



Brunei to host ASEAN Summit 2013

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA, November

20 – The ASEAN Chairman plays a key role in Southeast Asia in strengthening ASEAN by helping to promote mutual agreement without compromising the interests of member countries or other partners, said 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 his *titah* (royal speech) during the 21st ASEAN Summit closing ceremony at the Peace Palace, Phnom Penh.



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 deliver a *titah* (royal speech) during the 21st ASEAN Summit closing ceremony at the Peace Palace, Phnom Penh.

These responsibilities, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan continued, are in line with the chairmanship guideline, under Article 32 of the ASEAN Charter. His Majesty also added that the ASEAN community has now multiplied since its establishment, with 40 per cent of its population consisting of young people who will be facing the full impact of globalisation.

Earlier in his *titah*, His Majesty expressed his appreciation and congratulated His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, for the successful organisation of the Summit, as well as the leadership and commitment given by both His Excellency and his government to ASEAN over the past few years.

Secretary-General and the Secretariat for their dedication and support.

Prior to the closing ceremony, the Monarch consented to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Leaders' Meeting, where he expressed his satisfaction with the development of the TPP

At the same time, His Majesty also commended the ASEAN

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Share religious knowledge

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November

3 – 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 his capacity as the Chancellor of Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University (UNISSA), consented to confer certificates to 133 graduates during the UNISSA's 2nd HafI Al-Takharruj at the Plenary Hall,

International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Present alongside His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was 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, who is also the Pro-Chancellor of UNISSA.

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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, Chancellor of Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University (UNISSA), delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at UNISSA's 2nd HafI Al-Takharruj.



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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 audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:



His Excellency K. Shanmugam, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore on November 3.



His Excellency Dato' Sri Dr. Ali bin Hamsa, Chief Secretary of Malaysia on November 3.

Her Majesty receives audiences

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:



Yang Berbahagia Dr.Seetha Shanmugam, spouse of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore on November 3.



Yang Berbahagia Datin Sri Dato Rohani binti Abdullah, spouse of the Chief Secretary of Malaysia on November 3.

The Crown Prince receives audiences

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received audiences at the Qashr Al-Meezaan from:



His Excellency Nguyen Truong Giang, Outgoing Ambassador of Viet Nam to Brunei Darussalam on November 12.



His Excellency Louise Le Vert, Outgoing Ambassador of Republic of France to Brunei Darussalam, on November 26.

Audience for Outgoing Ambassador

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah received audience at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan from His Excellency Louise Le Vert, Outgoing Ambassador of Republic of France to Brunei Darussalam on November 22.



Brunei to host ASEAN 2013

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Agreement; and presented his warm welcome to Mexico and Canada as two new partners of the agreement.

Delivering his *titah* in the presence of other ASEAN leaders, His Majesty mentioned the importance of the negotiation in Auckland, New Zealand, in reaching a conclusive agreement in several areas, as there is a common objective towards substantial work completion by the upcoming year.

His Majesty further affirmed that Brunei Darussalam is ready to cooperate with TPP partners to address any challenges in the discussions.

For the sultanate, the TPP – which is still in the works – is an ambitious free trade agreement, in which there are a number of significant challenges for a small developing nation to overcome. His Majesty was highly appreciative of the support given by the partners, especially in terms of providing better understanding of the issues arising.

Several key concerns on some of the Charters and suggested commitments were also shared in his *titah*. For Brunei, it is important for the agreement to have built-in flexibility and scope for capacity building, His Majesty stated, seeing it as a way forward in encountering the problems.

His Majesty also voiced his endorsement for the objectives of the 21st Century Agreement, which requires practical and pragmatic approach. In this matter, 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 symbolically accepting the responsibilities as Chairman of ASEAN 2013 from His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia.

relevant parties need to reach a consensus to ensure support from the partners and effective implementation, said the Monarch.

His Majesty also mentioned the need for those participating in discussions to be more flexible as well as innovative, and work in the spirit of cooperation and friendship in ensuring success in every discourse.

Aside from two other bilateral meetings with the His Excellency John Phillip Key, Prime Minister of New

Zealand; as well as His Excellency Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India; His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, along with other country leaders, also attended the launching of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations, which serves as an initiative to enhance the engagement of ASEAN Member States and their six dialogue partners in the establishment of a free trade area and a comprehensive economic cooperation.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attending two separate bilateral meetings between His Excellency John Phillip Key, the Prime Minister of New Zealand (left) and (right) His Excellency Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of India.

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The last day of the 21st ASEAN Summit consisted of the 7th East Asia Summit (EAS) Retreat Session.

During the session, His Majesty stressed that efforts made in achieving regional and international peace, stability and security are constantly confronted with geo-political and economic challenges. On the other hand, country leaders are also faced with the uncertainty of public access to food and energy, due to the effects of climate change and the threats of long-term economic and financial slowdown.

His Majesty believes that the EAS, as a collective regional association, will play a central role in pursuing activities that will promote understanding, culture and trust in strengthening alliances. His Majesty suggested a few initiatives to support educational programmes that will encourage interactions among youths, as well as other efforts to prioritise tolerance and respect between countries, such as the Alliance of Civilisations and the Global Movement of Moderates.

These, His Majesty affirmed, will add a new dimension to the areas of cooperation and give a new meaning to their endeavours.

