

بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

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Brunei will explore ways to enhance bilateral cooperation with Cambodia



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Cambodian Prime Minister, His Excellency Mr. Hun Sen in the midst of conversation during the audience at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said that his Government would explore ways to enhance the bilateral cooperation that had already been initiated between Cambodia and Brunei Darussalam particularly in the area of human resource development.

In this regard, His Majesty was pleased to welcome the signing of two Agreements on Trade and Air Services between Brunei Darussalam and Cambodia.

Delivering a titah (royal address) at the State Banquet in honour of the official visit of His Excellency Prime

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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam, Cambodian Prime Minister, His Excellency Mr. Hun Sen and Madame Bun Rany Hun Sen during the banquet at Istana Nurul Iman.

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YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 15 September 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 Excellency Mr. Hun Sen and wife, Madame Bun Rany Hun Sen being welcomed at the Brunei International airport by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah.



The Prime Minister being briefed on the operations of the Brunei Shell Petroleum.

** From page one
(Visit of Cambodian Prime Minister)*

Minister Hun Sen of the Kingdom of Cambodia at Istana Nurul Iman on 19 August, His Majesty hoped that both countries would work together as strong and constructive partners in ASEAN towards the goal of a stable, peaceful and prosperous region.

His Majesty said that the first official visit by the Cambodian Prime Minister to Brunei Darussalam represented a milestone in Brunei-Cambodia relations, which will promote greater understanding and strengthen the ties, friendship and cooperation between the governments and people of both countries.

"Your visit marks the conclusion of a process that was set in motion here in Bandar Seri Begawan in 1995, when Cambodia announced its intention to seek membership in ASEAN," said His Majesty.

Cambodia's admission to ASEAN in 1999 was an important milestone in the struggle to define a regional iden-

tity for Southeast Asia. Over the last five years, ASEAN expanded from the original six members to include all ten countries of the region.

"Our constant objective has been to forge a Southeast Asia, whose destiny is in the hands of the countries of the region. ASEAN will enable this to be achieved," the ruler added.

His Majesty also said that Brunei Darussalam agreed on the need for a 'balanced development' throughout the region and recognised that integrating the older and newer members of ASEAN was a major priority in order to maintain the cohesion and stability of the region.

It was important that ASEAN respond to the challenges of globalisation, the revolution in information technology and threats to multilateral trading system, and push ahead with its economic liberalisation process to facilitate the integration process, His Majesty stressed.

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Globalisation could lead to the marginalisation of the developing and less developed countries if they do not prepare themselves and adapt to it, pointed the monarch.

His Majesty also informed that Brunei Darussalam would make every effort to ensure the successful implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action and to realise the Vision 2020.

In his return speech, the Cambodian Prime minister said that his visit to Brunei Darussalam gave him an opportunity to witness the multi-faced development taking place in the Sultanate, and the high living standard and comfortable life the Bruneian people have enjoyed under His Majesty's clear-sighted and righteous leadership.

His Excellency Mr. Hun Sen also expressed his appreciation to the active contribution of His Majesty's Government in the cause of peace and national reconciliation as well as the foregoing support of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for Cambodia's admission into ASEAN.

"To cope with the pace of globalisation, ASEAN must step forwards in an equal footing, and make efforts to minimize the gap existing between the new and old members of ASEAN," he said.

On the signing of Trade Agreement between Cambodia and Brunei Darussalam, the Prime Minister said that this was the evidence demonstrating a new step to strengthen and develop further the close and wide cooperation between the two countries.

"I believe that, based on the this Agreement, the exchange of economy and trade as well as other fields between Cambodia and Brunei Darussalam will be more active than the previous years," said the Prime Minister.

On arrival at the Brunei International Airport on August 19, Prime Minister Hun Sen and wife, Madame Bun Rany Hun Sen, were officially welcomed by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah.

