

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
**News**

Vol. 3 No. 1



# Digest

January-June 2005



**HRH Prince Mohamad Bolkiah,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Hosts Reception to Visiting Ministers  
from the Philippines and Malaysia**



**NEWS DIGEST** is published  
bi-annually by the  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Brunei Darussalam.

Photographs in this issue are  
courtesy of the Department of  
Information, Prime Minister's Office  
and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of Brunei Darussalam.

Contributions of articles  
related to foreign affairs and  
international relations are  
welcomed. Submission of  
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Any materials in the Digest may be  
used freely but acknowledgement  
would be appreciated.

Printed by:  
WING ON PRINTING SDN. BHD.  
Unit 10 & 11, Lot No. 29996  
Spg 607, Bangunan Haji Nasar II  
Kpg. Beribi, Mukim Gadong BE1118  
Bandar Seri Begawan  
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# Ministry of Foreign Affairs News

# Digest

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## His Majesty's Visit to the Republic of Singapore

"Common aspirations for peace and stability through good governance"

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha made a two-day visit to the Republic of Singapore from 26 to 28 January 2005.

The highlight of the visit was the conferment of an Honorary Doctorate of Law to His Majesty by His Excellency President S.R. Nathan, the Chancellor of the National University of Singapore on 27 January. The Honorary Degree was awarded in recognition of His Majesty's achievements in leading Brunei Darussalam and outstanding contributions to relations between Singapore and Brunei Darussalam.

The citation of the conferment was read by the Deacon of the Law Faculty, Professor Tan Cheng Han. The citation praised His Majesty's outstanding leadership which had brought peace, progress and prosperity to Brunei Darussalam. Brunei Darussalam, the citation stated, was seen as a responsible and committed member of the international community as a result of His Majesty's diplomatic skills.

In accepting the Honorary Doctorate, His Majesty expressed the appreciation of Brunei Darussalam for the excellent relations enjoyed with the Republic of Singapore. His Majesty noted the common aspirations of the people of Singapore and Brunei Darussalam for peace, stability through good governance and expressed the belief that good governance required a commitment to both the Rule of Law and to tolerance.

The awarding of such Honorary Degree is made to individuals who have rendered outstanding contributions to the University or to the community. The Doctorate of Law is one of two honorary degrees awarded by the National University of Singapore ■



His Majesty receives the conferment of an Honorary Doctorate of Law from H.E. President S.R. Nathan, the Chancellor of the National University of Singapore



During the visit, His Majesty and the Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong held a consultative meeting and exchanged views on ways of enhancing bilateral relations and discussed regional and international affairs.

Visits by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam:

## His Majesty's Visit to Aceh Provice, Indonesia

"Concern on humanity goes beyond Brunei Darussalam's border"



His Majesty accompanied by HE Dr. Alwi Shihab, Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare and Haji Azwar Abu Bakar, Vice Governor of Aceh during the visit to personally observe the tsunami effect on Banda Aceh.



Following the earthquake and tsunami that struck many Indian Oceans countries on 26 December 2004, Brunei Darussalam pledged \$6 million in humanitarian aid to communities affected.

On 1 February 2005, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visited Aceh Province in Indonesia to see personally the effects of the disaster.

His Majesty was the first foreign Head of state to visit the region following the disaster. His Majesty was briefed by the Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare, His Excellency Dr. Alwi Shihab, the Vice Governor of the Aceh Province, Haji Azwar Abu Bakar and local officials.

His Majesty first visited the beach area in Banda Aceh and the Baitur Rahman and Baitur Rahim Mosques where he presented copies of the Al-Quran. From Banda Aceh, His Majesty left for Sabang in Weh Island

to be briefed by the head of the relief contingent from Brunei Darussalam stationed in Sabang. This was followed by a meeting with some of the contingent members from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, the Ministry of Health and the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation. His Majesty also visited the hospitals where victims of the disaster were treated under the supervision of the medical officers and staff of Brunei's Ministry of Health and the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

From the Sabang hospital, His Majesty went by helicopter to observe affected areas in the north-western region of Sumatra. His Majesty then stopped over at Tepin Rambot, where the Royal Brunei Armed Forces has its regimental aid post. There are 187 temporary camps in Tepin Rambot which accommodate about 570 occupants.

