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Brunei Darussalam

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Embrace new ideas for ASEAN's long-term competitiveness



JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, September 5 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Opening Ceremony and the Plenary Session of the 43rd ASEAN Summit held at the Jakarta Convention Centre.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Majesty's son: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

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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, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with ASEAN Heads of State and Government, as well as the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste at the Plenary Session of the 43rd ASEAN Summit.

Leaders discuss green infrastructure, regional peace



JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, September 5 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, attended the Opening Ceremony of the ASEAN-Indo-Pacific Forum and the Retreat Session of the 43rd ASEAN Summit.

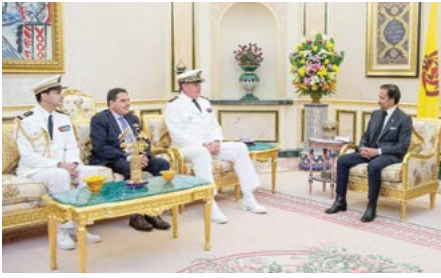
Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Majesty's son: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

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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, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the Retreat Session of the 43rd ASEAN Summit.

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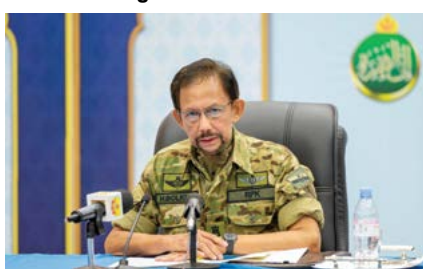
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EDITORIAL Advisory Board:

Sastra Sarini Haji Julaini
(sarini.julaini@information.gov.bn)

Hjh Hamsah Binti Datu Kerna Haji Jaya
(hamsah.jaya@information.gov.bn)

Chief-Editor:

Mufidah Abdul Hakim
(mufidah.hakim@information.gov.bn)

Editors:

Saadiatul Nur Aqilah Haji Jaman
(aqilah.jaman@information.gov.bn)

Nor Hanizah Haji Abd Halim
(hanizah.halim@information.gov.bn)

Syakirah Matusin
(syakirah.matusin@information.gov.bn)

Text & translation

Hajah Siti Muslihat Haji Salleh
(muslihat.salleh@information.gov.bn)

Layouter:

Khairul Shaharim Haji Abdul Ghafor
(shaharim.ghafor@information.gov.bn)

Proofreader:

Nurul Hazwani Abu Omar
(hazwani.omar@information.gov.bn)

Photographs

Photography Unit of Department of Information

General inquiries

Tel: (673) 2383 400/ext. Publications Unit
Fax: (673) 2382 012

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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, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience at Istana Nurul Iman:



Rear Admiral Geoffroy d'Andigne, Commander of Armed Forces in French Polynesia, Commander of the Pacific Experimental Center, Commander of the Pacific Ocean and French Polynesian Maritime Zones and Commander of the French Polynesia Defense Base on September 26.



Sir Geoffrey Vos, The Master of the Rolls in the United Kingdom on September 19.

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 Istana Nurul Iman on September 20:

Dayang Siti Aminah binti Haji Julaihi, spouse of the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.



Spouses of foreign envoys to Brunei Darussalam, namely: Madame Chen Changfeng, spouse of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam; Madame Le Thi Hong Ngoan, spouse of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to Brunei Darussalam; Puan Siti Rif'ah, spouse of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam; and Madame Elizabeth Kwan, spouse of the High Commissioner of the Republic Singapore to Brunei Darussalam.

Audience Ceremony with newly-appointed envoys

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 September 16, newly-appointed Brunei Darussalam envoys and newly-appointed foreign envoys to Brunei Darussalam, namely:



His Excellency Colonel (Rtd) Pengiran Haji Kamal Bashah bin Pengiran Haji Ahmad, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; and His Excellency Haji Roslan bin Haji Yacob, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.



His Excellency Xiao Jianguo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam.



His Excellency Tran Anh Vu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to Brunei Darussalam (above) and His Excellency Achmad Ubaedillah, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam (right).



His Excellency Laurence Bay Siow Hon, High Commissioner of the Republic Singapore to Brunei Darussalam.



His Excellency Mohammed Abdullah Al-Buraithin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 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, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send congratulatory messages to:

- His Excellency Vo Van Thuong, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; and His Excellency Pham Minh Chinh, Prime Minister of Viet Nam on the occasion of the National Day of Viet Nam on September 2;
- His Excellency Tharman Shanmugaratnam following his victory in the recent presidential elections to become the ninth President of the Republic of Singapore on September 2;

- His Excellency Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and Myanmar on September 21; and

- His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques; His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of the National Day of Saudi Arabia on September 23.

Embrace new ideas for ASEAN's long-term competitiveness (continued)

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His Majesty first attended the Opening Ceremony of the 43rd ASEAN Summit, which was also attended by other ASEAN Heads of State and Government as well as the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Cook Islands.

The ceremony commenced with the ASEAN anthem, 'The ASEAN Way', followed by opening remarks from His Excellency Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia as Chairman of ASEAN this year.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and son, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen posing for a group photo upon arrival with His Excellency President of the Republic of Indonesia and spouse.



His Majesty and son, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen attending the Opening Ceremony of the 43rd ASEAN Summit.

A presentation ceremony for the ASEAN Prize was also held, where Haji Muhammad Iqbal Fakhri bin Haji Damit from Brunei Darussalam received the ASEAN Prize 2022 for his active leadership in youth movement and volunteerism, especially in mobilising assistance for displaced persons. Meanwhile, Nguyen Thi Tuyet Minh from the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the recipient of the ASEAN Prize 2023, was also presented with the ASEAN Prize.

During the ceremony, the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control was launched, followed with a video presentation on the centre.

His Majesty, along with other ASEAN Leaders and Timor-Leste, then attended the Plenary Session. During the session, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) welcoming His Excellency Hun Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom

of Cambodia; and His Excellency Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Prime Minister of Timor-Leste to the summit.

His Majesty also highlighted that while ASEAN is in a favourable position for continued growth, escalating geopolitical tensions pose potential risks to economic recovery. As such, ASEAN needs to remain focused on strengthening cooperation to make it the centre of economic growth and social development.

To this end, His Majesty underscored the need to embrace new ideas that contribute to the long-term competitiveness and resilience of the region.

Despite facing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, ASEAN has continued to leverage on advancements in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. In this regard, His Majesty welcomed the proposal to establish an ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement to provide a strong foundation for a secure and interconnected ASEAN digital economy, thus bringing more opportunities and confidence to the region.

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His Excellency President of the Republic of Indonesia delivering his Opening Remarks as the Chairman of ASEAN for this year (left); and later, presenting the ASEAN Prize 2022 to the recipient of Brunei Darussalam (right).





His Majesty delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the session.

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His Majesty highlighted climate change as a global challenge that requires urgent collective action, and expressed appreciation to other ASEAN member countries for supporting the Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change that will be hosted in Bandar Seri Begawan.

The plenary session included presentations on global economic

developments by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The leaders underlined the need for ASEAN to be adaptive, responsive and forward-looking to anticipate opportunities and address future challenges towards making ASEAN an epicentrum of growth.

At the end of the summit, the ASEAN Concord IV; ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on ASEAN Human Rights Dialogue; ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on ASEAN as an Epicentrum of Growth; ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Disability Inclusive Development for a Resilient and Prosperous ASEAN Community; ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Response to Crisis; ASEAN Leaders' Statement on the Development of the Digital Economy Framework Agreement; ASEAN Declaration on Early Childhood Care and Education in Southeast Asia; ASEAN Declaration on Gender Equality and Family Development; ASEAN Declaration on Sustainable Resilience; ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 28th Session of Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; and the ASEAN Blue Economy Framework were adopted.