The Cambodian Prime Minister later inspected a Guard of Honour and

Madame Bun Rany Hun Sen, wife of the Cambodian Prime Minister, tours the exhibition at the Brunei Museum.



was introduced to Cabinet Ministers, senior government officials and Heads of Foreign Missions in Brunei Darussalam.

The Prime Minister and wife was then driven to Istana Nurul Iman for a welcoming ceremony and audience with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam.

Present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.

In a separate audience, His Majesty and the Cambodian Prime Minister discussed bilateral matters and exchanged views on a number of regional and international affairs.

Present at the bilateral meeting was His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Cambodian Prime Minister's delegation included the Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, His Excellency Mr. Hor Namhong; Senior Minister and Minister in Charge of the Council of Ministers, His Excellency Mr. Sok An; Senior Minister and Minister on Health, His Excellency Mr. Hong Sun Huot; Trade Minister, His

Excellency Mr. Cham Prasidh and the Ambassador of Cambodia to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Sisowath Phandaravong.

While in the country, His Excellency Mr. Hun Sen and Madame Bun Rany Hun Sen visited the Brunei Arts and Handicraft Training Centre at Jalan Subok. The Prime Minister also visited the Brunei Shell Petroleum in Seria and the Champion 7, the biggest offshore oil drilling station in the country.

During the visit, the Prime Minister was briefed on the history of the oil and gas industry in Brunei Darussalam by the Managing Director of the Brunei Shell Petroleum, Mr. John Darley and by the Operations Manager, Awang Haji Zainal, on the company's onshore and offshore operation. The Prime Minister also visited the Brunei Liquefied Natural Gas, (BLNG) Plant Lumut.

Accompanying the Prime Minister on the visit was the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya DiGadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain.

Meanwhile Madame Bun Rany Hun Sen toured the Brunei Museum and the Royal Regalia Building on August 20.

His Excellency Hun Sen and Madame Bun Rany Hun Sen left Brunei Darussalam on August 21 after a three-day official visit. Present at the Brunei International Airport to bid them farewell was the Minister of Culture Youth and Sports.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has called on Muslims in the country to strongly uphold the teachings of the Quran and the 'Al-Sunnah' by reading more of the Quran in order to get the blessings and guidance of Allah The Almighty, as this is the only way to save the Muslims' faith.

Making the call at the prizes presentation ceremony for the National Quran Reading Competition at the International Convention Centre on 15 August, His Majesty said that Muslims should stay close to the Quran and to truly practise the chapter recited in prayers as some of them, such as the 'Al-Fathiah' are words of prayer to seek Allah The Almighty's blessings and to show the right path.

The verse 'Ihdinas Siratal Mustakim' contained in the Surah Al-Fathiah, which means 'O Allah, show us the right path', is read not less than seventeen times daily and is the cause of Allah's blessings and assistance.

His Majesty said that the Quran is a light not only for the purpose of seeing what is necessarily be seen and enjoyed by the eyes, but also the torch of life which would ensure one's success in the worldly life and the hereafter.

That was what we called the light of guidance from Allah The Almighty, said the ruler, while adding that without this light, our direction of life would always be gloomy, thus, disabling us to identify between good and bad.

For this reason, matters that should not occur in a Muslim's life - being more interested in doing forbidden matters and have a strong dislikes in matters encouraged by 'syarak' - could happen, said His Majesty.

"In my opinion, these happen due to the lack of Allah's guidance. When there is no guidance, we therefore would not be able to see any truth. Those who could not see the truth is one who suffers loss all his life," His Majesty said.

His Majesty further said that of late Muslims are frequently encountered with teachings, which run contradictory to the Muslim faith and brings about negative impacts.

In order to avoid such incidents,

UPHOLD THE TEACHINGS OF THE QURAN: TITAH

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting prizes to Mudim Haji Mettasim bin Haji Metussin, winner in the male category, right, and Dayang Siti Nur Zuhairah, winner in the female category, below.



Among members of the royal family who attended the prize presentation ceremony for the National Quran Reading Competition, below.



