



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 presenting the Outstanding Teacher Award in Computer to Awang Haji Yussof bin Haji Mohammad, left, and Outstanding Teacher Award in Religious Education, Dayang Hajjah Miri binti Haji Tejuddin, right, in conjunction with the 10th Teacher's Day celebration.

National Education Council urged to set up educational philosophy: Titah

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has urged the country's National Education Council to set up an educational philosophy in order to be able to produce the best human beings, who are truly knowledgeable, faithful and pious.

The philosophy should be well balanced to achieve the objectives of mankind of this world and the hereafter, whose defectives would lead to the

lameness of the ummah, said His Majesty.

Making the call at the 10th Teacher's Day celebrations held at the Indoor Stadium of the Hassanal Bolkiah Sports Complex in Berakas on 23 September, His Majesty said that the Council should now identify and make well-organised preparations to include religious schools in the country under the roof of the Ministry of Education.

"For this purpose, a permanent and more stable policy should be imple-

mented so that the religious and general education are proportioned and well balanced," the ruler further stressed.

His Majesty said that it was easier to speak on the unification of the system and educational administration, but what was most awaited for and welcomed was its implementation.

His Majesty hoped that the objectives would not remain as news without reality or a well without water or a

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YOUR TURN

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



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam mingles with teachers at the celebration held at the International Convention Centre.

** From page one
(Teacher's Day)*

tree without fruits.

Education is a temporary trust, while religion is the foundation of all, said His Majesty, while adding that if the religion is weak, then the people will be weak too.

"We must build our people based on knowledge and religion. Both must be concerted and cannot be separated. It is here that our children, our generation and we will grow. No one should drop out from taking part in this quality growth," His Majesty reminded.

His Majesty earlier pointed out that the main objective of teaching and education was to produce quality human resources based on various obligations and requirements, covering the country's socio-economy and politics.

We need to grab these objectives in relevance with the borderless globalisation era, and we need to be proactive in line with the rapid pace of development, said His Majesty.

"We are obliged to be in the front line and not behind the progress. Manpower resources we wish to achieve is not only that which could meet normal requirement, but should also be capable of bringing about excellent new changes," said His Majesty.

These, however, would not be achieved within a short time. Plans and efforts should be made from now onwards as it needs immediate action, besides knowledge and talent, added the Monarch.

His Majesty hoped that the Teach-

er's Day would give positive impacts to teaching profession and education in the country.

Also speaking at the function was the Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Md. Zain, who among other things, touched on the Government's consent to set aside B\$11.3 million for the project of introducing computers to schools in the country, a project conducted in phases since 1997.

By 2001, all primary schools will be supplied with computers, while a more systematic Information Communication Technology (ICT) education for secondary schools will be continued and streamlined for life-long learning.

The Minister also hoped that the wide use of computers and skill in ICT would become the learning and teaching culture in all schools in the country.

On religious education, the Minister said that emphasis would continue to be made in the teaching of the Al-Quran and religious practical, so that every pupil would be able to properly dominate Islamic teachings as the foundation of a religious life.

Efforts were also being carried out to complete a more comprehensive Draft on Laws of Education in order to further upgrade educational development in the country.

He said, the private sector also plays

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam together with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen sit on homage of the do'a read by the State Mufti in conjunction with the 10th Teacher's Day.

** From page 2
(Teacher's Day)*

an important part in the country's educational development. The projects they are involved with include the Apprenticeship Training Scheme, Youth Entrepreneur Scheme (YES) and the latest, the Educational Loan Scheme.

Also present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam later consented to present Teachers' Day Awards. The Outstanding Teacher in Computer Award was awarded to Awang Haji Yussof bin Haji Mohammad, while Dayang Hajjah Miri binti Haji Tejuddin was awarded the Outstanding Teacher in Religious Education Award. Both received B\$4,000.00 and a gold medal.

The Teacher's Day is observed on every 23 September to commemorate

the birthday of His Majesty's late father, Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien.

