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ASEAN needs to be prepared, steadfast and even more competitive



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 the Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Chairman of ASEAN as well as other ASEAN Leaders launching the Visit ASEAN@50: Golden Celebration.

VIENTIANE, LAOS, September 6 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Opening Ceremony of the 28th and 29th ASEAN Summits and the Launch of the Visit ASEAN@50: Golden Celebration, held at the National Convention Centre, Vientiane.

Upon arrival, His Majesty was greeted by His Excellency Seng Soukhathivong, Director General Protocol of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. His Majesty then proceeded to the main lobby of the National Convention Centre. His Majesty was then welcomed by His Excellency Thongloun Sisoulith, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Chairman of

ASEAN, and spouse, Madam Naly Sisoulith.

The opening ceremony began with the theme song of ASEAN, followed by a cultural performance, an opening statement by the Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Chairman of ASEAN, as well as an opening address by His Excellency Bounnhang Vorachith, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

His Majesty then joined the Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Chairman of ASEAN and other ASEAN leaders to launch The Visit ASEAN@50: Golden Celebration.

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Their Majesties distribute sacrificial meat

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 12 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to attend the Hari Raya Aidiladha Celebration for the year 1437 Hijrah, held at Istana Nurul Iman.

The arrival of Their Majesties was greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs, and Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Shahbandar Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Mohd Nawawi bin Pehin Orang Kaya Shahbandar Haji Awang Mohd. Taha, Private

and Confidential Secretary to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, and other committee members.

Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Norhayati; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel.

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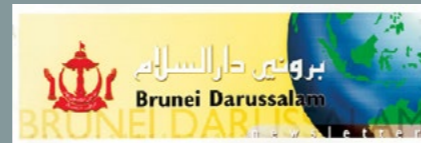
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His Majesty receives audiences

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, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman, His Excellency Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-chief of Defence Services, Myanmar Armed Forces who is on a three-day introductory visit on September 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 in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman, Madam Kyu Kyu Hla, spouse of His Excellency Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-chief of Defence Services, Myanmar Armed Forces on September 3.



His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, has consented to send congratulatory messages to:

- His Excellency General Tran Dai Quang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and His Excellency Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 71st Anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on September 2.
- The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Government and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the auspicious occasion of Saudi Arabia's National Day on September 23.
- His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China on September 30.

His Majesty sends message of condolences

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 has consented to send a message of condolences to:

- His Excellency Rodrigo Roa Duterte, President Republic of the Philippines following the recent bomb explosion in Davao City on September 3.

ASEAN needs to be prepared, steadfast and even more competitive (continued)

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In 2017, ASEAN will reach its 50th anniversary since its formation on the 8th of August 1967. In celebration of the milestone, the 10 ASEAN national tourism organisations have jointly developed a tourism programme under the campaign theme 'Visit ASEAN@50: Golden Celebration' with the objectives of commemorating the 50th anniversary of ASEAN and embracing ASEAN as a single and united tourism destination.

After the opening ceremony, His Majesty then joined other ASEAN heads of state and government for a group photograph session before proceeding to the Plenary Session of the 28th ASEAN Summit.

The plenary session began with an opening remark by the Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Chairman of ASEAN. This was followed by a report from Le Luong Minh, ASEAN Secretary-General on matters that required attention and guidance from the ASEAN leaders.

During the plenary session, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) highlighting that ASEAN currently is at an important juncture, where last year, the ASEAN Community was established and Vision 2025 was adopted, paving the way for ASEAN to continue its future progress and development.

"The recent Brexit referendum and the ever-changing geo-strategic landscape, will pose a challenge for ASEAN and it is therefore more important than ever, for ASEAN to demonstrate its unity in its commitments, and remain relevant to the whole region.

ASEAN's future looks bright with its economic growth projected to be at 4.7 per cent next year, despite uncertain global challenges and by 2030, ASEAN is expected to be the world's fourth largest economy," His Majesty said.

His Majesty also stated that ASEAN is on the brink of what may be called another industrial revolution, where technology is advancing at an exponential pace with unprecedented development like never seen before.

What is important for Asean now, is to be properly prepared, and remain steadfast in the commitment to make the region competitive.

When the ASEAN Economic



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolqiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at Plenary Session of the 28th ASEAN Summit.

Community was launched last year, public expectations from within and beyond the region were high. Despite the importance of these economic initiatives, and the potential benefits to the private sectors, ASEAN still has much to do if it were to reinforce its credibility, as a place to do business.

His Majesty said ASEAN has the opportunity to review how it can fast track the implementation of its economic commitments based on what is already provided for in the ASEAN Charter.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a photo session with His Excellency Thongloun Sisoulith, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Chairman of ASEAN and spouse, Madam Naly Sisoulith at the National Convention Centre, Vientiane.



His Majesty signing the ASEAN Declaration; One ASEAN, One Response : ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region.

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By allowing for initiatives to proceed amongst some member states, it may help build confidence, and other member states can take them up once they are prepared. One such initiative that can be implemented this way is the ASEAN Business Travel Card. His Majesty added that ASEAN needs to find a way to help amplify the spirit of togetherness, and sense of belonging. His Majesty suggested that ASEAN considers ways to increase collaboration, through joint venture schemes in certain identified projects.

His Majesty also highlighted the importance of socio-cultural cooperation to all the work in ASEAN. The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council should find more ways to make the people proud of the

ASEAN Community, and the uniqueness of the region living harmoniously together with the cultural diversity. This will help strengthen ASEAN's image to the rest of the world.

In this regard, His Majesty was pleased that Bandar Seri Begawan has been declared the ASEAN City of Culture for the next two years, which will coincide with the Visit ASEAN Year in 2017.

In ending the *titah*, His Majesty believes that ASEAN will continue to develop into a community that is dynamic, and responsive, based on the principles that have shaped us to this day.