His Majesty and His Royal Highness arrived in Indonesia yesterday, September 4, after safely landing at Soekarno-Hatta International Airport.



His Majesty in a group photo with ASEAN Heads of State and Government at the Opening Ceremony of the 43rd ASEAN Summit.



Among the performances at the Opening Ceremony of the 43rd ASEAN Summit.

Leaders discuss green infrastructure, regional peace (continued)



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo at the Opening Ceremony of the ASEAN-Indo-Pacific Forum.



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His Majesty first attended the Opening Ceremony of the ASEAN-Indo-Pacific Forum, which was held at Mulia Hotel in Jakarta.

The ASEAN-Indo-Pacific Forum, which was officiated by His Excellency Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia, among other things served as a platform to discuss the development of green infrastructure and resilient supply chain; sustainable and innovative financing; inclusive digital



His Majesty during the visit to the showcase of innovation projects conducted in the Indo-Pacific.

transformation; and creative economy.

After the ceremony, His Majesty proceeded with other leaders to visit the showcase of innovation projects conducted in the Indo-Pacific.

His Majesty then attended the Retreat Session of the 43rd ASEAN Summit at the Jakarta Convention Centre, where the Monarch delivered a *titah* (royal speech) expressing concern on the intense competition among major regional and global powers that could lead to misunderstandings and miscalculations, further escalating regional tensions and affecting the growth and prosperity achieved over the decades.

His Majesty emphasised that ASEAN should take a unified stance to uphold centrality to remain relevant and maintain regional peace and prosperity. ASEAN should also continue to represent cooperation and remain neutral amidst major power competition.

To this end, His Majesty applauded Indonesia's efforts in implementing the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, including convening the ASEAN-Indo-Pacific Forum that brings together regional partners for further collaboration, displaying ASEAN's commitment to an open, transparent and inclusive regional architecture.

The Monarch also commended Indonesia as Chair of ASEAN and Myanmar's neighbouring countries for their efforts in holding dialogues with relevant parties, which have resulted in some positive developments in Myanmar. Such engagements are in line with the Five-Point Consensus, aimed at helping Myanmar find a long-term and inclusive solution that is 'Myanmar-owned and Myanmar-led'.

ASEAN-China, ASEAN-ROK strengthen mutually beneficial cooperations



JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, September 6 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, attended the 26th ASEAN-China Summit; the 24th ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Summit; and the 26th ASEAN-Japan Summit held at the Jakarta Convention Centre, Republic of Indonesia.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Majesty's son: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

His Majesty first attended the 26th ASEAN-China Summit, where the Monarch delivered a *titah* (royal speech) welcoming His Excellency Li Qiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China to his first ASEAN-China Summit.

Recalling the strong and mutually beneficial cooperation between ASEAN and China since the Dialogue Partnership was established in 1996, His Majesty expressed appreciation for the emphasis placed on socio-cultural relations, which have served as the foundation for building mutual trust and confidence.

The frequent occurrence of natural disasters has significantly impacted agricultural and food production, as well as trade of key agricultural products.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China during the 26th ASEAN-China Summit.

His Majesty welcomed further practical cooperation focused on developing resilient and sustainable agriculture practices and strengthening food supply chains, to enhance food security in the region and ensure better preparedness for future crises.

Thus, His Majesty stressed the importance of addressing the adverse impacts of rising temperatures and extreme weather events, and welcomed strengthening cooperation by sharing innovative technology and expertise through the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change. In addition, a holistic approach would help address the disruptive effects of climate change while further strengthening ASEAN-China cooperation under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

His Excellency Li Qiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China also delivered his statement at the event. Meanwhile, His Excellency Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia as the ASEAN Chair delivered the ASEAN Common Statement on ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations.

At the summit, the leaders discussed the promotion of ASEAN-China economic and trade relations, as well as enhancing cooperation in digital transformation, connectivity and people-to-people exchanges. The ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific and the ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Deepening Agricultural Cooperation were also adopted.

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His Excellency Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China delivering his statement at the 26th ASEAN-China Summit.



His Excellency President of Republic of Korea (ROK) delivering his statement at the 24th ASEAN-ROK Summit.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the 24th ASEAN-ROK Summit.

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Afterwards, His Majesty attended the 24th ASEAN-ROK Summit, where the Monarch delivered a *titah* appreciating support for ASEAN's community-building efforts over the years, including the Korea ASEAN Solidarity Initiative.

To this end, His Majesty encouraged more concerted efforts towards digital transformation in the region to narrow the digital gap between ASEAN and ROK businesses and ensure more dynamic regional trade.

His Majesty also highlighted the importance of youths and the need to provide them with opportunities. In this regard, His Majesty looked forward to programmes and initiatives, such as the

ASEAN-ROK Youth Summit, in providing a platform for them to network and exchange ideas on potential areas of collaboration.

His Excellency Yoon Suk-yeol, President of ROK also delivered a statement; while His Excellency Phạm Minh Chính, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam as Country Coordinator for ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations delivered the ASEAN Common Statement at the event.

The leaders encouraged ASEAN and ROK to continue enhancing connectivity and regional supply chains to ensure responsiveness to regional and global developments. At the end of the summit, the Joint Statement of the 24th ASEAN-ROK Summit on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific was adopted.

ASEAN-Japan: Towards a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership



JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, September 6 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the 26th ASEAN-Japan Summit, which took place at the Jakarta Convention Centre, Republic of Indonesia.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Majesty's son: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

At the summit, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) noting the growth in the ASEAN-Japan partnership. Much of



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the 26th ASEAN-Japan Summit.

ASEAN's early industrial development was achieved through successful cooperation, significantly contributing to ASEAN's manufacturing capacity.

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The Monarch also stated that these activities – together with Japan's efforts to support and promote cultural and people-to-people exchanges – have built a strong foundation of mutual trust and confidence.

As ASEAN and Japan celebrate their 50th Anniversary of Friendship and Cooperation, His Majesty expressed pleasure in the establishment of the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. This will promote ASEAN-Japan's 'Golden Friendship' towards regional peace and prosperity, and benefit the peoples' continued well-being.

His Majesty underscored climate change as a critical matter and an ever-growing challenge, especially with extreme weather conditions throughout the region affecting the livelihoods and lives of the people. The Monarch, hence, called for full commitment in implementing the climate change action agenda towards a clean energy-based, low-carbon society.

At the end of the *titah*, His Majesty looked forward to working closely with Japan through the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change in shaping policies towards achieving the 'Asia Zero Emission Community'.

His Excellency Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan also delivered a statement at the summit; followed by the ASEAN



His Excellency Prime Minister of Japan delivering a statement at the summit.

Common Statement on ASEAN-Japan Dialogue Relations presented by His Excellency Sarun Charoensuwan, Head of Delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand.

At the summit, the leaders welcomed the elevation of ASEAN-Japan dialogue relations towards a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, and outlined key areas of collaboration between ASEAN and Japan, such as renewable energy, innovation, connectivity and cyber security. At the end of the summit, the Joint Statement on the Establishment of the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Strategic Partnership was adopted.

ASEAN Plus Three: Successfully facilitating coordination in various fields



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiyah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the 26th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit delivering a *titah* (royal speech).



JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, September 6 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiyah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the 26th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the meeting held at the Jakarta Convention Centre was His Majesty's son: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

At the summit, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) highlighting APT's success in facilitating coordination in various

fields, and addressing regional financial and health crises.

The Monarch also asserted the importance of working together towards food security, especially by ensuring the continued preparedness of the APT Emergency Rice Reserve, which is vital for emergencies.

In concluding the *titah*, His Majesty recognised the development of relevant mechanisms, such as the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation; ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Office; and the Asian Bond Markets Initiative, in responding to previous economic and financial crises. His Majesty expressed satisfaction with the ongoing discussions to explore the use of local currencies for settling regional transactions, which will further enhance overall regional resilience and strengthen trade and investment.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo at the 26th APT Summit.