The 10th Teacher's Day carries the theme 'Info-Communication Technology, the Catalyst of a Quality Education. So far, 24 teachers have received Teacher's Awards. Eight received Meritorious Teacher's Award, six received Retired Teacher's Award, eight received Outstanding Teacher's Award and two received Teacher's Day Award.

New Commissioner of Supreme Court appointed

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam had consented to the appointment of Awang Mohammad Saied Sawan as the new Commissioner of the Supreme Court.

The Swearing-in Ceremony for the new Commissioner was made before His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at Istana Nurul Iman on 27 September.

The letter of appointment was read by the Grand Chamberlain, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Penggawa Laila Bentara Istiadat Diraja Dalam Istana, Pengiran Haji Alauddin. Awang Mohammad Saied Sawan was later granted an audience.

Awang Mohammad Saied Sawan, aged 70, was previously the Judge of the High Court of Hong Kong.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam shakes hand with the new Commissioner of the Supreme Court, Awang Mohammad Saied Sawan, during the Swearing-in Ceremony held at Istana Nurul Iman.

Present at the Swearing-in Ceremony were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presents a credential to Brunei Darussalam's Ambassador to the Republic of the Federation of Germany, His Excellency Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd. Adnan bin Buntar, left and the Ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic of Lao, His Excellency Pengiran Indera Perkasa Pengiran Haji Hamdan bin Pengiran Haji Ismail, right.

Brunei ruler presents and receives credentials

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to present a credential to two Brunei Darussalam's ambassadors and receive a credential from two foreign ambassadors to the country. The ceremony took place at Istana Nurul Iman on 25 September.

His Majesty first presented a credential to Brunei Darussalam's Ambassador to the Republic of the Federation of Germany, His Excellency Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd. Adnan bin Buntar. His Excellency was previously the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was the Sultanate's High Commissioner to India from 1994 to 1997.

Next to receive his credential was the country's Ambassador to the People Democratic Republic of Lao, His Excellency Pengiran Indera Perkasa Pengiran Haji Hamdan bin Pengiran Haji Ismail. His Excellency, aged 54, was previously a Police Inspector and was later appointed as the Deputy Director of Protocol Affairs and Counsellor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

His Majesty later received the credentials of the European Commission Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Sabato Della Monica based in Jakarta and the Ambassador of the Republic of Chile, His Excellency Mr. Roberto Ibarra Garcia, based in Kuala Lumpur.

His Excellency Mr. Sabato Della Monica, aged 57, was previously the Technical Adviser at the Prime Minister's Office and was the Minister of Popular Planning of the Republic of Congo in 1971 and 1977.

Meanwhile, His Excellency Mr. Roberto Ibarra Garcia, aged 47, was previously the Counsellor of the Embassy of Chile to Italy from 1992 – 1994, and the Counsellor Minister for Chile Mission to the European Union in 1997. His Majesty also consented to grant separate audiences to the ambassadors.



His Majesty also receives the credential of the non-resident European Commission Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Sabato Della Monica, above, and the non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Chile to the country, His Excellency Mr. Roberto Ibarra Garcia, below.



Brunei ruler visits preparations for APEC Summit

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on September 27, has consented to visit the preparations being made for the APEC Heads of Economies Summit to be held in November this year.

