



His Majesty looks on products displayed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Halal Product Expo 2007 (above and below).

## 'Brunei Halal Brand' launched

**BERAKAS, August 18** – Brunei Darussalam's determination in becoming a key player of the *halal* industry is more visible with the launching of the 'Brunei Halal Brand'.

Present to launch it was His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam who also officially opened the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Halal Product Expo (IHPE) 2007 at the International Convention Centre.

Accompanying His Majesty were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

Some 26 countries among others from Australia, Pakistan, Malaysia, South Africa, China, Algeria and Singapore took part in the exhibition. The number of exhibitors this year doubled than last year's exhibition which was participated by 72 exhibitors from 10 countries.

The event was co-organised by the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Health.





The *halal* food sector is estimated to be worth US\$150 billion annually and Brunei Darussalam is determine to become a key player of this industry with the launching of the 'Brunei Halal Brand'.

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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam granted in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman for:

- ❶ His Excellency Ghulam Sarwar Khan, Pakistan's Minister of Labour, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis Division on August 15.
- ❷ Member of the Central Military Commission, Chief of the General Armament Department of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), People's Republic of China, His Excellency General Chen Bingde on August 21.
- ❸ Pakistan's Minister of Health, His Excellency Mohammad Nasir Khan on August 21.



### D.P.K.T for Singapore Defence Force Chief

**ISTANA NURUL IMAN, August 16** - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) bestowed the title of 'Darjah Paduka Keberanian Laila Terbilang Yang Amat Gemilang Darjah Pertama (D.P.K.T)' to the Chief Defence Force of Singapore, Lieutenant General Desmond Kuek Bak Chye.

Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received in audience at Istana Nurul Iman:

- ❶ The wife of Malaysia's High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, Yang Berbahagia Datin Zakiah binti Dato Haji Alias on August 25.
- ❷ The wife of the outgoing Lao People's Democratic Republic's Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, Mrs Khampet Vongsaly and the wife of the outgoing Union of Myanmar's Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, Mrs. Daw Nang Phaung on August 25.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman the Minister of Home Affairs of Malaysia, His Excellency Dato' Seri Mohd Radzi bin Sheikh Ahmad on September 10.

## Brunei – Vietnam relations to enhance trade

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 15** – Brunei Darussalam and Vietnam's bilateral relations have a lot of to offer to each other. As a result, both nation-states are now looking forward to many future opportunities to expand trade and open up further cooperation.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said at a banquet to celebrate His Excellency Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of the Socialist of Vietnam's two-day official visit to the sultanate.

"We in Brunei Darussalam have been delighted to have played a small part in assisting your development through education and training.

"We are also delighted to have a growing number of your people working here to help our own development," said the sovereign.

The sovereign further expressed hopes that the scope of friendship and cooperation could be widened and deepened.

In his reply speech, His Excellency Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of the Socialist of Vietnam stated that both countries have enjoyed an excellent traditional friendship.

"This year, we celebrate with great joy the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our diplomatic relations establishment. During the last 15 years of cooperation, with a strong determination of the two countries' top



Brunei Darussalam and Vietnam share a warm bilateral relation.

leaders, the friendship and multifaceted cooperation between Vietnam and Brunei Darussalam have incessantly been consolidated and developed in various fields, including politics, economic, trade, national, defence, culture, education, and sports etc.

This sound relationship can be seen not only within the framework of bilateral relations but also in international and regional forums," said His Excellency.

His Excellency also valued Brunei's positive support for and active contribution to Vietnam's hosting of major international

events. He also expressed appreciation on Brunei's support to Vietnam's candidature for the non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council for the 2008-2009 terms.

His Excellency's two-day official visit included visits to Oil and Gas Discovery Centre (OGDC) in Seria, Royal Regalia Building in the capital and attending Business Networking Lunch organised by Brunei Economic Development Board.

Brunei Darussalam and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam tied diplomatic relations on February 29, 1992.

## Sovereign attends Malaysia's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary independence celebration

**KUALA LUMPUR, August 31** – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was in Kuala Lumpur to attend Malaysia's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its independence day.

His Majesty was among the special guests invited by the Malaysian government. Other special guests include Duke of York, His Royal Highness Prince Andrew, representative of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom; and heads of ASEAN member countries.

His Majesty also attended a high-tea ceremony at Istana Melawati held in conjunction with the Independence Day.

His Majesty also joined the Friday Prayer at the Jamek Alam Shah Mosque at Kampong Pandan.



His Majesty and other state dignitaries at Malaysia's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary independence day celebration in Kuala Lumpur.

### Congratulatory messages

**His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent congratulatory messages to:**

- His Excellency General Pervez Musharraf, President of the Republic of Pakistan on the occasion of the country's 60<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on August 16.
- His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India on the occasion of India's 60<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on August 16.
- His Excellency President Dr. Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia on the occasion of Indonesia's 62<sup>nd</sup> Independence Day on August 17.
- His Majesty Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Al-Wathiqu Billah Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin, the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and his Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Datuk Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi in conjunction with Malaysia's 50<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on August 31.
- His Excellency Nguyen Minh Triet, the President of Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the occasion of Vietnam's 62<sup>nd</sup> National Day on September 2.

## Universiti Brunei Darussalam's 19<sup>th</sup> convocation HM: Produce quality research

**TUNGKU, September 11** – Lecturers and students of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) were urged to produce quality research which could make the nation proud.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said at the 19<sup>th</sup> convocation of UBD.

His Majesty said this would prove that UBD also possesses a creative workforce. The monarch further stated that UBD's meaningful and valuable contributions could come in the field of research or analysis. His Majesty was confident that the university could produce something with quality involving not only lecturers but also students.

His Majesty, who is the Chancellor of UBD said UBD is undoubtedly capable of producing an intellectual generation for the nation and would continue to do so without any obstacles as it was established since 20 years ago.

The monarch also called for the tertiary institution to contribute to the community in tackling various issues. His Majesty believed that as an institution that possesses wider expertise, UBD is certainly capable of contributing ideas in the form of proposals in solving these issues.

Speaking on educational developments, His Majesty said the nation has succeeded in providing wider opportunities for the people to acquire more knowledge. With the establishment of Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University early this year, the opportunities for the people at this country have widened in acquiring religious knowledge.

Some 996 graduates succeeded in completing their studies in UBD this year. Six hundred and seventy five graduates received their degrees in the morning and another 321 received their



One of the recipients receives his Bachelors degree from His Majesty.

certificates and diplomas in the afternoon.

This year, UBD awarded PhD to two recipients, namely Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar, the Minister of Communications and Pehin Dato Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, the State Mufti.

The award took into account their contributions to UBD in the academic field and their services and guidance in nation-building. The award is seen as an academic recognition for the deserving.

Also present at the ceremony was Pro-Chancellor of UBD, His Royal Highness Prince (Dr) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.



Recipients of the Sultan's scholar award with His Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

## Three receive Sultan's Scholar award

**ISTANA NURUL IMAN, September 11** - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam awarded Scholarship Award 'Sultan Scholar' of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation to three excellent students.

The recipients of this prestigious award were Dayangku Didi-Nuraza binti Pengiran Haji Abdul Latif, Dayang Normasuzanah binti Awang Badaruddin and Dayang Nur Shahidah binti Shahbudin.

