



برونئي دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam newsletter

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a *titah* (royal speech) during the opening of the 11th Legislative Council Meeting.

HM officiates opening of 11th Legislative Council session



BANDAR SERI B E G A W A N,
March 5 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The

Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to grace the official opening of the 11th session of the Legislative Council (LegCo) that will discuss issues of national interests and matters relating to the welfare of the people at the Legislative Council Conference Hall.

His Majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin

Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office as ex-officio member of the LegCo; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade as ex-officio member of LegCo; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien.

Upon arrival at the Legislative Council Building, His Majesty and members of the royal family were greeted by the newly appointed LegCo Speaker The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib.

Shortly afterward, His Majesty consented to receive a royal salute and inspect a guard of honour mounted by at least 100 Royal Brunei Police Force

(RBPf) personnel.

Then, His Majesty was escorted to the Conference Hall by the LegCo Speaker, preceded by the ceremonial mace.

Subsequently, His Majesty consented to deliver a *titah* (royal speech) at the 11th LegCo session.

Later, a *doa selamat* was recited by the State Mufti, The Honourable Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned to bless the ceremony.

His Majesty and members of the royal family also consented to a group photo session with the members of LegCo before leaving the ceremony.

Prior to the opening of the 11th LegCo session, a meeting chaired by the LegCo Speaker was held to confirm or approve the meeting minutes of the previous session, which took place from March 6 to 22, 2014 at the LegCo Building.

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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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Brunei Darussalam

>> BRUNEI IN BRIEF

Official name is Negara Brunei Darussalam.

Capital is Bandar Seri Begawan.

It is located on the north-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia.

Land size is 5765 sq. km.

Population is estimated at 422,700 people (2012).

It is divided into four districts – Brunei-Muara, Tutong, Kuala Belait and Temburong.

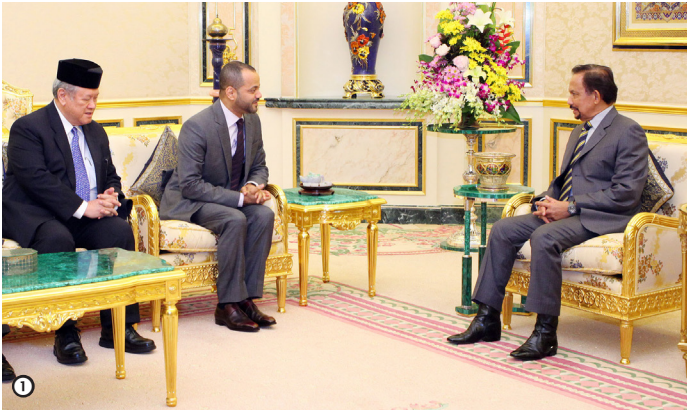
Malay is the official language but English is widely spoken.

Islam is the official religion and it allows other religions to be practiced.

National carrier is Royal Brunei Airlines.

It has an equatorial climate, a uniform temperature, high humidity and heavy rainfall.

Public Warning: The trafficking of controlled drugs carries the death penalty in Brunei Darussalam



His Majesty receives audiences

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman:

1. His Excellency Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Al Busaidi, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman on March 4.
2. Yang Berbahagia Dato Seri Laila Jasa Tan Sri Dato' Shamsul Azhar Abbas, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Petronas on March 9.
3. Yang Amat Berbahagia Orang Kaya Bendahara Seri Maharaja Jen. (B) Dato' Seri Diraja Tan Sri Mohd. Zahidi bin Haji Zainuddin, Orang Besar Negeri Perak Darul Ridzuan on March 11.



His Majesty receives audiences

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 30 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience US Department of State Representative to Muslim Communities, His Excellency Shaarik Zafar, who is in the country for Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) talks. The ceremony was held at the Istana Nurul Iman.

During the four day visit, His Excellency will discuss the benefits and challenges of economic integration as a result of the TPP trade agreement and explore opportunities the TPP would bring, particularly to Muslims and Muslim-owned businesses in TPP partner countries.

His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send congratulatory messages to:

- His Excellency Mamnoon Hussain, the President of The Islamic Republic of Pakistan and His Excellency Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister of The Islamic Republic of Pakistan as well as the Government and the people of the republic on the occasion of Pakistan Day on March 23.
- His Excellency Md. Abdul Hamid, the President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina Wajed, the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh as well as the Government and the people of the republic on the occasion of the republic's Independence Day on March 26.

His Majesty sends condolences messages

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send condolences to His Excellency Dr. Tony Tan Keng Yam, the President of The Republic of Singapore and His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore on the passing of His Excellency Lee Kuan Yew on March 23.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to present diplomatic credentials to three Brunei Darussalam's newly-appointed envoys at the Istana Nurul Iman on March 9:

1. His Excellency Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Salam bin Abdul Momin, the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.
2. Her Excellency Dayang Rakiah binti Haji Abdul Lamit @ Hamid, the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to German Federal Republic.
3. His Excellency Pengiran Abdul Samad bin Pengiran Haji Metasan, the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to The Islamic Republic of Iran.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive diplomatic credentials from three newly-appointed envoys to Brunei Darussalam at the Istana Nurul Iman on March 9.

1. His Excellency Craig Boyd Allen, the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of United States of America to Brunei Darussalam.
2. His Excellency Vladien Stanislavovich Semivolos, the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Federation of Russia to Brunei Darussalam.
3. His Excellency Chirdchu Raktabutr, the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam.

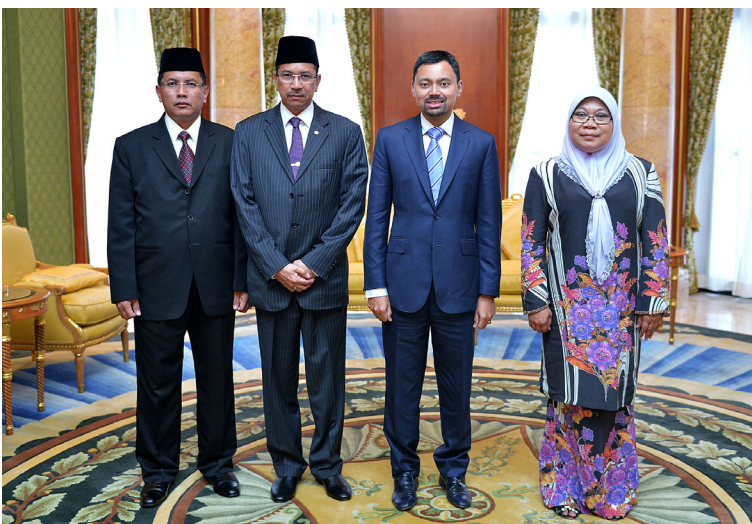
Her Majesty The Raja Isteri receives audiences



