



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 has urged religious institutions to be more active in encouraging and awakening the Islamic ummah to truly understand and feel the sweetness of faith from the teachings of Prophet Muhammad, (peace be upon him).

"As long as the sweetness of faith could not be enjoyed and tasted, the strength to practice whole-heartedly Islamic teachings would not be obtained," said His Majesty.

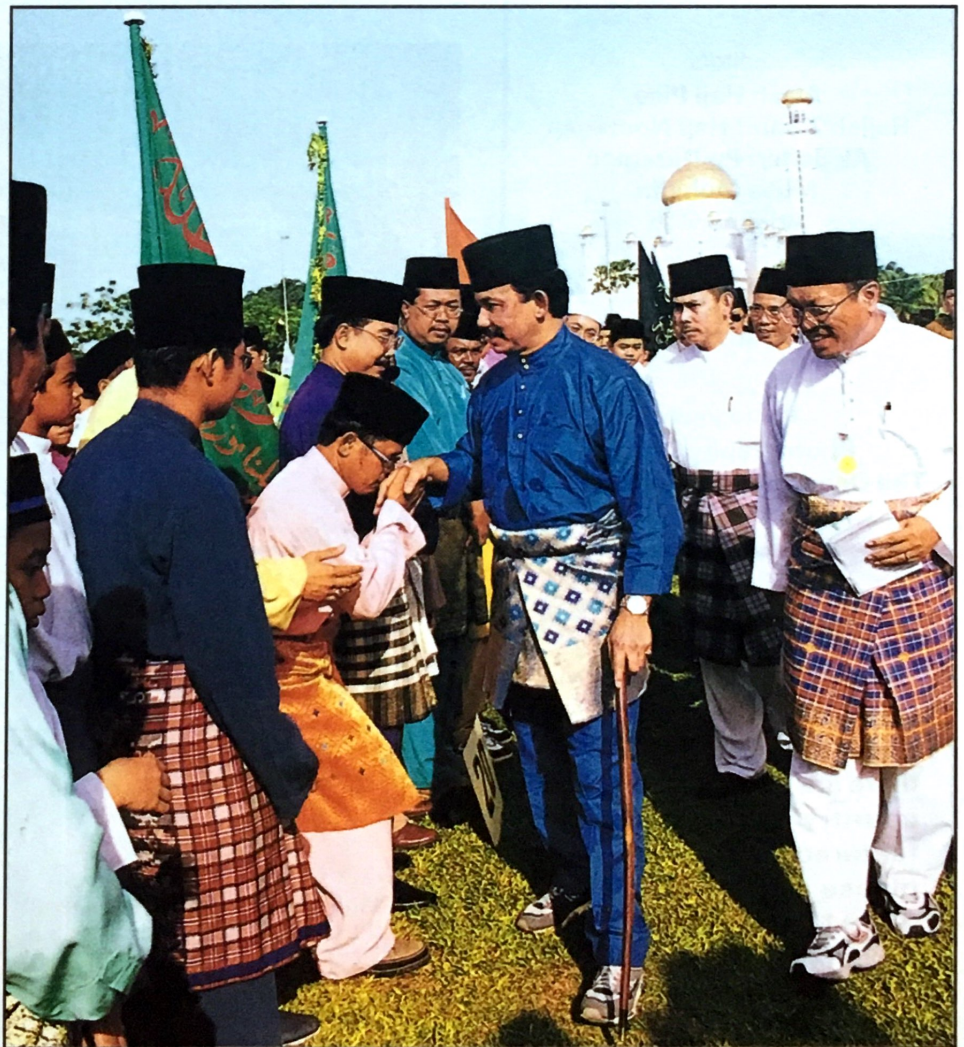
We need a sharp and sensitive sense of feeling the deliciousness of faith, while a blunt and less sensitive one would only lead us to lose our foundation and be carried away from the true path, said His Majesty, while pointed out that, this means that our torch and guide is no other than faith.

