



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam newsletter

Published by the Department of Information  
Prime Minister's Office

SEPTEMBER 2019  
VOLUME 34 ISSUE 09

## Reception ceremony strengthens relation with friendly nations

**JERUDONG, September 3** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam graced a Reception hosted by the resident Heads of Diplomatic Missions assigned to the country in conjunction with His Majesty's 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday celebration.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman.

Also in attendance were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar.

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## His Majesty's working visit to RBAF



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 delivers a *titah* during a working visit to Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

**BOLKIAH GARRISON, September 26** – 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 made a working visit to the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).

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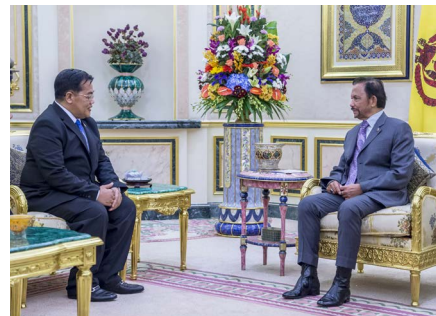


His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam together with other members of the royal family in a group photo with the resident Heads of Diplomatic Missions assigned to the country in conjunction with His Majesty's 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday celebration.





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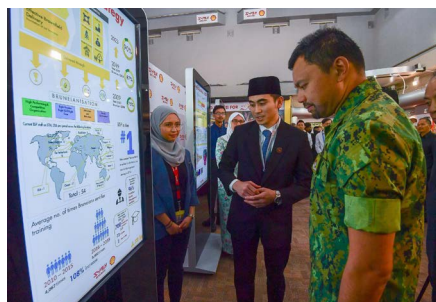
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**BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER** is published monthly by the Department of Information. It reports on government, social and business events in the country. All money values are expressed in Brunei dollars \$, unless otherwise stated. Any information in this newsletter may be reproduced; a clipping of the publication would be appreciated. For free subscription (excluding postage) please write to the Distribution Unit, Department of Information, Prime Minister's Office, Old Airport, Berakas BB 3510, Brunei Darussalam.

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## Letter of Credence and Audience Ceremony

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to present a Letter of Credence to Brunei Darussalam's newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and received Letters of Credence from newly-appointed foreign envoys to Brunei Darussalam on September 18, 2019. The ceremony took place at the Istana Nurul Iman. They were:



His Excellency Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Pahlawan (Rtd) Colonel Dato Paduka Haji Abdu'r Rahmani bin Dato Paduka Haji Basir, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the People's Republic of China.



His Excellency Christopher B. Montero, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Philippines to Brunei Darussalam.



Her Excellency Jeanette Stovel, High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam.



His Excellency Vladimir Borisovich Goncharenko, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Brunei Darussalam.



His Excellency Eiji Yamamoto, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam.



His Excellency Major General (Rtd) Abdul Aziz Tariq, High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam.

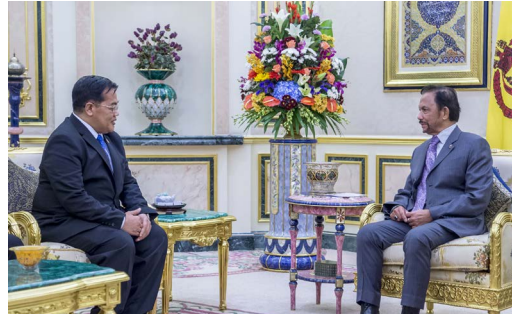


## His Majesty receives audiences

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:



Admiral Philip S. Davidson, Commander, United States (U.S.) Indo-Pacific Command on September 10.



His Excellency Oknha Datuk Dr. Othman Hassan, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Kingdom of Cambodia on September 17.



The Right Honourable Sir Peter Gross, Lord Justice of Appeal in England and Wales on September 17.



Baroness Annabel Goldie DL, Minister of State at the Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom on September 25.

## Her Majesty receives audiences

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



Her Excellency Jeanette Stovel, High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam on September 25.



Mrs. Yoshiko Yamamoto, spouse of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam on September 25.



Mrs. Sakina Aziz, spouse of the High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam on September 25.



Pengiran Datin Hajah Aisah binti Pengiran Haji Ismail, spouse of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to People's Republic of China on September 25.

## His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

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

- His Excellency Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and His Excellency Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the government and the people of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on the occasion of its 74<sup>th</sup> National Day on September 2.
- 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 occasion of its National Day on September 23.

## His Royal Highness the Crown Prince receives audiences

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received separate audiences from newly-appointed Brunei Darussalam envoy and newly-appointed foreign envoys to Brunei Darussalam at the Qashr Al-Meezan:



His Excellency Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Pahlawan (Rtd) Colonel Dato Paduka Haji Abdu'r Rahmani bin Dato Paduka Haji Basir, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the People's Republic of China on September 19.



His Excellency Christopher B. Montero, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Philippines to Brunei Darussalam on September 19.



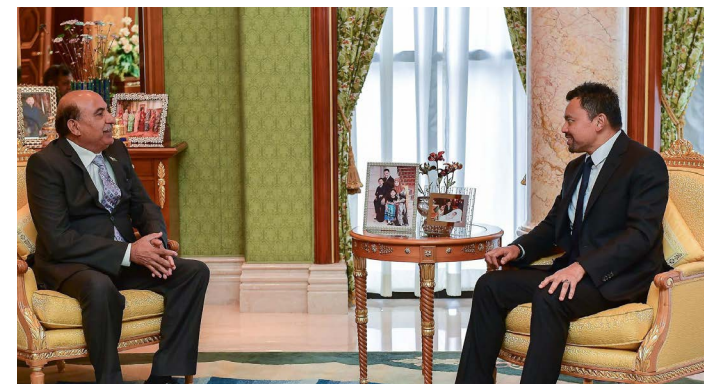
Her Excellency Jeanette Stovel, High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam on September 19.



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His Excellency Eiji Yamamoto, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam on September 19.



His Excellency Major General (Rtd) Abdul Aziz Tariq, High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam on September 19.



## His Majesty's working visit to RBAF



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 receives a Royal Salute from the Second Battalion of the Royal Brunei Land Forces at the Menara Block, Ministry of Defence.

### From front page

Upon arrival, His Majesty was welcomed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence; and Major General Pengiran Dato Paduka Seri Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, Commander of the RBAF.

His Majesty then delivered a *titah* (royal speech) at the Bolkiah Garrison's gymnasium attended by 2,000 RBAF officers and other ranks.

His Majesty in his *titah* stressed that the RBAF is the pillar of the country's defence and as a pillar, it must always be solid and strong. It is important to identify the strength of the RBAF on how far it can be considered adequate or still in need of improvement.

His Majesty said that the strength of RBAF consisted of 757 officers and 8,925 personnel of other ranks, carrying a total of 9,682 individuals according to the latest statistic.

"From this total, percentages are as follows; Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF) is 67 per cent; Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) is 64 per cent and 57 per cent from Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF)," His Majesty said.

From these figures, His Majesty acknowledged that RBAF is still short of staff, which in turn can affect management's effectiveness across all units. As a result of this shortage, there are officers who hold more than one position. "This can cause them to focus less on the key role of their positions. Meanwhile,

few military personnel are forced to do extra work affecting their primary roles of maintaining safety and defence security," His Majesty said.

His Majesty stressed that such weakness could not be tolerated.