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consents to receive in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman on March 19:

1. Her Excellency Dayang Rakiah binti Haji Abdul Lamit @ Hamid, the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to German Federal Republic.
2. Mrs Elena Semivolos, the spouse of the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Federal Republic of Russia to Brunei Darussalam.
3. Mrs Parichart Raktabutr, the spouse of the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam.
4. Datin Hajah Shireen binti Haji Mustapha, the spouse of newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and Dayang Junaidah binti Haji Mohd Idris, the spouse of newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

His Royal Highness The Crown Prince receives audiences



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, consented to receive in audience at Qashr Al-Meezaan consented to receive in audience on March 12:

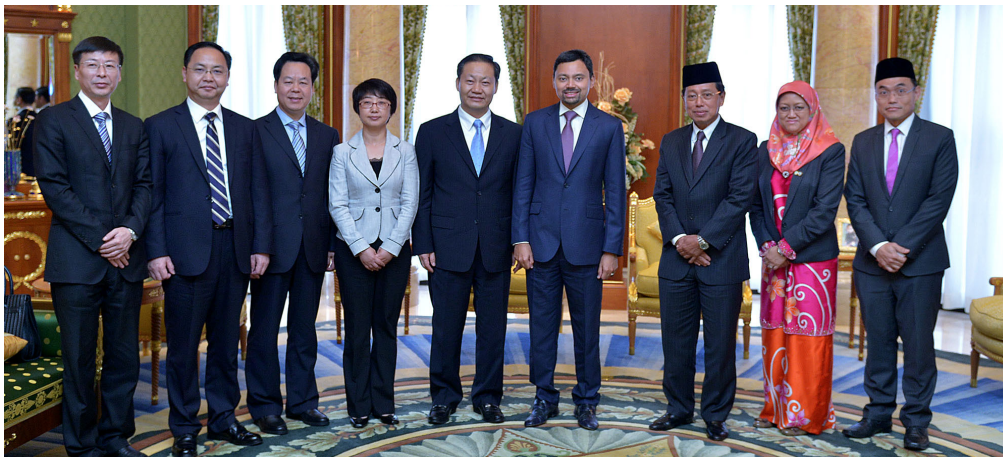
- The newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, His Excellency Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Salam bin Abdul Momin.
- The newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to German Federal Republic, Her Excellency Dayang Rakiah binti Haji Abdul Lamit @ Hamid.
- The newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to The Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Pengiran Abdul Samad bin Pengiran Haji Metasan.

His Royal Highness The Crown Prince receives audiences



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, consented to receive in audience at Qashr Al-Meezaan on March 17:

1. The newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of United States of America to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Craig Boyd Allen.
2. The newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Federation of Russia to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Vladien Stanislavovich Semivolos.
3. The newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Chirdchu Raktabutr.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, consented to receive in separate audiences His Excellency Peng Qinghua, the Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) of Guangxi Zhuang Committee, and Chairman of the Standing Committee of Guangxi Zhuang People's Congress (above) and His Excellency Dr. Shin Young-Soo, the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Regional Director for the Western Pacific (below) at Qashr Al-Meezaan on March 31.



Their Majesties host banquet for Thai Prime Minister



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a *titah* (royal speech) during a State Banquet at the Istana Nurul Iman.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 25 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to host a banquet in honour of visiting Thai Prime Minister, His Excellency General (Rtd) Prayut Chan-ocha at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Brunei Darussalam and Thailand have enjoyed a close friendship for over 30 years since Brunei Darussalam achieved independence in 1984.

His Majesty expressed appreciation in a *titah* (royal speech) to the Thai nationals for their active contribution to Brunei Darussalam's development.

The regular exchanges between officials, private sector and people reflected the mutual trust and confidence that both countries share at all levels, His

Majesty said.

His Majesty also commended the bilateral cooperation in trade and investment as well as education of which His Majesty said exchanges between the two countries' universities and schools have fostered a deeper understanding of each other's history and culture.

As 90 per cent of Brunei Darussalam's rice is important from Thailand, His Majesty lauded Thailand as an important partner in Brunei Darussalam's food security efforts and thanked the Thai government for its support.

"Looking ahead, I believe Thailand will continue to be a valuable partner, especially as we work towards our aspiration for Brunei's Vision 2035," His Majesty added.

In addition, His Majesty believes that the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on agricultural cooperation will be a valuable tool as we move forward.

His Majesty urged officials of both countries to benefit from the collaboration

by sharing expertise and experience as well as expanding cooperation in other areas such as fisheries and aquaculture.

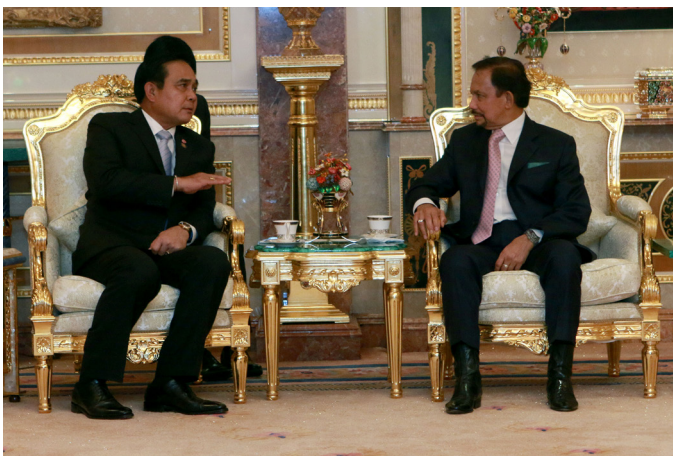
His Majesty also expressed his pleasure in seeing the interest shown by Thailand in Brunei Darussalam's Halal food industry and hopes that more concrete projects can be accomplished through preliminary discussions.

Additionally, His Majesty wished Thailand's King His Majesty King Bhumipol and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit and members of the Thai royal family for their continued good health and happiness.

As one of founding members of ASEAN, Thailand has witnessed the growth of the organisation from the start.

His Majesty said that we needed to keep our momentum up this year as the deadline of the ASEAN Community 2015 approaches, His Majesty said.

It is important to redouble efforts to realise the goals of the ASEAN Economic, Socio-Cultural and Political-Security Community, His Majesty added,



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience the Prime Minister of Thailand, His Excellency General Prayut Chan-ocha.