Muslims firstly should stay close to the Quran and avoid accepting any form of teachings containing mysterious elements, said the monarch.

Muslims should also avoid the attitude of being easily influenced by medicinal propagandas using religious term, and avoid being taught by anyone before obtaining verification from the religious authority, His Majesty fur-

ther reminded.

These measures were to ensure that the teachings are totally precise in the aspects of 'fiqh' and faith, and did run contradictory to the Islam teachings.

We need teachings that are totally true, because Islam is a religion, which is 100 per cent true and there is no room for any which is not true, His

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Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam consented to grant a separate audience to Madam Rongzhen, the wife of the new Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Qu Wenming. The ceremony took place on 6 August at Istana Nurul Iman and Istana Nurul Izzah, picture left and right respectively.

Madam Rongzhen was accompanying her husband, His Excellency Mr. Qu Wenming, who began his term of office in the Sultanate on 10 July 2000.

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(Uphold teachings of the Quran)

Majesty concluded.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam later consented to present prizes to the winners of the competition. Mudim Awang Haji Metassim bin Haji Metussin and Dayang Siti Nur Zuhairah, winners in the male and female category respectively, would represent Brunei Darussalam at the International Level Quran Reading Competition to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

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

The National Quran Reading Competition for Adults was officially opened by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah on 14 August, who among other things, stressed on the need for youths in the country to concentrate on the teachings of the Quran, as they are the precious asset and the pulse towards motivating the future growth of the country.

His Royal Highness said that the image of youths living without religious teachings and guidance, as seen



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah being greeted on arrival at the International Convention Centre.

in various countries, would give negative impacts to the social harmony.

His Royal Highness further said that our duty was to guide and educate our youths and teenagers so that they would not turn away from the true Islamic teachings, but would learn more and practise the teachings properly.

It is important for us to educate and leave behind a faithful generation, because according to Islam, a faithful son would bring about blessings to his parents, and these youths are also hoped to continue efforts to build the country and the society, as well as to uphold and preserve the country's peace and prosperity based on the Quran and

traditions of the Prophet, said His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness hoped that the success achieved through the competition would become a foundation to further improve self-weaknesses, to upgrade reading quality and experience, to learn something new and to together praise the Quran.

He said, the Islamic ummahs were fortunate because Allah The Almighty provided them with the holy book of the Quran, which would guide them in strengthening their self-identity as pure, noble and ideal Muslims, and in preserving human's thought for the betterment of the country's resilience and social harmony.

Her Majesty presents prizes to winners of badminton tournament



Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha presenting a trophy to the Captain of the International Women Club of Brunei Darussalam, winner of the 6th Badminton Tournament.

Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha has consented to present prizes to winners of the 6th Badminton Tournament for the Patron of the Women Council's Trophy on 13 August. The presentation ceremony was held at the Royal Brunei Airlines' Sports Complex in Berakas.

Prior to the presentation of prizes, Her Majesty was introduced to the manager and participants of the tournament and watched the final competition.

With Her Majesty were Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.

President of the Council, Datin Hajjah Edah in her welcoming remarks, hoped that the tournament would upgrade the unity among members of the Council.

The International Women Club of Brunei Darussalam (IWCB) came first, while the Women Institute (WI) won the second place. BAKTI and PERTIWI were placed third and fourth respectively.

The tournament organised by the Women's Council was conducted this time by the Association of Women Graduate. It was aimed among others to upgrade the quality of the sports among members of the associations under the umbrella of the Council.

Draw valuable lessons from experience, character, integrity and determination of veterans.

The younger generation were hoped to be able to draw valuable lessons from the experience, strength of character, integrity and determination of the veterans.

Expressing the hope at the Official Opening of the Veterans Confederations of ASEAN Countries (VECONAC) General Assembly at the Jerudong Park Polo Club on 22 August. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah said that these were important values for a society to have in order to get through the tumultuous times.