His Majesty continued the *titah* saying that the strength factor of the RBAF is related to the capability level of its major assets.

"I understand that the capabilities for RBLF, RBN and RBAirF have not reached the optimum level of 75 per cent. Moreover, there have been disturbing incidents such as grounded RBAF vessels and issues with the RBAirF's CN235, which affected the overall state of major assets within the force," His Majesty said.

His Majesty said there have been reports on the unsatisfactory level of the asset, which caused several factors such as a lack of spare parts; delayed in asset maintenance process; lack of specialist engineers; lack of research, detailed and supervision at the planning stage as well as the asset acquisition and acceptance.

"I see that all these factors require the attention of all parties, especially the leadership. Do not just read about them on paper, but try and carefully examine them. Is it true and supported by those factors or reasons? If it is true, then look for a way to resolve them," His Majesty suggested.

His Majesty then mentioned other logistic issues which also requires attention.

"Symptoms of weakness here can be seen

in any unit such as shortages in stationery and office supplies as well as the frequent increase in the use of equipment and the provision of a home for military personnel. These all requires attention as well," said His Majesty.

His Majesty expressed concern over the increased security breaches and issue of military discipline among RBAF's personnel and emphasised the need for the moral of every personnel to be safeguard.

"It is critical to see that the offence continues to grow which rose from 33 cases in 2014 to 82 cases in 2018. Indeed, the increase is alarming as the violations include smuggling of contraband items such as liquor, cigarettes and gambling equipment," said His Majesty.

The Monarch stressed that there cannot be any compromise on these matters. His Majesty also expressed concern over disciplinary issues when he found out that throughout 2016 until August 2019 alone, there were cases of breaching military discipline.

"There were 338 cases of breaching military discipline followed by 182 drug offences; 138 cases of indecent behavior; 107 offences involving money or finance; 100 public offences; and 38 sharia offences. Why do these violations occur? It is imperative for the RBAF to look for the reasons. There must be reasons for this, perhaps the leadership did not reprimand their subordinates firmly enough, or failed to reprimand them on a constant basis, causing them to take discipline very lightly. Or it could be owing to a lack of

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### From page 6

clarity, causing them to be ill-informed on the RBAF Act and the Brunei Law," His Majesty said.

Taking care of disciplinary matters means taking care of the well-being of RBAF personnel and they are undoubtedly the main asset within the military force.

"Apart from a high level of morality, the personnel also have their welfare projects. Through these projects, it would greatly benefit themselves, as well as the rest of the country and society. But why does it seem like this is no longer implemented?" His Majesty asked in the *titah*.

His Majesty highlighted that carrying out these projects are an activity in which the nature of the activity is not detrimental but beneficial.

"If there is no project, then there is no activity. An organisation without any activity is a weak organisation. I do not want this to happen," stressed His Majesty.

His Majesty further said that a defence organisation should not show any weakness even amongst themselves.

"I hope those in positions of leadership pay close attention to the matters that I brought up in today's meeting."

His Majesty also urged those in positions of leadership, including the Second Minister of Defence, to take the lead in addressing all issues that were raised during the working visit.

During the working visit, His Majesty visited several RBAF infrastructures at the Garrison as well as the Bolkiah Garrison Medical Complex.

At the Medical Complex, His Majesty visited the medical services unit and also visited some of the places including Lecture Hall; Clinical Simulation Hall and Meeting Room. His Majesty also had the opportunity to visit the Health Screening Clinic and Family Clinic at the Medical and Health Service Centre.

The Medical and Health Services for military personnel have been in operation since September 16, 2019, while the Family Clinic service starts its operation today. The complex houses 12 local doctors and four medical personnel from the Republic of Pakistan.

His Majesty then visited Pantai Berakas Primary School. The arrival of His Majesty was greeted by Sharinah binti Haji Shahbudin, Principal of the school, who then presented a briefing on the



His Majesty interacting with the students of Pantai Berakas Primary School accompanied by Sharinah binti Haji Shahbudin, Principal of the school.

school, which currently has a total of 225 students and 34 teachers as well as 11 staff.

His Majesty then visited the married quarters of the RBAF senior and junior rank occupied by Warrant Officer 2 Sopian bin Haji Abdul Hamid and the married quarter of the RBAF junior rank occupied by Lance Corporal Md. Adi Yusran bin Mohammad and Major Awang Ahmad Bohare bin Mansor respectively.

His Majesty also made a visit to the B Company, First Battalion of the RBLF

where His Majesty was welcomed by Lieutenant Colonel Mohammad Roasri Erwan bin Haji Tasrif, Commanding Officer of First Battalion of the RBLF and Major Awang Abd. Aziz bin Razali, Officer Commanding of B Company, First Battalion of the RBLF, who then conducted a briefing.

His Majesty also toured the Cookhouse of the First Battalion of the RBLF, which can accommodate 722 people and received a briefing from Major Awang Haji Ainol Ardika bin Haji Tinggal.



His Majesty in a group photo with Major Awang Ahmad Bohare bin Mansor and family during the visit to the married quarters.



## Reception ceremony strengthens relation with friendly nations

From front page

Upon arrival at the Royal Berkshire, Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club, Their Majesties were greeted by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd. Yusof, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed bin Hashil Al-Maskari, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam, as the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, High Commissioners and Ambassadors of friendly nations to the country.

Shortly after arrival, Their Majesties consented to join in a group photo session with the resident Heads of Diplomatic Missions and their respective spouses.

Meanwhile, His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed in a welcoming address expressed his highest appreciation to His Majesty for the monarch's presence at the event.

According to His Excellency, it was a great honour for the resident Heads of Diplomatic Missions assigned to the country to together celebrate His Majesty's 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

His Excellency further stated that under His Majesty's wise leadership, Brunei Darussalam is a peaceful country and he expressed his deep appreciation to the citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam for the friendship and good hospitality given to the resident Heads of Diplomatic Missions assigned to the country.

On behalf of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency wished His Majesty and members of the royal family to be blessed with long life, happiness and continued health and for the citizens of the country to enjoy peace, prosperity as well as progress under the leadership of His Majesty.



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 receives a *pesambah* from the resident Heads of Diplomatic Missions assigned to Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty also received a *pesambah* (souvenir) from the resident Heads of Diplomatic Missions assigned to the country in conjunction with His Majesty's 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday celebration. The *pesambah* is an Islamic calligraphy or *khat* artwork

inspired by the Al-Quran portraying 'Al Huroof Al Muqattaah' which means 'Disjointed Letters', using the 14 letters contained in the 29 surah of Al-Quran and forms an aspect of the miracle of Al-Quran.



Their Majesties mingle with the Head of Diplomatic Mission and spouse during the reception.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam at the reception. Also present were other members of the royal family.

## His Majesty pays final respect to Almarhum His Royal Highness Sultan Ismail Petra



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of the royal family performing the *Jenazah* prayer.

**KOTA BHARU, KELANTAN, September 28** - 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 Royal Ceremonial Funeral of Almarhum His Royal Highness Sultan Ismail Petra ibni Almarhum Sultan Yahya Petra, the father of Sultan of Kelantan His Royal Highness Sultan Muhammad the V held at Istana Balai Besar, Kota Bharu, Kelantan Darul Naim, Malaysia.

Accompanying His Majesty were His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah.