ASEAN's decision-making through consensus has proven to be crucial in ensuring the unity and cohesiveness of the region, and this must continue to be

preserved. His Majesty then attended the launching of The Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 and The Initiative for ASEAN Integration Work Plan III and the Signing Ceremony of the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region.

During the event, His Majesty signed the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region. The ASEAN Declaration was also signed by the Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Chairman of ASEAN, as well as other heads of state and government of ASEAN.



His Majesty with ASEAN Heads of States and Governments in a group photo before the Plenary Session.

Their Majesties distribute sacrificial meat (continued)



Their Majesties distributing the sacrificial meat to recipients.

From page 1

Also present were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Nor'ain and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Nasibah and other members of the royal family.

The ceremony began with chants of *Takbir Raya* led by 21 representatives from uniformed personnel, religious groups as well as youths. The event continued with the recitation of Surah Al-Hajj, verses 34-37 by a participant of the Al-Quran Reading Scheme for Youth, Abd. Hanan bin Amir and Ak. Mohd. 'Asim' Afif bin Pg. Haji Md. Zain, while the meaning of the verses was presented by a teacher from Sekolah Menengah Arab Laki-Laki Hassanal Bolkiah, Pg. Mohd. Amirul Aiman bin Pg. Haji Marjuki.



Their Majesties, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman at the Hari Raya Aidiladha Celebration.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Norhayati.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Nor'ain.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah, and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Nasibah at the ceremony.

Their Majesties later consented to present sacrificial meat to 100 recipients comprised of 50 men and 50 women.

To bless the ceremony, a *Doa Selamat*

was recited by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz Juned, the State Mufti.

This year, a total of 74 cattles and 14 goats were sacrificed for the ceremony and the meat were distributed to 7,894 people who are in need throughout the country, consisting of the heads of families that were eligible.

Of the 7,894 recipients, in the Brunei and Muara District, 6,262 were eligible; 741 people in the Belait District, 699 people in the Tutong District and 192 people in the Temburong District.

Among those who attended the ceremony were new converts, mosque volunteers, youths as well as students from higher education and religious education institutions.

His Majesty graces 26th Teachers' Day

BERAKAS, September 29 - Every 23rd of September, Brunei Darussalam celebrates Teachers' Day to commemorate and appreciate the contribution of teachers in the country.

This celebration was also an effort to elevate the teaching profession for its contribution to the development of human resource capacity in the country.

This year, the national Teacher's Day celebration was held on Thursday the 29th of September 2016 at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas.

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 grace the 26th Teachers' Day celebration.

His Majesty's arrival at ICC was greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, Minister of Education; and Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs, as co-chairpersons of the ceremony and members of the executive committee.

Also attending the Teachers' Day celebration were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel.

The ceremony began with 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 delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the 26th Teachers' Day celebration.

recitation of Surah Al-Fatihah dedicated to Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and teachers who have passed away, followed

by a *Doa Selamat* led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the presentation of the Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Education Award to Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.

The ceremony continued with the recitation of verses of Surah Al-Kahfi verses 65-78, by Awang Mohammad bin Ali, the runner up for the National Al-Quran Reading Competition 2016, and winner for the 15th International Tilawah Al-Quran Competition in Moscow, Russia.

The meaning of the verses was read by an assistant lecturer from Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali, Haji Mohd. Khairul Nazif bin Haji Awang Damit.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi, the Minister of Education, as joint chairperson then delivered an opening speech.

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His Majesty graces 26th Teachers' Day (continued)



His Majesty presenting the 26th Teachers' Day Awards to recipients (above and below).

is that teachers are given a variety of professional development training under the Teacher Professional Development Network.

This can be a guide for school leaders, teachers and operators to implement the professional development programme systematically.

It will also ensure that they have the relevant skills as well as new skills in teaching and learning through long-term and short-term courses. The Minister added that this will enhance the quality of teaching among teachers and school leaders.

His Majesty then consented to deliver a *titah* (royal speech) calling on MOE to set up a comprehensive plan to produce more dedicated and quality teachers.

His Majesty highlighted that teachers are the main source of quality education, and the stimulus for the country's human resources productivity.

"I welcome the MoE's initiatives in developing the literacy and numeracy programme in the early stages of schooling. This will help students to excel in their studies at the next level. In this respect, the support of various agencies is required, to ensure that the children of this country are well-educated and highly skilled," said His Majesty, adding that parents also play a major role in their children's education.

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In the opening speech, the Minister said that the Teachers' Day celebration is held every year because it is a platform used to remember and appreciate the role and sacrifices of teachers in the nation.

The Minister also said that the Ministry of Education (MOE) would continue to implement initiatives to improve the quality of teachers and all those involved in the country. One such initiative



His Majesty, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkihah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkihah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel in a group photo with the 26th Teachers' Day Awards recipients as well as the Executive Committee of the event.



His Majesty viewing the 26th Teachers' Day Exhibition, which showcased the students' celebrated inventions.



His Majesty mingling with primary students at the 26th Teachers' Day Celebration.

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His Majesty added that the educational system should always stay relevant and His Majesty is pleased with MOE in always taking positive steps in ensuring that the National Education System For the 21st Century or SPN 21 would provide the incentive towards realising the aims of Vision 2035.

"SPN21 needs to be on a large scale and incorporated into the country's development plans. This is crucial, because education lies at the core of the National Development Plan," said His Majesty.

The Monarch then concluded the *titah*, by congratulating the recipients of the Teachers' Day Award, in the hope that it would inspire more dedication and commitment among all teachers.

The ceremony was further enlivened by performances by students from primary schools, secondary schools, sixth form and teachers from MOE and the Department of Islamic Studies, Ministry of Religious Affairs.

His Majesty later consented to give awards to 29 educators comprising two recipients for the Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Education Award, two for the Meritorious Teachers Award, five for the Excellent Teachers Award and 20 for the Special Mention Award.