His Royal Highness noted that members of the VECONAC belong to a special group of people, who have done a lot for their countries and who



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah at the Official Opening of the Veterans Confederations of ASEAN Countries (VECONAC) General Assembly at Jerudong Park Polo Club.

have carried out their duties with full commitment and dedication during their active years of service. Many too, have given their lives for the sake of their countries.

"Their sacrifices and services will

never be forgotten by society because without their protection of the peace and security of their countries, there would be little hope for progress and

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development, as enjoyed by us today," His Royal Highness said.

His Royal Highness also said that the general assembly served as a timely opportunity for members of the ASEAN Veterans Confederation to renew ties of friendship and solidarity. It will also provide a good opportunity for the participants not only to share experiences but also learn more about each other's countries, traditions and values.

His Royal Highness also hoped that delegates would continue to serve and contribute to the society for the best interest of their respective country as well as for the collective good of ASEAN through the good work of such a regional undertaking as the ASEAN Veteran Confederation.

His Royal Highness hoped that the spirit of friendship and solidarity amongst members of the ASEAN Veteran Confederation would be kept alive and aflame, long after the general assembly has ended.

VECONAC was inaugurated in Jakarta in 1980. Its present members are the Veterans Legion of the Republic of Indonesia, Ex-Services' Association of Malaysia, Veterans Federation of the Philippines, Ex-Services' Association of Singapore, War Veterans Organisation of Thailand, Ex-Soldiers' Association of Brunei Darussalam and Vietnam Veterans Association.

Also present at the ceremony were President of the Ex-Soldiers' Association of Brunei Darussalam, Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General (Retired) Pengiran Haji Ibnu, and President of VECONAC, Col. Emmanuel V. de Ocampo.

VECONAC aims to improve the quality of life and evaluate fully the influence of ageing and the effects of war on the health and social conditions of war victims.

The confederation promotes better understanding among the people to intensify cooperation in efforts to achieve prosperity, social justice and peace. It also aims to promote a better universal understanding of the aspirations, sentiments, appreciation and interests of the countries of this region.

The 9th VECONAC General Assembly began from 21 to 25 August, and the first of its kind being hosted by Brunei Darussalam.



Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam looking at the leaflets on anti-drug campaign produced by the Narcotic Control Bureau during her visit to the Bureau's headquarters at Jalan Tungku.

HRH The Pengiran Isteri visits Narcotic Control Bureau

Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam, the Co-Patron of the Association of Drugs Prevention (BASMIDA) consented to visit the Narcotic Control Bureau Headquarters at Jalan Tungku on 8 August.

Her Royal Highness was received on arrival at the Bureau by the Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair, the Director of Narcotic Control Bureau, Awang Haji Momin bin Shawal and senior officials of the Bureau.

During the visit, Her Royal Highness was briefed on the formation of the Bureau, its structures, the status of misuses and trafficking of drugs in the country, the strategy of control and prevention, as well as cooperation among neighbouring countries and leaders of the community.

Awang Haji Momin in his welcoming remarks said, the visit of Her Royal Highness to the Bureau reflects her attention in problems on the misuse of drug, which have ruined the harmonious life of the citizens and people of the country.

His Majesty's Government, he said, continues to make efforts to ensure that the citizens and people of Brunei Darussalam enjoy a peaceful life and prosperity, and are free from problems resulting from the misuse of drugs.

Her Royal Highness later viewed an exhibition and toured several sections of the Bureau, including monitoring section, Community Guidance and Education on Drug Prevention, administration, research and the shooting range. During the visit, Her Royal Highness took a closer look at the Bureau's efforts in the aspects of control and prevention, as well as in giving education to increase public's awareness on the symptoms of the misuse of drug.

Youths need to create the awareness on drug abuse

His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim has stressed the need for youths to create the awareness on drug abuse by being responsible for themselves, their families, the nation and Allah the Almighty.

