



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam newsletter

Published by the Department of Information
Prime Minister's Office

NOVEMBER, 2014
VOLUME 29 ISSUE 11



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives the Honorary Doctorate of Law from Universiti Sains Malaysia's Chancellor, His Royal Highness The Raja of Perlis.

HM receives Honorary Doctorate Of Law

PENANG, November 4 - 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 received an Honorary Doctorate of Law at the Tuanku Syed Putra Hall, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in Penang, Malaysia.

The award was presented by USM's Chancellor, His Royal Highness The Raja of Perlis Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin ibni Al-Marhum Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail.

In a *titah* (royal speech) delivered after receiving the award, His Majesty described Brunei Darussalam's relations with Malaysia as very

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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the President of the People's Republic of China at the 22nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Beijing.

HM attends APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting 2014

BEIJING, November 10 – 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 joined 20 other leaders at the 22nd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) held from November 10 to 11 in Beijing.

Chaired by the President of the People's Republic of China His Excellency Xi Jinping, the AELM Retreat session focused on 'Regional Economic Integration' and prioritised on promoting innovative development, economic reform, and strengthening comprehensive connectivity and infrastructure development under the theme of 'Shaping the Future through Asia-Pacific Partnership'.

On the sidelines of the APEC AELM, His Majesty attended a meeting among leaders from countries participating in the Fifth Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) held at the American Embassy in Beijing, hosted by the President of the United States of America His Excellency Barack Obama. The meeting focused on issues relating to the current status and future direction of TPP negotiations.

His Majesty also attended the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Dialogue Session at the China National Convention Centre (CNCC). The leaders reviewed recommendations to deepen regional economic integration, promote infrastructure growth and sustainable development, develop micro, small and medium enterprises and entrepreneurship, as well as promote development and integration of financial markets.

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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

is published monthly by the Department of Information. It reports on government, social and business events in the country. All money values are expressed in Brunei dollars \$, unless otherwise stated. Any information in this newsletter may be reproduced; a clipping of the publication would be appreciated. For free subscription (excluding postage) please write to the Distribution Unit, Department of Information, Prime Minister's Office, Old Airport, Berakas BB 3510, Brunei Darussalam.

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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, 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.

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

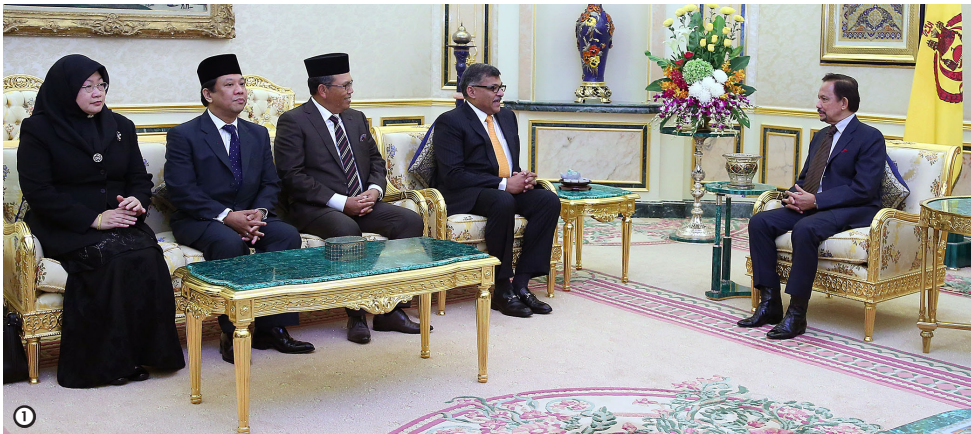
His Majesty receives audience



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 His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Awang Mahdi bin Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Abdul Rahman, Brunei Darussalam's newly-appointed Permanent Representative to Geneva, Switzerland. The ceremony was held on November 26 at the Istana Nurul Iman.



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 His Excellency Cho Won Myung, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam. The ceremony was held on November 26, at the Istana Nurul Iman.



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 The Right Honourable Sundaresh Menon, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Singapore and The Right Honourable Tan Sri Dato' Seri Mohd Raus bin Sharif, the President of the Court of Appeal of Malaysia on November 15.

② Mr. Ben Van Beurden, the Chief Executive Officer of Royal Dutch Shell on November 25.

③ The founding patrons of the Pinnacle Club of ASEAN.



Her Majesty receives audiences

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman, on November 24:



- ❶ Madam Zahra Havaseli Astiani, the spouse of the outgoing Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Brunei Darussalam.
- ❷ Madam Lui Guixiang, the spouse of the outgoing Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam.

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-Meezan:

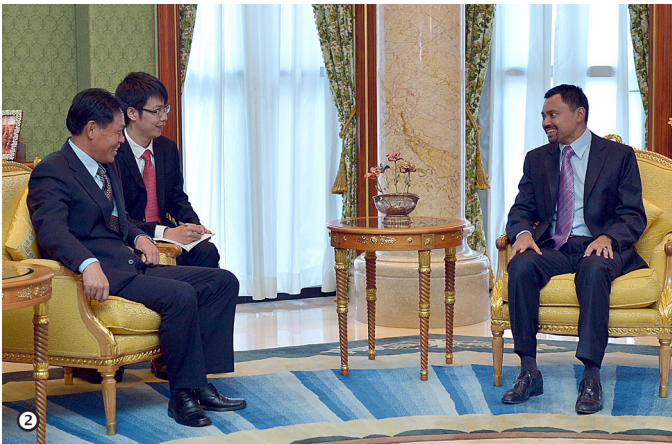
- ❶ The Chiefs of Defence and Heads of Delegation who attended the Asia-Pacific Chiefs of Defence Conference 2014 on November 4.
- ❷ His Excellency Dr. Abdullah bin Nasser Al-Harasi, the Chairman of Public Authority of Radio and Television of the Sultanate of Oman on November 12.
- ❸ The Head of Contingents of the 41st Ship for the Southeast Asian Youth Programme (SSEAYP) of ASEAN and Japan.