In a titah (royal address) broadcast nationwide over radio and television on the eve of a birthday anniversary celebration of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) on 14 June, His Majesty further said, in the world which is full of chronic social ills, Muslims need a medicine and a healer, not in the form of tablets or surgeries, but by having religious awareness and by referring to Allah The Almighty and His commands.

The monarch also stressed the need for Muslims in the country to be truly faithful to the next world, where good deeds will be highly rewarded, while sins and wrongdoings will be rewarded with punishment and hell.

When there is such awareness, then only the faithful individuals, who are pious to Islam and are afraid of mak-

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS NEED TO BE MORE ACTIVE: HM THE SULTAN



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam being introduced to heads of the participating teams in the mass procession marking Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) birthday anniversary held at the Taman Haji Sir Omar Ali Saifuddien in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

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YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 15 July 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.

Deputy Sultan grants audiences



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Deputy Sultan, receiving in audience Singapore Minister for Defence and Minister of Information and Arts, His Excellency Mr. David Lim Tik En, at the Balai Penghadapan Bukit Kayangan.



His Royal Highness in conversation with General Sir Charles Guthrie, the Defence's Chief of Staff of the United Kingdom, during an audience on 26 June.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Deputy Sultan, has granted an audience to the Minister for Defence and Minister of Information and Arts of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Mr. David Lim Tik En at Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan on 27

June.

His Excellency was accompanied at the audience by the Singapore High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Tee Tua Ba and several senior officials. The Minister was in the Sultanate for a two-day visit.

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(audiences)

The visit was aimed to strengthen bilateral relations in military field, in which both countries frequently conduct joint military exercises. While in the country, His Excellency toured the development of military exercise between the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and the Republic of Singapore.

The Deputy Sultan also granted an audience to General Sir Charles Guthrie, the Defence's Chief of Staff of the United Kingdom, who was on a two-day visit to the country on 26 June, and to Mr. John Battle, MP, the State Minister at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom on 22 June. Both ceremonies were held at Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan.

During both audiences, His Royal Highness held discussions on bilateral issues and exchanged views on several regional and international issues.

Mr. John Battle, MP was later entertained at a luncheon hosted by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The luncheon was held at the hotel in Berakas.

On 10 June, also at Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah granted an audience to a special envoy of the Government of the Republic of Benin, His Excellency Michel Adechian. His Excellency is the non-resident ambassador accredited to Brunei Darussalam and is based in Beijing, the People's Republic of China.



The State Minister at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom, Mr. John Battle MP, above, and His Excellency Michel Adechian, the special envoy of the Government of Benin, below, with His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Deputy Sultan, during separate audiences at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan.



Brunei Darussalam - Kazakhstan establish diplomatic relations

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan have decided to establish diplomatic relations with effect from 14 June 2000.

The signing of the joint communiqué took place at the office of the Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations in New York.

Signing on behalf of His Majesty's Government was His Excellency Haji Jemat bin Haji Ampal, Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations, while Her Excellency Mrs. Madina Jarbussynova, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations, signed on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Muslim women attend special gathering



Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah, flanked by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Noor Ehsani on the left, and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Nor'ain on the right, attending the Women's Special Gathering in observance of the birthday anniversary celebration of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah, the wife of the Deputy Sultan, has attended the Women Special Gathering in observance of Prophet Muhammad's, (peace be upon him) birthday anniversary celebration. The gathering was held at the Indoor Stadium of the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Sports Complex in Berakas on 21 June.

Also present at the gathering were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Nor'ain and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Noor Ehsani.

The ceremony began with the recital of the Koranic verses. The Chairwoman of the Joint Committee, Datin Hajjah Masnah, in a welcoming remark said that the theme 'Strengthen the National Identity of the Ummah According to Is-

lamic Teachings' was timely as we approached the new millennium, which showed higher development in all dimensions of man's life.

She also called on Muslim women to strengthen their national identity as a Muslim to enable them to face challenges and developments, which might ruin the Islamic identity.

