



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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Audience with His Majesty the Sultan for Malaysian delegation

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam granted an audience at the Istana Nurul Iman on September 3 to a delegation from Malaysia.

The delegation - from the Istana Negara Malaysia, was led by Yang Amat Berbahagia Orang Kaya Bendahara Seri Maharaja Perak Tuan Haji Syed Zahirudin bin

Syed Hassan.

The delegation conveyed to the Brunei monarch a message from His Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Dipertuan Agong of Malaysia, Sultan Azlan Muhibuddin Shah. Accompanying the delegation at the audience was the Malaysian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Dato' Mustaffa bin Haji Mohammad.

During a two-day visit to Brunei Darussalam starting August 3, the Malaysian Prime Minister Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad conveyed an invitation from the Malaysian King for His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to make an official visit to Malaysia. The Brunei ruler himself invited the Malaysian Prime Minister to make a similar visit to Brunei Darussalam.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 30 September, 1991. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-225941 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.

Two new diplomats to Brunei Darussalam



The Iraqi ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Hisham Tabaochali (above) and his Chilean counterpart, His Excellency Jaime Lagos Erazo (below) presented their credentials to His Majesty during separate ceremonies at the Istana Nurul Iman on August 28.



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to receive the credentials of two new non-resident foreign diplomats.

The first to present his credential to His Majesty at the Istana Nurul Iman on August 28 was the Iraqi Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Hisham Tabaochali.

The 62-year-old diplomat, who is a law graduate from the Iraqi College of Law, joined his country's foreign service in 1947. In 1976, he was promoted to the ambassadorial post as Iraqi envoy to Algeria until 1978. The same year he became Iraq's ambassador to Indonesia and concurrently accredited to the Republic of Singapore and New Zealand up to 1982. He also served in the Republic of Philippines as well as in Italy and Malta.

Presently, His Excellency Mr. Hisham Tabaochali is also his country's ambassador to Malaysia, since 1987.

The second foreign diplomat to present his credential to the Brunei monarch was the Chilean Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Jaime Lagos Erazo.

The 52-year-old envoy is a law graduate from the University of Chile. Mr. Jaime Lagos Erazo joined the Chilean foreign service in 1963.

His Excellency had previously served at Iraq's embassies in the Federal Republic of Germany and the Soviet Union. Later, he held the positions of Counsellor and Minister Counsellor in the Permanent Delegation of Chile in Geneva, from 1974 to 1979; and the Minister Counsellor to the United Nations from 1981 to 1983; as well as Charge D' Affairs in Denmark and Poland.

Both the Chilean and Iraqi ambassadors, both of whom are based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, were granted separate audiences by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam after they presented their credentials.

Voctech education must be geared to the country's needs

Vocational and technical institutions in Brunei Darussalam need to produce versatile graduates who possess not only various skills but are also able to adapt themselves to any required job situation. Towards this end, vocational courses would be 'module' and 'competency-based' in its curriculum content.

Speaking at the second graduation ceremony of the Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB) held at the International Convention Centre on 1 August, the Education Minister further spoke about the various steps being taken to further develop vocational and technical education in Brunei Darussalam and its relevance to the country.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Aziz, the Education Minister, said technical and vocational education was first introduced in the country in the seventies with the opening of two vocational schools in Kuala Belait and the Brunei Muara district.

To date, there are seven government financed technical and vocational institutions in the country, offering part-time and full-time courses on a wide range of subjects. This would help provide an adequate number of educated workforce, specifically tradesmen and technicians who are appropriately trained and skilled, both of which are prerequisites to the country's growth and development.

The importance of technical and vocational education as a means of assisting to meet the current and future economic and social objectives, has also been recognised in the National Development Plans.

In its early stages, vocational education in the country was geared towards training Form Three school leavers to become semi-skilled in their trade, the Yang Berhormat said.

Technical training for Form Five school leavers developed rapidly in the early 1980s. It further developed in the mid-1980s with the establishment of ITB in 1986. ITB is charged with producing graduates with higher national diplomas to meet the requirements of the government and the private sector, consistent with the



His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda Al-Muhtadee Billah presented certificates to the latest batch of graduates of Institut Teknologi Brunei.

level of the country's economic and industrial development.

In this context and in light of the large number of students who are inclined towards technical and vocational education as well as to train dropouts, the government has allocated B\$22 million for the building of another vocational school. Hopefully, the minister said, this school would open by next year. The establishment of two more vocational schools are also in the pipeline.

Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdul Aziz also announced that His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam had consented to the appointment of the Deputy Education Minister as Chairman of the newly-formed Brunei Darussalam Vocational and Technical Education Council.

In line with our aspirations, he said, members of that council would consist of experts from the private sector as well as government officials.

By 1993, the council would also produce its own certificates for courses run at vocational and technical institutions. Certificates and technical diplomas would follow in the coming years, the minister added.

The formation of the Brunei Darussalam Vocational and Techni-

cal Education Council was announced by His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his birthday messages on 15 July.

The council has been entrusted to look into all aspects of vocational and technical education in the country, including course contents, examination and the issuing of certificates.

The council would also maintain and intensify its relations with industries and employers as well as coordinate with technical education bodies abroad in order to benefit from the latest technology developments.

"We believe that with such contracts especially with industrialists and employers, this would convince them that our technical and vocational institutions could serve to meet their needs from time to time", the minister said. "By so doing, it would also help to channel our graduates to the private sector".

His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda Al-Muhtadee Billah consented to present the Higher National Diplomas and the Higher National Certificates to more

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Girl Guides' Koran Reading competition

The Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides' Association held its annual Koran Reading Competition for its members on August 3. The competition - the third to be organised by the association, took place at the Islamic Da'wah Centre at Kampung Pulaie, about six kilometres from the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan. Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha graced the event with her presence and consented to give away the prizes. With Her Majesty were other women members of the royal family: Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Masna (front row second from left, above), Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Norain (second from right) and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajjah Mazuin (extreme left). The competition was aimed at among others, encouraging members of the association to be more closely associated with the Koran with a view to better understand and absorb its teachings. The Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides' Association is just one of many organisations which holds the event annually. Others, including ministries, government departments, schools and colleges as well as other bodies also hold similar event.

A winner receiving her prize from Her Majesty the Raja Isteri (below left), and a participant absorbed in concentration as she vied for honours.



than 60 ITB graduates at the ceremony. The courses for the BTEC Higher National Diplomas included computer studies, business and finance, electrical and electronic engineering.

Similarly, the importance of taking relevant courses to meet the needs and requirements of the country was the theme of an advice given to undergraduates of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) recently.

Issuing this salient call this time was UBD's Vice-Chancellor, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong. The vice-chancellor was addressing some 283 undergraduates - the seventh intake to date since its establishment in 1985. The speech was delivered during the start of orientation week for fresh undergraduates on 29 July.

"The objective of undergraduates pursuing their studies in the university may differ. Yet, their common aim would be the search for knowledge. This is important not only for one's own personal development. Equally significant would be to meet the needs of the country," the official said.

"In the context of Brunei Darussalam where the size of the population is small," he said, "the field of knowledge pursued would have to be compatible with the needs and requirements of the country. Thus, undergraduates would be able to make meaningful contribution to the country's national development."

The choice of courses, therefore, would have to be based on the requirements of human resource development in the country.

The vice-chancellor further expressed the hope that the problem faced by some developing and developed countries over the gap caused by the imbalance between courses taken and employment opportunities, would be avoided.

Thus, the desire to easily pass a chosen course in the pursuit of a degree should not be the sole criteria in the selection of courses by undergraduates.

He also informed that job opportunities in the country, to a large extent, abound in the government sector, followed by the private sector. Employment opportunities for graduates differed today from those of 15

to 20 years ago. In the realistic sense, said Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abu Bakar, the increasing number of graduates each year would gradually fill in those vacancies. Job opportunities only exist for certain disciplines of studies, he added.

The vice-chancellor further stated that in these days, we would have to compete not only academically but in the non-academic world too.

Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abu Bakar in addition pointed out that a degree alone could not be made a passport leading to a job assurance. An employer, he said, would look beyond the qualification of the potential candidates. Qualities such as the personality, attitude, views and values of the graduates, are some of the other features which employers would closely observe in any job application.

The vice-chancellor further underlined the importance of practical academic knowledge and skills consistent with the job requirements and the ability to utilise these knowledge in solving problems. They must possess initiative and be self-disciplined. They must also be able to adapt themselves to the job situation and changes as well as learn from experiences. The ability to think rationally and logically, and the ability to develop and upgrade their intellectual curiosity and integrity are also significant.

Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abu Bakar further spoke of the need of equipping undergraduates with the awareness and knowledge of moral values.

"In the context of our country, the values in the beliefs and experiences found in the concept of Melayu Islam Beraja (MIB) or the (Malay Muslim Monarchy) are the foundation upon which the Brunei race could be developed."

"The responsibility lies not only on the shoulders of academicians. Undergraduates as responsible rakyat (subjects) have a greater role in the task of shaping the Brunei society through the MIB concept."

The vice-chancellor expressed his hope that undergraduates would grab opportunities to unceasingly seek knowledge. At the same time, they should also look at their own personal development, possess great enthusiasm and become devoted to religion, Raja (king) and the government.

National Day anniversaries

The Indonesian, Malaysian, Singapore and Republic of Korea communities in Brunei Darussalam have been celebrating the anniversaries of their countries' respective National Day recently.

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent congratulatory messages to His Excellency President Wee Kim Wee of Singapore and His Excellency Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong on the occasion of the republic's National Day anniversary on August 9. Six days later the Brunei monarch sent a similar message to His Excellency President Roh Tae Woo of the Republic of Korea, which celebrated its National Day anniversary on August 15.

His Majesty also sent congratulatory messages to His Excellency President Soeharto of Indonesia which celebrated its Independence Day anniversary on August 17; and to His Majesty the Yang Dipertuan Agong of Malaysia Sultan Azlan Shah and Yang Amat Berhormat Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad on Malaysia's National Day anniversary on August 31.

His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Foreign Affairs Minister sent similar messages to his counterparts in the four countries, namely His Excellency Ali Alatas of Indonesia, Yang Berhormat Datuk Haji Abdullah Ahmad Badawi of Malaysia, His Excellency Wong Kan Seng of Singapore and His Excellency Lee Sang Ock of the Republic of Korea.

His Royal Highness said he was pleased to note the friendly and close relations between Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia. His Royal Highness also expressed the satisfaction over the increased cooperation which benefits both governments and the peoples of Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Indonesia. He further expressed the confidence that this relation and

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cooperation could be further enhanced with membership of both countries in regional and international organisations.

His Royal Highness expressed his satisfaction with the warm and friendly relations between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia. His Royal Highness said he is confident that this relation would continue to be strengthened with the existence of close ties between leaders and peoples of both countries. The Minister of Foreign Affairs further expressed the hope that this relationship would lead to more cooperation for the mutual benefit of both countries.

In his message to His Excellency Mr Wong Kan Seng, Singapore's Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Royal Highness said he was pleased to note with satisfaction, the cordial bilateral relations and the increasing areas of cooperation that exist between the two countries. His Royal Highness also expressed his sincere hope that this warm tie and close cooperation would be further enhanced not only for the benefit of the two countries and people, but also for the whole of ASEAN.

In his message to His Excellency Lee Sang Ock, the Foreign Affairs Minister, His Royal Highness expressed his confidence that the goodwill and cooperation existing between the two countries would continue to be further strengthened for the mutual benefit of the people in both countries.

In his speech at a National Day reception, His Excellency Azhari Boer, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam, spoke about the cooperation with other countries notably with Brunei Darussalam, in contributing to the progress and achievements of Indonesia.

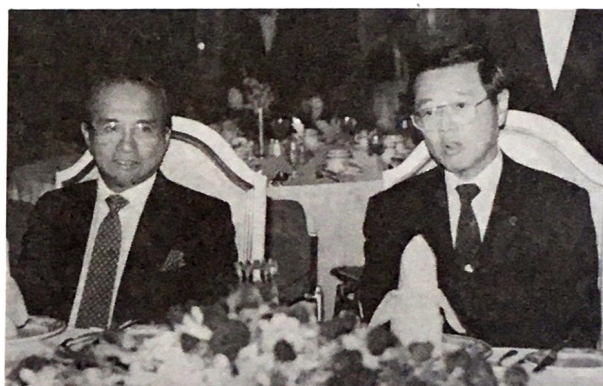
"It is in this context," His Excellency said, that "we are gratified to note over the years Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam have entertained fraternal relations in the traditional spirit of cordial friendship and mutual respect. The common similarities in history, culture and tradition as well as in the aspiration of our leaders for national development, constitute a firm basis for both countries to closely cooperate in the years ahead."

"The present state of excellent relationship between the two nations," His Excellency added, "are also at-

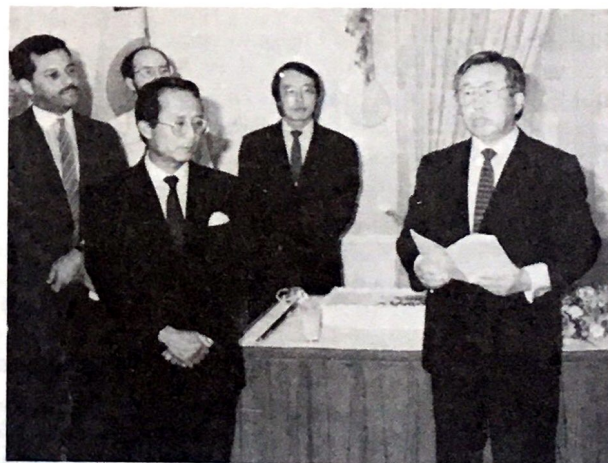


Above: His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Foreign Affairs Minister and his wife, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah are greeted by the Indonesian Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam

The Republic of Singapore celebrated the anniversary of its National Day on August 9, and its High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Tan Keng Jin (right) hosted a reception in Bandar Seri Begawan to mark the occasion at which the Minister of Industry and Primary resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman represented His Majesty's Government.



The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, His Excellency Paik Sung II hosted a reception marking his country's National Day anniversary on August 15, at which the Minister of Communications, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Zakaria (left foreground) was present on behalf of His Majesty's Government.



tributed to a high degree to the wisdom and statesmanship of our respective leaders and their personal rapport with one another."

His Excellency spoke of the increasing exchange of visits between Government officials, businessmen and people of both countries. These have immensely broadened and deepened mutual understanding and cooperation.

His Excellency Dato' Haji Mustaffa bin Haji Mohammad, the Malaysian

High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, among others, spoke about cooperation with Brunei Darussalam and vision 2020.

Vision 2020, the objective of which is to bring Malaysia into the developed nation status with its own identity, is the theme of the Malaysian National day celebration this year, said His Excellency. This aspiration of the Malaysian Prime Minister, His Excellency added, could not be achieved

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His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Finance Minister, represented His Majesty's Government at a reception at the Brunei International Convention Centre hosted by the Malaysian High Commissioner in Bandar Seri Begawan

without the serious efforts and co-operation of friendly nations, particularly ASEAN, including Brunei Darussalam.

Both Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia have long enjoyed close bilateral cooperation based on a common bond of race, language, religion, culture and history.

In light of these, said His Excellency, "we are fully convinced that both countries will continue with the serious and effective efforts to maintain the understanding as well as foster cooperation in all fields for the mutual benefit of both countries."

His Excellency further said he was impressed with the progress and developments of Brunei Darussalam under the "wise leadership" of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

"We believe that the concept of the Malay-Islamic religion of Brunei Darussalam will further bind the existing ties and friendship of the two countries."

Both Brunei Darussalam and Singapore, said His Excellency Tan Keng Jin, had stood firm in the worldwide crisis in the past year. With strong leaders in both countries guiding them through a particularly difficult time, we had emerged from the tests with stronger and firmer bonds of friendship.