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At the event, His Excellency Yoon Suk-yeol, President of the Republic of Korea as Country Coordinator for APT Dialogue Relations; His Excellency Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan; His Excellency Li Qiang, Premier of the State Council of

the People's Republic of China also delivered their statements.

The leaders discussed the future direction of APT to support the theme 'ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth'. At the end of the summit, the APT Leaders' Statement on Developing Electric Vehicle Ecosystem was adopted.

ASEAN-US reaffirms commitment to advance practical cooperation



JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, September 6 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the 11th ASEAN-United States (US) Summit at the Jakarta Convention Centre.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Majesty's son: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

In a *titah* (royal speech) delivered at the summit, His Majesty acknowledged the US' continued support for ASEAN's community-building efforts, as well as efforts in ensuring the region's peace and prosperity.

In this regard, His Majesty welcomed the ASEAN-US Leaders' Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, which reaffirms the commitment to advance practical cooperation, with ASEAN at its core.

His Majesty also expressed appreciation to the US for its continued emphasis on enhancing people-to-people connectivity and human capital development. The Monarch encouraged both sides to explore internship opportunities and research



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the 11th ASEAN-United States (US) Summit.

collaborations for students across various leading fields.

His Majesty also welcomed the collaboration on climate change, by linking relevant agencies in the US with the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change, through joint research, analysis and policy development.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with leaders at the 11th ASEAN-US Summit.

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Her Excellency Kamala Harris, Vice President of the US also delivered a statement at the event. Afterwards, His Excellency Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia and ASEAN Chair as the Country Coordinator for ASEAN-US Dialogue Relations delivered the ASEAN Common Statement.

The leaders welcomed the US' positive role in the region and looked forward to further boosting cooperation in the areas of human capacity development, digitalisation, renewable energy and youth and women empowerment.

The summit saw the adoption of the ASEAN-US Summit Leaders' Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific.

ASEAN-Canada strengthens cooperation on food security, nutrition



JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, September 6 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the ASEAN-Canada Summit at the Jakarta Convention Centre.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Majesty's son: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

In a *titah* (royal speech) delivered at the summit, His Majesty expressed condolences and sympathies to those affected by the devastating forest fires spreading across Canada in recent months.

In light of challenges faced at the regional level, the Monarch expressed pleasure with the establishment of the ASEAN-Canada Strategic Partnership to enhance collaboration in more critical areas of mutual interests.

His Majesty also highlighted that Canada's support for the



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency Prime Minister of Canada at the ASEAN-Canada Summit.

ASEAN Centre for Climate Change, hosted by Brunei Darussalam, will help ASEAN develop strategies and climate policies to mitigate and address these challenges.

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In ending the *titah*, His Majesty emphasised the need to enhance cooperation in agricultural production and food security, and welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN-Canada Joint Leaders' Statement on Strengthening Cooperation on Food Security and Nutrition in Times of Crisis.

His Excellency Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada also delivered a statement at the summit. Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia as Country Coordinator for ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations then delivered the ASEAN Common Statement.

The leaders discussed enhancing ASEAN-Canada economic relations, and leveraging Canada's strength in areas of cooperation, such as digital economy and human capacity development through education and scholarship programmes. At the end of the summit, the Joint Leaders' Statement on ASEAN-Canada Strategic Partnership and ASEAN-Canada Joint Leaders' Statement on Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Response to Crises were adopted.

Later in the evening, His Majesty and His Royal Highness attended a Gala Dinner in honour of the ASEAN Heads of State and Government, Leaders, Dialogue Partners and specials guests of the 43rd ASEAN Summit and Related Summits at Hutan Kota by Gelora Bung Karno.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen upon arrival at the Gala Dinner with His Excellency President of the Republic of Indonesia and spouse.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness in a group photo at the Gala Dinner.



His Majesty with other ASEAN leaders in a group photo with His Excellency Prime Minister of Canada at the ASEAN-Canada Summit.

Bilateral meetings strengthen Brunei's relations with ASEAN counterparts



JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, September 6 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held bilateral meetings with His Excellency Hun Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and His Excellency Phạm Minh Chính, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on September 6; and His Excellency Kay Rala Xanana Gusmo, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste on September 5.

The meetings were held separately at the Jakarta Convention Centre, Republic of Indonesia.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the meetings was His Majesty's son: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

During the bilateral meeting with His Excellency the Prime Minister of Cambodia, both leaders reiterated the special relationship between Brunei Darussalam and Cambodia, through cooperation in people-to-people exchanges, trade and defence. Both leaders also encouraged opportunities to further expand cooperation for both countries.

At the meeting with His Excellency Prime Minister of Viet Nam, both leaders, among other things, highlighted the positive



His Majesty during the bilateral meeting with His Excellency Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the bilateral meeting with His Excellency Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the bilateral meeting with His Excellency Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

development of cooperation between Brunei and Viet Nam, especially in oil and gas; the chemical industry; Halal products; and people-to-people exchanges. His Majesty and His Excellency also looked forward to deepening the relationship between the two countries, including through the advancement of cooperation in energy and food security.

Earlier on September 5, His Majesty attended another bilateral meeting with His Excellency Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, where both leaders discussed the further strengthening of cooperation between both countries in the fields of education and health.

ASEAN-India dialogue relations show significant progress



JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, September 7 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam

attended the 20th ASEAN-India Summit held at the Jakarta Convention Centre.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Majesty's son: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

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At the summit, His Majesty noted the significant progress made in bringing the people of ASEAN and the Republic of India closer together, as well as mutually benefiting from the growth and development of both sides. To this end, His Majesty stated that the establishment of the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2022 will bring more opportunities and benefits for the both peoples.

The Monarch looked forward to further cooperation with India in embracing rapid developments in information technology that will drive regional economic growth. His Majesty also welcomed initiatives to develop micro, small and medium enterprises to capitalise on and benefit from the digital transformation era.

The summit also saw a statement delivered by His Excellency Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India; followed by the ASEAN Common Statement delivered by His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore as Country Coordinator for ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations.

The leaders encouraged efforts towards identifying synergies between the Masterplan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 and the Act East Policy, along with the advancement of cooperation in the digital economy, connectivity, and maritime trade and security. At the end of the summit, the ASEAN-India Joint Leaders' Statement on Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Response to Crises; and the ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Maritime Cooperation were adopted.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the bilateral meeting with His Excellency Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.



His Excellency Prime Minister of the Republic of India delivering his statement at the summit.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with leaders at the 20th ASEAN-India Summit.

Ensuring EAS' relevance as a platform for cooperation



JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, September 7 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the 18th East Asia Summit (EAS) held at the Jakarta Convention Centre.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Majesty's son: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

At the summit, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) welcoming His Excellency Hun Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia; His Excellency Li Qiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China; and His Excellency Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to their first EAS.

His Majesty then highlighted that ASEAN must remain focused on advancing mutually beneficial initiatives amid intensifying geopolitical uncertainties to ensure EAS' relevance as a platform for cooperation.

The Monarch also called for the development of innovative policies and



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the 18th East Asia Summit.

responses to address the impacts of climate change, and welcomed support in building the capacity of the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change to facilitate practical cooperation and coordination on climate issues in the region.

His Majesty concluded by underscoring the importance of enhancing collective efforts to prepare for future health emergencies.

His Excellency Mohammad Shahabuddin, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh as Chair of the Indian Ocean Rim Association; and His Excellency James Brown, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands as Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum shared their remarks on strengthening regional architecture to

support the epicentrum of growth.

Meanwhile, His Excellency Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN reported the key developments in the implementation of the East Asia Summit Plan of Action.

