



برونئي دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam news letter

Published by the Department of Information
Prime Minister's Office

SEPTEMBER, 2015
VOLUME 30 ISSUE 9



70th Session of United Nations General Assembly

Their Majesties attend reception

NEW YORK, September 29 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam attended a Reception for the Heads of States and Government attending the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN)'s 70th Session.

The reception was hosted by the President of the United States of America, His Excellency Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama. It was held at the Lotte New York Palace Hotel, New York, United States.

Their Majesties were accompanied by the Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim; the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng and the Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations, His Excellency Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Ghafar bin Haji Ismail.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha with the President and First Lady of the United States of America.

*Continue on page 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8

His Majesty graces 10th National Youth Day celebration



His Majesty presenting an award to one of the recipients at the 10th National Youth Day celebration at the Indoor Stadium of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex in Berakas.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 1 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam graced the 10th National Youth Day celebration held at the Indoor Stadium of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex in Berakas.

His Majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

In a *titah* (royal speech) delivered at the ceremony, His Majesty expressed pride in the increasing involvement of youths in the creative industry and the global market; heavy duty jobs such as operating heavy machinery; and voluntary work.

His Majesty stressed that youths should preserve the Bruneian identity such as wearing *songkok* during

* Continue on page 8



1 His Majesty graces 10th National Youth Day celebration



4 His Majesty holds bilateral meeting



5 Post-2015 Development agenda



7 Brunei Darussalam supports International community's efforts to eliminate terrorism



10 His Majesty awards certificates to 1,125 UBD graduates



11 Royalties attend 7th Southeast Asian Youth Al-Qur'an Reading Competition



12 His Majesty emphasises teacher training at recruitment stage



15 KAIB VIII meeting platform for Muslim experts



16 ITQSHB graduates urged to continue studying Al-Qur'an and related knowledge



17 His Royal Highness launches UBD 'Inspired Youth' convocation festival



18 SEAMEO and SEAMEO VOTTECH celebrates 50th and 25th anniversary



20 Cardiovascular disease second leading cause of death in Brunei Darussalam



SEPTEMBER 2015 VOLUME 30 ISSUE 9

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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

EDITORIAL Advisory Board:

Mawardi Haji Mohammad (mawardi.mohammad@information.gov.bn)

Editor:

Kassim Haji Abd Rahman (kassim.rahman@information.gov.bn)

Ameiliatun Assyakinah Haji Abdullah

Sub Editor:

Wahid Haji Halim (wahid.halim@information.gov.bn)

Ishak Haji Othman (ishak.othman@information.gov.bn)

Hajah Zaiant Haji Noorkhan (zaiant.noorkhan@information.gov.bn)

UBD attachment student:

Asnizaitul Nadia Abdullah

Siti Noor Aqeelah Ahmad Sanisi

Layouter:

Hajah Zaiant Haji Noorkhan (zaiant.noorkhan@information.gov.bn)

Translator:

Hajah Apsah Haji Sahdan (apsah.sahdan@information.gov.bn)

Haji Mirazman Haji Othman (mirazman.othman@information.gov.bn)

Proofread:

Hajah Norpisah Md Salleh (norpisah.salleh@information.gov.bn)

Photographs

Photography Unit of Department of Information

General inquiries

Tel: (673) 2383 400/ext English News
Fax: (673) 2382 012

Information Department

www.information.gov.bn

Information Gallery

www.infototo.gov.bn

VISIT US ONLINE www.bdnewsletter.gov.bn

EMAIL US AT: bd.newsletter@information.gov.bn

Follow us

Instagram - @infodept_bn

Twitter - @Infodept_bn

Facebook - Jabatan Penerangan Jabatan Perdana Menteri Brunei Darussalam

>> 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 422,700 people (2012).

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

His Majesty receives audience



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 21 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience the outgoing Malaysian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam His Excellency Datuk Awang Sahak bin Awang Salleh at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Excellency presented his letter of credentials to His Majesty on October 2, 2013.

Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia share a wide range of bilateral cooperation in trade and investment, health, education, defence and tourism.

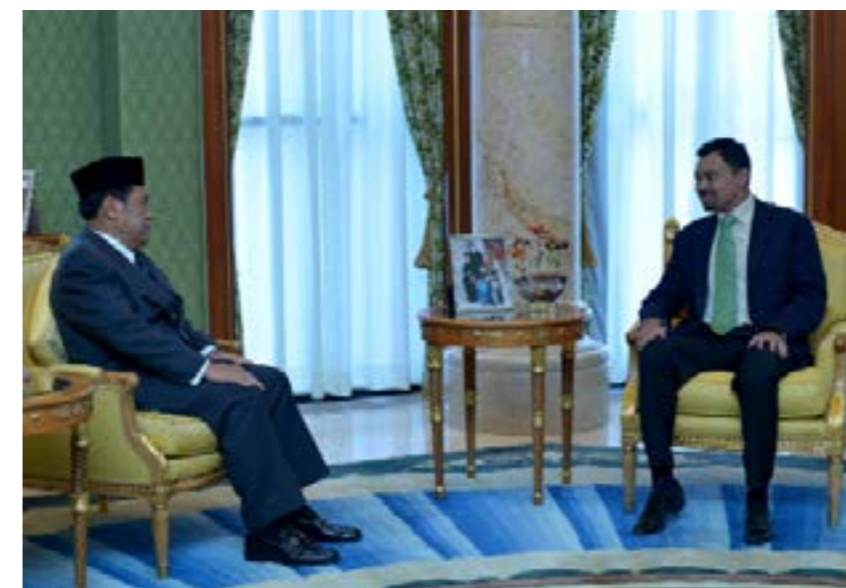
Both countries enjoy a close bilateral relationship that is manifested by ties of history and tradition that have long existed between them.

Her Majesty receives audience



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 15 - Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to receive in audience the wife of the outgoing Malaysian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam Datin Dayang Maslauh binti Pg. Bagul.

His Royal Highness The Crown Prince receives audience



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 19 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, consented to receive in audience the outgoing High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam His Excellency Datuk Awang Sahak bin Awang Salleh at Istana Nurul Iman.



His Majesty holds bilateral meeting



His Majesty with the Secretary of State of the United States of America.

NEW YORK, September 26 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held a bilateral meeting with the Secretary of State of the United States of America His

Excellency John F. Kerry.

The meeting took place at Lotte Hotel New York Palace in New York.

Both leaders discussed bilateral relations and exchanged views on current issues and international matters of mutual concern.

The Minister of Finance II at the

Prime Minister's Office, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng were also present at the meeting.



His Majesty with the President of Costa Rica.

NEW YORK, September 27 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held a bilateral meeting with the President of Costa Rica His Excellency Luis Guillermo Solís.

The meeting took place at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

Both leaders discussed bilateral relations and exchanged views on current issues and international matters of mutual concern.

The Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng were also present at the meeting.

His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

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

- Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and His Excellency David Cameron, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, as well as members of the royal family, the Government and people of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the occasion of Her Majesty's birthday anniversary on September 10.
- The Honourable Malcolm Turnbull on the occasion of The Honourable's appointment as the new Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia on September 15.
- The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Government and the people of the kingdom on the occasion of the country's National Day on September 23.
- His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore on the occasion of His Excellency's recent re-appointment as the prime minister on September 29.



Post-2015 Development Agenda



His Majesty delivering a speech at the Plenary Session of the UN Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Agenda.

NEW YORK, September 26 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam attended the Plenary Session of the United Nations (UN) Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Agenda.

The session was held at the General Assembly Hall of the UN Headquarters in New York.

At the plenary session, His Majesty conveyed his greetings to the chairmen, the President of Uganda His Excellency Yoweri Museveni and the Prime Minister of Denmark His Excellency Lars Lokke Rasmussen.

His Majesty also expressed pleasure for being present at the session, which showed continued commitment to improve the lives of people.

In the *titah* (royal speech), His Majesty acknowledged that it had not been an easy task to prepare a global action plan acceptable to all.

Therefore, His Majesty expressed gratitude to the UN Secretary-General His Excellency Ban Ki-moon and his team for their dedication in helping member states shape and adopt the post-2015 development agenda.

As the UN commemorates its 70th anniversary this year, it was very timely for the nations to reflect on their work since the Millennium Summit in 2000 and at the same time, to look beyond 2015, His Majesty said.

In this regard, His Majesty was encouraged by the achievements of the Millennium Development goals (MDGs) so far.