"Drug abuse is one of the most serious threats for youths today. It could lead the youths to being alienated from society, become a school drop-out or being involved in crime," His Royal Highness pointed.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the Anti-Drugs Boys Camp in the Games Village at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium, Berakas, on 20

August, His Royal Highness said that youths should give serious attention to problems that lead them to get involved in drug abuse. It is also unfortunate that a number of the youths died at an early age or have been infected by dangerous diseases like HIV/AIDS," His Royal Highness said.

He also explained why youths engaged in such unhealthy activities. Among the reasons included the curiosity, peer group influence, emotional pressure, family problems, lack of attention from parents and society, feeling of inferiority and lack of confidence.

"The future that lies ahead of us is filled with various challenges and competition as a result of advanced technology and globalisation. This would make the maximum 'survival of the fittest' a reality. This scenario requires us to be equipped with various knowledge and technological skills that become the main driving force of the

world economy in the future, apart from the physical, mental and spiritual strength that we need," he added.

His Royal Highness further said that we would fail to fulfill the nation's aspirations and responsibility if the youths are negligent, lack of competitiveness, are not creative and innovative, and are mentally and physically weak as a result of drug abuse.

"In depth awareness pertaining to the dangers of drugs should be exposed to the youths by including them in a more open and systematic discussions and exchange of ideas as well as information to prevent them to get hooked on any drug abuse activities," said His Royal Highness.

Relevant agencies of the government and non-government sectors therefore, should provide constant guidance and platform for the youths to interact and exchange constructive views on how to combat drug abuse in

order to promote constant awareness on the dangers of drugs.

The three day Anti-Drugs Boys Camp began on 18 August and was participated by 28 students from five secondary schools in the Brunei-Muara district, namely SOAS College, Jamalul Alam Secondary School, Berakas Secondary School, Menglait Secondary School and Sayidina Abu Bakar Secondary School.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim also presented certificates to the participants and viewed a mini exhibition.

Datin Hajjah Masni, President of BASMIDA said that the camp was a pilot project organised by BASMIDA with the assistance from the Narcotic Control Bureau, Islamic Dakwah Centre, Outbound School, Counseling and Guidance Unit.

The camp aims to instill awareness among youths on drug abuse.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim exchanging greetings with participants of the Anti-Drugs Boys Camp.

Brunei has a very good prospect of becoming a major hub for telecommunications, multimedia services.

The Minister of Communications, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Zakaria, said that Brunei has a very good prospect of becoming a major hub for telecommunications and multimedia services.

Speaking at a Seminar on the Bells-Labs Technology held at the hotel in Berakas on 8 August, the Minister said that the country has invested a lot in building the national information in-

frastructure in order keep pace with the rapidly changing global trends in information technology.

This is seen in the technological developments in Brunei, such as telephone household penetration of over 95% and mobile penetration of 25% with a prospect of very rapid growth.

This was also obvious with the establishment of a nation-wide broadband network called the RaGAM

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21 and an international connectivity through fibre-optic submarine cable system and satellites. The recent liberalisation of Internet services and introduction of IT services in government, schools and community centres including places of worship also show the country's rapid advancement, he added.

In this respect a National Task Force on E-Commerce has been established under the joint leadership of the Ministry of Communications and Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources to accelerate the adoption of e-commerce particularly by small and medium enterprises.

The Task Force provides a foundation for the building of physical infrastructure and value-adding, new regulatory and legislative framework dealing with computer misuse, common services such as directory services and e-payments, security matters including the establishment of authentication and certification development, human resource development and promotion and adoption of e-technology.

As a small country strategically located in a fast growing region, Brunei Darussalam is preparing to fulfill her vision to become a cyber hub in the region. The development of the Brunei Cyber Park under the Ministry of Communications is underway.

The Cyber Park is hoped to provide electronic content and multimedia services into the Asia-Pacific, ASEAN and BIMP-EAGA region. This will definitely benefit the Brunei people, businesses and organisations in terms of attracting investments and promoting indigenous innovations in industries, and also in diversifying innovative and creative talent and capability in the information technology.