At the Summit, EAS leaders expressed concern over issues that challenge the rules-based international order and principles of the United Nations Charter, stressing EAS' importance as a platform for dialogue and consultation in ensuring regional peace and security.

The East Asia Summit Leaders' Statement on Maintaining and Promoting the Region as an Epicentrum of Growth was adopted at the end of the summit.

ASEAN-Australia collaboration expands across ASEAN Community Pillars



JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, September 7 – ASEAN-Australia collaboration has expanded across all ASEAN community pillars, and contributed to regional peace and development over the past decades.

To this end, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* (royal speech) expressed appreciation for the 'Australia for ASEAN Futures Initiative', which promotes cooperation in shared priority and areas of concern.

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the 3rd ASEAN-Australia Summit.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered the *titah* (royal speech) at the 3rd ASEAN-Australia Summit held at the Jakarta Convention Centre.

Accompanying the Monarch was His Majesty's son: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

His Majesty welcomed Australia's assistance on the issue of climate change, including through their 'Climate Change Action Strategy', and expressed appreciation for Australia's support to the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change. His Majesty also looked forward for joint efforts through the centre to address climate change.

Touching on trade cooperation, the Monarch highlighted the need to continue strengthening efforts towards economic growth, emphasising the central role of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA).



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with The Honourable Prime Minister of Australia.



His Majesty in a group photo at the 3rd ASEAN-Australia Summit.

In this regard, His Majesty expressed appreciation on the recent signing of the Second Protocol to Amend the AANZFTA to ensure the free trade agreement's quality and relevance, as well as its ability create new opportunities for an inclusive and sustainable regional economy.

The Honourable Anthony Albanese, Prime Minister of Australia also delivered a statement at the summit. His Excellency Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic as Country Coordinator for ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations then delivered the ASEAN Common Statement.

At the summit, the leaders commended initiatives put forward by Australia in cementing the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, including the Australia for ASEAN Futures Initiative. The ASEAN-Australia Joint Leaders' Statement on Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Response to Crises; and the Concept Paper on the Special Summit to Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations were also adopted at the summit.



The Honourable Prime Minister of Australia delivering his statement.

Collective efforts towards accelerating achievements of SDGs



JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, September 7 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam highlighted that climate change, along with continued geopolitical and socio-economic challenges, have disrupted progress towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Hence, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam welcomed more cooperation on environmental protection, as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation, through the sharing of expertise and best practices with the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change.

Delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the 13th ASEAN-United Nations (UN) Summit held at the Jakarta Convention Centre, the Monarch also underlined food security as another area that requires immediate action, and welcomed more activities and technical cooperation with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation to support efforts in enhancing food production through new technologies and applications.

Accompanying the Monarch was His Majesty's son: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

The summit saw a statement delivered by His Excellency Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the UN; followed by the ASEAN Common Statement on ASEAN-UN Dialogue Relations delivered by His Excellency Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia as ASEAN Chair.

At the summit, the leaders welcomed collective efforts towards



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the 13th ASEAN-United Nations (UN) Summit.



His Excellency Secretary-General of the UN delivering his statement at the summit.

accelerating the achievement of the SDGs, as well as leveraging on mutually beneficial areas of cooperation, such as the digital and green economy.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei in a group photo at the 13th ASEAN-UN Summit.

Lao PDR honoured as ASEAN Chair 2024



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Closing Ceremony of the 43rd ASEAN Summit and Related Summits.

The handing over of the ASEAN Chairmanship to His Excellency Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic through the symbolic passing of the ASEAN gavel.



JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, September 7 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Closing Ceremony of the 43rd ASEAN Summit and Related Summits and handing over of the ASEAN Chairmanship to the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), along with other ASEAN Heads of State and Government and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.



Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Majesty's son: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

His Excellency President of the Republic of Indonesia as ASEAN Chair delivering his closing statement.

Held at the Jakarta Convention Centre, the ceremony began with a closing statement by His Excellency Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia as ASEAN Chair.

ASEAN gavel.

His Excellency President of Indonesia then handed over the ASEAN Chairmanship to His Excellency Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of Lao PDR through the symbolic passing of the

This was followed by remarks by His Excellency Prime Minister of Lao PDR, and a video presentation from Lao PDR as the ASEAN Chair for 2024.

His Majesty and His Royal Highness departed from Indonesia later on the same day.



A performance during the Closing Ceremony of the 43rd ASEAN Summit and Related Summits.

Brunei-Malaysia royal ties continue to strengthen



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, 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 receiving in audience His Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah and Her Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda the Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tunku Hajah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah binti Al-Marhum Al-Mutawakkil Alallah Sultan Iskandar Al-Haj (above and below).

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 8 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, 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 in the evening received in audience His Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah and Her Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda the Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tunku Hajah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah binti Al-Marhum Al-Mutawakkil Alallah Sultan Iskandar Al-Haj.



Agong and Her Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda the Raja Permaisuri Agong upon arrival at Istana Nurul Iman, and subsequently introduced the royal couple to the royal family.

a Banquet held at Baitur Rahmah of Istana Nurul Iman, which began with the recitation of *doa selamat* by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, State Mufti.

Present at the Audience Ceremony, which took place at Istana Nurul Iman, were other members of the royal family.

Accompanying His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Her Majesty the Raja Permaisuri Agong was Their Majesties' son: His Royal Highness Tengku Mahkota Tengku Hassanal Ibrahim Alam Shah, Regent of Pahang; as well as members of the royal family of Pahang.

His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Her Majesty the Raja Permaisuri Agong are in the country for a three-day special visit, traveling through Borneo under the programme 'Kembara Kenali Borneo'.

Prior to the ceremony, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri welcomed His Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda the 16th Yang di-Pertuan

The ceremony then continued with

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Members of the royal families of Brunei Darussalam and Pahang at the Audience Ceremony.

His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong concludes three-day visit



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam bidding farewell to His Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah and Her Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda the Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tunku Hajah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah binti Al-Marhum Al-Mutawakkil Alallah Sultan Iskandar Al-Haj at The Empire Brunei.

A *doa selamat* was read to bless the journey of the royal entourage.

Empire Brunei.

Also present were His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's son: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office with Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; and His Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda the Yang di-Pertuan Agong's son: His Royal Highness Tengku Mahkota Tengku Hassanal Ibrahim Alam Shah, Regent of Pahang.

Prior to leaving the country, a *doa selamat* was read by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, State Mufti.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri at the Banquet with His Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Her Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda the Raja Permaisuri Agong.



Members of the royal families of Brunei Darussalam and Pahang at the Banquet (above and below).





A group photo with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; and His Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Her Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda the Raja Permaisuri Agong prior to their departure from The Empire Brunei.

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The royal delegation left for the Sungai Tujoh Control Post to cross the border towards Miri, Sarawak; continuing their journey under the 'Kembara Kenali Borneo'.

On the evening of September 7, His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Her Majesty the Raja Permaisuri Agong



His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Her Majesty the Raja Permaisuri Agong receiving a book about the SHOAS Bridge presented by the Permanent Secretary (Infrastructure, Housing and Professional) at the Ministry of Development (MOD).



His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Her Majesty Seri the Raja Permaisuri Agong posing for a group photo, along with other members of the royal family of Pahang at the Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Bridge.



His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Her Majesty the Raja Permaisuri Agong posing for a group photo at the bridge with officials from MOD.



His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong posing for a group photo with officials and staff on duty at the Sungai Tujoh Control Post before crossing the border towards Miri, Sarawak.



Members of the royal families of Brunei Darussalam and Pahang mingling with each other at The Empire Brunei.

were welcomed by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah.

Also present to welcome the royal entourage were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkih.