Upon arrival at the Sultan Ismail Petra Airport, His Majesty proceeded to the Istana Balai Besar Kelantan where His Majesty was ushered to the Balairung Seri to pay final respect to Al-Marhum His Royal Highness Sultan Ismail Petra and then performed the *Jenazah* (funeral) prayer.

His Majesty, together with other Malay Rulers, as well as other royal family members then proceeded to the Langgar Royal Mausoleum, Kota Bharu for the Royal Burial Ceremony.

Prior to departure from Kota Bharu, Kelantan Darul Naim, a *Doa Selamat* was recited by State Religious Officer of Kota Bharu Ustaz Anwar bin Hashim.

Present to bid farewell at Sultan Ismail Petra Airport was Tengku Muhammad Faiz Petra, the Crown Prince of Kelantan.

Also present was His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Alaihuddin bin Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Utama Haji Awang Mohd Taha, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah (left) and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah (right) pour water to the burial site of Almarhum His Royal Highness Sultan Ismail Petra ibni Almarhum Sultan Yahya Petra.



His Majesty pours water to the burial site of Almarhum His Royal Highness Sultan Ismail Petra ibni Almarhum Sultan Yahya Petra.

to Malaysia.

Almarhum His Royal Highness Sultan Ismail Petra passed away at 8.11 a.m. at the Royal Ward, Hospital Raja Perempuan Zainab II, Kota Bharu, at the age of 69. Almarhum His Royal Highness Sultan Ismail Petra was born on November 11, 1949 at Istana Jahar, Kota Bharu. Almarhum His Royal Highness was the sole prince and youngest child of Almarhum Sultan Yahya Petra ibni Almarhum Sultan Ibrahim and Almarhumah Raja Perempuan Zainab binti Almarhum Tengku Sri Utama Raja Tengku Muhammad Petra.

Almarhum was crowned as the 28<sup>th</sup> Sultan of Kelantan on March 30, 1980, and ruled the state until September 13, 2010.





## His Majesty's working visit to RBAirF Base and RBN

**RIMBA, September 30** - 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 continued his working visit to Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF) Base in Rimba, as a follow-up of the monarch's recent working visit to the Ministry of Defence and the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).

His Majesty first visited the RBAirF Headquarters and was welcomed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy; and Major General Pengiran Dato Paduka Seri Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, Commander of the RBAF.

Shortly after arrival at Hangars 'A' and 'B', His Majesty was briefed on the status of the CN235 aircraft and also watched more closely the equipment such as the Blackhawk Helicopter as well as operating room facilities, a Simulator for training use and the Survival Equipment Section FLT Issue, Technical Equipment Maintenance Division.

His Majesty then visited Domestic Supply Flight and took a closer look at the equipment available in the store rooms including Accommodation Store, Electrical Store and Ground Support Equipment (GSE) including the GSE Mechanical Workshop and Electrical Major Equipment to carry out maintenance and repairs on all spare and support equipment used to carry out aircraft maintenance activities.

Prior to leaving, His Majesty visited the soldiers' accommodation including offices and classrooms in the training facilities and the governance of its members and then to the cookhouse of the base at Punai Hall which can accommodate a total of 1,200 people.

His Majesty continued the working visit to Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) Headquarters.

Upon arrival at the RBN Primary School, His Majesty had the opportunity to review the educational development of the school, which accommodates 208 pupils and 29 teachers for the morning session and 223 pupils and 13 teachers for the afternoon session.

During the visit to operations of the Multi National Coordination Centre (MNCC), His Majesty took a closer



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 trying the Virtual Avionics Procedural during the visit to RBAirF Base.



His Majesty touring the Domestic Supply Flight.

look at the Naval Training Centre including the training administration office, classes in the Student Division, Samudera Briefing Room and Workshop.

At the Bravo Jetty Synchrolift, His Majesty was briefed on the Synchrolift's upgrading project and then continued the visit to Synchrolift Alpha for a demonstration on the KDB BERKAT's Vessel's downslip.

His Majesty also visited the Singles Barrack for RBN personnel and the RBN personnel Quarter Master including the Expandable Store, UET and Misc Store, Survival Store, Clothing Store and Store Ration as well as Vanguard Logistic Store Bravo.

His Majesty then proceeded to the RBN Officers' Mess for a luncheon.



His Majesty at the soldiers' barrack.



His Majesty listens to a briefing on the status of the CN235 aircraft.

## Swearing-in Ceremony for Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court



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 together with His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah graces the Swearing-in Ceremony for The Honourable Justice Edward Timothy Starbuck Woolley as the newly-appointed Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 7** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Swearing-in Ceremony for the newly-appointed Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court. The ceremony took place at Istana Nurul Iman.

Present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah.

The ceremony began with the reading of the Letter of Appointment by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Penggawa Laila Bentara Istiadat Diraja Dalam Istana Pengiran Haji Alauddin bin Pengiran Paduka Tuan Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar, Grand Chamberlain.

The ceremony continued with the reading of the oath before His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam by The Honourable Justice Edward Timothy Starbuck Woolley as the Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court.

Also present were Yang Berhormat



His Majesty presents a Letter of Appointment to the newly-appointed Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court.

Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Di-Raja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa bin Pehin Datu Perdana Manteri Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Ibrahim, Special Adviser to His Majesty and Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Hairul Arni bin Haji Abd. Majid, Attorney General; The Right Honourable Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong Wan Oon, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; and The Honourable Justice Pengiran Datin Paduka Hajah Rostaina binti Pengiran Haji Duraman, High Court Judge.



The Honourable Justice Edward Timothy Starbuck Woolley, the newly-appointed Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court reading the oath before His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.



## His Majesty visits RBPF

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 5** - The Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) continued to receive attention and care from 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 when His Majesty consented on a working visit to several police stations in the Brunei-Muara District.

His Majesty began the working visit to the RBPF Headquarters in Gadong.

Upon arrival at the headquarters, His Majesty was greeted by Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Mohammad Irwan bin Haji Hambali, Commissioner of the RBPF and Dato Paduka Haji Awang Mohd. Hassan bin Pehin Penyurat Haji Awang Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner of RBPF.

Shortly after arriving, His Majesty received the royal salute and inspected the Guard of Honour led by Superintendent of Police, Haji Azree bin Haji Abd. Manaf / Munap, Parade Commanding Officer.

To bless the ceremony, a *Doa Selamat* was read by Muhammad Aimi Safwan bin Zalidin, Assistant Superintendent of Police.

His Majesty then proceeded to the Officers Mess' Banquet Hall and consented to deliver a *titah* (royal speech) where His Majesty stressed that the structure of the environment under RBPF's purview needs to be improved and considered where all police stations in every district and its barracks should be reviewed and updated.

For instance, the police station in Brunei-Muara District which is equipped with amenities such as barracks, bungalows, a hall and a football ground suffered damages and the compound of the barracks are not properly maintained and covered with weeds.

His Majesty added that the rubbish disposal site is also poorly maintained, and there are several abandoned vehicle wrecks in front of the police station left to be stored.

"All these require effective discretion from the leadership of RBPF. Any deficiencies are the product of human error, thus human resources should not be taken for granted. If the human resources are good, then the results will be good, and vice-versa," said His Majesty.

His Majesty added that as a long-established security agency, it should no longer have issues of inefficient management and administration. Unfortunately, it is still occurring. For instance, three years ago, a criminal broke into and ransacked a floral and boutique shop, and even the criminal's activity was clearly recorded on Closed Circuit TV (CCTV), and his fingerprints were also found at several points inside the store.

