



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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Set up a medical institute at UBD – Titah

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has stressed the importance of setting up a medical institute at Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), as a foundation of medical study at the university.

His Majesty was referring to the recent formation of a medical institute for postgraduate at the Health Ministry with the cooperation of St. George's Medical School in the United Kingdom, which according to His Majesty was a very meaningful step.

Medical field is vital as it is directly related to the welfare of the people, for which we not only need to be engaged in, but also to acquire expertise comparable to other people, said His Majesty.

Without special expertise in a certain disease, said His Majesty, we would continue to experience many losses, including image and finance as well as self-confidence.

In a titah (royal address) at the 12th Convocation of UBD at the International Convention Centre, Berakas on 30 September, His Majesty also urged concerned authority to give Islamic study top priority.

Islamic study should exist and flourish as it is the trust on Islam, and we do not want to make any mistake

by making the Islamic study as a second subject, making it less important.

His Majesty earlier said that education is a landmark of each civilization, and on which the country's development and growth depends. It becomes a foundation for the investment of human resources development, the product of which could be enjoyed continuously.

As a higher educational centre in the country, UBD does not only give normal education but must also become a place for acquiring services and expertise, said His Majesty.

The monarch was happy to note that of late the expertise available at UBD has also benefited both the government and private agencies, which was in line and timely with the uni-



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting Bachelor of Arts degree (administration and public policy) to one of the recipients – His Majesty's own daughter, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Majeedah Nuurul Bolqiah.

versity's mission to serve the community.

UBD has also conducted several regional and international academic activities, such as a conferences, seminars and forums, and cooperative activities in research and study, including on Islamic financial, Malay studies, tropical forests and geo-science.

"In the economic and industrial development, UBD should also be active in conducting research related to small and medium entrepreneurs, particularly those connected with oil, gas and petro-chemical," His Majesty urged.

His Majesty was welcomed at the International Convention Centre by UBD's Vice-Chancellor, Dato Paduka Seri Setia Professor Dr. Awang Haji

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YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 31 October 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.

HM and the Crown Prince at UBD green project

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam waters a young tree he had just planted in the grounds of Universiti Brunei Darussalam at the start of the university's major eco campaign with a view to keeping the country ever green.



The Universiti Brunei Darussalam in an effort to give this country a 'Green Jewel' image has launched a major eco project on October 7, with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the helm. Over 2,000 trees were planted starting with His Majesty the Sultan who is also the Chancellor of UBD, followed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Pro Chancellor

His Majesty and The Crown Prince

were greeted on arrival by the Minister of Education and Chairman of UBD Council, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, Deputy Minister of Education and Deputy Chairman of the Council Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad and UBD's Vice Chancellor, Dato Paduka Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mahmud Saedon. A Doa Selamat was later read by the State Mufti and followed by His Majesty and His Royal Highness planting two

** Continued on page 3*

A staff member lends a hand as His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji al-Muhtadee Billah plants a tree during the eco project.



** From page 2
(UBD Green Project)*

“Meranti Sarang Punai” trees to inaugurate the ceremony

The ceremony was also held to commemorate the 12th UBD convocation held recently. Shortly after signing the visitors’ book, His Majesty and the Crown Prince consented to exchange greetings with UBD administrators, lecturers and students.

The beautifying project for UBD surroundings is a long-term activity to create public awareness of the importance of preserving a green, clean environment. In addition, it was also held to unite members of the public, government and private sectors as well as the University community to implement the eco-friendly project.



UBD undergraduates lining up to meet His Majesty and His Royal Highness The Crown Prince at the end of the keep-Brunei Darussalam-green project.

Through this project, UBD hopes not only to transform the University into a green campus, but also to build a fully-fledged recreational park, which would include a research centre with a gene bank of local plants.

In an effort to reduce government spending, UBD had taken the bold initiative of accepting financial contributions from the public, government and private sectors. In addition, the University had set up a special fund, so far collecting some \$80,000, since it was first launched on April 15, 2000. Donors are still welcome to make contributions.

Brunei ruler receives ABAC Report

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to receive the Report of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) during an audience held at Istana Nurul Iman on 14 October.

His Majesty granted an audience to members of the ABAC led by its Chairman, Mr. Timothy Ong, who presented the report to the monarch. The report will be discussed between the APEC leaders and members of the Council at the APEC Meeting in November.