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 received in audience at Qashr Al-Meezan on November 17:

- ❶ His Excellency Victor Alexandrovich Seleznev, the outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Brunei Darussalam.
- ❷ His Excellency Zheng Xianglin, the outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam.



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 Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni, the King of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Cambodia on the occasion of the Kingdom of Cambodia's 61st Independence Day on November 8.
- His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al-Said, the Sultan of the Sultanate of Oman on the occasion of His Majesty's 74th birthday, and to the Government and people of the Sultanate of Oman on the occasion of the Sultanate of Oman's 44th National Day on November 18.

* From frontpage
(HM receives Honorary Doctorate Of Law)

special and the closeness of both countries is evident from their cooperative relations in various fields including education.

His Majesty expressed hope that the cooperation in education between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia would continue to be enhanced from time to time.

His Majesty also said that Brunei Darussalam welcomes Malaysians who wish to further their studies at higher education institutions in Brunei Darussalam.

Earlier, the conferment ceremony began with a citation speech by Professor Dato' Omar Osman, the Vice Chancellor of USM. It was then followed by His Royal Highness The Raja of Perlis's speech to confer the Honorary Doctorate of Law to His Majesty in recognition of His Majesty's contribution in the fields of law and education.

The award will encourage further collaborative efforts between the higher education institutions of both countries, especially in leadership, training, technical and vocational education and research visits.

His Majesty delivering a *titah* at the Conferment Ceremony of the Honorary Doctorate of Law at the Universiti Sains Malaysia in Penang.



HM: Prioritise quality and strengthen use of Arabic language

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 1 – As a true Islamic higher learning institution, Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) must always prioritise quality.

UNISSA should also emphasis on strengthening the use and mastering of the Arabic language in the programmes as the Arabic language is also the language of Al-Qur'an.

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, the UNISSA Chancellor, stated this in a *titah* (royal speech) at UNISSA's 4th Hafl Al-Takharrij, or convocation, held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

The emphasis on these two factors can empower UNISSA into a true Islamic university not just in this region, but also at the international level, His Majesty said.

In order to achieve this goal, UNISSA should prioritise constantly enhancing the quality of its education officers, His Majesty said.

His Majesty hoped that UNISSA would realise the purpose of the Public Higher Education Institutions Academic Staff Service Scheme, which aims to produce and attract an academic workforce who are excellent in their teaching and research.

It is no doubt that the presence of a quality academic workforce can attract the interest of students from outside the country to pursue their studies in UNISSA and consequently carry UNISSA's name to the international level.

His Majesty also advised the university to develop its research in order to empower its profile.

In this regard, His Majesty is supportive of UNISSA's efforts in strengthening and empowering the *Mazhab* (sect)



His Majesty awards one of the 115 UNISSA graduates at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Syafi'e school of thought via strategic cooperation with Al-Azhar University and the university's Research Centre. Such cooperation can ensure the Muslim community in Brunei Darussalam would not lose its grip and continue to follow the *Ahli Sunnah Wal-Jamaah* and *Mazhab Syafi'e*.

His Majesty said that UNISSA's Research Centre should not just limit its capacity to studying *Mazhab Syafi'e*, but also cover other Islamic schools of thought.

The objective, His Majesty stated, is to ensure UNISSA will be capable of producing academics and scholars of Islam, who are able to master the doctrines of all schools of thought.

Once it is achieved, His Majesty is convinced that they will possess wide-ranging perspectives and be able to play an important role in curbing any teachings that are contrary to the schools of thought within *Ahli Sunnah Wal-Jamaah*.

His Majesty believes that cooperation with Al-Azhar University could shape UNISSA into a 'hub' for researching *Mazhab Syafi'e* and also proposed that cooperation should be extended to prestigious foreign universities that encompass various knowledge

disciplines.

"If we expand these efforts, *Insyallah* UNISSA will be a university that excels and be renowned as a prestigious source of reference," said His Majesty.

Furthermore, His Majesty said that UNISSA's new building would become a symbol of Islamic knowledge and civilisation in the country.

"To elevate UNISSA's profile and status in the world, I would also like to see UNISSA play a vibrant role in community services especially those related to Islam," His Majesty added.

Additionally, His Majesty expressed pleasure that UNISSA has been running a few programmes that are opened to the public, but said there was room for improvement.

His Majesty also congratulated the 115 UNISSA graduates on their success and conveyed appreciation to their parents and guardians for their support, love, and sacrifice. His Majesty also expressed appreciation to UNISSA's academic staff, members of UNISSA senate and councils for their contribution and service.

UNISSA's continuous achievement in producing many graduates who are equipped with religious knowledge every

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HM confers Darjah Kerabat Mahkota Brunei upon Sultan of Johor Darul Ta'zim



His Majesty confers the Darjah Kerabat Mahkota Brunei upon the Sultan of Johor Darul Ta'zim at the Istana Besar Johor Bahru.

JOHOR DARUL TA'ZIM, November 8 – 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 confer the *Darjah Kerabat Mahkota Brunei* (D.K.M.B.) upon His Royal Highness Sultan Ibrahim ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Iskandar, the Sultan of Johor Darul Ta'zim at the Istana Besar Johor Bahru.

