



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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His Majesty grants audiences



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao, President of the National Council of Timorese Resistance, above, and His Excellency Mr. Francis Adjei Danso, Ambassador of the Republic of Ghana to Brunei Darussalam, below, shake hands warmly during a separate audience at Istana Nurul Iman.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to grant separate audiences to His Excellency Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao, President of the National Council of Timorese Resistance and His Excellency Mr. Francis Adjei Danso, Ambassador of the Republic of Ghana to Brunei Darussalam at Istana Nurul Iman, on 29 May.

His Majesty first received in audience His Excellency Mr. Kay Gusmao, who briefed the ruler on the latest developments in East Timor.

During a three-day visit to the Sultanate, His Excellency Kay Gusmo visited the Gurkha Reserved Forces at the Penanjong Camp in Tutong district and Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) in Tungku, near the Brunei capital, Bandar Seri Begawn.

His Majesty then granted an audience to His Excellency Mr. Francis Adjei Danso, who delivered a special message from the President of the Republic of Ghana.

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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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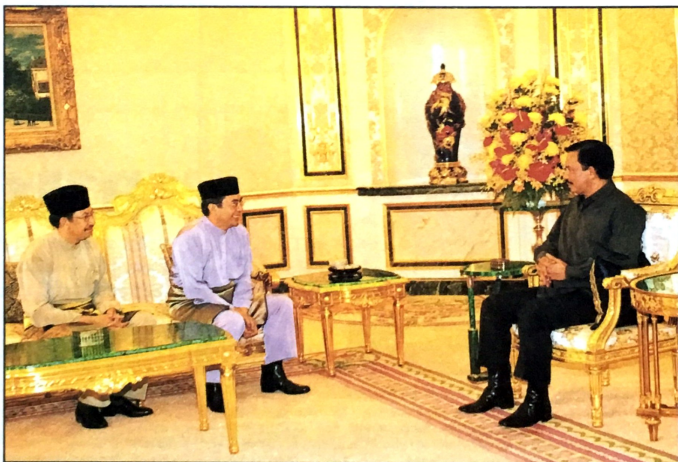
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YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 15 June 2000. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-383941 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam granting an audience to His Excellency Laksmana TNI Widodo Adi Sutjipto, the new Commander of the Indonesian National Defence Forces, above, and to two new permanent secretaries, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Zakaria and Awang Haji Abd. Rahman, below.



** From page one
(audiences)*

On 17 May, the Brunei monarch granted an audience to the new Commander of the Indonesian National Defence Forces, His Excellency Laksmana TNI Widodo Adi Sutjipto.

During the audience, His Majesty and His Excellency exchanged views on issues of mutual interest in the area of defence cooperation between the two countries.

His Excellency was accompanied at the audience by the Indonesian ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Bapak Rihardjo Djonjonegoro and several senior military officers from the Indonesian Na-

tional Defence Forces.

Meanwhile, the same day, Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam granted separate audiences to the wife of the new Commander of the Indonesian National Defence Forces, Ibu Seri Murniati at Istana Nurul Iman and Istana Nurul Izzah respectively.

His Excellency Laksmana TNI Widodo Adi Sutjipto was in the Sultanate for a day official visit, at the head of a twelve-member delegation.

Three days later on 20 May also at

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Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha, above, and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam, right, granting an audience to Ibu Seri Murniati, the wife of the new Commander of the Indonesian National Defence Forces at Istana Nurul Iman and Istana Nurul Izzah respectively.

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(audiences)

Istana Nurul Iman, His Majesty granted an audience to two new permanent secretaries, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Zakaria bin Dato Paduka Haji Noordin, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Development and Awang Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.

Crown Prince visits Indonesia and Thailand

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah continued his official visit to the ASEAN member countries, and this time to the Republic of Indonesia and Thailand, upon the invitation of the President of Indonesia and the Prime Minister of Thailand respectively.

His Royal Highness' arrival at the Halim Perdanakusuma Airport in Jakarta on 18 May was greeted by the Director General for Protocol and Consular Affairs of the Department of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, His Excellency Mr. Rachmat Ranudiwijaya and Brunei Darussalam's Ambassador to Indonesia, His Excellency Pengiran Setia Jaya Pengiran Haji Abdul Momin.