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His Majesty receives SMIJ

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 12 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Conferment Ceremony of the Darjah Sultan Ibrahim Johor Yang Amat Disanjung Pangkat Pertama Dato' Sri Mulia Sultan Ibrahim Johor (SMIJ) and the Darjah Kerabat Johor Yang Amat Dihormati Pangkat Pertama (DK I), which was conferred by His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Iskandar, Sultan Yang Dipertuan of Johor Darul Ta'zim.

During the ceremony held at the Cheradi Laila Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman, His Majesty the Sultan Yang Dipertuan of Johor Darul Ta'zim conferred the Darjah Sultan Ibrahim Johor Yang Amat Disanjung Pangkat Pertama Dato' Sri Mulia Sultan Ibrahim Johor (SMIJ) to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty the Sultan Yang Dipertuan of Johor Darul Ta'zim also conferred the Darjah Kerabat Johor Yang Amat Dihormati Pangkat Pertama (DK I) to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's son: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

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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, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving the Darjah Sultan Ibrahim Johor Yang Amat Disanjung Pangkat Pertama Dato' Sri Mulia Sultan Ibrahim Johor (SMIJ) from His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Iskandar, Sultan Yang Dipertuan of Johor Darul Ta'zim.



A *doa selamat* was recited to bless the arrival of the royal entourage.



His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and 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 a personal representative to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam performing a mass Friday prayer (above and below).



His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong receiving a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from the congregants at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah.



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The royal entourage arrived in the country via the Labu Control Post in Temburong District on a tour exploring the Pan Borneo Highway. Along the way to The Empire Brunei, His Majesty Seri the Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and Her Majesty the Raja Permaisuri Agong were greeted by the people and posed for a group photo at the Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Bridge.

On September 8, His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong; and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince as a personal representative to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also performed a mass Friday prayer at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah.

Present were His Royal Highness the Regent of Pahang; as well as the other sons of His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Also in attendance was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam welcoming His Majesty the Sultan Yang Dipertuan of Johor Darul Ta'zim and son, Yang Amat Mulia the Tunku Temenggong of Johor at the grounds of Istana Nurul Iman.



Their Majesties at the Conferment Ceremony.



Their Majesties at the Conferment Ceremony. Also present were His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's sons: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and Yang Amat Mulia the Tunku Temenggong of Johor.

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Also present were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Majesty the Sultan Yang Dipertuan of Johor Darul Ta'zim's son: Yang Amat Mulia Tunku Idris Iskandar Al-Haj ibni Sultan Ibrahim, the Tunku Temenggong of Johor.

The ceremony began with a recitation of prayer by Sahibus Samahah Yang Berhormat Dato' Haji Yahya bin Ahmad, Mufti of Johor. Meanwhile, a *doa penutup* was recited by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, State Mufti.

Later in the afternoon at The Empire Brunei, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam bid farewell to His Majesty the Sultan Yang Dipertuan of Johor Darul Ta'zim.

Also in attendance was Yang Amat Mulia the Tengku Temenggong Johor.

To bless the royal departure, a *doa selamat* was read by Yang Berhormat State Mufti.

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To bless the ceremony, a *doa selamat* was recited by Yang Berhormat State Mufti.



Sahibus Samahah Yang Berhormat Mufti of Johor reciting a prayer prior to the Conferment Ceremony.

His Majesty presents, receives Letters of Credence

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 13 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presented Letters of Credence to newly-appointed Brunei Darussalam envoys and received Letters of Credence from newly-appointed foreign envoys to Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam first presented Letters of Credence to His Excellency Colonel (Rtd) Pengiran Haji Kamal Bashah bin Pengiran Haji Ahmad, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; and His Excellency Haji Roslan bin Haji Yacub, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

His Majesty then received Letters of Credence from His Excellency Xiao Jianguo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam; His Excellency Tran Anh Vu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to Brunei Darussalam; His Excellency Achmad Ubaedillah, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam; His Excellency Laurence Bay Siow Hon, High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam; and His Excellency Mohammed Abdullah Al-Buraithin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Brunei Darussalam.

After the ceremonies, His Majesty received in audience the newly-appointed Brunei Darussalam envoys and the newly-appointed foreign envoys to Brunei Darussalam. The ceremonies took place at Istana Nurul Iman.

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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, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting Letters of Credence to His Excellency Colonel (Rtd) Pengiran Haji Kamal Bashah bin Pengiran Haji Ahmad, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

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Their Majesties in a group photo with His Royal Highness the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and Yang Amat Mulia the Tunku Temenggong of Johor at the ceremony.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam bidding farewell to His Majesty the Sultan Yang Dipertuan of Johor Darul Ta'zim at The Empire Brunei (above). Also in attendance was Yang Amat Mulia the Tunku Temenggong of Johor (below).



His Majesty the Sultan Yang Dipertuan of Johor Darul Ta'zim also conferring the Darjah Kerabat Johor Yang Amat Dihormati Pangkat Pertama (DK I) to His Royal Highness the Crown Prince.





His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting Letters of Credence to His Excellency Haji Roslan bin Haji Yacob, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Lao People's Democratic Republic (left); and His Excellency Xiao Jianguo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam (right).



His Majesty presenting Letters of Credence to His Excellency Tran Anh Vu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to Brunei Darussalam (left); and His Excellency Achmad Ubaedillah, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam (right).



His Majesty presenting Letters of Credence to His Excellency Laurence Bay Siow Hon, High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam (left); and His Excellency Mohammed Abdullah Al-Buraithin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Brunei Darussalam (right).

Crown Prince receives Honorary Doctorate



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the 11th UTB Convocation Ceremony.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 14 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) consented to officiate the 11th UTB Convocation Ceremony, held at the Plenary Hall, International Convention Centre.

Also in attendance was His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's son: His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Pro-Chancellor of UTB.

The ceremony commenced with the recitation of Surah Al-Fatihah led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar.

The event also saw a recitation of verse 11 to 15 of Surah Al-Jatsiah by Awang Mohammad Wafiy bin Haji Morsidi, a Bachelor of Science (Hons.) in Computer Networking graduate; while its interpretation was presented by Awangku Ahmadi bin Pengiran Idrus, a Bachelor of Science (Hons.) in Finance and Risk Management graduate.

Datin Paduka Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah binti Haji Sulaiman, Vice-Chancellor of UTB then delivered a welcoming



His Majesty conferring certificates to the graduates.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the 11th UTB Convocation Ceremony. Also in attendance was His Majesty's son: His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Pro-Chancellor of UTB.

remark; followed by a *titah* (royal speech) by His Majesty.

In the *titah*, the Monarch urged UTB to increase its efforts to ensure that the programmes offered match job market needs, emphasising that added values such as accreditation from international bodies will attract employers to recruit UTB graduates. His Majesty was also pleased with the recognition of UTB programmes by international accreditation bodies.

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His Majesty conferring the Honorary Doctorate in Technology Innovation to His Royal Highness the Crown Prince.





His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, in a group photo with Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) members and staff at the convocation ceremony.

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The Monarch further welcomed the offering of a new Master's Degree Programme in Cybersecurity, through UTB's collaboration with the Korea Internet and Security Agency, which offers scholarships to ASEAN students.

Touching on the Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Laboratory, which began its operations at UTB campus, His Majesty explained that the laboratory is a gift from Shell Deepwater and Exploration, with the aim of developing machine learning algorithms to solve complex issues such as road safety, agriculture and food science and technology, green technology, water resources and energy.

Meanwhile, the Sand Screen Lab, a collaborative research with renowned universities in Australia and the United Kingdom and fully-funded by Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn. Bhd., has the potential to be a reference centre to study crude oil quality in the region.

UTB has matured in its 15 years of establishment, as proven by its developments, especially in its research publications. His Majesty urged UTB to use benchmarks other than Quacquarelli Symonds for best practices, noting the institution's preparations to enter the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, which prioritise research paper publications.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince mingling with the lecturers of UTB (left and right).