His Excellency also recalled that during Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong's visit to Brunei four months ago, His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei

Darussalam, described Singapore as a "rakan lama" (old friend).

The economic links between the two countries are strong, with Singapore being one of Brunei's largest trading partners. This is further strengthened by close and regular consultations between the countries' ministers and bureaucrats.

In his speech, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Paik Sung II also spoke about bilateral relations of the two countries. The Republic of Korea, he said, looked forward to the continued cooperation and support to further strengthen the existing good relationship between the two countries.

"In the economic field, we have trade volume of satisfactory level in both ways."

Korea is one of the biggest purchase of Bruneian products. There have been many cases of collaboration in construction of infrastructures and buildings in Brunei.

This year, "His Excellency added, "we initiated the air service agreement. We foresee that exchange of people of both countries will be rapidly increased soon." His Excellency further pointed out that culture, education and sports are some of the other areas in which the potentials exists for a common endeavour.

Internationally, Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Korea have close cooperation which has led Korea becoming a full dialogue partner of ASEAN and soon to be a member of the United Nations.

Awareness of students' religious and socio-cultural sensitivities important, says minister



The Education Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Aziz said some of the curriculum contents of courses at overseas educational institutions are unacceptable for Bruneian student.

The Minister of Education recently reminded Australian educational institutions of the need to be sensitive and aware of the special requirements of students from this region, in particular with respect to their religious and socio-cultural sensitivities.

In a more specific tone, the minister went on to say that Brunei Darussalam would have to reconsider sending students to Australia if the curriculum content of their courses require them to transgress Islamic teachings.

To illustrate his point, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Aziz explained that in the case of hotel management courses, for example, students were given no choice but to serve alcoholic drinks or dishes containing pork.

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Yang Berhormat stressed that this would be totally unacceptable to his ministry. Islam, the official religion of Brunei Darussalam, forbids its adherents from consuming and serving alcoholic drinks and pork.

The minister further expressed the hope that Australia would be aware of such "special requirements" in the preparation of courses for Bruneian students.

He was speaking at the opening of the Australian Education Exhibition held at the Bumiputra Commercial Complex in Bandar Seri Begawan on August 3.

Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdul Aziz also expressed the hope that the recently established National

Accreditation Council of Brunei Darussalam would be able to develop closer links with Australia's own National Office for Overseas Skills Recognition and other similar bodies in other countries. Such links, he said could act to further both countries' mutual interests.

The National Accreditation Council of Brunei Darussalam has been entrusted with evaluating the Standard of qualification of educational institutions at home and abroad, as well as in determining and assessing their relevance.

Yang Berhormat further said he was happy to note the continuing close relationship between Brunei Darussalam and Australia, in the field of education and training especially.

"I believe Brunei Darussalam

and Australian institutions are playing a pivotal role in helping Brunei Darussalam to realise its manpower development objectives by providing courses relevant to our needs. I hope this state of affairs will continue and be further enhanced."

The Education Minister also pointed out that the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam would continue to consider Australia as an important educational destination to which Bruneians would be sent to further their studies.

In fact, he added, Brunei Darussalam's need for tertiary education opportunities in certain disciplines which are not yet available at home, would most likely continue for some time.

Australian investment mission eyes Brunei Darussalam

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Malai Ali bin Haji Malai Othman highlighted recently that issues which would be deliberated at the ASEAN Summit to be held next year would have a direct benefit to Brunei Darussalam and would help to contribute to the economic development of the country.

"There will be greater opportunities for Brunei Darussalam in the ASEAN context. This will enhance our ability for sustainable economic development," he said.

Some of the issues to be deliberated during the ASEAN Summit scheduled for January 1992 in Singapore, Dato Paduka Malai Ali informed, would include the ASEAN Free Trade Area, ASEAN Economic Treaties and other matters which would help to stimulate the ASEAN trade.

Briefing an Australian Investment Mission to Brunei Darussalam at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources last month, the official also highlighted the country's programmes towards economic diversification. The focus of Brunei Darussalam's plans, according to Dato Paduka Malai Ali, is to enhance and accelerate the development of the private sector and private enterprise.

Dato Paduka Malai Ali further stressed that fundamental in this



Dato Paduka Malai Ali bin Haji Malai Othman, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (centre) while briefing an Australian Investment Mission in Bandar Seri Begawan recently. To his right is the Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Philip Knight.

development, "is an outward looking business activities". This would mean, in other words, that the private enterprise would look for market in the ASEAN, APEC and even outside those organizations. In this context, he said, "We see Brunei servicing this region".

In his opening remarks, Dato Paduka Malai Ali also outlined the reasons for economic diversification and for wooing foreign investors. "We are happy with the present but worried with the future", the permanent secretary explained, despite the relatively high income from the oil and gas industry and a healthy investment portfolio abroad.

He further emphasized that "the

future is determined by an active private sector.

Dato Paduka Malai Ali also pointed out that the recent world event had indicated dramatic changes in the world economic order. "We are now witnessing the realities of global economies, adding "the greater emphasis on economic interdependence and the further liberalization of world trade. Some have been bold in saying that we are about to enter an era towards the borderless world."

The Australian Mission was in the country for a week, starting August 4. During their stay, they also held business meetings and visited the industrial sites, the Brunei Shell Petroleum in Seria and the Brunei LNG in Lumut.

Big demands on HRD by advancement of civil aviation technology

A senior government official has said that the rapid advance in aviation technology, including the future air navigation systems, presently under study by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) would be adopted internationally within the next decade.

In this respect, there is, therefore, a need for a viable and pragmatic human resources development programme to ensure the most effective and expeditious transfer of technology. This region should be given and accorded priority consideration. All personnel should be fully trained and upgraded on a continuous basis. They should also be exposed to the latest development and state of the art in air navigation.

Making these points was the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communications, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ahmad bin Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Diraja Dato Laila Utama Awang Haji Mohd Yusoff at the 14th ASEAN Sub-Committee Meeting on Civil Aviation and Related Matters (ASCCARS) held at the International Convention Centre near the capital on 5 August.

Within the next seventeen months or so, the permanent secretary said, we would be faced with a very new situation, whereby a substantial common ASEAN policy position should be formulated.

The deregulation of air transport policy of the European Community would be expected to come into effect on the first of January 1993. The consequence, among others, the permanent secretary noted, "is the forward trend towards the eventual liberation of air transport operations in Europe."

"Other consequences, however, may have adverse and variable effects on the non-EC airlines especially those of ASEAN and this should be a matter of concern for all of us."

The official further urged the 50 delegates to take a serious consideration and never to let their guard down to the illicit transport of narcotic drugs by air.

This issue, he said, had continued to attract the attention of officers and workers at various levels either simultaneously with regards members



The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communications, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ahmad spoke of huge demands on human resources development within the next decade by the rapid advancement of civil aviation technology.

of the public being used as couriers. The dangers in the illegal consumption of controlled narcotic drugs to our community, especially the young generation, are obvious.

The annual ASCCARS Meeting provides a forum for candid and friendly exchange of views on vital and urgent management and operational problems affecting the air transport sector of the ASEAN region. The forum may be small but any tragic consequences in air transport, he said, would hit the front-page headlines of a newspaper.

Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ahmad further spoke of the continuous need to forge regional cooperation and harmonious relationships among ASEAN governments.

"In this task, we have a mandate, and that mandate is translated in the responsibility to ensure safe and economic operating conditions for all air transport operating over our adjoining airspace."

"This mandate", he added, "should be accorded the highest priority consideration."

During the three-day meeting, delegates explored various ways and means to improve and enhance the safety, efficiency and regularity of the ASEAN air transport operations. In this respect, the permanent secretary said, various continuing problems must be resolved if we are to sustain the development and successes already achieved by the air transport of ASEAN.

These continuing problems confronting civil aviation, which might be bilateral or trilateral in nature, he added, should be addressed by members of ASEAN.

