



# بروني دارالسلام

## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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*His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stressing the need to maintain national identity for continued stability of national survival.*

### Uphold national identity for national survival - HM SULTAN

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has stressed the importance for citizens to maintain their national identity for continued stability of national survival.

His Majesty said, many matters and aspirations had been voiced on life in the new millennium. Some point to its challenges and tests, so that people in

the world would be prepared to face these challenges successfully and comfortably.

"For Brunei Darussalam, we look upon the new millennium from several aspects, particularly that which is related to the national survival, to ensure it will continue to exist, and in stability," said His Majesty.

In a titah (royal address) in conjunction with the 16<sup>th</sup> National Day, broad

*\* Continue on centre page*

## COLOURFUL NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION





## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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### YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 31 March 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 Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah The Sultan and Yang Di Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency President Abdurrahman Wahid of Indonesia in the midst of conversation during their meeting at Istana Nurul Iman.*

## Indonesian president on working visit

### *Bilateral matters discussed*

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency President Haji Abdurrahman Wahid of the Republic of Indonesia have been discussing bilateral matters for the benefit of Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia.

At the meeting held at Istana Nurul Iman on 27 February both His Majesty and the President expressed satisfaction at the close friendly relations between their two countries.

Present at the meeting were His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency

Soerjadi Seordirja, Minister for Peace and Political Coordinator of Indonesia and His Excellency Alwi Shihab, Indonesian Foreign Minister.

The meeting was also attended by His Majesty's Special Adviser at the Prime Minister's Office, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa, who is also Home Affairs Minister and the Minister of Education, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz.

Prior to the meeting, His Majesty, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri

*\* Continue on page 3*

*His Excellency President Abdurrahman Wahid and his wife, Ibu Sinta Nuriyah Abdurrahman being welcomed at the Brunei International airport by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah.*







His Majesty, Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam, His Excellency President Abdurrahman Wahid and Ibu Sinta Nuriyah attended a luncheon at Baitur Rahmah, Istana Nurul Iman, above, and right: Ibu Sinta Nuriyah Abdurrahman in conversation with Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam at the audience which was also attended by other members of the royal family and members of the visiting delegation.



*\* From page 2  
( Visit of Indonesian President )*

Hajjah Mariam granted an audience to His Excellency and Ibu Sinta Nuriyah at the Cheradi Lela Kencana, Istana Nurul Iman. The Indonesian President was in the Sultanate for a short-working visit.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and other members of the royal family were also present at the audience.

His Majesty, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri, Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri, His Excellency President Abdurrahman Wahid and Ibu Sinta Nuriyah later attended a luncheon at Baitur Rahmah, Istana Nurul Iman.