The world, His Majesty said, has witnessed a decline in extreme poverty, an increase in access to primary education in developing regions and improvements in child and maternal health.

These showed that the target-oriented approach taken by the UN was both practical and feasible. At the same time, there has been an unbalanced level of development, which means there is still much more work to be done.

His Majesty was therefore pleased that the Secretary-General had presented a new development agenda, covering targets built upon MDGs and new objectives to address gaps identified in the last 15 years.

His Majesty felt reassured by the fact that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are people-centered, inclusive and comprehensive. They focus on people, the planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership.

His Majesty believes that in order to achieve these goals, member states have to further strengthen their individual and collective actions.

Member states have to work in partnership through capacity building, learning from each other's experience and sharing best practices.

His Majesty said that each country has a challenging task ahead. However, His Majesty is optimistic that all countries will be able to deliver with firm commitment.

It is for this reason that Brunei Darussalam always appreciates cooperation with external partners both bilaterally and multilaterally, His Majesty said.

Brunei Darussalam looks forward to further strengthening its relations with UN agencies, to support the national

development plans that are aligned with the SDGs. Brunei Darussalam also emphasised the great importance to the work of ASEAN towards realising an ASEAN Community by 2015.

By the end of this year, ASEAN will adopt Post-2015 Vision that will complement and support the Global Development Agenda, His Majesty added.

At the mean time, the task that needs to be prioritised is the transition from MDGs to SDGs, particularly for developing countries.

His Majesty agreed with the areas highlighted in the document, which present specific challenges. His Majesty recognised that member states all have different priorities and approaches.

However, what they have in common is the commitment to place sustainable development at the core of these efforts to give people a better life. These include alleviating poverty, reducing inequalities, promoting quality education, addressing climate change, and achieving gender equality.

His Majesty said the SDGs have to be meaningful for every man, woman and child. It is especially important for youths to be included because they stand to inherit the new agenda.

His Majesty was therefore pleased that the new agenda will be adopted by every country and has rightly emphasised the importance of youths.

Furthermore, it will provide a platform for youth empowerment through initiatives such as providing access to quality education.

His Majesty also emphasised the importance of human capital investment in pursuing the future the member states want.

All countries aspire to create a better world for the people and future generations. Therefore, His Majesty called on the member states to act boldly and urgently.

His Majesty stated that in order to succeed, peace and stability must be maintained.

His Majesty concluded the *titah* by expressing support for the adoption of this Post-2015 Development Agenda, and is confident of its success.

His Majesty was accompanied by the Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Haji Abd Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim; the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng; and the Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Ghafar bin Haji Ismail.

Global Leaders Summit on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

NEW YORK, September 27 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam attended the Global Leaders Summit on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters, New York, United States of America.

In a *titah* (royal speech) delivered at the summit, His Majesty expressed appreciation to the President of the People's Republic of China His Excellency Xi Jinping and to the UN Secretary-General His Excellency Ban Ki-moon for the invitation.

His Majesty stated that the chairmen's opening remarks were inspiring and forward-looking.

His Majesty then expressed gratitude to the President of the People's Republic of China for His Excellency's initiative to convene the meeting, together with the UN-Women.

His Majesty stated that the meeting was perfectly timed as it coincided with the 70th anniversary of the UN and the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

In the *titah*, His Majesty lauded the People's Republic of China's leadership on gender equality and women's empowerment.

Even after 20 years, the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action remained a source of guidance and inspiration apart from being a progressive blueprint for the advancement of women everywhere, His Majesty said.

His Majesty also commended the contributions of Mexico, Denmark and Kenya to the important issue.

His Majesty expressed pleasure to learn that women's development has achieved tangible progress globally.

His Majesty further stated that Brunei Darussalam's experience on the issue is based upon the country's policy to provide universal access to education.

In the 1950s, under the wise and visionary leadership of His Majesty's late father, Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien, education was made free to all children, regardless of gender.

His Majesty also expressed pleasure that last year, the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap report ranked Brunei Darussalam seventh in terms of girls' enrolment in tertiary education.

With the pace of globalisation, lifelong learning has been given serious attention, His Majesty said.

Girls and women in Brunei Darussalam, His Majesty stated, have equal opportunities to enhance their knowledge and skills, particularly in evolving areas like ICTs.

With progressive education and equal

His Majesty delivering a speech at the Global Leaders Summit on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.



job opportunities, women have attained high positions in various professional fields such as medicine, legal, education, business and engineering.

In the past decade, women's participation in the workforce had increased from 59 per cent to over 70 per cent.

As half of Brunei Darussalam's population are women, their contribution to the national development is of great significance.

His Majesty said that over the past two decades, women's life expectancy had improved to about 80 years. Women are also increasingly active in business ventures through various credit financing schemes.

His Majesty also expressed pleasure to learn that more than half of Brunei Darussalam's Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are owned by women who have achieved economic self-reliance.

His Majesty further stated that Brunei Darussalam is making efforts to protect women's rights through legislation and plans of action, which will be reviewed from time to time.

Regionally, Brunei Darussalam is part of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children.

ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and

Children was also adopted during Brunei Darussalam's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2013.

Brunei Darussalam's continued efforts to fulfill its international responsibilities are shown by its commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Although Brunei Darussalam has come a long way, there is still so much to be done to realise the full potential of women in nation-building, His Majesty said.

Thus, a balance between the roles of men and women, and their partnership are essential, His Majesty added.

Concluding the *titah*, His Majesty was pleased to reaffirm Brunei's commitment towards implementing the objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action.

His Majesty was accompanied by the Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Setia Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng and the Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Ghafar bin Haji Ismail.

Brunei Darussalam supports International community's efforts to eliminate terrorism

NEW YORK, September 30 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam attended the 70th session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly General Debate Session at the UN Headquarters Building in New York.

In a *titah* (royal speech) delivered at the session, His Majesty congratulated the Former Speaker of the Parliament of Denmark His Excellency Mogens Lykkesoft on His Excellency's election as the President of the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly.

His Majesty expressed appreciation to the Former President of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly His Honourable Sam Kutesa, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uganda, for His Excellency's contribution to the UN's work.

His Majesty also expressed gratitude to the UN Secretary-General His Excellency Ban Ki-moon for His Excellency's great leadership and to the UN agencies for their active engagement with its member states.

Afterward, His Majesty expressed great pleasure at being able to attend the General Debate as His Majesty and world leaders together commemorated the 70th anniversary of the founding of the UN.

The General Debate, His Majesty said, is not only an occasion to celebrate the UN's achievements, but also to discuss matters that require immediate action.

In the *titah*, His Majesty said that the UN's existence for the last 70 years is testament to its relevance. The UN has become the body that nations look up to on all aspects and it has no equal.

Established in 1945, the UN's main focus was to restore peace and security after the mass destruction caused by World War II.

Its mandate has hugely expanded to include emerging challenges and evolving threats such as the proliferation of weapon of mass destruction, climate change, pandemic diseases, terrorism and violent extremism.

As part of a comprehensive global mandate, the UN has also been tasked to address multi-dimensional socio-economic issues.

His Majesty said that the UN is not the solution for all of the world's problems, but this does not diminish its overall success.

In this regard, His Majesty lauded the roles of all of the UN agencies for their efforts in improving people's lives around the world.

His Majesty was also pleased with the successful containment of pandemic diseases, which posed as a serious threat to the world's population. In 1980, the World Health Organisation successfully eradicated smallpox and recently, assisted the affected countries in containing the outbreak of MERS and Ebola.

Over the years, the UN has witnessed humanitarian workers and peacekeepers risking their lives to accomplish their work. These individuals, His Majesty said, would always deserve the highest respect for their commitment and sacrifice to make the world a safer place.

With a total membership of 193, the expectations on the effectiveness of the UN in addressing the issues that affect the lives of the people would be inevitably high.

His Majesty was thereby pleased that the UN's new development agenda welcomed most of the issues brought up during the assembly.

The inclusiveness of the Post-2015 Development Agenda signified the trust and faith that the member states have in the UN, His Majesty said.

His Majesty said it is important for the member states to fulfill their national and collective responsibilities to implement such an agenda, and to realise their peoples' hopes and dreams for a better life.

Brunei Darussalam's admission into the UN in 1984, His Majesty said, was a global endorsement of its sovereignty and integrity as a fully independent nation. Since then, Brunei Darussalam has benefitted extensively from this membership.