At the end of the ceremony, His Majesty and members of the royal family proceeded for a photo session with the award recipients and members of the executive committee.

His Majesty and members of the royal family also witnessed a choral speaking performance by Al-Falaah School students and toured the exhibition held in conjunction with the 26th Teachers' Day.

His Majesty then went on to tour the 26th Teachers' Day exhibition set up outside the Plenary Hall of ICC.

Before leaving ICC, His Majesty consented receive a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from the recipients of Excellent Teachers Award and Special Mention Award from 2011 until 2015, teachers, students, students and participants of the performance.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkihah (left), His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkihah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel (right) viewing the exhibition



BHEALTH App, BICTA 2016 Champion



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Deputy Sultan awarding the trophy to Chung Hwa Middle School (CHMS) Bandar Seri Begawan, the champions of the Royal Patron Award for their 'BHEALTH App'.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 6 - Chung Hwa Middle School (CHMS) Bandar Seri Begawan emerged as overall winner in the Royal Patron Award for their 'BHealth App' project at the Brunei Info-Communication Technology Awards (BICTA) 2016 ceremony held at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Deputy Sultan consented to grace the ceremony and presented the awards to the winners of BICTA 2016.

The winner of the Royal Patron Award also emerged as winner in the School Project Category and won a cash prize of BND 3,000, a trophy and certificates, followed by runners-up, St John's School for their project 'Ultimate Fit Challenge' and received a cash prize of BND 2,000, a trophy and certificates, while third place went to CHMS Kuala Belait for their 'Crims' project and received a cash prize of BND 1,000 along with a trophy and certificates.

Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) won the Tertiary project category for their project 'DFMS - Deployable Flood Monitoring System' and received BND 7,000, a trophy and certificates, while second place also went to UTB for their project, 'ITB 2.0 Smart Shower' and received BND 3,500, a trophy and a certificates.

The 'V DÉCOR' project from Universiti Brunei Darussalam, won the third place and took home BND 1,750, a trophy and certificates.

The winner of the ICT Industry category went to Nagender Aneja for his 'OffAT-Chat in Airplane Mode' and received BND

10,000, a trophy and certificates.

The second place winner was Newgate Plus with 'First Blood' and they received BND 5,000, trophy and certificates. Meanwhile, third place went to '2D' from the Department of Electrical Services and Data Stream Technology Incomm project 'Smart Metering' who received BND 2,500 and a trophy.

Three special awards were also given at the ceremony, two recipients shared the Young Developers Award: Seri Mulia Sarjana International School for their Augmented Reality of Brunei Tourism game, and CHMS for their Savior project. Both recipients received trophies and certificates.

The Promising Entrepreneurs Award went to Mohammad Effendy for his 'Box-ITB' project and Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Science College for their Student Transport Monitoring System where they received trophies and certificates.

UTB also won the Emerging Technology Award for their Twitter Sentiment Analytic project.

BICTA 2016 Royal Patron Award Trophy winner, Tan Kia Keng, who was also the project leader, explained that their project 'BHealth App' is an application aimed at helping people who need emergency assistance at any time.

Among the applications' components includes Doctors Nearby, D.I.Y Doctors, Insurance and more. A key component in the application, Doctors Nearby, provides access to the user of nearby clinics using GPS and Internet.

The Year 10 student went on to advise other youths not to lose hope because one day their ideas could change the world.

Meanwhile, another member of the project, Stella Teoh Sze Pei also explained that they plan to put more features in the application; one of them is to create a button that can be used to inform a close family member of the location of the user in case of emergency, especially for the elderly.

They have also conducted a survey to receive public feedback about the application.

Regarding plans for APICTA in Taiwan, the team hopes to bring back results for the country's future.



His Royal Highness viewing the exhibitions at BICTA 2016.

LegCo - Brunei fully supports 37th AIPA



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Speaker of the Legislative Council (seated, seventh, left) in a group photo at the 37th AIPA in Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

NAY PYI TAW, REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR, September 30 - The 37th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) was officially launched yesterday by Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar's State Counsellor at Myanmar International Convention Centre, in Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The theme for this year's AIPA General Assembly is 'Vibrant AIPA for a Progressive ASEAN Community' according to a press release.

Representing Brunei at the AIPA General Assembly was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Speaker of the Legislative Council (LegCo), as the head of delegation.

Also in attendance were the Secretary to the Cabinet Minister's Council and Clerk to the LegCo, Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Jaya Dato Paduka Haji Judin bin Haji Asar; Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Pahlawan Colonel (Rtd) Dato Paduka Haji Abdu'r Rahmani bin Dato Paduka Haji Basir; as well as officers from Department of Councils of State.

Before the official opening ceremony, the Speaker of LegCo from Brunei Darussalam together with other AIPA members' Speakers attended the Executive Committee Meeting with the objective to discuss the agendas and resolutions that will be discussed during the meeting as well as other arising issues.

At the opening ceremony, AIPA President and Speaker of Myanmar, Mahn Winn Khaing Thann gave a welcoming speech and declared that members of AIPA have decided to execute and resolve several issues such as gender equality in education, in the workplace as well as political arena. Although these issues are undeniably challenging, as people's representative, it is their responsibility to find the solution.

He also stated that the vibrant and optimistic dynamism of ASEAN enabled members of AIPA to cooperate make consultations to find a solution to the issue.

In the first preliminary meeting chaired by the AIPA President, he invited all the speakers to give a speech.

The Speaker of LegCo in his speech said that Brunei will continue to give its full support of the meeting while also commenting that this year's AIPA Meeting theme is in line with the theme of the 28th and 29th ASEAN Summit held in Vientiane, Laos which was 'Turning Vision into Reality for a Dynamic ASEAN Community'.