Dayangku Didi-Nuraza will pursue her study in law at University College London, United Kingdom while Dayang Normasuzanah will undertake a course on Syariah at University of Al-Azhar in Egypt. Dayang Nur Shahida will be taking Economic at London School of Economic, United Kingdom.

The Sultan's Scholar award was first introduced last year, where three students received the scholarship to pursue education to their selected courses.

## Her Majesty attends Girl Guides' prize giving ceremony

**JERUDONG, August 7** - Her Majesty The Raja Isteri attended the Girl Guides Al-Quran Reading Competition Prize Presentation ceremony at Royal Berkshire Hall of the Royal Polo and Riding Club.

Also present were Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bulqiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna.

For the Leaders and Young Leaders category, it was won by Maizatul Nadzeerah binti Haji Md. Daud. Second runner-up was Ety Khairany binti Alikhan and Hajah Ismawati binti Haji Ismail was third runner-up.

In the Girl Guides category, His Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna presented the President Trophy to the winner, Dk. Fauziah Nadhirah binti Pg. Haji Jofri, followed by Atikah Batubara and Ampuan Tiara Rasyidah binti Ampuan Hussin in second and third places respectively.

For the Brownies category, the winner was Sabrina Eilini binti Haji Maylin, who received the PPPBD Chief Commissioner Trophy, followed by the second and third runners-up, Siti Saliyah binti Haji Ali and Nurul Haziqah binti Haji Haslan.



His Majesty and other APEC leaders.

## Contributions for initiatives on 'Heart of Borneo' welcomed

**SYDNEY, September 9** – Contributions from member economies of APEC for initiatives on 'Heart of Borneo' are welcomed.

This was highlighted by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the first retreat for leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

The sovereign explained that the aim of 'Heart of Borneo' initiative implemented by Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, and the Republic of Indonesia is to protect Borneo's biological diversity and ensure the productive use of forest resources.

In light of this matter, His Majesty welcomed initiatives from other nations in their bid to protect a sustainable development.

His Majesty was in Sydney, Australia to attend the 15<sup>th</sup> APEC Economic Leaders Meeting (AELM).

The 15<sup>th</sup> APEC Economic Leaders Meeting commenced from September 8 to 9 and was chaired by the Australian Prime Minister, The Honourable John Howard MP.

His Majesty joined other leaders of ASEAN attending the APEC for a luncheon with the President of the United States of America (U.S.A), His Excellency George W. Bush held at the Intercontinental Hotel, Sydney.

During the gathering, His Majesty expressed his appreciation of the efforts made by the US in enhancing the peace and security in this region. The monarch also expressed pleasure over the good relations between Brunei Darussalam and the US and that the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement have strengthened cooperation in other areas such as education, training and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

His Majesty also met the Prime Minister of Australia, The Honourable John Howard at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Office.

During the meeting, His Majesty stated that Australia is one of Brunei's main trading partners. His Majesty also expressed pleasure on the fast development of Brunei Darussalam - Australia trade relations and suggested for the two sides to continue to find ways in maintaining this progress.

On the academic and medical fields, His Majesty expressed his appreciation over Australia's contribution in educating and training Bruneian students and officials who have pursued their studies in Australia. His Majesty also expressed hope that the two sides can further expand their cooperation in these areas.

On September 8, His Majesty and other APEC leaders attended a dialogue



His Majesty was greeted by The Honourable John Howard upon arrival at the Commonwealth Parliament's Office.

session with members of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) held at the Sydney Opera House.

His Majesty and the APEC Leaders, during the Dialogue with ABAC held close discussions with representatives of ABAC. Among the issues discussed included climate change, energy security, the WTO Doha Development Agenda and human security.

Meanwhile on September 9, His Majesty welcomed the Regional Economic Integration Report during the APEC Leaders' Second Retreat Session held at the Government House in Sydney.

The discussion at the Second Session focused on Strengthening Regional Economic Integration and Human Security.

After the Retreat Session, the Final Declaration Ceremony was held where the leaders agreed to adopt three documents namely the Leaders' Declaration, the Declaration on Climate Change; Energy Security and Clean Development and the Statement on the World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations.



Heads of ASEAN member-countries delegations in a group photo with His Excellency George W. Bush, the President of the United States of America.

**BERAKAS, August 23** – Our level of comfort, health and security can be affected if we practice a lifestyle that does not give priority on the importance of cleanliness and practice an unenvironmental attitude.

This was highlighted by Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha at the Cleanliness and Beautiful Landscape Competition at the International Convention Centre held in conjunction with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 61<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Thus, natural resources given by Allah The Almighty need to be used and safeguarded wisely, said Her Majesty.

Her Majesty also said that our surroundings such as our village, *mukim* and the country would be clean and beautiful when we make the surroundings of our houses clean and beautiful. Her Majesty added when this is achieved, the people, residents as well as the country would be free from the threat of pollution.

Present at the event were Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.

Her Majesty also presented prizes to the winners in each categories competed.

## Attitude affects comfort and health



Her Majesty at one of the exhibitions which displays local products.

## Children and teenagers need guidance from their parents

**BERAKAS, August 26** – Parents are called to guide their children as they are the country's future generation. Parents are also responsible in moulding their children's behaviour, spiritual and physical aspects until they become adults. This responsibility would be carried out by all without failure.

Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha said in a *titah* (royal speech) at the launching of the Domestic Science Exhibition 2007 at the International Convention Centre.

Her Majesty said that it is understood that with the hustle and bustle of work and efforts to make a living by both parents probably limit the time for their families. Consequently, there are a number of families that are having difficulties in providing full attention to their children.

"Children and youths need to be loved and cared for, they need to be guided towards good faith, as well as providing moral and emotional support for the development of a good personality,"

added Her Majesty.

At the ceremony, Her Majesty also presented the prizes to the winners of the Domestic Science Exhibition 2007.

Accompanying Her Majesty to the ceremony were Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna.

## Practice healthy lifestyle with advice of experts

**BERAKAS, August 28** – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has continuously implemented and enhanced efforts in its bid to protect the nation-state from disease threats such as SARS and bird flu.

Citizens also hold the responsibility to avoid themselves and the country from living a lifestyle that encourage the spread of bacteria and pesticides.

These were said by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah at the opening ceremony and prize presentation for the Healthy Baby Contest 2007 for the Brunei-Muara district.

Her Royal Highness also called for the society to play an active role in practicing a healthy lifestyle and follow the advice of experts. By practicing this, it is hoped that we will be a healthy society, for a promising and

safe future.

This year's contest was divided into six categories. Zawanah Nazirah binti Haji Ramlee won category 'A' for babies aged from six to nine months old. For category 'B', for babies aged from nine to 12 months old was won by Hanna Mira binti Edzwan Zukri. Azmina Nurul Halimah binti Abd. Halim won category 'C' for children aged from 12 to 18 months old. For category 'D', toddlers aged from 18 to 24 months old was won by Adriana Batrisya binti Abdul Mulyamin. For twin babies aged from 12 to 24 months old, Muhammad Afiq Nurizzuddin and Muhammad Aniq Nurizzuddin bin Nordin emerged as winners and for category 'F' - the baby born on July 15 was won by Muhammad Darwish Hassan bin Rifaie.