The UN has provided Brunei Darussalam with a platform to enhance our bilateral and multi-lateral relations with its friends and partners.

Through the UN, the country has been able to demonstrate its unwavering commitment to the maintenance of peace, stability and development, His Majesty added.

His Majesty emphasised that Brunei Darussalam strongly believes that tolerance, compassion and social harmony are essential for lasting peace and security.

"This has resulted in the close knit community we have enjoyed to this day," His Majesty said, adding that such values have been the foundation of the country's stability and prosperity, which has provided a healthy environment for development.

His Majesty added that in ASEAN, the member states shared principles of territorial integrity, non-interference, consensus, rule of law and good governance, which guide efforts towards closer cooperation for peace, stability and prosperity.

His Majesty also said that it is these national and regional experiences that constituted Brunei Darussalam's contribution to the UN as part of the multilateral process.

It was through the UN that His Majesty envisioned the creation of a caring global community with similar values and principles, which can unleash its member states' potential to work and achieve greater things together.

To bring the nations closer together, His Majesty suggested that conducting more cultural exchanges to foster greater understanding and empathy with one another would enable member states to live as a family of nations.

This way, the nations may be able to prevent new conflicts from happening and better utilise resources for socio-economic development.

Citing World Bank figures, His Majesty stated that the average cost of a civil war is equivalent to more than 30 years of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for a medium-sized developing country.

The cost of peacekeeping during and after a civil war is also extremely high, and it is impossible to place a value on the loss of lives.

His Majesty added that the preventive diplomacy is a cost effective method in tackling conflicts and certainly an integral part of efforts of conflict prevention.

Preventive diplomacy, His Majesty added, is therefore a cost-effective means of addressing conflicts and certainly an integral part of conflict prevention efforts.

"This is a long-term process and a worthwhile investment in which the UN has made some headway," His Majesty said.

Brunei Darussalam and member states highly value the important work of the officers of the Secretary General, special envoys and resident political missions as they are some of the key tools of preventive diplomacy.

However, His Majesty believes that more can be done to enhance conflict prevention.

Furthermore, His Majesty agreed with the Secretary-General's view that the UN members have to strengthen the partnerships between the UN and regional or sub-regional organisations to move forward.

His Majesty believes that such organisations have a unique influence and easier access to crisis situations in their respective regions, where the UN should be able to diffuse tension before it escalates into conflict.

His Majesty highlighted that through the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN member states along with other member participants have long worked together towards creating an atmosphere of trust and confidence.

Two years ago, the ASEAN member states adopted a work plan on preventive diplomacy, and its implementation had made significant progress and contributed towards the maintenance of peace and security in the region.

In this regard, His Majesty expressed gratitude to the UN for the provided coaching and training programmes to assist

*Continue on page *

* From page 7

(Brunei Darussalam supports International community's efforts to eliminate terrorism)

ASEAN implement the plan.

His Majesty is assured that the UN is in the best position to promote the necessary cooperation and partnership based on mutual respect, understanding and tolerance, which can prevent wars and conflicts, religious persecutions, violent ideological confrontations, and terrorism.

Since the last assembly, the UN has witnessed the tragic loss of life caused by terrorist acts in various parts of the world.

His Majesty said such acts were unacceptable, and Brunei Darussalam condemns terrorism and rejects extremism and radicalism.

His Majesty also said that Brunei Darussalam supports all efforts by the international community to prevent and eliminate all forms of terrorism.

In this regard, Brunei Darussalam also supports intercultural dialogues among people of different religions and cultures, and initiatives such as the Alliance of Civilizations; Global Movement of Moderates; King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue; World Against Violence and Violent Extremism; and the Summit on Countering Violent Extremism.

His Majesty also emphasised the importance of addressing the root causes of terrorism and extremism in a comprehensive manner by member states.

Member states need to ensure that irresponsible parties do not exploit the despair and suffering of others to fuel their own extremist agenda.

This is why the member states need to resolve the plight of the Palestinian people, which remains the core of conflict in the Middle East, His Majesty said.

Palestinians have been struggling to achieve independence for more than 60



His Majesty delivering a speech at the 70th session of the UN General Assembly General Debate Session.

years, and a lasting peaceful solution is long overdue.

In this regard, His Majesty expressed pleasure that Palestine had been accepted as a member in various international bodies. This was reflected in the historic decision of the General Assembly to raise the flag of Palestine together with the flags of other sovereign and independent nations.

These positive developments should contribute towards attaining recognition for the rights of the Palestinian people to achieve statehood.

Concluding the *titah*, His Majesty reiterated Brunei Darussalam's commitment to maintain cooperation with others to ensure that the UN remains a strong force for peace, security and human rights.

The success of the UN lies in its own collective efforts that form the true strength of the organisation.

His Majesty was accompanied by the Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng and the Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Ghafar bin Haji Ismail.

* From frontpage

(His Majesty graces 10th National Youth Day celebration)

occasions, especially during praying and reciting Al-Qur'an.

They should also maintain and revive the Bruneian culture and not allow it to wither. This is the responsibility of our youths, His Majesty said.

Earlier, His Majesty was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, as the Chairman of the National Youth Day Celebration Executive Committee, and the Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Mulia Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Adina binti Othman.

The minister, in his welcoming speech, said that the presence of His Majesty showed His Majesty's continuous concern towards local youth development. It is also a reminder that youths are hoped to contribute to the development of nation, religion and country and to prepare themselves in facing challenges during this era.

The theme 'Visionary Youths Generate the Economy', he said, would motivate the youth to intensify their efforts towards increasing the country's economic growth by becoming a

productive workforce.

"The theme not only emphasises for the youth to be productive, but also to be more creative and innovative in exploring the field of economy and occupation. These advantages can make them the driving force for community advancement and sustainable national development," he said.

The highlight of the celebration was the presentation of the National Youth Awards 2015, which comprised of the Youth Association Award, Meritorious Youth Leader Award, Voluntary Youth Award and Excellent Youth Award.

The Society of Community Outreach and Training (SCOT) received the Youth Association Award and was awarded a plaque, a certificate of appreciation and BND5,000.

Established in 2013, the association has been initiating various programmes towards eradicating poverty in the country and uses several platforms and creative approaches, particularly in the field of education, environment conservation and fund raising to help the needy.

* Continue on page 9

*From page 8

(His Majesty graces 10th National Youth Day celebration)



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, His Royal Highness The Crown Prince and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik with the award recipients at the 10th National Youth Day celebration.

The Meritorious Youth Leader Award was given to Datin Hajah Siti Hajar Binti Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Yusof. She received a plaque, a woven cloth, a certificate of appreciation and BND3,000.

She has been active since she was 11 in youth movement and has held several significant positions in prominent organisations such as Red Crescent Association, PERTIWI Association and Council of Women of Brunei Darussalam.

She played a part in helping the Brunei Red Crescent Association become a member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Geneva, Switzerland back in 1997. Through her active participation in voluntary activities, she has made significant contributions that inspire the youth of the country.

The Youth Volunteer Award was presented to Dayang Nuriyana Fatin binti Ariffin who received a plaque, a woven cloth, a certificate of appreciation and BND3,000.

She has been active in voluntary activities for the society that reflect her courage and personality, thus making her an icon for youth in the nation. She has successfully launched ASEAN Young Professional Volunteer Corp Project (AYPVC) overseas as its project manager. Apart from being a member of the Young Entrepreneurs Association of Brunei, she has also managed to set up a school in Cambodia.

Awang Goh Kiat Chun or better known as Wu Chun was chosen as the recipient of the Excellent Youth Award. He received a plaque, woven cloth, a certificate of appreciation and BND3,000.

He started off as an artist in the music and film industry and then established a business in the country that raises the awareness of healthy lifestyle, which attracts tourists to Brunei Darussalam. He also provides employment for many youths and contributes to the economy.

At the celebration, the youth pledge was read by

representatives of the National Service Programme; youths from uniformed groups from all four districts; Dai'e youth; prospective participants for the 42nd Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Programme; members of athletic teams and the national sports association; and volunteer groups.

The pledge was led by Awang Mohd Shafique bin Haji Mohd Hussain, a young entrepreneur who started the Start-Up Hub BIMP-EAGA in Brunei Darussalam, apart from being actively involved voluntary activities. He also started Parkour sports in the country and is a graduate in Graphic Design: New Media.