Shortly before the permanent secretary's address, the Director of Civil Aviation, Dato Paduka Awang Job Lim also spoke. He said the Department of Civil Aviation had continued and sustained the development of aeronautical facilities and services of Brunei Darussalam to ensure the safety and regularity of civil air transport operations.

The Committee on Transportation and Civil Aviation Review Committee (COTAC) in Jakarta from 20-22 May this year, the Director pointed out, had recommended that the 14th ASCCARS Meeting and all future meetings, should highlight areas in respect to policy, economic and technical studies, human resources development, institutional building, and exchange of information and expertise to ensure a more meaningful and effective regional cooperation.

For his part, the Chairman of ASEAN Sub-Committee on Civil Aviation and Related Matters, General Oscar Alejandro said that an efficient air transport system is an essential element in economic development; and a key factor to the promotion of tourism and foreign trade.

Thus, he said it should be our common concern to continuously cope

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Environmental consideration comes first in any project - minister

Professionals in development projects have been urged to play their important part in ensuring that their projects do not effect the environment. As a responsible society, they need to ensure that the projects they supervise cause no disaster to the environment and the society.

The call was made by the Minister of Development, Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail bin Pengiran Haji Damit at the launching ceremony of the Workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment of the Commonwealth Engineers' Council held at the Ministry of Development on August 8.

In undertaking certain projects, the minister further urged planners, architects and engineers to always be observant of any project implemented by the government, which includes the construction projects, as they are considered as good examples to be followed by a private party.

The minister further noted that if government projects did not take into consideration the environmental aspect, then this could convey misinterpretation among private parties or the public that the environment is not important. When the private parties implement their own project, such as housing and business complexes, said the minister, they would most probably pay no attention to the environmental aspect of their project.

Due to the rapid development in the private sectors in the years ahead, said the minister, it is important now for planners, architects and engineers to be more aware of their role in creating a safe and comfortable environment. In relation to this, the availability of staff who had skill in the environmental aspect would then be necessary in consultant firms. This would help to enable them to give their environmental impact assessment as an integrated service in any project.



The Minister of Development, Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail warned that projects carried out must not have adverse effects on the environment.

The minister said that although the environmental impact assessment had not been enforced in the country as a condition or prerequisite to every project in the government and private sector, it did not mean that the government was unattentive to it.

The Yang Berhormat pointed out that environmental impact assessment procedure could be legislated in various forms and stages, and therefore, it was very important not to hastily enforce the procedure only for the sake of trend. If such thing happened, the minister pointed out, it would waste our limited skilled manpower.

The Minister of Development further stressed that the legislation of the environmental impact assessment procedure should be carefully considered to ensure their relevant usage. The procedures should also be effective to the condition in the country and with commitment from all involved parties; the government, firms and the public.

The legislation of the procedures would also need close relationship between administrative authority and those who are involved in its practical aspects. This includes the input of all professionals either individually or through relevant professional or-

ganizations, such as Persatuan Ukur Jurutera dan Akitek (Survey Engineers and Architect Organisation).

The minister highlighted that such input are aimed at ensuring that any form of environmental impact assessment's valuation that was suggested to be enforced, together with the implication, would be accepted and practically implemented.

Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail stressed further that without the participation of those directly involved in the implementation of development projects, the environmental impact assessment most probably would not be functioning. This was because, he said, the environmental impact assessment could not reach its real target and became an obstacle to the development process, which would leave the credibility of environmental impact assessment in question.

The minister went on to say that environmental impact assessment is a "planning tool" to achieve our objective, that is the country's development which does not affect the environment and our lives.

Brunei Malay in a minute

Each month we introduce readers to a common Brunei Malay word as used in the country. This month the word selected is **Pacah**.

Pacah means having no sight or simply blind. Its equivalent in standard Malay is buta.

Now let us use the word **Pacah** in a sentence.

Ali menolong orang **pacah** itu menyeberang jalan.

Ali helped the blind man to cross the road.

Pacah can also mean break or broken and is spelt pecah in standard Malay.

Educational link between Brunei and UK need to be continued

The Minister of Education has expressed the hope that the United Kingdom's present emphasis in providing educational opportunities to the EC countries would not be at the expense of countries in this region, such as Brunei Darussalam. He said the country's educational links with the UK "go back many years".

In a foreword message for the fifth annual Studying in Britain Exhibition organised by the British Council in Brunei Darussalam, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Aziz stressed that Brunei Darussalam in particular, "needs to be assured that the United Kingdom is aware of our requirements and priorities. And given the long-standing relationship, such priorities would seem to merit special consideration".

The exhibition held at the Bumiputra Commercial Complex in Bandar Seri Begawan for three days starting September 2, saw the participation of some 35 UK educational institutions and universities.

In recent years, said the minister, it has been the policy of Brunei Darussalam to diversify its educational investment in the young people by widening the choice of countries to which they may proceed for further education.

"This policy enables us to evaluate comparatively the quality of education provided by the different countries. If the United Kingdom continues to offer opportunities which meet our requirements, then it would always remain a preferred destination".

The Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong in his remarks at the exhibition's official opening also spoke of the academic linkage between the two countries.

"In the context of Universiti Brunei Darussalam, the relation-



Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abu Bakar Haji Apong, the Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam talking to a representative of one of United Kingdom's educational institutions taking part in the latest 'Studying In Britain' exhibition.

ship between the institutions in Britain and UBD started since the inception of our university".

He further said, "Over the years, the academic linkage has been further developed and expanded to include not only a year programme abroad for a selected number of undergraduates, but quite recently developing a joint degree programme with universities in the United Kingdom.

"Under this programme", explained the vice-chancellor, "Bruneian students spend the first two years at a university abroad. Courses taken include electronic

and electrical engineering, and computer science".

The hope for more co-operation with UBD leading to more joint research ventures was, among others, the theme of the British Council Director, Mr. John Semple's speech at the exhibition. Already this year for example, he said, the Temburong Tropical rain Forest Research Centre has attracted a large number of British scientific research students.

He hoped that more academic links would be established in the future for the mutual benefit of both countries.

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with the dynamism of civil aviation in the region.

Recent events, such as the recent Gulf crisis, and other natural calamities, to a certain extent, had adversely affected civil aviation activities in some parts of the region. Members, he said, should not be overwhelmed by these developments. Instead, we should be more resolved in pursuing common objectives.

He urged delegates to continue monitoring the developments of EC's external civil aviation policy, presently under formulation, and look into how it might affect ASEAN's interests

in 1993.

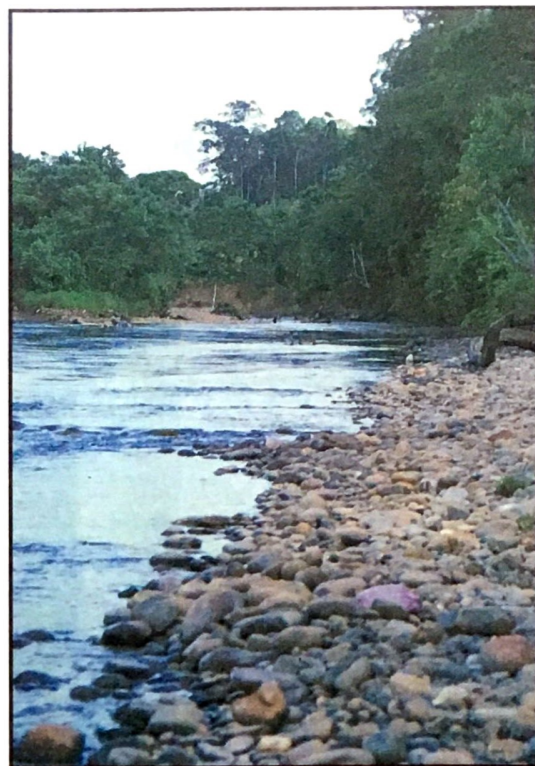
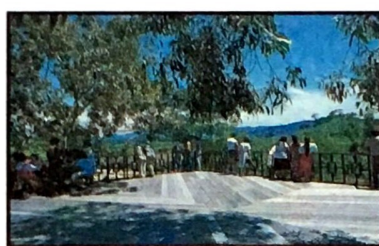
"We should be prepared," he said, "as a unified group for the 28th session of the ICAO Assembly in 1992, and have a common stand on issues that may affect civil air transport operations in the ASEAN sub-region."

