



## Brunei records positive economic growth

**LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, January 1** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stated that Brunei Darussalam is still able to record positive economic growth of about 1.6 per cent in 2012, although in an uncertain global economy.

The nation's growth, coupled with many efforts to strengthen fiscal position, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam believes, will be able to continue its development programmes in the year 2013.

His Majesty proclaimed this in his *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with New Year 2013 at Kensington Palace, London, United Kingdom.

His Majesty also touched on the efforts been made 2012 and the previous years that mostly focused on strengthening nation institutions that are directly related to economic generating activity.

"In continuing these efforts, my government has established an investment holding company under the Minister for Finance Corporation called 'Darussalam Assets Sdn Bhd.' which will hold and actively manage government investments in Government Linked Companies (GLCs).

This company His Majesty stated, is hoped to play a strategic role in Government investment activities towards national development to achieve development and economic diversity, create employment opportunities for the people, as well as reap investments returns in the long run.

According to His Majesty, this will enable the selection and management of Government-linked Companies to



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 in his *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with New Year 2013 at Kensington Palace, London, United Kingdom.

be carried out more effectively based on commercial principles with strong Corporate Governance.

"The objective is clear, we want the nation to be continuously pro-business and pro-investment," stressed His Majesty.

His Majesty also stated that the government has also created the Business Licencing System to recover the awarding of business licences as well as making amendments to the Income Tax Act which lowers the corporate tax to 20 percent.

His Majesty also stated that starting from January 2012, the country has enforced the Patent

Order 2011 to protect copyrights, which is important for companies and this law will encourage, among others, investments in research and innovation activities.

"Further institutional development to protect the security of businesses and consumers, the country has strengthened laws related to money laundering through the Criminal Asset Recovery Order 2012. This is also through the enforcement of the Consumer Protection (Fair Trading) Order 2011. It is aimed to create fair trading to protect consumer needs," His Majesty stressed.



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# His Majesty conferred 'Companion of the College' award

**LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, January 3** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, 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 consented to attend the Companion of the College award ceremony at the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) in Euston Square, London.

Accompanying His Majesty were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah.

Upon arrival, their majesties as well as other members of the Royal Family were greeted by the Chairperson of the RCGP Council, Professor Clare Gerada, Executive Director of Development, Managing Director RCGP Enterprises, Mr. Jeremy Reed and RCGP Immediate Past President, Dr. Iona Heath.

The award ceremony commenced with the arrival of His Majesty accompanied by an



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive the Companion of the College award which was presented by the Chairperson of the Royal College General Practitioners (RCGP) Council, Professor Claire Gerada at a ceremony held at RCGP London.

RCGP procession, followed by a welcoming speech by Professor Clare Gerada, and the award citation announcement by Dr. Iona Heath.

Professor Clare Gerada then presented the Companion of the

College award scroll to His Majesty before His Majesty consented to officiate the naming of the Auditorium Hall the 'Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Auditorium'.

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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah with the RCGP Council Chairperson, Professor Gerada and RCGP Council members.

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The Companion of the College award is the first of its kind from the college.

Before departing, His Majesty and royal family members consented to attend a Reception and a group photo session to celebrate the award.

Meanwhile, in a citation reading regarding His Majesty read by Dr. Iona Heath, among others outlined His Majesty's persistence and dedication for years in promoting the high standard of healthcare for the citizens and people of Brunei Darussalam especially in the enhancement of basic care as well as His Majesty's personal interest towards his achievements.

Dr. Iona Heath stated that His Majesty's National Health Care Plan 2000-2010 provided a vision for developing health status to the citizens and patients in Brunei Darussalam.

According to Dr. Iona Heath, the centralised programme changed the health system which provided access to basic health care for the citizens of Brunei Darussalam with the development of family healthcare services including acute and chronic healthcare.

Dr. Iona Heath explained that His Majesty's National Vision 2035 and Health Strategy placed comprehensive, holistic, and citizen and patient centralised healthcare as the focus to encourage excellence in professional standards, continuing professional development and evidence-based practices and basic medical values as the norms for professional healthcare.