Moreover, the Speaker of LegCo expressed his hopes for the ASEAN members to be able to accomplish the visions of living in a peaceful region, secure and stable, broader economic development and social progress towards ASEAN 2025.

In his closing remarks, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman recalled that during the recent AIPA-ASEAN Interface in Vientiane, Laos last month, ASEAN heads of state expressed appreciation towards AIPA as a legal institution in contributing to the development process of the ASEAN Community. This is a platform for parliamentary cooperation within ASEAN which provide many benefits to the AIPA member countries through increased trade, investment, tourism, exchanges between the individual and the development that will complement regional efforts in the realisation of community-oriented society.

In citing the message of the heads of ASEAN member countries, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, has vowed to become a rules-based and community-oriented society during the 28th and 29th ASEAN Summit.

The theme 'Turning Vision into Reality for a Dynamic ASEAN Community' in the recent ASEAN Summit is visualised in the pilot plan for the three pillars of ASEAN Community.

His Majesty in his message during 8th AIPA CAUCUS held on the 8th until the 10th of August 2016, said that it would be beneficial for AIPA CAUCUS to conduct a comparative research in regards to national legislation, regulations and measures for the AIPA member countries to identify legislative initiative appropriately and with just.

His Majesty further mentioned the importance of ASEAN-AIPA Interface to be held every year as a venue for the exchange of ideas and views to strengthen teamwork and streamline between the legislative branch and executive within the members of ASEAN countries.

Therefore, AIPA plays an important role in bringing the society and government together in realising the ASEAN Community and its impact to the people.

This general assembly is held for three days and will be discussing about the regional issues on the executive committee level, WAIPA, politics, economy, social, organisational and Joint Communique.

Libraries in need to adapt to modern changes



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, Minister of Education touring the exhibitions at the 'Libraries Transform: Unlocking Your Potential as Librarians' conference held at the Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) Library.



The Minister of Education during the book launching in conjunction with the opening of the 'Libraries Transform: Unlocking Your Potential as Librarians' conference.

TUNGKU LINK, September 20 – The transformation of libraries to support the distribution of information to patrons is greatly needed and must be in line with global change.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, the Minister of Education stated the matter at the opening of the 'Libraries Transform: Unlocking Your Potential as Librarians' conference held at the Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) Library.

"Undoubtedly with the development of modern technology and society nowadays, libraries also face the increasing demands of patrons," said the Minister.

The transformation of libraries not only focuses on the change of technology but is narrowed towards the approaches used to serve the patrons, community and important parties (stakeholders).

"Libraries and librarians need to renew their collections according to the needs of the surrounding communities and ensure that services provided are good and in a user friendly environment," explained the Minister.

The Minister also added that libraries should be the leaders in digitalizing publications and libraries should be the first in implementing the most advanced technologies. In addition, the Minister also touched on the importance of libraries in being the first choice of resources for patrons.

"Firstly, librarians require personal competency, the ability

to communicate effectively with patrons, are knowledgeable, proactive, show initiative and are highly committed. Secondly, the professional competencies include specialised skills in the field and knowing the sources of information obtained. Other than that, administrating skills are also important in managing resources and information service cost as well as addressing unexpected issues," added the Minister.

The Minister also said that upgrading the competency of librarians is crucial and this is where the Brunei Darussalam Library Association (BLA) can give support by conducting appropriate training in order to develop and improve the skills of the library workforce.

"Other than that, the professional library programmes provided by the Institute of Brunei Technical Education (IBTE) Sultan Saiful Rijal Campus in HNTec in Information and Library Studies as well as the Diploma programme in Library Informatics Computing at Politeknik Brunei should be continued and expanded," added the Minister.

The Minister explained that the Ministry of Education (MOE) will prepare standards and guidelines to help improve the structure of libraries according to the highest standards that support high quality library practices.

"Other than that, MOE will assist in providing support towards activities of the BLA and libraries under the Ministry of Education in order to improve the quality of service and to achieve education excellence in support of the Brunei Vision 2035," concluded the Minister.



The Minister of Education in a group photo with members of the Brunei Darussalam Library Association (BLA).

Conducive Business Environment encourages development of SMEs



Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd. Roselan bin Haji Mohd. Daud, the Acting Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, (left) and Her Excellency Nagma Mohamed Mallick, the outgoing High Commissioner of the Republic of India to Brunei Darussalam (middle) during the launching of 'India Investrade 2016'.

BERAKAS, September 15 - Brunei Darussalam has entered a new phase in the growth and development of doing business by taking the initiative to ensure that the business ecosystem and environment is more conducive and is easier for investors and 'start-ups', to invest locally and internationally.

For that purpose, the country continues to work towards enhancing its position in the 'Ease of Doing Business' (EODB) survey, which in previous years, Brunei was ranked 100, but climbed up to 84th place.

The Acting Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd. Roselan bin Haji Mohd. Daud explained the matter at the 'India Investrade 2016' that was held at the International Convention Centre.

Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd. Roselan said the government will continue to create an environment for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to grow and improve their access for financing, broad market, industrial area and development programmes that are effective in increasing the capacity, capability and competence.

The Acting Minister also said that it will continue to improve the direction of policies, regulations and processes to ensure that it remains relevant and appropriate to address the needs and market requirements.

Brunei will also continue to create a culture where SMEs can thrive in order to improve the country's position in the coming years, by providing a conducive business environment for local and

overseas entrepreneurs.

One of the steps that have been taken in updating business processes is to reduce bureaucracy in business registration, which can be done online and businesses can be set up within just 24 hours.

Darussalam Enterprises (DARE) can also improve and monitor the progress of SMEs in the country as well as to provide encouragement in the development of local SMEs.

The Acting Minister also explained that the country has also established a Business Support Centre where entrepreneurs can apply for help or information for their business, and the process of getting permission or approval is centralised at the centre to reduce processing time.