The Cyber Park will consist of office blocks, shopping malls, R&D manufacturing plants, a small exhibition centre and other facilities. The Cyber Park will be linked by a road network to nearby strategic locations like learning institutions, the national theme park, housing

estates, international airport, deep water port and business centres.

A high-speed telecommunications infrastructure-the RaGAM 21-will link the Cyber Park to the Asia-Pacific Information Infrastructure (APII) and the Global Information Network (GII). Other activities include an incubation for an IT hub for e-commerce trading, a base for e-commerce, virtual shops, business portal hub or Internet marketing, a test-bed for Internet-related and multimedia services, high-tech



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Rahardjo Djojonegoro cut a cake to mark the 55th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence of the Republic of Indonesia.

Brunei-Indonesia maintain close ties, friendship and cooperation

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs has said Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia have always maintained close ties, friendship and cooperation. This has been so important ever since Indonesia hosted Brunei's admission ceremony to ASEAN sixteen years ago.

The close friendship, he said, has grown into an enduring partnership, which is now not only bilateral and regional. Also through the joint efforts in the OIC and the Non-Aligned Movement, it reaches across the developing world.

Speaking at the 55th Anniversary celebration of the Proclamation of Independence of the Republic of Indonesia held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas on August 18,

His Royal Highness said that this is more important as all the countries in the region face many challenges.

"Some of them are very demanding indeed, but if we can continue to work closely together as we have done in the past, I am sure that, we will meet them successfully," said His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah.

On arrival at the International Convention Centre, His royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah were welcomed by the Ambassador of Indonesia, His Excellency Mr. Rahardjo Djojonegoro.

Also present at the ceremony were members of the diplomatic corps and other distinguished public officials.

IT-related manufacturing, a showcase for ICT and, software development.

The government of Brunei has agreed to establish a national council to chart strategies to develop and diversify the IT use in the country. The council will assist the government to develop specific action plans and guide the public service and private sector to interact with each other towards IT initiatives for the year 2000 and beyond.

The vision to provide opportunities for girls and young women in developing life skills to face challenges in the 21st Century through international sisterhood of Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting is getting more relevant and pertinent in view of globalisation and rapid advancement of technology.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna highlighted the significance at the opening ceremony of the Round Robin Cultural Exchange Programme 2000 in the ASEAN-EC Management Centre on 27 August.

"This is the vision that has guided us on the formation and implementation of our Asia-Pacific Strategic Plan of Action for the period 1998-2001, in which the Round Robin Project is part of the Strategic Plan of Action that aims to strengthen interactions and networking among member organisations," she said.

Her Royal Highness, who is also the President of the Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam, was pleased with the result of the survey on the Round Robin Project presented to the Asia-Pacific Committee in 1998, which was favourable towards the extension of the project with some modifications.

Providing opportunity to develop life skills is getting more relevant



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna presented souvenir to participants.

"As we are now on the verge of entering into the final year of the project, I am confident that the review or evaluation of it would demonstrate its success in strengthening contacts between member organisations in the region," said Her Royal Highness.

Her Royal Highness further noted the Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam would be privileged to host the 27th Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in May next year and believed that the Round Robin Project deserved to be

extended and would continue to serve as a good venue to share and exchange knowledge and ideas with each other.

She also hoped that this revised project for the period beyond 2001 would continue to be credible and more responsive to the challenges of this new century.

32 girl guides from Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Japan, Maldives and Taiwan as well as from host country Brunei Darussalam took part in the project.

BIMST Conference discuss areas of collaboration pertaining to essential public health services.



The Acting Minister of Health, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz taking a closer look at the exhibition in conjunction with the 7th BIMST Public Health Conference.

The Acting Minister of Health, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, has stressed the need to make interdisciplinary efforts to address the physical, mental and environmental health concerns of communities and populations at risk by way of health promotion and education, as well as the prevention of diseases.