His Majesty, she explained, played an important role in instilling educational relations which existed between the college and Brunei Darussalam through cooperation in the 1990s with the specialised first class degree in family medicine



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Of Brunei Darussalam officiating the naming of the RCGP auditorium hall as 'Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah' Auditorium.

offered by the Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) that ended in 2004 with the accreditation to develop local examinations for MRCGP (INT) Brunei Darussalam where by in this case Brunei Darussalam is the second country in the world with the accreditation.

Dr. Iona Heath further explained that with the officiation of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Auditorium, it will enhance the close relationship between the two institutions with the award of the 'Companionship of the General Practitioners and it is hoped that the existing relations between the college and Brunei Darussalam will continue to develop and flourish.

In an interview with the Dean of the Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah (PAPRSB) Institute of Health Sciences UBD and Director of Health Services, Dr. Hajah Maslina binti Haji Mohsin stated that so far 35 local doctors have passed the MRCGP examinations and currently there

are four doctors who are undertaking specialised courses in this college.

She hopes that quality improvement, research, quality services and others especially in matters of basic health care between the college and UBD and Ministry of Health can be improved in future.

Meanwhile, one of the doctors undergoing a course, Senior Medical Officer, Dr. Hajah Rafidah binti Haji Gharif who is also a member of the RCGP attended the specialised course since one year ago.

The three-year course, she explained, has exposed many things regarding healthcare besides undergoing courses to clinics to understand the various types of infectious diseases suffered by the people in the United Kingdom.

Other than attending classes in specialisation areas, she said, was exposure to diabetic patients and clinic specialists.

"After a year of undergoing the course, many matters regarding clinic specialisation and healthcare have been experienced. I hope all the courses undertaken will run smooth and successful."

Accompanying His Majesty were the Minister of Education, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong and Minister of Finance II, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, Chairman of the Legislative Council, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa bin Pehin Datu Perdana Menteri Dato Utama Haji Awang Ibrahim and the State Mufti Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned as well as senior government officers.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Of Brunei Darussalam consented to mingle with Brunei Darussalam government officers undergoing training courses at Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP), London.



## His Majesty receives audience from the Governor of New South Wales, Australia



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience Her Excellency Professor Marie Roslyn Bashir, the Governor of New South Wales, Australia.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 19** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive an audience from Her Excellency Professor Marie Roslyn Bashir, the Governor of New South Wales, Australia who is in a three-day visit to Brunei Darussalam.

Also present in the audience ceremony was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Also in attendance were His Excellency Todd Mercer, High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam and Mr. Brian Davies, the Official Secretary and Chief of Staff.

## Brunei records positive economic growth

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With the steps undertaken, His Majesty hopes that the private sector can develop rapidly to create employment opportunities for locals.

So far, added His Majesty, investment in the oil and gas sector in forms of Foreign Direct Investment is very encouraging, other than the upstream industry, the downstream industry is also promising, as an addition to liquefied natural gas (LNG) and production of methanol, the government is also considering other opportunities in oil and gas downstream industry.

Further in the titah, His Majesty stressed that the progression in the area will certainly improve national revenue and generate job opportunities which current statistic shows only 40 per cent jobs in this sector are filled by locals; which in His Majesty view the percentage need to be increased.

In working towards this, the Energy Department, Prime Minister's Office has implemented several initiatives together with Brunei Shell Petroleum Company and other stakeholders.



# His Majesty appreciates close cooperation with the Netherlands

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 21** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, highlighted that Brunei Darussalam and the Netherlands have long enjoyed close relations and the Dutch were among the first Europeans to arrive in the region.

According to His Majesty, The Royal Dutch Shell Company was one of the first European companies to set up in Brunei Darussalam and it has been operating in the country since oil was discovered in 1929.

"Since then there has always been interaction between Dutch nationals and the people of Brunei and we are therefore no strangers to one another," said His Majesty, at the Royal Banquet hosted to celebrate the State Visit of Her Majesty Queen Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgard of the Kingdom of the Netherlands at Istana Nurul Iman.

"We very much appreciate their contribution to our economic development especially in the energy area," stated His Majesty.

In recent years, His Majesty mentioned, the co-operation between the two countries have gone beyond oil and gas, and has expanded to new fields, including health and culture.