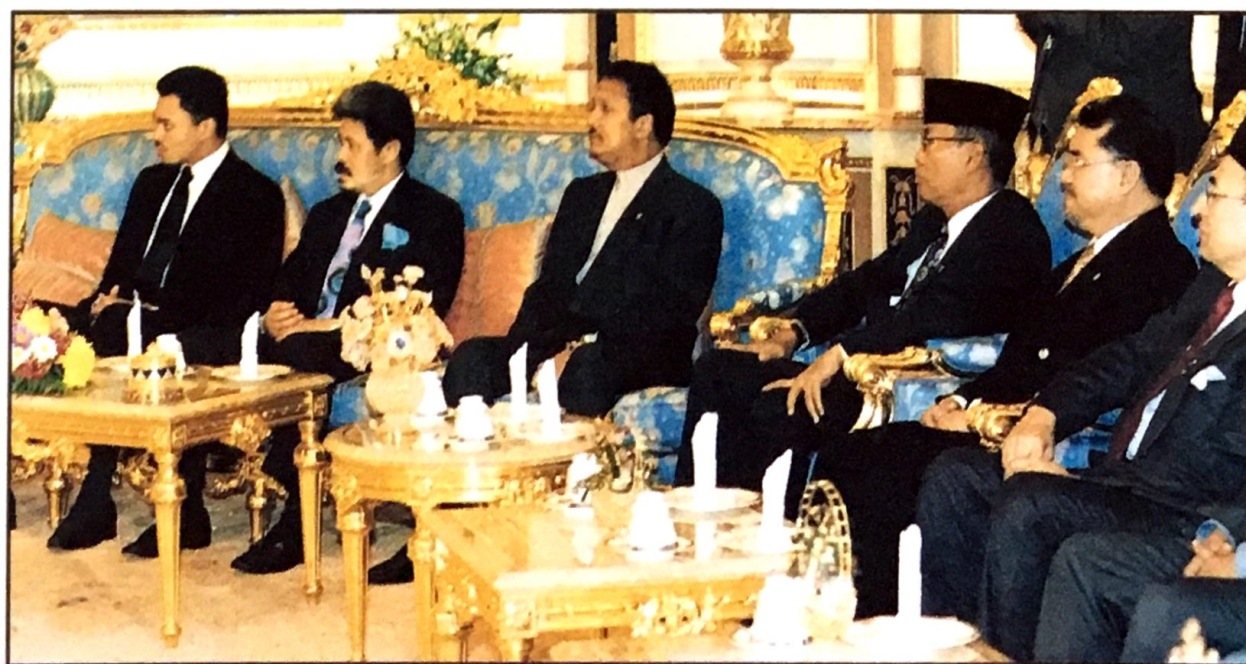
At a press conference held prior to his departure to Jakarta, the Indonesian President among others said that Indonesia had proposed a form of cooperation between Brunei Darussalam, Indo-

nesia and Malaysia in the oil and gas sector. He also underlined the importance for Islamic countries in Southeast Asia to have a common planning strategy on oil drilling.

He said that the economic development of the Republic of Indonesia depends, among others, on foreign capital through official and unofficial working networks. In this respect, Indonesia welcomes foreign investment, and hoped that the Republic would soon

recover towards prosperity.

This was His Excellency's first working visit to Brunei Darussalam since taking over the Presidency of the Republic of Indonesia. Welcoming and bidding farewell to His Excellency and Ibu Sinta Nuriyah at the Brunei International airport were His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah with Indonesian officials during the audience at Cheradi Lela Kencana, Istana Nurul Iman.



# Patrouille de France aerobatic show

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined his citizens to watch the Patrouille de France aerobatic show which was held at the Brunei International airport on 2 March.

Eight Alphajets zoomed past over and over leaving trails of coloured plumes in the Brunei sky. Loops, back-flips and close formation manoeuvres were executed in perfect choreographic fashion by the Alphajets, emitting red, white and blue smoke, adding a colourful spectacle to the display.

The Brunei ruler later consented to take a close look at one of the Alphajets taking part in the show, and granted an audience to the eight pilots