This year's contest took the theme of the World Health Day 2007 that is "Invest in Health, build a safer future".

## Walkathon promotes awareness on anti-drug

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 26** - A walkathon was recently held in the effort to promote anti-drugs. The walkathon named Anti-Drugs Walkathon was held in conjunction with the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Trafficking 2007.

Present at the walkathon was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Khairul Khalil.

Around 3,000 people including government representatives, students, private sector, associations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and members of the public took part in the walkathon. The event started at Sultan Haji Hassan Bolkiah Foundation Complex in Bandar Seri Begawan.

The 4.5 kilometer walk was organised by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). NCB hoped that such activity would help youths to engage more in sports activities thereby reducing drug abuse cases in the country in line with the vision to make ASEAN free of drugs by 2015.

## Brunei observes Energy Day every May 24

**BERAKAS, September 5**– Brunei will celebrate its Energy Day every May 24.

This was announced by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Deputy Sultan and as personal representative of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in his *sabda* during the Launching of Energy Week 2007 on September 4 at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas.

The date, May 24 was the date when the post Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office was created.

In his *sabda*, His Royal Highness noted that the nation on the whole is depending on oil and gas as more than 88 per cent of the resources' revenue is used for funding the nation's progress and development.

As oil and gas are limited non-renewable resources, therefore, future efforts for exploration and digging will be more challenging and costly, said His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness also called all parties to be prudent in the usage of the precious natural resources.

"Without the oil and gas resources, the nation will face a different way of life," said His Royal Highness.

The call and reminder for conservation means inviting us to change our attitude.

"If we failed to make any changes, that means we have not done anything for good deeds. Hence, we have no others choice but to change," said His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness also launched "Energy Efficiency and Conservation" - video clips; mascot named 'Awang Cekmat'; and Energy Week 2007 exhibitions from various public and private sectors.

His Royal Highness also attended the Energy Gala Night 2007 on September 5. During the ceremony, His Royal Highness presented prizes to the winners of the mascot competition, appreciation award, and energy efficiency and conservation



His Royal Highness at the Launching of Energy Week 2007.

initiatives.

The slogan for Energy Week is "Change Matters" while the theme for the year is "inculcating Energy Efficiency and Conservation".

Energy Week is one of initiatives to increase the understanding and awareness of citizens and residence of Brunei on the importance of energy sources and efficiency and conservation when using energy.

## Crown Prince continues working visit

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 23** - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, continued his working visit to the Public Works Department, Drainage and Sewerage Department and the Building Services Department, under the Ministry of Development.

His Royal Highness' visit started with a briefing from the Roads Director of the Road Department on the department's background, organisational structure, functions, roles and strategic plan.

His Royal Highness then proceeded

to the Area Traffic Control Centre and the Data Management Centre, where His Royal Highness also received a briefing on their roles and functions.

The Crown Prince toured the Construction division and the Maintenance and Mechanical division which are under the Road Department.

Next visit was to the Drainage and Sewerage Department, where His Royal Highness was briefed on the department's background and its functions by the Director of Drainage and Sewerage Department.

His Royal Highness continued his visit to several divisions under the Drainage and Sewerage Department, and was briefed on the Sewerage Telemetry System and current studies on flooding-related problems.

Last visit was to the Building Services Department and the Geotechnical and Geological section. The working visit reflected His Royal Highness' concern for the development and running of national projects and activities related to the development of infrastructure that would lead towards the vision of the Ministry of Development.

## Crown Prince graces Convocation Festival 2007

**RIMBA, September 1** - His Royal Highness Prince (Dr) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince, Deputy Sultan and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office in his capacity as the Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), launched the Convocation Festival 2007, held in conjunction with UBD's 19<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony.

Convocation Festival 2007 will be held from September 1 to 11. The exhibition booths were set up mainly by representatives from the university's faculties. It aimed to create awareness among the public on the activities and facilities available in UBD.

## Brunei attends 21<sup>st</sup> MABBIM

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 1** – Brunei will be attending the 21<sup>st</sup> Majlis Bahasa Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia (Mabbim) Expert Conference in Indonesia this month.

Brunei's delegation is led by a law terminology proficient, Pengiran Hajah Zabaidah Pengiran Haji Kamaludin, who is also a member of the permanent committee on the Malay language.

The five-day conference will look into different terminologies from various field of knowledge, which aimed to standardised the Malay language.

## Brunei-Pakistan: MoU on health sector

**TUTONG, August 23** - Brunei Darussalam and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on health cooperation.

Signing on behalf of Brunei Darussalam was the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi while his counterpart was Pakistan's Minister of Health, His Excellency Muhammad Nasir Khan.

According to the Ministry of Health, the MoU will cover both countries' joint interests such as cooperation in education/clinic exercise (hospital) and other health institutions; medical research development and health; public health system; technology changes in health sector and pharmacy.





His Royal Highness Crown Prince briefed on one of the water filtration process.

## Crown Prince visit Water Works Department

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 25** - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office continued his working visits to the Public Works Department by visiting the Water Works Department located in Tasek Lama.

His Royal Highness was briefed on the organisational structure of the Water Works Department as well as its function and role and the development of the water supply.

A briefing on the Brunei Darussalam Main Water Supply Telemetry System Network was also delivered. This network is capable of monitoring the main reservoir operation which helps the department to

maintain and plan water distribution for any problems arising.

A briefing on the development of the E-BIS project was also given. This project aimed towards the integration of billing information and enabling members of the public to communicate through the department's website.

His Royal Highness' last stop was at Mangkabau Water Reservoir in Mentiri and later proceeded to tour the reservoir by boat. The reservoir is situated 28.7 metres above sea level where construction on the reservoir started on April 13, 1997, and was completed on the January 12, 1999. It is able to produce 30 million litres of water per day via the Mangkabau Water Treatment Plant.

## Royal call for charity in Ramadan

**TUNGKU, August 23** - Muslims are called to make more donations and be more involved in charity work during the upcoming fasting month of Ramadan. Making more donations and doing more charitable deeds can increase our wealth, long life and avoid any bad omens.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik said at the launching ceremony of dates distribution donated from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held at the Chancellor Hall of Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

His Royal Highness added, Islam also encourages its followers to provide help to those who need it, be it in terms of possessions, monetary, provisions or others.

This year, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to give away 300 grammes of dates to each Muslim throughout the country as a personal gift, reflecting the monarch's love and concern for his people.

This year, a total of 123.5 metric tonnes of 'Mabroom' dates, were specially shipped by the Al Madinah Al Munawarah Dates Company in Saudi Arabia to be distributed to all Muslims in the country.



His Royal Highness hands over Mabroom dates to a recipient as a personal gift from His Majesty.

## BSP initiate painting and photography competition



Her Royal Highness looking at the painting exhibited.

**JERUDONG, September 10** – The winners of the painting and photography competition were announced with each receiving their respective prizes.

This competition was initiated by the Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn Bhd with collaboration from the Language and Literature Bureau, and the Science, Technology and Environment Partnership (STEP) Centre.