His Royal Highness then made a courtesy call on His Excellency President Abdurrahman Wahid of Indonesia at Istana Negara, and met with the Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Dr. Alwi Shihab at the Department of Foreign Affairs, the following day. During the meeting, The Crown Prince was briefed on the role of the Department, and was later entertained at a luncheon given by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

His Royal Highness continued his visit to Yogyakarta on 20 May, and was greeted on arrival at Adi Sumarmo Airport, Surakarta, by Bapak Bambang Raharjo, a representative of the office of the Governor of Yogyakarta.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah shakes hands warmly with His Excellency President Abdurrahman Wahid of Indonesia when he made a courtesy call on His Excellency at Istana Negara.

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Left: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah in conversation with the Director-General for Protocol and Consulate of the Department of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, His Excellency Mr. Rachmat Ranudiwijaya. Also present were Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Abdul Qawi and Brunei Darussalam's Ambassador to Indonesia, His Excellency Pengiran Setia Jaya Pengiran Haji Abdul Momin.

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(Crown Prince's visit)

In Yogyakarta, His Royal Highness made a courtesy call on His Excellency Sri Sultan Hamengkubowono X, the Governor of Special Region of Yogyakarta at the office of the Governor.

His Royal Highness later visited the Borobudur Monument, a landmark built in the 18th century and is one of tourists' attraction in the republic. Yogyakarta itself produces agricultural products such as padi and wheat, and where the oldest university, Gajah Mada, is situated.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah left Yogyakarta for Bali later in the afternoon for the last leg of his official visit.

Welcoming His Royal Highness at the Ngurah Rai International Airport, in Denpasar, Bali, were His Excellency Dewa Beratha, the Governor of Bali, on whom The Crown Prince paid a courtesy call later in the evening. Also at the airport were local dignitaries as well as staff and members of the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam in Jakarta. His Royal Highness also attended a dinner hosted by the Governor of Bali at Jaya Sabha, the Governor's official residence, in honour of the Brunei Darussalam's Crown Prince.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah began the second leg of his visit to the Kingdom of Thailand on 21 May. Welcoming His Royal Highness at on arrival the Royal Thai Air Force Air Terminal in Bangkok were His Excellency Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, His Excellency Pornthep Techapaibul, Deputy Minister of Science and Technology and Environment as Minister-In-Attendance.

The Crown Prince was then driven in a motorcade to the Government Guest House for a welcoming ceremony, where His Royal Highness was greeted by Thailand's Prime Minister, His Excellency Chuan Leekpai. His Royal Highness then proceeded to the dais to receive the royal salute and inspected the guard of honour mounted by the Eleventh Military Circle of the Royal Thai Armed Forces.

