative treatment,” he said.

Meanwhile, the Permanent Secretary of the Health Ministry, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Ahmad informed that the Diploma in Primary Health Care is a three-year part time course with fourteen modules being delivered over the period. The doctors will be able to pursue Master’s degree, if they pass with good grades and also be eligible to sit for the MRCGP exam, set by the Royal College for General Practitioners, London.

The officials also spoke on several projects being implemented. These include the setting up of the equipment library, Continuous Medical Education and Advanced Nursing Practice, Internship Nursing Programme, Implementation of the Adverse Drug Reaction Registry, Internal Enquiry Board, Pre-operation procedure including operation theatre administration arrangement, Improvement of the Accident and Emergency Department, Reviewing the procedure for radiation safety, the establishment of clinical quality assessment committee, Homepage for the Health Ministry and the Establishment of Child Development Care.

## Unleaded petrol to be fully used with effect from 1 March

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has agreed to the fully use of unleaded petrol with effect from 1 March, said the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources.

Beginning 1 March, leaded petrol such as ‘Regular’ and ‘Supershell’ will be replaced with new products containing no lead.

In a speech at Board of Oil and Gas (BOGA) Night at Jerudong Polo Club on 5 February, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman said, as a country with a small population, limited land area and water resources compared to other countries in the region, Brunei Darussalam always gives due concern on health and prosperity of its citizens and people, and views pollution issue as priority.

Upstream and downstream activities of oil and gas industry are frequently connected to pollution and ruins of the environment, he said. However, after being engaged in the industry, the Brunei Shell Petroleum Company has been able to avoid serious incidents on pollution and ruins of the environment.

At present, more than 75 per cent of the country’s area is covered with proper forest reserve, rich with flora and fauna, and water free from pollution, he said.

The Minister further said that we should not be complacent with the increase in oil price at present, which this year, reaches US\$24 to US\$26 a barrel, but should look on our past experience, so that we would be more ready to face new challenges in the future.

He said, crude oil and natural liq-

uefied gas play a major role in the country’s economic growth, and in this respect, he added, His Majesty’s Government will give priority towards efforts to upgrade the country’s economic diversification, particularly in the oil and gas industry, and will continue to strengthen the industry.

In this respect, he said, His Majesty’s Government will continue to carry out economic programmes, including proposals forwarded by the Brunei Economic Council.

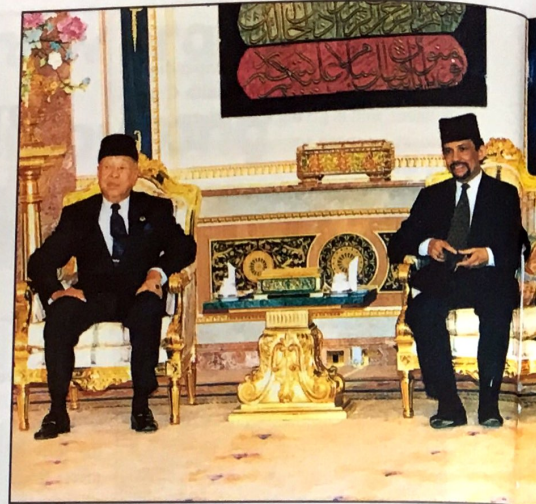
“The government, through BOGA will continue to diversify oil and gas industry, particularly in upstream and downstream activities, and identify effective methodologies implemented by regional countries in developing the oil and gas industry in their country and overseas. The Government will also open up new potential areas to be explored, especially in the deep-sea zone and several land areas,” said Yang Berhormat.

The Minister also stressed the importance of the involvement of locals in the local companies. The government authority will continue to ensure that there are overall plannings for locals to fill main and important positions, including heads in the administration and management in all companies, where the government has its share.

The government authority would also emphasise on giving local Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) the opportunity to carry out activities conducted by the companies.

With the opportunity and confidence given to local SMEs, he said, these enterprises will grow, comparable to companies, which have established overseas.





