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## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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*His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in discussion with His Excellency Thai Prime Minister General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, whom the monarch granted an audience at Istana Nurul Iman at the start of the Premier's visit to the Sultanate on 19 March.*



## Brunei Darussalam welcomes Thailand's participation in economic diversification programmes

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has called on the business sector from Thailand to participate in the Sultanate's programmes of economic diversification.

Speaking at a banquet in honour of the visiting Prime Minister of Thailand, His Excellency General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, His Majesty said: "I am confident that Brunei Darussalam will benefit from forging closer economic cooperation with Thailand."

The ruler pointed that Brunei Darussalam has taken concrete steps to diversify its economy by allotting B\$7 billion in a new five-year national development plan to widen the country's

economic base and promote industry and commerce.

In this regard, His Majesty stressed: "We welcome your business sector to participate in our programmes for economic diversification such as agriculture and agro-processing industries, manufacturing, services and tourism."

Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh was leading a forty-member delegation on a two-day official visit beginning 19 March to the Sultanate as part of a familiarisation tour of ASEAN countries.

In his address at the banquet held at Istana Nurul Iman, His Majesty also expressed confidence that the close relationship between the Sultanate and the Kingdom of Thailand which have brought

about good working relations through cooperation in trade and human resource development, "will deepen through further areas of cooperation including cultural and youth programmes."

His Majesty further stressed that Brunei Darussalam offers itself as a springboard to the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA). In this connection, he said, Brunei Darussalam is taking further steps in developing its infrastructure especially in broadening existing communication links.

The monarch pointed: "This is a promising sub-region with great growth potential. I would like to invite Thai companies to explore these opportunities and participate in the growth of this area."

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## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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### YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 30 April 1997. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-383941 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.



## Audiences with His Majesty the Sultan for haj pilgrims before departure for holy land

**I**n keeping with the tradition of past few years, the more than 2,000 Brunei pilgrims who are performing the annual haj pilgrims in Mecca this year were at the Istana Nurul Iman on 10 March for audiences with His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam.

The pilgrims are to be flown to the

holy land by the national flag carrier - Royal Brunei Airlines, which will operate nine special haj flights, commencing third week of March.

During the audiences - male pilgrims with His Majesty and the female pilgrims with Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri - the pilgrims received haj clothings as gifts from the monarch.

The haj is the fifth pillar of Islam which every able adult Muslim must perform at least once in his/her lifetime.

*Long line of male pilgrims taking turn to shake and kiss the hand of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, above, as did female pilgrims with Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam, during the audiences at Istana Nurul Iman shortly before the pilgrims left for Mecca to perform the annual haj pilgrimage.*



After the formal briefing by the Minister of Communications, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Zakaria, right below, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam toured the ministry's complex during which he was further briefed by the minister and senior officials of the ministry.



## Sultan visits Communications Ministry and departments under its charge

The Ministry of Communications and the six departments under it have come under scrutiny by His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during a series of visits, beginning 11 March.

In the first leg of his visit, His Majesty went to the ministry's headquarters at the old airport in Berakas, where he heard briefings on the development and progress of the national flag carrier, Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA), and about the Ministry

of Communications itself.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Zakaria, the Minister of Communications in his welcoming address, among others, emphasised that the main task of his ministry is to underline a directive and objective for the Sultanate's future, including on the policies of transportation and communications.

The minister said that this course or objective will be studied from time to time and will be coordinated in line with existing conditions.