After the welcoming ceremony, His Royal Highness



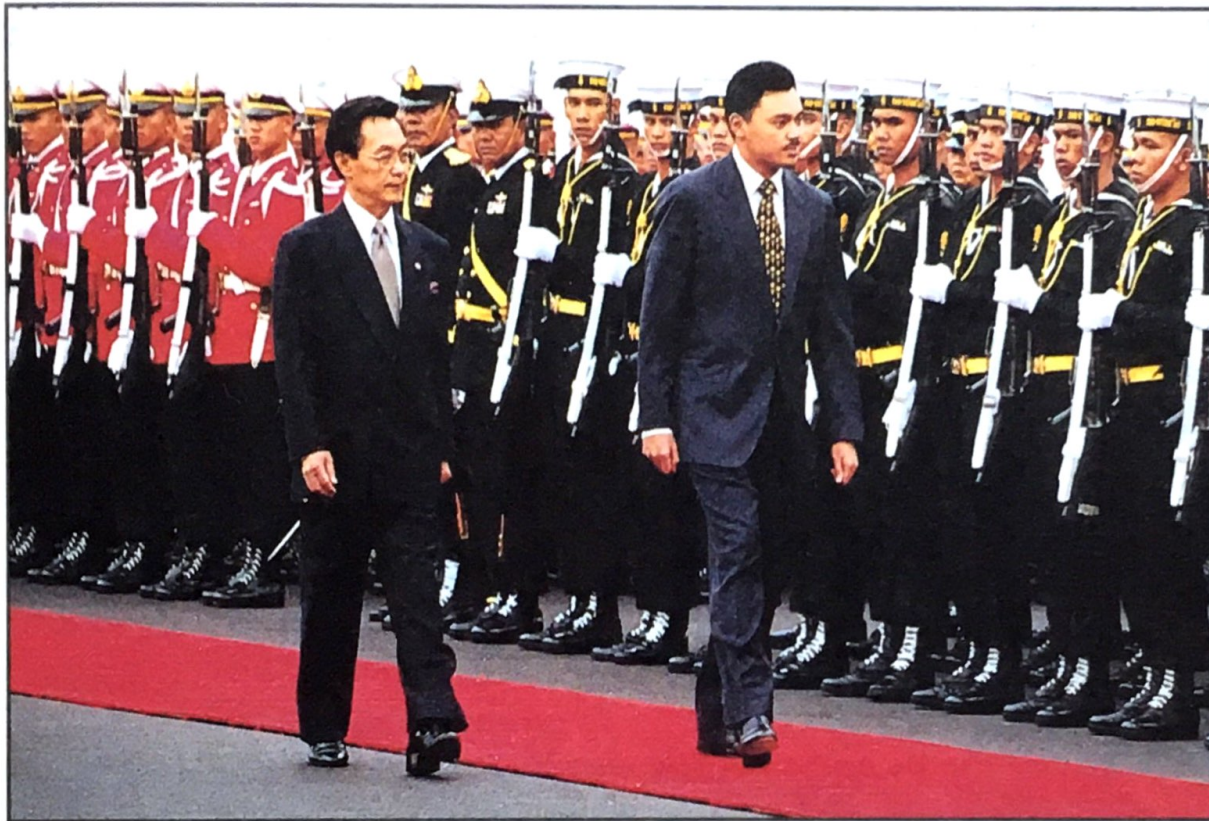
His Royal Highness signing a visitor's book to commemorate his visit to the Governor's Office at Yogyakarta, above, while picture below shows His Royal Highness being briefed on the legend behind the carved stone of the Borobudur.



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Left: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Abdul Qawi during an audience with His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit at Klai Kangwai Palace, Hua Hin in Prachuap Khirikhan Province.



His Royal Highness inspecting an honour guard mounted by 250 personnel of the Thai Armed Forces at the Guest House compound.

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(Crown Prince's visit)

made a courtesy call on the Thai Prime Minister at the Ivory Room.

The highlight of The Crown Prince's visit to Thailand was his audience with His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadez of Thailand and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit at Kial Kangwol Palace, Hua Hin in Prachuap Khirikhan Province.

Last night, His Royal Highness attended a dinner given in honour of His Royal Highness by the Prime Minister of Thailand, His Excellency Mr. Chuan Leekpai at Santi Maitri in the Guest House.

In a speech during the dinner, His Royal Highness, among other things, stressed the importance of cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the Kingdom of Thailand, among both the government and private sectors, and of the existing relationship on close neighbourhood among ASEAN member countries for the development of its people.

Meanwhile, His Excellency Mr. Chuan Leekpai in his welcoming remarks, expressed his pride on the wise leadership of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, and considered His Royal Highness' visit

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Above: His Royal Highness delivering a speech at a dinner hosted in honour of his visit by the Prime Minister of Thailand, His Excellency Mr. Chuan Leekpai, at the Guest House in Bangkok. His Royal Highness also made a courtesy call on His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, below.



BRUNEI TO CONTINUE POLICY OF EMPLOYING FOREIGN WORKERS

Brunei Darussalam will continue its policy of employing foreign workers to support the country's development as long as their presence does not undermined the values and ways of life of the Bruneians, said the Commissioner of Labour.

On the other hand, he said, the Department of Labour also continues to play its role in encouraging locals to work in the private sector, while ensuring that employers are working in a peaceful, harmonious and safe atmosphere.