"The concerted inter-departmental contributions within each country and collaborative network across countries are becoming the sine qua non in tackling the borderless health issues," he said.

The Acting Minister was speaking at the 7th Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand (BIMST) Public Health Conference at

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the Hotel in Jerudong on August 24. It was organised by the Ministry of Health of Brunei Darussalam.

The conference discussed areas of collaboration pertaining to essential public health services that progressive government may expect to provide.

These included enforcing laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety; mobilising community partnerships to identify and solve health problems; informing, educating and empowering people about health issues and evaluating the effectiveness, accessibility and quality of health.

He also explained the need for the Internet web sites to answer important health enquiries and the use of genetic fingerprints to make precise predictions about the course and risk of certain diseases.

The chairman of the organising committee of the 7th BIMST Public Health Conference, Dr. Haji Affendy bin Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin said, the Conference through its multilateral meetings, resolutions and recommendations, has evolved through the years in addressing specific health issues which have been mutually agreed upon. The frequency of meetings in this co-operative effort by member countries has promoted close ties and strengthened the relationship between countries, as well as information network.

"The high standard of commitment, quick exchange of information among the BIMST countries, collaborative efforts in addressing major issues and information network has proven expedient in the successful abatement of most of our problems among us," he added.

Bilateral meeting on trade and investment

A bilateral meeting between the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman and the Trade Minister of Cambodia, His Excellency Mr. Cham Prasidh, Secretary of State for Tourism Mr. Thong Kohn and Secretary of State for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, His Excellency Mr. Chan Tong Yves was held on 19 August at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources announced that among the issues discussed were cooperation in trade, investment, tourism and primary resources, such as agriculture, forestry and fishing between the two countries and methods for upgrading.

The meeting also discussed trade and investments in ASEAN and the international regions.

Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman said that meeting would enhance the close relationship between the two countries and would maintain mutual understanding in trade, investment, tourism, and primary resources.

Also present in the meeting were, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Haji Abdul Rahman Haji Ibrahim and Senior Officers from the Ministry and Cambodia.

Meanwhile the signing of an Air Services agreement and Trade Agreement between Brunei Darussalam and Cambodia took place on the same day at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang

Abdul Rahman signed the Trade Agreement on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, while His Excellency Mr. Cham Prasidh, the Minister of Trade represented the Royal Government of Cambodia.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Zakaria, Minister of Communications, signed the Air Services Agreement on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, while His Excellency Mr. Sok An, Senior Minister in charge of the Council of Ministers represented the Royal Government of Cambodia.

The signing ceremony took place in conjunction with the official visit of His Excellency Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Kingdom of Cambodia to Brunei Darussalam.

With the signing of the agreement, Brunei Darussalam has signed air services agreement with all ASEAN member countries. To date, Brunei has signed 36 air services agreements with foreign countries.

The air services agreement offers new opportunities for both countries to foster cooperation in air transportation and economic matters.

The agreement permits designated airlines from both countries to provide air services between Bandar Seri Begawan and Phnom Penh with fifth freedom traffic rights at intermediate points and points beyond.

The Royal Brunei Airlines is currently operating to 23 destinations throughout Asia, Australia, the Middle East and Europe.



Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman and the Minister of Trade of Cambodia, His Excellency Mr. Cham Prasidh exchanging Agreement on Trade.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with Heads of Delegations of the 9th Veterans Confederation of Asean countries (VECONAC) at Istana Nurul Iman.

Monarch grants audience to Science Minister of Poland and Heads of Delegation of 9th VECONAC

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has granted an audience to the Minister of Science and Chairman of the State Committee for Scientific Research of the Republic of Poland, Professor Andrzej Wiszniewski. The ceremony took place at Istana Nurul Iman on 26 August.

Professor Andrzej Wiszniewski, who was in the country for a three-day

visit, was accompanied during the audience by the non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr Marek Paszucha.

The Minister also on the same day made a courtesy call on Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs.

During the meeting, Her Royal Highness and the minister discussed matters of mutual interest, particularly on possible future cooperation in science and technology.