*\* Continue on page 11*

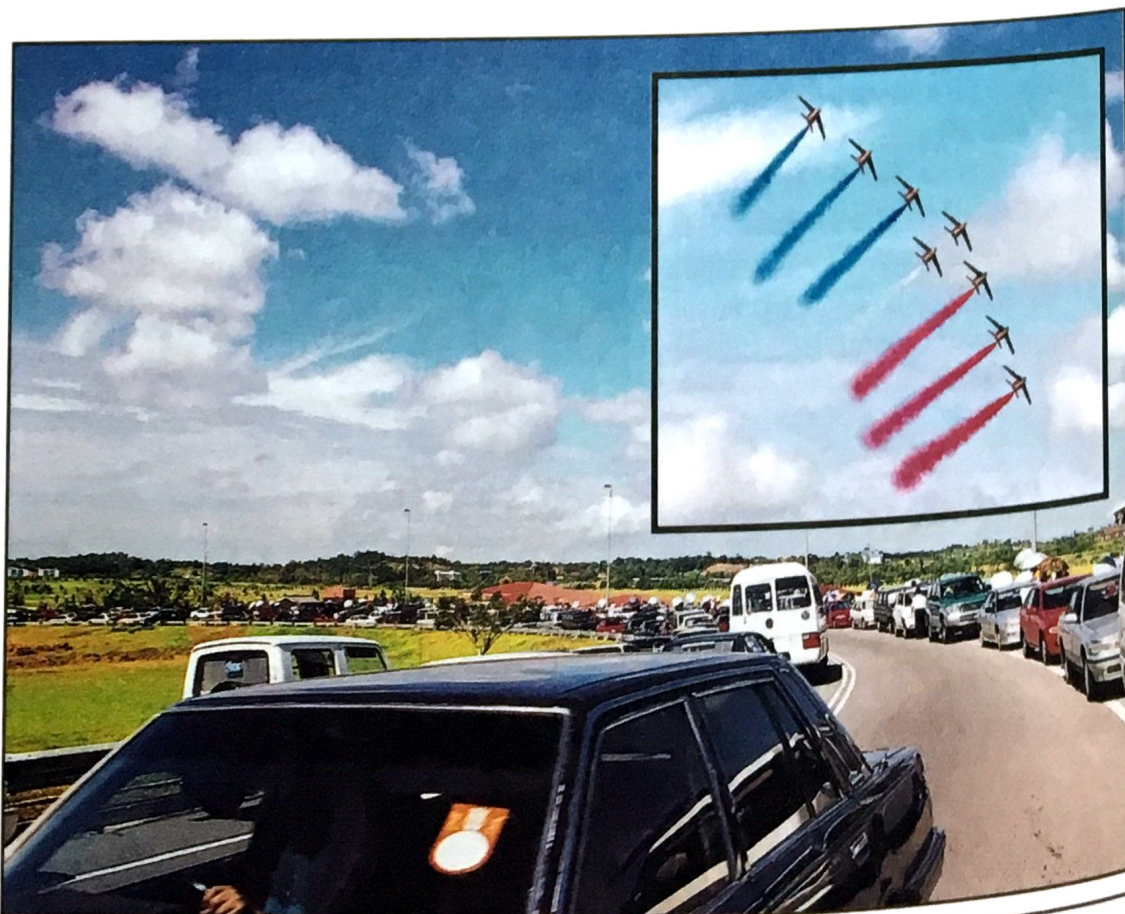


His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam taking a close look at one of the Alphajets used in the aerobatic display.

*The French team presenting a souvenir to His Majesty.*



Members of public stopped along roads leading to the airport and elsewhere to watch the aerial display by La Patrouille de France. Photo insert, shows spectacular display of knife-edged precision painting the Brunei skies with French tri-colours of blue, white and red.





# Takaful Special Study Plan for Orphans launched



*His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah receiving one of the sponsors of the study plan, above, and meeting orphans from the Tutong district, left. Picture below shows, officials and staff of the Islamic Bank of Brunei and orphans performing a 'nasyid' (Islamic religious song) at the ceremony.*

**H**is Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah has launched the Takaful Special Study Plan for Orphans, a project of the Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah Orphans' Fund. The ceremony took place at the International Convention Centre on 29 February.

The scheme is aimed at upgrading orphans' welfare by providing a form of coverage to ensure their future; e.g. in the event of their guardians dying or facing permanent disability.

The Takaful plan offered by the Islamic Insurance of Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei (TAIB) Sendirian Berhad provides insurance coverage for orphans by saving a certain amount of money for the scholarship's fund.

The Pengiran Muda Al-Muhtadee Billah Orphans' Fund welcomes donors to contribute and become sponsors to the plan. Those who wish to sponsor the orphans should ensure that the orphans are registered with the Pengiran Muda Mahkota Fund.

The TAIB Islamic Insurance has introduced eight packages, from the first package with a minimum contribution of B\$20.00 per month or B\$240.00 a year



to the eighth package offering B\$300.00 per month or B\$3,600.00 per year.