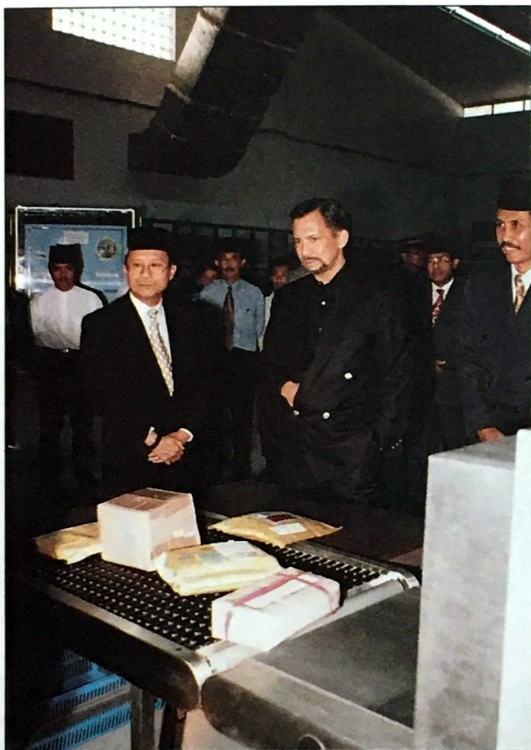
Touching on plan for the next few years, the minister said that his ministry has issued a working paper entitled: "Objective, Vision and Mission of the Communications Ministry and departments under the ministry."

In its vision, he explained, the ministry views the position of Brunei Darussalam in the ASEAN region as strategic. Therefore, initial planning and expenses have been spent to further upgrade the infrastructure towards making the Sultanate a service hub for transportation and communications.

• Continued on page 4



*His Majesty during his visits to the Departments of Telecommunications, left, Postal Services, left below, Civil Aviation, below, and Land Transports, bottom. All these departments come under the charge of the Ministry of Communications.*



*• from page 3 (Sultan visits Communications Ministry and departments under its charge)*

The minister pointed that the departments concerned will formulate action programmes to meet these objectives when the policy has been agreed.

He added that the task of the Communications Ministry is to ensure that the agreed policies are carried out effectively by taking into account the reality and the interest of the whole country besides the technological changes.

Pehin Dato Haji Awang Zakaria also spoke about the current national development plan. He said that 20 percent out of the total budget of B\$7

billion for the Seventh National Development Plan has been allocated for development programmes of the infrastructure of communications and transportation so as to ensure the Sultanate's socio-economic strength in entering the 21st century.

He added that the communications and transportation sectors play an even more important role due to the rapid progress of economic cooperation such as in APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation), in ASEAN and in the

*• Continued on page 5*



*The Minister of Communications briefing His Majesty on a proposed project on Pulau Muara Besar, during his tour of the Marine Department (left).*



*His Majesty pauses to ask questions and getting more briefing as he toured the Muara port and the Marine Department, both also under The Ministry of Communications.*

• from page 4 (Sultan visits communications Ministry and departments under its charge)

BIMP-EAGA (Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area) as well as on the course towards a more liberalised trade.

Towards this end, he said, the Communications Ministry has formulated programmes to ensure that His Majesty's Government can play a similarly important role as with the other countries in the region.

The minister also stressed that the ASEAN Transportation Ministers who met in Chiangmai, Thailand recently agreed that member countries should enhance cooperation in upgrading the existing transportation system to

enable the grouping achieve its target for ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) by the year 2003.

In another session, His Majesty heard a briefing by Dato Paduka Malai Haji Ali, the Permanent Secretary of the Communications Ministry, who among others outlined the projects that have been carried out and the various plans of the departments under the ministry.

His Majesty ended the first stage of his visit by touring an exhibition put up by departments under the ministry. These included displays on information panel, the national information access centre, the Brunei Bay Project, the Brunei International airport, as well as on the public transportation including about the LRT (Light Rail Transport).

His Majesty continued his visit

two days later during which he had a dialogue session with the minister and his senior officials, also at the ministry's main building. The monarch later visited the Telecommunications Department, Mail and Packaging Processing Centre of the Postal Services Department, Civil Aviation Department and the Land Transport Department. During his visits, His Majesty was shown around the respective departments and briefed by their officials.

The final part of the ruler's visit to the Communications Ministry - on 17 March, brought him to Muara, some 28 kilometres from the capital, where he looked at two other departments under the ministry - the Departments of Ports, and Marine.



Hands are raised as the do'a is read for blessings during a dinner at Istana Nurul Iman hosted by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in honour of the visiting Prime Minister of Thailand, His Excellency General Chavalit Youngchaiyudh, picture at left.