The celebration was further enlivened by a poetry recital, a human LED performance, a tableau and sketch performance based on the rice cultivation industry and the usage of heavy machinery, scaffolding and abseiling that involved around 1,320 students, youths and volunteers.

The performance depicted the willingness of youth to work hard and achieve results towards excellent living standard in all fields of industry and healthy activities.

The tableau performance symbolised the youth's community lifestyle in an industry that is willing to struggle in the rain and heat while the scaffolding portrayed the rapidly expanding development industry.

Meanwhile, the abseiling symbolised the relationship between youths around the world in generating the economy.

Afterward, His Majesty proceeded to tour the innovation exhibition and then received a *pesambah* (gift) from the highest committee of the National Youth Day Celebration 2015.

His Majesty's proclaiming the 1st of August as the National Youth Day is a recognition and appreciation to the youth's movement.

Among its objectives are to raise the status of the youth movement and to provide youths with the opportunity to interact and exchange ideas in various aspects.

His Majesty awards certificates to 1,125 UBD graduates

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 9 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to award certificates to 1,125 graduates of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD)'s third batch of the GenNEXT programme at the 27th UBD convocation ceremony.

The graduates comprised of 20 Doctor of Philosophy degrees or PhD holders, 379 Master holders, 664 Bachelor graduates and 62 Diploma recipients.

Earlier, His Majesty was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Education, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong and the Permanent Secretary of Higher Learning at the Ministry of Education, Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Zulkarnain bin Haji Hanafi, as the Vice-Chancellor UBD.

The ceremony commenced with the recital of Al-Qur'an verses by Awang Mohd. Syair bin Haji Shamsuddin, an Islamic Finance Masters Degree Graduate.

It is a significant year as UBD has produced 20 PhD graduates, which is the largest number of PhD graduates from the university so far.

In a *titah* (royal speech) delivered at the convocation, His Majesty expressed hope that UBD would continue to become a destination capable of attracting outstanding students to upgrade their learning and research at the university.

His Majesty also lauded the graduation of 15 local and foreign graduates of UBD's flagship programme in Master of Public Policy and Management (MPPM). The graduates included students from the East Asia Summit participating countries, who were recipients of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's scholarship.

The MPPM is a joint programme with leading public policy schools in the United States. It is a unique interdisciplinary programme that focuses on policy areas that are distinctive to Brunei Darussalam particularly in the fields of Islamic Governance, Energy Policy and Management and Environmental Policy and Management.

His Majesty noted that there were a few students in the programme who had excelled during their term of study at reputable universities in the United States.

"This is indeed recognition of quality for the educational system at UBD. This development will certainly be capable of raising the image and visibility of UBD," His Majesty said.

Touching on the university's visibility, His Majesty expressed pleasure to see that UBD has been growing and improving its efforts towards its aspiration.

This included UBD's achievement as the fastest rising university in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Asia University Ranking this year, His Majesty said.

This year, UBD was ranked the top university in Asia for student mobility in the QS University Ranking.

Overall, UBD made a significant jump in 60 places in the rankings; from 171-180 last year to 118 this year. It was ranked 6th in international faculty, 14th in international students and 23rd in faculty student ratio.

Despite these achievements, His Majesty reminded that many more important aspects needed to be taken into consideration in evaluating such accomplishment, such as the marketability of graduates and results of research that can contribute to economic growth.

The increasing number of graduates at the global level could result in rising rates of unemployment, His Majesty said.

His Majesty believes that it could further lead to the job market becoming more competitive.

However, the innovation component in UBD's GenNext curriculum and the initiative to instill entrepreneurship values among students have given great hope for the production of a proactive generation who are resilient and not overly reliant on the government, His Majesty said.

Addressing the current employment issue, His Majesty



His Majesty awards a certificate to one of the graduates at the 27th convocation ceremony.

called on all agencies to cooperate and adopt 'a whole of nation approach' instead of 'a whole government approach'.

His Majesty also called for higher learning institutions to be more innovative and creative in searching for alternative sources of funding, such as forging collaborative partnerships with an allied industry.

This is so the costs of an activity could be equally shared and the desired outcomes beneficial to all, His Majesty added.

The existing Scheme of Service for Academic Staff (SPTA) should also serve as a strong motivation for academic staff to raise the standard of their teaching and research work.

"Local academic staff should seize the opportunity for personal empowerment by developing their capabilities, competencies and talents, among others, rather than confining themselves in lecture rooms," His Majesty said.

"The society and nation always await you and desire to listen to you and read what you write," His Majesty added.

Concluding the *titah*, His Majesty reminded the graduates to always defend their identity, heritage and integrity, and to maintain the Bruneian identity in support of the Malay Islamic Monarchy philosophy.

Earlier, in his welcoming speech, the Vice-Chancellor of UBD said that UBD has established the UBD CoNECT to serve as a hub to connect UBD students and graduates with the industry to further enhance the quality of its graduates.

It also facilitates the advertisement of job vacancies, internship schemes, training and interviews

Apart from offering career counseling services, it also organises career and skills exhibitions and provides a service for UBD students and graduates to understand career requirements and capabilities in preparation for the working world.

UBD, he said, has also begun exploring alternative methods in learning and teaching to provide online learning.

All modules in UBD programmes have been successfully carried out through a learning management technology system known as CANVAS since August this year.

"Taking into consideration available advantages we have and as UBD future planning, the blended learning method by which part of the learning could be done online has been introduced," he said.

This method will present the opportunity to those who are working or have less time to improve their qualifications to take part without having to physically attend lectures during their study.

It will directly promote life-long learning among the people of this country, which is aligned with His Majesty's aspiration, he said.

Royalties attend 7th Southeast Asian Youth Al-Qur'an Reading Competition



His Majesty presents an award to one of the winners of the 7th Southeast Asian Youth Al-Qur'an Reading Competition 1436 Hijrah / 2015 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 17 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam graced the closing ceremony of the 7th Southeast Asian Youth Al-Qur'an Reading Competition 1436 Hijrah / 2015 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

His Majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

His Majesty also presented prizes, awards and gifts to the champions, remaining participants and judges of this year's competition.

Earlier, His Majesty was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah as the Chairman of the Musabaqah Executive Committee.

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

In his welcoming speech, the minister said that His Majesty's presence reflected His Majesty's pure attention in contributing and fulfilling His Majesty's role in the Al-Qur'an Reading Competition to develop and spread Islam among the youths in Southeast Asia through reciting and appreciating Al-Qur'an.

He said that the Youth Al-Qur'an Reading Competition contributes highly and meaningfully to the realisation of the ASEAN Community and Post-ASEAN Community 2015.

Muslim youths in Southeast Asia would become effective catalysts and resilient to the regional development, unity and security through the appreciation of Al-Qur'an, he added.

This is because the Al-Qur'an contains instructions, knowledge and role models that remind Muslim youths to avoid hostility and conflict, to cooperate and respect each other and to strive to develop the *ummah* (Muslim community), he explained.

The highlight of the ceremony was the announcement of the result of the competition by the Director of the Mosque Affairs, as

the Chairman of the judge, Awang Haji Abdul Rajid bin Mohd Salleh.

Mohammad Husaini bin Mahmud from Malaysia emerged as the champion in the male category while Raihana Guaimlod Ambangala from the Republic of the Philippines won first in the women's event. Both received an accompanying prize, a certificate of participation and BND^{5,000} cash prize.

The runner-ups were Kamaruddin Gunda Zaidon from the Republic of the Philippines and Munawaroh Tarmizi Ilyas from the Republic of Indonesia. Both received an accompanying prize, a certificate of participation and a cash prize of BND^{4,000}.

Awangku Adi Nazri bin Pengiran Haji Jofri from Brunei Darussalam and Awatif binti Abd. Majid from Malaysia were awarded an accompanying prize, a certificate of participation and a cash prize of BND^{3,000} for winning third place.

The ceremony was further enlivened by the Al Qur'an reading presentations by the male dan female winners of the Southeast Asian Youth al-Quran Reading Competition

1436 Hijrah.

On September 15, His Royal Highness The Crown Prince attended the opening ceremony of the 7th Southeast Asian Youth Al-Qur'an Reading Competition 1436 Hijrah / 2015 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

His Royal Highness was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

Earlier, His Royal Highness was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, and the Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar.

At the ceremony, His Royal Highness delivered a speech and then officiated the competition.