They should as well strengthen the identity of the ummah, especially the younger generation, brought up in the information and technology era, which would change the economic and social scenerio of the community of the new millennium.

The Special Gathering was highlighted with a special talk on the devotion of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) for women during the age of ignorance or pre-Islamic day.

The gathering was jointly organised by the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and the Brunei Darussalam's Women Council. An exhibition, displaying pictures of the previous Women's Gatherings, criminal statistics and cases and pictures on abuses and violence was also held.



Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah views an exhibition, displaying pictures of the previous Women's Gatherings, criminal statistics, cases and pictures of abuses and violence.

SME'S urged to ally with each other and large corporations in the developed economies

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in developing economies were called on to ally themselves strategically with each other and with large corporations in the developed economies so as to enable them to exploit the marketing opportunities and the overall research and development capacities of corporations in the developed economies, as well as to share experiences and reap the benefits of the economic liberalisation.

Making the call at the opening of the APEC Women Leaders Networks (APEC-WLN) 2000 Meeting at the International Convention Centre in Berakas, on 18 June, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, the Ambassador-at-Large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that "as trade liberalisation gains momentum and business competitiveness becomes more intense, business therefore, depends on more than just increasing productivity.

"Entrepreneurs have to be innovative and creative. In other words, they should have the courage to do things in different ways from those they are accustomed to. This is pertinent if they are to compete successfully in the 'global village', Her Royal Highness urged.

Her Royal Highness pointed that SME's in the developing economies were facing several problems in reaching the world markets, where limits on marketing, distribution and business expertise were still the major constraints.

SME's in the developing countries, she further stressed, had not been able to exploit significant economies of scale, while large corporations in developed economies had tremendous marketing power and innovative capacity, which placed them in dominant positions, she added.

Her Royal Highness also praised women who opted to stay and succeeded in business, while at the same time taking care of their family's needs.

In fact, women entrepreneurs were more fortunate because the advancement of electronic technology, such as



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs urging small and medium enterprises in the developing economies to ally strategically with each other and large corporations in the developed economies.

the Internet, had given them the option to conduct business conveniently from home, she added.

The APEC-WLN 2000 Meeting carried the theme 'SMEs as Global Traders', and called on SME's to adopt the global perspective in enhancing their competitiveness.

In this respect, Her Royal Highness encouraged women entrepreneurs to venture further afield in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, because unlike in the past, where domestic economies faced little competition, they now confronted trade liberalisation and electronic commerce.

One of the major achievements of WLN last year was the endorsement of the 'Framework for the Intergration of Women in APEC' by APEC leaders in Auckland, which was an important step towards the full participation of women in regional economic activities.

Her Royal Highness hoped that WLN would get more actively involved in the relevant APEC programmes to extend the interests of women, particularly in business, and to share roles in facilitating economic transformation from a production-based economy to

the knowledge-based economy.

Her Royal Highness also called on WLN to continue working more closely with APEC fora in enhancing the technological capacity of women, which was essential in preparing women entrepreneurs for a borderless trading environment.

At the ceremony, Her Royal Highness launched the Women Business Council of Brunei Darussalam's (WBCBD) Website, and visited the mini business exhibition by women entrepreneurs.

The Women in Business' Website was aimed among others at introducing the WBCBD, becoming a tool for networking and strategic alliance and to keep members informed of all issues related to current events and to keep abreast with the current development.

It also aimed to highlight projects and initiatives of WBCBD, which could contribute in the long term, women in business and could increase their market size via e-business.

More than 270 participants, including 20 lecturers from APEC member economies attended the meeting. Of the number, 120 were from Brunei Darussalam.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam along with members of the royal family leads thousands of Muslims in the Brunei-Muara district in a mass procession around Brunei Darussalam's capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, above.