Meanwhile, two types of sponsorships have been offered to members of the public. Firstly, sponsoring an orphan on their own choice, and secondly, sponsoring any orphan selected by the Fund's Secretariat.

At the ceremony, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah met the 61 sponsors of the newly-launched scheme and orphans in the country.

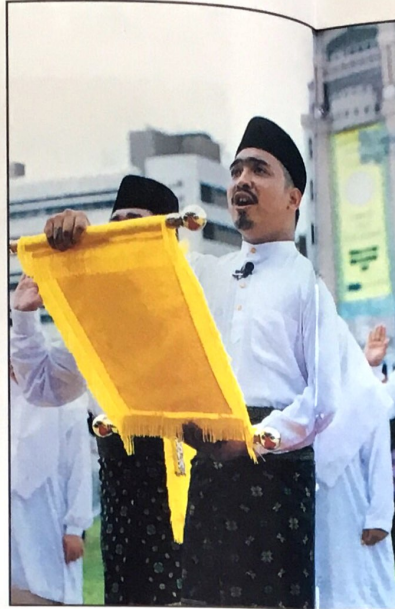
The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Putera Maharaja Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Awang Abu Bakar, who is also Chief Executive of the Pengiran Muda Mahkota Fund, in a press conference held at the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation's head-

quarters on 26 February said, the Takaful Plan is the first in the region implemented by an Islamic bank and decision is now being made to involve other commercial banks to together sponsor orphans registered with the fund. For the first two months, TAIB will sponsor \$20.00 each for 1,891 orphans.

Two thousands orphans decked out to meet and greeted His Royal Highness The Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah. The orphans came from the Brunei-Muara, Belait, Tutong and Temburong districts thronging the Plenary Hall.

The Takaful special study plan for the orphans was then launched by His Royal Highness, followed by his greeting the more than sixty main sponsors for the study plan.





His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam inspecting the guard of honour mounted by the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and Royal Brunei Police Force, above left. His Majesty flanked to his right by his sons and brothers watch the National Day celebration at the Taman Haji Sir Omar Ali Saifuddin in Bandar Seri Begawan, above far right, while reading the oath, above, marks the highlight of the celebration.

Pictures at left and below show some of the colourful performances by the participating contingents made up of students and officials and staff of the government and private sectors.



\* From page one  
( National Day celebration )

cast nationwide on radio and television on 23 February, the eve of the anniversary. His Majesty spoke on the need for a national identity for facing all challenges and tests.

"In my view, we have it already. What is needed now is our effort to maintain it," the monarch said.

The important parts of the national identity, said His Majesty, are the attitude and spirit of loyalty to a ruler, piety, high moral, determination and striving for success.

"All these are the objectives and aspirations which are difficult to achieve, be it by a small or a big nation. But, by the grace of Allah the Almighty, Brunei Darussalam has been

able to achieve all these, with Islam as a guide," said His Majesty.

The Brunei ruler further reminded that Brunei Darussalam is not excluded from various changes and development brought by the new millennium, which require the people to strongly uphold the national identity, so that they will not be confused by these changes and developments.

To achieve the aspirations, the country continues to focus on several issues and agendas, the most important of which are security and prosperity that have been emphasized since the First National Development Plan (NDP).

The emphasis on these agendas aims to fulfill the Government's commitment in enhancing the country's sta-

bility and further upgrading the life quality of the citizens and people, said His Majesty.

His Majesty was happy to note that efforts towards economic recovery had been carried out, however, added His Majesty, the country's dependency on oil and gas production is still obvious.

This situation is expected to continue for as long as there is no alternative industry that can compete with the oil and gas industry, and this is obviously a challenge to us, His Majesty stressed.

In this respect, said His Majesty, manpower resources are one of the most important factors needed for starting any industry and entrepreneur

\* Continue on page 8





ship.

"It is important for Government and non-Government agencies to play their role in identifying an industry, which can upgrade the country's income and provide employment to locals," said His Majesty.

His Majesty also stressed the need to ensure that globalisation, which colours the new millennium would not impede the country's interest.