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received in audience the Prime Minister's spouse, Associate Professor Naraporn Chan-ocha.

* Continue on backpage

HM graces Regatta Brunei Darussalam 2015



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 1 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to participate in and won the 15-paddlers fibre glass special event during the Regatta Brunei Darussalam (RBD) 2015.

The excitement grew as His Majesty led the Regatta 'A' Committee Members Team to victory aboard the paddleboat named Rajawali during the race held at the Royal Wharf in the capital.

The Regatta 'B' Committee Members Team led by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah won second place while the team of ministers and deputy ministers won the second runner-up.

The team of permanent secretaries and deputy permanent secretaries took fourth place while the team of mukim heads and village heads led by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien won fifth place.

After the race, His Majesty consented to tour the RBD 2015 exhibition at the Royal Wharf Gallery.

Then, His Majesty consented to observe the other races and subsequently, award trophies and cash prizes to the winner of each category.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Her



His Majesty consents to lead the team 'A' during the race at the Royal Wharf.



His Majesty consents to award a trophy to the winner of the RBD 2015.

Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah were also present during the event.

Earlier, His Majesty and members of the royal family were greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar; the Minister of Home Affairs, The Honourable Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman and the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Defense Royal Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, as the Advisors and Executive Committee of RBD 2015.



His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Malik participating in the special category.

*Continue from front page
(HM officiates opening of 11th Legislative Council session)



His Majesty with the members of the Legislative Council.

This year, the session is chaired by the LegCo Speaker and assisted by the Legislative Council Clerk I, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Jaya Dato Paduka Awang Haji Judin bin Haji Asar and the Legislative Council Deputy Clerk, Dayang Rose Aminah binti Haji Ismail during the proceedings.

The LegCo members include His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, cabinet ministers, individuals bestowed with

titles and those who have achieved merits as well as appointed members representing all four districts.

The 11th LegCo session will discuss nine key points including issues relating to the government budget for the 2015-2016 financial year.

The State Legislative Council was established in 1959 pursuant to Chapter 23 of the Brunei Constitution.

The council reconvened on September 25, 2004 and is chaired by a LegCo Speaker who is appointed by His Majesty.

* From page 8
(HM graces Regatta Brunei Darussalam 2015)



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah with the team of mukim heads and village heads.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 1 - Regatta Brunei Darussalam (RBD) 2015, the fourth event since its revival in 2012, was held at the Royal Wharf and jointly organised by the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

The 24-event race was divided into different sessions of which 19 were held in the morning and the remaining five in the afternoon.

This year, the traditional boat, water taxi, jet skis and speed boat races saw the participation of 1,199 locals and 213 international paddlers.

The foreign participants included countries from the People's Republic of China, Malaysia and the Republic of Indonesia.

His Royal Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah consented to award the winners of the morning events.



His Majesty with His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah viewing the exhibition.

HM visits PKBN's trainees



His Majesty consents to inspect a guard of honour mounted by 311 PKBN trainees.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 12 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to visit the fourth intake of the National Service Programme (PKBN) training camp at the Hassanal Bolkiah Sports Complex in Berakas.

During the visit, His Majesty consented to inspect a guard of honour by a total of 311 PKBN trainees and observe the

'Multitask Elements' (Command Tasks) and 'Climbing Tower' (Rock Climbing and Abseiling) activities.

In addition, His Majesty consented to visit the Sports Village to tour an exhibition of the PKBN's photo gallery and observe the academic curriculum introduced during the class activities comprising of the Syariah Penal Code, Occupational Health and Safety, Social Media and Workplace Culture.

Apart from singing 'Ready to Serve', the PKBN trainees also performed

a demonstration of self-defence and physical exercises as well as Malay martial arts, the 'Silat Cekak Asli Brunei' during the event.

Earlier, His Majesty was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, the Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Yang Mulia Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Adina binti Othman and the Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Awang Mohd. Tawih bin Abdullah.

The event commenced with the singing of the national anthem by the PKBN trainees and a *doa selamat* was read by PKBN Religious Teacher, Awang Abdul Qaiyum bin Haji Metussin to bless the occasion.

Prior to leaving, His Majesty consented to sign a commemorative parchment and receive a *pesambah* (gift) before proceeding to meet and greet the trainees.

The Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, permanent secretaries and deputy permanent secretaries were also present.



His Majesty consents to meet and greet the trainees and their families.



Trainees demonstrating martial arts.

Their Majesties attend Chinese New Year celebration 2015

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 16 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to attend the Chinese New Year celebration hosted by the Tiong Hwa community at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Their Majesties were accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien also consented to attend the celebration.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and other members of the royal family were also present.

The celebration was enlivened with a singing and dancing performance by kindergarten, primary and secondary students of Chung Hwa Middle School, a magic show and a poetry recitation.

Afterward, Their Majesties consented to meet and greet the accomplished youth of the Tiong Hwa community and consequently tour an exhibition of peonies that showcased the culture of the Chinese community.



Their Majesties consent to meet and greet from the students during the Chinese New Year celebration 2015.

Their Majesties also consented to receive *pesambah* (gifts) prior to leaving the celebration.

The presence of Their Majesties reflected the concern and attention toward the multicultural community in Brunei Darussalam. The local Tiong Hwa community not only plays a role in the country's development but also plays a part in contributing welfare to the multicultural society.

Earlier, Their Majesties were greeted upon arrival by The Honourable Pehin Kapitan Lela Diraja Dato Paduka Goh King Chin and the Chairman of the Executive Committee, Lim Tiong Han @ Lim Peh Beng.

The celebration commenced with the singing of the national anthem, then followed by a pledge of allegiance recited by 80 youth from the Tiong Hwa community.

The theme for this year's Chinese New Year celebration is peonies, also known as the 'King of Flowers', as it symbolises prosperity, harmony and wealth as well as innocence and love.

Until today, more than 1,000 kinds of peonies have been produced and introduced in 30 provinces and cities in China and in more than 20 countries around the world, where the flowers symbolise peace and friendship.

The beauty and popularity of peonies have often been praised by the Tiong Hwa community through poetry, painting, sculpture, embroidery, paper cutting art and suchlike.



His Majesty consents to award one of the RPN Kampung Pulaie recipients in Temburong District.

TEMBURONG, March 14 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to award house keys and land grants to 214 recipients under the National Housing Plan (RPN) Kampung Rataia and land grants under the Temporary Occupation Licence (TOL) in Temburong district.