The ceremony commenced with the recital of Sural Al-Fatihah by Syariah Appeal Court Judge, Yang Dimulikan Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Setia Raja Dato paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Suhaili bin Haji Mohiddin.

It was then followed with the opening speech by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport.

The minister said that His Royal Highness's attendance reflected His Royal Highness's concern in strengthening the youths' faith and appreciating Islam according to the teachings in the Al-Qur'an.

The competition serves as a platform to encourage Muslim youths in Southeast Asia to improve the quality of their Al-Qur'an reading in order to lift their performance to a higher level, he said.

It would also provide them with confidence and exposure to advance to the Al-Qur'an Reading Competition at the international and more challenging levels, he added.

Six participants from the Republic of Singapore, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Republic of Philippines took turns in reading Al-Qur'an on the first day of the competition.

This year, the competition saw the involvement of 19 participants from the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of the Philippines, the Kingdom of Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Malaysia, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and Brunei Darussalam

The Southeast Asian Youth Al-Qur'an Reading Competition was first held in 2002.

His Majesty emphasises teacher training at recruitment stage

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 23 – Our country's objective is to create a generation that is both religious and progressive and visionary teachers who possess the characteristics of effective leadership.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam stressed this matter in a *titah* (royal speech) delivered at the 25th Teachers' Day celebration held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

In the *titah*, His Majesty praised the Ministry of Education's ongoing initiatives to strengthen the quality of leadership at the school level.

Development through teachers' teaching, His Majesty emphasised, is necessary because the quality of a teacher is not only measured by pedagogical teaching skills, but only concerns the spiritual factor in his or her capacity as a role model for students.

Therefore, the effectiveness of education or training for teachers must be monitored and evaluated regularly, His Majesty said.

His Majesty also welcomed the ministry's plans to evaluate the competence of teachers through the Teacher Performance Appraisal (TPA) based on the Brunei Teacher Standard, which was launched in 2014.

With this initiative, His Majesty explained, teachers will know the extent of their potential in delivering effective teaching and learning.

His Majesty further urged the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education at Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and the Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPU SB) to continually ensure their programmes are of high quality.

Touching on the theme of this year's celebration, His Majesty explained that the 'Teachers as Catalysts for a Visionary Generation' was aligned with the vision of His Majesty's father, Al-Marhum Sultan Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien who transformed education into an opportunity available for all levels of society to seize.

His Majesty also emphasised the need for holistic education with Islamic religious studies as a top priority that would pave the way for excellence in Islamic teaching and prosperity.

The core subjects in the national education system and in the implementation of the Compulsory Religious Education Order 2012 must not only be stated on paper, but should truly be implemented, His Majesty stressed.

Earlier, His Majesty was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Education, The Honorable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong and the Minister of Religious Affairs, The Honorable Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman as the co-chairman and high committee of the celebration.

His Majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

The ceremony commenced with the recital of Surah Al-Fatihah dedicated to His Majesty's late father Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and departed teachers. It was then followed with thanksgiving prayers led by the State Mufti, The Honorable Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned.

His Majesty then consented to deliver a *titah* and afterward bestowed awards upon seven recipients.

The Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Award was given to The Honorable Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Doctor



His Majesty bestows an award upon one of the recipients at the 25th Teachers' Day celebration.

Ustaz Haji Awang Yahya bin Haji Ibrahim.

The Meritorious Award was presented to Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Mahalle bin Haji Awang Abdullah and Awang Haji Ibrahim bin Mohd Yassin.

The Excellent Teachers Award was awarded to Associate Professor Ampuan Doctor Haji Brahim bin Ampuan Haji Tengah as the overall Excellent Teacher, Dayang Faridah binti Abdul Hamid in Malay Subject, Dayang Mazmewati binti Mazali in Fiqh Subject and Dayang Hajah Normah binti Mohd Daud in School Leadership.

A total of 19 teachers were also announced as the recipients for this year's Teachers Day Award.

Earlier, in his welcoming speech, the Minister of Education said that the Ministry of Education introduced the Brunei Teachers' Standards initiative (BTS) that aims to improve the quality and standard of teachers in Brunei Darussalam by providing them adequate training last year.

It is aligned with His Majesty's *titah* delivered on July 15 in conjunction with His Majesty's 69th birthday that emphasised the need for civil service to adopt performance culture.

Therefore, the ministry has established an instrument called Teacher Performance Appraisal to assess the capacity and achievement of teachers.

The ministry is also drafting the School Leadership Standard to determine the competency level of school leaders and to guide school leaders towards excellent leadership, he said.

The minister also expressed his gratitude to His Majesty for His Majesty's wise leadership and to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Religious Affairs for their efforts in improving the quality of education in the country that is supported by various sectors especially the government agencies.

Continuous cooperation from the Delivery Unit of the Prime Minister's Office provides the external drive to facilitate the short and long term implementation of the Primary Education Initiative to further upgrade the quality of primary education in the country, he said.

At the end of the ceremony, His Majesty and members of the royal family joined the award recipients in a group photo and then toured the exhibition.

The exhibition comprised of four sectors that corresponds with the theme of the celebration 'Teachers as Catalysts for a Visionary Generation'.

The first sector featured a collection of excerpts from His Majesty's father's and His Majesty's *titah* over the years.

With the theme 'Monarch's Leadership Catalysing Quality Education in the Nation', it also showcased the 25 years of

*Continue on page 13

*From page 12

(His Majesty emphasises teacher training at recruitment stage)

Teacher's Day celebration, which included the description of the selected date of September 23, the goals of the annual celebration and photographs related to the titah.

The second sector of the exhibition portrayed photographs of the teachers' efforts and performances in the international arena and in their participations in sports events.

It also included an exhibition of the Ministry of Education's contributions, such as the Curriculum Development Department's Numeracy Initiative Projects (NIP), Primary Education Strategy's Learning Design, Brunei Teacher Standard's Process and Tools, Private Education Section and the Special Education Unit.

The third sector highlighted the Department of Islamic Studies' Khatam Al-Qur'an Incentive Scheme for students under 10 years old and the Al-Qur'an Reading Scheme for Youth.

In the fourth sector, the exhibition showcased two higher education institutions: the Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPU SB) and the Institute of Brunei Technical Education (IBTE).

The exhibition is open to the public for three days starting from September 26 to 29 from 8.00 A.M. to 4.30 P.M.

His Majesty awards prestigious scholarship to three students

Bandar Seri Begawan, September 19 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to award the prestigious scholarship, Sultan's Scholar of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation (YSHHB) for 2015 / 2106 study session at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, the Chairman of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Committee of Governors, was also present.

The first recipient, Dayang Rasyiqah Azimah binti Muhammad Nuraziz, who is a former student of Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Science College, will pursue Masters in Natural Sciences at University College London, United Kingdom.

Dayang Muniratussafiah binti Haji Johar, a former student of Institut Tahfiz Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah will further her studies in Tahfiz A-Quran Wal Qiraat at the Mahad Qiraat in Shoubra, Al Azhar University in Egypt.

The last recipient Dayang Liyana Bazilah binti Haji Jamain will pursue Masters in Comparative Economics and Policy at University College London, United Kingdom. She recently graduated with first class in BSc (Hons) in Mathematics and Economic under the prestigious scholarship at the same university.

Earlier, the event commenced with recital of Surah Al-Fatihah by the State Mufti His Honourable Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned.

Afterward, His Majesty awarded the scholarship to the three receivers and



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik with the Sultan's Scholar of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation scholarship recipients.

then greeted the scholarship recipients, their parents, and invited guests.

The Sultan's Scholar is a prestigious scholarship awarded to excellent students who have been acknowledged by the foundation, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Religious Affairs

They are given the opportunity to further their studies in various fields at a degree level at prestigious institutions of higher education overseas approved by the foundation and recognised by His Majesty's government.

The scholarship scheme is one of the human capacity-building programmes offered by His Majesty's Government in order to realise the Brunei Vision 2035.

Since the scheme was first introduced in 2006, a total of 38 recipients have been

awarded with the scholarship.

In 2013, the foundation offered scholarships to those pursuing Doctorate in Philosophy (PhD) under the Advance Learning Scheme.

So far, three people have been awarded scholarships to pursue a PhD.

His Majesty stresses the importance of sacrifice



His Majesty delivering a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidil Adha at Istana Nurul Iman.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 24 - On the occasion of the Aidil Adha or the Feast of Sacrifice celebration, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam highlighted the importance of 'sacrifice' in a *titah* (royal speech) delivered at Istana Nurul Iman.