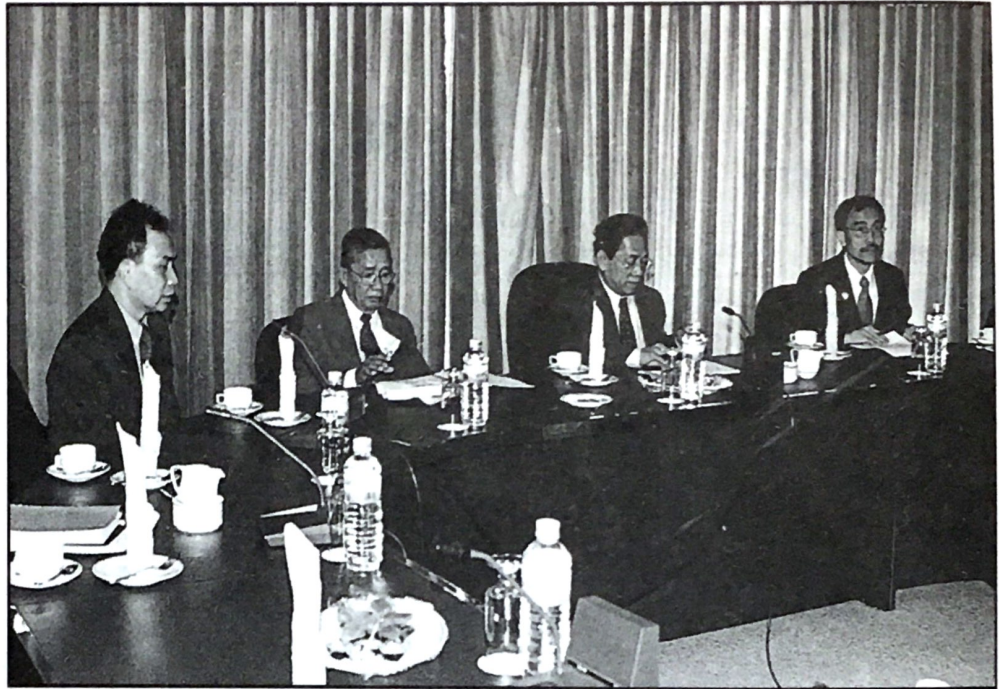
The Labour Department has recorded that 81,096 foreign employers are working in the country at present, based on the statistics from the Department of Immigration and National Identity 1999. Of the number, 10,337 are Indonesian citizens, working with the government and private sector, such as manufacturing industry, fisheries and housemaid.

In a briefing during the visit of the Indonesia's Minister of Manpower, Bapak Bomer Pasaribu, to Brunei Darussalam on 13 May, Awang Haji Ahmad bin Haji Abdul Rahman also spoke on the function, duties and responsibility of the Labour Department.

Also present during the briefing was the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Abidin bin Orang Kaya Periwara Abdul Rashid.

While in the Sultanate, the Indonesian Minister met with the Special Adviser to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Prime Minister's Office who is also the Home Affairs Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa, at the Secretariat Building in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, who later hosted a dinner for Bapak Bomer Pasaribu at the Jerudong Polo Club, on 15 May.

He also visited the industrial sites in Serasa and local entrepreneurship and met with the Indonesian citizens in the country.



The Indonesian Minister of Manpower, Bapak Bomer Pasaribu, seated third from left, listening to a briefing on foreign manpower in the country by the Commissioner of Labour, Awang Haji Ahmad. Also present was the Home Affairs Deputy Minister, Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Abidin.



The Director of Industrial Promotion and Tourism Development, Sheikh Jamaluddin, briefs business officials and members from Canada and Singapore on business and investment opportunities in Brunei Darussalam.

On 8 May, thirteen business officials and members from Canada and the Republic of Singapore were briefed on business and investment opportunities in Brunei Darussalam by the Director of Industrial Promotion and

Tourism Development, Sheikh Jamaluddin, at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.

The High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Neil Reed, led the delegation.

Use knowledge to achieve prosperity, success and progress

In the era of globalisation, one should not be left behind and plan in advance. Education, that too quality education, makes a lot of difference.

"We should remain united and cooperate by pooling resources and use knowledge to achieve prosperity, success and progress for the nation", this was said by the guest of honour, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Raja Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Mohd Ali bin Haji Awang Mohd Daud. He was speaking at the Institute's Ninth Convocation at the International Convention Centre, Berakas on Mei 20.

"To achieve this we have to fight, not with arms but with the mind, and for that we have to learn new skills from time to time".

He also added that, each skill and experience is an asset or considered as capital for any organisation or country. The government, through the Education Ministry, is concentrating on increasing the number of educated people who can serve the nation.