With the theme 'The Green Heart of Borneo,' the competition was divided into two categories. Emerged as the winner of Category A1 (Realistic Painting) was Haji Mohd Abidin Rashid, who took home the \$3,000 cash prize.

Meanwhile, Dato Paduka H A Jalil bin A Rahman won the hearts of the judges in the Category A2 (Contemporary Painting). He was awarded a \$3,000 cash prize.

The Photography category saw Haji Muhammad Haji Sulaiman coming in first place. For participants from educational institutions, St George's School student - Jong Yee Chen won first place.

Present to grace the prize awarding ceremony was Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah. The ceremony took place at the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

## Girl Guides celebrate Peace Day

**BERAKAS, September 9** – The Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam recently observed Peace Day 2007 held at its headquarters in Kg. Anggerek Desa.

Present at the ceremony was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, the President of the association.

Aerobics activities coordinated by Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Science College, followed with a 'Peace Walk' were organised.

Peace Day celebration was first organised in 1991 while the 'Peace Walk' was first held in 2002.

# Brunei-Vietnam: Five MoUs signed

**JERUDONG, August 16** – Brunei Darussalam signed five Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) with the Republic Socialist of Vietnam. The signing of the MoUs was witnessed by Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya, Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office.

The first MoU was between Brunei's Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports with Vietnam's Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. Present as signatories were Brunei's Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Mohammad and His Excellency Hoang Tuan Anh. With the signing of the MoU, a closer cooperation in the field of sports was made feasible.

The second set of MoU was on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion. Present as signatories were Dato Awang Haji Eusoff Agaki, the Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and his counterpart, His Excellency Pham Gia Khiem.

A third MoU was between Brunei National Petroleum Company Sendirian Berhad (PETROBRUNEI) and Vietnam Oil and Gas Company (PETROVIETNAM).



Representatives from Brunei and Vietnam at the signing ceremony.

The MoU was signed by Haji Ja'afar bin Haji Bakar, the Chief Executive Officer of Petroleum Brunei and representing Vietnam was its Deputy Minister of Finance, His Excellency Truong Tri Trung.

The fourth MoU was between Asialnc Brunei Darussalam and Vietnam's Sovico

Group. The last MoU was between Brunei's IQ Quest Company and Sovico Group of Vietnam. Signing on behalf of Asialnc and IQ Quest Company, Mr Allen Lai and Dayang Fauziah binti Haji Talib respectively. While their counterpart was Dr. Nguyen Thanh Hung.



The Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Rahman with the Ambassador of Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Herijanto Soepranto cutting the cake at a reception to celebrate the 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Indonesia's Independence Day on August 22.



The Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdullah and wife with the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Dato' Ku Jaafar bin Ku Shaari with spouse at a reception to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Malaysia's Independence Day on September 4 at Jalan Kebangsaan.



The Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar and wife with the Ambassador of Vietnam to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Pham Binh Man and spouse at a reception to mark the 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Vietnam's National Day on September 6 at Sheraton Utama Hotel.



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Haji Mohammad Daud and wife with the Ambassador of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Joseph K H Koh and spouse at a reception to mark the 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Singapore's National Day on August 10 at the Empire Hotel and Country Club, Jerudong.

## Did you know that...

- Brunei Darussalam celebrate Teacher's Day every September 23.
- Formal education began in Brunei in 1912 with the opening of a Malay vernacular school in Brunei Town (now known as Bandar Seri Begawan).
- To fix Islamic financial system in Brunei Darussalam, His Majesty has introduced Sukuk Al-Ijarah. Sukuk is an Islamic bond in trade transaction and property rental following the Islamic law as confirmed by local and foreign Islamic law experts.

### >> CALENDAR OF EVENT 2007

<b>January 1</b>	-	New Year 2007
<b>January 20</b>	-	New Year of Islamic Calendar 1428 Hijrah
<b>February 18</b>	-	Chinese New Year
<b>February 23</b>	-	Brunei's 23 <sup>rd</sup> National Day
<b>March 31</b>	-	Prophet Muhammad's birthday anniversary
<b>May 31</b>	-	Royal Brunei Armed Forces 46 <sup>th</sup> anniversary
<b>July 15</b>	-	His Majesty's 61 <sup>st</sup> birthday anniversary
<b>August 11</b>	-	Israk Mikraj celebration
<b>September 13</b>	-	First Day of Ramadan
<b>September 29</b>	-	Nuzul Al-Quran celebration
<b>October 13</b>	-	Hari Raya Aidilfitri
<b>December 20</b>	-	Hari Raya Aidiladha
<b>December 25</b>	-	Christmas

\*subject to changes

#### Brunei's School Holiday

March 16 to 25	-	First Term School Holiday
June 10 to 24	-	Second Term School Holiday
September 7 to 16	-	Third Term School Holiday
November 30 to December 31	-	Fourth Term School Holiday

### >> BRUNEI IN BRIEF

- Official name is Negara Brunei Darussalam.
  - Capital is Bandar Seri Begawan.
  - It is located on the north-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia.
  - Land size is 5765 sq. km
  - Population is estimated at 383,000 people (2006)
  - It is divided into four districts – Brunei Muara, Tutong, Kuala Belait and Temburong.
  - Malay is the official language but English is widely spoken.
  - Islam is the official religion and it allows other religions to be practiced.
  - National carrier is Royal Brunei Airlines.
  - It has an equatorial climate, a uniform temperature, high humidity and heavy rainfall.
- Public Warning:** The trafficking of controlled drugs carries the death penalty in Brunei Darussalam

### >> HOW TO GET TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM?

#### There are a number of ways to reach Brunei.

- By air - Brunei's national carrier, Royal Brunei Airlines travels to more than 20 destinations around the world. The airline also has worldwide office for you to book a return flight to Brunei (to know the nearest RBA's office at your place, please log to: [www.bruneiair.com](http://www.bruneiair.com))

International airlines such as Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and Thai Airways also fly frequently to Brunei. Beginning July 2006, Air Asia, the Malaysia's lowest airfare carrier also has direct flight from Kuala Lumpur to Brunei.

Arrival by plane would land you to Brunei International Airport (BWN), the sole airport in the nation.

- For those who enjoy journey by sea, you can reach Brunei by boat or ferry. The main ferry terminal in Brunei is the Serasa Ferry Terminal at Muara. You can catch a ferry from Labuan, Sabah or Lawas and Sundar, both in Sarawak, a state of the neighbouring country, Malaysia. Another option is via a boat from Limbang, Sarawak which will arrive at the jetty around Jalan Residency area in the Capital.
- You would have two options of entry point to Brunei by land transport. You can enter through the Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post in Belait District or the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post in Brunei Muara District. The Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post in Belait is the entry point for those from Miri, Sarawak. While the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post is the entrance for those coming from Limbang, Sarawak; Kota Kinabalu; and Kalimantan.

# BRUNEI - MUARA DISTRICT



**Aerial view of Bandar Seri Begawan.**

Several numbers of interesting places in the Brunei-Muara district was portrayed in the previous edition. More interesting places such as the museums, the Royal Regalia, the old market and many more will be further explored in this edition.