'Sacrifice' is a lesson that is exclusively brought over to Muslims through the events involving Prophet Ibrahim and Prophet Ismail.

It is not something that is easily done and only those with a big heart and strong faith are able to do so, His Majesty said.

It can be traced back from the event when Prophet Ibrahim willingly sacrificed Prophet Ismail as a dedication towards Allah.

"Imagine, a father having to slaughter his child, wouldn't this be a heavy and challenging task? But despite such, due to his piety and faith to Allah, Prophet Ibrahim was willing to execute the task," His Majesty said.

The role of faith determines everything including the preparedness to sacrifice be it in the form of body and soul, said His Majesty.

His Majesty emphasised that sacrifice includes performing the act of worshipping, religious duties and being obedience to Allah.

His Majesty believes that performing religious obligations towards Allah is a big task and it requires confidence and patience.

In the *titah*, His Majesty also expressed concern over the number of people who are not committed to performing their religious duties. This indicates that they are not willing to sacrifice for Allah.

This is because of the absence of faith within them, His Majesty said.

Those who do not have confidence and faith in Allah do not possess inner strength within them, making it difficult for them to execute much bigger tasks.

His Majesty stressed that performing sacrifices by acts of worship is the purest action that promises happiness in the hereafter.

His Majesty called to all Muslims in Brunei Darussalam to continue performing sacrifices to Allah, especially acts of worship.

His Majesty also prays that the souls of those who lost their lives would be blessed by Allah.

Concluding the *titah*, His Majesty wished a 'Selamat Hari Raya Aidil Adha' to all Muslims and expressed hope that every one of them would be given happiness and protection by Allah.



His Majesty presenting a portion of the sacrificial meat to a recipient.

On the morning of Aidil Adha, His Majesty joined thousand of congregants in performing the *sunat* prayer before leading a sacrificial ceremony at Jame' 'Asr Hasasanil Bolkiah.

His Majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

The prayer was led by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar while the *khutbah* (sermon) was delivered by the Minister of Home Affairs, The Honourable Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman.

Afterward, His Majesty proceeded to the main slaughter area designated for the sacrificial rites.

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

His Majesty and members of royal family then performed sacrificial rites on seven goats.

Following the sacrificial rites, His Majesty presented portions of the meat to 20 less fortunate individuals who reside in Brunei-Muara District while the rest were distributed to the other districts.

A total of 14 goats and 72 cows contributed by His Majesty and the royal family were sacrificed this year. The meat will then be distributed to 5,485 recipients across the country.

The portions will be given to 4,227 people in Brunei-Muara District, 717 in Belait District, 414 in Tutong District and 130 in Temburong District.

Earlier, His Majesty was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Religious Affairs, The Honourable Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman, the Chairman of the Executive Committee for Major Islamic Events of 1436 Hijrah; and the State Mufti The Honourable Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned.

Concluding the ceremony, prayers were read by the State Mufti to bless the event.

KAIB VIII a meeting platform for Muslim experts

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 2 - The 8th International Islamic Borneo Conference (KAIB VIII) is a meeting platform for experts to share knowledge and experiences and to brainstorm beneficial ideas to ensure the continuous preservation of Islamic civilisation in the region.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) launched the KAIB VIII at UNISSA in Gadong.

His Royal Highness was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

UNISSA's Rector, Dr. Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, in his welcoming speech, said that the current world phenomenon is now filled with disputes of principles and upheaval of thoughts that have caused chaos and violence. These issues have indirectly impaired the integrity of a civilisation.

The solution to these problems is to kindle the propagation of Islam and rebuilding the Islamic civilisation.

The efforts to preserve Islamic propagation and civilisation in Borneo, he explained, is the foundation and a significant strategy that is aligned with the way of life in Borneo that practices tolerance and mutual respect. These will definitely help to safeguard the peace and harmony of the community today and for the future.

He said that the theme 'Perpetuating Islamic Propagation and Civilisation in Borneo' is highly relevant with the demographics of Brunei, the States of Sarawak and Sabah, as they share similar community, culture, language and the early history of the arrival of Islam.

The development of Islamic propagation in Borneo have been closely related to the development of Islam in Brunei Darussalam since the 15th century, which marked the start of the Islamic civilisation in Borneo Island, he stated.

In this regard, the conference will always remain relevant and will continue to be held in the future to ensure the continuity of knowledge sharing and the proliferation of ideas to further expand the Islamic influence within the community in Brunei.

Earlier, His Royal Highness was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Education, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apang; the Minister of Religious Affairs The Honourable Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman; and members of the 8th Borneo Islamic International Conference



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince receives a *pesambah* (gift).

Executive Committee.

The recital of Surah Al-Fatihah and Doa Selamat was then read by The Honourable Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Yahya bin Haji Ibrahim.

The two-day conference is a joint-collaboration between Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) and Islamic Dakwah Centre at the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Universiti Technology MARA Samarahan Sarawak and Universiti Technology MARA Sabah, Malaysia.

The ceremony also saw a presentation of more than 130 working papers from various higher education institutions, six main paper works from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and a few from the representatives of KAIB VIII.

The representatives were the Mufti of Sarawak, Sahibus Samahah Dato Haji Kipli bin Haji Yasin; UiTM Sarawak Rector, Yang Mulia Professor Dato Dr. Jamil bin Haji Jamali; Universitas Mulawarman of Indonesia's representative, Professor Dr. Rahmat Soe'oed; Director of Religious Department of Sabah, Tuan Halim bin Haji Nayan; Head of Religious Research Officer at the Department of Mufti Brunei Darussalam, Dr. Awang Haji Maznan bin Haji Yusof and Director of Islamic Dakwah Centre, Dayang Hajah Azizah binti Haji Musa.

Instil pure Islamic values to produce quality citizens, says Crown Prince

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 2 - An inclusive and holistic development model is the most pragmatic and effective platform for community development, especially of future generations, to realise the Brunei Vision 2035.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, as Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), said this in a *sabda* (royal speech) at the opening ceremony of the 8th International Islamic Borneo Conference at UNISSA's auditorium hall in Jalan Pasar Baharu, Gadong.

In the *sabda*, His Royal Highness said that the assimilation of noble Islamic values is also the core of and catalyst for the aspiration to produce highly educated and skilled citizens by having a higher quality of life and economic development surroundings that are dynamic and sustainable.

It is similar to the teachings of Islam that encourage the development of an excellent and dynamic community. It could be achieved by mastering the worldly knowledge for the development and welfare of mankind and the hereafter knowledge as a preparation for the afterlife, His Royal Highness said.

Here lies the beauty of Islamic civilisation where a fair and just system of trade and economy can be achieved that can result in

a higher quality of life, His Royal Highness added.

Therefore, the consolidated and directed efforts in the natural part of the archipelago, His Royal Highness stressed, is highly relevant and timely to prepare a strategic plan and its implementation to ensure that the Islamic civilisation and *syiar* (greatness) will always be protected by perpetuating the role of *dakwah* (propagation).

"This matter is important to unify the local and regional communities that are constantly plagued with various problems and social issues that are mostly caused by human behaviour and disobeying Allah's laws and prohibitions," His Royal Highness said.

The propagation of Islamic knowledge *Tauhid* (study on the Oneness of Allah) is significant, as it will re-establish the system of trust towards the universal values of Islamic civilisation as well as the objectives of *masaqid syariah*.

In this regard, His Royal Highness said that higher education institutions have been playing a vital role in identifying current issues that needed to be addressed and tackling global social and economic uncertainties.

His Royal Highness believes that the conference would trigger ideas that can be brought forward in particular to the

*Continue on page 16

ITQSHHB graduates urged to continue studying Al-Qur'an and related knowledge

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 3 – The responsibilities of a *hafiz* or a memoriser of Al-Qur'an are very challenging. They are required to take good care of themselves spiritually and physically.

Maintaining both aspects must be taken seriously, especially during social interaction as they are seen as a good role model and honourable in the eyes of the community.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office said this in a *sabda* (royal speech) delivered at the third Hafut Takharuj or convocation of Institut Tahfiz Al-Qur'an Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (ITQSHHB) held at the International Conference Centre in Berakas.

In the *sabda*, His Royal Highness urged the graduates to continue studying Al-Qur'an and the knowledge contained within.