Meanwhile the Director, Institute of Technology Brunei Awang Haji Mohd Yusra bin Haji Abdul Halim in his welcoming speech said that the institute would upgrade its courses to

degree level through affiliations with foreign universities.

"This institute will also further diversify into hotel management and tourism courses in accordance with the need of the country. About 175 students from ITB received their Higher National Diploma Certificates in which 87 students from the 12th intake and 88 students from the 13th intake received diplomas-which is the largest number so far from the institute", he said.

The most outstanding student certificate sponsored by Komputer Wisman Sdn Bhd was presented to Awang Goh Kiat Ming and Dayang Goh Huei Huei for computer study in

the 12th intake.

Awang Haji Jasrin bin Haji Serudin got the certificate for the 13th intake. The excellence in business studies sponsored by the HSBC for trade and finance in the 12th intake was presented to Awang Mahdani bin Yaakub and Dayang Siti Ramonna binti Zainal Abidin, while for the 13th intake, Awang Haji Julshahri bin Haji Jumat and Dayang Ros Azlinda binti Haji Maidin received certificates.

The university has produced 907 diploma holders. According to the statistics, in 1999, 732 students up to the 11th intake have obtained jobs.

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Raja Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Mohd Ali presenting a certificate.



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(Crown Prince's visit)*

as important in further strengthening the existing relationship between Brunei Darussalam and the Kingdom of Thailand.

His Excellency also touched on the learning and training encouragement given by Brunei Darussalam such as through scholarship especially for Thai Muslim students to continue their study in the administrative field, nursing and Islamic study in Brunei Darussalam.

He said, the scheme is hoped to support the development of manpower resources, particularly in South Thailand.

To date, two Thai citizens have graduated from Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) while 17 are still undergoing their courses in the univer-

sity. Brunei Darussalam also sponsors ten scholarship to Thai Muslim citizens each year to either study in UBD, Brunei Technology Institute or Princess Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah College of Nursing.

Prior to the dinner, His Royal Highness consented to grant audiences to representatives from ASEAN member countries and Thai dignitaries. His Royal Highness has earlier made a courtesy call on His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn.

While in Bangkok, His Royal Highness visited the Chulalongkorn University, where he was welcomed by Associate Professor, Dr. Tatchai Sumitra and senior officials of the university. At the university, His Royal Highness toured the Academic Resources Centre and the library.

The Chulalongkorn University was the oldest university in Thailand, built in 1917 by King Rama VI and was named in honour of King Rama V. It offers about 350 types of programmes and it is estimated that more than 27,000 students have registered with the university this year.

His Royal Highness continued his visit to Chiang Mai on 23 May, by touring the Huay Hong Krai Royal Development Study Centre, where he watered the 'Bunnak' tree planted by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on 3 November 1988, on the occasion of His Majesty's state visit to Thailand. His Royal Highness was

** Continued on back page*

ASEAN'S COOPERATION IN EDUCATION GAINS GREATER IMPORTANCE

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has said that ASEAN's cooperation in education has gained greater importance as we enter the new millennium.

She said, "With ASEAN taking on the global challenge of the new economy and technological development, education would play a central role in ensuring that the people would benefit from the new situation. Many countries are now looking far ahead shifting their emphasis from e-economy to k-economy or knowledge-based economy in order to keep abreast with developments in other parts of the world.

In a speech before she launched the Third ASEAN University Network (AUN) Educational Forum at Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) in Tungku, near Brunei capital of Bandar Seri Begawan, on 15 May, Her Royal Highness pointed out that education will determine the progress and the national development of the respective members of ASEAN.

Education is also crucial as it involves an important sector of the society, namely the youths and students – our future leaders, whose understanding of ASEAN as a community of nations is vital to ensure the region's continued stability, progress and development.

According to Her Royal Highness, ASEAN's cooperation in education is fundamental to the overall effort of promoting the aims and purposes of the ASEAN Declaration, which would help to contribute to the future well being of an integrated ASEAN.

Education in recent years has steadily been given strong emphasis in ASEAN's cooperation, which is in tandem with global efforts to achieve education for all.

"I am also pleased that ASEAN's cooperation has the prime focus of ensuring equal access to basic education and higher learning, developing ASEAN studies, student and faculty exchange programme, collaborative research and information networking," she further said.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, presenting a souvenir to a participant of AUN Educational Forum, above, and attending a dinner held in conjunction with the opening of the Educational Forum, below.