"However, the police still failed to handle the case due to lack of competency, compared to others, the police were normally able to apprehend suspects, despite the lack of evidence," said His Majesty.

His Majesty stressed that we should feel challenged by this, and need to learn from more experienced parties in overcoming the problem. We cannot afford to take any failings lightly. It is not a shame that we learn, but it is shameful if we fail to address deficiencies that should not have been allowed to happen.

His Majesty also stressed on matters relating to high-ranking police personnel in the RBPF, where His Majesty wished to see



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 delivers a *titah* during a working visit to Royal Brunei Armed Forces.



His Majesty inspecting the Guard of Honour during a working visit to Royal Brunei Police Force.

plans in the provision of successors as this is crucial towards ensuring quality leadership, at least for the next few years. Leadership must be transparent, fair and brave in decision-making.

His Majesty further said that within the RBPF, there may still be some unethical officers or members, such as ill-disciplined and unprofessional in the execution of tasks and there are some who are possibly involve in criminal activities, such as consuming alcohol and others.

His Majesty emphasised that these require firmness and courage on the part of the leadership to contain, or else this affliction will spread out uncontrollably.

His Majesty said that the subordinates in the RBPF should not show disrespect or insubordination by refusing to salute their superior officers or leaders. This is not the meaning of police. If there are such individuals, then they do not deserve to be a member of the police, let alone assume leadership.

His Majesty also reminded the police force to seek career excellence by truly preventing crime and cleaning Brunei Darussalam from crime.

However in recent years, the credibility of RBPF has been questioned, owing to several incidences such as weaknesses in handling high-profile criminal cases.

According to His Majesty, in 2004, a criminal escaped from police custody. In the years 2008, 2011, 2017 and 2018, as well as the involvement of senior police personnel in corruption or criminal breach of trust in 2015.

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"These incidents have tainted the good image of the RBPF, and we cannot accept this," said His Majesty.

In addition, there are also reports of low-ranking personnel being unhappy and dissatisfied with the way the Welfare Fund for the RBPF officers and staff are being administered. According to these low-ranking personnel, it is an unfair administration because they are segregated, to the point of not being allowed to reap benefits from the fund.

His Majesty added that such an incident only shows the weakness of the police force. It is not only a weakness but has the potential to affect their overall performance. There should not be an argument or dissatisfaction among themselves, but it is important for them to realise that police work are becoming more challenging and difficult.

His Majesty also said that by looking at the police statistics, the crime rate is high, especially for property crimes such as theft, car break-ins, vehicle theft, loss of valuables, robbery, possessing stolen items and house break-ins.

"In 2017 alone, 3,090 crime cases toward property were recorded. While along with other crimes, it amounts to 5,192 cases," said His Majesty.

From the Banquet Hall, His Majesty then visited Taman Didikan Anak-Anak Polis Diraja Brunei, which was established in 1983, as a nursery (daycare) and registered in the Private Education Division under the Ministry of Education in 2008.

The arrival of His Majesty at the school was welcomed by Siti Manisa binti Haji Mohd. Yusof, Principal of Taman Didikan Anak-Anak Polis Diraja Brunei.

Currently, the school has eight teaching staff including six teachers and two assistant teachers with a total of 115 pupils comprising children of officers and members of RBPF.

His Majesty then continued the visit to RBPF's Criminal Investigation Department and its units.

Upon arrival, His Majesty was greeted by Dato Paduka Haji Awang Mohd. Hassan bin Pehin Penyurat Haji Awang Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner of RBPF as the Acting Director of Criminal Investigation.

His Majesty then continued the visit to the Criminal Investigation Department which comprise the Administration Section, Trade Criminal Investigation Section, House Breaking and Car



His Majesty during a working visit to the Criminal Investigation Department.

Theft Unit, Special Investigation Unit, Women and Children Abuse Investigation Unit, Crime Scene Management Unit and the I.T Forensic Unit.

From the RBPF Headquarters, His Majesty continued the working visit to the Brunei International Airport Police Station to get a closer look at its function and role.

Upon arrival, His Majesty was welcomed by the Senior Superintendent of Police, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Mohammed Saifullah bin Pengiran Indera Setia Diraja Sahibul Karib Pengiran Anak Haji Idris, Acting Director of Operations Department.

His Majesty first took a closer look at the exhibition of the confiscated items namely prohibited and dangerous goods that are not allowed on board.

His Majesty then visited the Airport Police Operation Room which functions to monitor the surrounding and safety of the airport. In an effort to address various challenges and issues, the RBPF diligently continues to improve their integrity and services.

His Majesty also consented to witness experimental vehicle followed with a visit to several facilities at the Brunei International Airport such as Baggage Handling System Control Room and Explosive Trace Detection (ETD) Room.

Then, His Majesty visited the Arrival and Departure Hall of the airport.

Before leaving the airport, His Majesty visited the Brunei International Air Cargo Centre (BIACC), a centre that provides cargo services and freight forwarding facilities which support the efforts and aspirations of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to make Brunei a tourism trade hub in the region.

His Majesty then continued the working visit to Central Police Station in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Upon arrival, His Majesty was greeted by Superintendent of Police, Pengiran Haji Abdul Salam bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Ghani, Acting Commanding Officer of the Brunei-Muara District Police.

Among the facilities available at the station include the Operations Room and Operator; briefing room; IP Audit Room / EP; First Information Report (FIR) room; Criminal Investigation Department and the Chamber Interviews.



His Majesty visiting the Taman Didikan Anak-Anak Polis Diraja Brunei.



## 451 UTB graduates receive certificates

**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 who is also the Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) graced the 7<sup>th</sup> Convocation of UTB held at the International Convention Centre.

Also present was His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Pro-Chancellor of UTB.

Upon arrival, His Majesty and His Royal Highness were welcomed by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Education as Chairman of UTB's Council; Haji Ady Syarmin bin Haji Md. Taib, Acting Vice-Chancellor of UTB and Mr. Lim Chui Hua, Registrar and Secretary of UTB.

The ceremony commenced with the reading of *Surah Al-Fatihah* led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.

The ceremony then continued with the reading of Al-Quran verse of *Al-Baqarah* by Abdul Qawi bin Haji Mohamed Hussain, Bachelor's degree graduate in Mechanical Engineering and the interpretation was read by Haji Abdul Haadi bin Haji Ali Hassan, also a Bachelor's degree graduate in Mechanical Engineering.

This was followed by a welcoming address by Haji Ady Syarmin bin Haji Md. Taib.

At the ceremony, His Majesty consented to deliver a *titah* (royal speech) where His Majesty said that UTB should continue its efforts to become an effective global university and maintain its character as a Technology University.

His Majesty expressed great pleasure to know that UTB recently won first place for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for Environmental Management in the Islamic World (KSAAEM) with the project title, 'Mitigating floods and fire hazards in forestry using IoT (Internet of Thing) system in Brunei Darussalam, under the category for Best Non-Government Organisations' Leading Practices.

His Majesty said that the award for the success will be donated from the government of Saudi Arabia worth USD30,000 and will be presented at the opening ceremony of the 8th Islamic Conference for Environment Ministers held at the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisations (ISESCO) Headquarters in Rabat.



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 who is also the Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) and His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Pro-Chancellor of UTB graces the 7<sup>th</sup> Convocation of UTB.