His Majesty mingles with heads of the participating teams prior to the mass procession at the Taman Haji Sir Omar Ali Saifuddin in the Brunei-Muara district, above, while Pengiran Dato Paduka Mahidin, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, the chief guest of anniversary celebration of Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) birthday at the Tutong district, being introduced to heads of the participating teams, below.



Above: A 'Doa Selamat' being read by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Tuan Imam Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Awang Haji Abdul Hamid, while students of the Arabic Primary School in Berli, Gadong, seen at the back to perform the 'Zikir Ma'nabati' (recitation of praises of the prophet). Muslim citizens comprise of governments officials, students and members of the public organisation and private sector taking part in the procession, below.



Above: The Permanent Secretary of the Defence Ministry (Finance and Development), Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerna Setia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Rahman, the chief guest of the celebration in the Belait district, being introduced to heads of the participating teams prior to the mass procession, while the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Mohidin, the chief guest of the similar celebration in the Temburong district, joins Muslims in the district in the mass procession, right.

* From page one
(Maulud celebration)

ing sins be born, said His Majesty.

His Majesty further said that this is the major ambition we are now striving for through various means, and one of them is by upgrading the 'dakwah' or propagation.

The Brunei ruler also reminded those who conducted the work of propagation to continue working properly.

"We also wish to build a pious community through education. Education is the soul of the people. Good education will produce good people," His Majesty added.

Therefore, education should be continuously preserved and maintained, with its good and Islamic policies to be continuously developed, said His Majesty, while adding that, this is another project towards building the people, which is being carried out, and Insha-Allah (by God willing), will be successful.

His Majesty also spoke on the Maulud celebration conducted based on piety to Allah the Almighty, for His command of encouraging the ummah to respect and honour the Prophet.

His Majesty said: Reciting a prayer for peace and prosperity for Prophet Muhammad, (peace be upon him), is one of religious obligations, which promises high reward and other benefits. Muslims are fortunate because their relationship with the Prophet continues even though he has demised. The teachings of the Prophet continue, his 'sunnah' (tradition and customs of the Prophet) is being practised and prayers for him are also answered, everywhere we are.

This is one of the characteristics of the beauty of Islam, and more importantly, is the sign of the generosity of Allah the Almighty and the specially given to the Islamic ummah, who are highly rewarded even though only through the recital of prayers - an opportunity, that is only given to make

and female Muslims, young and old.

His Majesty, therefore, called on the Muslims in the country to enliven the Maulud celebration by reciting more prayers for Prophet Muhammad, (peace be upon him), all their lives.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined thousand of Muslims at a mass gathering and procession in observance of Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) birthday at Taman Haji Sir Omar Ali Saifuddin in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, on 15 June.

With His Majesty were His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim.

The ceremony began with the recital of the Surah Al-Faatiha led by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Tuan Imam Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Hamid.

The Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Straja Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Yahya, in a welcoming remark among other things pointed that the self identity as a Muslim is to always preserve and strengthen their faith to Allah the Almighty, and strive to upgrade their piety.

In order to achieve a good quality of life in all aspects, he urged Muslims in the Sultanate to be well-disciplined, to protect the rule and laws, to be patient, to value the time, and be hardworking, as well as having the spirit and capability in facing any challenges and obstacles.

When the ummah could achieve a good standard of experience, their religious life's value would be increased and strong, said the Deputy Minister, while adding that this would enable them to receive the blessings from Allah the Almighty and would bring about a happy life, as desired by all human beings.

Prior to the Maulud celebration, ceremonies for the recital of the Koranic verses were held at mosques, suraus or prayer halls and individual homes, since the beginning of Rabiulawwal.

More than 35 thousand Muslims took part in the mass gathering. Similar gatherings were also held in the Belait, Tutong and Temburong district to observe the birthday of the Prophet

Olympic Day Run 2000



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, President of Brunei Darussalam's National Olympic Council, joins more than 800 runners in the Olympic Day Run 2000 at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium in Berakas.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, President of the Brunei Darussalam's National Olympic Council, joined more than 800 runners in the Olympic Day Run 2000 on 25 June.