He further urged that ASEAN continues the good relations with its economic dialogue partners, and with the regional and international organisations.

In the past years, ASEAN has succeeded in establishing cooperation in air traffic control services, aviation meteorology, search and rescue, and civil aviation training.

Discover Brunei Darussalam

Batang Duri Recreational Park



The Visit ASEAN Year - VAY '92, looms. ASEAN member countries are in the midst of preparing for the event, for its part, Brunei Darussalam encourages eco-tourism. For nature lovers, there are many places of exceptional beauty in the Sultanate, among them - Batang Duri Recreational Park in Temburong District. With its cool streams and mini-zoo to name a few attractions, the park is a popular picnic spot among Bruneians, not only those from the Temburong district itself but from the whole country in general, especially during weekends. The district itself is better known as the seat of Brunei Darussalam's gravel industry.

BRUNEI IN BRIEF

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan
Land size : 5765 sq.km
Population : 256,000 (1990)
Official Language : Malay
Official Religion : Islam
August 1991 rainfall: 110.3 mm
(annual 2,818mm)

PRIME LENDING RATE

August 7.00% (quoted by Bankers' Association).

How to behave in Brunei Darussalam

This section is intended to provide readers, especially first-time visitors to Brunei Darussalam, with information on some of the do's and don'ts of the country. Gestures and behavioural traits which may seem quite normal and acceptable in some other parts of the world may well be seen to be very rude and offensive in Brunei society.

Islam is the official religion of country. It is not customary for Muslims to shake hands with a member of the opposite sex. Public displays of affection such as kissing and hugging are seen to be in bad taste. Even casual physical contact with the opposite sex will make Muslims feel uncomfortable. So, please avoid these!

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.



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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30 September, 1991



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam led Muslims in a procession to celebrate the anniversary of Prophet Muhammad's birthday. To His Majesty's right is His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah with the Minister of Religious Affairs to the left of the ruler. Slightly hidden to the left of the minister is His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

Nationwide rallies to mark Prophet Muhammad's birthday

Brunei Darussalam celebrated the anniversary of the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (may peace be upon him) with huge rallies in major towns throughout the country on September 21.

In the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, a gathering of some 55 thousand Muslims at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifud-

dien heard His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stress on the importance of upholding unity in accordance with Islamic teachings - a prerequisite to the smooth and orderly im-

• continued on page 2

(More pictures of Prophet Muhammad's birthday anniversary celebration on page 7)

Brunei Darussalam First Teachers' Day

Three honoured for their deeds



One of Brunei Darussalam's very first teachers, Dato Seri Paduka Cikgu Awang Haji Marsal bin Maun chats informally with His Majesty after he received the coveted Tokoh Guru Berbakti or the Meritorious Teacher's award.

Teachers have a great responsibility in fulfilling their role towards the country and in carrying out the trust of Allah, God the Almighty, particularly in producing people who are educated, learned as well as those who display good character, the Brunei monarch said in his titah (royal address) as the Sultanate

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(Please turn to page 6 for more pictures on Teachers' Day)

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 15 October, 1991. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-225941 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.

• from page 1

plementation of the country's aspirations and programmes.

The ruler was speaking before he led Muslims gathered at the taman (open park) in a procession along a six-kilometre route around the capital to commemorate the Prophet's birthday.

With His Majesty were his brothers, Their Royal Highnesses Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisua Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

The Prophet Muhammad (may peace be upon him), said His Majesty, was unceasing and relentless in his efforts to uphold the position of Islam.

The works of the Prophet were met with a lot of challenges, so much so that even his life was at stake, the ruler noted. This should be the focus of attention to the Islamic community for it provides a lesson and is a source of inspiration to our life today.

"A great community is one which looks into its historic mirror and not through the mirror of someone else. Similarly the Islamic community should do likewise in order to gain from the great Islamic heritage."

"When we look at Rasulullah (Prophet Muhammad), we will be able to understand the message and vision provided by the Prophet in contributing to the success and the majesty of the Islamic community."

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam further remarked that the Prophet's task was not achieved in one day, nor was he alone in his strive to attain the objective in developing the "umat". Rather, the monarch made clear, the Prophet received the assistance and strong support

from his friends and loyal and unselfish followers.

The Prophet's leadership in having successfully united his friends and followers in order to attain the aspirations of the "umat", His Majesty said, should provide us with a good lesson.

"We believe that the Prophet has done so on the basis that success and triumph can only be achieved when unity prevails between those who lead and those who are being led. This is the true meaning of unity which ought to be followed by leaders as well as their followers. There should be no gap-separating them".

His Majesty added, "sometimes the two may seem to be close, yet they are far apart from each other."

"If we follow the disposition and behaviours of Rasulullah (the Prophet), I believe we shall not have any problem in attracting the support from friends and followers. Similarly on the part of the followers, a sense of loyalty is needed from them."

His Majesty also pointed out that unity was the basis upon which the Islamic civilization was built by the prophet and he was later looked upon as a model by his friends. The spread of Islam to almost half of the globe, is its end result.

The theme of this year's Maulud celebration that "Perpaduan Berlandaskan Ajaran Islam Punca Kekuatan Umat" (Unity Based Upon Islamic Teachings is the Key to the Strength of the (Islamic) Community", is therefore very fitting, the monarch said.

His Majesty further stated the importance of maintaining unity based upon Islamic teachings in order to meet current needs and conditions. "... so that we could become strong and firm in the sense that we would become more capable in carrying out the country's aspirations and programmes in a smooth and orderly manner. Without a sense of unity, these programmes would probably be left

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uncompleted, or even become difficult to carry out."

"We have to understand this concept of unity in accordance with Islam, and we should not merely see it only on occasion during the congregational prayer in the mosques," His Majesty stated. "More than that, it could have a wider and deeper implication for the fortitude and progress of the country. Progress in this context is not merely restricted to the material sense of the word, but it also encompasses ethics with its moral and spiritual connotations."

• from page 1

marked its first Teachers' Day on September 23.

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam underlined the part to be played by teachers in Brunei Darussalam in the titah at the International Convention Centre near the capital.

Today, said His Majesty, some 4,300 local and contract teachers are responsible in educating about 60,000 students throughout the country.

Teachers undoubtedly face a challenge in providing a more effective contribution towards protecting and maintaining virtuous values in society, especially in this age where wild and wayward influences prevail, he remarked.

The Brunei ruler lamented that initially, the world was anxious about the menace of drug abuse and alcoholism. But now there is mounting concern over the widespread of AIDS, which has become the main killer today.

Since the disease was first detected in 1981 in one of the developed countries, no indication has yet been found of any medical finding to cure the disease, His Majesty continued.

"In fact we in Asia especially feel more fearful with the prediction that by the end of the decade, the Asian region will become the focal point of the spread of the disease."

"All these mean that our duties and responsibilities, especially on the part of the teachers would also expand", His Majesty pointed out.

His Majesty ended his titah with a prayer so that the Islamic community in the country and his "rakyat" (subjects) would consistently uphold unity and promote it to the next generation. This is one way and effort to maintain harmony and stability of the country, he stressed.

His Majesty's speech was preceded by a welcoming address by the Minister of Religious Affairs who was also the Chairman of the Executive Committee which organised the celebration, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Ratna Diraja Dato Seri Utama

Lack of education and guidance in the world today is one of the causes for today's social diseases, said His Majesty. The modern values of life which are purely based upon the western philosophy of materialism are inadequate if we are to have people with good character.

In this regard, there is thus the need to have a comprehensive educational system based on the Islamic perspective, the Brunei monarch asserted.

His Majesty also stressed that while we need an education system to change the way of life of the people especially in the field of industry and technology, we should also maintain high moral values.

His Majesty also pointed out that the imparting of any knowledge must be accompanied with moral and religious values. Only in such a way, he said, can man and his descendants be saved.