His Majesty further said globalisation process brought about by technology development, particularly information technology, also brought with it positive impacts, often connected with negative elements and difficulties.

Globalisation, can also be seen as a phenomenon which provides broad market opportunities, especially among entrepreneurs. It also plays a role to broaden borderless market, which should be accepted by all.

His Majesty pointed that in most countries, the government sector acts as a facilitator and regulator, while the private sector plays its role as motivator and prime mover of the economy.

"Close and concerted cooperation between the government and the private sector, is therefore, important to ensure that the country can attract more investors," said His Majesty.

"In this respect, Brunei Darussalam as the host country for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference this year, will certainly face a heavy task and responsibility," added the monarch.

The hosting of the Conference is a big test on how far the country has the capability to lead the meeting, which involves several world and regional powers, said His Majesty, while adding that, it also requires us to forge our energy in ensuring that it will work properly and smoothly, and will be able to make the country's name known to the world.

His Majesty highlighted that the Conference will also provide an opportunity to countries in the Asia-Pacific region to look closely at Brunei Darussalam. This is in line with the effort to diversify the country's economy, as well as to give local entrepreneurs the best opportunity in



*His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and members of the royal family attending the thanksgiving ceremony held at the Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque in conjunction with the 16<sup>th</sup> National Day celebration.*

business affairs.

The National Day was celebrated this year with a mass gathering at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan. Ten thousand people, comprising students, primary school pupils, government and non-government

sectors' employees and various ranks of the community from all districts as well as members of the security forces took part in the parade and other events of the celebrations.

The ceremony began with His Majesty inspecting the guard of honour

*\* Continue on back page*

## **BRUNEI – INDONESIA SIGN AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

**B**runei Darussalam and the Republic of Indonesia had signed an agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income. The signing ceremony took place at the Balai Penghadapan Bukit Kayangan in Bandar Seri Begawan on 27 February.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, signed on behalf of the Government of Brunei Darussalam while the Indonesian Foreign Minister, Mr. Alwi Shihab represented the Government of the Republic of Indonesia.

The agreement is aimed to encourage investment through incentives and enhance existing economic cooperation between the two countries.



*His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam and the Indonesian Foreign Minister, Mr Alwi Shihab signing an agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income.*



# New diplomats to the Sultanate



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving the credentials of His Excellency Adnan Malik Al-Ghazali, the Iraqi Ambassador, above, His Excellency Koray Targay, the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey, above left, His Excellency Mohammed Sultan Saif Al-Suwadi, the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates, left, Her Excellency Lindiwe Mabuza, the High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa, below, and granting an audience to Lieutenant-General Bey Soo Kiang at Istana Nurul Iman, bottom of page.

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has recently received credentials from four newly-appointed ambassadors and High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, namely from the Republic of Iraq, Republic of Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and the Republic of South Africa.

The presentation ceremony took place at Istana Nurul Iman on 8 March.

His Majesty consented to receive the credentials of the Ambassador of Iraq, His Excellency Mr Adnan Malik Nafasi Al-Ghazali and the new Turkish Ambassador, His Excellency Koray Targay. Both Their Excellencies are based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Also presenting their credentials to the Brunei ruler were the new Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates, His Excellency Mohammed Sultan Saif Al-Suwadi, also based in Kuala Lumpur and the South African High Commissioner, Her Excellency Lindiwe Mabuza, based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

His Majesty later consented to grant separate audiences to the new diplomats.

Meanwhile, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, also granted separate audiences to the four newly-appointed envoys at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan on the same day.

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# Subcommittee on Customs Procedures welcomes plan to promote trade facilitation and E-commerce

The subcommittee on customs procedures has outlined work challenges programme for this year and welcomes the plan to promote trade facilitation and E-commerce.

In a speech at the First meeting of the APEC Subcommittee on Customs Procedures at the International Convention Centre on 18 February, the Deputy Minister of Finance, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Selamat described the advancement of the subcommittee's work as a real challenge, as Brunei Darussalam has limited resources and is much lacking in both expertise and experience.