The AUN Educational Forum was aimed to develop human resources, produce and transmit knowledge and information as these are pre-requisites for the achievement of ASEAN's goal. Its theme 'Education on Environment and Culture in the New Millennium' is also timely as the world has just celebrated its Earth Day 2000, where issues on environment and culture are prominent in ASEAN's agenda.

Her Royal Highness further said that it is imperative for the authorities concerned in ASEAN countries to educate younger generation on the need to

safeguard the quality of environment and on the importance of preserving ASEAN's way of life and tradition especially in this era of rapid advances in information technology, which have great impacts on our culture and tradition.

"At the same time, it is also equally important to inculcate the culture of respect among the young people of ASEAN so as to make them sensitive towards each other's culture. In a way, this will also help to enhance confidence-building among nations," she pointed out.

Brunei Darussalam has bright future in oil and gas industry

With many offshore areas yet to be explored and also with the advent of new technologies that reduce the cost of production from current fields, the outlook of the oil and gas industry is indeed bright and certainly will continue to play a significant role for many more years.

Speaking at the launching of the AMPA-FAIRLY Rationalisation project cum ground breaking ceremony of the onshore compression plant construction on 25 May, the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman, said the Ampa-Fairly offshore field facilities, which were already some 30 years old are among the few longer serving operational facilities in the Brunei Shell Petroleum Company.

The rationalisation project was designed to rejuvenate the offshore facilities, which upon completion will extend the service life of the facilities for another 30 to 40 years.

"The project not only involves the replacement of the old parts but also to rationalise the overall infrastructure apart from incorporating new technologies in order to achieve a more efficient system that will improve reliability and safety. Ultimately, it will also bring better value to the shareholders of Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP) Company and Brunei LNG Company Sdn Bhd", he added.

He said the project marks a major milestone in the drive for sustainable development of the country's oil and gas industry.

Upon full operation of these facilities by mid 2002, its operational costs will definitely be reduced by approximately B\$20 million dollars per year. The project will also eliminate the venting of gas through a more efficient use of energy resulting in an additional saving equivalent to three LNG cargoes annually or B\$30 million at the current price.

At a cost of B\$500 million, the project is one of the largest ever to be undertaken by BSP and reflects the confidence of His Majesty's government and BSP in the industry, said the Minister.

Being a non-renewable natural resource, the government also places great importance on the development



Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman at the launching of the AMPA-FAIRLY Rationalisation project cum ground breaking ceremony of the onshore compression plant construction on 25 May.

of downstream activities as well as the non-oil and gas sectors, he said.

"These are the major challenges that we face in the new millennium," he said while adding that Bruneians are faced with many challenges to maintain the relevancy of the upstream oil and gas industry as well as to expand the downstream activities.

Hence, he said the challenges of the new millennium required all Bruneians to work closely and keep abreast of new skills and technologies in the market.

"I am confident that we will be able to overcome them with the continued strong commitment from the Government of His Majesty and BSP to develop the capability of locals", he stressed.

The project is described as the "most complex project" undertaken by BSP, as it comprises a new compression plant incorporating the latest technology, including waste and heat recovering boilers for the BLNG plant," the BSP's Managing Director, Mr. John Darley said.

Such a large and complex project, he said, did not just happen to come by incidentally because preliminary study on the project started in 1992.

Immediately after the completion of

the detailed study, consultation began with staff of the Petroleum Unit not only to optimise the technical objectives but also to address the many commercial and human resource aspects of the project.

He said, majority of the BSP-BLNG staff working on this project are Bruneians, which is an indication of the successful development of citizens into senior positions and the high degree of technical competence in local staff.

The project is in line with the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources' call to develop Bruneians businesses. A large part of the work is being carried out by the local contractors.

The participation's of local contractors demonstrates the maturing capabilities of local contractors who can now take on highly technical and complex work.

The project is also being installed with the innovative technology such as the internet based engineering information management system, which allows instantaneous transfer of documentation between BSP's project offices and contractors across national

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Government to focus on private sector

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is taking the necessary step to broaden the role and participation of the private sector in the country's growth and development, said the Deputy Minister of Finance.