The Monarch also brought up the situation in Gaza and the sufferings of the Palestinians, urging international communities to find a lasting and sustainable resolution. His Majesty also advised the communities to identify the values of tolerance and understanding in achieving peace to resolve the conflict, as well as other conflicts in the rest of the world.



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 Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) meeting with His Excellency Barack Obama, President of the United States of America.

Ending his *titah* at the session, His Majesty further expressed his hope for leaders to put their opportunities to good use in promoting the said principles.

Later during the day, His Majesty announced at the closing ceremony that Brunei Darussalam has been given the honour and responsibility of chairing the 22nd ASEAN Summit, where he stated that the responsibilities have grown larger and more complex in every Summit.

His Majesty also announced the theme of the 22nd ASEAN Summit: 'Our People, Our Future Together'.

ASEAN Economic Community 2015

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA, November 18 - 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 attend the Opening Ceremony of the 21st ASEAN Summit; the Plenary Session; Signing Ceremony of the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration; the Meeting with ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC); and the Retreat Session of the 21st ASEAN Summit at the Peace Palace, Phnom Penh.

Upon arrival, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was greeted by His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and spouse, Madame Lokchumteav Kattiprithbindit.

Officiated by the Prime Minister of Cambodia, the Opening Ceremony was attended by ASEAN leaders as well as representatives from other nations and their delegations.

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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 country leaders who attended the 21st ASEAN Summit.

ASEAN Economic Community 2015



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 shaking hands with His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, and spouse, Madam Lokchumteav Kattiprithbint Bun Rany Hun Sen.

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The event also consisted of the launching of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR), followed by the Plenary Session, where the leaders were invited to deliver their statements.

During the session, His Majesty presented a *titah* (royal speech), highlighting the importance of maintaining the momentum to strengthen community building initiatives as well as to enhance their involvement with Dialogue partners.

His Majesty added that it is vital to implement the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) commitments in order to achieve the targets by 2015 and to create a more attractive, competitive and stable region.

This, His Majesty explained, will demonstrate their commitment towards economic prosperity and creating a conducive environment for ASEAN to implement its goals under the Pillars of ASEAN Economic Community in attaining greater political and social stability. To complement these needs, continuous work needs to be ensured in establishing networks that will bring the ASEAN community closer together.

His Majesty also added that over the past few decades, ASEAN has continued to benefit from working with Dialogue Partners, and it is timely to review the relationship and work towards maximising cooperation in bolstering the development of the ASEAN Community.

According to His Majesty, the Summit serves as a platform to coordinate effective and efficient approaches as well as efforts to strengthen collaboration between parties for mutual benefit.



His Majesty in a meeting with the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC).

One of the ways in which this can be achieved, His Majesty further stated, is by reorganising meetings as there is a need to focus on strategic discussions.

It is also important to have an effective Secretariat to support the works and obtain contributions from Dialogue partners, especially when it comes to capacity building and resource consolidation. His Majesty also expressed his belief in the essentiality of the continuous efforts of the ASEAN Secretary-General.

After the session, a Signing Ceremony for the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration took place at the Nuon Srey Hall of the Peace Palace.

His Majesty also attended the 21st ASEAN Summit Retreat Session later during the day, where he emphasised the need for country leaders in ASEAN to show collective leadership and engage

with partners constructively, through the use of existing mechanisms – that is, their strengths and capabilities – in helping ASEAN realise its community building goals.

In his *titah*, His Majesty urged the leaders to take lead in the agenda settings and priorities in the region.

ASEAN, His Majesty stated, has enjoyed peace, security and stability for many years through its role in driving regional integration and bringing economic prosperity to the region. On the other hand, ASEAN continues to be confronted with various difficulties, such as ongoing territorial disputes; competing initiatives in the Asia-Pacific; as well as challenges in managing the interests of Dialogue partners. These, in turn, call into question the credibility of ASEAN and its relevance.

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'One Community, One Destiny'... His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih 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 join other ASEAN leaders for a group photo session.

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In this regard, His Majesty stressed the importance of staying up-to-date with issues that are of significance to the region's partners; as well as prioritising the communities' economic agendas in ensuring the competitiveness and sustainability of the region, and in turning ASEAN into a major contributor to

the world economy. His Majesty further expressed his hope for the support of leaders and Dialogue Partners in ensuring ASEAN's central role and in addressing the people's needs. Prior to the retreat session, another meeting was held with the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC).

His Majesty also consented to visit the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh to pay tribute to the Late King Father of the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk, where he conveyed his deepest condolences to His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia and Her Majesty Queen Norodom Monineath, King Mother.

His Majesty highlights several areas to strengthen cooperation

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA, November 19 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih 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 attend the ASEAN Gala Night with other leaders of the region on the second day of the 21st ASEAN Summit at the Diamond Island International Conference Center, Phnom Penh.

The Gala Dinner was hosted by His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and his spouse, Madam Lok Chumteav Kittipritthindit Bun Rany Hun Sen.

Prior to the ceremony, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also took part in the 4th ASEAN-United States Leaders' Meeting at the Peace Palace, where he stated that the dialogue between ASEAN and the United States of America continues to grow across all areas of cooperation and continuous discussion is hoped to be carried out.

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih 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 during the Gala Night with His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and spouse, Madam Lok Chumteav Kittipritthindit Bun Rany Hun Sen.