His Majesty left the Sultan Iskandar Muda Military Airfield, Banda Aceh, in the afternoon after completing the one-day visit ■

## His Majesty's Visit to Australia

"A commitment to strengthen bilateral cooperation"



The Hon. John Howard, Prime Minister of Australia and His Majesty prior to the meeting held at the Prime Minister's Suite in Canberra.

On 15 February 2005, His Majesty the Sultan and yang Di Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam began a six-day State Visit to Australia at the invitation of the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Major-General Michael Jeffrey.

The State Visit began with a meeting between His Majesty and the Hon. John Howard, the Prime Minister of Australia at the Prime Minister's Suite at the Parliament House in Canberra. The discussions between His Majesty and the Prime Minister covered a broad range of bilateral and regional issues. Both leaders discussed ways to enhance the relationship between the two countries. They welcomed the close bilateral links existing between the two nations in the fields of education, defence, security, economy, trade and investment. His Majesty and the Prime Minister also acknowledged the close partnership both countries shared in regional and international organisations.

The Prime Minister spoke about the shared vision of Brunei Darussalam and Australia. He also spoke highly of His Majesty's leadership in the region that has witnessed many challenges and successes.

While at the Parliament House, His Majesty also met leader of the opposition, the Hon. Kim Beazley. In supporting the remarks of the Prime Minister, Mr. Beazley recalled his own visit to Brunei Darussalam when he was the Defence Minister and expressed his warm welcome to His Majesty.

His Majesty expressed appreciation for the longstanding friendship and the important role Australians have played in Brunei Darussalam's development. His Majesty also acknowledged Australians' contribution to various areas of cooperation.

During a State Dinner hosted by His Excellency the Governor-General, Maj. Gen. Michael Jeffery and Mrs. Jeffery at the Government House in Canberra, His Majesty stressed that Australia's importance as a regional partner of Brunei Darussalam will continue to be closely linked to Brunei's economic future. His Majesty noted that Brunei Darussalam was also very pleased to be a long-standing regional partner in the ASEAN-Australia dialogue, in APEC and most importantly today, in its efforts to ensure regional security for everyone who lives and works in the Asia-Pacific Region. His Majesty further stated that the state visit is a commitment to strengthen bilateral cooperation and expressed Brunei Darussalam's appreciation and respect for the friendship and contributions made by Australians in all aspects of life in the Asia-Pacific.

On the occasion of the visit, Brunei and Australia signed a Memorandum of Understanding on counter-terrorism. The signers on behalf of Australia was Mr. Alexander Downer, the Foreign Minister and, on behalf of Brunei Darussalam, by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Rahman Taib.

The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism is seen as a mutual effort to strengthen cooperation on security ■



His Majesty and Prime Minister John Howard went for a "morning walk" in Canberra.

## His Majesty's Visit to Malaysia

"Strengthening the existing close relations and bilateral cooperation"

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam began a four-day State Visit to Malaysia on Wednesday, 28 April 2005. His Majesty was accompanied by Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha. The visit was at the invitation of Yang Di Pertuan Agong Malaysia, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail in reciprocating the King's visit to Brunei in August 2002.

His Majesty has made several post working visits to Malaysia to strengthen bilateral cooperation and enhance the close relations shared by the two countries. The last of these was in August 1997.

Bilateral cooperation between the two countries includes trade and investment, defence, technical assistance, communications, education, tourism and on the ASEAN sub-economic zone, BIMP-EAGA.

In the afternoon, His Majesty and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha met YAB Datuk Seri Haji Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, the Prime Minister of Malaysia and his wife Datin Seri Endon Mahmood at the Shangri-la Hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

At a four-eye private meeting between His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Prime Minister of Malaysia, the two leaders discussed matters of mutual concern and efforts to enhance bilateral co-operation between the two countries.