Two significant buildings that house historical findings and artefacts; the Brunei Museum and the Malay Technology Museum are must-go places to visit. Situated along the river banks of Brunei River at Jalan Kota Batu, the Brunei Museum showcases the origins of Brunei's culture and heritage. A walking distance away is the Malay Technology Museum where it offers an insight into the kind of tools ancient Bruneians used for their daily routine particularly for the cottage industry. The museum features goldsmith techniques, boat-making, fishing, brass smith, and woodworks, as testaments to the ingenuity which earlier generations utilised available materials and resources.

Next on the list is the Royal Regalia. Strategically located in the heart of Bandar Seri Begawan, the building was established to commemorate the 1992 Silver Jubilee of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's accession to the throne. The building houses ceremonial regalia including the royal chariot, gold and silver ceremonial armoury, the traditional jewel-encrusted coronation crowns and a replica of the throne used by His Majesty on state occasions.

A few minutes away is the Silver Jubilee Monument located on the banks of the Kedayan River, another historical tribute to visit. Completed in July 2002, the park is considered as historical as it built in the same year commemorating His Majesty's Silver Jubilee of Ascension to the Throne. It is also recreational as this park is famous for jogging and walking. During weekend, this park usually becomes a venue for gathering

and leisure. The main attraction here is the water fountain. Well built walking tracks are also provided for you to move easily around the park. The park had on numerous occasion become the venue for meet-the-people session (Brunei Muara District) held in conjunction with the birthday anniversary of His Majesty. Night stalls and a platform for performances would usually be set up here as part of the celebration to commemorate His Majesty's birthday.

Tamu Kianggeh (Kianggeh Market) considered as of the oldest market in the country is a place worth visiting. Situated on the banks of Kianggeh River in the capital, the market offers a variety of home-made products ranging from foodstuffs to home decorators, and a good shopping destination for some unique products. Other *tamu* and night food stalls of interest are located in Gadong and opposite Terrace Hotel.

Tasek Lama Recreational Park is the sole and one of the oldest recreational park located in the capital. It has a natural waterfall and lake, and features a beautiful garden of trees and flowers. For those who want to get away from the noisy traffic of the city, this park is an ideal place to spend some quiet time. It will take about 15 minutes to walk to the park from the Royal Ceremonial Hall (Lapau).

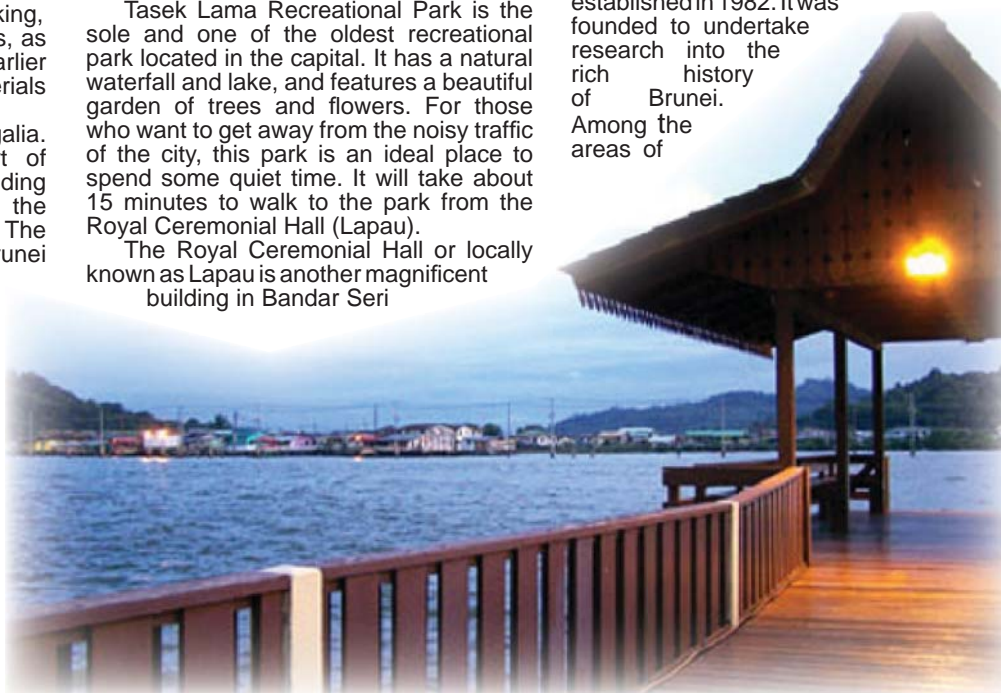
The Royal Ceremonial Hall or locally known as Lapau is another magnificent building in Bandar Seri

Begawan. It is the place where the royal ceremonies were traditionally held and the venue where the present Sultan was crowned on August 1, 1968. An exquisite golden dome highlights the Lapau's interior.

Built on the banks of the Brunei River, the Arts and Handicraft Centre in Brunei-Muara district was established as a haven for the preservation of traditional Bruneian knowledge and skills and this tourist attraction is located at Kota Batu. Arts and Handicraft Centre is a place where you can find traditional, intricately designed sarongs which are woven using gold or silver threads. This is called kain songket. Hand-tooled silver jewellery and artefacts such as snake dagger or keris can be found here. A good quality of head wears for men or locally known as songkok are also made here. These arts and handcrafted items are available for sale.

Another interesting place that you can visit is the Brunei History Centre established in 1982. It was founded to undertake research into the rich history of Brunei.

Among the areas of



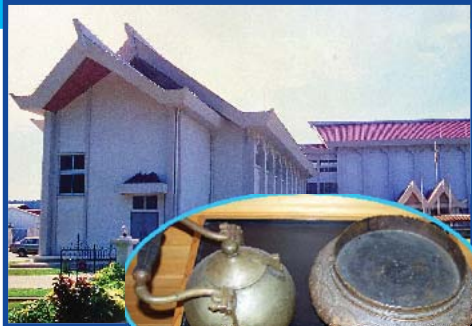
One of the huts by the Brunei's riverside to wait for water taxi.



Bubungan Dua Belas.



Lapau.



Malay Technology Museum.



special interest genealogy and history of the Sultans of Brunei and the royal family. The centre is located next to the Royal Regalia.

The Tomb of Sultan Bolkiah is another historical site worth to visit. Sultan Bolkiah was the fifth ruler of Islamic Brunei and his reign is known as the nation's golden age. Sultan Bolkiah died at sea, and his mausoleum and adjoining cemetery garden grace the banks of the Brunei River where the ancient capital is believed to have been sited, off Jalan Kota Batu, near the Brunei Museum.

Another place not to be missed is 'Bubungan Dua Belas' (House of Twelve Roofs). Built in 1906, it is one of the oldest surviving buildings in Brunei based at Kota Batu. Located along Jalan Residency, the building was formerly used as the residence for previous British Residents and High Commissioners. It is now an exhibition gallery and offers a panoramic view overlooking the famous water village, Kampong Ayer.

These are several interesting places explored in this particular edition. More will be featured in the next edition.



Students at the Arts & Handicraft Centre.



Photos show among the places of interest around the capital.



Scenery at Tasek Lama Recreational Park.



Tamu Kianggeh.

This issue of Explore will discuss Kiulap, a fast growing commercial area based near the heart of Bandar Seri Begawan. Kiulap which once was a quaint village is about 10 minutes away from the Brunei International Airport and a few minutes distance from the capital.