A total of 175 recipients received house keys while the other 39 acquired land grants at a ceremony held at Dewan Belalong of the Bangar Community Hall.

Of the new homeowners, 10 were awarded with keys to the basic type detached houses, 20 with keys to the standard type

HM awards house keys and land grants to 214 recipients

detached houses, 20 with keys to standard type deluxe houses and 125 with keys to deluxe houses.

In his welcoming speech, the Temburong District Officer, Awang Haji Abdul Hamid bin Dato Paduka Haji Abdullah said that the award itself was an honour and extremely meaningful to the recipients.

The presentation of the awards demonstrated His Majesty's concern and attention toward fulfilling and safeguarding the needs of the citizens and residents of the country, he added.

Afterward, His Majesty consented to tour two educational institutions: Sultan Hassan Bangar Secondary School and Arabic Preparatory School in Temburong district.

His Majesty then consented to visit several houses of the land grant recipients in Mukim Bangar before departing for the residence of the village head of Kampung Belingos, The Honourable Awang Haji Sulaiman bin Haji Ahad.

Subsequently, His Majesty consented to tour the 'One Village One Product' exhibition at Mukim Bokok Community Hall before visiting several homeowners at RPN Kampung Rataia.

Earlier, His Majesty was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Development, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman; the

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*From page 10
(HM awards house keys and land grants to 214 recipients)

Minister of Home Affairs, The Honourable Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin

Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman and Temburong District Officer, Awang Haji Abdul Hamid bin Dato Paduka Haji Abdullah.

The ceremony commenced with the recital of *Surah Al-Fatihah* led by the Lower Syari'ah Court Judge of

Temburong District, Awang Haji Shahrin bin Haji Kadih.

Prior to leaving Temburong district, His Majesty consented to attend a luncheon at the Main Dining Hall of the Community Hall Complex, Bangar.

Their Majesties attend Sultan of Johor's coronation



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha witnessing the coronation of the fifth Sultan of Johor at the Istana Besar.

JOHOR DARUL TA'ZIM, March 23 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to attend the coronation of His Royal Highness Sultan Ibrahim ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Iskandar, the fifth Sultan of Johor, at the Istana Besar.

Their Majesties, along with the Malay rulers, heads of Malaysian states, the Prime Minister of Malaysia and spouse, and other dignitaries, consented to proceed to Bilik Singgahsana to witness the coronation.

Shortly afterward, the 'Lagu Bangsa Johor' anthem was sung upon the arrival of Sultan Ibrahim, the Sultan Johor Darul Ta'zim, dan Her Royal Highness Raja Zarith Sofiah binti Al-Marhum Sultan Idris Shah, the Permaisuri of Johor.

The ceremony commenced with the reading of the promulgation text by the Chief Minister of Johor, The Honourable Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin and the reading of the coronation text by Yang Di-Pertua of the Johor Council of Royal Court, The Honourable Dato' Abdul Rahim bin Ramli.

Afterward, the ceremony proceeded with the *Titah Ikrar* by His Royal Highness Sultan Ibrahim, which was followed by the crowning of His Royal Highness Sultan Ibrahim as the Sultan and the Sovereign Ruler of the State and Territory of Johor Darul Ta'zim; and Her Royal Highness Raja Zarith Sofiah as the Permaisuri of Johor by the State Mufti of Johor, The Honourable Dato Haji Mohd Tahrir bin Dato' Kiyai Haji Samsudin.

The 'Lagu Bangsa Johor' anthem was then played accompanied by a 21-



Their Majesties with His Royal Highness the Sultan of Terengganu and spouse.

Gun Salute, followed by a *doa* led by the Deputy State Mufti of Johor, The Honourable Dato' Haji Yahya bin Ahmad.

His Royal Highness the Sultan of Johor and Her Royal Highness the Permaisuri of Johor subsequently received in audience His Royal Highness Tunku Ismail ibni Sultan Ibrahim, Tunku Mahkota Johor and wife, Her Highness Che' Puan Khaleeda binti Bustamam and other members of the royal family; the Chief Minister of Johor, The Honourable Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin and Yang Di-Pertua of the Johor Council of Royal Court, The Honourable Dato' Abdul Rahim bin Ramli.

Then, Their Royal Highnesses proceeded to the Palace Balcony to receive the Air Salute accompanied by the 'Lagu Bangsa Johor' anthem before departing for the royal procession of more than seven kilometres around the City of Johor Bahru.

At the end of the ceremony, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan

of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha, along with other royal guests, consented to leave the venue.

Earlier, Their Majesties were greeted upon arrival at the Istana Besar by Yang Di-Pertua of the Johor Council of Royal Court, The Honourable Dato' Abdul Rahim bin Ramli before proceeding to the Bilik Persemayaman at Istana Besar Johor.

Their Majesties were accompanied by the Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim; the State Mufti, The Honourable Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned and The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Shahbandar Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Mohd Nawawi bin Pehin Orang Kaya Shahbandar Haji Awang Mohd Taha along with their spouses.

HM urges police not to be weak and avoid corruption at all costs

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 31 – Police personnel are urged not to be weak or be easily flattered or persuaded especially in accepting bribes that meant to free offenders from the law.

They must avoid and fight corruption at all cost to save the country from bribery.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, who is the Police Inspector General, said the matter in a *titah* (royal speech) during a visit to the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) Headquarters in Gadong.

Corruption is a disease that destroys happiness, His Majesty said, adding that it normally involves two parties, the giver and the taker.

“What I found out is that only the recipients (of bribes) are brought to justice but not the givers,” His Majesty said.

“The taker and giver of the bribe are equally guilty and deserve punishment from Allah SWT,” His Majesty added.

Thus, His Majesty hopes that the relevant parties will deal with this matter accordingly.

Earlier, His Majesty was greeted upon arrival at the police headquarters by the Acting Commissioner of Police, Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Mohd Jammy bin Haji Mohd Shah Al-Islam.

Shortly afterward, His Majesty consented to receive the royal salute and inspect the guard of honour mounted by RBPF personnel.

Then, His Majesty consented to proceed to the Banquet Hall to deliver the *titah* and attend a closed-door briefing on the functions and objectives of the RBPF.

Earlier, the Acting Commissioner of Police in his welcoming remarks said the police have not only encountered various challenges from criminal cases but also from information technology that requires the personnel to equip themselves

with the expertise and knowledge to build professional human resources to implement police tasks in an era of globalisation.

Recently, the RBPF has been preparing to uphold and implement the laws under the Brunei Darussalam Syari'ah Penal Code Order, 2013, he added.