His Royal Highness highlighted The Royal Dutch Shell Company which cooperated with the Ministry of Health Brunei Darussalam in



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Queen Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgard of Kingdom of the Netherlands receiving the Royal Salute accompanied by the national anthems of both countries.

creating the Brunei National Health Promotion Centre in 2008.

Lately, His Majesty added, officers of both countries have discussed cooperation in the field

of culture.

His Majesty is also pleased that there will soon be some cultural exchanges taking place, including the display of historical exhibits as well as the sharing of experiences.

"I believe with this cooperation, and with your historical links with our region, we will be better able to show our shared heritage to the world," said His Majesty.

His Majesty also added that Brunei Darussalam and the Netherlands are members of many major international organisations and regional groups including the United Nations and ASEM, and both countries share working cooperations within these organisations.

The membership of both countries, His Majesty explained, gives the opportunity for both countries to show the many contributions to various serious international issues that is shared



Her Majesty Queen Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgard of Kingdom of the Netherlands being introduced to members of the royal family.





His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to confer Her Majesty Queen Beatrix a state order of Darjah Kerabat Mahkota Brunei (DKMB). In turn, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha consented to receive state orders of the Grand Cross of the Netherlands from Her Majesty Queen Beatrix.



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between the two countries.

Her Majesty's visit, said His Majesty, will encourage more exchanges and cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the Netherlands in various fields, and it marks an important milestone in the bilateral relationship between the two countries.

"I hope this visit will give Your Majesty some insight into our culture, our history and our way of life," His Majesty added.

Earlier in his titah (royal speech) His Majesty expressed his happiness in welcoming Her Majesty Queen Beatrix and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Willem-Alexander, the Prince of Orange as well as Her Royal Highness Princess Maxima of the Netherlands, on the Netherland's first state visit to Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty also expressed his pleasure in returning the warm hospitality that was shown to His Majesty during his state visit to the Netherlands in 2011.

His Majesty also said that Her Majesty's visit not only brings two Royal Households closer, but will also further strengthen the close links of friendship and cooperation between the two governments and peoples.





## State visit of Her Majesty Queen Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgard of the kingdom of Netherlands

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, 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 received a state visit from Her Majesty Queen Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgard of the Kingdom of the Netherlands from January 21 to 23.

Accompanying Her Majesty Queen Beatrix throughout the visit were His Royal Highness Prince Willem-Alexander the Prince of Orange and Her Royal Highness Princess Maxima of the Netherlands.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to confer Her Majesty Queen Beatrix a state order of Darjah Kerabat Mahkota Brunei (DKMB). His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha also consented to receive state orders of the Grand Cross of the Netherlands from Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands.

Also present throughout the visit were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah.

On January 22, Her Majesty was



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam hosted a banquet for Her Majesty Queen Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgard of the Kingdom of the Netherlands at the Istana Nurul Iman royal palace.

granted an audience by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Istana Nurul Iman.

In the afternoon, Her Majesty consented to visit the Brunei Museum in Kota Batu and witness the signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Culture between the Department of Museums, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and Tropenmuseum, The Royal Tropical Institute Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

The itinerary was followed by a



His Majesty delivering the *titah* (royal speech) which highlighted the close cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and The Netherlands.

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Brunei River cruise and visit to the residence of Penghulu of Mukim Tamoi where Her Majesty witnessed traditional music performances and tasted local delicacies.

Later in the evening, Her Majesty attended a royal banquet hosted by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at Istana Nurul Iman.

On 22nd January, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha as well as members of royal family attended an appreciation ceremony hosted by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix at The Empire Theatre, The Empire Hotel and Country Club in Jerudong.

Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands and entourage departed Brunei on January 23.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, 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 Mohamad Alam and members of the royal family attended an Evening of Appreciation hosted by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix Wilhemina Armgard of the Kingdom of the Netherlands held at The Empire Hotel and Country Club, Jerudong.



Her Majesty Queen Beatrix Wilhemina Armgard of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, 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 Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman on the Brunei River to view the Kampong Ayer water village.



Her Majesty Queen Beatrix Wilhemina Armgard of the Kingdom of the Netherlands during the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding in the field of culture between the Museums Department, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports with Tropenmuseum, The Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam, Netherlands, which was held at the Brunei Museum in Kota Batu.