His Majesty was accompanied by Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam.

Earlier, the ceremony commenced with the recital of *Doa Keberangkatan Tiba* by the Islamic Advisor to His Royal Highness the Sultan of Johor Darul Ta'zim and the State of Johor Darul Ta'zim, Yang Berbahagia Dato' Haji Nooh bin Gadot.

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 Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah binti 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 and other members of the royal family were also present.

Their Majesties grace Johor royal wedding ceremony

JOHOR DARUL TA'ZIM, November 8 - 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 and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to grace the royal wedding ceremony of His Royal Highness Tunku Ismail ibni Sultan Ibrahim, the Tunku Mahkota of Johor and Cik Puan Khaleeda binti Bustamam at the Istana Besar Johor Bahru.

Their Majesties were accompanied by 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 Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah binti 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 and other members of the royal family.

His Royal Highness Sultan Ibrahim ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Iskandar, the Sultan of Johor Darul Ta'zim and Her Royal Highness Raja Zarith Sofiah binti Al-Marhum Sultan Idris Shah, the Permaisuri of Johor were also present to grace the royal wedding ceremony.

Prior to the ceremony, *doa selamat* was read by the Mufti of Johor Darul Ta'zim, The Honourable Sohibus Samahah Dato' Haji Mohd. Tahrir bin Dato' Shamsudin.

Their Majesties then led the *Merenjis* and *Menepung Tawar* ceremony.

At the end of the ceremony, Their Majesties left the Dewan Singgahsana to attend a banquet held at the Dewan Santapan Istana Besar Johor Bahru.

The banquet commenced with an opening *doa* read by the Mufti of Johor Darul Ta'zim.



Their Majesties lead the *Merenjis* and *Menepung Tawar* ceremony at the Istana Besar Johor Bahru.



* From page 6
(HM: Prioritise quality and strengthen use of Arabic language)

year, His Majesty said, is useful for national development and to advance the aspiration of a *Zikir Nation*, a nation worthy of being blessed by Allah SWT.

Furthermore, His Majesty noted with interest that the university has produced

its first local Doctoral Degrees (PhD) graduates and hoped that the success would inspire other Bruneians to emulate them.

At the convocation, His Majesty awarded degrees to five graduates with their PhD, 24 with Masters Degrees, 18 with Diplomas in Syariah Legal Law, four with Post-graduate Diplomas, 58 with

Bachelor's Degrees and six with their Diplomas.

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, was also present at the ceremony as Pro-Chancellor of UNISSA.

* From frontpage
(HM attends APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting)



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In addition, His Majesty held a bilateral meeting with the Chinese President at the Grand Hall of the People in Tiananmen Square to exchange views on bilateral relations and efforts to enhance cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China, as well as matters related to regional and international affairs of mutual concern.

Later that day, His Majesty attended a

welcome dinner held at the Water Cube of the National Aquatics Centre in Beijing and sign the 'APEC Boat' to commemorate the AELM 2014. The dinner commenced with remarks from the Chinese President, followed with a cultural performance as well as a fireworks display.

Second day of AELM 2014

BEIJING, 11 November – 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 attended the First Retreat Session of the 22nd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) in the morning and the Second Retreat Session in the afternoon at the Jixian Hall, International Convention Center (ICC), Yanqi Lake.

During the First Retreat Session, the leaders discussed the efforts APEC has achieved towards reaching its goals of free and open trade and investment, which is in line with the APEC's work towards the Bogor Goals; issues related to the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP); and the outcomes of the 9th World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Conference in Bali, Republic of Indonesia.

At the Second Retreat Session, the leaders discussed issues related to the

APEC Accord on Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth, which identifies Economic Reform, New Economy, Innovative Growth, Inclusive Support and Urbanisation as the five pillars for promoting experience sharing, policy dialogue, capacity building and practical cooperation.

His Majesty also delivered a *titah* (royal speech) at the session welcoming the idea of the FTAAP, as this would complement existing efforts to enhance regional economic integration, as well as the APEC Accord on Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth, which His Majesty believes goes hand in hand with advancing sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth in the Asia-Pacific region.

His Majesty also joined the leaders in endorsing the APEC Strategic Plan on Capacity-Building to Promote Trade and Investment Agenda. His Majesty expressed hope that with the strategic plan, capacity-building projects in APEC

would be more demand-driven and tailored to assist developing economies.

After the *titah*, His Majesty received praises from the President of the People's Republic of China His Excellency Xi Jinping for His Majesty's valuable contributions as well as being the sole leader who attended every annual meeting since the establishment of AELM 25 years ago.

Earlier, His Majesty joined other APEC leaders for a tree-planting ceremony in the Summer Garden to commemorate the meeting after the First Retreat Session and then attend a working lunch, which involved discussions on the APEC Connectivity Blueprint 2015-2025; the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2011-2015; a proposal of the establishment of an APEC Higher Education Research Centre by the People's Republic of China and the launching of the APEC Scholarship Initiative by the United States of America.

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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with leaders at the welcoming dinner for the 22nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting 2014.

* From page 8
(Second day of AELM 2014)



World leaders attend the first Retreat session of 22nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting.



His Majesty attends the tree-planting ceremony in Summer Garden, Yanqi Lake.



His Majesty in a group photo with leaders at the 22nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting.



His Majesty attends 25th ASEAN Summit and related meetings in Republic of the Union of Myanmar



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency U Thein Sein, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and his spouse, Madam Daw Khin Win, at the Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

NAY PYI TAW, THE REPUBLIC OF UNION OF MYANMAR, November 12 – 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 attended the 25th ASEAN summit and related meetings hosted by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the Myanmar International Convention Centre from November 12 to 13.