His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Al-Haj, during a welcoming ceremony at Istana Nurul Iman, above. Picture left shows, His Majesty The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam inspecting guard of honour mounted by 96 personnel from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri, Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri, His Majesty The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, Her Majesty The Raja Permaisuri Agong and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah at a Banquet held at Istana Nurul Iman.



\* From page one  
(Visit of Yang Di-Pertuan Agong)

Shah Al-Haj, Yang Di Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and The Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tuanku Siti Aishah at Istana Nurul Iman on 31 January.

His Majesty said that his government always wishes to strengthen relations with Malaysia, in the spirit of friendship and cooperation based on mutual respect for sovereignty of both countries.

Relations between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia have been close and strong, and have benefited the people of both countries, His Majesty added.

His Majesty appreciated his annual meetings with the Malaysian Prime Minister, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, which gave the opportunity to further upgrade working and bilateral relations between both countries.

The progress achieved by the Joint Commission of both countries, said His Majesty, has helped to achieve development in fields such as trade, investment, defence, communications as well as those which are related to religion, social affairs and youths.

Both Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia are confident that ASEAN, which now comprises of ten countries in Southeast Asia, will continue to play its important

\* Continued on page 9

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri, Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri, His Majesty The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong and Her Majesty The Raja Permaisuri Agong during a welcoming ceremony at Istana Nurul Iman, above.

Her Majesty The Raja Isteri, Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri and Her Majesty The Raja Permaisuri Agong and other members of the royal family of Brunei Darussalam and Selangor Darul Ehsan, prior to the Banquet at Istana Nurul Iman, below. Also present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and members of the royal family of Selangor Darul Ehsan, bottom of page.





His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri, Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri, His Majesty The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and Her Majesty The Raja Permaisuri Agong attending a dinner hosted by the visiting Malaysian King at Assarraa, right.



Their Majesties The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong and The Raja Permaisuri Agong visiting the Royal Regalia Building near the capital of Bandar Seri Begawan, above, and the Malaysian King, above left, sprinkling 'ayeng asah-asahan' on the graves of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's late parents. Picture left shows Their Majesties The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong and The Raja Permaisuri Agong visiting the weaving section of the Arts and Handicraft Centre at Jalan Residency.



role in bringing about stability, peace and progress in the region, said His Majesty.

The monarch went on to say that the Sultanate appreciates Malaysia's commitment towards ASEAN and will work closely together with Malaysia and other member countries to ensure that the region's stability and healthy growth is strongly maintained.

"Brunei Darussalam will also work closely with Malaysia in regional and international forums, including Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Oil International Conference (OIC), Non-Alignment Movement (NAM), Commonwealth and the United Nations.

"The cultural heritage and values we inherited give us the unique opportunity to contribute in regional and international affairs," added His Majesty.

"The 21<sup>st</sup> century brings with it many challenges, and thus forging closer links in cooperation and understanding would be more crucial," said the monarch.

His Majesty was confident that Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia would continue to work closely to further broaden and enhance their relations in order to upgrade cooperation and understanding.

His Majesty earlier said, the success of the Malaysian King in ruling Selangor Darul Ehsan is an excellent and encouraging achievement, and under the King's wise leadership, Selangor would certainly become a developed country by the year 2005.

Meanwhile, in his return titah, His Majesty Yang Di-Pertuan Agong said that Malaysia would continue its effort to upgrade understanding and cooperation to meet the vision and aspiration of respective country based on the policy of mutual respect.

Malaysia would always be ready to cooperate with Brunei Darussalam in all fields, including economy, trade and investments not only between the two countries, but also among the Third World countries, he said.

The Malaysian King also spoke on the cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia at regional

and international levels in various issues of mutual interest, which has contributed much to the region's peace and security.

The King was confident that Brunei Darussalam is capable of playing its vital role with ASEAN member states in identifying the direction the region should follow.