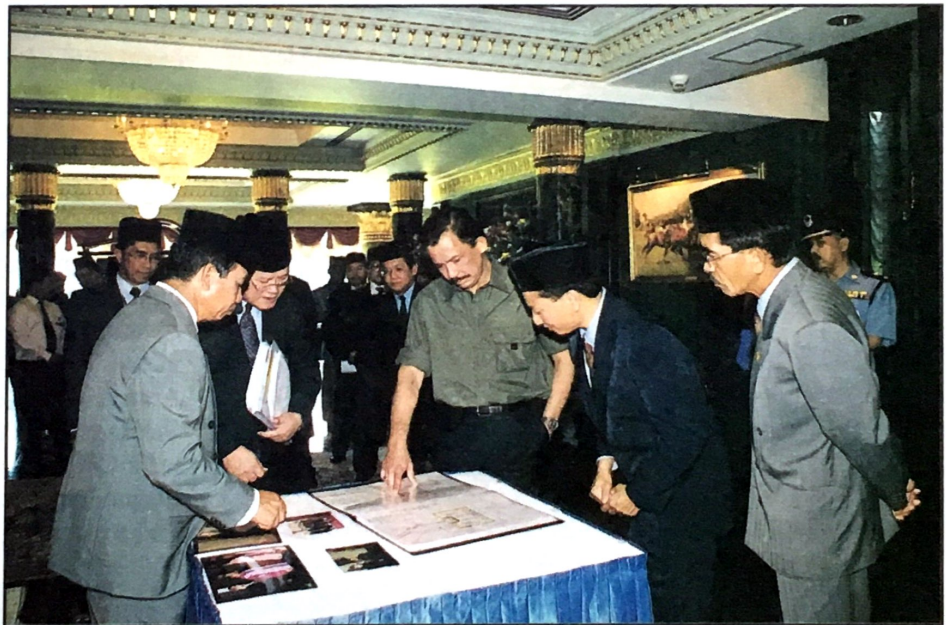
His Majesty first visited the International Convention Centre in Berakas, the main venue for the APEC meeting and the Jerudong Park Polo Club.

Upon arrival, His Majesty was welcomed by the Minister of Development, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Wijaya Pengiran Dr. Haji Ismail, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Paduka Awang Lim Jock Seng and Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Dewa General Major (R) Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Haji Mohammad bin Haji Daud, the Executive Director of APEC 2000.

At the Jerudong Park Polo Club, His Majesty was briefed by the Executive Director of APEC 2000.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam tours the Jerudong Park Polo Club, above, and being briefed on the venues, where preparations are being made for the 9th APEC Summit, below.



Emergency (Public Health) (Food) Order and Regulations to come into force

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to the implementation and enforcement of the Emergency Order (Public Health) (Food) Order 1998 and the Public Health (Food) Regulations 2000 with effect from 1 January 2001.

The Order and its Regulation were enacted with the purpose of ensuring that food, whether imported or locally produced is safe and is of good quality, including 'halal' (permissible for Muslims' consumption) from the aspect of

'Hukum Syarak' (Islamic Law).

The Acting Minister of Health, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, in a press statement on 14 September hoped that enforcement of the Order would be able to protect the consumers from fraudulent practices by manufacturers who produces food of low quality as well as the usage of harmful additives.

"In view of that, the importation of food into this country is regulated in terms of quality especially on labeling

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Deputy Sultan and heads of delegations for the 7th APEC Finance Ministers Meeting and heads of International Financial Institutions in a group picture after the audience at Istana Nurul Iman.

Deputy Sultan receives in audience heads of delegation for 7th APEC FMM and heads of IFI

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Deputy Sultan, has consented to receive in audience the heads of delegation for the Seventh APEC Finance Ministers Meeting and heads of International Financial Institutions at Istana Nurul Iman on 9 September.

During the audience, His Royal Highness touched on the encouraging trend of the global and regional economic and financial condition, and highlighted on the crucial role of APEC in helping to build a stronger economic foundation in the region.

On the current condition of the world crude oil market price, the Deputy Sultan stated the benefits obtained by Brunei Darussalam as a crude oil producing country, and raised concerns on the implication of a high crude oil price on consumers.

His Royal Highness also spoke on the importance of

creating a 'social safety net' towards ensuring the welfare of those prone to be affected by the financial crisis, and stressed on the significance of skills development towards the regional economic recovery and of harnessing information and communication technology for the betterment of APEC member economies.

Also present at the audience were the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman, the Deputy Ministers of Finance, Pehin Dato Paduka Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Ahmad Wally Skinner and Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Selamat, the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair and the Permanent Secretaries of the Finance Ministry, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Yakub and Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Maidin.

First Islamic Expo will provide a grand opportunity for tourism development

The Islamic Expo to be held on August 1 next year will provide a grand opportunity to the country in the development of tourism.