Also present at the audience were the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Paduka Awang Lim Jock Seng.

During a press meeting held at a leading hotel on the same day, Mr. Timothy Ong said that the report highlighted ABAC’s call for APEC to enhance its effort to reduce trade and investment constraints, and to ease business activities in the region.

The Council also called on APEC to upgrade its effort to promote the sharing of knowledge and sources among its member economies, so that they will enjoy the benefits of effective involvement in the global economy.

The report has also forwarded 21 proposals for consistent development. One of these was how APEC member economies could prepare to benefit from the digital explosion.



ABAC’s Chairman, Mr. Timothy Ong presents the ABAC 2000 report to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam ahead of next month’s APEC 2000 Summit which will be hosted by the Sultanate, and at which the report will be discussed.



Birthday greetings

Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha in a group picture with wives of foreign diplomats to Brunei Darussalam, who conveyed birthday greetings to Her Majesty, at an audience held at Istana Nurul Iman on 7 October. The delegation was led by the wife of the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the country, Fawziya Mohd. Ali Al-Maskeri. Also present were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Majeedah Nuurul Bolqiah and Her Majesty's grand daughter, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Raheemah Sanaul Bolkiah.

Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha has stressed the need to provide proper guidance and education to the young generation to prepare them as future leaders.

Her Majesty was speaking in reference to the high proportion of teenagers and children, about 80 per cent, in the Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association.

Her Majesty said, "It is important that the Association to include among its activities suitable training programmes and exposure in order that the young people are equipped to be the future leaders. Such planning is critical for the continuous succession of the association."

Her Majesty, who is Patron of the Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association, delivered the titah to celebrate the Girl Guides Day on 6 October. Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, President of the Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Norain were also present.

In terms of its social welfare activities and programmes, Her Majesty was pleased to note that the Association has been successful in this area. "All this can only be achieved if there were co-

Proper guidance and education for young generation

Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha cuts her birthday cake during a celebration organised by the Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association which also coincided with Girl Guides Day on 6 October.



operation and solidarity from a members and leaders who are fully dedicated and committed towards the association," said Her Majesty.

Her Majesty also presented long service badges to twelve members of the association. Long service badges are awarded to those who have shown active commitment in the association for ten to fifteen years.

The Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of its formation in February next year.

Government and non-government sectors urged to continue providing various programmes

Concerned parties in the government and non-government sector were urged to continue providing various programmes to give members of the community in the country, the younger generation in particular, the awareness on the importance of giving due care to the less fortunate members of the society, and to involve themselves in social and welfare works.

Such awareness, if instilled among members of the community and younger generation, and continuously applied in daily life, would enable harmonious existence of a society.

In a speech before she declared open the Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajah Maryam Centre at Kampong Bengkurong in the Brunei-Muara district on 1 October, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam said, "The establishment of the centre for people with special needs does not mean that we have successfully resolve one of the social problems of the present society. We must remember that the success in handling the needs of people with special needs also depends on the involvement of their families and the community as a whole."

Her Royal Highness stressed that people with special needs do not need sympathy alone, but what they need most is the opportunity to lead a meaningful life with better future.

The centre, which is a landmark in the care of the welfare and prosperity of those with special needs is also hoped to become a more conducive platform towards the integration of members of the public in the Sultanate with the less fortunate and the needy, such as members of the Paraplegics and Physically Handicapped Association (PAPDA) and those who need special therapeutic treatment, said Her Royal Highness.

It would also enable members of the public, groups and organisations to channel any contribution for charitable and welfare works, including social works, she said.

Her Royal Highness hoped that the centre would be alive with various forms of charitable and welfare works,

including training and educational activities that provided quality interaction between the public and users of the centre.

The centre marks the beginning towards achieving educational objectives and skill development. Its main function is to ensure that various rehabilitation, educational and training programmes and skills development could be planned and prepared with the objective to provide effective mental and physical rehabilitation treatment, as well as to improve mental ability and various skills so that they could be independent and contribute to their family, society and the country.

Her Royal Highness later called on members of PAPDA and other users to make full use of the facilities, be more committed and to involve themselves in all treatment, rehabilitation, train-

ing, educational and skills programmes, as well as social and religious activities.