The goals are to improve and



The Acting Minister receiving an explanation on the fineness of the texture produced by India.

strengthen the private sector in the local economy and to attract more foreign investors to invest in the country.

Brunei Darussalam is currently focusing on sectors that benefit the state and its ability to develop economy and provide quality as well as sustainable job opportunities for citizens.

Brunei Darussalam has its own advantages, such as being an Islamic state based on the unique philosophy of Melayu Islam Beraja (MIB). It is also one of the top ten countries with high forests reserves and pristine environment, including a well-educated population and macroeconomic stability.

The country now focuses on implementing the five major investments key which includes the country's strategic initiatives to develop and sustain the economy.

The Acting Minister says that the five key investments are Halal; creative and technology industries; business services; tourism and downstream oil; and gas; in addition of promoting culture and heritage through the development of handicrafts and traditional crafts premium products.

Earlier, the Acting Minister in his speech said that Brunei Darussalam has always had a good relationship with India. This is because India is an important partner for peace, stability and prosperity. India is also one of the largest trade partners.

The Acting Minister also expressed excitement and hopes that trade and investment will be a platform to foster meaningful interactions and explore business opportunities.

Brunei-China towards strategic cooperative relationship

GADONG, September 30 – The Chinese Embassy in the country held a Reception in conjunction with the 67th anniversary of the People's Republic of China, and the 25 years of diplomatic relations between the Republic of China and Brunei Darussalam. The reception was held at Rizqun International Hotel.

Present as the guest of honour was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance, received by Her Excellency Yang Jian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam.

In her welcoming remarks, Her excellency said that on the 30th of September, 25 years ago, the Foreign Minister of China, His Excellency Qian Qichen, and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien signed a joint statement in New York on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between China and Brunei Darussalam.

Eversince, the relations between both countries have continuously advanced with the increasing number of exchanges and cooperation in various fields.

According to Her Excellency, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made a state visit to the Republic of China and have always supported and given assistance to the growth of the relations between China and Brunei Darussalam.

Recently Her Excellency said that His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the Republic of China and His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam have been exchanging congratulatory messages, where both leaders deeply emphasised bilateral cooperation since the past 25 years



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Her Excellency Yang Jian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam, during the cake cutting ceremony in conjunction with the 67th anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

and expressed their strong will to continue to promote continuous development and bilateral ties.

The event saw a cake ceremony by the Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Her Excellency in conjunction with the 67th anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

The event was further enlivened by singing and dance performances by students of the Chung Hwa Middle School.

Discussion of themes, dates and venues for next year's major Islamic events

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 1 - The Executive Committee members for the National Major Islamic Events and the National Al-Quran Recitation Competition for Adults for the 1438 Hijrah Meeting was held at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

The meeting discussed on major Islamic events that will be held in the year 1438 Hijrah such as the Islamic New Year 1438 Hijrah, birth anniversary of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), women's gathering to celebrate Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) birthday, National Al-Quran Recitation Competition for Adults, Israk Mikraj celebration and Nuzul Al-Quran celebration among others.

Among the agendas discussed were the themes for each major Islamic event for the year 1438 Hijrah, dates, venues and appointment of committee members.

The meeting was chaired by Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang

Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs.

Also present was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji

Abu Bakar, Chief of Adat Istiadat Negara; Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd Daud, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs; as well as other senior officials from the government ministries, departments and also the private sector.



The Minister of Religious Affairs (third, right) in a group photo with members of the Executive Committee for the National Major Islamic Events and the National Al-Quran Recitation Competition for the 1438 Hijrah.

Reception in conjunction with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's 85th National Day

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 23 – The cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is closely linked to historical, cultural and religious values, as well as the commitment of both countries towards peace, development and stability at national, regional and international levels.

This was highlighted by His Excellency Hisham bin Abdul Wahab bin Zar'ah, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Saudi Arabia to Brunei Darussalam said that the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the reception in conjunction with the 85th National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at The Rizqun International Hotel in Gadong.

His Excellency said that the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia celebrates its 85th National Day with a project that aims to improve the quality of its people's lives and at the same time providing the best services to its visitors.

According to His Excellency, the new economy plan for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is suitable with the Saudi Vision 2030 where it aims to provide comfort to the people and the Government of



Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs with His Excellency Hisham bin Abdul Wahab bin Zar'ah, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Saudi Arabia to Brunei Darussalam during the cake cutting at the reception in conjunction with the 85th National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will be responsible for the community and country as a whole, with the clear objective of achieving national success through various aspects such as economy and others.

Present on behalf of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan's Government was Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang

Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs.

Earlier, the event commenced with the singing of national anthems of both countries and a video clip on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Minister and His Excellency then took part in a cake cutting to further enliven the event.

Korean embassy holds Korea's National Foundation Day reception

JERUDONG, September 28 – The relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Korea has rapidly developed over the past decades, where the trade volume between the two countries has been recorded as much as BND 2 billion.

Korea is Brunei's second largest trading partner and has been an important partner of Brunei especially in the energy sector. In addition, infrastructure cooperation is revitalised such as through the Temburong and the Sungai Kebun bridge projects.

The government and companies of both countries are currently exploring future-oriented cooperation in environment, tourism, ICT, SMEs, e-commerce, medical and other creative and innovative industries for the sustainable growth of Brunei and the Republic of Korea.

The matter was explained by His Excellency Cho Won-myung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to Brunei in his speech at a reception to commemorate Korea's National Foundation Day. The event was held at Indera Samudera Hall of the Empire Hotel & Country Club.

Present on behalf of the government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Bahrin bin Abdullah, Minister of Development and spouse, Pengiran Datin Hajah Norsiah binti Pengiran Haji Hamdan.