This was said by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources while launching the logo of the First Islamic Expo on August 24.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman said, apart from enjoying the beautiful environment of the country, the participants would be

able to have a close glance at the history of Islam in general and in Brunei in particular.

"This expo will put Brunei Darussalam prominently on the world map and will also be part of the Visit Brunei Year 2001 programme," he added.

The Minister also expressed his appreciation to the Mufti Department in organising the expo next year.

He further added, as a small country with limited resources, Brunei

Darussalam will have to focus on tourism to further its economic development.

The Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources will put its full support to make the First Islamic Expo as a programme in the Visit Brunei Year 2001.

The ceremony also saw the signing of an agreement between the State Mufti Department and the Transpower Cooperation Company, under which the company will manage and promote the expo.

Millennium Summit provides UN with new priorities

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs commended the United Nations Secretary-General's report to the Millennium Summit and stated that the Final Declaration adopted by the Heads of Government at the Summit provided the world body with new priorities.

His Royal Highness made the remarks while delivering his statement at the 55th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on 16 September.

His Royal Highness began his statement by saying the report was comprehensive, ethical and most impressive, and that it was to be a textbook for the coming years of the world body.

"Its noble aims light up the future," said His Royal Highness. "In our view, it has given us precise targets that can really help developing nations, and for the first time, we can distinguish clearly between immediate issues and long term ones."

These issues under its new name - transnational issues, are becoming very serious as highlighted in the Secretary-General's report. Each of these issues concerned has its academic title; technological problems, demographic problems, socio-economic problems, and environmental problems.

"These issues are far too big for individual governments or even regional organisations to deal with," said His Royal Highness, "It is all too clear that they will not be solved in the market place either. The solutions will not trickle down. In fact, the global market economy has lengthened the list of them and has created its own set of special problems," he said.

On this, His Royal Highness called on all members of the United Nations

to accept a joint international responsibility to find solutions to these issues. His Royal Highness also stressed that in order to be successful in the new joint duty, the world body should concentrate on what it does best and is best to equipped to do. This is translated to the practical, urgent work done by the United Nations' organs and agencies and its professionals and volunteers, in

** Continued on page 8*

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Foreign Affairs, shakes hand with Her Excellency Maria Eugeina Brizuela de Avila, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador shortly before they hold a meeting at the UN Headquarters building in New York.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah during the Coordinator Meeting of OIC Foreign Ministers held at the UN Headquarters building in New York. Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, the Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also attends the meeting.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, the Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attend the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting in New York.

* From page 7
(UNGA)

the field, close to the people.

His Royal Highness recognised the work done by agencies such as UNESCO, UNICEF and WHO as important, and believed their work represent development in areas such as education and training which are absolutely critical for the people of developing nations to move beyond a day-to-day struggle for basic food, shelter and medicine and take part successfully in the new global economy.

The 55th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York was chaired by His Excellency Mr. Harri Kolehmainen from Finland.

In the Millennium Report, the Secretary-General identifies pressing challenges faced by the world's peoples. These challenges are placed under four main themes:

1) **Freedom from Want** which has set a target date – 2015 to reduce world's poverty level, to provide safe drinking water, to implement compulsory education and to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.