The success of the centre's formation was also a contribution from members of the community from various ranks of life in Brunei Darussalam, which reflects their sense of caring and responsibility for people needing special attention.

Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri was later presented with a souvenir and consented to sign a plaque, thus, officially launching a website for the Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajah Maryam Centre.

Her Royal Highness also visited various sections of the centre including an Orchids Garden. To commemorate the occasion, an orchid, *Dendrobium Mariam*, was named in honour of Her Royal Highness.

Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam signs the plaque commemorating the opening of the Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajah Maryam Centre at Kampong Bengkurong - 20 kms from the Brunei Darussalam capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, right.



Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam being briefed as she stopped-by at the industrial training section of the new centre.

** From page one
(UBD Convocation)*

Mahmud Saedon and members of the university's council.

With His Majesty were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen. Also present were His Majesty's daughters.

The Vice-Chancellor in his welcoming remarks said, UBD needs special allocation in the financial aspect to meet the needs of the increasing number of students and enable it to successfully carry out its duties and role.

UBD's development in the aspects of academic programs, academic manpower and students' admittance has been increased, while the facilities available at present can only facilitate 2,000 students.

At present, UBD has 2,901 students with the registration of 1,076 new students for 2000/2001 sessions and this number, he said, would increase to 4,500 in 2005.

UBD has also played its part in carrying out its duties not only in the academic fields, but also in creating policies for the country's growth and the development of manpower resources.

Some 343 graduates received their degrees and certificates presented by His Majesty. Of these 65 received Masters and 275 others received Bachelor of Arts in various fields. Five people received Master of Business Administration and Master of Arts Education, First Class.

His Majesty's daughter, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Majeedah Nuurul Bolqiah was among the recipients of Bachelor of Arts in Administration and Public Policy. 3,962 graduates have received their degrees, diplomas and certificates from the UBD since its first convocation in 1989.

Meanwhile, 204 graduates from the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Educational Institute received their certificates presented by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah the same day. The ceremony also took place at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

32 graduates received the Post-Degree Certificate in Education (Secondary), 11 received the Certificate in Religious Education (Secondary) and 11 received the Post-Graduate Certificate in Technical Education.

10 received Post-Degree Diploma in Counseling, eight in Certificate in Science Education (Lower Secondary), 7 received Certificate in Education Management, 28 received Certificate in Special Education, 18 received Certificate in Counseling and 69 received Certificate in Education.



Above: One of the latest graduates receiving his degree from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during Universiti Brunei Darussalam's 12th Convocation ceremony. Below: The just-graduated Princess Hajjah Majeedah Nuurul Bolqiah in a group photo with her father, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and her brothers and sisters. Bottom: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah presenting certificate to a graduate of the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education held on the same day as Universiti Brunei Darussalam's 12th convocation ceremony.



Brunei-Tanzania establish ties

Brunei Darussalam establishes diplomatic relations with Tanzania with the signing of a joint communiqué in India.

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was represented by His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Mokti Haji Mohammad Daud, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to India, while the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania was represented by His Excellency Dr. Ahmed K.M. Kiwanuka, High Commissioner of the United Republic of Tanzania to India.

The signing ceremony took place on 6 October at the Brunei Darussalam High Commission in New Delhi, India.

Brunei Darussalam's ties with Tanzania took effect on the day of the signing.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, who is the Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) struck the gong to officiate the launching of U B D ' s Convocation Festival 2000.

UBD's Convocation Festival 2000 launched

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), has consented to officiate the opening of UBD's Convocation Festival 2000 on September 28.

The festival was held in conjunction with the upcoming 12th Convocation Ceremony held on September 30 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

His Royal Highness struck the gong to officiate the launching of the festival and visited the exhibition booths, organised by the Academy of Brunei Studies, Education Technology Centre, Student Affairs, Students Association and International Student Club.

Traditional dances, Pencak Silat Gerak 41 and top-spinning events were performed on the sidelines while His Royal Highness visited various booths. The weeklong festival also included cultural shows by UBD students, jumble sales and sale of UBD souvenirs.

Brunei oil production to double by next year

Brunei Darussalam's current land production of oil is expected to increase by two-fold to some 45,000 barrels per day with the launch of a landfield rejuvenation programme by its leading oil company.

Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sendirian Berhad (BSP) in a press release announced the drilling of 26 wells in the Rasau and Seria oilfields which will produce an estimate of 15,000 barrels per day. 6 Out of 26 oilfields are appraisal in nature and could lead to further development and production drilling.

A blessing ceremony was con-

ducted on the same day, 18 September at the Rasau oilfield to mark the start of the campaign. Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Ghani bin Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Rahim, the Belait District Officer was the guest of honour and performed the 'menepung tawar' or blessing ceremony.

Brian Straub, BSP Technical Director in his speech said, "In October last year, we celebrated 70 years of production from BSP's land operations. Today it gives me great pleasure to celebrate another milestone in Land Operations, that of the start of the rejuvenation efforts. It is anticipated that

these rejuvenation efforts should double the current land production to some 45,000 barrels per day and sustain this level for a considerable number of years."

"The campaign will include site preparation, drilling and completion of 26 wells, which are only feasible as a direct result of the 1998 Seria 3D seismic survey," remarked the Technical Director.

The operation of these 26 wells are expected to last for 16 months and will begin in the Rasau area. It will continue in the area surrounding the BSP offices and subsequently on to the area adjacent to the Anduki airfield area.

Maintain peace by instilling noble values

Several projects were held in conjunction with the Peace Day 2000. On 29 September, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, the President of the Brunei Darussalam's Girl Guides Association, launched the Project on Environment and Community Building at the Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Masna Secondary School in Berakas.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, President of the Girl Guides Association, urged members of the public to maintain peace by instilling noble values, attitudes and personality that could promote mutual respect and understanding.

Speaking at the ceremony, Her Royal Highness said, protecting the environment could unite the world's population with different lifestyles, such as Africa, Asia, Europe and the United States of America, to ensure that the earth is safe from pollution.

"As the world's population, we all have the responsibility to protect the environment as its damages would bring about negative impacts, that could be regretted in the future," she said.

She said, the Environment Project held in conjunction with the Peace Day was an extra curricular activity for students that could increase their knowledge, build confidence and instill the sense of love towards the environment. The celebration was more symbolic as the United Nations declares the year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace.

Her Royal Highness hoped that the Girl Guides Association would continue their efforts in other projects, such as in fighting against the misuse of drug based on 'partnership' concept that would include the private sector and non-government organisations, as well as members of the Village Consultative Councils.

Another project held in conjunction with the Peace Day celebrations was the plantation of 40 local fruit trees.

To commemorate the World Peace Day 2000 – Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna plants an indigenous fruit tree in the compounds of the Pengiran Anak Puteri Masna Secondary School.



Proactive and responsive, a necessity in an organisation



Youth, Culture and Sports Minister, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Hussein smiles as he presents Civil Service Day award during the Seventh Civil Service Day celebration while the Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair who was chairman of the celebration executive committee looks on.

Being proactive and responsive on one's own initiative in relevance with an order or command, or having the attitude for environmental concern is a necessity in the civil service organisation.

Slogans to upgrade services in the organisation would be wasted if the organisation's members remain as pen pushers or file pushers.

Highlighting the significance of these cultures at the 7th Civil Service Day celebration on 4 October, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya

Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain said that at the high level, caring attitude and proactive and responsive culture would create a good environment for effective service to the public.

The Ad-Hoc Committee of senior officials, therefore, should make in-depth review to ensure that efforts to upgrade the effectiveness, professionalism and efficiency of a civil service as the motivator of the country's growth has been implemented and not merely become a plan of actions at a department or ministry, said the Minister.

ICT Projects for short-term economic recovery commenced

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has commenced the implementation of two information communications and technology (ICT) Projects costing B\$13.3 million, as a part of the injection of funds for short-term economic recovery.

The projects include the upgrading and expansion of BruNet system valued at B\$2 million and the induction of computers in government schools throughout the country, valued at B\$11.3 million.

Both projects are inter-related in effort to inculcate the Internet culture as wide as possible amongst the younger generation as a foundation for future human resource development.

Announcing the commencement at a press briefing held at the Brunei Darussalam Economic Council's (BDEC) Office in Beribi on 2 October, the Director General of BDEC, Awang Haji Abd. Wahab bin Juned said, the projects are in line with the recommendation of the BDEC to establish the information technology infrastructure as one of the foundations to sustainable growth.