His Majesty met the Heads of State and Government for the 25th ASEAN Summit Plenary Session, the 12th ASEAN-India Summit, the 17th ASEAN-Japan Summit; the 6th ASEAN-United Nations Summit and the ASEAN-Australia 40th Anniversary Commemorative Summit.

On November 13, His Majesty attended the 9th East Asia Summit; the 2nd ASEAN-United States of America Summit; the 17th ASEAN-China Summit; the 17th ASEAN Plus Three Summit; the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting with ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC); as well as the Closing and Handover Ceremony of the ASEAN Chairmanship to Malaysia.

The two-day summit was attended by the leaders of 10 ASEAN member states, eight Dialogue Partners – the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of India, the Russian Federation, the Commonwealth of Australia, the United States of America, New Zealand - as well as representatives from the United Nations.

* Continued on page 11



His Majesty with leaders at the opening ceremony of the 25th ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

* From page 10
(His Majesty attends 25th ASEAN Summit and related meetings
in Republic of the Union of Myanmar)



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with leaders at the end of US-Asean Summit.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with leaders at the 9th East Asia Summit.

KUPU SB's 4th Convocation Ceremony

HM: Be cautious of 'Mujaddid' thoughts and theories of Islam

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 20 – Higher education institutions in Brunei Darussalam need to be attentive to new thoughts and theories of Islam that contradict the old ones.

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 said this in a *titah* (royal speech) at the 4th convocation ceremony of the Religious Teachers University College of Seri Begawan (KUPU SB) at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

The '*Mujaddid*' or reformers, His Majesty said, appear to be a knowledge-based group that is active in disputing old thoughts and theories of Islam. For instance, they say that the Syariah Law should be addressed in a new format and if the old approach is followed, then the law cannot be accepted.

We cannot immediately understand this theory because as far as we know, old legacy is still needed as sources of reference, His Majesty said.

His Majesty presents an award to one of the 219 KUPU SB graduates at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.



Although the new thoughts are hard to understand, they have the potential to spark discord in the community. Therefore, His Majesty reminded that it is crucial for educational institutions in the country to not overlook these developments and cautioned them to "not open their doors" to such group as a precautionary measure.

Other than that, His Majesty expressed satisfaction over KUPU SB's efforts in equipping the institution's academic force with local PhD holders. As a result, several individuals have successfully acquired their PhDs from local and overseas higher education institutions.

However, His Majesty noted that there is still a need to employ foreign academics who are either on a permanent, contract or visiting basis.

Additionally, His Majesty called upon certain parties to speed up the construction of KUPU SB's new permanent campus as the existing building can no longer accommodate the current student population.

His Majesty also emphasised the need to prioritise religious education and Arabic schools in the country.

"However, it is very unfortunate that the delays have persisted, thus causing inconvenience to others. The authorities, whose job is to look into issues, must review and proceed with the implementation in a sensible manner," said His Majesty.

At the convocation, His Majesty also presented degrees and diplomas to 219 graduates.

Brunei Darussalam to implement online recruitment system

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 27 - An online recruitment system will be implemented next year to solve delay issues in the employment application process within the government.

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 announced this in a *titah* (royal speech) at the 21st Civil Service Day held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Under such method, jobseekers will be able to submit their applications online, including completing the forms, making automatic data entry, receiving acknowledgement, and notice of interview and result of their application within a short period of time.

Earlier, His Majesty was greeted upon arrival 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 Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, The Honourable Pehin Datu Singamanteri (Rtd.) Colonel Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar; the Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Wahab bin Juned as Co-Advisors of the Executive Committee of the celebration and the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Yang Mulia Awang Yahya bin Haji Idris as the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the celebration.

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; 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; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal



His Majesty presents an award at the 21st Civil Service Day celebration held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

* Continued on page 13

* From page 12
(Brunei Darussalam to implement online recruitment system)

Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

The theme of this year's Civil

Service Day celebration was 'A Dynamic Governance towards the wellbeing of the nation', which highlighted the importance of dynamic governance for national transformation.

The Civil Service Day is an annual

celebration that is significant to all civil service employees as it acts as a benchmark for them to strive harder to enhance the quality of their services for the prosperity of the country.

HRH The Crown Prince graces Knowledge Convention

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 5 – 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 grace the Knowledge Convention 2014 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

The convention was held in conjunction with His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince tours the Knowledge Convention exhibition at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 68th birthday celebration.

His Royal Highness was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

At the convention, Their Royal Highnesses attended a forum titled 'Ideal Muslim Scientists', which began after a welcoming speech by the Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong as the Chairman of the Knowledge Convention's Forum Working Committee.

Then, Their Royal Highnesses viewed an exhibition that focused on the application of science and technology in developing national infrastructure facilities and care for the environment, including the green house initiative.

Afterward, Their Royal Highnesses toured the Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien Memorial Gallery that carried the theme 'The Monarch's Leadership in Nation Building Encompasses Science and Technology'. It highlighted the role played by the late Sultan in developing Brunei Darussalam.

Earlier, Their Royal Highnesses were greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Home Affairs, The Honourable Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman and members of the Knowledge Convention 2014 Steering Committee.



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik in a group photo with the ITQSHHB graduates.

HRH presents diplomas to ITQSHHB graduates

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 13 – Prioritising efforts in glorifying Al-Qur'an is one of the most important contributors towards realising the noble aspiration to make Brunei Darussalam a *Zikir* Nation.