His Majesty highlights several areas to strengthen cooperation



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 other leaders of the region during the ASEAN Gala Night at the Diamond Island International Conference Center, Phnom Penh.

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Delivering his *titah* (royal speech) at the meeting with other ASEAN leaders and His Excellency Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, His Majesty suggested a few motions to strengthen the collaboration between both parties, such as capacity and expertise building with the States in disaster management, cross-border crime and combating terrorism.

On the other hand, there is the need to reinforce the Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (TIFA), said the Monarch, who welcomed suggestions from the United States to enhance economic cooperation through the Expanded Economic Engagement (E3) Initiatives.

His Majesty further expressed his gratification over the English Language

Enrichment Programme for ASEAN, encouraging other ASEAN leaders to take part in the development of the project; and commanded the Eminent Persons Group for providing a practical solution for reviewing the collaboration between ASEAN and the United States in the long-run.

Ending his *titah* at the meeting, His Majesty then conveyed his gratitude to His Excellency President Obama for his commitment towards the peace and prosperity of the region.

His Majesty also attended the ASEAN-China Summit with other ASEAN leaders, along with the His Excellency Wen Jiabao, Premier of the People's Republic of China.

During the session, His Majesty highlighted three main areas to be

explored and developed in the ASEAN-China partnership.

The first of which was that all efforts should be supported through regular exchange programmes to build trust and confidence. Secondly, the Monarch continued, a more extensive coordination is required in addressing the non-traditional security issues and implementing the Declaration of the Conduct (DOC) Parties in the South China Sea. The third main area is the strengthening of the political security and socio-cultural ties, which will contribute to the economic prosperity of the region.

His Majesty also reiterated that there is a need to further enhance trade and economic relations, with the expected accession of Hong Kong into the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement (FTA), in order to gain the public sector's interest and involvement in the region, as well as to utilise the ASEAN-China Centre in Beijing.

His Majesty further encouraged ASEAN Economic Ministers to conduct a roadshow in China and welcome their counterparts to the region.

ASEAN and China have developed a strong alliance over the last few decades, said His Majesty, stating his eagerness to witness continuous growth in their partnership.

At the 15th ASEAN-Japan Summit held on the same day, His Majesty expressed the need to strive for sustainable energy in the future and balance economic as well as environmental interests.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other leaders of other countries at the ASEAN-China Summit.



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 ASEAN-US dialogue.

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Present among other leaders of the region and His Excellency Yoshihiko Noda, Prime Minister of Japan, His Majesty consented to deliver a *titah*; stating that Japan has been a dynamic and enduring partner for ASEAN and has helped the association in many key areas towards community building, particularly when it comes to disaster management and their support to the ASEAN Coordination Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre).

Other areas include connectivity, which can contribute to the narrowing of the development gap in the region, said His Majesty, expressing his hope for Japan to formalise its relations with BIMP-EAGA as an official development partner.

The Monarch further conveyed his appreciation to Japan for their efforts towards people-to-people relations through various youth programmes such as the Kizuna Project; and added that there are several potential scopes that can solidify the partnership between ASEAN and Japan through the 10-Year Strategic Economic Cooperation Road Map.

In ensuring sustainability, His Majesty hoped that the collaboration between the two parties will bring into focus the core issues that have direct impact on the region's population. His Majesty also looked forward to the finalised agreement under the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP), which will set a foundation for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and further broaden economic cooperation.

His Majesty further mentioned that Brunei Darussalam places great importance on food and energy security. With regards to



His Majesty Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other leaders of other region at the ASEAN-US dialogue.

food, ASEAN has established the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve Agreement (APTERRA). His Majesty also believed that there is still more to learn on how to increase agricultural productivity and ensure supply stability, as well as explore other food sources.

At the end of the *titah*, His Majesty voiced his anticipation for a stronger sense of collaboration in the future, especially with the upcoming 40th anniversary of the ASEAN-Japan cooperation next year, and the Commemorative Summit being held in Japan later in the year.

His Majesty also consented to conduct a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Yoshihiko Noda; where the two country leaders exchanged views on several matters concerning their bilateral cooperation, as well as other relevant regional and international issues.

Also attending the ASEAN Plus Three Summit, His Majesty asserted in his *titah*; that it is crucial to constantly reinforce all areas of cooperation such as peace, security and stability, as taking these matters into account is the main foundation for all countries. He further elaborated that more emphasis should be placed on political-security cooperation by building trust and confidence through dialogue and consultation.

His Majesty also showed his gratitude for the achievements made over the years, especially in terms of finance and food security.

Looking forward to the launching of the ASEAN Framework on Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), His Majesty affirmed that the framework will further integrate the collaborative works done with ASEAN's Plus One partners.

Another important area to explore is education; under which, the ASEAN Education Ministers have officially gathered earlier in the year, said the Monarch.

His Majesty also demonstrated his support for the Statement of Connectivity, and brought up the need to encourage interaction and exchanges between youths in order to improve people-to-people relations.

The East Asia Vision Group Two Report, he concluded, will be useful for future collaborations; and contribute to economic relations which can be utilised for the Work Plan renewal.

During the 15th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit with His Excellency Lee Myung-bak, President of the Republic of Korea; His Majesty further expressed his acknowledgement for the continued support of the Republic of Korea in its efforts to build the ASEAN community and centralise ASEAN in various regional processes.