His Majesty said, the support and contribution Brunei Darussalam has made at the international level, particularly in strengthening Islam and supporting those who are being dominated, are efforts that should be appreciated by Islamic countries.

His Majesty later congratulated Brunei Darussalam for its success in hosting the 20<sup>th</sup> SEA Games and for winning the Malaysia Cup last year and was fully convinced that APEC, to be hosted by Brunei Darussalam this year would be a success and a milestone towards more excellent success in the future.

His Majesty The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, Her Majesty The Raja Permaisuri Agong and delegation arrived in the country in the morning of 31 January for a three-day state visit. This was the King's first state visit since his installation as the 11<sup>th</sup> Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia in April 1999. The visit was on invitation of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, on behalf of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, welcomed the royal entourage at the Brunei International Airport.

The Malaysian's royal delegation include Tengku Panglima Diraja Selangor, Yang Amat Mulia Tengku Sulaiman Shah, Tengku Puteri Johor, Yang Amat Mulia Tengku Puteri Hajjah Kamariah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah and Tengku Puteri Dato' Seri Hajjah Zahariah.

Also in the delegation was Malaysian Information Minister as Minister-In-Attendance, Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Mohd. Khalil Yaacob and Puan Sri Datin Seri Zurina Kassim.

The royal entourage was then

driven in a motorcade to Istana Nurul Iman for a welcoming ceremony by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam and other members of Brunei royal families.

On 1 February, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri, Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri and members of Brunei royal family attended a dinner given by His Majesty The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong and Her Majesty The Raja Permaisuri Agong at Assarraa, near the capital.

While in the country, His Majesty The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong and Her Majesty The Raja Permaisuri Agong visited the Royal Regalia Building in the capital, Arts and Handicraft Centre, Brunei Museum, and a tour around Kampong Ayer.

The Malaysian King has its own itinerary to the Royal Mausoleum to pay homage to His Majesty's late parents, Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, who passed away on 7 September 1986 and Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit, who passed away on 13 September 1979.

Meanwhile, Her Majesty The Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tuanku Siti Aishah visited the Jame' Asr' Hassanal Bolkiah Mosque and the Association for the Handicapped Children (KACA) Building in Kiulap.

While in the country, Their Majesties The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong and The Raja Permaisuri Agong also met the Malaysian citizens at a ceremony held at the International Convention Centre.

Before leaving Brunei Darussalam on 2 February, His Majesty The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong and Her Majesty The Raja Permaisuri Agong made a farewell call to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri at the Balai Penghadapan, Istana Nurul Iman. Other members of Brunei royal family were also present.



# HM Sultan sends congratulatory message

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to send a congratulatory message to His Excellency Mr Hojatole Eslam Seyyed Mohamed Khatami, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the occasion of the Republic's National Day anniversary on 11 February.

In the message, His Majesty expressed grati-

tude on the cordial relations and close understanding, which has been long established between the two countries. His Majesty is confident that such relationship would be further enhanced and upgraded in the future for the benefit of both countries and their people.

His Majesty also hoped that His Excellency would remain in good health and prosperity and the people of the Republic of Iran would always enjoy continuing peace and prosperity.

**B**runei Darussalam and the Sultanate of Oman had agreed to the visa waiver between both countries with effect from 1 February 2000.

The agreement was made in the Sixth Bilateral Consultative Meeting between Brunei Darussalam and the Sultanate of Oman, held in Muscat from 12 February.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended the meeting. The three-day meeting was chaired by His Highness Sayyid Haitam bin Tareq bin Taimour Al-Said, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman.

The Meeting discussed various fields of cooperation aimed at broadening and upgrading bilateral relations between both countries, as well as exchanged views on several regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern. The two Sultanates also expressed gratitude on the progress of bilateral relations.

While in Oman, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna was also granted an audience by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos and called on His Excellency Yusof bin Alawi bin Abdullah, Minister in Responsible for Foreign Affairs.