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, said this in a *sabda* (royal speech) delivered at the second *Haflut Takhkaruj* (convocation ceremony) of the Institut Tahfiz Al-Quran Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (ITQSHHB) at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

His Royal Highness stressed that the blessing of protecting and glorifying will

shine in every aspect of life.

At the ceremony, His Royal Highness, who was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, also presented Aliyah Qiraat Diplomas to 13 graduates of the second intake of the course.

The 3-year course, first conducted in 2010, aims to produce more highly-skilled *huffaz* or graduates who are able to memorise the Al-Qur'an and have an excellent knowledge in Al-Qur'an, particularly in Qiraat.

Earlier, the Minister of Religious Affairs, The Honourable Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman, in his welcoming address,

touched upon the achievements and efforts of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Tahfiz Al-Quran in inspiring the students to continue their studies at higher levels either in the field of Islamic Studies or Science and Technology while receiving blessings and rewards from the Al-Qur'an in this world and the hereafter.

Prior to the start of ceremony, Their Royal Highnesses were greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Religious Affairs; the Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar as the chairman of the board of the institute, and the institute's Acting Principal, Yang Mulia Pengiran Haji Haslin bin Pengiran Haji Ali.

HRH Prince 'Abdul Malik graces Go-kart Championship

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 23 – His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah launched the finals of the Brunei Darussalam Go-kart Championship 2014 at the capital.

The race, held in conjunction with the 44th anniversary of the renaming of Bandar Brunei to Bandar Seri Begawan, was divided into three categories: Novice, Veteran and Elite.

At the event, His Royal Highness flagged off the Novice and Elite races, which consisted of 25 laps covering a total distance of 1.2km and later, present prizes to the winners of the races.

Haji Awang Mohd. Fauzan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Lela Raja Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Awang Abdul Rahman emerged as the winner of the Elite category and received a trophy and a cash prize of BND1,000.

In the Novice category, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Abdul Rashid bin Pengiran Kerma Raja Pengiran Haji Kamarulzaman won first place and received a trophy and a cash prize of BND800.

Meanwhile, Johnny Kwa won the Veteran category and received a trophy and a cash prize of BND800.

Prior to leaving the event, His Royal Highness received a *pesambah* (gift) and observe the other side events such as the charity sale, the Brunei Strongest Man competition, Brunei DJ competition, Tamiya competition as well as a bazaar.



His Royal Highness presents a trophy to one of the go-kart championship winners.

More than 35 racers competed in the finals including seven participants from outside the country including the Sultanate of Oman, the Republic of India and Malaysia.

HRH calls for careful selection of athletes representing Brunei Darussalam

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 18 – The selection of athletes representing Brunei Darussalam in the upcoming 28th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in the Republic of Singapore must be done carefully.

The national athletes should be competitive and capable of winning medals.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) stressed this in a *sabda* (royal speech) at the National Athletes Selection and Evaluation Executive Meeting held at

the Conference Room of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium in Berakas.

His Royal Highness stated that a review is needed to find out how the country produced outstanding results in the 1999 SEA games as the current performance of the national athletes is at a "disappointing level".

Training methods and programmes that were followed at the time may still be relevant today and could be applied to produce better results especially as the country is expected to hold the 30th SEA Games in 2019, His Royal Highness said and added that four years is not a long time.

Touching upon the upcoming SEA

Games, His Royal Highness stressed that selections are subjected to five criteria (fitness test, good disciplinary record, improvements during training, satisfactory attendance records and potential to win medals) and any additional criteria deemed suitable.

His Royal Highness also emphasised that the respective associations need to inform the authorities concerned as soon as a selection decision has been made.

The early information, His Royal Highness said, is important to give them enough time to plan and implement training programmes for the respective athletes, and guide them to follow the training regimen to prove their potential.

HRH Princess Hajah Masna officiates Oman Cultural Week Exhibition

BERAKAS, November 11 - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade consented to officiate the Oman Cultural Week Exhibition held at the International Convention Centre.

The event is held to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Sultanate of Oman.

Earlier, Her Royal Highness was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah.

The chairman of the Sultanate of Oman's Public Authority of Radio and Television His Excellency Dr. Abdullah bin Nasser Al-Harasi, in his welcoming speech as the head of the delegation, touched upon the cooperation and bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Sultanate of Oman that have been established for the past three decades.

The event highlighted the traditional dance and musical performances from both countries, which portrayed the culture of each country.

After officially launching the exhibition, Her Royal Highness toured the exhibition that showcases the art, culture and heritage of the Sultanate of Oman.

Three main activities involving art and heritage exhibition as well as cultural performances and seminars have been organised for the cultural week.



Her Royal Highness observes the Oman Cultural Week exhibition at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

HRH tours Brunei-Indonesia 30th anniversary exhibition

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 14 – Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade consented to grace the 'Indonesian cultural performance and culinary and photo exhibition' at The Core building of the Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

The exhibition was held to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the diplomatic ties between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Indonesia.

Her Royal Highness was accompanied by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar, the Head of Royal Customs and Protocol.

Earlier, Her Royal Highness was greeted upon arrival by Her Excellency Nurul Qomar, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam.

At the celebration, Her Royal Highness watched six colourful Indonesian dances and cultural performances by Kotabaru Regency.



Her Royal Highness tours the exhibition held to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Brunei-Indonesia relations at the International Convention Centre.

Indonesian delicacies were also prepared and served at the celebration by the Indonesian Chef Association (ICA) of Brunei Darussalam to further enliven the event.

The celebration concluded with a group photo session to mark the 30 years of bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Indonesia.

HRH graces 'Around the World in Forty Minutes' exhibition

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 21 - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade consented to inaugurate the 'Around the World in Forty Minutes'

exhibition organised by Stella School at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

First, Her Royal Highness toured an exhibition showcasing Brunei Darussalam's culture, traditional games, local cuisine and Malay wedding rituals.