It is clear that the decline of moral values has now begun among those who neglect moral and religious values in life, said His Majesty, adding that sophisticated weapons and advanced technology are futile when punishment from Allah, God the Almighty have been or are being meted out.

His Majesty pointed out to the probability of an even more horrific catastrophe taking place if man goes beyond the limit.

"It is here that teachers are needed to impart the message and aim of education and in shaping a worthy generation, without neglecting high moral values", the Brunei ruler stressed.

Towards this end, the country therefore needs teachers who are

(Dr.) Ustaz Awang Haji Mohd. Zain bin Haji Serudin.

Apart from the procession around the capital, the celebration also included Koran reading, Dikir presentation and a talk on the life of the Prophet.

Similar rallies were held the same day at Kuala Belait in Belait district with more than 12 thousand Muslims attending, at Bangar in Temburong district which drew nearly 4 thousand people, and at Tutong town in Tutong district which was attended by more than 9 thousand Muslims.

outstanding, dedicated, able to initiate change, loving and progressive, as well as teachers who are thinkers and those with a strong faith in Allah.

His Majesty went on to point out that both teachers with high academic qualification and those with ordinary certificates could equally make brilliant contribution.

The Brunei ruler further disclosed that with various opportunities being offered in the teaching profession, the number of local teachers has increased over the years. Each is professionally qualified in his field, he said. The impression that the credibility and ability of teachers is declining, is therefore untrue, His Majesty said.

His Majesty further called on teachers to upgrade their knowledge, and continue to become leading examples to the society.

Earlier in his titah, His Majesty expressed his appreciation for the holding of the Teachers' Day to coincide with the birth of His Majesty's late father, Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Saadul Khairi Waddien, who was widely known as the "Architect of Modern Brunei".

His Majesty said the occasion is a timely reminder of someone who had made a lot of contribution to the country, race and religion.

It is even more fitting, His Majesty said, as his father was directly and openly involved in the field of education and teaching. These go to show that we recognise the late Al-Marhum as our teacher of this country.

• continued on page 6

Thai princess on a visit to Brunei Darussalam



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has a friendly chat with Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, to whom he granted an audience at Istana Nurul Iman during her recent visit.

A daughter of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn made an eight-day visit to Brunei Darussalam early this month, starting the seventh.

During the visit, Her Royal Highness who is the third daughter of the Thai ruler, was granted an audience at the Istana Nurul Iman by His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Dipertuan of Brunei Darussalam as well as by Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha and Her Royal High-

ness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam.

The Thai princess had a packed schedule during her stay in Brunei Darussalam including a trip to Kuala Belalong in the remote interiors of Temburong district where she conducted a research on forestry.

Kuala Belalong is the site of Brunei Darussalam's first field study centre for tropical rain-forest research.

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn is active in uniformed organisations and

welfare works; and is currently the Vice-Executive President of Thailand's Red Cross, President of His Majesty King Rama II Memorial Foundation Under Royal Patronage and Head of History of the Academic Division of the Royal Thai Military Academy.

A tour of Brunei Shell in Seria (about 100 kilometres from the capital) and a gathering with some 300 members of the Thai community in Brunei Darussalam were also included in the princess' itinerary.



Thailand's Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn at her audiences with Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha at the Istana Nurul Iman, and with Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Marian at the Istana Nurul Izzah in Jerudong (picture above right).

Briefing on labour matters for Japanese delegation

Brunei Darussalam has never experienced any strike, or other industrial or work stoppages since 1954. This is mainly due to employer-employee "peaceful and harmonious relationship". It is also characterised by the "central or key role" played by the government in regulating this relationship.

The Commissioner of Labour, Awang Haji Zainal Haji Momin made these statements during a briefing for a seven-member Japanese delegation, which was in Bandar Seri Begawan for a two-day visit under the ASEAN-Japan Tripartite Exchange Programme.

The programme, sponsored by Japan is implemented in accordance with the decision of the ASEAN Labour Ministers' Meeting. It is aimed at bringing about reciprocal visits by both ASEAN and Japanese officials, with a view to learning each other's experience on labour matters and to discuss problems faced by both sides.

The Special Adviser to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan in the Prime Minister's Office and the Home Affairs Minister made a five-day visit to Tokyo in December 1989 under such a programme.

The briefing on 6 August, was chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Home Affairs Ministry, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Omar bin Haji Serudin.

Also present at the briefing, held at the Government Rest House, was the

Japanese Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Sigenobu Yoshida and other embassy officials.

Representatives of the Malay Chamber of Commerce and the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and the Brunei Shell Field Workers' Union also attended the briefing.

The pattern of Brunei Darussalam's industrial relation system is also structured by the government through various legislations.

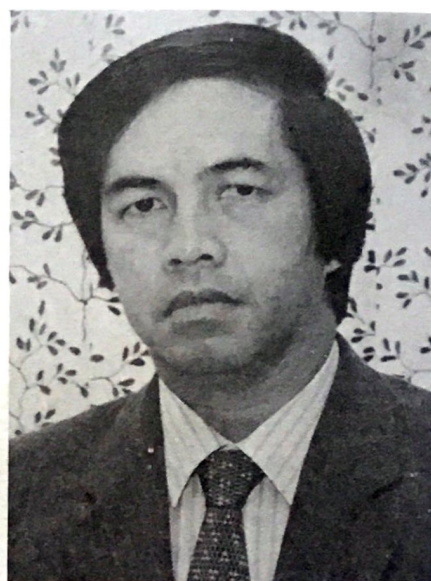
In the first instance, the Labour Act 1954, the Employment Act 1974 and the Workmen's Compensation Act and subsidiary legislations, deal with the conditions of employment.

The Trade Union Act 1961 and the Trade Dispute Act 1961 govern the formation and regulations of trade unions in the country.

Given the nature of Brunei Darussalam's economic and industrial structure and its industrial relation system, it inhibits the formation of a strong trade union or employers' organisation.

The rising living standard of the people, the equitable distribution of income and opportunity, the wider access to basic needs and services are some of the reasons contributing to "the poor development of trade union" in the country.

Another factor is the large presence of immigrant workers in the private sector, which makes it not conducive to form a trade union as they are only temporary residents. The last count in



The Commissioner of Labour, Awang Haji Zainal bin Haji Momin spoke of 'friendly and harmonious' relations between employers and their employees.

1990, indicated that there are 38,000 foreign workers in the private sector out of a total of 53,000. (This figure rose from 36,000 in 1989. Traditionally, foreign workers come from the Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak, Employers find it very convenient to recruit them because of the cheap cost of bringing them in as they are Brunei's closest neighbours. But with rapid development in the last decade, employers have had to look beyond the East Malaysian states for workers).

The government also plays a central or key role in the social and economic life of Bruneians. This further makes the function or the setting up of a trade union movement less important.

The laws, however, allow workers both private and public and the employers to form trade unions. To date, there are four trade unions namely, the Brunei Shell Oilfield Workers' Union with 1995 members, the Brunei Government Medical and Health Employees Union with 300 members, the Brunei Government Junior Officers' Union with 404 members; and the Brunei Customs Department Staff Union with 45 members.

Presently, there is no employer association in Brunei Darussalam. However, there are various Chambers of Commerce representing business organisations namely the Malay, Chinese, Indian and State Chamber.

• continued on page 8



Members of the visiting Japanese delegation at one of their meetings with Brunei officials while on a visit to Brunei Darussalam for an insight into some of the Sultanate's labour-related matters.

Remembering those teachers who had contributed so much . . .

In focus . . . Pr



Left: His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam listening to the biodata and contributions of the three teachers who were honoured in conjunction with Teacher's Day. With His Majesty, from left to right are his brothers, HRH Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah, HRH Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and HRH Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah. Seated to His Majesty's left are several cabinet ministers.

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Meanwhile, the Education Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, in his welcoming speech, spoke of the role and contribution of the late Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Saadul Khairi Waddien in the political, religious and educational fields.

Yang Berhormat said Teachers' Day is observed in recognition of the contribution of all teachers whether they had retired or still in service.