While in Brunei Darussalam, the Minister also visited Universiti Brunei

Darussalam (UBD). Together with Professor Andrzej Wiszniewski during the visit were the Director of International Cooperation Department, Mr. Marek Kepka, His Excellency Mr. Marek Paszucha and Dr. Zygmunt Langer.

On 24 August, His Majesty granted in audience Heads of Delegations of the 9th Veterans Confederation of ASEAN countries (VECONAC) at Istana Nurul Iman.

The 9th VECONAC held in Brunei Darussalam was participated by Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and Brunei Darussalam.

BRUNEI IN BRIEF

Capital : *Bandar Seri Begawan*

Land size : *5765 sq. km.*

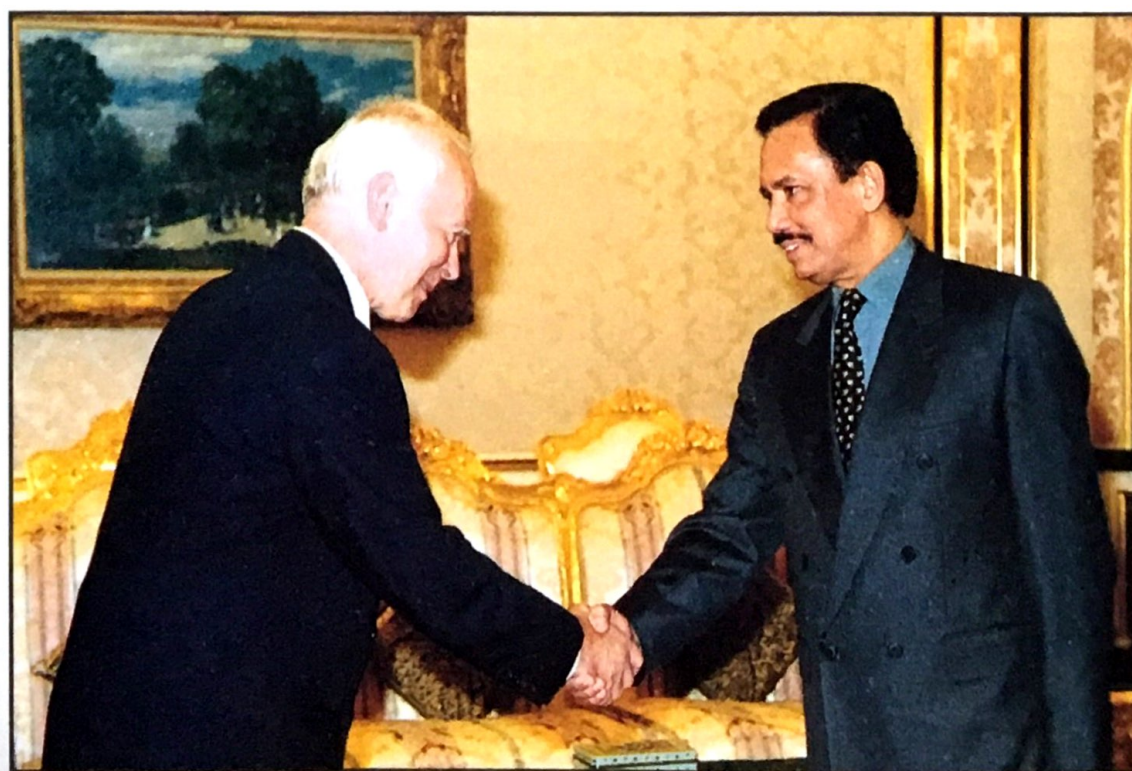
Population : *336,376 (July 2000 est.)*

Official Language : *Malay*

Official Religion : *Islam*

July rainfall : *21.3 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.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam granting in audience Professor Andrzej Wiszniewski, Minister of Science and Chairman of the State Committee for Scientific Research of the Republic of Poland at Istana Nurul Iman.