## Mosques as centres for lifelong religious education

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 23** - Religious education is the best channel for absorbing valuable examples. Therefore the implementation of Compulsory Religious Education Order 2012 in early year of 2013 is appropriate and necessary. It will become a platform to create a more knowledgeable generation, even more ethical which will be able to prevent them from adverse social symptoms that burdens the nation.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stated the matter in a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam Maulud celebration for the year 1434 Hijriah / 2013 Masihi.

Further in the *titah*, His Majesty said that the formal religious education might have limited period but what essential is long-life learning. Therefore, as continuation for this objective we require other institution to support. In this context, His Majesty saw mosques as one of the important platform towards achieving this.

"Because of this, in the National Development Plan 2012-2017, my government has allocated more than \$100 million for development of new mosques throughout the nation," stated His Majesty.

"We hope with the construction of these mosques, besides adding the



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering the Titah in conjunction with the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam Maulud celebration for the year 1434 Hijriah corresponding to the year 2013.

number of worshipping facilities, it will also act as centre for community activities and also a venue for continuous development of knowledge," added His Majesty.

His Majesty further added that besides as centres for welfare and knowledge development and activities, mosques are also as symbols of Islam and as landmarks for the country which cannot be dim and weak. It is not enough by building

it only, without taking into consideration its appropriate design as a symbol of greatness. His Majesty observed that several mosques which have recently been opened have been less striking and disappointing. His Majesty also reminded that we should act more productive and improve, and not decrease or revert to the old ways.

## His Majesty leads Maulud prophet procession

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 24** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined scores of Muslims attending the gathering and procession held to mark the birthday of Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam for the year 1434 Hijriah at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien in the capital Bandar Seri Begawan.

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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 receiving *Junjung ziarah* from the participants of the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam Maulud celebration for the year 1434 Hijriah corresponding to the year 2013.







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 leading the procession for the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu `Alaihi Wasallam Maulud celebration for the year 1434 Hijriah corresponding to the year 2013, held in the capital Bandar Seri Begawan. Accompanying His Majesty leading the procession 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, His Royal Highness Prince `Abdul Malik, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah and other royal family members.

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His Majesty led the 3.3 kilometres procession which was participated by more than 17,000 people from 141 groups.

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 Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji `Abdul `Azim and His Royal Highness Prince `Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince `Abdul Wakeel.

The theme for this year's Maulud national celebration is 'Rasulullah Teladan Sepanjang Zaman' or The Prophet as The Eternal Role Model.

Maulud is an event held on the 12th day in the month of Rabiulawal in Islamic calendar (year of Hijrah) to mark the birth of Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu `Alaihi Wasallam.

The Maulud gathering and procession were also held at three other districts in the country. In Tutong and Beliat districts, around 6,000 people attended Maulud gathering and procession. Meanwhile, more than 1,700 people attended similar functions in Temburong district. The three districts also held separate gathering for women which was highlighted with a religious talk.





## His Royal Highness Crown Prince receives in audience Japan Foreign Minister

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 12** - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Deputy Sultan consented to receive in audience Minister of Foreign Affairs Japan, His Excellency Fumio Kishida during a two-day visit to the country.

Also in attendance in the audience ceremony held at Qashr al-Meezan was the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Kenichi Sukanuma.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng also attended the ceremony.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Deputy Sultan with Minister of Foreign Affairs Japan, His Excellency Fumio Kishida.



## Commissioner of Police receives Distinguished Service Order

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, January 3** - Brunei Darussalam's Commissioner of Police, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Pendikar Alam Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Hasrin bin Dato Paduka Haji Sabtu was bestowed with 'The Distinguished Service Order' (DSO) in a ceremony held at the State Room, Singapore Palace.

Present to deliver the award was President of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Dr. Tony Tan Keng Yam.

'The Distinguished Service Order' (DSO) is a highly prestigious honour and award to recognise Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Pendikar Alam Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Hasrin's achievements toward strengthening close relations and cooperation especially in capacity development and operational capability including investigation, training, and sharing of information between Royal Brunei Police Force and Singapore Police Force.

Later in the evening, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin attended a regimental dinner held at the Singapore Police Force's Senior Officer Mess, where he was bestowed the 'Temasek Sword' by the Singapore Commissioner of Police, Mr. Ng Joo Hee.