These projects are also in line with the BDEC's recommendation to establish ICT infrastructure as the basis requirement to inculcate the ICT culture towards the new economy based on knowledge or knowledge-based economy and to put in place the ICT infrastructure in the civil service, schools, public residence and business communities.

The expansion and upgrading project of BruNet system aims to meet the expected short-term surge in demand during the APEC Meetings in November, to accommodate the projected increase from 16,000 to 24,000 subscribers by the end of the year 2001 for BruNet services, and to enhance the efficiency of

BruNet system and to enable it to accommodate the introduction of more value added services.

Meanwhile, the induction of computers in government schools throughout the country is expected to strengthen and upgrade existing programs to introduce computers to schools that began in 1999. The new project to be implemented will include all primary and secondary schools so as to meet the target availability of computer to a total student ratio of 1:5 for secondary schools and computer utilisation in laboratory of 1:2 for primary schools.

The project will contribute directly in creating a more conducive environment to inculcate the IT culture through the enhancement of the computer literacy rate at the schools level, and will help to create a new computer literate generation with a better command in the field of IT, thus playing an important role in the preparation of human capital to assist the country in meeting the challenge of the new economy (knowledge-based economy).

The project includes the preparation of training for computer instructors and students in those schools, as well as the preparation of information and communication technology curriculum.

It also aims to expose and introduce basic ICT to students and instructors at primary and secondary levels, and to make the usage of computer facilities as one of the education and teaching tools at both primary and secondary levels.

This project would be implemented in stages up to 2001 and will commence with the prior of setting up of computer laboratories followed by the supply of computers and training to computer instructors.

ISO for Health and Medical Services

Brunei Darussalam's health and medical services are benchmarked against international standard as part of the aim to gain worldwide recognition besides to provide quality services to the people. Quality is a critical issue in the ministry which along with its other departments, hold the tantamount task of overseeing the health system of the country. In this regard, the ministry encourages each of the department under it to establish a quality assurance programme to serve the purpose above.

The Brunei Darussalam Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists (BAMLS) undertook one such initiative to gain full accreditation for its laboratories by 2003. In a speech, the permanent secretary at the Ministry of Health, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Awang Ahmad said, "BAMLS together with its peers in the ASEAN Association of Medical Laboratory Technologists is now actively pursuing the agenda to set the standard of the laboratories in ASEAN so as to conform to the ISO 15189 guidelines which are relevant to a clinical laboratory."

The permanent secretary highlighted the effort of the ministry while launching the second general meeting of Brunei Darussalam Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists (BAMLS) on 8 October.

In terms of other departments under the ministry, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Awang Ahmad said, "The Department of Scientific Sciences has started steps towards achieving ISO Guide 17025 six months ago, the Department of Health Care Technology Services, the Finance, Procurement and Supply Section, the Building Maintenance and Transport Section have also just launched their 'Quality to Care' programmes."

With the implementation of these programmes, the Ministry of Health is a step closer towards its hopes and realization to become a highly reputable health services organisation in the country.

Brunei-China relations continue to strengthen

Brunei Darussalam's relationship with the People's Republic of China continues to strengthen with the establishment of diplomatic relations between both countries, said the Minister of Development.

The visits of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to the People's Republic of China in 1993 and 1999 have also shown the country's commitment to further strengthen such relationship.

Representing His Majesty's Government at a reception to mark the 51st National Day celebration of the People's Republic of China held at Jerudong Polo Club on 28 September, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Wijaya Pengiran Dr. Haji Ismail said, Brunei Darussalam was also looking forward to the presence of His Excellency President Jiang Zemin of China at the APEC Summit and his state visit to Sultanate in November.

The Minister was confident that the visit would further enhance the relationship and cooperation that have existed between both countries.

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in

cultural and educational fields between both countries, said the Minister would help upgrade cultural and educational exchange between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China, as well to increase cooperation in the region.

Cooperation in the area of tourism was also hoped to further strengthen

the existing relationship and mutual understanding between both countries.

Present at the ceremony were the ambassador of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Mr. Qu Wenming, senior government officials and representatives of other diplomatic missions in Bandar Seri Begawan.



The Development Minister, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Wijaya Pengiran Dr. Haji Ismail and the People's Republic of China's ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Qu Wenming and their wives stand in homage of the national anthems of Brunei Darussalam and PRC on the 51st National Day of PRC.