The recitation of verse 11 to 15 of Surah Al-Jatsiah by Awang Mohammad Wafiy bin Haji Morsidi, a Bachelor of Science (Hons.) in Computer Networking graduate.



Among the graduates at the 11th UTB Convocation Ceremony.



His Majesty mingling and taking a group photo with the graduates of UTB (left and right).



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His Majesty also highlighted patents for commercialisation in the *titah*, and noted that the university has identified several prototypes undergoing evaluation process for intellectual property rights. His Majesty stated that this effort is very important in the creation process, and further hoped it will create an ecosystem of

innovation that will drive economic growth.

His Majesty then consented to confer the Honorary Doctorate in Technology Innovation to His Royal Highness Prince the Crown Prince; followed by the conferring of certificates to 397 graduates, which include Doctor of Philosophy (11 graduates); Master's Degree (82 graduates); and Bachelor's Degree (304 graduates).

Happy families: The cornerstone of national development



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with the Maulidur Rasul Celebration for 1445 Hijrah/2023 Masihi.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 28 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined thousands of Muslims in the Maulidur Rasul Grand Assembly and Procession for 1445 Hijrah/2023 Masihi.

Also present were His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's sons and brothers: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkhiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkhiah.

The event began with a mass recitation of Surah Al-Fatihah led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar, Chief Syarie Judge, who also led the *doa selamat*; followed by a welcoming remark by Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato

Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs as Chairman of the Executive Committee for major Islamic calendar events for 1445 Hijrah/2023 Masihi.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the Maulidur Rasul Grand Assembly and Procession for 1445 Hijrah/2023 Masihi. Also present were His Majesty's sons and brothers: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkhiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkhiah.

His Majesty led the 1.9-kilometre procession around the capital involving some 87 teams and over 5,000 participants. Similar processions were also held in the other three districts.

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Previously, on September 27, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with this year's celebration highlighting happy families as the cornerstone of national development. Hence, the Monarch affirmed that ensuring the wholeness and happiness of family institutions is everyone's responsibility.

His Majesty also expressed deep concern regarding the increasing prevalence of household problems within the nation's communities, stating that the matter should not be underestimated and needs to be addressed. His Majesty, thus, commended the Ministry of Religious Affairs for its proactive approach in tackling this issue through various initiatives with multiple stakeholders – including pre-solemnisation courses, family seminars, and post-marriage courses. The Monarch also stressed the need for relevant authorities to be more proactive in taking initiatives to tackle household problems, by instilling early awareness.

At the end of the *titah*, His Majesty noted the significance of celebrating the Maulidur Rasul with acts of goodwill and the avoidance of wrongdoing. The Monarch also urged for everyone to strive towards a blessed family institution, in accordance with the traditions of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the Maulidur Rasul Grand Assembly and Procession for 1445 Hijrah/2023 Masihi.

The theme for this year's event was 'Sunnah Dihayati, Hidup Berkat'.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) after the procession.



His Majesty leading the procession with other members of the royal family.

Time for ministries to streamline national education policy



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the 33rd Teacher's Day Celebration.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 23 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said that it is time for the Ministry of Education (MOE) and the Ministry of Religious Affairs to streamline the national education policy.

To this end, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to the amendment of the Compulsory Education Act Chapter 211, pertaining to the compulsory age for children to go to school (from six to five), to strengthen early childhood education.

Delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the 33rd Teacher's Day Celebration held at the International Convention Centre, His Majesty was pleased that Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) skills are not only implemented into regular curriculum, but also in co-curriculum activities.

In strengthening these skills, His Majesty consented for technology, engineering and arts subjects in STEAM to be made as core electives to support a high-quality education system, in line with current needs and developments.

On educational inclusivity and equality, the Monarch welcomed MOE's efforts in caring for the well-being and education of students with special needs. His Majesty further noted the establishment of the first special needs school in the country as an achievement, and hoped that it would act as a catalyst towards involving the community in caring for students with special needs.

His Majesty also believed that it is time for relevant bodies to review and streamline the Teachers' Service Scheme (SPG). Aside from improving the scope and workflow in teachers' selection and recruitment, the ministry must also consider additional tasks taken on by the teachers as essential components of the appraisal. Apart from ensuring the well-being of teachers, the review process should also maintain the qualities of relevant teachers.

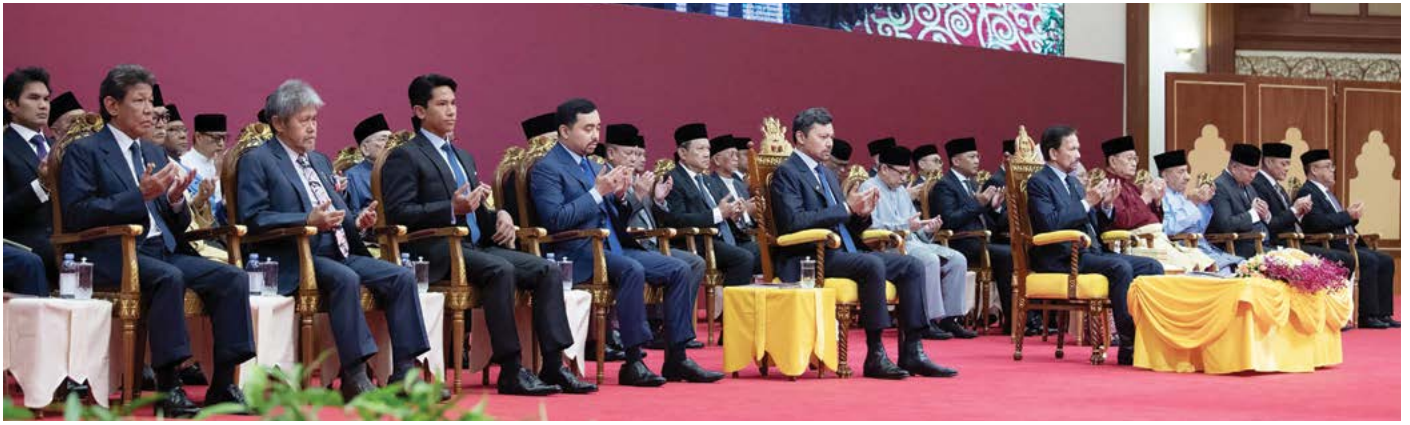
Also present were His Majesty's sons and brothers: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkhiah and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkhiah.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting awards to the recipients at the ceremony (above and below).





His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah at the ceremony

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At the ceremony, His Majesty consented to present two Meritorious Teacher Awards; eight Excellent Teacher Awards; and 29 Special Mention Teacher's Day Appreciation Awards.

The Monarch also graced the launching of two books, titled 'The Ministry of Education Strategic Plan Book 2023-2027'; and the 'Education Resilience: Brunei Darussalam's COVID-19 Journey' photobook. Afterwards, His Majesty toured an exhibition portraying this year's theme: '*Guru Berkualiti Pemacu Transformasi Pendidikan*'.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam gracing the launching of two books, titled 'The Ministry of Education Strategic Plan Book 2023-2027' (left); and the 'Education Resilience: Brunei Darussalam's COVID-19 Journey' photobook (right).



His Majesty and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince touring the exhibition (left and right).



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik (left); and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen (right) touring the exhibition.

Call for teaching reforms at religious schools

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Rabu, 27 September – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered a *titah* (royal speech) during an unscheduled visit to the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA), stressing the importance of psychology in religious school teaching.

Noting that religious subjects can be challenging and require teachers to have a balanced approach (neither too strict or lenient), His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam inquired whether teachers in religious schools are equipped with the necessary psychological skills for teaching.