Afterward, His Majesty consented to tour the departments under the RBPF.

His Majesty consented to first visit the Police Training Centre and then proceed to the Criminal Intelligence building.

Established in January 2006, the Criminal Intelligence Department (CID) is one of the sections under the Criminal Investigation Department, which was known as the Criminal Intelligence and Investigation Unit (CIR) until 2005.

It aims to increase awareness of the RBPF's leadership in maintaining the 'Intelligence-Led policing' (ILP) strategy on a daily basis apart from strengthening the dissemination of information as well as continuing the information exchange between the department and all parties in the RBPF.

His Majesty then consented to tour the State Control Centre, which is responsible for operations concerning health and control apart from playing a role in enforcing the country's law.

Subsequently, His Majesty consented to proceed to the new police headquarters in Gadong. The building, built under the 9th National Development Plan (2007-2012), is equipped with conference room, lecture hall, library and meeting room.

Lastly, His Majesty consented to visit the Traffic Investigation and Control Department that plays an important role in enforcing road safety as well as ensuring smooth traffic flow in the country.

Concluding the visit, His Majesty consented to attend a luncheon at the headquarters' Banquet Hall and meet and greet the RBPF personnel prior to leaving.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a *titah* (royal speech) during a visit to RBPF Headquarters in Gadong.

The RBPF is one of the oldest government agencies that was founded in 1921 with the passing of the Brunei Police Force Enactment although police history was recorded as early as 1906.

Since its establishment, the RBPF has encountered various changes, challenges, successes and achievements in keeping the stability of the country as well as experienced significant national, regional and international events.



His Majesty consents to inspect the guard of honour mounted by RBPF personnel.

HM stresses the need to boost Brunei Darussalam's economy at the opening of 11th Legislative Council session

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 5 - Members of the State Legislative Council should pay serious attention to entrepreneurship.

In a *titah* (royal speech) at the opening of the 11th Legislative Council session, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang D-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stressed that more parties need to be involved in entrepreneurship as it holds one of the keys to national development and economic diversification.

Therefore, His Majesty urged entrepreneurs to reach their potential by expanding their businesses and respective industries.

In addition, His Majesty highlighted the importance of maintaining the basics of fiscal stability with emphasis on prudent spending and value for money.

Such practices, also applicable in financial management at the personal and family level, will allow the country to spend less and save more to meet the provisions in times of need.

Apart from that, His Majesty stated that the council plays a key role in leading the country towards national development by instilling positive mindset among the people so they are able to react maturely with the

demands of the times.

His Majesty said that the council members are capable of proposing the best approaches towards progress in order to shift the mindset from being dependent on assistance to being independent and hardworking.

His Majesty also reminded the need to be sensitive to the current situation, especially to matters concerning the global economic downturn that is showing a sharp decline in oil prices.

"This situation should boost our determination to further strengthen the country's economic fundamentals," His Majesty said.

One of the efforts includes empowering the public sector by improving the quality and effectiveness of its services, which is important in shaping a more conducive business environment.

Touching upon the field of employment, His Majesty said that attention must be given to mobilise local youth to grasp all available opportunities by examining where and how long they will continue to be sidelined.

"In the industrial sector, which is the core of the national economy, many opportunities or important positions are still monopolised by foreign workers, even though a lot of time has passed,"

His Majesty said and cautioned against turning a blind eye to the issue.

All this, His Majesty said, should be taken note of by the council for it to remain focused on bigger and challenging matters, not on those which make us negligent and weak.

Concluding the *titah*, His Majesty urged all concerning parties to find effective solutions to the problems of the people, as His Majesty believes that all problems can be handled through negotiations.

Earlier, His Majesty congratulated The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib on his recent appointment as the new Speaker of the Legislative Council.

His Majesty hopes that the new speaker will carry out his duties and responsibilities to the best of his ability in order to further enhance the status of the council as a vital institution in national development.

Additionally, His Majesty also expressed appreciation to The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa bin Pehin Datu Perdana Manteri Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Ibrahim for his service during his tenure as the former council speaker.

HRH Crown Prince graces CIPTA Award 2015

JERUDONG, March 14 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, as the Pro-Chancellor of Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB), consented to grace the Crown Prince CIPTA 2015 Award ceremony held at the Royal Berkshire Hall, Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club.

His Royal Highness consented to award the winners of five categories: Creating New Product, Process or Technology; Modifying Existing Product, Process or Technology; Creating New or Modifying Existing Product, Process or Technology by Young Inventors; Smart Junior Competition; and ASEAN.

His Royal Highness also consented to present the Crown Prince CIPTA Special Award to the overall winner of the competition.

The Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology in Singapore, led by Dr. Joo Eun Chung, received a total of BND18,000 as well as the Challenge Trophy and a certificate for winning the Crown Prince CIPTA 2015 Special Award and the ASEAN category with its project titled 'Green Tea Nanocarriers to Fight Cancer'. The grand prize alone was worth BND10,000.

Under the Creating New Product, Process or Technology category, no team won the first and second place.

However, ITB's SMail project led by Mohammad Adi Mukmin bin Sarbini and the GZUP Steering Dual Way Steering Box System for Vehicle project created by Haji Zupri bin Haji Kamis shared third place. Both winners received BND4,000, a trophy and a certificate.

Meanwhile, ITB won the Modifying Existing Product, Process or Technology category, receiving BND8,000 and a trophy with its 'Smart Shower 2.0' project led by Matius anak Belayan.

The 'School Goes Mobile' project won second place



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince consents to observe a showcase of CIPTA Award projects .

receiving BND6,000 while the 'Kalakati Small Electric Vehicle' project won third place receiving BND4,000. Both received a trophy and a certificate.

Under the Creating New or Modifying Existing Product, Process or Technology by Young Inventors category, no team won first prize.

The runner-up was the 'Techno Headphone Station TH-01' project winning BND3,000 while the second runner-up, SMB Compact Active Body (CAB) Cooling Suit won BND2,000. Both received a trophy and a certificate.

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His Royal Highness the Crown Prince consents to deliver a *sabda* (royal speech).



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince consents to launch the BDSA's official website.

HRH Crown Prince awards 68 scout leaders

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 23 – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Deputy Sultan, as the Chief Scout of the Brunei Darussalam Scouts Association (BDSA), consented to award medals to 68 scout leaders in conjunction with BDSA's 82nd anniversary celebration.

Of the awardee, 15 received the Meritorious Service Medals while the other 53 acquired the Excellent Service Medals.