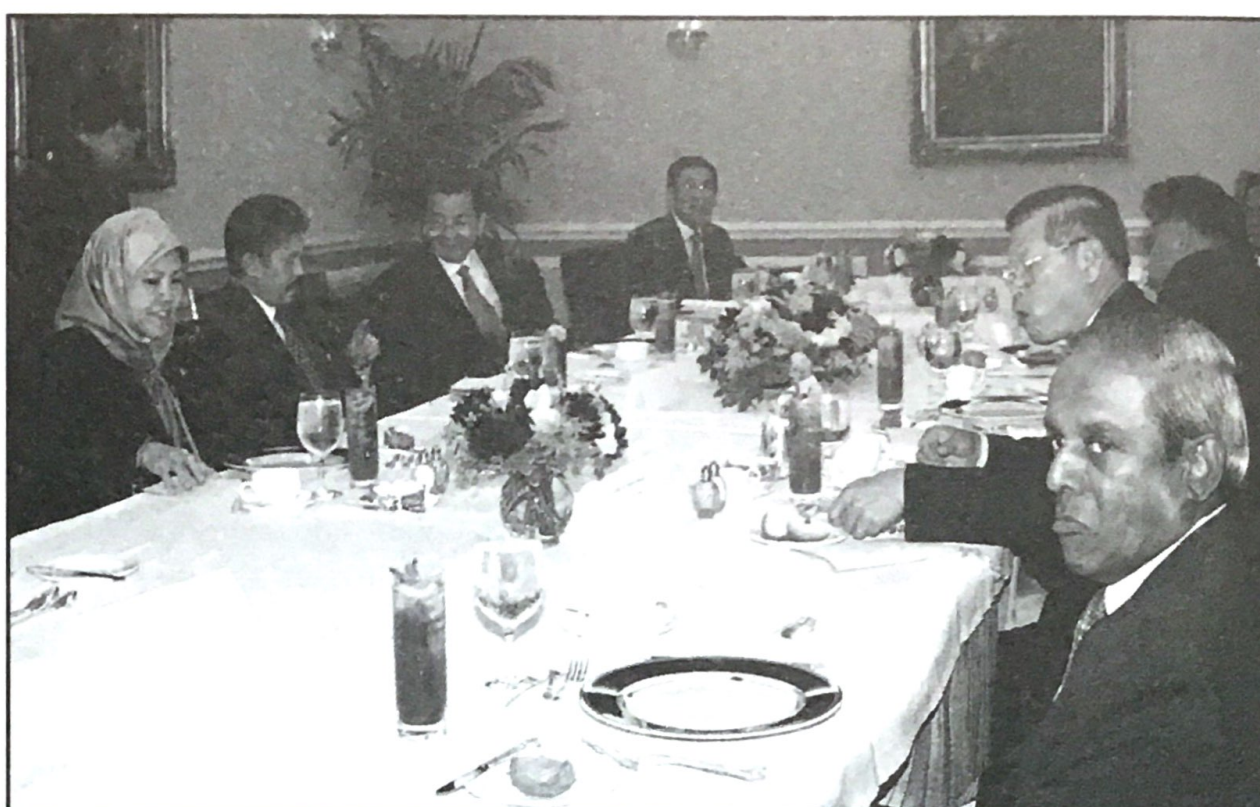
2) **Freedom from Fear**; to strengthen respect for international law and enhance capacity of the UN to conduct peace operations, to remove nuclear dangers and small arms.

3) **A sustainable Future** which overall aims to keep the earth's ecosystem in check. One specific measure is to incorporating the UN system of 'green accounting' into their own national accounts, in order to integrate environmental issues into mainstream economic policy.

4) **Renewing the United Nations** aims to make the UN a more effective instrument in the hands of the world's peoples by making reforms that will make the world body functions more effectively and render its services more accessible to a wider audience.

The Secretary-General has also proposed several immediate steps that members of the United Nations can take in his report. They include:

1) A volunteer corps, called the



United Nations Information Technology Services (UNITeS) to train groups in developing countries in the uses and opportunities of the Internet and information technology.

2) A Health InterNetwork, to establish 10,000 on-line sites in hospitals and clinics in developing countries to provide access to up-to-date medical information. This initiative is supported by the WebMD Foundation, WHO, the United Nations Foundation and other partners.

3) A disaster response initiative, "First on the Ground", which will provide mobile and satellite telephones as well as microwave links for humanitarian relief workers in areas affected by natural disasters and emergencies. This project will be led by the communications company Ericsson, with United Nations partners and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

4) A global policy network to explore viable new approaches to the

problem of youth employment. This high level group, to be convened jointly with the heads of the World Bank and the ILO, and to include private sector and civil society leaders, will make recommendations to Governments within a year.

While in New York, Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Foreign Affairs also attended the OIC Foreign Ministers Annual Meeting at the UN Headquarters building. In a statement he delivered during the meeting, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah spoke on the priorities of the Islamic Ummah in facing the modern world.