His Royal Highness also urged them to strengthen their determination in enhancing their knowledge, which includes participating in appropriate courses offered by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's government. Hopefully it would increase the number of highly knowledgeable people, especially the number of *hafiz* in the country in order to spread knowledge within the community.

Graduates, His Royal Highness stressed, are expected to not only memorise Al-Qur'an, but also gain knowledge of other subjects, which are as important and as capable of adding value to their efforts in understanding and appreciating Al-Qur'an.

On the matter of learning Al-Qur'an, His Royal Highness quoted His Majesty's *titah* (royal speech) at the National Al-Qur'an Reading Competition for Adults 2013 where His Majesty reminded that learning to read Al-Quran is beneficial, unlike solely depending on books or the internet where people can easily make mistakes or get confused.

Such approach would definitely complete the graduates' ability to stand out in their contribution to the community, especially in guiding the youths to understand the teachings of Al-Qur'an in life.

His Royal Highness said the rate of borderless information dissemination provides greater challenges to our religion, especially with the existence and spread of different types of religious understanding.

We need to be more careful and not be easily swayed by new ideology that contradicts the principles of Ahli Sunnah Wal Jama'ah, which is the core foundation and belief of the Muslim community in the country.

Therefore, do not pass judgment easily based on very limited



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince presenting a diploma to one of the graduates at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

reading such as only referring to several articles or books, His Royal Highness said.

His Royal Highness stressed that any questions and queries relates to religious matters must be referred to Muslim scholars recognised by His Majesty's government.

Although it may seem logical to our mind, but remember that Islam does not stand on mere logic, a law or decision is made based on Al-Qur'an, *Sunnah* (practices, customs and traditions of Prophet Muhammad), *Ijma'* (consensus of the Prophet's companions) and *Qiyas* (the deduction of legal prescriptions from Al-Quran or Sunnah by analogic reasoning).

It is important for the concerned parties to remain vigilant on anything that could cause misunderstanding and discord, which would eventually lead to the disunity of Muslims in Brunei Darussalam, His Royal Highness said.

Earlier in the *sabda*, His Royal Highness congratulated the graduates and expressed his belief that their achievement is the starting point of their preparation in serving and contributing to the community, religion, race and country.

Since the establishment of the institute in 1993, it has produced more than 200 *hafiz*.

Out of the number, 40 have passed the national Tasmie test in memorising 30 *juzuk* (chapters) of the Al-Qura'n.

The Islamic *syiar*, His Royal Highness added, has brought about changes in the country's administrative design and identity to become a civilised Islamic country with its own socio-culture characteristics.

The teachings of Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah under mazhab Shafie (school of thought) are officially stated in the 1959 Brunei Constitution by Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien as a reflection of the Islamic civilisation and *syiar's* integrity.

Concluding the *sabda*, His Royal Highness expressed hope that the conference would achieve and realise its objectives and further explore the impact of the challenges of globalisation and the role of social media, especially in upholding and strengthening the teachings of Islam.

His Royal Highness launches UBD 'Inspired Youth' convocation festival

TUNGKU, September 5 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) launched the university's Convocation Festival 2015 held in conjunction with the 27th convocation ceremony at the Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Saadatul Bolkiah Institute of Science Health, UBD.

The theme 'Inspired Youth' aims to remind youths of their role in contributing to the country's development and economy through innovative thinking, entrepreneurial mindset and improvement of industry-relevant skills.

Earlier, His Royal Highness was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Education The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong and the Permanent Secretary (Higher Education) at the Ministry of Education, Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Zaulkarnain bin Haji Hanafi as the Vice-Chancellor of UBD.

The ceremony commenced with the recital of Surah Al-Fatihah by The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar.

His Royal Highness then delivered a *sabda* (royal speech) and afterward toured the exhibition that showcased UBD's research and faculty activities.

His Royal Highness visited the exhibition by the Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Centre for Islamic Studies (SOASCIS) that featured an art of words quoted from Al-Qur'an, verse 114, Surah Taha, 'My lord, Increase me in knowledge'.

The excerpt was written in Arabic calligraphy and also in Braille. The Braille acts as a motivation for visionary youths who are struggling to achieve success, and to bring positive changes to raise awareness that patience and prayers are required in seeking knowledge.

The exhibition also included the 'Entrepreneurship Village' booth that promoted the activities of UBD graduates to show how the village plays a role in inspiring, guiding, increasing knowledge and tutoring.

In addition, it creates ways to attain professionalism in entrepreneurship in order to achieve the industry standard that can fulfill the needs of stakeholders or concerned parties.

Meanwhile, the Faculty of Integrated Technology exhibited two kinds of devices, 'the Sleeping Pattern Monitor' and the 'Muscle Cramp Detection' researched by the graduates and their supervisors.

The 'Sleeping Pattern Monitor' functions as a tool to record activities during sleep that can tell whether an individual is in a deep or uncomfortable sleep.

The device is equipped with LED lights that change colour according to its own functions. Green indicates sleep while yellow signifies movement in sleep. It can help to understand and record sleeping pattern, and in turn, the record can be used as a reference to overcome and enhance the level of comfort during sleep.

The 'Muscle Cramp Detection' is a device made of elastic cloth that can be worn during exercise, such as cycling, jogging, running or walking, apart from detecting pressure or critical muscle cramps.

At the exhibition, the Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah Institute of Health Science portrayed the 'Health Coach', a mobile phone application called 'Heal-C' that contains information



His Royal Highness being briefed at an exhibition at the UBD Convocation Festival 2015 at the Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah Institute of Health Sciences.

on healthy diet and various physical activities that are strategised based on the 'Concepts of Health Behavioural Theories'.

The application functions as a source of information or knowledge to users in arranging diet pattern through nutritional diet information and physical activities.

The UBD Student Council also introduced the palace language at its booth through the QR code for it to be easily accessed.

It aims to assist future generations to understand and master the palace language to interact and communicate effectively with people of title and dignitaries in Brunei Darussalam.

This would further widen the study of palace language in terms of pronunciation and conversation and would also provide a wider and deeper understanding of the language.

Furthermore, the Faculty of Science showcased 'A Journey to the Center of the Earth' featuring research on rocks and minerals by the UBD students.

Rocks and minerals, such as Ophiolite collected from Sabah, Mollusca and corals found in several areas in Brunei Darussalam are among the research materials used by the students to further understand the evolution, role and classification of rocks and minerals.

His Royal Highness also toured the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education's abstract exhibition called 'Souvenirs' that showcased old newspapers, silk scarfs, stubby pencils and an old piece of old clothing.

Each of the exhibitions portrayed its own story regarding the importance of education and knowledge and served as a motivation to anyone.

Prior to leaving, His Royal Highness received a *pesambah* (gift) and greeted the UBD students.

The Ministry of Development The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Paduka Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman and the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar were also present at the ceremony.

*From page 16
(Instil pure Islamic values to produce quality citizens, says Crown Prince)

dissemination and strengthening of the Islamic civilisation in the region as Borneo Island has cultural similarities and a Muslim community that adheres to the teachings of Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah.

His Royal Highness also expressed hope that the conference would pave the way for collective efforts among professionals and academics to further strengthen unity among Muslims and society in general.

It is aligned with the challenges in realising the ASEAN Community at the end of this year and it would also provide new dimension for Islamic civilisation in contributing to the regional socio-economical studies, His Royal Highness said.

In addition, it would benefit from various scientific activities towards updating and strengthening the curriculum, organising workshops and forums on regional issues and challenges and publishing and researching studies across each discipline.

Earlier, His Royal Highness explained that the propagation of Islamic knowledge has existed in Brunei Darussalam since the reign of Sultan Muhammad who converted to Islam more than 600 years ago.

SEAMEO and SEAMEO VOCTECH celebrates 50th and 25th anniversary

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna launches 50th SEAMEO and 25th SEAMEO VOCTECH's anniversary celebration at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

BERAKAS, September 1 – Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, attended the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) and the 25th anniversary of the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Vocational and Technical Education (VOCTECH).

The celebration took place at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

To commemorate the occasion, a book entitled 'Leveraging Skills' published by SEAMEO VOCTECH was launched at the event.

The Director of SEAMEO-VOCTECH Awang Mohammad Sharifuddin bin Haji Mohammad Salleh said that the book records the institute's history in the past 25 years.

The event was held timely to acknowledge the contributions of former SEAMEO presidents in Brunei Darussalam and former directors of SEAMEO VOCTECH since the centre was first established, he added.