The Run, which began and ended at the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium in Berakas, was divided into three categories covering the distance of one, five and ten kilometers for male and female participants of several age levels.

The International Olympic Committee has recognised 23 June as the Olympic Day to remind the world's population of the ideal of the movement. The celebration aims to plan ideas and Olympic policies.

The Olympic brings with it a message of love and peace, a principle of giving equal opportunities for all and protests any form of discrimination based on politics, nationality and religion.

His Royal Highness later consented to present prizes to winners of the categories.

Health status in Brunei Darussalam has improved over the years

The health status in Brunei Darussalam has improved over the years. The infant mortality rate has significantly decreased to only 6.5 per 1000 since 1971. The life expectancy of Bruneians has also increased. On an average, men live up to 75 years and women 77 years, which also indicates the improvement of the country's health status.

In this regard, the National Health Care Plan (2000-2010) which proposes major health reforms was launched by Acting Minister of Health, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz.

Speaking as the guest of honour at the ceremony held at the Jerudong Polo Club on June 25, the Acting Minister said under the plan, there would be four guiding principles of health services for all Bruneians.

These included ensuring universal access of better health, enabling equity of access to comprehensive health services, promoting partnership and public participation in the concept of co-production of efficient and effective health services for all, and ensuring that the health service system was sustainable within the ministry institutional capacity and financial resources, he added.

He also said that, the plan, which is actually a strategic framework for action, also underlines that the health sector must be joined with the economic and social activities of Brunei.

It aims at maintaining and improving the present health system in the country besides a proper management of the healthcare.

The goals under the plan include promotion of primary health care, management of non-communicable and

chronic diseases, to improve the quality of health care and for the betterment of Health Care Funding and Financing, promoting areas of excellence and strengthening the national health Information systems.

It also aims to improve the quality of policy-making and management, to bring positive changes in work culture, to improve professional competency and standards, to enhance cost effectiveness in service delivery and improvement in the management of support-services.

He further added, in 1980, the Ministry of Health spent B\$43.5 million or 0.41 of the GDP. The expenditure increased to B\$192.46 million in 1998.

"The mission of the Ministry of Health is to improve the health status of the people of Brunei Darussalam through a high quality and comprehensive

** Continued on page 9*

Y E A B launched

Young entrepreneurs and 'village heads' from Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economies expressed optimism that the emergence of the "New Economy" is spurring a more supportive environment for young entrepreneurs.

In a hitherto unheard of televised 'Town Hall' session in any APEC SME Business Forum and which was beamed to all 21 APEC economies, young entrepreneurs shared each other's experiences on the challenges of being in business and received advice from established business people on the keys to business success.

Part of the dialogue session is being made into an educational video for distribution to schools within APEC economies.

Before the live 'Town Hall' session got under way, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Abdul Qawi, the Executive Deputy Chairman and Director of QAF Brunei, officially opened the formation of the Young Entrepreneurs Association of Brunei (YEAB) and launched its website (HYPERLINK "<http://www.yea-brunei.com>" www.yea-brunei.com) at the International Convention Centre in



Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Abdul Qawi, the Executive Deputy Chairman and Director of QAF Brunei, officiating the formation of the Young Entrepreneurs Association of Brunei (YEAB) and the launching of its website at the International Convention Centre in Berakas on June 21.

Berakas on June 21.

The ceremony included the presentation of certificate of appreciation to the winner of YEAB logo design competition, Arkitek Ibrahim.

The 'Town Hall' session featured four young entrepreneurs with another four villages who have been successful in their business establishments.

According to a press statement, another 120 young entrepreneurs from APEC economies formed the interactive audience to the session. It was chaired by Mr Timothy Ong of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) and leading Brunei businessmen.

The panel of young entrepreneurs pointed out barriers for entry into the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Ketrina Bercov, 26, founder of Ovation, an edutainment company from Australia said: "Young entrepreneurs need to have a lot of perseverance, self-belief and tenacity to be taken seriously, especially by multinationals."