Presenting his *titah* to other ASEAN leaders, the Monarch stated his confidence that the Mission of the Republic of Korea to ASEAN will facilitate a stronger cooperation between the Republic of Korea and ASEAN.

His Majesty further expressed his appreciation to the Republic of Korea for their various environmental programmes, as well as His Excellency President Lee Mung-bak, for recently supporting the ASEAN-Korea Biodiversity Seminar in Brunei Darussalam; and looked forward to seeing other similar collaborative activities, particularly in information sharing and technology transfer.

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His Majesty highlights several areas to strengthen cooperation



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 leaders during the ASEAN-JAPAN Summit.

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His Majesty also congratulated the Republic of Korea for the successful hosting of the Yeosu International Expo in the Republic of Korea, and indicated his anticipation for such activities to raise awareness among the public and build greater understanding.

of the most integral parts of ASEAN, and the ASEAN-Korea Centre in Jakarta has been doing very well since its establishment, His Majesty further added, hoping that the centre will incite public consciousness and encourage private sectors to participate in the Free Trade Agreement.

His Majesty also conveyed his appreciation to His Excellency President Lee Mung-bak for his contribution and commitment to the dialogue relations, as it was his final meeting with ASEAN before resigning as the President of the Republic of Korea.

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People-to-people relations serve as one

Before ending his *titah* for the session,



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other ASEAN leaders during the ASEAN Plus Three Commemorative Summit.

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On the other hand, India continues to be an important ASEAN partner although there is the need to strengthen economic cooperation in the field of investment and services, as stated by His Majesty in his *titah* during the 10th ASEAN-India Summit.

At the session attended by His Excellency Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, His Majesty mentioned that since the establishment of the ASEAN-India relations which will soon be followed by the 20th ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit, the bilateral trade between both partners has exceeded the targets set for the year 2012.

His Majesty also hoped that the outcome of the dialogue session will help drive the establishment of the ASEAN Framework on Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

The Monarch further expressed his appreciation to His Excellency Manmohan Singh and the government of India for their support towards the Connectivity Master Plan.

The ongoing Car Rally and Sudarshini Expedition, he added, are excellent reminders of the history, politics, trade and cultural relations in which India continues to play a positive role.

His Majesty highlighted that it is



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 other ASEAN Leaders at the 15th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit.

important to strengthen all areas under the Action Plan, including security, to maintain peace and prosperity in the region.

His Majesty was also pleased to note that the Eminent Persons Group has come up with a few recommendations to bring their relationship to a more strategic level.

To conclude his *titah*, His Majesty further extended his gratitude to His Excellency the Prime Minister of India for his invitation to New Delhi for the Commemorative Summit in the upcoming month.

Chairing the series of meetings

and discussions conducted during the second day of the Summit was the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The 21st ASEAN Summit reached several milestones, including the establishment of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, in addition to the Phnom Penh Statement on the Verification of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration.

The Summit also witnessed the appointment of the new ASEAN Secretary-General for the period of January 2013 to December 2018, His Excellency Le Luong Minh from the



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with other ASEAN Leaders during the ASEAN-India Summit.

Share religious knowledge

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His Majesty also delivered a *titah* (royal speech): reminding the graduates to protect the image of the institution, while further enhancing their necessary skills and qualities.

The Monarch further highlighted that the students' roles are not only restricted to the campus, but they should also play their parts in sharing religious knowledge to the public.

Touching on the Syari'ah Penal Code Order, which had been commended earlier in the year and is to be implemented in the sultanate, His Majesty also expressed his gratification as UNISSA is now offering a Double Degree Programme under Bachelor of Law and Bachelor of Syari'ah Law (LL.B and BSL).

"With this, it is without doubt that we can trust UNISSA to play a proactive role in our efforts towards the implementation of the Penal Code, particularly in terms of providing the necessary human resources," said His Majesty.

Further suggesting that UNISSA can potentially work with relevant parties to provide exposure to legal practitioners as well as the public on the law, His Majesty also stated his trust that the academicians are qualified to serve as the sheet anchor in this approach.

Among those receiving their certificates at the ceremony were 22 master's degree



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, as Chancellor of Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University (UNISSA) 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 Pro-Chancellor of UNISSA, gracing UNISSA's 2nd Hafi Al-Takharuj.

recipients, alongside 104 bachelor's degree candidates and seven graduates who were presented with their diplomas.

To date, UNISSA has signed seven Memorandums of Understandings (MoUs) with international higher institutions, in addition to 14 other MoUs that were signed in the previous years resulting in a total of 21 international universities.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting certificates to graduates.

His Majesty arrives at Vientiane for the 9th ASEM Summit



VIENTIANE, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, November 4 - 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 arrived in Vientiane, the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Laos) to attend the 9th Asia-Europe Meeting (9th ASEM) Summit on November 5 and 6.

The 9th ASEM Summit brings together the Heads of State and The Government of the 48 partners from Asia and Europe. The theme of the 9th ASEM Summit is 'Friends for Peace, Partners for Prosperity'.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddein Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam upon his arrival at Vientiane for the 9th Asia-Europe Meeting Summit.

This year marks the 16th anniversary of the establishment of ASEM. Since its inception in Bangkok in March 1996, the ASEM process has made significant contributions to the promotion of mutual understanding, peace, stability, development and prosperity of Asia and Europe.