Earlier in the *titah*, His Majesty highlighted MoRA's responsibility in overseeing religious education – especially in formulating the right policy and system.

Touching on the syllabus and subjects taught at the religious schools, His Majesty suggested for the Tarikh subject to be renamed as 'Tarikh Islam', and that it should be made compulsory.

Additionally, the Monarch called for the Tasawuf subject to be reviewed in view of its difficulty. His Majesty also proposed for the subject to be renamed as 'Akhlaq', as it would be more comprehensible to students. His Majesty also questioned the use of certain terminology in religious school textbooks, and stated that these terms are more relevant to practitioners of Tasawuf or Tarikat, but may not be suitable for school children.

Another subject called into question was Faraidh (distribution



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) during an unscheduled visit to the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA).

of wealth to heirs) taught in Primary 6 classes. This subject, according to the Monarch, is too challenging for children and needs to be reviewed by the ministry.

His Majesty also queried the scholarship policy for students going overseas for religious studies and the criteria for awarding scholarships. His Majesty further urged for a more comprehensive policy to ensure the future of religious education.

During the visit, His Majesty toured the departments and sections under the ministry, including the Department of Zakat, Waqaf and Baitulmal Management.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the unscheduled visit to MoRA.



His Majesty interacting with the officials at the ministry.

HRH Prince 'Abdul Mateen attends LKYEF Programme

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, September 13 – His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah attended a luncheon with His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore held at the Istana.

Earlier in the morning, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen attended a breakfast with His Excellency Lawrence Wong, Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore held at Raffles Hotel.

Under the Lee Kuan Yew Exchange Fellowship (LKYEF) Programme, His Royal Highness visited the Marina Barrage;

Institute of Technical Education Headquarters; PIXEL; and ACE Ideation Centre.

His Royal Highness also had the opportunity to attend a dinner hosted by His Excellency Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore; as well as a luncheon with His Excellency Dr. Maliki Osman, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Education and Second Minister for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore.

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His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah with His Excellency Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore (left); and with His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore (right).

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His Royal Highness arrived in Singapore on September 11. Later that evening, His Royal Highness attended the LKYEF Ceremony and a dinner hosted by Lee Tzu Yang, Chairman of LKYEF at the Shangri-la Hotel.

The ceremony began with a meeting with the Chairman of LKYEF, who later presented His Royal Highness with a LKYEF medallion and plaque during the dinner.

His Royal Highness will be in Singapore until September 14, and will also be visiting iFly Singapore; Urban Redevelopment Authority Centre; and the Singapore Armed Forces Reservists Association Choa Chu Kang before completing the programme.

The LKYEF Programme was established in 1991, recognising individuals based on their outstanding performance, potential and contributions to the development of their respective countries.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen during a meeting with the Chairman of Lee Kuan Yew Exchange Fellowship (LKYEF) (left), who later presented His Royal Highness with a LKYEF medallion and plaque during the dinner (right).

Brunei-Saudi Arabia enjoy long existing bilateral cooperation

JERUDONG, September 25 – The Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Brunei Darussalam hosted a reception in conjunction with Saudi Arabia's 93rd National Day at the Royal Berkshire Hall, Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club.

Present as the guest of honour on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs.

The event featured a cake cutting session conducted by Yang Berhormat Minister of Religious Affairs and His Excellency Mohammed Abdullah Al-Buraithin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Saudi Arabia to Brunei Darussalam, followed by a presentation of souvenirs and group photos.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Religious Affairs and His Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Brunei Darussalam during the cake-cutting session.

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The event also saw a video presentation on the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and a cultural performance from local artists, the Canang Seri Mahkota Group.



Yang Berhormat Minister and His Excellency in a group photo at the event.

Celebrating Brunei-China friendly exchanges

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 27 – His Excellency Xiao Jianguo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam held a dinner reception to celebrate the 74th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China at the Rizqun International Hotel.

Present as Guests of Honour at the reception were Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Second Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy and spouse, Pengiran Datin Hajah Noor Yashimah binti Pengiran Anak Haji Hashim.

Aside from a speech delivered by His Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam, the event saw the launching of the 'Eternal Friendship' documentary, which demonstrates the history of the friendly exchanges between Brunei and China.

The launching was followed by the cutting of a cake to mark the anniversary, and a group photo session with foreign diplomats in the country.

Yang Berhormat Minister and spouse in a group photo with foreign diplomats in the country.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy; and His Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam cutting a cake to mark the 74th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China.



Brunei-Germany enjoy decades of excellent relations

JERUDONG, September 26 – The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in the Brunei Darussalam hosted a reception in conjunction with the 33rd Day of German Unity at the Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club.

Representing the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam were Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Muhammad Juanda bin Haji Abdul Rashid, Minister of Development and spouse, Datin Fadzlina binti Haji Hashim.

Her Excellency Gerda Winkler, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Germany delivered her welcoming remarks at the event, highlighting the decades of excellent relations between Brunei and Germany.

The event featured a cake-cutting ceremony to mark the 33rd Day of German Unity.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Development and spouse cutting a cake to mark the 33rd Day of German Unity with Her Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany in the Brunei Darussalam.

Brunei-Malaysia strengthen long-standing relations

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 13 – The High Commission of Malaysia in Brunei Darussalam hosted a reception in conjunction with Malaysia’s 66th National Day Anniversary at The Rizqun International Hotel.

Representing the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the event were Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications and spouse.

His Excellency Raja Dato’ Reza bin Raja Zaib Shah, Malaysian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam delivered his welcoming remarks lauding the long-standing friendship between Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam at the event.

The event was enlivened with a cake-cutting session, as well as cultural performances.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications and spouse representing the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the reception held in conjunction with Malaysia’s 66th National Day Anniversary.

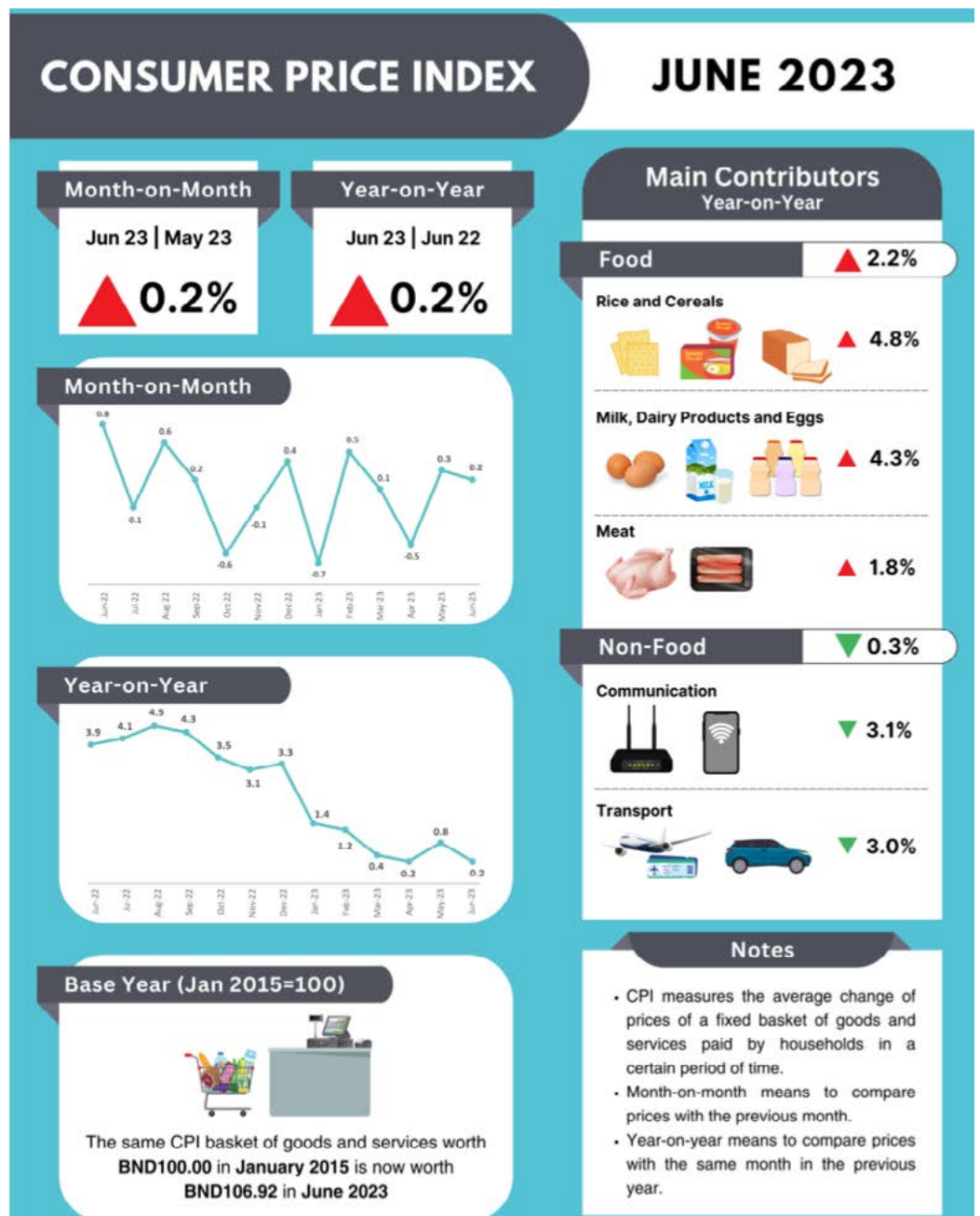
CPI June 2023 records moderate month-on-month increase