In attendance at both ceremonies were the High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Abd. Gapar bin Haji Ismail, the spouse of the commissioner as well as senior officers from both the Royal Brunei Police Force and Singapore Police Force.





# Brunei strengthens halal science and innovative ability

**JERUDONG, January 8** - The food chain has increased and people's lifestyles have changed significantly. This has resulted in the need to preserve and process, for example, meat in various meat products. With technological advances in the meat processing industry, the tendency to adulterate and commit fraud to get more business profits at the expense of consumers is increasing.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Dato Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources explained that these technological advances are not limited to just meat products but also used for other products including health and cosmetic supplements.

Yang Berhormat stated the matter in his keynote address at the opening ceremony of the International Seminar on Halal Science and Innovative Product Development at the Grand Hall, The Empire Hotel and Country Club in Jerudong.

According to him, among the halal issues faced include blood-derived ingredients in food and dietary supplement products, animal-derived gelatin in food and pharmaceutical products and collagen-peptides which use animal ingredients in cosmetics and dietary supplement products.

This means, Yang Berhormat explained, that addressing unknown or the hidden ingredients are some of the key challenges not only faced by the Halal authorities but also food safety agencies.

"It is therefore pressing for us to strengthen and develop our technical capacity and technology advancement in the areas of Halal detection methods for food as well as non-food products," said the minister.

The minister touched on the global growth pace of the Halal Industry that has increased tremendously. In 2011 itself, the industry was estimated at US\$2.1 trillion. Seventeen per cent or US\$632 billion of this estimated value represents the entire global halal food industry. The world's 1.8 million Muslims which represent 25 per cent of the world's population has fuelled an increase in the global demand for Halal products and services.

In his key address, the minister also shared Brunei Darussalam's efforts towards developing and strengthening



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Hj Abu Bakar, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources (left), launching the 'International Seminar on Halal Science and Innovative Product Development' held at The Empire Hotel and Country Club, Jerudong.

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capabilities in Halal Science and Innovation.

Firstly, Brunei is currently streaming our capabilities in the field of analytical services with experts and world-class technologies in which currently the nation is working towards collaborating with two internationally known universities, Osaka University from Japan and Florida State University from the United States as well as with Japan Food Research Laboratories from Japan for analytical testing. Through these collaborations, we hope that our capabilities in Halal science and technology innovation will be further developed and strengthened.

Secondly, to pursue matters related to Halal science and technology, the ministry is working closely with Ministry of Religious Affairs, Ministry of Health and Universiti Brunei Darussalam towards the establishment of Brunei Darussalam Halal Centre.

Yang Berhormat explained that with the establishment of this Centre,

our capabilities on Halal science and technology which among others include Halal authentication, detection, innovation and research and development will be further developed and strengthened.

Yang Berhormat also explained that in addition to this, to firm up decisions on Halal matters, Brunei Darussalam is also working towards the establishment of a Halal Product Academy which consists of Shariah scholars, Halal scientists and Halal industry experts. This is very much relevant nowadays when food and non-food products are produced extensively, using wide variety of ingredients and scientifically labeled.

The two-day seminar invited 20 international speakers representing both academia and industry which includes world-class experts from Australia, France, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, the Netherlands and the United States.



## NHANSS Phase 1 marked as significant achievement



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mohd Yusof, Minister of Health at the launching ceremony of 'The Report, 2nd National Health and Nutritional Status Survey (NHANSS) Phase 1: 0-5 years old'.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 10** – The Ministry of Health launched 'The Report, 2nd National Health and Nutritional Status Survey (NHANSS) Phase 1: 0-5 years old' at the Cesar

Grand Hall, Orchid Garden Hotel.

Present to launch the Report was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mohd Yusof, Minister of Health.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan in his speech said producing the Report of 2nd NHANSS Phase 1 was a significant achievement.

The report, said the minister, was not only as a development initiative in health research but more importantly following the implementation and production of this comprehensive survey report; there is evidence-based reference which is extremely valuable and beneficial to be utilised as guidelines to prepare and updating policies, action plans, and healthcare programmes to ensure effective impact related to diet particularly for children in the short, medium and long-term.

He highlighted that infants and children nutrition issue is continuously receiving appropriate attention at the international level and was one of the main agenda in the 65th World Health Organisation (WHO) Conference last year.