The 9th ASEM Summit will discuss regional and international issues of common interest and concern, including, among others, food and energy security, sustainable development, financial and economic crisis, climate change, natural disaster response, socio-cultural cooperation and the future direction of ASEM.

9th Asia-Europe Meeting Summit inaugurated



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, being greeted by His Excellency Valclav Klaus, an ASEM member representative from Czech Republic, prior to the group photo session.

VIENTIANE, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, November 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 9th Asia-Europe Meeting (9th ASEM) Summit in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Laos).

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was greeted on arrival at the main lobby of the National Convention Centre by His Excellency Choummaly Sayasone, President of Laos, and spouse; and His Excellency Thongsing Thammavong, Prime Minister of Laos and spouse.

His Majesty and other ASEM leaders then proceeded for a photo session at the main lobby before making their way to the Opening Ceremony of the summit at the Champa Grand Hall.

The Opening Ceremony was presided by the ASEM Enlargement Ceremony. The ceremony began with welcoming remarks by the Prime Minister of Laos, Chairman of the 9th ASEM and ASEM Coordinator for ASEAN. He welcomed three new members of ASEM, namely Bangladesh, Norway and Switzerland. With the new members, national flags of the three countries were hoisted on the stage to mark the change in the number of ASEM members from 48 to 51.

Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh; His Excellency Jens Stoltenberg, Prime Minister of Norway; and Her Excellency Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf, President of Switzerland, were then ushered to the stage as each of them delivered their remarks.

The Opening Ceremony also saw the opening address by His Excellency Choummaly Sayasone, President of Laos, and subsequently statements by the President of the European Council; the Prime Minister of Pakistan; and the President of the European Commission.

After the Opening Ceremony, the meeting began with the Plenary Session I, where ASEM leaders discussed economic and financial issues that have been challenging the global economy.

The session shared experiences from the financial crisis, economic and financial restructuring, recovery, green economy, reforming international financial institutions, as well as trade and investment facilitation and liberalisation.

Shortly after the Plenary Session I, His Majesty left the National Convention Centre for the Don Chan Palace.

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9th Asia-Europe Meeting Summit inaugurated



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 other leaders the 9th ASEM Summit.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the President of Viet Nam, His Excellency Nguyen Ten Dung at the Gala Dinner, hosted by His Excellency Choummaly Sayasone, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and spouse, Madam Keosaychay Sayasone in conjunction with the 9th ASEM Summit.

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Earlier in the morning, His Majesty held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Choummaly Sayasone, President of Laos, at the Presidential Palace.

Upon arrival, His Majesty was greeted by the President of Laos, passed the static guard and headed towards the meeting room.

In the evening, His Majesty departed for the Gala Dinner with the President of Laos and his spouse. The Gala Dinner took place at the Don Chan Palace Hotel.

The arrival of His Majesty was welcomed by His Excellency Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy Prime Minister, who is also Minister of Foreign Affairs and was later escorted to the Reception Room.

His Majesty and other ASEM leaders were later welcomed by the President of the People's Democratic Republic of Lao and the Prime Minister of Laos along with their spouses and were later escorted to the Gala Dinner Hall.

Accompanying His Majesty at the meeting were Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office and Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II.



His Majesty sitting alongside ASEM member representative, the President of Bulgaria, His Excellency Rosen Asenov Plevneliev during the Plenary Session I.



His Majesty participating in discussions on global economic and financial issues during the Plenary Session I.

'Human dimension' important in collaborative partnerships



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, as the Lead Speaker for the Asian region, consented to present his *titah* during the agenda on 'Social and Cultural Cooperation' at the Plenary Session III on the second day of ASEM.

VIENTIANE, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, November 6 - During the Plenary Session III, on the second day of the 9th Asia-Europe Meeting (9th ASEM) Summit, 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, as the Lead Speaker for the Asian region for the session's agenda on 'Social and Cultural Cooperation' presented a *titah* (royal speech) emphasising the importance of the continuation of the 'human dimension' in developing trust through personal interaction.

Noting its potential for long-lasting effect in their alliance, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam emphasised that it is this 'human' element that gives meaning in their relationship, despite the geographical distance between Asia and Europe.

His Majesty also acknowledged the efforts made in bringing the people of the two regions together through various platforms within ASEM: such as Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF), Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP), Asia-Europe People's Forum (AEPF) and ASEM Eco-Innovation Center (ASEIC).

On behalf of the Asian region, His Majesty further applauded the tireless efforts undertaken by the Asia-Europe Foundation, as well as the initiatives taken up by the respective member states, in supporting social and cultural exchanges.

According to the Monarch, it is these platforms which have demonstrated the human connection that binds Asians and Europeans in unity.

His Majesty also stated that with the occurrences of several unfortunate global incidents nowadays, there is the need to focus on establishing a peaceful culture for all communities – particularly for the youths – to encourage dialogue and understanding between the diverse range of cultures in ASEM in globally supporting cross-cultural understanding.

His Majesty also emphasised that ASEM has the responsibility to provide the confidence and leadership in addressing this issue and looked forward to the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Doha next month.

Another challenge closely related to climate change is food

security. In the case of Brunei Darussalam, said His Majesty, the country is focused on building up production capacity and infrastructure. It has invested in an Agro-Technology Park, which aims to become a regional 'hi-tech' centre for food research, logistics and processing.

The Monarch further mentioned the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve: A key regional project which Brunei Darussalam is working on.