Her Royal Highness then proceeded to 32 other booths to view the displays on nations around the world such as New Zealand, the Commonwealth of Australia, Japan, the United Arab Emirates, Spain and the Federative Republic of Brazil.

The exhibition also featured the results of research carried out by the students and teachers of the school throughout the year on countries around the world, including Brunei Darussalam.

More than 300 students of Stella School ranging from year one to six took part in the project, displaying their creative minds and involvement in the exhibition as well as performing a number of folk dances.

Through such project, the students have the opportunity to learn about the geographical, historical and cultural background of the countries they researched.

The Deputy Minister of Education, Yang Mulia Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Yusoff bin Haji Awang Ismail were also present at the event.



Her Royal Highness, as the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, graces the 'Around the World in Forty Minutes' exhibition organised by Stella School.

Minister of Development attends 5th APMCHUD in Seoul

SEOUL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, November 3 – The Minister of Development, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman attended the 5th Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Urban Development (APMCHUD), which was held from November 3 to 5 in Seoul, the Republic of Korea.

The minister was accompanied by the Deputy Permanent Secretary

at the Ministry of Development, Yang Mulia Haji Marzuke bin Haji Mohsin; the Commissioner of Town and Country Planning, Yang Mulia Awang Shahrom bin Haji Suhaimi and senior officers at the Ministry of Development.

With the theme 'Equal Opportunity for Sustainable Development', the main agenda in the 5th APMCHUD were urban regeneration and rehabilitation, upgrading of slum and informal settlements and urban development focused on natural

and climate change disasters.

The conference also focused on promoting sustainable housing and urban development for human settlements in Asia Pacific while striving to address and find solutions to the challenges of housing and urbanisation in Asia and Pacific.

It was attended by ministers concerned with Housing and Urban Developments from 68 Asia-Pacific nations.

Minister launches 4th International Neural Network Society Symposia Series

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 7 – The Ministry of Communications is making sure that its vision towards 'Smart Society' is achieved by 2017 to realise the Brunei Vision 2035 in order to transform Brunei Darussalam into a nation widely recognised for the accomplishments of its well-educated and highly-skilled people.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the 4th International Neural Network Society Symposia Series at the Parkview Hotel, the Minister of Communications, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdullah bin Begawan Mudin Dato Paduka Haji Bakar said he was his delighted in finding out that the symposium is aligned with the ministry's vision.

"It is through research, sharing of knowledge and intelligence that we can nurture the growth of innovation in Brunei Darussalam. Eventually, from innovation, we can achieve our vision of a smart society," he said.

The minister said that the symposium not only provides a platform for researchers to exchange the latest ideas and to present new research advances in the general areas related to computational intelligence and Information Communication Technology (ICT) and their applications in various domains, but also gives an opportunity for them to strengthen existing friendships.

The main agenda of the symposium is the presentation of several papers in hopes that it would lead to deeper discussion between presenters, researchers, participants and stakeholders, he added and hoped that the discussions during the symposium would create long-term cooperation among stakeholders.

"We are fortunate to be able to witness the fastest and most fascinating in the development of technology, especially in the ICT sector. Brunei Darussalam does not want to be left behind and the symposium would enable us to engage



The Minister of Communications at the opening ceremony of the 4th International Neural Network Society Symposia Series at the Parkview Hotel.

and be more active to further improve our facilities and infrastructure," he said.

The Acting Vice Chancellor of Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB), Associate Professor Dr. Hajah Zohrah binti Haji Sulaiman said that the symposium received a total of 35 high quality papers, which could remarkably impact their respective fields that could develop new research fields in the future.

The symposium was previously held in Auckland, New Zealand in 2008; Lima, Peru in 2011; Bangkok, Thailand in 2012; and this year, it is hosted by ITB, she said.

The three-day symposium, held from November 7 to 9, invited two main presenters, namely Professor Dr. Jurgen Schmidhuber from Swiss AI Lab IDSIA presenting 'Deep Learning RNNaissance' and Professor Dr. Hussien A. Abbass presenting 'Next Generation Intelligent

Systems: Observe-Project-Counteract Agent Architecture for Real-Time Computational Red Teaming.

Earlier, the minister said that the ministry is supporting all aspects of research and productivity for ICT as well as the transportation sector within the global research institution and industry.

"We greatly appreciate the cooperation and support from the global institutions in aiding the development of partnership on the ICT sector through technology partnership and research collaboration," he added.

He also highlighted that the benefits of the symposium and related activities will include capacity building in areas of ICT, enhancement of technological transfer and development, sustainable ICT industrial development and employment opportunities.



The Minister of Health awards a prize to one of the winners of the Children's Art Competition.

New hearing screening available next year

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 9 – Universal hearing screening that will help identify babies who have hearing loss or deafness will be available for newborns starting next year.

The Minister of Health, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mohd Yussof announced this in a speech at the 10th National Perinatal Symposium.

The new screening will help allow health professionals to take measures at an earlier stage, preventing affected children from being disadvantaged in delayed language development, said the minister.

The minister also called upon the ministry to utilise the Newborn Health Action Plan, which is developed by the World Health Organisation and the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund, in order to reduce the number of child deaths in the country.

Additionally, he also called upon the public to take ownership of their health by adopting a healthier lifestyle.

The symposium, themed 'A New Chapter – Moving Forward, Caring for Babies and Mothers', was attended by a total of 160 participants comprising doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, Allied Health Professionals, medical and nursing students.