"Other noteworthy news is UTB's success reaching the top 400, ranking 379<sup>th</sup> in the QS World University Rankings. However, this does not mean that other higher education institutions which have yet to be ranked were among the lowest," said His Majesty.

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His Majesty presenting certificates to the graduates of Masters and Bachelor's degrees (above and below).



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In conjunction with the 7<sup>th</sup> Convocation of UTB 2019, His Majesty also stressed that UTB should update its programmes so that they are more relevant to the current needs. The programmes are not only to produce graduates with the latest technological competencies, but are also instilled with flexible, creative and innovative mindsets which allows them to take advantage of market needs.

"I welcome UTB's plan to establish a platform aimed at fostering a culture of innovation through curriculum, research and collaboration involving relevant agencies and competitions. I recommend that the government agencies, private sectors and higher education institutions to work together in mobilising the platform," said His Majesty at the ceremony.

"In this regard, UTB also needs to improve communication with the relevant industries. This is a way for the university to prepare its graduates with skills according to industry requirements. At the same time, these measures will also help to increase job opportunities for graduates," His Majesty said.

At this convocation, His Majesty presented Master's degree certificates to 100 graduates and Bachelor's degree to 351 graduates.

To bless the ceremony, a *Doa Selamat* was read by the State Mufti.

Prior to leaving, His Majesty received a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from the graduates and their families.

UTB is an engineering and technology university in Brunei Darussalam that specialises in the niche areas of engineering, business and computing and informatics, applied sciences and mathematics as well as design.

UTB is the only local university to receive five-star ranking from the QR Stars rating,



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah takes a picture with the graduates' family and friends at the 7<sup>th</sup> Convocation of UTB.

and the first to successfully acquire the ISO 9001 : 2015 Quality Management System Certification by Bureau Veritas.

To date, UTB has produced 5,141 BDTVEC Higher National Diploma graduates; 295 Level 5 Higher National Diploma graduates; 1,784 Bachelor's degree graduates and 199 Master's degree graduates. This includes Master

of Science (Hons) in Information Security from School of Computing and Informatics and Master of Science (Hons) in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from the Faculty of Engineering, which this year marks the first convocation for the first batch of graduates to take up the course.



One of the graduates in a group photo with family and friends at the convocation ceremony.



Some of the graduates with their certificates during the ceremony





## Empower teacher's role

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 23** – The annual Teacher's Day celebration symbolises the nation's and community's great appreciation towards educators for their services and commitment.

In line with this year's Teacher's Day theme, '*Pendidikan Berkualiti Teras Kecemerlangan Pelajar*' or Quality Education the Core of Students' Excellence, it showcased the aspect of pedagogy and holistic development of education in the country to produce students who are balanced in various aspects such as intellect, spirit, emotion and physical.

While the core is the foundation or the policy for students' excellence that can be seen in terms of successful mastery of knowledge and academic skills, mastering other areas including moral development and good self-esteem.

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 graced the 29<sup>th</sup> Teacher's Day Celebration which took place at the International Convention Centre (ICC), Berakas.

Also present were other members of the royal family, His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah.



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* in conjunction with the 29<sup>th</sup> Teacher's Day Celebration.

Upon arrival, His Majesty and other members of the royal family were welcomed by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Education; and Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs as the Co-Chairmen of the ceremony; as well as the members of the 29<sup>th</sup> Teacher's Day Celebration Executive Committee.

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His Majesty presenting the Meritorious Teacher Award to Pengiran Datin Paduka Hajah Mariam binti Pengiran Matarsat (right) and Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ishaq bin Haji Abdullah (left).



His Majesty presenting the Excellent Teacher Award to Zulkipli bin Hamid (left) from the IBTE Sultan Bolkiah Campus in Seria and Rossaleni binti Haji Selamat (right) from Masin Secondary School.

## Royal Birthday Recreational Cycling promotes healthy society

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 8** – The Royal Birthday Recreational Cycling 2019 is not just a healthy activity, it also unites all levels of society specifically the youth and families in the country.

The presence of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the event and leading the recreational cycling with more than 3,000 cyclists from all walks of life will surely become history and sweet memory.

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the Royal Birthday Recreational Cycling. Also present 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 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and other members of the royal family.

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The Minister of Education as the Co-Chairman of the event delivered his welcoming speech. It was followed by His Majesty's *titah* (royal speech) where His Majesty reminded that the country cannot avoid the challenges of globalisation in which the challenges can turn into threats to the nation's culture and identity.

His Majesty also stressed the importance of empowering teacher's role, because if the role is withered or weakened, the result will also wither and weakened.

Therefore, His Majesty highlighted that teachers need to be mindful that their role is very important. Like machete, it needs to be sharpened for any use. If not, it will rust and blight.

The event was further enlivened by a video clip showing a montage on this year's Teacher's Day theme and it was followed by performances from students of the Berakas Secondary School, Champion of Syair Declamation Competition; Sengkurong Primary School, Champion of the Primary Schools Choir Competition; Saint George's School, runner-up in the Patriotic Songs Competition for Secondary and Private Schools 2019 and special needs students from government secondary schools.

His Majesty then presented the 29<sup>th</sup> Teacher's Day award to 27 recipients, where three received the Meritorious Teacher's Award; four received Excellent Teacher's Award; and 20 other teachers were awarded the Teacher's Day Special Mention Award.



Also present were His Majesty's sons and brothers, His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah.

The recipients of the Meritorious Teacher Award were Pengiran Datin Paduka Hajah Mariam binti Pengiran Matarsat; Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ishaq bin Haji Abdullah and Hajah Halimah binti Mohd. Ya'akub. The Meritorious Teacher's Award recipients received an honorary certificate, BND12,000 in cash, souvenir and free medical facilities at government hospitals.

While Dr. Lim Lee Hoon from the Universiti Brunei Darussalam; Zulkipli bin Hamid from the Institute of Brunei Technical Education (IBTE) Sultan Bolkiah Campus in Seria; Rossaleni binti Haji Selamat from Masin Secondary School and Lim Kian Boon from IBTE received the Excellent Teacher's Award. The Excellent Teacher's Award recipients received an

honorary certificate, BND4,000, and given priority in furthering their education.

His Majesty and other members of the royal family then consented to join in a group photo session with the award recipients and members of the 29<sup>th</sup> Teacher's Day Celebration Executive Committee and then toured the Teacher's Day exhibition at the lobby of the ICC.

This year's concept of this year's Teacher's Day Celebration focuses on three sections in line with its theme, where the main exhibition area presented quotes or excerpts of His Majesty's *titah* and the Syair of Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien; Education Innovation Exhibition; and Lifelong Education Exhibition.



## Royal Birthday Recreational Cycling promotes healthy society

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His Majesty's sportsmanship and involvement portrays His Majesty as an icon in together generating and mobilising sports activity in creating a healthy society.

Also present at the event 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 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen as well as other members of the royal family.

The Royal Birthday Recreational Cycling 2019 was organised in conjunction with His Majesty's 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday celebration as well as the 8<sup>th</sup> National Family Day and 14<sup>th</sup> National Youth Day celebration for the year of 2019.

Upon arrival at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin, His Majesty and other members of the royal family were welcomed by Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports; Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs; Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Md. Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health; and Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato

Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications.