About 20 years ago, Kiulap with an area of 24, 5196 km<sup>2</sup>, was an ordinary suburb with houses, small grocery shops and a primary school. On August 24, 1984 the government opened the nation's largest referral hospital; the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS Hospital) which coincidentally is located near this residential area. The village, in the early 1980's, was also identified as one of the main area to be inter-connected with the Hassanal Bolkiah Highway.

The construction of this highway turned the thick forest to asphalt road. The completion of the road project provided more access for people to reach Bandar Seri Begawan through Kiulap and this led to the development of commercial buildings.

The rise of Kiulap as a commercial area began in mid 1990's, as Gadong, a thriving commercial area, was almost fully developed.

Easy access to the area and the availability of financial institutions were the main reasons for many businesses to open up their businesses in Kiulap. Among the banks available here are the HSBC Bank, Baiduri Bank and two local Islamic banks; Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei (TAIB) and Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD).

Currently, there are more than 250 shops available in the area. If you wish to go for shopping, Kiulap is a good choice. You can choose a wide range of items from departmental store to boutiques.

One of the local favourite shopping blocks is the Setia Kenangan Complex. The complex is one of the earliest commercial buildings developed in Kiulap.

The Setia Kenangan Complex among others, houses the local favourite departmental store that is Hua Ho Departmental Store, TAIB Bank, textile shops, electrical shops, boutiques, computer shops, travel agent, restaurant and firms like architectural and law. You can also find one of the Brunei's established companies in the traditional weaving market, Syarikat Asnika.

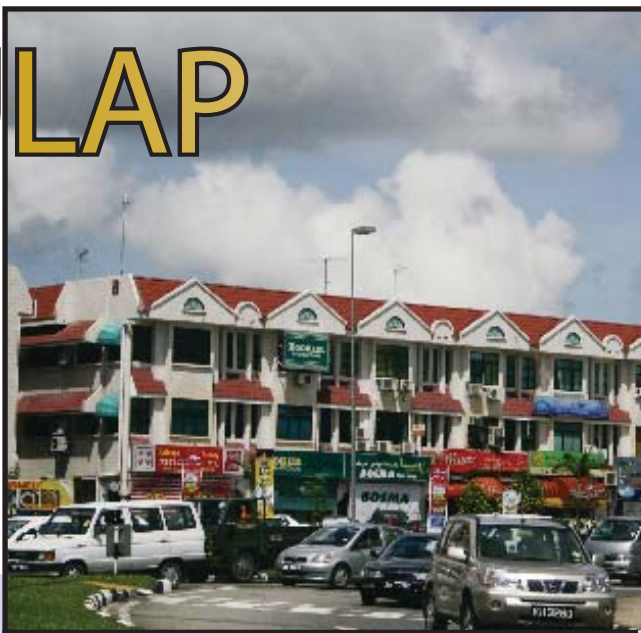
Another main attraction of Kiulap is the new Q-lap Mall. The mall features departmental store, shops, cafes, food court and cineplex.

Besides shopping, Kiulap is also the best dining spot in Brunei. More than 20 eateries outlets are available here with wide choices of dishes. You can choose from cake houses, fast food, and restaurants serving local cuisines like ambuyat; western, Indonesian, Malaysian, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Indian, and Thai food.

Accommodation is made easy with the recent opening of The Palm Garden Hotel. The hotel was launched on August 12, 2007. The Palm Garden Hotel also houses a fitness centre. Another plaza hotel will also be launched soon in the area.

Tired of shopping and need to burn some calories? You can stroll along the Kiulap road and enjoy the scenery of the river. About five to 10 minutes walks you can reach the Silver Jubilee Park. The park is built in conjunction with His Majesty's 25 years ascension to the throne. The Silver Jubilee is quite popular among local for jogging and strolling. Along the river, named Kedayan River, several huts were also set up to make fishing convenient.

## KIULAP



Scenery around Kiulap.





Traditional congkak board made of wood.

## Congkak, a game of wits

Congkak, a traditional indoor game, is one that challenges the players' wits. Quick thinking and a master in calculations are the two important characteristics that a player should have.

Inherited since generations ago, this highly esteemed game has always been a popular game particularly among women. The origin is not clearly known but some countries like Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore play the same game but with different sets of rules and the name of the game itself may vary from each country.

Congkak, a perfect way to spend your leisure time is played between two players. In Brunei, congkak is also played during the night of royal ceremonials such as the Istiadat Malam Berjaga-jaga at the palace or nobility's residence.

This game requires a boat-shaped congkak board. Traditional congkak board is made of wood and has 14 small holes in two sets of seven, plus two additional medium holes which acts as storage or 'house' for players. But some congkak board may have different number of holes (usually odd quantities ranges from five to nine). Most of the congkak board used in Brunei is the seven-hole per side. The sizes of the board may also vary with the usual size board used is 80cm in length and 18cm in width.

The holes or locally known as "lubang" on the board also have its name. The small holes (14-hole) are called lubang kampung (village) or lubang anak (child) by some people. Meanwhile, the two medium holes (the store) are called lubang rumah (house). The two-set of seven holes (lubang kampung) is located side-by-side, while the house is located at each-end side of the board.

Each village will be filled in with playing seeds (normally seven pieces per

hole). The seeds can be made of marbles, shells or small stones. The objective of the game is to capture more seeds than opponents.

During the first move, both players will move simultaneously. On a turn, a player chooses one of the seven holes under their control. The player removes all playing seeds from this hole, and distributes them in each hole

If the last seed moves falls into an empty hole on the current player's side, the player can capture all the seeds in the hole directly across from this one, on the opponent's side. If the opposing hole is empty, no seeds are captured.

The game ends when there are no more playing seeds in the holes (village). The player who has the most number of seeds in the lubang rumah or store wins the game.

Nowadays, as more varieties of modern games are present; various actions have been taken by respective agencies to maintain congkak as one of local favourite games particularly among the younger generation. Among the steps is by introducing the games to younger kids at kindergarten age. To attract children's interest, some of congkak's boards are made from colourful plastic materials. Congkak has also been made into an online game.



clockwise from this hole.

Bear in mind, the player has to skip the opponent's store (lubang rumah), but should not forget to fill in her own store (lubang rumah). If the last seed falls into an occupied hole, all the seeds are removed from the village, and the game starts from the hole. The process continues until the seeds fall into a player's store or an empty store.

If the last seed falls into player's own store, the player immediately earn another turn, which can begin at any of the seven holes under her/his control.



Ladies playing congkak at one of the berjaga-jaga ceremony.

## Brunei and Malaysia launched FTC



Ministers of Home Affairs of Brunei (left) and Malaysia (right) exchange documents at the launching of the Frequent Travellers Card (FTC) project.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 10** - Brunei and Malaysia reached another historical milestone in their cooperation with the successful implementation of the first-ever Frequent Travellers Card (FTC) project.

Initially, the FTC project was implemented at Sg Tujuh Control Post bordering Miri and Kuala Belait and later extended in stages to Kuala Lurah immigration post-Tedungan in Limbang, and immigration control posts in Puni-Pendaharuan bordering Temburong and Limbang, as well as other control posts that are considered appropriate. Miri and Limbang are part of the Malaysian state of Sarawak.