The gradual strengthening of our linkages and cooperation with financial institutions, like the Islamic Development Bank of Brunei (IDB) and its affiliates and subsidiaries are but small steps in this direction, said the Deputy Minister of Finance.

"I hoped that the government's efforts would receive sustained and enthusiastic support from the private sector in the country," he said.

Speaking at a-day seminar on the Services of the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) at the hotel in Berakas on 25 May, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Selamat bin Haji Munap hoped that the seminar would bring

about tangible benefits to members of the private sector in the country.

The Deputy Minister further called on the private sector to be more proactive in facing the challenges, which should be more complicated in the future, so as to complement the government's effort to promote their development.

"It would also be essential that the IDB and its affiliates to be responsive to our needs I appropriate measure," he said.

The ICIEC is a subsidiary corporation of the IDB. It was established on 1 August 1994 as an international institution with full judicial personality. It commenced its operation in July 1995 from its office in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Its objectives include enlarging the scope of trade transactions and the flow of the investments among member states of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

FAILURE OF SCHOOL GRADUATES TO GET JOB IS DUE TO LACK OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION SKILL

The Permanent Secretary of the Education Ministry, Pehin Orang Kaya Putera Maharaja Dato Laila Jasa Haji Awang Abu Bakar, has lamented over the failure of some school graduates in the country to compete and acquire employment due to the lack of an effective communication skill.

He was depressed that some students could not communicate clearly and effectively either in the Malay or English language.

"Inadequate ability in their own language is an obstacle for an individual to learn and obtain the related requirement and skills in their life and career," he added.

The Permanent Secretary reasoned that people in the country need to learn from examples shown by most countries in facing problems, and take appropriate measures to study and review the system of delivery, as well as to ensure that the system is capable to meet the requirements and future challenges.

Speaking at the Final English Debate competition at Seri Begawan Religious Training College in Jalan Tutong, near Bandar Seri Begawan on 22 May, the official earlier stressed that an effective communication skill plays an important role in the life of an individual, especially in the era of information and communication technology and globalisation.

He said, many organizations have accepted the real difficulty they faced today, especially when the global markets require effective communication.

We, therefore, should be ready to invest in such skill in order to be able to develop and upgrade communication skill among our staff, as lacking of these skills would weaken the implementation and productivity of each organisation, he said.

The competition was organised jointly by the Department of Co-Curriculum and the Radio Television Brunei, carrying the topic 'This House Believes That Everyone Gets What They Deserve'.

It was aimed, among others, to upgrade the skill in research on the topic and to build confidence among participants of speaking in front of the public, as well as to select participants for 'Bridging Minds' program and the world's school debate.

27 teams and secondary schools in the country took part in the competition, conducted this year by the Paduka Seri Begawan Science College in Rimba.



Deputy Minister of Finance, Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Selamat (centre) and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim (2nd from left) at a Seminar on 'The Services of the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit'.

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(Ampa - Fairly)

boundaries.

The system is one of its kind operating in South East Asia and certainly in Brunei, he said while adding that, there was also innovation in the contracting strategy whereby the contract of the onshore compression plant was tendered through the international de-

sign competition which was eventually won by OGP Technical Services of Malaysia with their consortium partner Nuovo Pignone of Italy.

In line with the sustainable development and with regard to the environment, he said, the project would eliminate venting of gas and recover waste heat from the gas turbines.

Conserve forest reserve for future generation

A forest reserve is a natural treasure, which must be conserved for future generations and we, therefore, should realize its sensitivity and strive to make a right balance between development and environment, said the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Datin Paduka Dayang Hajjah Azizah who read out the message on behalf of the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports at the official opening of the Taman Warisan Merimbun (Merimbun Heritage Park) in the Tutong district on 28 May said, His Majesty's Government has spent B\$5 million to develop the park and it should be a pride for all Bruneians.

She also expressed confidence that the Museums Department would manage the park efficiently to promote it as a tourist attraction.

The Tasik Merimbun forest area was gazetted as a natural forest reserve by the Ministry of Development in 1984 and in the Asean national heritage site during the Asean Environmental Ministers meeting in Bangkok,

Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Datin Paduka Dayang Hajjah Azizah officiating the 'Merimbun Heritage Park'.



Thailand.