On 20 September, His Royal Highness and His Excellency Dr. Kamal Kharazi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, co-chaired the 6th Annual Meeting between ASEAN and the ECO Regional Group of nations from West and Cen-

* Continued on back page



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and the Secretary-General of the OIC, His Excellency Dr. Azzeddine Laraki, in the midst of discussion during the meeting at the UN Headquarters building in New York.

APEC Finance Ministers tackle abuse of financial system

APEC Finance Ministers attending the 7th Finance Ministers Meeting launched a new collaborative initiative to combat abuse of the financial system.

The ministers set up a working group to conduct a survey to determine the adequacy of legal and regulatory frameworks for fighting financial crimes, building on work already completed by APEC members of the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering.

The Finance Ministers were pursuing a series of initiatives intended to strengthen financial markets and improve economic management and corporate governance.

In a statement issued after a two-day meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan, the Ministers underscored the need for strong measures to combat money laundering, tax evasion, financial fraud and other criminal or unethical activities.

They also encouraged financial institutions to work further to develop sound financial and capital markets and good governance.

In an annex to the final statement, the Ministers said that it had been agreed to "incorporate elements tied to detection and the combating of money laundering into the model curriculum being developed through the APEC Bank Supervisors Training Initiatives, and to develop course content to address abuses of the financial system."

On 25 May, host economy Brunei

Darussalam passed a Money-Laundering Order to prevent the use of the financial system for money laundering as part of a package of legislation laying the foundations for the new Brunei International Financial Centre. The Order provides for prison terms and /or fines of anyone found guilty of infractions.

A second piece of legislation, the Criminal Conduct (Recovery of Proceeds) Order, was also passed on the same day, provides for recovery of the proceeds of criminal conduct and facilitation of enforcement of overseas forfeiture and restraint orders to recover the proceeds of criminal conduct. Under the order, property – notably land or securities – connected to an offence may be confiscated.

The Finance Ministers also agreed to extend their Financial Regulators Training Initiatives for two years and instructed advisory group to meet in November to finalise Action Plans under the program aimed at bank supervisors and securities regulators.

In an annex to the Joint Ministerial Statement, the Ministers said that the second phase of the initiative, launched in 1998 with support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), would build on the regional network of training managers and the curriculum tools developed during the first phase. The second phase was expected to broaden the scope of the training

initiative in order to amplify and deepen its impact.

"In the banking sector, model courses and self-study courses will be developed for banking regulations and supervision, credit and market analysis, bank examination and treasury management and operations.

Similar materials will be developed for primary and secondary markets, securities regulation and enforcement," it added.

The statement added that to support the regional programs, the ADB would assist with national programs in the Philippines, Indonesia and China.

APEC Finance Ministers endorsed this initiative at their fifth meeting in Kananaskis in 1998. Supported by ADB, it has been steered by advisory groups of bank supervisors.

The Finance Ministers also endorsed a Voluntary Action Plan (VAP) for promoting Free and More Stable Capital Flows and proposed launching a policy dialogue in the second half of next year to strengthen financial markets.

The further added that 'sound and credible' financial policies are adopted, and robust structures are established to manage risk effectively. The Ministers resolve to continue policy reforms that enable them to take advantage of the opportunities available in international capital markets.

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The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman and New Zealand's Minister of Finance, The Honourable Dr. Michael Cullin co-chair the Joint Press Conference of the 7th APEC Finance Ministers Meeting at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

* From page 9
(AFMM meeting)

The policy dialogue, which forms the second half of the Action Plan endorsed by the Ministers during the Bandar Seri Begawan meeting, will assist economies to implement key international standards and codes to explore approaches to the promotion of sound and efficient financial markets. The policy dialogue will be based on particular policy issues of international standards, depending on the priorities identified by economies.