FTC is aimed at facilitating and smoothening cross-border movements of both nationalities who fulfil the rules set out by the immigration departments of both countries.

It is also in line with the rapid development of ICT that drives towards paperless concept, and cuts down red tape. It facilitates the public, especially business people and frequent travellers.

## Feasibility of Asean-China Info Superhighway discussed

**GADONG, August 18** - The Feasibility Study Report of the Asean-China Information Superhighway Project was discussed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asean-China Information Superhighway Working Group Meeting at the Rizqun International Hotel.

Several representatives from ASEAN member countries from the public and private sector, as well as representatives from Telekom Brunei Berhad (TelBru) and DST Group attended the two-day meeting.

The meeting were hosted by the Authority for Info-Communications Technology (AITI) Industry of Brunei Darussalam and Ministry of Information Industry of the People's Republic of China.

The meeting was hoped to meet its objectives and continue the efforts in realising the development and expansion of cooperation between Asean and China.

## ASEAN drug free by 2015

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 22** - The Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) is taking steps to address the growing menace of methylamphetamine abuse and has set a target to achieve a drug-free region by 2015.

The issue was discussed at the 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) in Hanoi, Viet Nam. Brunei Darussalam's delegation was led by the Director of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Dato Paduka Haji Abd. Majid.

According to a 2006 report by the International Narcotics Control Board of the United Nations, methylamphetamine, or popularly known in Brunei as Syabu, is the drug of choice among drug abusers in the Philippines and Thailand. Between 2000 and 2005, a total of 3,891 grammes of methylamphetamine were confiscated by the NCB.

## Minister attends 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN TELMIN

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 26** - The Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar recently attended the 7<sup>th</sup> Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting (TELMIN) in Siem Reap, Cambodia held from August 23 to 25.

One of the key issues discussed was the implementation of projects and initiatives under the respective working groups, particularly projects identified in the Brunei Action Plan.

They also talked on the output document of the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN TELMIN, which was held in Bandar Seri Begawan in September 2006. The theme of the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN TELMIN is "ICT: Reaching out to the Rural", which stressed on the importance of access to telecommunication and ICT services for all segments of the population in both rural and urban areas.

The theme also emphasised that ICT is not just a means to communicate but rather a means to improve the quality of life and to bridge the digital divide between rural and urban areas.

## Bruneian students celebrate His Majesty's birthday in New Zealand



A group photo of Brunei students during the celebration.

**NEW ZEALAND, August 28** - Brunei Students Association (BSA) in New Zealand celebrated His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan's 61<sup>st</sup> birthday anniversary at the University of Otago in Dunedin.

The BSA, which was established in 2004, has 42 active members, six in Christchurch, four in Wellington and the rest in Dunedin.

Most of the BSA members are under government scholarships and are enrolled in Professional Health Science course, such as medicine, dentistry and physiotherapy.

## Minister attends NAM opening ceremony

**KUALA LUMPUR, September 10** - The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Mohammad attended the official opening ceremony of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) of the Empowerment of Women Institute in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The ceremony was opened by the Malaysian Minister of Women, Family and Community Development, Her Excellency Dato Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil. The ceremony was held with the theme, "Women of a NEW World" which aimed to introduce the Institute to other countries.

All ministers responsible for women's affairs in the member countries of NAM were invited to the event.



# Prawn farming shows positive economic potential

One of the aquaculture sectors which could contribute to the local economy is through prawn farming. The sector shows positive response particularly as the quality of the production meets the international standard.

The industry started as far back as 1993 with it gradually developing to this very day. However with only a small number of entrepreneurs venturing into this industry, the domestic market for this industry received less competition. This indicates that there is plenty of room for business opportunities in this field which is yet to be explored. From 2005 to 2006, there were only 13 entrepreneurs venturing into prawn farming activities.

Continuous support and incentives provided by the government showed the massive economic potential this sector could provide as part of diversifying the economy. The Minister of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Ahmad said on October 9, 2006 during a dialogue session with aquaculture (prawn) industry entrepreneurs, the department had implemented international aquaculture technology verification projects which have been developed to be used by local entrepreneurs in producing high quality aquaculture products, which is on par with international markets.

One of the efforts undertaken to boost production is by acquiring an aquaculture expert to help the department in improving the prawn "seeds" and improving the growth rate of the prawn.

The Minister further emphasised the potential of the fishery sector where this sector could achieve total receipts of \$400 million in 2023. Out of this figure, \$200 million could come from aquaculture and another \$113 million from prawn breeding. It was estimated that aquaculture have a potential worth of \$71 million per annum.

In the Eighth National Development Plan (8<sup>th</sup> NDP), prawn farming was recognised as an industry with massive potential as an additional area of 575 hectare for prawn farming had been allocated.

To further assist this sector, the Fisheries Department and a company from the United States of America (U.S.A), Integrated Aquaculture International (TAT) signed an agreement to stimulate shrimp farming in this country through advanced technology and niche marketing. Among the expected outcomes of the project are the increase in shrimp production

to 10 meter tones per hectare per year, production of over 100 million shrimp fries per year, production of big-sized tiger prawns for the global markets, and the use of advanced technology in the culture



of shrimps.

Several seminars and workshops were also organised in the effort to promote awareness, and to educate prawn fish farmers on this sector. As such, on November 29 this year, the Fisheries Department in its efforts to further develop fisheries products for the global market, organised a seminar on the strengthening of food inspection and certification for shrimp and bivalve molluscs in Brunei Darussalam with other Asean member countries.



Meanwhile, its Director, Hajah Hasnah Ibrahim, said the seminar would benefit the participants through capacity building in the implementation and upgrading of the monitoring and certification system for shrimps and bivalve molluscs.

As part of its support towards aquaculture activities, the government has provided basic accommodations such as good roads, electricity and many more.

Several sites throughout the nation had been identified as a potential breeding ground with the largest based in the Tutong District. About 47 per cent of prawn sales are contributed from those cultivated in

this district. Among those in this district are the prawn hatchery in Kampong Kuala Tutong; Semaun Aquaculture Sdn Bhd cultivation site at 'Telisai Sungai Paku Fasa 1'; Usaha Asilati Sdn Bhd site at Kampong Keramat 'Telisai Fasa 1'; Dua-Dua Sdn Bhd site at Kampong Keramat 'Telisai Fasa 1'.

More sites, around 230 hectares were offered last year for interested entrepreneurs in the effort to expand local prawn farming that included 130 hectares in Tutong District cultivated by six companies; and 100 hectares in Brunei Muara District cultivated by seven companies. These sites are located in Kampong Keramat, 'Telisai Fasa 1' (92 hectares), 'Telisai Sungai Paku Fasa 1' (38 hectares), 'Pangkalan Sibabau Fasa 1' (50 hectares) and 'Pangkalan Sibabau Fasa 2' (50 hectares).

This industry is showing positive feedbacks where the total export rate in 2006 had doubled compared to 2005. In 2005, the country's shrimp export were 197.45 tonnes metric with a worth of \$3.05 million and this amount increased in 2006 with 374.79 tonnes metric with a worth total of \$6.05 million.