Shortly after arrival, His Majesty signed a special jersey framed in conjunction with the Royal Birthday Recreational Cycling 2019 and further enlivened with the performances from Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, youths of Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Politeknik Brunei, Mukim Lumapas, Special Olympic Brunei Darussalam (SOBD) as well as Transformational Youth Community Club (KKBT).

His Majesty then took the lead for the 11.50 kilometres cycling event which began and ended at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin and passed through Jalan Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin, Jalan Kianggeh, Jalan Sekolah, Jalan Kumbang Pasang, Jalan Perdana Menteri, Jalan Haji Basir and Jalan Sultan.

After completing the recreational cycling, His Majesty and other members of the royal family watched a march past comprising 73 cyclists from all districts who completed the 73-kilometre cycling event that started as early as 6.00 a.m. and also watched a family parade from all ages.

His Majesty also joined and witnessed the Bandarku Ceria activities held in the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin.

The Royal Brunei Recreational Cycling 2019 was conducted by youths with the goal of providing both opportunities and awareness to the youths on aspects of

family life by focusing on strengthening the family institution and more positive mindset change.

In line with the theme, '*Belia Ceria Keluarga Bahagia*', there were two zones manned by government agencies, the private sector, youth and sports associations and clubs as well as many others, namely, the Creative and Innovation Zone and Family and Sports Activity Zone.

During the event, His Majesty also watched a Tug of War competition in conjunction with His Majesty's 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday celebration won by Chainblock after defeating KB Bull Panaga A.

His Majesty and other members of the royal family also had the opportunity to participate in the Tug of War activity.

The close relationship between the monarch and the people came to light when His Majesty and other members of the royal family received *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) and took pictures with the people and residents who attended and celebrated the event.

The Royal Birthday Recreational Cycling 2019 was jointly organised by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs; Ministry of Religious Affairs; Ministry of Health; and Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications as well as the involvement of other ministries and the Brunei Darussalam Cycling Federation.

## 26 ITQSHHB graduates receives 'Aliyah Qiraat Diploma

**BERAKAS, September 4** – His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office consented to present the 'Aliyah Qiraat Diploma at the 7<sup>th</sup> Hafut Takharuj of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Tahfiz Al-Quran Institute (ITQSHHB). The event took place at the International Convention Centre.

Upon arrival, His Royal Highness was welcomed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs as the Chairman of the 7<sup>th</sup> Hafut Al-Takharuj of the ITQSHHB's Executive Committee; Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Hairol Arni bin Haji Abd. Majid, Attorney General; Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar, Chief Syarie Judge; and Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs as ITQSHHB's Board of Chairman.

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His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office delivering a *sabda* at the 7<sup>th</sup> Hafut Takharuj of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Tahfiz Al-Quran Institute.

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The ceremony commenced with a presentation of *Surah Al-Mulk* by Muaz Azizi bin Dr. Haji Shamshir and its interpretation by Awangku Mohammad Jamilul Alam bin Pengiran Haji Mohammad.

The Minister of Religious Affairs in a welcoming address among others said that the country is grateful to be able to produce *huffaz* (Al-Quran memorisers) every year. The Minister also highlighted the need to increase the achievements and master other fields of Al-Quran knowledge, especially at the Master's degree and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) levels in the interpretation of Al-Quran.

At the ceremony, His Royal Highness consented to deliver a *sabda* (royal speech) where muslims are urged to reap the abundant blessings and miracles of Al-Quran by understanding it and as their lifelong practice and guidance.

In this regard, His Royal Highness values the roles of higher educational institution, including qualified *da'ie* in raising awareness and understanding of Islamic Syiar.

According to His Royal Highness, these efforts include grassroots programmes and institution of mosque aimed at ensuring a knowledgeable community, as well as improving recitation skills and interpretation through tadabbur Al-Quran classes.

His Royal Highness stressed that all *huffaz*, whether male or female, should be more aware of the greater responsibility that they must bear, as their high status is not only assessed through their memorisation but also from the aspect of moral character parallel to the teachings of Al-Quran.

His Royal Highness highlighted that Al-Quran memorisers should possess the good moral of Al-Quran and always



His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah receiving *junjung ziarah* upon arriving at the 7<sup>th</sup> Hafut Takharuj of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Tahfiz Al-Quran Institute ceremony.

self-reflect so that they will always be on the right path. His Royal Highness then called on relevant parties to continue their advocacy and support of Tahfiz Al-Quran learning. With this, the national aspiration of producing more outstanding Al-Quran generations can be achieved.

The event was enlivened with a special talk titled, 'Safeguarding Al-Quran: Responsibility of the Ummah' by Muhammad Ali Sabri bin Haji Yussof, Lecturer for 'Aliyah Qiraat Diploma of the ITQSHHB.

His Royal Highness presented the 'Aliyah Qiraat Diploma to 26 graduates, where eight graduates achieved *Mumtaz* (excellent) grade, 10 achieved *Jayyid Jiddan* (very good) grade, seven received *Jayyid* (good) grade and one graduate awarded with *Maqbul* (pass) grade.

## His Royal Highness visits BSP and BLNG

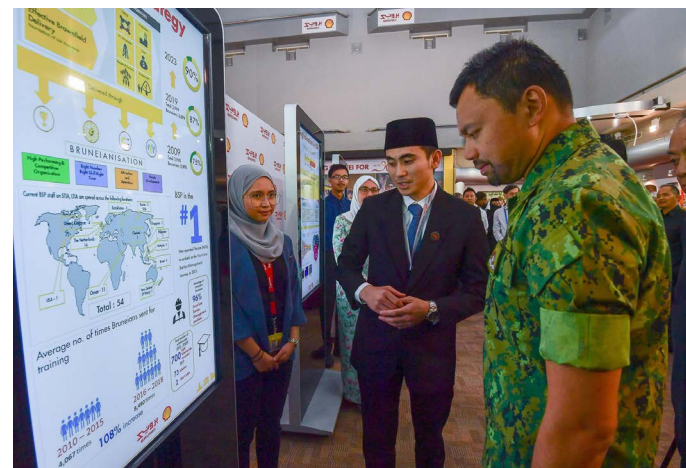
**KUALA BELAIT, September 16** – The working visit of His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office to Brunei Shell Petroleum Company (BSP) Sdn. Bhd. and Brunei Liquefied Natural Gas (BLNG) Sdn. Bhd. clearly portrays His Royal Highness' support towards realising the nation's economic development and people's well-being in the country as underlined in Brunei Vision 2035.

This year, BSP will carry out its first deepwater project in addition to increasing its portfolio through active exploration of both onshore and shallow-water offshore.

The working visit includes His Royal Highness' visit to the BSP Headquarters and one of the land drilling rig sites in the Belait District as well as the BLNG Headquarters and plant in Lumut.

Earlier, the arrival of His Royal Highness as the Chairman of BSP and BLNG was welcomed by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy as member of BSP and BLNG Board of Directors; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mat Suny bin Haji Md. Hussien, Minister of Energy, Manpower and Industry; and Yap Kong Fah, Acting Managing Director of BSP.

At the BSP Headquarters, His Royal Highness received a briefing from BSP employees on Exploration and Growth, Digitalisation and Bruneiansation and People Strategy.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office receives a briefing on the exhibition at the Atrium Hall, Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn. Bhd. Headquarters.

Celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, BSP will continue to be committed in supporting the Bruneiansation Directive through its ongoing efforts in developing the capabilities of Bruneian professionals to take on key positions and responsibilities within the company.