The APEC Finance Ministers at their fourth meeting in Cebu agreed that Finance and Central Bank Deputies would prepare a VAP for promoting freer and more stable flows of capital in the APEC region. Its objectives include enhancing APEC economies' understanding of the benefits and risks associated with cross-border capital flows; developing a sound understanding of the policies needed to maximise the benefits and minimise the risks; and encouraging the implementation of policies to promote robust and open economies in the APEC region.

The 7th Finance Ministers Meeting was officially opened by the Lead Chair, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman, the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources at the International Convention Centre on 9 September.

In his opening remarks, the Minister outlined the agenda for the meeting, which covered a broad range of issues, from the regional economy to developments in strengthening the in-



The Deputy Minister of Finance, Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Selamat during the Press Briefing on Brunei International Financial Centre (BIFC).

ternational financial architecture, under the overall theme of 'Delivering to the Community'.

The Co-Chair, Dr. Michael Cullen of New Zealand underscored concerns about improving the welfare of the poorest, and he endorsed APEC's goal of delivering greater prosperity to the people of the Asia-Pacific region by pursuing sustainable economic growth. He also spoke of the 'common challenges' faced by the APEC member economies.

The morning session began with an analysis on global and regional microeconomic and financial developments with representatives of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Asia Development Bank.

The meeting was jointly chaired by Brunei Darussalam and New Zealand under the transitional arrangement agreed to at the preceding meeting in Langkawi in May last year.

Finance and Central Bank Deputies met on 7 and 8 September to finalise preparations for Ministerial Meeting also at the International Convention Centre.

Meanwhile, the Finance Ministers' spouses had their own programmes. They engaged in the visits to some places of interest in the Sultanate, such as the Brunei Museum, Royal Regalia Building and houses built under the Government's Special Land Scheme and Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

* From page 5
(Emergency (Public Health) (Food) Order and Regulations)

and safety. Any food items requiring date marking will have to be registered prior to the approval of any importation in order to ensure that the date marking is done in accordance with Brunei Regulations," said the Minister.

The usage of the term 'halal', 'Ditanggung Halal' or 'Muslim Food' shall only be used in accordance with the Hukum Syarak, that is, fit for consumption by Muslims. The Order requires that the usage of such expression shall encompass all stages of pro-

duction which includes preparation, processing and storage of raw and processed food as well as and the use of additives.

The Order also regulates food premises and appliances used in the preparation of food, which are required to be kept in a clean and sanitary manner.

"With the advent of this Order, Insha Allah (by God willing) the importation of food is more restricted and this will enable the local food producers to improve the quality of their products so as enable them to compete with those who export their products into

the country. In this regard, the local producers are also required to comply with the said Order and Regulations," said the Minister.

The Emergency (Public Health) (Food) Order and its Regulations are in line with the international standards defined by Codex Alimentarius, the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). These Order and Regulations are, therefore, on equal standing with related laws in the developed countries having trade relations with the Sultanate.

Brunei – CIT sign a contract

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through Brunei Darussalam's Economic Council (BDEC) had signed a contract on Service and Tourism Industry Training Programme with Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) Solutions Private Limited. The signing ceremony was held at the ASEAN-EC Centre in Gadong on 4 September.

Signing on behalf of His Majesty's Government were the Director General of the Secretariat of BDEC, Awang Haji Abdul Wahab bin Juned, and its Chief Administrative Officer, Awang Haji Mohd. Rozan bin Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Yunus. The Chairman of CIT's Board of Director, Mr. Peter Veenker and the Managing Director, Mr. Gordon Mc Donald represented the CIT Solutions Private Limited.

The signing of the contract was witnessed by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Awang Haji Abd. Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim.

The Director General of BDEC in a speech prior to the signing said that the programme was aimed to train between 1,500 to 2000 local trainers and permanent residents to be used for the APEC Summit 2000 in November.

Besides providing training for job seekers, the programme also offers a training programme for locals who have succeeded in the service industry and government officials involved directly with tourists. The programme would involve 560 locals in areas such as food and beverages, front office, housekeeping, cashier, telephone operators and bell desk.

After the APEC Summit 2000, the training momentum will continue to give job opportunities in the relevant sectors through a scheme, which allows employers to train and employ new workers, as well as to upgrade the skill of their workers, he said.