The other young panelists were Khuned Sachdev from Thailand, Lisa Dato Ibrahim of Brunei and Michael Ryan from the United States.

Laina Greene of Singapore, CEO of GetIT Multimedia.com, who is based in Silicon Valley said: "The key ingredient for the success of places like the Silicon Valley is the 'SME-Friendly' environment that attracts young entrepreneurs to start up new companies."

Strong personality and motivation were pointed out as keys to success.

Founder and CEO of Aoraki Corporation Limited, an established software entrepreneur from New Zealand, Sir Gil Simpson, said: "You have to prepare for success, not for failure. You need to believe passionately in the business you are starting and have the courage to carry it through to success."

Sir Simpson was one of the "elder" panelists along with Andriana Lever from Canada and Standard Chartered CEO David Knight from Brunei.

According to Lisa Dato Ibrahim, Pro Term President of the YEAB: "We are excited to pioneer this approach to reach a wider audience for an APEC event. We hope the discussions will be inspiring, instructional and interesting for both young, aspiring entrepreneurs out there."

The YEAB is a voluntarily group of business professionals, who are under the age of 40 years and are owners, founders, co-founder, partners or controlling shareholders of a company registered in Brunei Darussalam.

The main objective of YEAB is to act as a mechanism to promote entrepreneurship and development of the SMEs in Brunei Darussalam. It aims to provide a forum where members can share their knowledge, experience and inspiration. It also acts as a platform to enhance the interaction between the young entrepreneurs of Brunei Darussalam and the government.

** From page 8
(Health status)*

sive health care system which is effective, efficient, responsive, affordable, equitable and accessible to all", the Minister said.

He added, the health of the people would always be a national priority. The Ministry of Health's agenda for the 21st century would be health improvement for people-centered development.

The preliminary work of the plan started with a strategic management training of 18 senior officials of the ministry last year. The course was followed by 15 workshops and seminars, for which Universiti Brunei Darussalam also lent its expertise.

Assistance in specific technical area needed



The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman viewing the E-Trade Fair held at the International Convention Centre.

Small and medium entrepreneurs are increasingly crucial and integral to the business community's contribution to the economic situation of the community as a whole. Their growth should be seen as a continuous and sustainable process.

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman in his speech at the Joint Opening of The Business Forum, E-Trade Fair and E-Commerce Workshop on June 20, said that the programme were designed to help the small and medium enterprises.

He believed that assistance should be provided in specific technical area for the growth process to ensure sustainable development of the SMEs.

Advances in information and communication technologies change the business landscape, both in the public and private sectors. In the public sector, it facilitates more effective and efficient business transactions, while for SMEs, the technologies promise to be

great equalisers in promoting their goods and services to a global scale.

It is hoped that the SMEs Ministerial Meeting, Business Forum, E-Commerce Workshop and E-Trade Fair would produce groundbreaking discussions and outcomes, and form new friendships and networks for SMEs in the region.

The Minister later toured the E-Trade Fair, held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

The E-Trade Fair brought together APEC member economies to exhibit and promote their products. The exhibition was hoped to enable the participants to explore into affluent markets such as in Canada, USA, and Japan. The fair also provided the opportunities for networking and strategic alliances.

The representatives are manufacturers, importers, and exporters, government trade associations and consultants from both IT and Non-IT companies. 60 companies were taking part in the fair.

E-Commerce will open new opportunities particularly in logistic business.

Electronic Commerce is being defined differently by each group. Marketing professionals define E-Commerce as a way of marketing products via cyberspace while, retail groups define it as a way of selling products through computer networks.

The Director of Ports, Awang Haji Ibrahim bin Haji Mohd. Ali, said the port community is one of the pioneer groups in Brunei which should apply E-Commerce for business.

Haji Ibrahim was speaking at the three-day E-Commerce seminar of Apec Transportation Working Group, Phase I which ended on June 7 at the Civil Service Institute, Rimba.