His Royal Highness then viewed the exhibition showcasing employment diversity at BSP and received *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) with the employees.

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His Royal Highness listening to a briefing during a working visit to the Central Control Room of Brunei Liquefied Natural Gas Sdn. Bhd.

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His Royal Highness proceeded for an offsite visit to the Elite-12C Land Rig located at E26, Seria.

During the visit, His Royal Highness was briefed on the Seria Redevelopment Project by Abdullah bin Haji Ibrahim, Darat Development Studies lead followed by a briefing on well drilling operations as well as a demonstration on hands-free tools and equipment by Pengiran Mohamad Fadillah bin Pengiran Haji Ahmad, Wells Delivery Manager.

From the land rig, His Royal Highness continued the working visit to the BLNG in Lumut followed by a brief safety briefing presented by Muhammad Hassanal Adilah bin Haji Md. Junaidi, BLNG Marketing and Maritime Operations.

His Royal Highness then signed a commemorative parchment followed by a short presentation on BLNG's journey in ensuring a sustainable supply of gas and its role in developing the nation presented by Mohd. Suwarso bin



His Royal Highness listening to a briefing on hands-free tools.

Mudjono, General Manager Marketing and Shipping of BLNG. His Royal Highness delivered a *sabda* (royal speech) to encourage BLNG management team to continue to work hard to ensure that the plant is operating efficiently to meet the needs of its customers.

His Royal Highness also emphasised the important role of the local workforce in driving BLNG's growth.

His Royal Highness began the working visit with a tour of the BLNG plant and later proceeded to the Central Control Room of BLNG. .

His Royal Highness was briefed on the roles and responsibilities of the panel and the function of the Control Room as the heart of the plant by Haji Jaafar bin Haji Bakar, Senior General Manager of the plant.

The BLNG will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in December this year.

## NFABD signs MoU with CFA

**BEIJING, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, September 5** – The National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (NFABD) and the Chinese Football Association (CFA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the CFA's headquarters in Beijing on September 2.

Prior to the signing ceremony, representatives from both football associations held a bilateral meeting discussing their shared vision on football development followed by the signing ceremony.

Leading the delegation from Brunei Darussalam was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of NFABD who then consented to sign the MoU with Mr. Chen Xuyuan, President of CFA.

His Royal Highness also held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Du Zhaocai, Deputy Minister of China's State General Administration of Sport who is also the Vice President of CFA.

His Royal Highness also had the



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (NFABD) during the bilateral meeting with the Chinese Football Association.

opportunity to visit the CFA headquarters.

Prior to this MoU back in May 2019, Brunei Darussalam's National Team had their training camp in China, supported by CFA in preparation for the World Cup Qatar 2022 Qualifier before they departed for Mongolia.

The MoU encompasses football governance, football international relations, to host training camp, exchanging football knowledge and experiences

focusing towards the enhancement of football structure, technical expertise, capacity building, referee development as well as commercialisation.

This agreement marks a new beginning for NFABD and CFA's fellowship, and a significant step forward that focuses on the dissemination of knowledge and exchange programmes in order to cooperate together for further development of football in both countries.

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His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam signs a Memorandum of Understanding with His Excellency Du Zhaocai, Deputy Minister of China's State General Administration of Sport, who is also the Vice President of CFA (left) and His Royal Highness receives a *pesambah* from His Excellency Du Zhaocai (right).

## NFABD - PB signing ceremony

**BERAKAS, September 19** – The National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (NFABD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Politeknik Brunei (PB) in an effort to provide certified recognition for PB's students undergoing a programme on football and futsal refereeing.

Present to witness the signing ceremony at the NFABD House was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the NFABD.

The arrival of His Royal Highness was greeted by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Education; and Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Also present were Datin Seri Paduka Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Mohd. Salleh, Deputy Minister of Education; Pengiran Haji Aliudin bin Pengiran Haji Tajudin, member of Executive Committee of NFABD; Pengiran Anak Mohd. Sofian bin Pengiran Anak Haji Ibrahim, Secretary General of the NFABD; and Mr. Denis Ho Mun Tai, Director of Politeknik Brunei.

Signing on behalf of NFABD was Pengiran Haji Aliudin bin Pengiran Haji Tajudin, member of Executive Committee of NFABD, while signing on behalf of PB was Mr. Denis Ho Mun Tai, Director of Politeknik Brunei and Hajah Hanipah binti Haji Apang, Acting Assistant Director of PB.

Pengiran Anak Mohd. Sofian in his welcoming speech said that the MoU is a continuation, previously signed on

November 23, 2015.

Through the MoU, the Secretary General of the NFABD also expressed hope that the students participating in the programme would use their skills and knowledge to enhance the quality of football especially in the refereeing of football and futsal.

The intensive programme to be conducted will incorporate the basic theory of refereeing as well as aspects of refereeing practice that will be handled by NFABD qualified officers.

The students will also have the opportunity to further develop their professionalism to become a national referee, thus becoming a FIFA referee.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, President of the National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (NFABD) in a group photo during the Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony between NFABD and Politeknik Brunei.



Signing on behalf of the NFABD was Pengiran Haji Aliudin bin Pengiran Haji Tajudin, member of Executive Committee of NFABD (left) while signing on behalf of Politeknik Brunei (PB) was Mr. Denis Ho Mun Tai, Director of PB (right).



## RB - NFABD signing ceremony

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 17** – The Royal Brunei Airlines (RB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (NFABD) which took place at the Collaboration Hub, RB Campus in Berakas.

Through the MoU, RB will become the official carrier by offering special rates to players and officials on duty.

Present to witness the signing ceremony was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the NFABD.

The arrival of His Royal Highness was welcomed by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy as the Chairman of the RB Board of Directors; Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Ahmaddin bin Haji Abd. Rahman, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy for Fiscal as the Deputy Chairman of the RB Board of CEO Directors; and Mr. Karam Chand, RB's Chief Executive Officer as well as NFABD officials.

Signing on behalf of RB was Mr. Karam Chand and Mr. Martin Aeberli, RB's Chief Commercial Officer, while signing on behalf of NFABD was Pengiran Haji Aliudin bin Pengiran Haji Tajudin, Executive Committee of NFABD and Pengiran Anak Sofian bin Pengiran Anak Haji Ibrahim, Secretary General of NFABD.



Mr. Karam Chand, RB's Chief Executive Officer and Mr. Martin Aeberli, RB's Chief Commercial Officer exchanging documents with Pengiran Haji Aliudin bin Pengiran Haji Tajudin, Executive Committee of NFABD and Pengiran Anak Sofian bin Pengiran Anak Haji Ibrahim, Secretary General of NFABD.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien presenting a token of appreciation to Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy as the Chairman of the RB Board of Directors.

The RB's CEO in his welcoming speech among others stated that through the cooperation, RB would extend its support to the national team to compete in the world tournaments and contribute to the development of football in Brunei Darussalam, especially amongst the country's youths.

He believes that the collaboration will help to provide more exposure to the players as they compete internationally and assist them in their chosen field.

He added that they also want to encourage young Bruneians to be inspired by the National Football Team and RB who compete globally in a highly competitive, strong fields and diverse competitors.

Meanwhile, the Secretary General of NFABD in his speech said the agreement was another milestone achieved by the NFABD and expressed appreciation for the effort and trust given by RB to the NFABD.

At the ceremony, both the RB and NFABD exchanged documents.