With regard to the awards for outstanding teachers, Yang Berhormat expressed the hope that the awards would motivate teachers to be more committed and dedicated in their profession.

At the end of the function, His Majesty consented to present awards to three outstanding teachers. The

'Tokoh Guru Berbakti' award (meritorious teacher's award) went to 78-year old Dato Seri Paduka Cikgu Awang Haji Marsal bin Maun, while Dato Paduka Cikgu Awang Haji Othman bin Bidin, also 78, received the 'Tokoh Guru Tua' (Retired teacher's award).

Both received letters of appreciation, a \$12,000 cash prize each, special medical privileges as well as souvenirs.

Cikgu Pengiran Haji Aji bin Pengiran Haji Serudin, 42, was awarded the 'Tokoh Guru Cemerlang' (Outstanding Teacher's Award). Cikgu Pengiran Haji Aji received a letter of appreciation, a cash prize of \$6,000, a souvenir as well as a priority to further his studies.

Over three thousand people attended the function at the International Convention Centre.

Below, left: Dato Paduka Cikgu Awang Haji Othman bin Bidin kisses the hand of His Majesty after he received the coveted award in the 'Guru Tua' or 'Retired Teachers' category.

Below: His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting the award for the 'Guru Cemerlang' or the 'Outstanding Teacher's category to Cikgu Pengiran Haji Aji bin Pengiran Haji Serudin.



Above: His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan stands in a show of respect as they are presented with awards by their brothers, HRH Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah and HRH Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah. Below: His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan presenting the award for the 'Guru Cemerlang' or the 'Outstanding Teacher's category to Cikgu Pengiran Haji Aji bin Pengiran Haji Serudin.



Above: Women organisations and team leaders receiving awards from His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan.

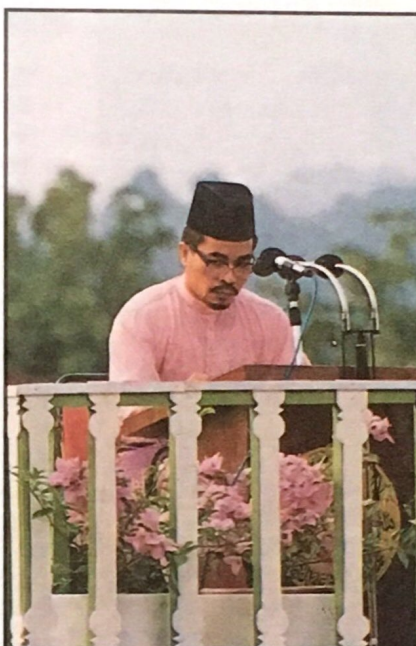
Prophet Muhammad's birthday anniversary celebration



Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is recited. With His Majesty on the dais are Hajj Mohamed Bolkihah, Prince Haji Sufriyah (extreme left of picture). Below: Mosque of the Prophet shortly before the procession around the mosque was underway. Koran reading was one of the activities (centre-right).



Left: The Brunei ruler consented to meet and chat with leaders of teams taking part in the procession as well as with their participants.



Above right: Schoolchildren made up some 70 of the more than 100 teams taking part in the rally and procession in Bandar Seri Begawan. Below: Also in the procession were members of the security forces as well as uniformed departments, voluntary organisations, youth and Kampong associations, private organisations and companies.



were not left out in the auspicious occasion.



Be on guard against re-introduction of eliminated infectious diseases, minister urges

Brunei Darussalam has been officially declared free of malaria, Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Johar remarked, but quickly added his concern for countries nearby and indeed the rest of the world. Infectious diseases, he said, transcend the borders of countries.

The Minister of Health pointed out that the World Health Organisation (WHO) confirmed that 40 percent of the world's population is still threatened by malaria; and 25 percent of death of children between the ages of one and five, are attributed in some cases to malaria.

The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has agreed to donate US\$15,000 for special programmes on malaria within this region.

Though the amount is small, said the Health Minister, the donation nonetheless acknowledges that the disease is not forgotten by us.

The donation is in response to WHO's appeal for extra budgetary funding to be used to refocus and re-highlight malaria as an infectious disease.

Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Johar bin Dato Paduka Haji Noordin was speaking at the

opening ceremony of the Technical Meeting on Infectious Diseases of the South East Asian Medical Information Centre of the International Medical Foundation of Japan (SEAMIC/IMFJ) on September 2. The four-day meeting, the first SEAMIC Technical meeting in Brunei Darussalam was held at the International Convention Centre near Bandar Seri Begawan.

The minister further underlined the need for constant vigilance against the threats of infectious diseases, though eliminated, being re-introduced into the Sultanate.

Yang Berhormat in addition, told delegates from the six member countries of ASEAN and Japan that acting in isolation without exchanging accurate information, would not be to the good of any country.

He pointed out that the meeting would help his ministry to renew and revitalise efforts in reducing if not eliminating, infectious diseases in Brunei Darussalam.

The meeting would also give stress to the role of the individual in the fight against infectious diseases. Each of their role, the minister said, "is a link in a chain, a chain which must be kept strong and intact."



The Minister of Health, Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Dr. Awang Haji Johar bin Dato Paduka Haji Noordin said the threats of infectious diseases, though already eliminated, still lurk.

Meanwhile, the Executive Director of SEAMIC/IMFJ, Mr. Ryoza Hogi among others, said the theme on how to tackle infectious diseases, was one of the most serious problems of many countries throughout the region. SEAMIC member countries, too, recognised these problems.

Past record clearly showed that SEAMIC member countries had

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The Brunei State Association of Banks, on the other hand, concerns itself with "trading fortunes" of member companies, rather than with industrial relation matters.

The most influential is the Brunei State Chamber of Commerce founded in 1955. Though some Brunei companies of all nationalities are represented, the Chamber is dominated by the subsidiaries of foreign firms, including British, American and Singapore firms.

However, even in the absence of an employer association, one should not come to the conclusion that employers in Brunei are not able to influence the

government. Top executives of large established firms are appointed as ordinary members in various governmental bodies such as the Municipal Board and the Motor Transport Licensing Authority.

The industrial structure in Brunei Darussalam comprises mainly of small scale enterprises in the form of family business. Out of 4,749 establishments which submitted returns to the Labour Department in 1990, some three quarters were employing ten people or less.

As such, cooperation and worker participation in decision-making is evident and established. A simple bipartite procedure exists whenever a

dispute arises.

At the end of the briefing, a discussion and an exchange of views took place between the visitors and the host country. Among others, the issues included the state of the Japanese economy, how the Japanese resolve their labour disputes and whether Japanese graduates in the public and private sector earn competitive salaries.

The Japanese delegation met with the Special Adviser to His Majesty in the Prime Minister's Office and the Home Affairs Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa.

been searching for mutual co-operation to improve the prevailing situation.

The Executive Director also expressed the hope that experts of SEAMIC member countries would exchange views, experiences and research findings. He further hoped that these would produce

tangible results through group discussions and proposed practical measures in concrete terms to the forthcoming SEAMIC Annual Conference to be held next month in Tokyo, in order to facilitate and expedite their cooperative activities.

The four-day meeting was attended by more than 20 delegates and experts from ASEAN member countries namely Indonesia,

Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Thailand and the host country Brunei Darussalam as well as from Japan.

The meeting discussed matters on the important aspects of infectious diseases. During the meeting Brunei Darussalam presented a paper on the proposed computerised national health information system for the Health Ministry.

Dialogue to make undergraduates better-informed about their own country

The rate of unemployment in Brunei Darussalam early this year stood at 6.5 percent. This figure is high as it represents some four or five thousand people.

The Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, on the other hand, undertakes several efforts to overcome this problem. With the cooperation of the Labour Department, the ministry has invited representatives from the private sector such as the banking and hotel industry, to give talks to school leavers. Through these sessions, school leavers are given the opportunity to learn about those organisations, and subsequently they could apply for any suitable job currently available.