"However, E-Commerce is defined by Paul Timmers, the author of Electronic Commerce, as doing business electronically. Nowadays, E-Commerce is developing to B2B, that is business to business, and B2C business to consumer".

He also added by saying that in embarking E-Commerce, many questions begin to crop out including the public in general and the port community in particular.

He said despite these opportunities, the response from the community in Brunei Darussalam, in general, is slow due to various reasons, including lack of awareness,

** Continued on page 11*

insecurity on mode of payment, and the lack of legal framework.

"In the course of this training, I am sure you realise the extent of E-Commerce affecting your business. Thus, let me share with you our development strategy on electronic commerce in the years to come, he said.

He added that the value networks in port operation and logistics are to stay through Internet electronic commerce. While training for the port community in electronic commerce will continue.

"E-Commerce will open new opportunities particularly logistic business," he said. He then added, E-Commerce would enhance the productivity and ports business will move towards paperless transaction.

Haji Ibrahim asserted that the tender on computerisation of Muara Port logistic operation is now being evaluated.

He hoped the port would have a system in operation before the end of this year, which would be a great step towards B2C.

The major works to be done, he said, would include the employees and users participation, redesigning of business process and the application of a right computer technology."

The official said that the port community would thrive in the new economy provided, by adopting a new way of thinking and applying it in the way we do businesses. Therefore, we must move our business process to an open architecture based on Internet standard, with flexible, robust and scalable computer.

Awang Haji Ibrahim also announced that the port community would have an E-Business through a network called E-Muara as a step towards B2B.

E-Muara would among other things, provides computer networks to the Port Department, Royal Customs and Excise Department, Marine Department, Health Department, Immigration Department, Shipping Agencies, Freight Forwarders and the banks. It will be operating on web based technology.



The Minister of Development, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Wijaya Pengiran Dr. Haji Ismail being briefed on the implementation system of electrical power delivery. Also seen was the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Zakaria.

More main electrical substations have been set up

More main electrical substations have been set up as part of efforts to upgrade and improve the quality and effectiveness of electricity supply system in the country.

This was seen with the launching of two such facilities, the Beribi substation at Kampong Kiarong and Tungku-2 substation at Kampong Rimba by the Minister of Development, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Wijaya Pengiran Dr. Haji Ismail.

The Beribi substation which has been commissioned by the Electrical Department since May 15, last month was built at a cost of about B\$19.3 million. It has a main office, service room and control room. Meanwhile, the Tungku-2 main substation that was completed in October last year was constructed at a cost of 4.2 million dollar. The setting up of more substations with 66,000 and 11,000 volts could reduce the system distances or substation lines.