The official further said that the scheme was also targeted for medium and long term, by which foreign manpower would be replaced by qualified locals. It would also help to ensure that trained locals would be given priority in the country's employment.



The Director General of BDEC Secretariat, Awang Haji Abdul Wahab, and the Chairman of CIT Board of Director, Mr. Peter Veenker, during the exchange of agreement.

Brunei Darussalam appreciates its relations with Saudi Arabia

The Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd. Zain said, Brunei Darussalam appreciates the close relations established between the Sultanate and Saudi Arabia.

The close relations that have long existed between the two countries would continue to be further strengthened with the exchange of visits between the royal families from both countries, he said.

Speaking as a representative of His Majesty's Government at a ceremony marking the 68th National Day of Saudi Arabia held at Jerudong Polo Club on 23 September, the Minister hoped that the close relations would be further enhanced either through bilateral relations or membership in the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and international forums and conferences.

Brunei Darussalam's participation in a competition to recite the Al-Quran from memory held annually in Mecca and cooperation in religious field between both countries have also helped to enhance such relationship, he said.

The Minister also expressed the gratitude on the good hospitality given by the Government of Saudi Arabia to members of Brunei Darussalam's royal family and Brunei's pilgrims who performed the Haj in Mecca every year.

Meanwhile, Temporary Charge D'Affairs of the Embassy of Saudi Arabia to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Marwan Mirdad among other things, informed that the establishment of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Brunei Darussalam nearly a decade ago has enhanced the relations between both countries.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam grants in audience 11 students of Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Tahfiz Al-Quran Institute at Istana Nurul Iman.

Monarch grants an audience to students of Tahfiz Al-Quran Institute

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 11 students from Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Tahfiz Al-Quran Institute, at Istana Nurul Iman on 16 September.

Present at the audience were the Minister of Education and Acting Minister of Health, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz and the Deputy Principal of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Tahfiz Al-Quran Institute, Awang Haji Rajid bin Haji Mohd. Salleh Al-Hafiz.

The students have successfully obtained scholarships from His Majesty's Government through the Ministry of Education to continue their studies overseas. The scholarship

is the first of its kind being given to students of the Institute.

Of the number, six students will go for further studies in Qiraat Al-Quran at Mahad Qiraat Shobra in Egypt, four will proceed further studies in the Islamic Studies at the University of Jordan, while one of them will pursue further studies in Architecture. All of them will also continue and upgrade their education in the recitation from memory of the 30 chapters of the holy-Quran.

The Institute, personally owned by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for the citizens and people of the country, has so far produced 22 professionals who can recite 30 Chapters of the Holy Quran. Of the number, five are female students.

BRUNEI IN BRIEF

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan

Land size : 5765 sq. km.

Population : 336,376 (July 2000 est.)

Official Language : Malay

Official Religion : Islam

August rainfall : 339.1 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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(UNGA)*

tral Asia also at the UN Headquarters in New York.

During the course of the meeting, His Royal Highness delivered a statement on behalf of ASEAN, reviewing the past year's cooperation between the two region.

In his statement, His Royal Highness gave support to the efforts being made to strengthen cooperation and proposed that the two regional Secretariats consider the possibility of setting up a joint ASEAN-ECO study to establish a cooperative work programme. The meeting also exchanged views on regional developments and ways to strengthen cooperation between the two organisations.

While in New York, His Royal Highness held bilateral meetings with

his counterparts and leaders of the neighbouring countries attending the 55th UNGA. The meetings were held at the UN Headquarters building.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah held a separate meeting with His Excellency Mr. Alwi Shihab, the Foreign Affairs Minister of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, the Foreign Affairs Minister of the Republic of Iraq and the Secretary General of the OIC, His Excellency Dr. Azeddine Laraki.

His Royal Highness also held a bilateral meeting with Her Excellency Maria Eugenia Brizuela de Avila, the Foreign Minister of El-Salvador. Brunei Darussalam and El-Salvador established diplomatic relations on 28 August 2000.