A total of 31 scout commissioners were also awarded with warrants.

His Royal Highness also consented to present certificates of appreciation to school principals throughout the country for their students' participation.

The BDSA President, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Idris bin Haji Abas said that only 44 out of the 137 schools in Brunei Darussalam have registered their students in the association, who account for nearly 800 members.

He estimated that the student

participations could reach almost 2,000 members if all local schools were to register with BDSA.

Scout troops are required to register and become members of BDSA to coordinate scout movement and to meet the regulations of the Registrar of Societies and the World Organisation of the Scout Movement, he said.

It is simply insufficient to only register with the Department of Curriculum, he reminded.

On this note, he hopes that BDSA will acquire the Ministry of Education's assistance in getting the relevant schools to register with BDSA.

The president further explained that the scouts' system in the county is school-based, which means that the members' attendance is taken through schools' scout associations.

Currently, there are 93 schools in the Brunei-Muara District, 36 in Belait District, four in Tutong District and four in Temburong District.

Earlier, His Royal Highness was greeted upon arrival at the Scouts

Association Headquarters by the BDSA President and BDSA Chief Commissioner, Awang Haji Badar bin Ali.

Apart from presenting awards, His Royal Highness also consented to launch the BDSA's official website, www.bruneiscouts.gov.bn, which provides the association's information for local and foreign scouts.

Afterward, His Royal Highness consented to view an exhibition that showcased national, regional and international activities that have been organised and participated in by BDSA.

As a voluntary organisation, BDSA has contributed to providing assistance and service such as helping flood and disaster victims and those in need not only to the local community but also to other countries such as Philippines, West and East Malaysia, Indonesia and Malaysia, said the president.

InsyaaAllah, these efforts will be continued when needed, he added.

Prior to leaving, His Royal Highness consented to a group photo session.

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(HRH Crown Prince graces CIPTA Award 2015)

No team won the first place under the Smart Junior category as well.

However, the Covell project won the second prize of BND800 while the Astyclip project won the third prize of BND500. Both received a trophy and a certificate.

In addition, the 'Honourable Mention' Award was given to the 'Extraction of Vitamin E using Palm Fatty Acid Distillate' project by Curtin University Malaysia led by How Teck Kien.

It was the first time that the competition was opened to ASEAN member countries, in which two categories were introduced namely the New Invention and Innovation and the Young Inventor, said Associate Professor Dr. Hajah Zohrah binti Haji Sulaiman, the ITB Vice-Chancellor and Chairperson of CIPTA 2015.

She added that another new category, the Smart Junior, was also introduced to

students of Year 7 to 9.

Professor Dr. Salim Al-Hassani, the President of the Foundation for Science, Technology and Civilisation, United Kingdom as the Head of CIPTA 2015 Judging Panel, in his remarks on the judging process said that some of the products presented were even thought to be world-class innovations.

At the ceremony, His Royal Highness consented to watch a presentation on the development of CIPTA projects from 2005 to 2015 and receive a *pesambah* (gift) from the organising committee of CIPTA 2015.

Earlier, His Royal Highness was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Education as the patron of CIPTA Award, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong; the ITB Vice Chancellor, Associate Professor Dr. Hajah Zohrah

binti Haji Sulaiman and the Managing Director of Brunei Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Sdn Bhd, Awang Mohamad bin Haji Awang Damit.

The ceremony commenced with the recitation of *Surah Al-Fatihah* by the Deputy State Mufti, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Setia Raja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Suhaili bin Haji Mohiddin.

To bless the ceremony, doa selamat was read by the Deputy State Mufti.

Prior to leaving, His Royal Highness also consented to tour an exhibition.

The CIPTA Award, themed 'Towards a Smart Nation', was organised by ITB and Brunei LNG Sdn Bhd and received 45 project entries this year.

The award is organised every two years since its first launch in 2005 in bid to produce a more inventive and creative generation.

Deputy Sultan launches new Brunei Darussalam Maritime Museum

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 23 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, consented to launch the Brunei Darussalam Maritime Museum in Jalan Kota Batu.

In his welcoming address, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah said that the museum not only serves as an exhibition hall, but also acts as a learning and research institution that will motivate especially youth to further develop the nation.

The BND5 million museum displays 13,261 artifacts found after the discovery of the shipwreck in 1997 and most importantly, houses a reconstruction of the man-made Terendak Island at the archaeological site in Kota Batu.

The island, he explained, shows that Kota Batu was a trading centre and had systematic control over maritime trade in the 14th to 17th century.

After the launch, His Royal Highness consented to tour the Brunei Darussalam Shipwreck gallery that showcases the historic findings during the discovery of 1997 shipwreck such as ceramics, glass bracelets, beads, stone materials, copper and metal.

His Royal Highness was escorted by the Acting Director of Museums, Pengiran Dr. Karim bin Pengiran Haji Osman, throughout the gallery tour.

Then, His Royal Highness, accompanied by Archaeological Curator/ Manager of the Maritime Museum Dayang Aminah binti Haji Abdul Majid, consented to view the boats gallery that demonstrates the importance of rivers to the Bruneian community in terms of trade nationally and internationally.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince consents to view one of the galleries.

Afterward, His Royal Highness, escorted by the Exhibition Officer of Quanzhou Maritime Museum, Kathy Wang, consented to tour the Quanzhou Maritime Museum's Maritime Silkroad exhibition that will open to the public from March 23 to April 19.

Next, His Royal Highness consented to watch a video of the Brunei Darussalam Shipwreck Expedition in 1998 at the museum's mini theatre and accompanied by the Acting Head Museum Officer, Awang Hanapi bin Haji Maidi.

Earlier, His Royal Highness was greeted upon arrival at the Brunei Darussalam Maritime Museum by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, and the Deputy Minister, Yang Mulia Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Adina binti Othman.

The Minister of Education, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri

Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong; The Minister of Development, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Hj Osman; The Minister of Communications, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdullah Bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar; The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar; The Minister of Home Affairs, The Honourable Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin Bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman; The Museum's Curator of Natural History and Manager of Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Omar Ali ibni His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; the Special Duties Officer at the Museums Department, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Quddus bin Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz and the Deputy Ministers were also present during the launch.

The ceremony began with the recitation of *Surah Al-Fatihah* and *doa selamat* by The Honourable Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Yahya bin Haji Ibrahim to bless the event.

Prior to leaving, His Royal Highness consented to sign the commemorative parchment, receive a *pesambah* (gift) and join a group photo session.