It was held in conjunction with the opening of the New Women and Children Block at the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital, which is built as part of the effort to enhance the quality of health and welfare of the people in the country.

Minister attends 12th East Asia Forum



The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II delivers an opening speech at the 12th East Asia Forum at the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

JERUDONG, November 17- The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng attended the 12th East Asia Forum hosted by Brunei Darussalam for the first time at the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

In his opening speech, the minister highlighted that the ASEAN leaders have reaffirmed their commitment to create an ASEAN that is people-centred.

Thus, he stressed the importance of encouraging more interactions and exchanges between youths and strengthening people-to-people ties by creating more opportunities for them to meet through educational, cultural and youth exchanges.

The projects in these areas would lie at the heart of the original aim of the forum, which is to promote broad-based social exchanges and ultimately, regional cooperation, he added.

The minister also believes that the forum plays an important role in putting forward ideas to address non-traditional security challenges like cyber-security, terrorism, extremism, the onset of infectious diseases, disaster management and the impact of climate change.

In addition, he stated that regional integration brings wide-ranging benefits to all peoples and communities, and enhances their quality of life through inclusive economic growth and equitable social progress.

"In strengthening our commitment to the East Asia process, we hope to provide our people with better prospects to build a sustainable future. And most importantly, we need to ensure that the development of the region does not come at the expense of our natural environment."

The East Asia Forum was established in 2003 by the ASEAN Plus Three countries – comprising 10 ASEAN Member States and three East Asia nations of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

The annual event discusses issues of common regional concern and ways to further strengthen the development of the East Asia region.

The theme of this year's forum was 'Sustainable Growth: The Common Purpose towards a Peaceful, Prosperous and Environmentally-Responsible East Asia'.

Embassy of Sultanate of Oman celebrates sultanate's 44th National Day

JERUDONG, November 27 - The Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Brunei Darussalam celebrated the Sultanate of Oman's 44th National Day at the Empire Hotel and Country Club in Jerudong.

The reception was hosted by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed bin Hashil bin Rashid Al-Maskari.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, The Honourable Pehin Colonel (Rtd.) Dato Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin was present on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam along with his spouse.



The Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office cutting a cake to commemorate the Sultanate of Oman's 44th National Day.

Connectivity key to narrowing development gap, says minister

BERAKAS, November 19 – Connectivity is one of the main objectives that the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) member countries want to achieve in narrowing the development gap within the region.

An efficient and safe transportation of people and goods within the region can boost the BIMP-EAGA socio-economic development.

The Minister of Communications, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdullah bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar highlighted this in his speech at the 9th BIMP-EAGA Transport Ministers Meeting held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Despite progress, we should not be complacent as there is still more work to be done particularly in the area of

institutional development of transport regulatory framework that needs to be addressed fast and effectively, said the minister.

This is due to the fact that most of the transport procedures and rules including standards are still encumbered with too much duplication, inconsistent and non-transparent procedures involving too many agencies.

"This could not only hinder the facilitation of seamless movement for people and goods but also the participation of private sector," he added.

Additionally, the minister touched upon another key aspect, which is the compliance with international safety standards that is vital in increasing passengers' confidence and ensuring competitiveness in the industry.

Therefore, he called for all transport efforts and initiatives undertaken to be

aligned with international best practices, particularly the Master Plan of ASEAN Connectivity.

"It is our responsibility to effectively implement the directives of our leaders on how to move forward the Transportation Agenda in order to support the greater coordination among the four pillars of BIMP-EAGA, namely connectivity, food basket, tourism and environment," he added.

Brunei Darussalam, through the Ministry of Communications, strives to ensure the development of its transportation sector complements the regional and international development.

A recent development in the country is the completion of the Land Transport Master Plan, which has identified strategies towards a more sustainable transport system in the country. Brunei Darussalam plans to enhance connectivity with neighbouring countries in the future.

"I fully believe that it is important for us to always remember that the initiatives under BIMP-EAGA should be aligned with the Master Plan of ASEAN Connectivity and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Framework on Connectivity," the minister said.

"This is to ensure the development of BIMP-EAGA as a sub-region and create opportunities for investment and collaborations from partners outside BIMP-EAGA," he explained.

Earlier, the minister stated that for the past 20 years, we had witnessed the great progress in the contribution of the transportation sector in facilitating the cross-border movement of the people and goods.

Today, he said, many roads and bridges have been built in addition to an increase in air links.



The Minister of Communications with leaders at the 9th BIMP-EAGA Transport Ministers' Meeting.

Minister: Investing in early childhood education a priority

JERUDONG, November 28 – Investing in early childhood education is one of the eight strategies of education under Brunei Vision 2035, said the Minister of Education.

The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri

Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong stressed this at the opening ceremony of the Early Childhood Care and Education International Conference held at the Royal Berkshire Hall, Jerudong Park and Polo Country Club.

The current discussion related to post-2015 Global Development Goals indicates that there would be an increased emphasis on sustainability in policy making and agenda setting for the future, he said.

He emphasised that early childhood education and care can play an important role in contributing to sustainability, not only in terms of teaching children to care for their environment but also in terms of supporting sustained appreciation of cultural heritage.

"Additionally, we need to build stronger and more effective resource

capacity at all levels by training all service providers to become effective providers of quality early childhood education and care," he said.

The Ministry of Education has implemented a wide range of initiatives that have been designed to raise the quality of pre-school education in the nation.

The School and Family Engagement (SAFE) programme was recently launched by the ministry, which allows parents to enhance their parenting skills to develop their children's love for reading.