Accompanied on the dais by Brunei Darussalam's Foreign Affairs Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah who welcomed him at the Brunei International airport on behalf of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Thai Prime Minister takes the salute during a guard of honour mounted by men of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, which he also inspected, picture at left and right.



The Thai Prime Minister, accompanied by Brunei officials, took time off from serious discussions to take a cruise around the scenic Kampong Ayer (settlement on water made up of chains of villages) on the Brunei river, left. Right: His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs discussing various issues with his Thai counterpart, His Excellency Prachuab Chaيسان, who was in the Thai Prime Minister's delegation, as was the Thai Labour Minister, His Excellency Chatchai Earsakul, seen in picture at far right having a separate meeting with the Special Adviser to His Majesty in the Prime Minister's Office cum Home Affairs Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa.



*In their speeches at the dinner, both His Majesty and the Thai Prime Minister underscored the warmth and closeness of the longstanding relationships between Brunei Darussalam and Thailand. They urged that these relations be further enhanced for mutual benefits.*

• from page 1 (Brunei Darussalam welcomes Thailand's Participation in Economic Diversification Programmes)

His Majesty also commended the contribution of Thai nationals in Brunei Darussalam's economic development and their involvement in the development of infrastructure.

On regional cooperation, His Majesty noted that Brunei Darussalam and Thailand continue to work closely together in regional organisations. He said their joint efforts in ASEAN, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) all help to maintain peace and prosperity in the region. Our solidarity in ASEAN has enhanced regional cooperation and security, the monarch added.

His Majesty went on to say that the active participation of Thailand in the

ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation and the Kingdom's work in developing transport and communications facilities in the Mekong Basin will further strengthen relations between the sub-regions and the rest of Southeast Asia.

"Thailand's effort in this area will help ASEAN to realise the vision of its founders, to establish a community of all ten Southeast Asian countries," His Majesty said, while adding, "Brunei Darussalam will work closely with Thailand and other ASEAN countries to make that vision a reality."

His Majesty also noted that the Asia-Europe Meeting in Bangkok in March 1996 marked a new chapter in Asia-Europe relations. He said that the first meeting of the Asia-Europe Foreign Ministers in Singapore last month and the establishment of the Asia-Europe Foundation are a mark of progress in developing Asia-European Union

Cooperation, as well as providing enormous long-term benefits of economic, social and cultural cooperation between Asia and EU.

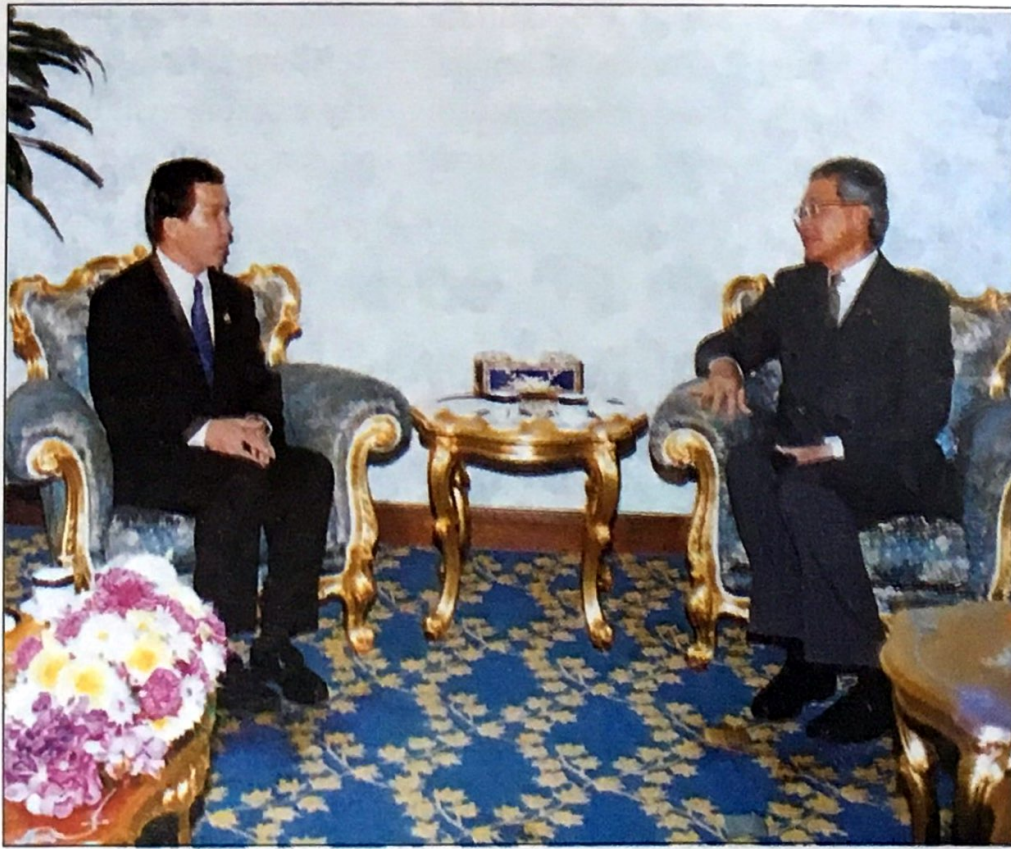
The ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), His Majesty noted, will make ASEAN one of the most attractive regions in the world for trade and investment. The process of liberalising trade and investments in the Asia-Pacific Region is also underway.