The Brunei Darussalam Maritime Museum is one of the projects under the 10th National Development Plan built on a 3.53-hectare site.

The museum is open to the public from 9am to 5pm every Saturday to Thursday.

On Fridays, the museum opens from 9am to 11.30am and from 2.30pm to 5pm.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince consents to receive a briefing during the visit.



Her Royal Highness launching the 11th ISB's BGIC at the International Conference Centre.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 7 – Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman consented to launch the International School Brunei (ISB) Borneo Global Issue Conference (BGIC) that brings students together to discuss global issues in Model United Nations style debate.

The forum, themed 'Combating World Diseases', provides an opportunity for students to gain a better global perspective

HRH inaugurates ISB Borneo Global Issue Conference

of issues relating to their future as well the development of the region and the outside world, said Her Royal Highness who is the Royal Patron of BGIC.

It is hoped that the conference will inspire the country's future leaders to pursue careers in the medical profession and research to enhance the development of our health care system in the long run.

The 'Combating World Diseases' conference is timely as the world has witnessed the outbreak of Ebola in South Africa last year and continues to face threats from other diseases and epidemics.

"Since the new millennium, the international headlines have been dominated by diseases such as the avian influenza, HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis and certainly Ebola," said Her Royal Highness.

In this case, Her Royal Highness urged youth to be aware of unhealthy lifestyle factors and diseases that could affect their health such as heart disease, diabetes, cancer, obesity and the ever-growing prevalence of drug-resistant strains.

Apart from that, Her Royal Highness expressed her pleasure in seeing young leaders chairing the conference covering topics such as environmental, political,

economic, social, human rights and press issues.

It is a daunting challenge for them but with active involvement, the participants will have a better understanding of the real issues faced by world leaders, Her Royal Highness added.

Her Royal Highness also hopes that all participants will be confident in expressing their opinions and sharing their views, and even so taking into account the views of others representing different countries and situations.

"I am confident that the experience gained through discussions and negotiations during the conference will enable our young participants to further develop academically and professionally," Her Royal Highness said.

Her Royal Highness also reminded the participants that the experience and knowledge they have gained from this conference would be a reflection of the hard work they have done.

In ending the speech, Her Royal Highness explained that the conference would not have been a success without the contributions and active support from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Brunei Liquefied Natural Gas Sdn Bhd, Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Corporation (HSBC) and several private sectors.

HRH attends first National Athletes Assessment and Selection Executive Committee meeting

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 3 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council, consented to attend the first meeting of the National Athletes Assessment and Selection Executive Committee for the 28th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games.

The meeting, held at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium, in Berakas, will discuss and determine the qualification of athletes who have been put under consideration in the previous meeting for the SEA Games that will take place from June 5 to 16.

In his welcoming speech, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah expressed his appreciation for His Royal Highness's suggestion in adding more qualification criteria into the five predetermined criteria.

This includes athletes being free from taking banned substances (doping) and ready to undergo random doping tests before the competition starts.

"We believe that, with the addition of these criteria, the athletes who will represent the country will be more aware and careful of the consequences of taking banned substances and supplements without informing the relevant authorities before the tournament starts," explained the minister.

Aside from that, the athletes must also have a physical endurance record of above 85 per cent.

This will boost the confidence of all committee members that the supported athletes can excel in competitions of the highest level and bring honour to the country, the minister explained.

Regarding the sports events, the selection will depend on the chosen athletes' performances, and the decision will be announced at a later date.



His Royal Highness during the first meeting of the National Athletes Assessment and Selection Executive Committee at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium.

In addition, the minister mentioned earlier that the Department of Youth and Sports has found a total of 23 elite athletes, 421 national athletes and 1,569 reserve athletes across the country as part of the effort in searching and providing training for potential athletes.

In order to nurture the athletes, the department has restructured all ongoing training programmes and has planned to introduce a Sports Academy. The Sungai Kebun Sports Complex has been identified as one of the training centres and placement of athletes.

Earlier, His Royal Highness was greeted upon arrival by the minister.

The meeting was chaired by the Permanent Secretary at the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd. Hamid bin Haji Mohd. Jaafar.

The Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Mulia Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Adina binti Othman was also present during the meeting.

Minister urges engineers to enhance skills to ensure project completion on time



The Minister of Development presenting a certificate to one of the 19 graduates.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 3 – Young engineers are reminded to improve their technical skills so that they can efficiently manage and supervise construction projects, produce high quality work and avoid unwanted incidents.

The Minister of Development, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman said that the ministry encourages the skill development of its officers and staffs.

It not only increases their contribution to the ministry but also reflects their initiative in equipping themselves with the knowledge associated with their respective jobs.

Constant pursuit of knowledge and skills is vital especially in the field of construction, as the industry is complex.

“Not only do science and technology play a major role here, but this industry

also prioritises health, safety and environment (HSE),” he said.

The minister brought up the matter at the postgraduate diploma certificates presentation ceremony at the Empire Hotel & Country Club for civil engineers who completed the Ministry of Development’s Further Learning Programme.

As we know and experience, the ministry often faces problems that lead to schedule delays, halted projects and cost overruns relating to variation orders, he said.

He explained that the incidents may have happened because the project lost control or was not supervised from the start to completion, or due to inadequate knowledge and experience.

“Although responsibility of a project rests on the consultant and purveyor, we as the engineers are responsible to ensure the projects are implemented

following the specifications that have been agreed,” the minister said.

In addition, the ministry often face over or under specified projects that either lead to wasteful spending or decrease in the projects’ capacity or durability.

From time to time, the ministry also encounters disasters at project sites such as accidents, floods or landslides.

It is a challenge that needs to be tackled by enhancing designs or acquiring technology or construction materials that can withstand natural disasters and climate change, said the minister.

He said the two major projects in Brunei Darussalam, the Sungai Kebun Bridge and the Temburong Bridge, will assess the capability of the ministry to carry out and supervise the projects.

“Thus, we need officers and engineers who are capable of increasing their skills, ready to work in a new and challenging environment, ready for change and unconstrained by the old mindset that no longer fits with the current times,” he explained and added they are looking for creativity, innovation and proactivity.

“However, we will ensure that the bridges will continue to operate anytime through systematic maintenance. All it requires is for us to plan the ministry’s development and workforce strategies so that we can continue to develop sustainable infrastructures without interruptions,” he continued.

The efforts of the graduates, he said, are required to always be in one or two steps ahead.



The minister in a group session with the graduates.