His Royal Highness then witnessed an exhibition at the Heritage Gallery showcasing the success of RB and moments throughout the year from the inception of RB including cabin crew uniforms and aircraft throughout the ages.

## Official Visit to the People's Republic of China

**BEIJING, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, September 10** – Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs arrived in Beijing, People's Republic of China for an official visit from September 4 to 10, at the invitation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

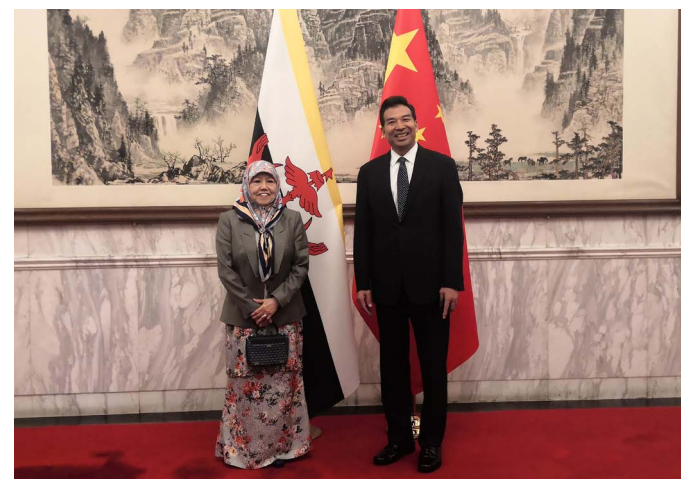
Upon arrival at Beijing International Airport, Her Royal Highness was welcomed by His Excellency Min Yongnian, former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam and spouse, Madam Zhang Jinfeng.

Also present was Ms. Lee Kok Ting, Charge d'affaires Ad Interim at the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam to the People's Republic of China.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a meeting with His Excellency Wang Yi, State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

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Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna together with His Excellency Luo Zhaohui, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs.

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In Beijing, Her Royal Highness had meetings with His Excellency Wang Yi, State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as His Excellency Luo Zhaohui, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Both sides exchanged views to further strengthen the much-valued friendship and bilateral relations between the two countries followed by a luncheon hosted by His Excellency Luo Zhaohui.

Her Royal Highness also made an official visit to the People's Republic of China by visiting the Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU), Zhongguancun Exhibition Centre and the National Museum of China on September 6.

In the evening, Her Royal Highness had a meeting and followed by dinner hosted by Her Excellency Madam Gu Xuilian, President of China-ASEAN Association.

During the meeting, both sides expressed deep appreciation on the warm and longstanding bilateral relationship

between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China and exchanged views on ways to further strengthen these much-valued ties.

Her Royal Highness arrived in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province on September 8, followed by a visit to Hengyi Group the next day.

Upon arrival, Her Royal Highness was welcomed by Mr. Qui Jianlin, Chairman of Hengyi Group.

During the visit, Her Royal Highness received a briefing on the history and development of the company since its inception and a presentation about living experience in Hangzhou by students from Brunei Darussalam currently studying in Zhejiang University under Hengyi's Scholarships.

In the afternoon, Her Royal Highness visited the West Lake and watched the performance 'Hangzhou: A Living Poem' followed by a meeting with His



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna during a meeting with Her Excellency Madam Gu Xuilian, President of China-ASEAN Association.

Excellency Li Weining, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of Zhejiang Provincial People's Congress.

At the meeting, both sides exchanged views on the opportunity to strengthen the cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Zhejiang Province, especially in economic, agriculture, education, culture and tourism.

Her Royal Highness then graced a banquet hosted by His Excellency Li Weining.

Before departing Hangzhou, Her Royal Highness visited the China National Tea Museum, the Southern Song Dynasty Guan Kiln Museum and the Hangzhou Wensil Group and the Silk Culture Museum.

Accompanying Her Royal Highness was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar.

## Education helps reduce gap within communities

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 28** - The constantly changing world, induced by increasingly rapid globalisation has brought many distant communities closer together, accompanied by opportunities for international cooperation.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a *sabda* (royal speech) that by synergising the education systems, it will help reduce the educational gap within local communities as well as the ASEAN region as a whole.

"But more importantly, lay the personal bonds among teachers and students for building a cohesive professional community," Her Royal Highness said in a *sabda* at the Official Opening of the 35<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Council of Teachers (ACT) Plus One Convention that was held at Parkview Hotel on September 27.

Her Royal Highness said that since its inauguration in 1979, the convention had provided an important forum for ACT+1 teachers in providing collaborative spaces to get to know each other better, renewing old acquaintances, exchange ideas and share best practices, learning tools and skills.

Her Royal Highness further said that this year's convention, 'Reducing Regional Educational Gap: Mobility of ASEAN Teachers' supports ASEAN's integration objectives to reduce the development gap among the ASEAN community.

Her Royal Highness emphasised that Brunei Darussalam's commitment towards the ASEAN Integration objectives, where cohesive educational development is fundamental to the successful achievement of those objectives.

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Her Royal Highness said that Brunei Darussalam has been and continue to send young teachers to conduct apprenticeship programmes among various ASEAN communities.

“Universiti Brunei Darussalam is conducting an English Language programme at the UBD-FPT Global Centre in Da Nang Viet Nam. In addition, during the 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit in Manila in 2017, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has offered 50 scholarships to ASEAN citizens to study at universities in Brunei, as part of our effort to enhance their professional communication skills,” said Her Royal Highness.

Her Royal Highness also underlined that teachers play a critical role in shaping the minds of the peoples, past generations and will continue to do so for the future generations.

“Good teachers are the real sources of good education and the principal influence of our society. For these reasons, producing well educated



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a group photo during the Official Opening of the 35<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Council of Teachers (ACT) Plus One Convention.

and highly skilled citizens and most importantly, producing good individuals, has been a core component of the country's development strategy for over 80 years,” said Her Royal Highness.

In concluding the *sabda*, Her Royal Highness recommended that teachers, both in Brunei and in ASEAN, to continue improve its education system to ensure a brighter future for all of its communities.

## Brunei – US close defence relationship

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 10** - The Ministry of Defence received an official visit by Admiral Philip S. Davidson, Commander of United States Indo-Pacific Command (US INDOPACOM) from September 9 to 10.

In that regard, Admiral Philip S. Davidson made a courtesy call to Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence and Major General Pengiran Dato Paduka Seri Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).

The arrival of Admiral Philip S. Davidson at the Ministry of Defence was accorded with a Guard of Honour comprising of personnel from the Second Battalion, Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF).

Admiral Philip then proceeded to pay separate courtesy call to Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof and Major General Pengiran Dato Paduka Seri Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud.

At the call, both sides affirmed the longstanding and close defence relationship between Brunei Darussalam and the United States of America which continues to grow and strengthen over the years through extensive bilateral engagements.

The relation between the two countries is further bolstered by regular defence interactions, where the RBAF actively engages in joint exercises, training programmes and other military cooperation with the United States.

Both sides also cooperate at the multilateral level through the Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT), as well as



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence receives a courtesy call from Admiral Philip S. Davidson, Commander of United States Indo-Pacific Command (US INDOPACOM).

through the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) framework.

Both sides noted the successful conduct of the ASEAN - United States Maritime Exercise which was held recently from September 2 to 6.

This is Admiral Philip's first visit to Brunei Darussalam since his appointment on May 30, 2018.