The monarch also hoped that the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) will create greater mutual trust, confidence and openness among countries in the region which will add to the stability and security in the Asia-Pacific.

"If we work to achieve this, we can look forward to peace and prosperity for Asia and the world in the 21st century," the ruler concluded.

In his reply, Prime Minister Chavalit

• Continued on page 12



*His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Foreign Affairs Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah granting separate audiences at Istana Nurul Iman and at the Balai Penghadapan Bukit Kayangan, top right and below right respectively, to the United States' Air Force Commander for the Pacific, General John G. Lorber. Senior officials from both sides were present at the audiences.*



## USAF Pacific Command Chief on Brunei visit

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has granted an audience to the Pacific Commander of the United

States Pacific Air Force, General John G. Lorber at the Istana Nurul Iman on 5 March.

General Lorber, who was on a two-day working visit to the country, also paid a courtesy call on His Royal

Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Foreign Affairs Minister at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan.

During the meeting, the prince was briefed by General Lorber on matters of US regional security arrangement.

## Rumours on end of Brunei-Singapore currency interchangeability quashed.

**T**he Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Republic of Singapore have denied rumours and speculation on the possibility of their ending an agreement on interchangeable currency.

A press release issued on 24 March by

the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam said that the two countries have stressed in a joint statement that speculations over the past few months can cause confusion among the financial circles or lead financial observers to question the excellent working relations between the currency boards of the two countries.

"The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Republic of Singapore wish to stamp out such rumours and make it absolutely clear that they have no intention whatsoever to end the agreement", the press release emphasised.



*His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam exchanges greetings with the Philippine Armed Forces Chief of Staff, General Arnulfo G. Acedera, whose wife Mrs. Stella Acedera had separate audiences with Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha, at Istana Nurul Iman, left below, and with Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam at Istana Nurul Izzah.*



## Monarch grants audience to Philippines' Armed Forces Chief

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to grant an audience to the visiting Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Philippines, at the Istana Nurul Iman on 24 March.

General Arnulfo G. Acedera was in the country on a three-day visit, his first

to Brunei Darussalam since he assumed the post of Chief of Staff in November last year.

The visiting general was leading an 11-member delegation including the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Brigadier General Benjamin N. Libarnes, Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Commodore Francis T. Mallillin and Deputy Chief of Staff for Comptrollership,

Captain Luisito F. Fernandez.

Meanwhile, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam granted separate audiences to the wife of the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Mrs. Stella R. Acedera, at the Istana Nurul Imam and the Istana Nurul Izzah respectively.