In his speech, SEAMEO's Secretariat Director, Dr. Gatot Hari Priowirjanto stressed the importance of instilling the aspects of education, knowledge, culture and economic growth in the Southeast Asian region in order to ensure better quality of life.

He said that SEAMEO works towards achieving its goals through the establishment of networks and partnerships, organisation of intellectual forums for policy-makers and experts, and promotion of sustainable human resource development.

Other than that, SEAMEO also plays a role in providing and maintaining human-capacity building in Southeast Asia through its 21 Specialist Regional Centres that offer programmes and research in various fields of education, knowledge and culture.

The ceremony also saw a presentation of the SEAMEO-VOCTECH Recognition Awards to three SEAMEO's former president by Her Royal Highness.

They were The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya

Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Awang Haji Abdul Aziz bin Begawan Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Umar, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib dan The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Apong.

Her Royal Highness also awarded the Recognition Awards to nine individuals who are former and current directors of SEAMEO-VOCTECH.

They were Dr. Azaharaini bin Haji Mohd. Jamil, Awang Haji Abdul Razak bin Haji Metassan (on behalf of his late wife Datin Paduka Hajah Seri binti Haji Simpun), Awang Haji Abdul Ghani bin Haji Omar, Dato Paduka Haji Md. Daud bin Haji Mahmud, Awang Noorhaizamdin bin Haji Mosbi, Awang Mohammad bin Abu Bakar, Awang Haji Yussof bin Haji Awang Mohamad, Awang Alias bin Haji Abu Bakar dan Awang Haji Mohd. Sharifuddin bin Haji Mohd. Salleh.

Earlier, Her Royal Highness were greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Education The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, who is also a member of the SEAMEO Council and Chairman of the ceremony's executive committee.

The event commenced with the singing of the national anthem and 'SEAMEO Colours'. It was followed with the recital of Surah Al-Fatihah led by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar.

At the ceremony, Her Royal Highness toured an exhibition and joined the awards recipients and the committee members in a group photo prior to leaving.

The exhibition, open to the public for three day, is being held at the SEAMEO's headquarters at Jalan Pasar Baharu in Gadong from September 2 to 3.

BICTA 2015 winners receive awards



Winners of Brunei Info-Communication Technology Awards (BICTA) 2015 at the Ministry of Communications.

BERAKAS, September 16 – The winners of Brunei Info-Communication Technology Awards (BICTA) 2015 received their prizes at a ceremony held at the Amar Pahlawan Hall, the Ministry of Communications.

The Minister of Communications The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdullah bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar was present as the guest of honour at the event.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communication, Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Yusof was also in attendance as the Chairman of BICTA Steering Committee.

The BICTA is an annual competition jointly organised by the Authority for Info-communications Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam (AITI) and InfoCom Federation Brunei (IFB).

It aims to stimulate innovation and creativity in ICT industry among individual, students and associations including SME's.

In his welcoming speech, the permanent secretary said that the BICTA 2015 was launched earlier this year in March and BICTA celebrated its 12th anniversary this year.

Themed 'Innovation to Generate a Smart Nation', BICTA 2015 opened for registration in three main categories, namely, School Project, Tertiary Project and ICT Industry.

He further said that the number of participants has increased by at least 50 per cent from last year. This year BICTA received a total number of 45 entries compared to 30 entries in 2014.

This year, St John's School emerged as winners of the BICTA 2015 School Project category, winning a cash prize of BND^{3,000} for developing its project called 'Secondary Studies Redspot'. Chung Hwa Middle School in Bandar Seri Begawan won second place, receiving BND^{2,000} for its 'C-Attendance' project while Chung Ching Middle School settled for third winning BND^{1,000} for the project 'E-Pension'.

Under the Tertiary Project category, Institut Teknologi Brunei won first place with their product 'ITB Virtual Campus using OpenSim', receiving BND^{7,000}. International Graduate Studies College both ranked second and third with their projects 'Nasi Katok Kitani' and 'School Goes Mobile', winning BND^{3,500} and BND^{1,750}.

D⁵ Innovation with its product 'Virtualkiub' won first place for

the ICT Industry category and received BND^{10,000} cash prize. SnapFeed Sdn Bhd came in second with its project 'SnapFeed' winning BND^{5,000} and DotRoot Technologies Company won BND^{2,000} with their project 'EventLoop' in third place.

The ceremony also saw the presentation of Special Awards to three recipients.

The 'Promising Entrepreneur' was awarded to Joel Canoz Espiritu for his 'pi-Board' (Portable Interactive Board).

Halbase Company with its Mynaemoglobin project was awarded the 'Green ICT' while Universiti Brunei Darussalam was awarded the 'Emerging Technology' for its product Intelligent Energy Monitoring and Management System for

There was no recipient for the 'Young Developer,' which is another special award opened to primary and secondary students with the most innovative ICT project.

The Promising Entrepreneur Award is a new award that is presented to individuals, particularly startups and tertiary students that have the most distinctive products with market potential.

The Young Developer Award will be given to primary and secondary students with the most innovative ICT software, hardware and integrated solutions.

Meanwhile other awards such as the Green ICT Award highlights the most sustainable, conservation, recyclable or environmental related products and Emerging Technology Award is given to individuals with products that utilise emerging technologies such as Internet of Things, Big Data, Wearables and Disruptive Technologies.

BICTA acts as a platform for individuals, students and local companies to showcase their ICT innovations to seek further success in the global arena through participation in the Asia Pacific ICT Alliance (APICTA) Awards.

Winners of BICTA 2015 for each category will be nominated to compete in the APICTA Awards that will be held on November 18 to 22 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Brunei Darussalam has participated in APICTA since 2008 and has managed to win two awards and 14 merit awards to date.

Cardiovascular disease second leading cause of death in Brunei Darussalam

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 29 – Cardiovascular disease is the second leading cause of death in Brunei Darussalam after cancer for the past five years.

In 2014, 227 of 1,470 deaths (15.4 per cent) were caused by cardiovascular diseases.

The Minister of Health The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mohd Yusof said this at the launching of World Heart Day 2015 at the Cardiology Centre of Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS).

The Ministry of Health is relentless in its efforts to raise public awareness about the importance of sharing responsibility for better healthcare and to implement measures to prevent and control non-communicable diseases by nurturing a healthy lifestyle.

In this regard, the ministry has implemented the Brunei Darussalam Multi-Sectoral National Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases 2013-2018.

Various initiatives have been taken towards increasing the overall awareness and commitment among agencies in the government and private sectors, non-government organisations, institutes of education and the community. This is to prevent, control and reduce non-communicable diseases so that they do not spread in the country.

The ministry welcomes and encourages multi-sectoral cooperation to increase efforts to promote healthy lifestyle among the community. This the most significant, effective and cost-effective approach in preventing and controlling chronic diseases, the minister stated.

One of the key strategies introduced by the ministry, he said, is to use health-screening programme in local health centres, targeting citizens and residents aged 40 years and above.

This is to help early detection of patients who are at high risk and vulnerable to cardiovascular diseases.

The minister advised individuals who have early symptoms or signs of chronic diseases to see a doctor for further check up and treatment provided by the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, through the Ministry of Health.

Earlier, the minister cited a World Health Organization (WHO) study stating that cardiovascular disease is the leading global cause of death, accounting for more than 17.3 million deaths per year, a number that is expected to grow.

About 80 per cent of premature deaths could be avoided if the four risk factors – use of tobacco, taking unhealthy and unbalanced food, lack of physical exercise and getting intoxicated – are stopped or controlled, he said.

Celebrated every 29 September annually, this year's theme 'Healthy Heart Choices for Everyone, Everywhere' aimed to educate the public on cardiovascular diseases.

At the celebration, the minister received medical equipment for patients from Fiziq Enterprise Brunei, presented by its director Pengiran Haji Talip bin Pengiran Haji Lampoh.

To mark the World Heart Day 2015, the Cardiology Centre will organise an open clinic where the public can undergo health screening for checking blood pressure, sugar and cholesterol levels.

The public could also interact with doctors, nurses, health technicians, dietitians and allied health professionals and attend health talks.



The Minister of Health launching the World Heart Day 2015 at the Cardiology Centre of Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS).



The minister receives medical equipment for patients from Fiziq Enterprise Brunei.



The minister observes World Heart Day 2015 at RIPAS Hospital.