The next Bilateral Consultative Meeting is expected to be held in Bandar Seri Begawan in 2001.

## Visa waiver between Brunei-Oman with effect from 1 February



*Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, the Ambassador-at-large, attending the 6th consultative Bilateral Meeting in Muscat.. Her Royal Highness was accompanied by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Chateria Sahibon Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abd. Aziz.*



# *UBD establishes Corporation Limited*

Universiti Brunei Darussalam has set up the UBD Corporation Limited ( Koperasi Universiti Brunei Darussalam Berhad ) for its employees.

This would enable the university to gain an independent business entity, which would partly reduce its total dependence on government funds as well as to promote the saving culture among its local staff.

This was highlighted by the Minister of Education, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, the Chairman of the UBD council at the launching of UBD Corporation Limited on 20 January.

He said, the Corporation provides a 'halal' way for Muslims to invest their money. The minister also encouraged the Corporation's Board of Directors to always ensure the activities of the Corporation.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the Corporation, Dr Haji Ismail bin Haji

Duraman said, the Universiti Brunei Darussalam Corporation would take over the purchase of text books, reference books and academic journals.

This will be followed by other business ventures that is closely associated with life in the campus. Through this business venture, the Corporation will be able to take over business ventures by outside firms, he said.

"It is hoped that this will enable UBD to reduce its redundancy on the government. This will open up a source of income for UBD to finance various activities, but most important, it helps and gives opportunity to local officers and staff, especially those from the lower income brackets, to instill saving and investing habits by buying shares in this Corporation, he added.

The Chairman also said that the idea to set up a Corporation already existed since the opening of the uni-

versity in 1985.

"We feel that the launching of the Corporation is timely as we have come out of the economic crisis which hit the region since three years ago. This is the time to look into the future, for the benefit of the university, students as well as members of the Corporation, in the aspects of investment and savings," he said.

He said, at the same time, we must be able to generate revenue, while profit earned means dividends for members who purchase shares.

At present there are 412 local workforce in UBD out of 591 people. From this proportion, 131 are academic staff and 281 are supporting staff who works in the campus.

This show that 70% of the workforce in UBD are locals, majority of whom work as the support staff. This is the group that needs to be supported, economic wise, through the investment scheme in the UBD Corporation.

\* From page 3

( Apec 2000 )

revolution, matters relating to opening up of opportunities in the new millennium need to be emphasised and viewed as priority if the region wants to share and take advantage of the new digital era, he said.

The quick change due to the rapid technology development, particularly in information technology and communications, will open up new ways towards economic prosperity.



The Education Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, launching the UBD Corporation Limited.



# ***HM Sultan receives 'Junjung ziarah' from Brunei pilgrims***

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah had consented to receive 'junjung ziarah' from male pilgrims, who will be performing the Haj in Mecca this year. The ceremony took place at Istana Nurul Iman on 9 February.

At the other corner of Istana Nurul Iman, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam consented to receive the female pilgrims.

During the ceremony, His Majesty also presented souvenirs to the pilgrims.

This year, 1,400 pilgrims in the country will be performing the Haj, the fifth tenet or pillar of Islam, using the Darussalam Holdings Package and several others private packages. The first group from the Darussalam Holdings Package will leave the country on 24 February, while the first group from the private packages will depart on 17 February.



*His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah receive 'junjung ziarah' from male pilgrims, above, while Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam receive 'junjung ziarah' from the female pilgrims, below.*



## ***Brunei in Brief***

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan

Land size : 5765 sq. km.

Population : 314,400 (1997)

Official Language : Malay

Official Religion : Islam

January rainfall : 290.8 mm

**THE TRAFFICKING IN AND THE ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF  
CONTROLLED DRUGS ARE VERY SERIOUS OFFENCES IN  
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM AND THE PENALTY  
FOR SUCH OFFENCES IS DEATH.**