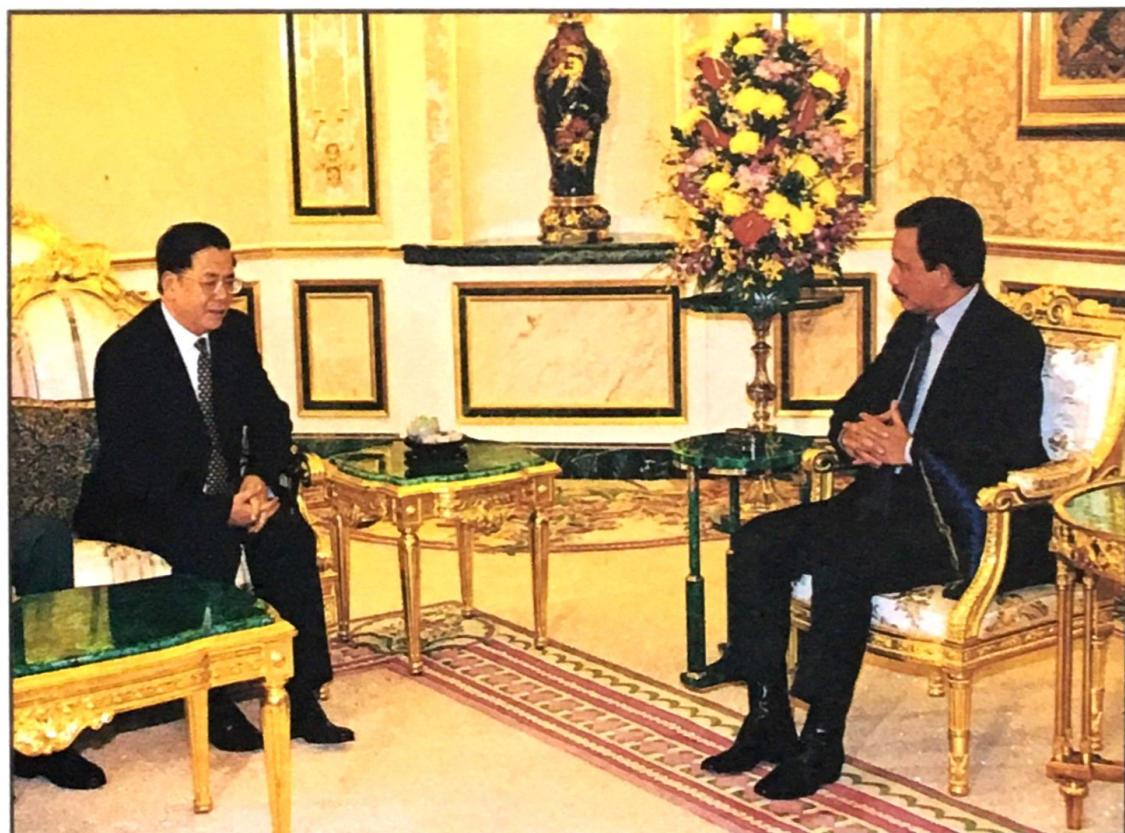
The main electrical substations in Beribi and Tungku-2 was part of the government's efforts through the department of Electrical Services in reinforcing the supply system of 66,000 and 11,000 of voltage in the Brunei Muara district.

The setting up of additional substations would help reduce the distance or diversion lines to make it more effective. It will be supplied to the densely populated residential sites, commercial and industrial zones at Beribi, Jangsak, Kiarong, Kiulap, Jalan Tutong from mile one to mile three, the V-I-P Housing area and the State Mufti's building at Jalan Pengiran Babu Raja.

The 66/11 kilovolt Tungku-2 station would supply electricity to the National Housing Scheme and the Rakyat jati in Kampong Rimba, Katok and Tungku. It can also meet the increasing needs of electricity supply in the vicinity areas in the near future.

In the early stages of the Seventh National Development Plan in 1996 - 1997, the Electrical Services Department has succeeded in making major and comprehensive changes on the 11,000 voltage electric supply system to various areas in the Brunei-Muara district. The move helps to overcome the subdivision problems of the supply system which were critical at that time.

Vietnam's Minister for Foreign Affairs in audience



His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Dy Nien, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in conversation with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during his audience with the ruler at Istana Nurul Iman on 14 June, above, while picture below shows His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Dy Nien signing a Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of a Joint Commission for bilateral cooperation between both countries.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on 14 June at Istana Nurul Iman, granted an audience to the visiting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Dy Nien.

During the audience, His Majesty welcomed the Minister to the country and exchanged views on bilateral relations and a number of regional issues.

Meanwhile, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs on the same day hosted a luncheon for His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Dy Nien at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan.

Prior to the luncheon, His Royal Highness and His Excellency signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of a Joint Commission for bilateral cooperation between the His Majesty's Government and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. They also discussed bilateral and several regional issues.

His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Dy Nien was in Brunei Darussalam for series of visits to the ASEAN member countries.

Brunei in Brief

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan

Land size : 5765 sq. km.

Population : 336,376 (July 2000 estimate)

Official Language : Malay

Official Religion : Islam

May rainfall : 132.6 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.**