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Bahrin bin Abdullah, Minister of Development and spouse, Pengiran Datin Hajah Norsiah binti Pengiran Haji Hamdan with His Excellency Cho Won Myung and spouse, Madam Ahn Seung Mee during the cake cutting ceremony in conjunction with Korea's National Foundation Day.

The event also saw a cake cutting ceremony in conjunction with Korea's National Foundation Day and a gift presentation from His Excellency Cho Won Myung and spouse, Madam Ahn Seung Mee to the Minister of Development.

Temburong Holiday Destination packages offer interesting deals

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 1 – In an effort to promote the Temburong District as a unique travel destination, the Tourism Development Department of the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) with the collaboration of the Temburong District Office launched eight 'Temburong Holiday Destination' packages which comprise of a three days two nights stay to experience the unique district. The launching was held at the Setia Pahlawan Hall of the MPRT.

Present as guest of honour to launch the event was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism.

The 'Temburong Holiday Destination' packages offers homestays at the Ulu-Ulu Resort for couples enjoying their honeymoon, a lodge with beautiful surroundings for families and a 'glamour camp' by the Temburong River for those young at heart.

The Minister in his speech highlighted that MPRT is committed in ensuring that the tourism industry is one of the major contributors to development and economic growth, particularly in the non-oil and gas industry.

This is in line with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan's *titah* (royal speech), in which His Majesty emphasised the need for the country to move towards stable economic growth and competitiveness and to increase the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) efforts for the non-oil and gas sector.

By focusing on the tourism sector, the immediate strategic focus will be specialised in the development and upgrading of products, of which three categories of tourism products have been identified, namely 'primary products', 'emerging products' and 'activity-based tourism products'.

According to the Minister, the ministry through the Tourism Development Department will continue to improve the tourism industry through collaboration with stakeholders.

According to tourism statistics, tourist arrival by air was about 218,000 last year and is expected to double to 450,000 per year by 2020.

The Minister explained that the objective of the Temburong holiday packages 'is to promote Temburong as a preferred holiday destination comparable with neighbouring tourist destinations such as Phuket, Bali and Langkawi.

In addition, it will help and encourage local travel agents to engage more actively in promoting tourism products in domestic



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism viewing the 'Temburong Holiday Destination' packages offered.

and international levels, and also to provide locals with local options, which is a holiday in Temburong, especially when they plan their holidays in December.

A variety of choices in holiday packages have been developed and such as the Ulu-Ulu Resort, Freme Rainforest Lodge, Trandie Marina Resort, Sumbiling Eco Village, Borneo Trekker and AZ Back to Nature, where they offers premium packages, family, culture and adventure packages with attractive prices to tourists.

Temburong's pristine nature and ecosystems remain a major selling point as a tourist destination combined with the various ethnic, local culture and residents who are friendly, peaceful, and calm as well as the clean environment and is free of traffic, which makes Temburong a suitable family holiday destination.

The ministry has been working closely with stakeholders especially the Temburong District Office and all tourism products and services providers, and local communities to produce attractive holiday packages for all age groups.

They also have been working very hard to make sure that the packages are of high quality and high safety standards and that the services provided to tourists are of high levels of comfort and efficiency.

The minister urged all tourism stakeholders including travel agencies, airline companies, boat operators, accommodation providers and local communities to improve and work collectively together in building Temburong as a holiday destination of choice.

Newly implemented metered taxi systems to control and regulate rates

BERAKAS, September 23 – The launching of the new metered taxi system marks another milestone for Brunei in the efforts to provide efficient taxi services to the public. It is part of the Ministry of Communication's initiative in creating a public transport system that is regulated, connected and reliable.

The new metered taxi system was launched by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat, Minister of Communications at the Premium Parking Area of the Brunei International Airport.

The newly implemented metered taxi system will also ensure that all taxis in the country are charged according to the proper and regulated rates.

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Taxis are equipped with a meter to ensure that taxi rates are controlled and regulated.

Newly implemented metered taxi systems to control and regulate rates

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The metered system charges BND12 for the first 10 km but may increase subject to traffic conditions.

Taxis will now have the identification card of the driver displayed in the cabin of the vehicle for the convenience of passengers.

To ensure the taxi service is efficient and safe, a hotline for passengers to make complaints is displayed inside and at the rear of the taxi.

Sia Ho Chai, President of the Taxi Drivers Association of Brunei Darussalam in his speech said that taxi services have existed since the 1950s until now, despite having to overcome various challenges and obstacles.

According to him, metered taxi service was introduced in the 1980s but was stopped due to certain circumstances at the time.

"The current metered taxi system initiated by the Ministry of Communications has the full support of stakeholders to improve the services of taxis in a controlled and systematic approach," said Sia Ho Chai.

"With the metered taxi system and steps taken by the Land Transport Department and the Motor Transport Licensing Authority, we hope that it will help increase the earnings of taxi



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat, Minister of Communications launching the newly implemented metered taxi system at the Brunei International Airport.

operators as well as encourage the youth to take up this endeavor as a profession," he added.

At the event, the Minister as well as committee members of the Brunei Public Transport Systems Transformation Project and invited guests also had the opportunity to board the taxis at selected destinations in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Brunei-US relations remain strong

JERUDONG, September 21 – The close relations between Brunei Darussalam and the United States of America have existed for more than 171 years ago since the Constitution of the United States of America in 1845.

This was stated by His Excellency Craig Boyd Allen, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Brunei Darussalam in his welcoming remarks at the reception in conjunction of the 240th Independence Day of the United States of America, held at Indera Samudra Hall of the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

His Excellency also touched on the implementation of the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement between the United States of America and Brunei Darussalam as well as ten other ASEAN countries, which has created a Free Trade Zone, ensuring an increase in economic productivity and strengthening further the relationship among between the involved countries.

His Excellency expressed appreciation to the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for the efforts and cooperation given in working together in various fields addressed by both countries.