On Friday morning, His Majesty toured the Malaysian National Service Programme's Setia Ikhlas Camp in Ulu



**YAB Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia receives His Majesty prior to a four-eye private meeting between the two leaders in Putrajaya, Malaysia**

Semenyih in Selangor. His Majesty was received by His Highness Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Alhaj, the Sultan of Selangor; and the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Seri Mohd Najib.

After inspecting the guard-of-honour, His Majesty watched a demonstration of an unarmed combat by 64 members of the National Service and signed a plaque to mark the visit. The National Service training programme was established to enhance communal solidarity, national integration and the spirit of patriotism Malaysian young people.



**His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Salleh attending the State Banquet hosted by His Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin and Her Majesty Paduka Raja Permaisuri Agong Tengku Fauziah at the Istana Negara, Kuala Lumpur.**

In a separate itinerary, Her Majesty the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha toured the National Planetarium in Kuala Lumpur. From the Planetarium, Her Majesty the Raja Isteri proceeded to the Istana Melawati in Putrajaya for lunch. The function was hosted by Her Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda Raja Permaisuri Agong ■

## His Majesty's Visit to the Russian Federation

"The beginning of a new and promising stage in bilateral cooperation"



HE President Vladimir Putin greets His Majesty at the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow prior to the talks between the two leaders.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam arrived in Moscow on 6 June 2005, for a four-day official visit to the Russian Federation. The Official Visit was upon the invitation of His Excellency President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation.

The highlight of His Majesty's visit in Moscow was a meeting with President Putin at the Grand Kremlin Palace.

Talks between the two leaders focused on a broad range of issues, in particular the potential for Brunei-Russian trade, investment, military, scientific and technological exchanges. Reports from Kremlin also said that the meeting discussed the necessary legal framework to support this cooperation.

President Putin stated that His Majesty's visit to Russia was the "beginning of a new, promising stage in bilateral relations" and called His Majesty "a good friend and promising partner".

He also thanked His Majesty for supporting Russia in the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), where Russia has an observer status.

His Majesty expressed his gratitude for President Putin's "contribution to the development of the region and the enhancement of security in Asia as a whole". His Majesty said, "One of the aims of my visit is to confirm that Russia really plays a very significant role in Asian regional processes.

"We have considered the possibility of the Russian government participating in the diversification of our economy, which is over-dependent on the oil and natural gas industries," His Majesty stated.

"We touched upon trade development and investment in the tourist industry and we are seeking closer cooperation with Russia," His Majesty added

On the occasion of the Visit, His Majesty was awarded an honorary doctorate by a leading Russian university, The Moscow State Institute of International Relations under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia (MGIMO). The award was in recognition of His Majesty's leadership in promoting inter-cultural dialogue and cooperation.

On 9 June 2005, His Majesty left Moscow for Saint Petersburg for the last leg of the Royal visit to Russia. His Majesty's programmes in Saint Petersburg included attending a luncheon hosted by Her Excellency the Governor of Saint Petersburg and visiting the Hermitage Museum and the Mariinsky Theatre ■



His Majesty delivers an address at the awarding of the Honorary Doctorate held at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO)

## H.E. Bounnhang Vorachith, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Visits Brunei Darussalam



**His Majesty delivers a welcoming speech at the Banquet in honour of Prime Minister Bounnhang Vorachith's Official Visit to Brunei Darussalam**

His Excellency Bounnhang Vorachith, the Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Madame Vorachith arrived for a three-day official visit to Brunei Darussalam on 26 March 2005. The Prime Minister led a 35-member delegation.

At a banquet in honour of the visit held at the Istana Nurul Iman, His Majesty said that relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Lao People's Republic were purposeful and practical benefiting both partners in closely involving themselves in bold plans for the future offered by the ASEAN regional association. The ties, at the same time, were also warm and personal. "We have been very pleased to see a number of your students here especially those involved in the training available through our technical assistance programme under the initiative for ASEAN integration", His Majesty said

"Our joint commission also provides a practical way for us to share ideas and put forward new proposals. I hope it will continue to do this," His Majesty added and also noted, "there is much more for it to consider, particularly trade and investment opportunities, continued cooperation in education and culture and in the development of our tourism industries,"

His Majesty also said that Brunei Darussalam was delighted to work with a government so ready and willing to join its neighbours in close cooperation and to play its own part in the development of South-east Asia.