In this regard, His Majesty believed that ASEM is on the right track in terms of creating all the opportunities for working together and learning from one another.

His Majesty also said that education is still a practical approach to achieving dialogue and understanding among youths.

Increasing the number of student exchange programmes through university collaboration, His Majesty stated, would be a good way to achieve this aim as the percentage of Asian students studying in Europe is far more than that of European students studying in Asia.

It would be invaluable, His Majesty emphasized, if these figures can be balanced by getting more European students to choose Asia as their place of study. Not only will students be able to exchange their experiences and know-how as they prepare for employment, they will come to respect and appreciate the cultural diversity between them as they interact.

In this regard, His Majesty called for more joint degrees and short-term programmes to be developed between the universities of Asia and Europe.

His Majesty announced that Brunei Darussalam will be welcoming ASEM students to the country in May next year to participate in a workshop titled 'Challenges to Biodiversity Conservation in Tropical Ecosystems'. The workshop aims to draw different ideas and perspectives from the students in dealing with environmental problems which also has an impact on their diverse backgrounds and cultures.

His Majesty departed from the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Laos) later during the day, and was bid farewell at the Wattay International Airport by His Excellency Phongsavat Boupha, Minister at the Office of the President of Laos; His Excellency Phouangkeo Langsy, Director General of Asia Pacific and Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Laos, as well as His Excellency Dr. Haji Emran bin Haji Bahar, Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Laos.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was bid farewell by His Excellency Phongsavat Boupha, Minister at the Office of the President of Laos, at the Wattay International Airport.

ASEM continues to tackle global issues

VIENTIANE, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, November 6 – The 9th Asia-Europe Meeting (9th ASEM) Summit continues to play a unique role in bringing the two regions together to address many global challenges and issues such as terrorism, natural disaster management, food security and climate change.

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 stated the matter in a *titah* (royal speech) on the second day of 9th Asia-Europe Meeting (9th ASEM) Summit meeting, during the Plenary Session II. The meeting took place at the Laos National Convention Centre.

His Majesty asserted that ASEM continues to play a unique role in bringing both regions together to address many global challenges

such as terrorism, natural disaster management, food security and climate change.

Since the last ASEM meeting in Brussels two years ago, the number of global challenges facing the two regions has grown more complex and challenging.

His Majesty also highlighted Brunei Darussalam's initiatives in reducing energy intensity for up to 45 per cent at 2005 level by the year 2035. The Monarch said that currently Brunei Darussalam is working closely with partners from Malaysia and Indonesia to conserve a tropical rainforest area of as large as 220,000 square kilometres in the Borneo Island.

His Majesty added that to complement these efforts, Brunei Darussalam, will soon become a member of the Coral Triangle Initiative.

Al-Falaah School End of Year Closing *Ihtifaal* Ceremony



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 Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, attending Al-Falaah School's (AFS) Final Term Closing *Ihtifaal* Ceremony and certificate presentation for the school's Year 3 and Year 6 students.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 24 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddein 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, consented to attend Al-Falaah School's (AFS) Final Term Closing *Ihtifaal* Ceremony and certificate presentation for the school's Year 3 and Year 6 students at the AFS main hall in Sungai Akar.

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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 and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam in a group photo with the Al-Falaah school's teachers and staffs.

Al-Falaah School End of Year Closing *Ihtifaal* Ceremony



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The ceremony began with the national anthem, followed by a recitation of Surah Yaa Siin verse 53 to 83 by the students of AFS, which was led by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel.

A welcoming address was then presented by Dayang Hajah Sharifah Mastura Al-Sagoff binti Saiyed Zain, the school's Deputy Principal, who stated that since the school was gifted a new building, the demand to join AFS has increased remarkably that there are now a lot of students on their waiting list.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also consented to present the students with certificates and gifts to 51 male students from Class K3 and eight Year 6 students.

Among those who received the certificates and prizes was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel, who was also a recipient of the Best Student from Class K3.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to present an award and certificate to His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel (left) and (right) Her Majesty presenting a certificate to a female student of Al-Falaah school.

Al-Falaah School End of Year Closing *Ihtifaal* Ceremony



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 Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to take a group photo with His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah as well as other students.

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Meanwhile, Her Majesty presented the certificates and gifts to the female students consisting of 48 students from Class K3 and nine students from the Year 6 Class.

Their Majesties were also presented with a *pesambah* from the members of the event committee.

Earlier in the event, the ceremony was enlightened with a number of entertainments including sketches, storytelling and a nasyid performance by the Class K2 students,

which was also joined by Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah.

A closing prayer was then recited by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel.

Prior to leaving the ceremony, Their Majesties consented to sign a commemorative parchment and took part in a group photo session with the teachers and staff members of AFS.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah during the performances.

His Majesty receives audience from President of Viet Nam

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 27 – 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 Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, received in audience His Excellency Truong Tan Sang, President of The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and spouse Madam Mai Thi Hanh, at the Istana Nurul Iman during the first day of their three-day State Visit to Brunei Darussalam.