Signing of MOU between Brunei Darussalam – Germany reflects an encouraging development

The Minister of Religious Affairs said that the signings of the Memorandum of Understanding between Brunei Darussalam and the Federated Republic of Germany in fields such as trade and investment, training, education and air services reflect an encouraging development, and hoped that both countries would soon sign an agreement on Double Taxation.

Brunei Darussalam and the Federated Republic of Germany also continue to make efforts to upgrade the cooperation in educational field. In April this year, the Minister of Science, Research and Culture, His Excellency Mr. Klaus Von Trotha of Baden Wurtemberg, Germany made a working visit to the country, during which matters on cooperation were discussed.



The Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Ustaz Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Zain and German ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Klaus Peter-Brandes cut the anniversary cake while their wives look on during celebration in Bandar Seri Begawan marking the 10th Unification Day of Germany.

** Continued on page 11*



The Minister of Communications, Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Awang Haji Zakaria, 6th from left, chairs a joint press conference at the conclusion of the 6th ASEAN Transport Ministers' meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan.

ASEAN Transport Ministers identify factors to upgrade ASEAN transportation system

The 6th ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting has identified four main factors to upgrade and develop land, sea and air transportation system in the ASEAN region, said the Minister of Communications.

In a Joint press conference held at the end of the meeting on 5 October, the Ministers highlighted the need to strengthen the implementation of the Transportation Plan of Action 1999 – 2004. This includes naming 51 airports and 46 ports in the region for the establishment of the integral part for trans-ASEAN transportation network.

They also accepted the preparation for the ASEAN Highway Infrastructure Development Plan and conclusion to identify 23 routes for ASEAN Highways.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Zakaria, the Chairman of the 6th ATM read the press statement. Also present were the Malaysian Minister of Transport, Dato Seri Dr. Ling Liong Sik who was also the Deputy Chairman of 6th ATM, Secretary-General at the ASEAN Secretariat, His Excellency Rodolfo C. Severino Jr. and ASEAN Transport Ministers.

The joint press statement further

said that ministers also accepted the ratification of the ASEAN Working Agreement for the Facilitation of Goods by all member countries by 31 December 2001 and received the complete research on the relevance of the Singapore-Kunming train route project, which enables to connect all ASEAN member countries with the Great Land of China.

The Ministers further recognised the importance of developing transportation infrastructure and strengthen the

institutional agreement for transportation facilities and logistic.

Meanwhile, the Ministers also learned that the ASEAN Multilateral Agreement on Air Freight would be signed in the 7th ATM next year. The agreement was part of an effort towards the liberalisation of air services. They further called on the Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) to recognised the commitment for maritime and air transportation sector.

** From page 10
(Unification Day of German)*

Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Haji Awang Md. Zain was speaking as a representative of His Majesty's Government at the reception to celebrate the 10th Unification Day of Germany held at a hotel in Berakas on 4 October.

The Minister was confident that there were many more areas of co-operation that could be established between the two countries. This co-operation would enable Brunei Darussalam to diversify its

economy as well as to further promote the role of the private sector.