The conference was themed 'First Steps to Nurturing Future Leaders', which is highly relevant and timely as the goals for provision of quality early childhood education and care have been identified as policy priorities by our government and those around the world, said the minister.



The Minister of Education delivers a speech at the Early Childhood Care and Education International Conference.

Minister urges public to monitor and safeguard children from online threats



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports officiates the launch of the Universal Children's Day in Belait District.

KUALA BELAIT, November 20 - The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports urged the public, particularly parents, to increase their monitoring and protect children from online threats and violence when the youngsters surf the Internet.

Children risk being exposed to pornography, violence, online gambling, cyber bullying, abusive language and racial hatred, said The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah at the launch of the Universal Children's Day celebration at the Conference Hall in Belait District.

The minister said, according to a survey made by International Telecommunication Union (ITU), more than 60 per cent of children communicate via chat rooms every day, three out of four children easily give their personal and family information in exchange for goods and services.

Brunei Darussalam with all the health services and facilities accompanied with education and welfare provided by His Majesty's Government is close to fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals to protect children and their rights to life, health and education, he said.

However, Brunei Darussalam is not exempted from the issues of abuse and mistreatment of children including threats and exploitation through cyberspace.

"In order to ensure that it is not happening widely, the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has introduced legislations aimed to safeguard and protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation such as the 'Women and Girls Protection Act'; 'Children and Young Persons Act 2006'; 'Islamic Family Order 1999'; 'Unlawful Carnal Knowledge Act'; and 'Trafficking and Smuggling of

Persons Order 2004'," said the minister.

Additionally, Brunei Darussalam introduced the 'Child Online Protection Framework' in March this year to protect children from online predators and address the issue of cybercrime among youngsters.

Universal Children's Day is celebrated annually on 20 November for the past 60 years and aims to raise awareness among the community, locally and globally, of their roles and responsibilities in protecting the rights and future of children.

Brunei Darussalam, through the Department of Community Development (JAPEM), celebrated Universal Children's Day for the 8th time and chose the theme 'Child Online Safety', in recognition of the rising threat to child security from increased exposure to the Internet.

The format of this year's celebration allowed children to interact in a form of forum with each other and gave participants the opportunity to get to know the efforts, services and programmes carried out by the different agencies involved in the 'Child Online Protection Framework'. About 100 students from 20 primary schools in Belait District were involved in the celebration.

Speaking at the launching ceremony, the minister assured that the children who are given shelter and placed in foster homes under the supervision of JAPEM would always be taken care of properly.

JAPEM will try its best to ensure the children's emotional, mental and intellectual developments are looked after, he added.

Additionally, JAPEM has seen positive results with minors convicted of crime and placed under rehabilitation programmes by court order where the children are given opportunities to study or to develop

their skills.

Once they successfully complete them, some of them have been offered to participate in the National Service Scheme (PKBN), the minister stated.

"At the same time, we offer those who choose not to continue their education to take skill courses at the Youth Development Centre to ensure they obtain skills useful to gain employment or initiate small enterprises," he added.

The minister also touched upon the issue of divorce, which has an impact on children. If the divorce cannot be avoided, the parties involved must ensure their love and responsibilities towards their children continue, he said.

This year's Universal Children's Day celebration also saw an exhibition displaying services related to children involving seven government and non-government agencies – Community Development Department, Language and Literature Bureau, Royal Brunei Police Force, Islamic Dakwah Centre, IT Protective Security Services Sdn Bhd/ BRUCERT, Perdana Wazir Secondary School and Baiduri Bank as the main sponsor.



His Majesty shaking hands with the Prime Minister of Malaysia.



His Majesty with the Prime Minister of Malaysia during a luncheon.



His Majesty and the Prime Minister of Malaysia witnessing the signing of the 'Joint Announcement by Petroleum Brunei and Petronas' between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia.

HM attends 18th Annual Leaders' Consultation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia

PUTERA JAYA, MALAYSIA, November 3 - 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 attended the 18th Annual Leaders' Consultation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia at Seri Perdana Complex, Persiaran Seri Perdana, Putrajaya in Malaysia.

In a joint statement issued after the conclusion of the consultation, both leaders were pleased to note the continued strengthening of bilateral relations since the 17th Annual Leaders' Consultation on 8 December 2013, and reaffirmed their commitment to further enhance cooperation for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

Both leaders stressed the importance of the Exchange of Letters signed by the leaders of Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia on 16 March 2009 in paving the way for strategic bilateral partnership between both countries. They expressed their satisfaction with the on-going progress of the implementation of the Exchange of Letters and urged officials to intensify their efforts to conclude the outstanding elements, as well as other issues that are being deliberated by both sides.

Both leaders encouraged the private sectors of both countries to further collaborate in accelerating bilateral trade and investment cooperation to deepen economic integration of the region towards the realisation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015.

After the consultation, both leaders witnessed the signing of 'Joint Announcement by Petroleum Brunei and Petronas' between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia. Brunei Darussalam was represented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng while the President and Chief Executive Officer of Petronas, Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Dato' Shamsul Azhar Abbas signed the agreement on behalf of Malaysia.

Earlier, His Majesty was greeted upon arrival by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Honourable Dato Laila Utama Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak and then proceeded to the Prime Minister's Office for the meeting.

The Annual Leaders' Consultation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia has been conducted since 1997, and hosted alternately by the two countries. The 17th Annual Leaders' Consultation was held on December 8, 2013 in Brunei Darussalam.

Brunei Darussalam has established diplomatic relations with Malaysia since January 1, 1984 and has expanded cooperation in various fields including, trade and investment, education, defense and culture. Both countries have exchanged visits to further strengthen their relations and cooperation.