At the event, His Excellency Truong Tan Sang and Madam Mai Thi Hanh were introduced to the members of the royal family; State Dignitaries; Cabinet Ministers; Deputy Ministers, the Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF); the Commissioner of the Royal Brunei Police Force; foreign envoys to Brunei, as well as Permanent Secretaries at the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade along with their spouses.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty, in return, were introduced to the members of the President's delegation, which included His Excellency Nguyen Thien Nhan, Deputy Prime Minister; His Excellency Pham Binh Minh, Viet Nam Foreign Affairs Minister; His Excellency Nguyen Truong Giang, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to Brunei Darussalam; and other senior officials from the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

Shortly after, an Audience Ceremony was held at the palace's Cheradi Laila Kencana. Apart from Their Majesties and the Vietnamese delegation, the session was also attended by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah,



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 Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam; with His Excellency Truong Tan Sang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and spouse, Madam Mai Thi Hanh receiving the Royal Salute followed by national anthem of each country.

the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatol Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, the Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam; as well as other members of the royal family.

After the ceremony, His Majesty and the President proceeded to the Baitul Masyuarah for a bilateral meeting, which was then followed by a Signing Ceremony

between the Authority Monetary of Brunei Darussalam (AMBD) and the State Bank of Vietnam.

Present to participate in the signing on behalf of AMBD was Dato Paduka Haji Rosli bin Haji Sabtu, Managing Director of AMBD, who signed the agreement with His Excellency Dang Thang Binh, Deputy Governor of the State Bank of Viet Nam.

The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding also took place at the event between Petroleum Brunei – which was represented by Dato Paduka Haji Matsatejo Sokiaw, the company's Chief Executive Officer; and PetroVietnam – which was represented by Mr. Do Van Hau, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Viet Nam Oil and Gas Group. Both signing ceremonies were witnessed by His Majesty and His Excellency Truong Tan Sang.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Truong Tan Sang inspecting the guard of honour by the members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.



Their Majesties were introduced to the members of the President's delegation, which included His Excellency Nguyen Thien Nhan, Deputy Prime Minister; His Excellency Pham Binh Minh, Viet Nam Foreign Affairs Minister; His Excellency Nguyen Truong Giang, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to Brunei Darussalam and other senior officials from the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

His Majesty receives audience from President of Viet Nam

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Also present during the bilateral meeting and both signings were His Royal Highness Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah.

Later in the day, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri hosted a Royal Banquet for the official visit of the Vietnamese President and his spouse.

Highlighting the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and Viet Nam in his *titah* (royal speech) at the event: His Majesty expressed his gratitude for the strong alliance that both countries share across Southeast Asia, especially as members of ASEAN.

Brunei Darussalam and Viet Nam, said the Monarch, are bonded together by a very special memory.

His Majesty further recalled, with great pleasure, the hoisting of the national flag of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in Bandar Seri Begawan, when Viet Nam was officially added as a member of ASEAN in 1995.

Three years after Viet Nam's admission into ASEAN, the country became the host for the 6th ASEAN Summit, with the launching of the Hanoi Plan of Action and the successive pathway towards the ASEAN Community, which is hoped to be realised in two years' time, His Majesty continued.

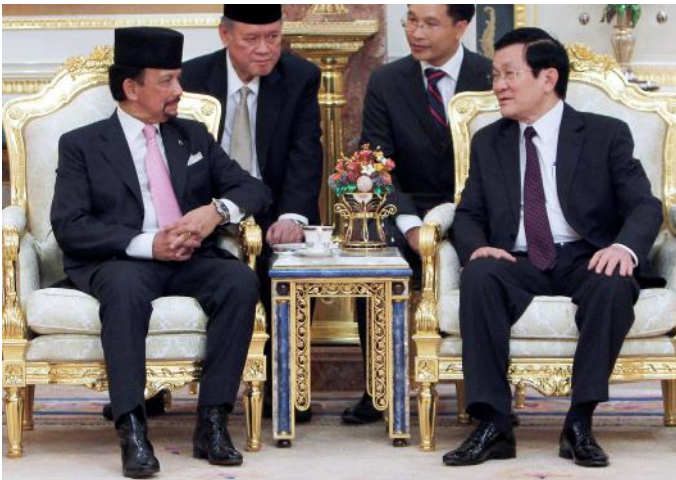


His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and members of the royal family witnessing the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Petroleum Brunei and PetroVietnam.

Since then, Brunei Darussalam has witnessed Viet Nam's remarkable growth, both in terms of industrial and economic progress, as well as the development the capital city of Hanoi into a centre for finance and business.

His Majesty also expressed his admiration for Viet Nam's commitment to regional and international understanding and congratulated all of the nation's achievements.