The event commenced with the singing of national anthems of Brunei



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof and spouse with His Excellency Craig Boyd Allen, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Brunei Darussalam and spouse during the cake cutting at the reception in conjunction of the 240th Independence Day of the United States of America.

Darussalam and the United States of America by performed by Sachi Dieker of JIS and Farah Aliyah binti Abdullah from Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah School, respectively.

Present on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof and spouse, Datin Hajah Kalshom binti Haji Suhaili.

The event was enlivened with a cake cutting participated by the Minister and His Excellency, as well as their spouses.

His Excellency then presented an appreciation gift to the Minister in the form of a framed vinyl album by jazz legend John Coltrane titled, 'A Love Supreme'.

The event included special performances by the Jazz Band, iFever, and the Jerudong International School (JIS) Jazz Band.

AMEM increases collaboration in energy sector



Heads of ASEAN Delegation in a group photo at the 34th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) and its Associated Meetings in Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

NAY PYI TAW, REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR, September 23 - The opening ceremony for the 34th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) and its Associated Meetings is currently taking place since the 21st until the 23rd of September 2016 at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II (MICC II). The ceremony also commemorated the launching of the ASEAN Energy Business Forum 2016.

The opening ceremony was launched by the guest of honour, His Excellency U Pe Zin Tun, Minister of Electricity and Energy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chair of 34th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting.

The ceremony that was attended by ASEAN Energy Ministers, as well as the Ministers of ASEAN Dialogue Partners.

Brunei Darussalam was represented by the Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamdan bin Haji Abu Bakar on behalf of the Minister of Energy and Industry at the Prime Minister's Office.

The ASEAN Ministers of Energy gathered for a two-day meeting with the theme 'Towards Greener Community with Cleaner Energy'. The heads of the ASEAN delegation also paid a courtesy call to Second Vice President U Henry Van Thio of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

2016 marks the start of the implementation of the new ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2020 cycle.

The meeting focused on the progress of energy cooperation with the 7 APAEC programme areas, namely ASEAN PowerGrid (APG), Trans-AseanGas Pipeline (TAGP), ASEAN Form on Coal (AFOC), Energy Efficiency and Conservation Sub-sector Network (EE&C-SSN), Renewable Energy Sub-sector Network (RE-SSN), Regional Energy Policy and Planning Sub-sector Network (REPP-SSN) and Nuclear Energy Cooperation Sub-sector Network (NEC-SSN), all of which contribute to the goals of the ASEAN Economic Community.

At the 34th AMEM, Brunei reported its activities as the Chairman of the ASEAN EnergyRegulators' Network (AERN). Brunei reaffirmed AERN's commitment to ensure its effective contribution and support for the realisation of the ASEAN Power

Grid in order to strengthen the region's energy security.

During the 10th East Asia Summit (EAS) Energy Ministers Meeting, the ministers discussed and exchanged views on the world energy situation and energy security challenges in the East Asia region as well as cooperation to address these challenges. In the 13th AMEM+3, the energy ministers further discussed the global and regional challenges such as volatile oil prices, energy security and adverse impact on climate change.

The Asean+3 cooperation in energy focuses on enhancing energy connectivity and market integration to achieve energy security, accessibility, affordability and sustainability for the region.

At the 10th EAS EMM, Brunei reported on the progress of one of the fora's work stream on Renewable and Alternative Power Generation (RAPG) as Co-Chair with the United States of America, established in 2013.

The work stream presented to the meeting the 'Geospatial Toolkit' which was developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory of the USA. This tool can be used to identify the most climate-resilient areas for hydro, wind and solar power with the East Asia Region. The simulation tool can be used by policymakers and project planners in the EAS member countries to analyse potential sites for climate significant concerns. This toolkit is free and available online at <https://maps.nrel.gov/hydro-cc>.

The Energy Research Institute Network (ERIN), chaired by the Brunei National Energy Research Institute (BNERI), supports the work of the EAS EMM through its collaborative studies with the Economic Research Institute for Asean and East Asia (ERIA).

For the period of 2015-2017, ERIA and ERIN activities will focus on four studies, including the BNERI's study on the development of Eco-Town Model in ASEAN. The eco-town project has increased BNERI's profile in the EAS region.

The key outcome that transpired from the meetings was the firm commitment of ASEAN member states, dialogue partners and international agencies in enhancing regional cooperation in the energy sector. The 35th AMEM and Related Meetings will be hosted by the Philippines in 2017.

Ministry of Defence receives courtesy call



First Admiral (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Abdul Aziz bin Haji Mohd. Tamit, the Deputy Minister of Defence (right) with Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services at the Myanmar Armed Forces (left).

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 2 - Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services at the Myanmar Armed Forces, is currently in Brunei Darussalam with an accompanying delegation, on a three-day introductory visit.

Upon arrival at Bolkiah Garrison, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was welcomed by the Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), Yang Dimulikan Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Mohd Tawih bin Abdullah.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing then inspected a guard of honour, mounted by personnel from the Royal Brunei Land Forces (RBLF). He then made separate courtesy calls on First Admiral (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Abdul Aziz bin Haji Mohd. Tamit, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Yang Dimulikan



Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Mohd Tawih bin Abdullah, the Commander of the RBAF.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his spouse, Kyu Kyu Hla, as well as delegation is in Brunei Darussalam until the 4th of September 2016 for an introductory visit.

The Commander-in-Chief and his spouse, Kyu Kyu Hla, will have separate audiences with His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the RBAF; and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam at Istana Nurul Iman.

RBAF in need of high-calibre military leaders

TANAH JAMBU, SEPTEMBER 9 - Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), Yang Dimulikan Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Mohd Tawih bin Abdullah called on all officer cadets to be diligent and to accept all skills and knowledge given with a positive attitude and open mind.