The Subcommittee hoped to maintain the pace of progress of the work programme in order to contribute to the advancement of APEC's overall agenda, while at the same time, give high priority to continuing to build upon the good work already underway in the Subcommittee in attaining APEC's goal.

"We know that Brunei Darussalam could only do this with the understanding, support and cooperation of the other members of APEC," said the Deputy minister.

He said, Brunei Darussalam is making good progress in implementing

WTO (World Trade Organisation) Valuation Agreement, which serves as the bedrock of customs procedures, by this year.

Since the Subcommittee was formally established in 1993, several APEC member economies namely the United States of America, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Canada, Malaysia and New Zealand has hosted and chaired its meetings and took the significant steps to ensure that the Subcommittee's targets were consolidated within APEC's priorities.

"These APEC member economies, in concert with other members, have all made their contribution to overall progress and achievements of APEC, including in advancing the work programmes of the APEC subcommittee on customs procedures in support of the overall agenda.

The Deputy Minister further highlighted the need for the Subcommittee to encourage and expedite the plan to conduct its own assessment of the implementation of the group's collective action plans.

The Subcommittee, on the other hand, has a comprehensive technical training programme funded by APEC

funds to assist its members in the implementation of the various action plans. The effectiveness of these programmes would add to the overall credibility of and support for APEC.

Meanwhile, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Paduka Awang Lim Jock Seng, in a press conference of the SOM 1 Meeting held on 14 February, spoke on the confidence of 21 APEC member economies on the economic stability after the crisis.

Several representatives underlined opportunities in E-commerce as a new branch and interaction among business community, while trade liberalisation is an important agenda to reanalyse plan and action of every member country and formulate a guideline to achieve the objective agreed in the Bogor Declaration.

APEC's Economic Committees will also prepare three reports before the APEC Summit in November. These include the Survey on APEC Economy for the year 2000, APEC after the Asian Economic Crisis, and report on the promotion of a country based on knowledge.

*The Deputy Minister of Finance, Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Selamat bin Haji Munap (centre, seated) in a group photo at the opening of the APEC Subcommittee on Customs Procedures Meeting. It took place at the International Convention Centre (ICC), in Berakas.*



*\* From page 9  
( Audience )*

During the audience, His Royal Highness and Their Excellencies discussed bilateral issues.

On 6 March, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam granted an audience to Singapore's Chief of Defence,

Lieutenant General Bey Soo Kiang at Istana Nurul Iman. Lieutenant General Bey Soo Kiang is about to complete his service as the Chief of Defence of Singapore's Armed Forces.

The Singapore Chief of Defence was accompanied at the audience by the High Commissioner of Singapore, His Excellency Tee Tua Ba, and several

senior officials of the Republic's armed forces.

While in the country, Lieutenant General Bey Soo Kiang also met the Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Padukaraja Major General Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Awang Shari at the Ministry of Defence.



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## CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES IN CONJUNCTION WITH SIXTEENTH NATIONAL DAY ANNIVERSARY

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His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has received congratulatory messages from foreign leaders and dignitaries in conjunction with the country's 16<sup>th</sup> National Day.

Among those who sent their messages were His Majesty Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Hishamuddin Alam Shah Al-Haj, The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said of the Sultanate of Oman, His Majesty King Abdullah II Ben Al-Hussein of Jordan, His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco, Her Majesty Queen Koningin Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgrad of The Netherlands and His Majesty King Juan Carlos I of Spain.

Also sending their messages were His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, His Majesty Hamad bin Essa Al-Khalifa, Emir of Bahrain, His Majesty Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani of Qatar, His Majesty Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah of Kuwait, His Majesty Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait; His Majesty Prince Joachim, the Acting King (Regent) of Denmark and His Excellency President Abdurrahman Wahid of the Republic of Indonesia.