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 5 – In June 2023, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) recorded a moderate month-on-month increase of 0.2 per cent, attributed to a 0.3 per cent increase in non-food prices. Meanwhile, the prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages registered a marginal decrease of 0.02 per cent.

The month-on-month increase in non-food prices was contributed by the prices of clothing and footwear (2.9 per cent); transport (0.4 per cent); and recreation and culture (0.4 per cent).

The increase in the clothing and footwear prices was in line with the rise in the price of clothing materials. Meanwhile, the decrease in the prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages was contributed by fish and seafood (2.4 per cent); vegetables (0.4 per cent); and meat (0.3 per cent).

For year-on-year changes, the CPI increased by 0.2 per cent compared to June 2022. The rise was driven by a 2.2 per cent increase in prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages. Meanwhile, non-food prices recorded a decrease of 0.3 per cent.



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The year-on-year increase in prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages was due to the rise in the prices of rice and cereals (4.8 per cent); milk, dairy products and eggs (4.3 per cent); and meat (1.8 per cent). The increase in rice and cereals prices was mainly driven by the rise in the prices of raw materials for bakery products. Whereas, the increase in the prices of eggs was one of the main components which contributed to the rise in milk, dairy products and eggs prices.

However, the year-on-year increase was moderated by a decrease in non-food prices such as communication (3.1 per cent); and transport (3.0 per cent). The decrease in the prices of communication was in line with the decline in prices of telephone and telefax services. Meanwhile, the fall in transport prices was mainly due to the decrease in the prices of airfares and motor cars.

Appointment of two senior officers

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 25 – By command of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, it is hereby announced that His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to the appointment of 412 Brigadier General (Udara) Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Alirupendi bin Haji Perudin, Joint Force Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces as the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF); and Dayang Poh Kui Choon, Director of Finance and Acquisition at the Directorate of Finance and Acquisition, MINDEF as the Deputy Permanent Secretary at MINDEF.

The appointment is effective from September 26.

Strengthening cooperation on military medical institutions



Acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence delivering his speech at the 17th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus Experts' Working Group on Military Medicine.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 4 – The 17th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) Experts' Working Group on Military Medicine Meeting is held for two days at the

Goldstone Ballroom, The Centrepoint Hotel, Gadong.

The meeting was co-chaired by Colonel (Dr.) Haji Awang Mohd. Hafizul bin Haji Awang Mohd. Hassan, Chief Medical Officer of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces; and Brigadier Isaac Seidl, Director General of Operational Health, Joint Health Command of the Australian Defence Force.

The meeting was officiated by Haji Adi Ihram bin Dato Paduka Haji Mahmud, Acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence.

The meeting was physically attended by representatives from ADMM-Plus countries, the ASEAN Centre of Military Medicine, as well as the ASEAN Secretariat. There were also representatives from ADMM-Plus countries that attended virtually.



Representatives from ADMM-Plus countries, the ASEAN Centre of Military Medicine, as well as the ASEAN Secretariat during the 17th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) Experts' Working Group on Military Medicine Meeting.

BEC begins business-driven sustainability, innovation journey



A group photo taken at the the official announcement of the Borneo Economic Community, which took place during the second Borneo Business Roundtable in Jakarta.

JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, September 5 – In a significant stride toward sustainable progress, the Borneo Economic Community (BEC) was announced at the sidelines of the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit 2023, as a pioneering business-driven collaboration to transform the Borneo sub-region across Brunei, Kalimantan, Labuan, Sabah, and Sarawak.

With innovative and sustainable development focus areas in promoting and supporting cross-border trade and talent growth, socially inclusive enterprises and Net Zero initiatives, BEC is poised to become a catalyst for Borneo to be the ‘Green Economy Hub of Southeast Asia’.

The official announcement of the BEC took place during the second Borneo Business Roundtable in Jakarta, graced by the Governor and representatives of the Kalimantan Provinces. The event was co-hosted by M. Arsjad Rasjid P. M., Chairman of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC) 2023, and Kamar Dagang dan Industri Indonesia; and Haslina Taib, Chair of ABAC Brunei.

Signing the Statement of Cooperation for the formation of BEC were key business leaders participating in the roundtable from ABAC Indonesia; KADIN and its branch representatives from

the Kalimantan provinces; ABAC Brunei; National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Brunei Darussalam; Labuan Chamber of Commerce; Sarawak Business Federation; The Associated Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Sarawak; Dewan Perniagaan Bumiputera Sabah; as well as the Malaysian International Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sabah.

The three key objectives of BEC are to promote and strengthen sustainable development, innovations and investments; to address the challenges and opportunities of businesses operating in Borneo; as well as to develop joint cooperation to drive a sub-regional digital ecosystem for mobility, cooperation and integration among its lead and associate partners, within and beyond Borneo.

BEC will be supported by Dynamik Technologies; TradeWaltz; Indonesia Climate Exchange; and TrustGrid in focus areas such as digital trade, tokenised economy and business participation in the carbon market.

During the roundtable, participants were invited to register their interest to DagangBorneo, a pioneer program of BEC designed to facilitate seamless cross-border trade, highlight circular and sustainable portfolios, and attract foreign investments in a uniquely Bornean model.

Launching of Bangladesh Day at UBD

TUNGKU LINK, September 29 – Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) collaborated with the High Commission of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh in Brunei Darussalam to launch the Bangladesh Day at the Institute of Leadership Innovation and Advancement, UBD.

Her Excellency Nahida Rahman Shumona, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam delivered her welcoming remarks at the event, followed by an opening remark by Dr. Joyce Teo Siew, Assistant Vice Chancellor (Global Affairs) of UBD.

The event also included a book donation ceremony from High Commission of Bangladesh to UBD, followed by a special talk delivered by Norazlianah binti Haji Ibrahim, former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

The ceremony concluded with a tour of the Bangladesh Cultural



Her Excellency High Commissioner of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam delivering her welcoming remarks.

Exhibition, displaying Bangladeshi cultural paintings, artifacts and national costumes.