The allocation for the development of the park would provide for the construction of tourist facilities and infrastructure.

The park is rich in flora and fauna and functions as a research and educational area, the minister

hoped that people especially students of higher learning institutions will appreciate the park and treasure its beauty and purpose.

"It is a haven for botanists, zoologists and other environment experts and researchers", she said.

"I am also confident that the park will be popular among tourists and will help promote tourism," the minister said in the message.

She also urged the private sector to involve themselves in activities to promote the park as it has been developed as part of the ministry's efforts to promote 'Visit Brunei Year 2001'.

In this opening remarks the CEO of HSBC, Brunei Warner Manning, said the bank's sponsorship of the special exhibition hall in the park shows its commitment in promoting scientific research, good environmental practices and increasing awareness. Beside their supports for various projects, especially on environment and education.



Datin Paduka Dayang Hajjah Azizah with other senior government officials, foreign diplomats and villagers tour the Tasik Merimbun forest area.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah viewing an exhibition on mushrooms during his visit to the Mushroom Cultivation Research Centre at Huay Hong Krai, Thailand, left, and being briefed by an official from the Academic Resource Centre of the Chulalongkorn University, during his visit to the university, below.

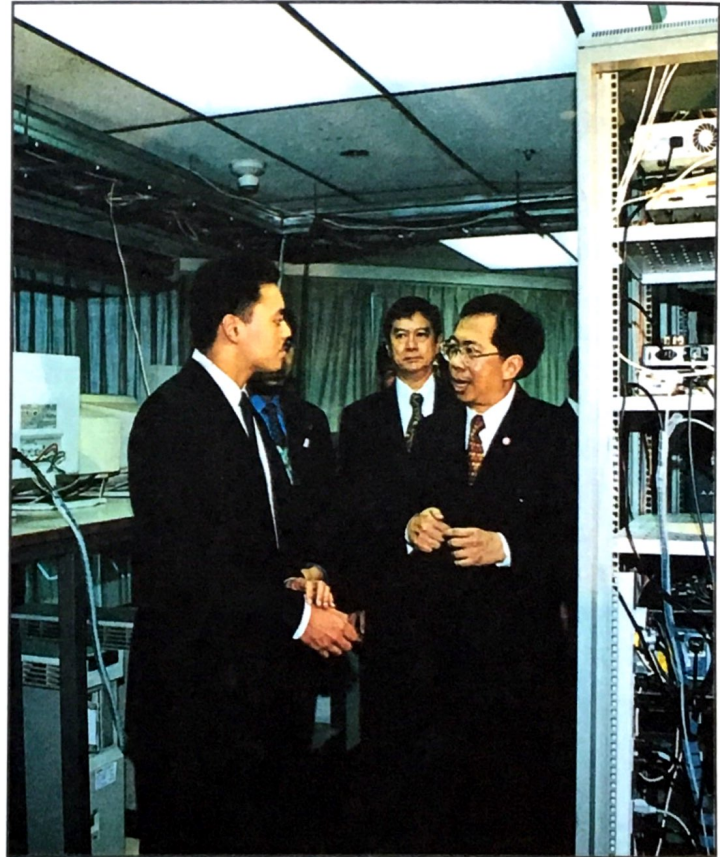
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(Crown Prince's visits)*

also consented to plant a tree at the Centre. The Centre was established by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadez of Thailand to encourage the rural people to be knowledgeable and self-reliant.

His Royal Highness also visited the Forestry Research and Development Area, and the Mushroom Cultivation Farm.

His Royal Highness also attended a dinner in his honour hosted by the Acting Governor of Chiang Mai Province, Mr. Reungvit Charuchareet at a leading hotel in the city. Present during the dinner were Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Abdul Qawi and members of Brunei Darussalam's delegation as well as Thai dignitaries.

The visit to Thailand and the Republic of Indonesia has established a new chapter in the field of cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the two countries. His Royal Highness visited Malaysia and Singapore last year.



Brunei in Brief

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan

Land size : 5765 sq. km.

Population : 314,400 (1997)

Official Language : Malay

Official Religion : Islam

April rainfall : 316.0 mm

THE TRAFFICKING IN AND THE ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS ARE VERY SERIOUS OFFENCES IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM AND THE PENALTY FOR SUCH OFFENCES IS DEATH.