The Commander of the RBAF said the matter in his speech at the Opening Ceremony to mark the commencement of the Commissioning Course for Officer Cadets of the 16th Intake 2016/2017, held at the Defence Academy, RBAF.

The 34 newly appointed officer cadets comprising 17 males and 17 females were selected for the Commissioning Course for Officer Cadets of the 16th Intake 2016/2017.

The RBAF Commander added that with princip and a strong spirit, he believes it will be able to shape the officer cadets in becoming excellent and intelligent leaders as well as a generation that is brave in defending the honour and sovereign of the monarch, the purity of Islam and the

survival of the race and nation.

He also touched on the systematic and detailed process that the academy utilises - from the selection process that tests prospective officer cadets' physical and mindset abilities and in unleashing their potentials, to the 52-week officer cadet training that puts to the test their resilience and courage.

"Performance evaluation for officer cadets will be made in a progressive and fair manner, and they will be trained and guided by skilled trainers," added the RBAF Commander.

In line with the Brunei Vision 2035, RBAF demands needs leaders with strong education and knowledge background to become the next generation of leaders to catalyse and lead RBAF's future direction.

The 34 officer cadets will be undergoing 52 weeks of training at the Defence Academy, focusing on developing their military leadership skills as well as their character and intellectual skills to prepare them for their first appointment as newly commissioned officers in the RBAF.



Yang Dimulikan Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Mohd Tawih bin Abdullah, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, affixing the insignia onto the uniform of one of officer cadets during the Opening Ceremony to mark the commencement of the Commissioning Course for Officer Cadets of the 16th Intake 2016/2017.

The officer cadets are expected to graduate in the Sovereign's Parade in September 2017.

Also present at the event were services commanders, military directors, commandants, senior officers, officers and staff of Defence Academy RBAF along with family members of the officer cadets.

Attorney General receives courtesy call

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 5 - The Attorney General's Chambers received a courtesy call from the Vice President of the Civil Division of the Court of Appeal of England and Wales, Lord Justice Sir Martin James Moore-Bick, and the Sub-Treasurer of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple, Patrick Maddams, at the Law and Courts Building.

During the courtesy call, Datin Seri Paduka Hajah Hayati binti Pehin Orang Kaya Shahbandar Dato Seri Paduka Haji Mohd Salleh, the Attorney General, Sir Martin James Moore-Bick and Patrick Maddams exchanged views on various legal issues.

Also present during the official visit were the British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, David Campbell; Dr. Colin Ong of Dr. Colin Ong Legal Service; and senior officers of the Attorney General's Chambers (AGC).



Datin Seri Paduka Hajah Hayati binti Pehin Orang Kaya Shahbandar Dato Seri Paduka Haji Mohd Salleh, the Attorney General (sitting, second left) in a group photo with Vice President of the Civil Division of the Court of Appeal of England and Wales, Lord Justice Sir Martin James Moore-Bick, and the Sub-Treasurer of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple, Patrick Maddams.

UNISSA signs MoU with DHIU, India

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 22 - Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) has signed another Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Darul Huda Islamic University (DHIU), Kerala, India, in the field of education, particularly Islamic studies.

The MoU was signed by Dr. Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, Rector of UNISSA on behalf of UNISSA and by Dr. Bahauden Muhammed Nadwi, the Vice Chancellor of DHIU on behalf of DHIU.

With the signing of a MoU, it sealed cooperation between UNISSA with DHIU. In addition, the signing is recognition that UNISSA is comparable with international Islamic universities that have been established earlier.

Dr. Bahauden Muhammed Nadwi visited UNISSA after attending the

International Seminar on Islam in the Malay World VI.

The purpose of the visit was to explore opportunities to collaborate and strategic cooperation in the field of Islamic studies.

According to Dr. Bahauden Muhammed Nadwi, DHIU provides a combination of academic education and knowledge on modern Islam.

With a system of rigorous, ongoing training and good masters in place, it hopes to allow for better understanding of Islamic culture and civilisation.

DHIU is committed to educating and producing expertise, professional skills, intellectual, knowledge-based Islamic tradition and verse to the modern critical ideas and current culture that shape human understanding of the world.



Dr. Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, Rector of UNISSA with Dr. Bahauden Muhammed Nadwi, Vice Chancellor of DHIU.

According to him, UNISSA has the attraction and a platform for the advancement of academic excellence, research and publication on Islam and this meeting allowed for productive dialogue among academics on the issues in the Islamic world.

Trade Balance recorded BND 283.1 million

For the month of September 2016 Brunei Darussalam's Trade Balance was BND283.1 million. Total exports amounted to BND548.4 million while imports were valued at BND265.3 million.

Exports in Mineral Fuels recorded the highest contribution of 90.6 per cent (BND497.1 million) of total exports followed by Machinery and Transport Equipment and Chemicals which contributed 5.7 per cent and 1.6 per cent respectively.

The major domestic exports recorded BND497.1 million, comprising Crude Oil

valued at BND242.8 million and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) at BND254.3 million.

The highest exports market was Japan with 29.8 per cent of total exports, followed by India (13.9 per cent), Singapore (12.6 per cent) and Thailand (10.0 per cent).

In September 2016, imports of goods decreased by 16.6 percent from BND318.0 million (August 2016) to BND265.3 million. The main imports by commodity were Machinery and Transport Equipment with BND78.3 million, followed by Manufactured Goods (BND51.0 million) and Food

(BND50.1 million).

According to End-Use Categories, imports of Intermediate Goods accounted for 61.4 per cent of the total imports. This was followed by imports of Capital Goods and Consumption Goods, with 28.9 per cent and 9.7 per cent respectively.

Meanwhile by country of origin, the highest imports came from Singapore with 23.0 per cent of total imports, followed by Malaysia (22.7 per cent), China (13.5 per cent) and USA (9.5 per cent).