Their Excellencies President S. R. Nathan of the Republic of Singapore, President Joseph Ejercito Estrada of the Republic of the Philippines,

President Tran Duc Luong of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, President Khamtay Siphandone of the People's Democratic Republic of Lao, Chief General Than Shwe, Chairman of the Council for Peace and Development of the Organisation of Myanmar; President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt and President Muhammad Rafiq Tarar of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan also sent their congratulatory messages in conjunction with Brunei Darussalam's 16<sup>th</sup> National Day.

His Majesty also received messages from Their Excellencies President Hafez Al-Assad of the Arab Republic of Syria, President William J. Clinton of the United States of America, President Jiang Zemin of the People's Republic of China, President Kim Dae-Jung of the Republic of Korea, President Johannes Rau of the Republic of the German Federation and The Honourable William Deane, the Governor General of Australia, Their Excellencies President Guido De Marco of Malta, President Thomas Klestil of the Republic of the Austrian Federation, President Mary Mc Aleese of Ireland, President Jaques Chirac of the Republic of France, President K. R. Narayanan of India, President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson of Iceland, President Marti Ahtisari of Finland, President Saddam Hussein of the Republic of Iraq, President Shahbuddin Ahmed of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, President Chandrika Bandarnaike Kumaratunga of the Socialist Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka, President Dr. Ernesto

Zedillo Ponce de Leon of the United Mexican States and President Galafco's Clerides of the Republic of Cyprus.

Their Excellencies President General Emile Lahoud of Lebanon, President Alberto Fujimori of Peru, President Fidel Castro Ruz of Cuba, Kolonel Muammar Al-Gadafi, Leader of the Great Al-Fateh Revolution of Libya, Acting President V.V. Putin of the Russian Federation, The Right Honourable Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohammad, the Prime Minister of Malaysia; His Excellency Mr. Goh Chok Tong, the Prime Minister of Singapore, His Excellency Mr. Chuan Leekpai, Prime Minister of Thailand; His Excellency Mr. Phan Van Khai, the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and His Excellency Mr. Sisavath Keobounphanh, the Prime Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Lao also sent congratulatory messages.

Other foreign dignitaries who conveyed their congratulatory messages included His Excellency Keizo Obuchi, the Prime Minister of Japan; The Right Honourable Tony Blair, the British Prime Minister; The Right Honourable Jean Chretien, the Prime Minister of Canada; Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina Wajed, the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; Their Excellencies Gruseppe Arxilli and Paolo Bollini, Head of the Government of the Republic of San Marino; His Excellency Kofi A. Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations; and His Excellency Dr. Azeddine Laraki, Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

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\* From page 4  
( Aerobatic show )

led by Commandant Dominique Perrier.

Also present were the Permanent Secretaries of the Ministry of Defence,

the French Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Jean-Pierre Lafosse and his wife, as well as directors and senior officials of the Defence Ministry.

The Aerobatic Show was organised

by the Ministry of Defence with the co-operation of the French Embassy in Brunei Darussalam. It was aimed to strengthen relations between Brunei Darussalam and France and show the skills of the French Aerobatic squad.





Students from one of the higher learning institutions carrying the national flag past the royal dais.

*\*From page 8  
(National Day celebration)*

mounted by personnel of the First Battallion of the Royal Brunei Land Forces and the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPf). This was followed by a march past and other performances.

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

Haji 'Abdul 'Azim and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik also watched the celebration.

The ceremony was highlighted with the reading of the oath. The celebration this year bore the theme 'Mengukuhkan Jati Diri Di Alaf Baru' or 'Strengthening the National Identity in the New Millennium'.

On 22 February, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined his subjects in a

congregational Maghrib and Isyak (evening) prayers at the Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque in Bandar Seri Begawan in conjunction with the 16<sup>th</sup> National Day celebration.

Accompanying His Majesty were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

### ***Brunei in Brief***

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan  
Land size : 5765 sq. km.  
Population : 314,400 (1997)  
Official Language : Malay  
Official Religion : Islam  
February rainfall : 303.8 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.**