Pakistan Embassy holds reception to celebrate 75th National Day



The Minister of Communication and the High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan along with their spouses at the dinner reception at Rizqun International Hotel.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 23 - The High Commission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Brunei Darussalam hosted a dinner reception to observe the republic's 75th Pakistan Day held at

Rizqun International Hotel, Gadong.

The Minister of Communications, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdullah bin Begawan Mudim Dato

Paduka Haji Bakar attended the ceremony as a representative of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

In his speech, the High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Brigadier (Rtd) Muhammad Zareef Malik said that Pakistan had successfully overcome many development challenges after six decades of independence and that it is proud to have very close relations with Brunei Darussalam.

The relationship is strengthened through bilateral agreements and cooperation among various sectors under the bilateral joint commission, most importantly the Pakistan Brunei Investment Company, His Excellency added.

His Excellency also stressed that the Pakistani community in the country is committed to the development of Brunei Darussalam in various fields such as defence, business, education and health, as the nation is like a second home to all of them.

Earlier, the reception commenced with the singing of the national anthems of both countries and a recital of Al-Quran verses, then followed by a cake cutting session by the minister with His Excellency.

MIPR launches second International Forestry Day

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 21 – The Forestry Department, the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR), celebrated the second International Forestry Day, themed 'Forest for Health and Well-being', at Bukit Shahbandar Recreational Park.

The event also saw the launch of 'Plants of Bukit Shahbandar Forest Recreation Park Pictorial Pocket Guide', a book that contains detailed information on 32 plant species found along the trail of the recreational park.

The book is hoped to promote the recreational park as one of the selected eco-tourism destinations in addition to providing its visitors with information.

Various activities were also organised to enliven the event including Nature Walk, Tai Chi exercises and Bokwa piloxing.

The event was launched by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Bagawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar.

The Permanent Secretary at MIPR, Yang Mulia Dayang Hajah Normah Suria Hayati binti Pehin Jawatan Dalam Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama (Dr.) Haji Awang Mohd. Jamil Al-Sufri; the Deputy Permanent Secretary (Primary Resources Development) at MIPR, Yang Mulia Dayang Hajah Hasnah binti Haji Ibrahim; the Director of Forestry, the Chairman of the event, Awang Haji Saidin bin Salleh; directors, head of departments, and senior officials as well as staff of the Forestry Department were also present at the event.



The MIPR Minister launching the second International Forestry Day at Bukit Shahbandar Recreational Park.

Bangladesh High Commission hosts 45th Independence and National Day reception

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 31 - The Bangladesh High Commission in Brunei Darussalam hosted a dinner reception to mark the 45th anniversary of the Independence and National Day of Bangladesh at Rizqun International Hotel, Gadong.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah attended the ceremony, as a representative of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, accompanied by his spouse, Datin Hajah Rosnah binti Pehin Datu Inderasugara Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Johari.

In his speech, the Bangladesh High Commissioner His Excellency Mohammed Abdul Hye touched upon the development of Bangladesh after 45 years of independence as well as the bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and Bangladesh in the fields of culture, education, arts and so forth.

His Excellency also expressed his appreciation towards His Majesty Sultan



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports and the Bangladesh High Commissioner cutting a cake to commemorate the occasion with their spouses.

Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, and the government for giving the workers and students from Bangladesh the opportunity to prove their expertise, ability and skills in the country.

The event was highlighted by a cutting cake session to commemorate the

occasion and the presentation of gifts from His Excellency and his spouse, Dr. Tahmina Begum to the guest of honours.

Earlier, the reception commenced with the singing of the national anthems of both countries, then followed by the recital of Al-Quran verses by Awang Mohamad Bozlor Rahman of the Usuluddin Faculty, the Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA).

Brunei-Guangxi discuss progress of economic corridor project

JERUDONG, March 31 – The Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) held a bilateral meeting with the official delegation from Guangxi Province of the People's Republic of China at the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the progress of the Brunei-Guangxi Economic Corridor (BGC).

The discussion was between the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato

Paduka Haji Bakar and the Secretary of Communist Party of China (CPC) of Guangxi Committee cum Chairman of the Standing Committee of Guangxi People's Congress, His Excellency Peng Qinghua.

The minister said the project participants agreed to visit sites, demonstrate as well as evaluate the joint project as soon as possible and explain the ownership and the joint partnership, subject to the competitive viability to start the proposed works as soon as possible.

The project involves constructing a four-lane bridge stretching 2.7 kilometres

across the sea, a four-lane main road on Pulau Muara Besar and associated utilities including power, water and telecommunication services.

Earlier, the minister expressed appreciation on the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Brunei-Guangxi Economic Corridor, which will act as a platform for implementing projects and programmes proposed.

He also spoke of his pleasant experience during the China-ASEAN Expo in 2014, where he visited the sites offered under the Brunei-Guangxi Economic Corridor and identified several potential cooperation projects and programmes.

The meeting was the first visit by His Excellency and his delegation to Brunei Darussalam.

The Permanent Secretary at MIPR, Yang Mulia Dayang Hajah Normah Suria Hayati Binti Pehin Jawatan Dalam Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama (Dr.) Haji Awang Mohd. Jamil Al-Sufri, the deputy permanent secretaries, directors and heads of departments were also present during the meeting.

The China Communications Construction Company Ltd. has conducted construction works of more than 70 countries and is ranked in top 250 international contractors as well as Engineering News Record's top 250 global contractors.



The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources with the Secretary of Communist Party of China (CPC) of Guangxi Committee cum Chairman of the Standing Committee of Guangxi People's Congress

*Continue from page 7
(Their Majesties host banquet for Thai Prime Minister)



His Majesty with the Prime Minister of Thailand.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and cabinet ministers during the MoU signing ceremony.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 25 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to attend a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Thailand, His Excellency General (RTD) Prayut Chan-o-cha and witness the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on agricultural cooperation at Baitul Mesyuarah, Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and the Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's

Office, and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

During the event, His Majesty and His Excellency discussed the bilateral issues between Brunei Darussalam and Thailand and exchanged views on the regional and international matters of mutual interest.

Afterward, both leaders consented to witness the signing ceremony of the MoU on agricultural cooperation between the Government of Brunei Darussalam and Thailand.

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR), The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan

Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar signed the MoU on behalf of Brunei Darussalam while Thailand was represented by Thai Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, His Excellency Petipong Pungbun Na Ayudhya.

The Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim; the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng and the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, The Honourable Pehin Datu Singamenteri Kolonel (B) Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar were also present during the event.



The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources (right) and Thai Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives signing the MoU on agricultural cooperation at Istana Nurul Iman.