Meanwhile, the total shrimp import in 2005 were 478.33 tonnes metric with a total worth of \$2.91 million and this amount showed a decrease in 2006 with only 384.55 tonnes metric shrimp were imported with a worth of

\$2.22 million.

The preferred species cultivated in Brunei Darussalam is the Rostris prawn which is sold to the local market through fishmongers and seafood processing factories. With the additional 97 hectares of land offered in 2006, the number of ponds rose by 100, thus leading to prawn production of 246 metric tones.

Although the figures could be seen as small compared to others, the figure had shown that there are potentials for the development and investment in the mentioned sector.

As of today, Brunei Darussalam had successfully exported its shrimps to countries like Japan, Korea and the U.S.A.



## Salurut

### Ingredients

907 g rice  
1 coconut whole  
907 g sugar  
1 cup pandan water  
A little lime

### Methods

Wash rice, soak until swell and drip away. Then grind and sieve. Grate coconut, extract separately the cream and milk. Then heat milk and bring to boil until oil is discharged. Mix rice flour with water until moderately dilute. Then add in the boiling coconut milk until it becomes moderately sticky. Then mix thoroughly with coconut cream, pandan water, sugar and little lime. Then put dough into the palm leaf casing until one inch from the opening. Then put into the basket upright to be steamed until done.



## Longest Chocolate Swiss Roll in Brunei

**GADONG, August 16** – The longest chocolate Swiss roll was showcased at The Mall in Gadong to celebrate His Majesty's 61<sup>st</sup> birthday anniversary.

Present to officiate the launching was the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Mohammad bin Haji Daud.

To make the longest chocolate Swiss Roll, it needed four pastry chefs and 16 supporting chefs, led by the Executive Chef Fauzi Shamsudin of the Rizqun International Hotel.

The special Swiss Roll was 75.02 meter long and was made with sponge cake and cream with peach and mango to give it a fruity flavour.

To create the Swiss Roll, it needed 125 kilogram of chocolate mix, 7,000 eggs, 3,000 litres of corn oil, 50 kilogram of mango puree, 50kg of ripe mango, 2,000g of Nescafe, 1,000 litres of topping cream and 50 rolls of aluminium to create the Swiss Roll.

## Local-made prawn crackers reach Arab market

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 21** – Brunei's own prawn crackers with brand name – MARIMIN, is the first to reach the Middle East market. Now, MARIMIN is also available in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Iran. Around 20,000 packets of processed prawn crackers were sent to these countries.

The deal to export the prawn crackers was made possible following months of discussion with its sole agent in Dubai, who is responsible in marketing the products in UAE and Iran.

Present to launch the export shipment in Beribi Light Industrial Area was the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Hamid.

Last year, the company marked a milestone by becoming the first company to export the crackers to Miri, Malaysia.

## National carrier has new chairman

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 22** – Brunei's own national carrier, Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA) now has a new chairman. The new chairman is the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Abu Bakar bin Pengiran Seri Indera Pengiran Haji Ismail.

Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Abu Bakar replaces Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Abd Hamid bin Pengiran Haji Mohd Yassin. The appointment took effect on August 22, 2007.

## Stamps to commemorate 100 years of Bubungan 12

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 23** - Commemorative stamps were issued by the Postal Services Department in conjunction with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bubungan Dua Belas (House of Twelve Roofs), one of the oldest buildings in Brunei Darussalam.

It was launched at the Stamp Gallery at the Post Office Headquarters in the capital by the Postmaster General, Haji Abdul Kadir bin Tengah.

There are three different designs of the new commemorative stamps available, all featuring Bubungan Dua Belas from different angles and colours.

Bubungan Dua Belas is located about one and a half kilometres from the capital. It was the official residence of the first British Resident in Brunei, Malcolm McArthur.

## Royal Brunei Catering launched first cookbook

**BERAKAS, August 26** – Royal Brunei Catering (RBC) has produced its first cookbook launched by Her Majesty The Raja Isteri at the Domestic Science Exhibition held at the International Convention Centre.

The book was a joint effort with the Information Department of the Prime Minister's Office and Brunei's Pertiwi Association. Leading the RBC team in producing the cookbook was the RBC's Acting General Manager, Haji Omar Ali bin Haji Mohd Daud.

The 122-page cookbook is a compilation of 60 of RBC's recipes in a wide range of categories such as salad and appetizers, soups, main courses, desserts and Malay cakes. As a pioneer in the food and catering industry, RBC aims to share its knowledge with the people of Brunei.

## RBPF join ASEAN soccer meet

**GADONG, August 27** - The Royal Brunei Police Force will join the first ASEAN Police Football Tournament in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Royal Brunei Police Force will be sending 20 personnel and four officials. Most of the team members had participated in the Inter-Territorial State Games between Sarawak, Sabah and Brunei.

The tournament is organised by the Ministry of Public Security, Vietnam, with the collaboration of the Vietnam Football Federation and it will be held from July 31 to August 15.

It is part of the events to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN and the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the People's Police, Ministry of Public Security, and Vietnam.

The prime objective of the tournament is to strengthen relations and cooperation's among ASEAN police forces. All ASEAN member countries will be participating in this tournament.

## Health Expo in November

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 5** – The Ministry of Health will organise a Health Expo 2007 in conjunction with the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of health services in Brunei Darussalam in November this year.

The Expo will run for four days at the International Convention Centre where various items especially in health-related products such as sport's equipment, medical instruments, health foodstuffs, skin care and beauty will be displayed by local and international companies.

## Brunei Grand Sale begins

**GADONG, September 7** – The annual Brunei Grand Sale (BGS) was officially kicked off scheduled to take place from September 7 to October 21. The launching of BGS was held at the Ground Floor of The Mall, Gadong by Dato Paduka Awang Haji Kamis bin Haji Tamin, Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office.

The 45-day BGS will be participated by shops, supermarkets and department stores throughout the country which will be offering attractive discounts and special promotions for their goods.

The objectives of BGS 2007 is to encourage the public to spend locally; to provide opportunities for the public to shop at discounted prices; to encourage competitive pricing of goods; and to attract tourists to shop in Brunei Darussalam.

The theme for this year is "Bargain prices to boost sales and economic growth" or Harga Murah, Jualan Meriah, Ekonomi Bertambah.

# Sighting of the 'hilal'



Muslims in the country will undertake their religious obligations to fast from dawn to dusk in the month of Ramadhan. However, the process in determining when the fasting month will commence is through moon sighting or *hilal*.

Officials from the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Survey Department of the Ministry of Development could be seen at various strategic places in their attempt to sight the new moon.

If the delegations are successful in sighting the new moon, fasting will commence tomorrow. However, should the attempt failed, fasting will automatically commence the day after tomorrow.

The sighting of the moon signifies the starting of the month-long from dawn to dusk fasting by Muslims as stated in the five pillars of Islam.

Various religious activities will commence and further enhanced during this holy month, particularly as this is the only month where the *'terawih'* prayer can be performed. Reading of the holy Quran will be culminated with the completion of the 30 juz or chapters of the holy book towards the end of Ramadhan.

The success of completing a month long of fasting will be celebrated in the month of Syawal.