This assurance was given by the Director of the Industrial Unit of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Pengiran Haji Yakob bin Pengiran Othman. The official was responding to a question raised by an undergraduate who wanted to know the rate of unemployment in the country and the measures taken by the government to overcome this problem so that youths would not fall prey to undesirable elements.

The question was one of several raised during a Majlis Muzakarah Penerangan or an information dialogue between undergraduates of Universiti Brunei Darussalam and Bruneian Students studying at Universities overseas, and senior government officials. Held at the Islamic Da'wah Centre on August



Some of the nearly 80 undergraduates of Universiti Brunei Darussalam as well as those studying at universities in the United Kingdom and Egypt who attended the one-day information dialogue session with senior government officials.

26, it was organised by the Department of Information.

Vocational schools also help to train school leavers with suitable skills which are relevant to a specific job requirement.

The creation of new industries, too, would help to provide new employment opportunities, the official further informed. (In mid-December 1989, the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources had disclosed that the Sixth National Development Plan would involve the implementation of some 2,000 industrial activities. These projects would create more than 40,000 job opportunities, the minister said then).

The Director of Schools of the Ministry of Education, Dato Paduka Awang Ali Hashim bin Haji Daud, another member of the dialogue's 10-member panel, further spoke about the aim of vocational schools. The main objective, he said, is to train students with various skills in order to meet the manpower needs for the development of the country.

Vocational schools, in fact, function as an extension to technical schools in the country, the director told undergraduates from UBD, the United Kingdom and Cairo,

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who were home in Brunei Darussalam for their vacation.

Other issues raised during panel session headed by the Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister's Office Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Ustaz Awang Haji Badaruddin bin Pengarah Haji Othman.

Other issues raised included whether the government plans to introduce MIB (Melayu Islam Beraja/Malay Muslim Monarchy) as a subject to overseas undergraduates. And among others, the functions of the Anti-Corruption Bureau and the Management Services and Government Security Department had also come under focus. One undergraduate had also asked why the Ministry of Law had not introduced a law on cough mixtures.

MIB as a subject to be introduced to overseas students

MIB as a subject has not been introduced fully, according to the Director of Schools. The Ministry of Education has plans so that overseas students, like their counterparts in UBD could learn about MIB. Currently, undergraduates of UBD are required to pass MIB before graduation.

Another participant had also suggested booklets containing information on MIB, to be distributed among Bruneian undergraduates studying overseas. Short courses during the winter holidays or the weekend could also be organised for them. Or else, said another participant, Bruneians who came home for vacation could also attend the MIB course at UBD.

Laws governing cough mixtures

To a question as to why the Ministry of Law has not introduced a law on cough mixtures, the Chief Registrar of the Judicial Department provided an answer based on his personal opinion.

Awang Kifrawi bin Dato Paduka Hj Kifli, the Chief Registrar said that though there was no specific law on this, a person found selling a cough mixture without a licence including one which contains codeine, could be charged in court. Though a specific law does not exist, such an offence comes under the Poisons Act, he said. Codeine, the Chief Registrar added falls under the category of controlled drug.

Functions of the Anti-Corruption Bureau

The Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, as head of the panel session had also invited the Director of Anti-Corruption Bureau to brief undergraduates about the functions of his department.

Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ahmad bin Haji Ibrahim, the ACB's Director informed that besides Brunei Darussalam, other countries such as Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia have their own units to fight corruption.

The official informed that he has held a discussion with the Director of Schools to introduce corruption as a subject in schools, with the intention of tackling the problem of corruption at the earliest possible stage.

The bureau's main responsibilities, he said, it to eliminate corruption, undertake measures to stop its widespread, as well as conduct investigations against those suspected of corruption.

He also briefed the undergraduates on the types of corruption and their negative impact upon society and the government.

Objective of Majlis Muzakarah

The Majlis Muzakarah is a regular project of the Information Department. According to the Acting Director of the Department, Awang Haji Hazair Haji Abdullah, the Muzakarah provides a new approach to further intensify government efforts in shaping undergraduates' way of thinking to that which is more positive, dynamic and progressive in line with the country's aspirations.

The Majlis Muzakarah also places emphasis towards creating an "educated", "flexible and responsive" and "courageous" younger generation, a generation which would resort to discussions in facing the "era" after independence.

It is also hoped that the Muzakarah would instil an awareness among participants of their future responsibility in continuously running the country's development and administration. The role of safeguarding and maintaining the sovereignty of their "raja" (king), race, religion and country, lie on them, the Acting Director pointed out.

**Brunei Malay
in
a minute**

In each issue of Brunei Darussalam Newsletter, we introduce readers to a common Brunei Malay word as used in the country. This month we introduce the word **lasak**.

Lasak means bald, having little or no hair on the head. Its equivalent in standard Malay is **botak**.

Now let us use the word in a sentence.

Kepala orang itu hampir **lasak**.
The man's head is nearly bald.

Minister calls for more exchange programmes on art between ASEAN member countries

Organisations or bodies involved in arts and photography have been urged to take the initiative to instill the interest in introducing a bilateral exchange programme among ASEAN member countries.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Hussain cited examples of such programmes as one organised by the Brunei Darussalam Artists Association and artists from the Republic of Singapore this year and in 1989.

The Minister made the call at the 2nd ASEAN Symposium on Painting and Photography and Children's Art and ASEAN Travelling Exhibition of Painting, Photography and Children's Art 1991 which was held at the Brunei Museum recently.

"These programmes on a reciprocal basis could also be organised with or by other ASEAN member countries for the development of arts as well as to foster closer relationship between the artists themselves," said the minister.

Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hussain noted that "we are very fortunate that the project had become the nucleus for the assemblage of artists, art critics, art educators and photographers from ASEAN, where new ideas and approaches are introduced and discussed."

In terms of local art development, the private sectors, hotels, firms and business association in the country should also take an active part by giving patronage



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Hussain viewing the exhibits while the Deputy Director of Museums briefed him.

and the sponsorship of spaces to accomodate exhibitions organised by local artists, he stressed.

The minister further acknowledged that at the moment, we are in need of a specific art gallery to house art exhibits of national and international qualities. However, the Minister expressed the hope that with the increasing number of exhibitions through projects organised by ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (COCI) or local artists and art associations, our dreams could materialise.

The exhibition, with its theme "Tradition As the Source of Inspiration, Today and Tomorrow", displayed a total of 420 artworks by artists, photographers and children of ASEAN. The theme itself,

the minister added, reflects the true image of ASEAN which are rich in traditions and culture.

The minister expressed the hope that our local artists, photographers and school children would take this opportunity to learn and study the new approaches and techniques, so that they could be inspired to try and explore new dimensions which were more challenging. This would also help them to enhance productivity and quality in their production of artworks.

The Yang Berhormat Pehin later expressed the hope that through this one-week exhibition, our local communities would be able to witness, learn and appreciate the value of various ASEAN heritage in the form of artistic creativities.

How to behave in Brunei Darussalam

This section is intended to provide readers, especially first-time visitors to Brunei Darussalam, with information on some of the country's do's and don'ts.

In the relationship between the sexes, Islam enforces strict legisla-

tion. If you, as a non-Muslim, are found in the company of a Muslim of the opposite sex in a secluded place for instance, on a lonely stretch of a beach rather than at a place where there is a lot of people such a shopping street, you could

be prosecuted. If you are found committing 'khalwat', that is seen in a compromising position with a person of the opposite sex who is a Muslim, you could be deported.

Discover Brunei Darussalam!



The Bukit Shahbandar Forest Recreation Park is located in the heart of a forestry conservation at Jerudong, about 10 kilometres from Bandar Seri Begawan, the capital of Brunei Darussalam. It has as many streams within as its hills, and its tree-lined foot-paths are ideal for lazily walks.



BRUNEI IN BRIEF

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan
 Land size : 5765 sq.km
 Population : 256,000 (1990)
 Official Language : Malay
 Official Religion : Islam
 August 1991 rainfall: 110.3 mm
 (annual 2,818mm)

PRIME LENDING RATE

August 7.00% (quoted by Bankers' Association).



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.