The minister added that the conference endorsed one resolution on the respective issue and member

countries have been advised to implement accordingly.

Ministry of Health in its efforts to promote and culturing healthy lifestyles through nutritional perspective has adapted WHO Global Strategies for Health, Nutrition and Physical Activities, aiming for prevention of disease and practising whole life healthy lifestyle, said the minister.

The minister also called for parents and guardians to take care, give attention and be committed in this matter and as family daily habits and practices.

He also stressed that infants and children dietary affairs need to be taken seriously as it not only contributes to the quality of health but good and healthy dietary practice also leads to positive development to national socio-economy as they are important nation assets who are the future generation.

He further added that, the ministry will establish the Maternal, Infant and Young Children Nutrition Task Force that will act for further analysings of the results of first phase survey findings and to identify appropriate actions.

The ministry is also currently in process of analysing the 2nd National Health and Nutritional Status Survey (NHANSS) Phase 2 for citizens aged 5 – 10 years old; 11 – 17 years old and 18 – 75 years old.

## Price Control Act Amendment Order 2012

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN** - The Department of Economic Planning and Development (DEPD) announced that His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented for the enforcement of Price Control Act Amendment Order 2012 beginning January 1, 2013.

The drafting of the Amendment Order Act is on the DEPД's initiative as an agency responsible for implementing the act.

The Price Control Act Amendment Order 2012 is aimed to control prices of selected daily necessities to assist citizens of Brunei Darussalam especially those earning low incomes in accommodating daily expenses. Besides it is also aimed to ensure sales and promotion activities are conducted in a healthy manner.

Among the items listed under the amendment are passenger motor vehicle, rice (Thai Hom Mali, Thai rice and Glutinous Rice), sugar (white referred, granulated, cane sugar and fine grain), plain flour, baby milk powder, motor gasoline (Premium 97, Super 92 and Regular 85), kerosene, gas tank (LPG), cooking oils (canola, corn, palm, sunflower and soya bean) and also construction materials

such as reinforcement bars, sand, stones, cement, bitumen, asphalt, ready-mix concrete and clay. Meanwhile, the minimum price controlled items are cigarettes and tobacco.

Besides this, the pricing of the building materials is expected to be able to help the development of the construction industry in this country in general and also to ensure that any increase in the price of building materials at reasonable rates.

The Price Control Act Amendment Order 2012 gives authority to DEPД to issue compound not more than \$1,000 to businesses that violate the laws and regulation stated under the Amendment Order Act.

In the effort to inform public on Amendment Order Act, DEPД will conduct awareness and educational programmes on the related matters which will explain the objectives, scope and needs of controlled goods to government agencies, industries, media and the public. Queries and complaints from the public regarding controlled goods can be made through the DEPД Hotline at 2230223 during working hours or email [aduanpengguna@jpke.gov.bn](mailto:aduanpengguna@jpke.gov.bn).



# Empowering Reading Culture Project launched

MUARA, January 10 - Reading culture and habit must be continuously encouraged through various activities which can be participated by all levels in the community such as parents, teachers, academicians, as well as government and private sectors.

In this regards, the Department of Language and Literature Bureau, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports in cooperation with Department of Schools, Ministry of Education and Department of Islamic Education, Ministry of Religious Affairs and also National Library Association of Brunei Darussalam launched the Empowering Reading Culture Project.

The launching was officiated by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, at the Meragang Sixth Form Centre on.

The minister in his speech said that reading is the important ingredient for a nation to progress. Through the reading culture a nation will gain wisdom, piety, prosperity and peace, and promote innovative and credibility of a nation.

The nurturing and practising of reading culture among the people and citizen of the country as intended by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is a need to support the National Vision 2035 for



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports delivering the prize to the winner of the Reading Corner for the Mosque Library category which was won by Kampung Danau mosque.

making the country a developed nation.

At the ceremony, the minister also presented prizes to the winners of Excellent Library Management and Administration 2012 and certificates of appreciation for book contributors to Language and Literature Bureau in 2012.

The Empowering Reading Culture Project formerly known as Monthly Reading Project started since 2002. In 2009, the project name was changed to the current title.