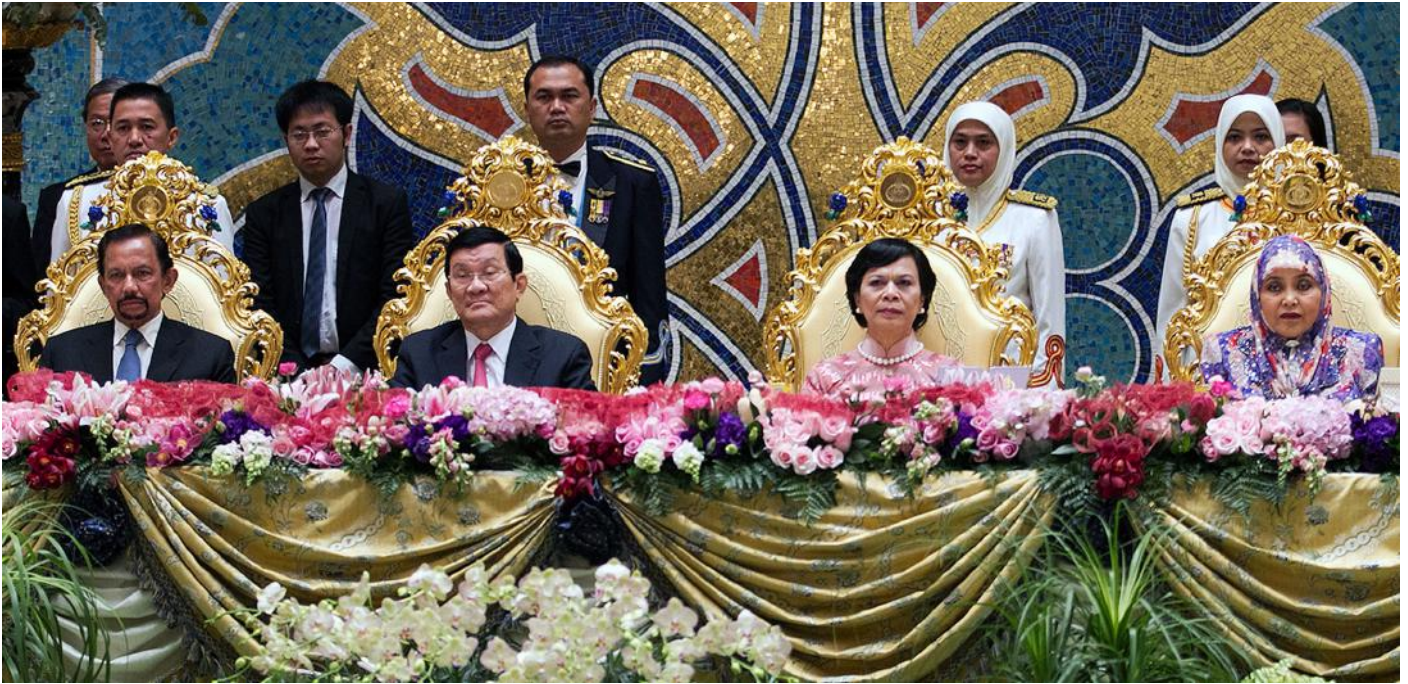
The Royal Banquet, which was held at the Istana Nurul Iman, was also attended by members of the royal family.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam receiving audience from His Excellency Truong Tan Sang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and spouse, Madam Mai Thi Hanh during their State Visit at the Istana Nurul Iman.



Other members of the royal family also present at the audience ceremony.



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 Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam; with His Excellency Truong Tan Sang, President of The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and his spouse, Madam Mai Thi Hanh attending the Royal Banquet at the Istana Nurul Iman.

During the Royal Banquet, His Majesty delivered a titah (royal speech), stating that the relationship between Brunei Darussalam and The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam continues to develop over the past 20 years.

The relationship encompasses various beneficial fields including technical and educational assistance, as well as the organisation of activities in trade, agriculture and defense.

Earlier, His Majesty stated that this year marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomacy between Brunei Darussalam and Viet Nam, and it is timely for both nations to celebrate this milestone.

His Majesty also expressed his appreciation for the strong alliance shared by both countries through Asia, especially as ASEAN member countries.



Other members of the royal family who were also present at the Royal Banquet.

Launching of Brunei Sports Convention and Expo 2012

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 6 – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince as Deputy Sultan, graced the Opening Ceremony of the Brunei Sports Convention and Expo 2012, which was held for six days until November 11, 2012. The event was organised by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports in collaboration with agencies and strategic partners.

In his *sabda* (royal speech) at the event, His Royal Highness said that sports is one of the direct contributors to a community's well-being and harmony.

His Royal Highness highlighted that engaging in physical activities is considered as one of the significant components towards a healthy life, as well as in preventing chronic non-communicable diseases such as cancer, heart problems, diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity.

The Crown Prince also added that in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 66th birthday celebration on July 15, 2011, His Majesty, among other matters, stated in his *titah* (royal speech) that: "To be healthy, we must have a disciplined healthy lifestyle and a healthy diet. Amongst the traits of a healthy lifestyle is to exercise regularly".

His Royal Highness further mentioned that His Majesty's Government has allocated appropriate provisions to build additional leisure and sport facilities, particularly those undertaken by the Ministry of Education; Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports; Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Development.

In general, said His Royal Highness, the country's achievement in sports is still at a level that requires coordinated strategy and efforts from various agencies. Especially if the country wishes for sports to become a source of sustainable economic activities.

According to the Crown Prince, the aim of the convention was to formulate an integrated and viable sports ecosystem in order to produce respectable sports athletes. On the other hand, participants of the event would also be able to learn and emulate the best practices, as well as study and analyse the experiences of regional and international champions.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince as Deputy Sultan delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) at the Opening Ceremony of the Brunei Sports Convention and Expo 2012.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah launching the Brunei Sports Convention and Expo 2012.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah touring the exhibition in conjunction with the Brunei Sports Convention and Expo.



Incorporating the theme, 'Sports for Excellence', the convention was aimed at achieving the objectives of three main sports sectors: Sports for All, Sports for High Performance and Sports Industry.

It is also hoped that the event will provide an overview on the focus and direction of sports to the country. Following the ceremony, His Royal Highness also consented to tour the expo exhibition.