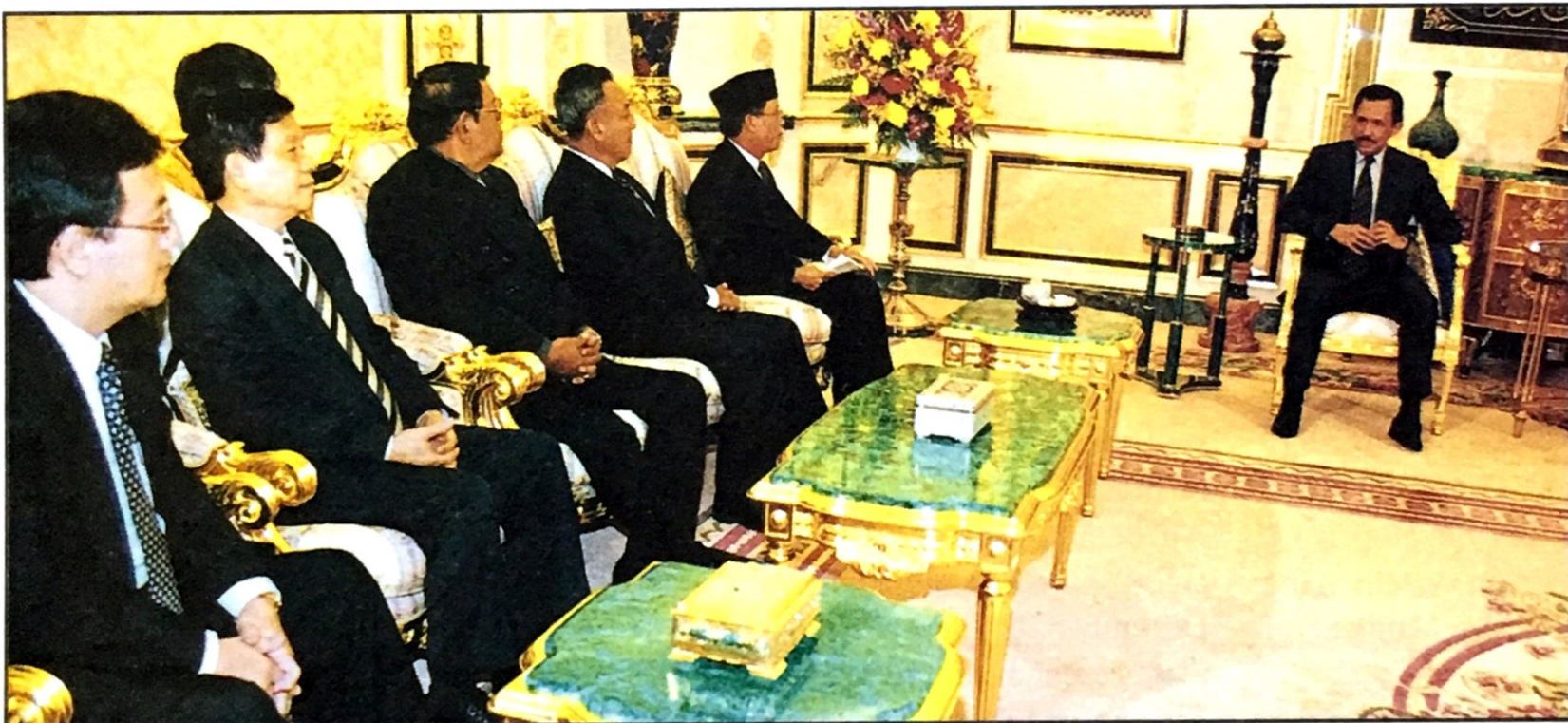
The Religious Affairs Minister earlier in his speech highlighted that the establishment of diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Federated Republic of Germany sixteen years ago has been further strengthened with the visit of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to the Federated Republic of Germany in 1998.

In the international area, both countries have cooperated in the ASEAN-EU Dialogue and Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

Brunei – Malawi establish diplomatic ties



Above: The African Republic of Malawi's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Honourable Mrs. Lilian E. Patel, MP having an audience with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at Istana Nurul Iman.



The same week, the Brunei ruler also granted an audience to the Transport Ministers of ASEAN who were in Bandar Seri Begawan for their sixth meeting, left.

BRUNEI IN BRIEF

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan
Land size : 5765 sq. km.
Population : 336,376 (July 2000 est.)
Official Language : Malay
Official Religion : Islam
September rainfall : 348.3 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.**

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to grant an audience to the visiting Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Malawi, the Honourable Lilian E. Patel, MP. The ceremony took place at Istana Nurul Iman on 11 October.

The Honourable Lilian E. Patel, MP who was in the country for a two-day visit, also represented the Government of the Republic of Malawi for the signing of a Joint Communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic. The ceremony was held on 11 October.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs signed on behalf of the Government of Brunei Darussalam. The two ministers also exchanged views on regional and international

affairs.

After the signing, His Royal Highness hosted a luncheon at the Balai Penghadapan Bukit Kayangan for the visiting minister.

On 5 October also at Istana Nurul Iman, His Majesty granted an audience to the ASEAN Transport Ministers attending the Sixth ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan from 4 to 5 October.

During the audience, His Majesty exchanged views relating to the cooperation amongst the ASEAN nations in areas of transportation.

Also present at the audience were the Minister of Communication, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Zakaria, Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair and Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdullah, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communication.