# Secretaries need to be equipped with necessary training and skills



*Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha opened the 12th Congress of the Association of Secretaries in Asia (ASA) with a call for secretaries to continually up-date training and skills so as to keep abreast of today's rapid development and changes. Picture shows Her Majesty meeting ASA delegates.*

**H**er Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha has said that secretaries need to equip themselves with the necessary training and skills that will enable them to handle the demand and challenges of their job, as well as to face the ever-changing work environment.

It is important, said Her Majesty, because many a career, including that of a secretary are undergoing transformation with the rapid changes in the business and working environment and advances in technology.

This leads to more and more secretaries now being involved in

management tasks, such as office administration, personnel matters, public relations, communications and coordination work, she said.

In a titah (royal address) before she declared open the 12th Congress of the Association of Secretaries in Asia (ASA) at the International Convention Centre on 17 March, Her Majesty also touched on the business and economic fields.

While the immediate concern in these fields is for impressive performance and growth, she said, it is also equally important not to lose sight of other equally essential factors, especially in the long-term.

These include quality service, team-work, image and personal touch, especially in services and other industries that require human relations and interpersonal contact, said Her Majesty.

"Those in management, I believe, would do well to place equal priorities and emphasis on these elements, for the long-term benefit of their organisation," she pointed out.

The five-day congress, with its theme 'Unity Towards Professional Development' covered among others, topics on Emotional Intelligence - Pioneering Frontiers in Personal and Professional Development; Networking - The Art of Working Smarter and Management Proficiency For Professional Secretaries.



*Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna also spoke of the ever-increasingly challenging responsibilities of secretaries at a dinner for the delegates of ASA.*

*Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam said being the front-liners in any organisation, secretaries need to act fast in seizing opportunities for the organisation. Her Royal Highness seen being greeted by delegates, was speaking at ASA's closing ceremony.*



## Secretaries need to act fast

**H**er Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam has said that the secretarial profession as a vital front-line in any management, commerce and trade dealings, needs to act fast in making changes and adjustments in line with the global changes now facing the world.

With this in view, the Congress of the Association of Secretaries in Asia (ASA) should take the initiative towards improving the skills and efficiency of the secretarial profession, she said.

Her Royal Highness also hoped that the Congress had deliberated on ways and means of getting the best out of the information and communication technologies to full advantage in order to raise the quality of the secretarial profession.

“The failure or neglect of a secretary from acquiring the skills and keeping abreast of the most up-to-date or latest development in information and communication technologies for his or her office management and communication network will only bring losses and loss of business opportunities for the employer and organisation,” she said.

Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam was speaking at the closing ceremony of the Congress at the Centrepoin in Gadong near the capital on 20

March.

She had earlier said that as the world community is about to come face-to-face with the new millennium, we too are confronted with various dynamic changes and transformation.

The most evident of these, she said, are the emergence of sophisticated global information and communication technologies which have rendered the whole world “borderless”, and has made the interactions in management and businesses between nations more rapid, and without boundaries.

The existence of changes of such magnitude, she pointed out, calls for both structural and qualitative changes in every unit of organisational management and businesses, including the individuals therein, in order to enable them to play in or be the players in the tide of such dynamic and transformative changes.

Her Royal Highness further spoke on the ‘borderless world’ where networking is the most important asset in managing inter-continental and inter-regional management and commerce interactions, especially in the context of countries in Asia which have the most vibrant economic growth.

The Congress of ASA, is therefore, the most effective venue

for bringing into existence such networking amongst the secretaries in Asia, thus, can contribute to the economic growth of the region, said Her Royal Highness.

“Trade organisations can communicate through the networking of secretaries and obtain information swiftly, hence, they can reap the opportunities in trade, finance and investment available in Asia,” she said.

Her Royal Highness further reminded those in the profession to uphold steadfastly the values of the Asian peoples from the aspects of religion, culture and custom in efforts towards making structural and qualitative changes in the profession.