This project, according to the Director of Language and Literature Bureau, Dayang Hajah Aminah binti Haji Momin; aims to uphold and implement His Majesty's *tifah* (royal

speeches) on the importance of reading for all levels of the nation's society towards a Knowledgeable Community and to produce Brunei Generation who is a diligent reader and knowledge-culture through long-life learning that is reading.

This project is hoped to be able to deliver and translate the role and function of the library in encouraging reading culture in the current technological era as well as to instill awareness in everyday life.

The guest of honor and the Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Adina binti Othman also took the opportunity to visit the books on sale at the ceremony.

## Brunei Darussalam chairs 13th SOCA Meeting



The 13th SOCA meeting for Senior Officials held in Brunei Darussalam was chaired by the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd. Hamid bin Haji Mohd Jaafar and attended by the Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN for ASCC and the heads of SOCA of ASEAN member countries.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN** - Brunei Darussalam has taken the responsibility as ASEAN chair on the 1st January 2013 as well as Chair to the ASEAN Socio-Culture Committee (13th SOCA).

The 13th SOCA meeting for Senior Officials commenced today at Mangrove Paradise Resort, Jalan Kota Batu in Brunei Darussalam.

Chairing the meeting was the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd. Hamid bin Haji Mohd Jaafar.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN for ASCC and the heads of SOCA of ASEAN member countries.

The 13th SOCA Meeting is the start to all three SOCA

Meetings which will take place all year. Brunei Darussalam will announce to all the heads of SOCA from all countries regarding the fields that will be discussed which includes youth agenda, culture, education, the mid-year review of the ASCC Blueprint, the ASCAA fund as well as regional legal policy statement regarding social endurance and religious harmony.

The Meeting will also discuss regarding the terms of reference for SOCA, draft terms of reference for the Independence of Timor Leste which results of the discussion will be brought to the 3rd ASEAN Coordinating Council Working Group. The Heads of SOCA are in the country for three days from the 25th to 27th January 2013.



## 2,772 register for Pre-school 2013

A total of 2,772 students registered for the pre-school education for year 2013. The Department of Schools, Ministry of Education revealed that from the above numbers, 1,454 students are male and 1,318 are female. The students will be reporting at 120 government primary schools throughout the country. Compared to last year's registration, this year showed slight decrease, which last year recorded 2,940 students.

Brunei Muara district recorded the highest number of registration with 1,755 students followed by Belait district, 448 students; Tutong district with 444 students and Temburong district with 125 students.

The registered students are aged five years old by January 1, 2013 that is those born in 2007. For some conditions, special consideration is given by Department of Schools for children born between January 1 and March 31, 2007.

Academic year in Brunei Darussalam's primary and secondary schools and colleges begin on January 2, 2013.

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## 'Riadah BSB' or 'BSB Recreation' to enliven the capital

The Bandar Seri Begawan (BSB) Municipal Department introduced 'Riadah BSB' or recreation day to be held on every Sunday beginning January 6 as efforts to enliven the capital during weekend.

The initiative by Municipal Department is to make BSB a dynamic, vibrant and eminent capital city and to further boost its image as safe, friendly and livable place.

Various activities are scheduled for public participation such as aerobics at the Royal Wharf Brunei, brisk walking, cycling and stalls.

This leisure activity will not only enliven BSB but also help to strengthen relations among families and communities besides promoting healthy lifestyle for the people, said Chairman of BSB Municipal Board, Pengiran Haji Abd. Rahman bin Pengiran Seri Indera Pengiran Haji Ismail.

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## Scientists attend conference on freshwater fishes

Thirty local and foreign scientists were in Brunei Darussalam on January 10 to attend a four-day Biodiversity of Asian Freshwater Fishes Conference at Universiti Brunei Darussalam. Present to launch the conference on January 10 was Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dayang Hajah Normah Suria Hayati binti Pehin Jawatan Dalam Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama (Dr.) Haji Mohd Jamil Al-Sufri.

Among the objectives of this conference were to discuss on biodiversity of fishes and also to review taxonomic and other systematic examination on Asian freshwater fishes, besides developing cooperation and discussing new research opportunities.

The conference was the follow up of the international conference on 'All Cypriniformes Species Inventory' (ACSI) held in Chiang Mai, Thailand on May 2013.