“Because these values will give forth such characteristics as trustworthiness, sincerity, courteousness, respects, dedication and efficiency which are pertinent and most called for in the secretarial profession,” said concluded.

Brunei Darussalam hosted the congress for the first time. More than a dozen countries, including The Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Singapore, India, Malaysia, Taiwan, Pakistan, Japan Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Australia and two other countries as affiliate-member and observer took part. (*More on ASA on page 12*)

• from page 7 (Brunei Darussalam welcomes Thailand's Participation in Economic Diversification Programmes)

Yongchaiyudh also spoke on efforts to further promote both countries' economic cooperation. He said that in the past, the relationship has been limited to trade in only a couple of items. Ninety-nine per cent of Thailand's imports from Brunei Darussalam is crude oil, while most of Brunei imports from Thailand is rice.

"We should therefore attempt to broaden and diversify our economic relationship into new areas of cooperation. We should also maximise opportunities for mutual benefit by working more closely with other interested partners," said the prime minister.

Apart from trade and investment, the

prime minister pointed that tourism should serve as a principal vehicle for people to get to know one another better and for building bridges of friendship.

The prime minister noted that ASEAN will soon become a larger community with future membership of Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar, and the efforts to achieve an ASEAN Free Trade Area is pressing ahead.

He pointed that Brunei Darussalam has been playing an active role in promoting economic growth and development in the region, be it under the framework of the BIMP-EAGA or through Brunei's SHuTT (Service Hub for Trade and Tourism) Vision 2003.

"Brunei's efforts will complement other ongoing initiatives which, in turn, shall contribute towards shared prosperity of our region as a whole, and that is the

ultimate objective of ASEAN, a community of ten nations of Southeast Asia," stressed the prime minister.

His Majesty had earlier in the day granted an audience to Prime Minister Chavalit at which the monarch welcomed and congratulated him on his recent appointment. Both leaders held a wide-ranging discussion on bilateral and regional affairs, during which the Brunei ruler had also expressed his satisfaction with the warm and cordial ties between the two countries. Both leaders agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation especially in trade and investment.

Brunei Darussalam's Foreign Affairs Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah also held a separate meeting with his Thai counterpart, His Excellency Prachuab Chaiyasan.

## ASA Congress is timely

**H**er Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna has said that it is incumbent and timely for the Association of Secretaries in Asia (ASA) to hold a conference or congress from time to time.

Through exchanges of information and the sharing of experience, she said, members of the association will be able to deepen their knowledge, to be better informed and have a better understanding and outlook of the world around them.

Speaking at a dinner in conjunction with the 12th Congress of the Association of Secretaries in Asia (ASA) on 16 March, Her Royal Highness believed that the secretary remains as one of the important personalities in the front-line of an organisation, regardless of the advent of technology.

She said that with the advent of the third millennium no organisation is left unaffected by the changes in technology, especially with regards to

information technology, office-automation and communications.

"Consequently, the role of personnel and human resources in the organisation, including that of a secretary, is similarly affected," said Her Royal Highness.

The tasks normally associated with the traditional duties of a secretary, are also increasingly being taken over and handled by the computer and other electronic devices, she added.

### Brunei in Brief

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan

Land size : 5765 sq. km.

Population : 296,000 (1995)

Official Language : Malay

Official Religion : Islam

March rainfall : 7.0 mm

(annual 2,818mm)

### Brunei Malay in a minute

**E**ach month, we introduce readers to a common Brunei Malay word as used in the country. This month the word selected is **ayung**.

**Ayung** means to feel giddy or nauseatic or suffer from motion sickness as a result of being in a crowded room or

long travel in a car, ship or aircraft.

The old man felt nauseatic after travelling from Belait to Bandar Seri Begawan.

Orang tua itu merasa **ayung** selepas perjalanan jauh dari Kuala Belait ke Bandar Seri Begawan.

**THE TRAFFICKING IN AND THE ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS ARE VERY SERIOUS OFFENCES IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM AND THE PENALTY FOR SUCH OFFENCES IS DEATH.**