His Majesty congratulated the Prime Minister on his country's achievements in the years since Laos joined ASEAN. "Ever since 1998, when I had the pleasure of visiting Laos and the honour of receiving your president here, this is what we have tried to encourage most of all. In Brunei, we strongly believe these are the basis upon which lasting good relations are founded,"

H.E. Bounnhang Vorachith in his reply thanked the Brunei government for helping Laos, especially in human resource development for the warm cooperation and friendship between the two countries and called on Brunei investors to take the opportunity to invest in Laos.

The Prime Minister visited various places of interest in the country, including a river cruise around Kampong Ayer, Temburong National Park and Jame `Asr Hassanil Bolkiah mosque. The Prime Minister also visited the Royal Regalia, the Arts and Handicrafts Training Centre and the Lambak Kanan National Housing Scheme ■



**HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs greets HE Bounnhang Vorachith, upon arrival at the Brunei International Airport.**

## H.E. Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China Visits Brunei Darussalam



His Majesty and President Hu Jintao on the way to the State Banquet in honour of the President's State Visit to Brunei Darussalam

His Excellency President Hu Jintao of the People's Republic of China arrived in Brunei Darussalam on 20 April 2005 on a three nation State Visit to Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, and the Philippines. H.E. President Hu was accompanied by his wife, Liu Yongqing.

In a written statement issued on his arrival at the Brunei International Airport, the Chinese President expressed his great pleasure at being invited to Brunei by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. President Hu Jintao said China attaches great importance to developing relations with Brunei.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received President Hu Jintao Madam Liu

Yongqing, at the Istana Nurul Iman. During the audience, His Majesty bestowed the state decoration of Brunei Darussalam, the Most Esteemed Family Order Laila Utama or Darjah Kerabat Laila Utama Yang Amat Dihormati, DK, which carries the title Dato Laila Utama upon President Hu Jintao.

His Majesty and the Chinese leader also held a bilateral meeting and discussed bilateral and regional issues of common interest. The two leaders also discussed ways to enhance existing bilateral relations, including trade, investment, tourism and defence and health. Also present at the meeting were HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkuah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and his Chinese counterpart, Mr. Li Zhaoxing.

At a State Banquet held in honor of President Hu Jintao, His Majesty underlined the expansion of ties and cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and China. His Majesty noted that ever since both countries established diplomatic relations in 1991, friendship had steadily grown. "All this is in addition to the crucial work today of opening up new trade and investment opportunities. It has been set up in a fine spirit of common respect and common purpose," His Majesty said.

In his reply, President Hu Jintao said developing China-Brunei friendship and cooperation not only benefited the fundamental interests of the two countries, but also contributed to peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

President Hu added that the relations of good neighbourly friendship and cooperation between China and Brunei had already become a shining example of equal treatment, mutually beneficial cooperation and harmonious coexistence between big and small countries ■

### Exchange of Notes between Brunei Darussalam and China

An Exchange of Notes on the Exemption of Visas for Holders of Diplomatic, Official and Service Passports between the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of People's Republic of China was held on 21 April 2005, at the Empire Hotel and Country Club, Jerudong in conjunction with the two-day State Visit to Brunei Darussalam by Chinese President His Excellency Hu Jintao.

Representing Brunei Darussalam was Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Her Excellency Yang Yanyi, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Brunei representing the People's Republic of China.

## H.E. Shaukat Aziz, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Visits Brunei Darussalam



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha receive His Excellency Shaukat Aziz, Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Mrs. Begum Rukshana Aziz at the Istana Nurul Iman.

His Excellency Shaukat Aziz, the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Begum Rukhsana Aziz arrived in Brunei Darussalam on 7 May 2005 for a two-day official visit.

The Pakistani Prime Minister led a high-level delegation, which included Food and Agriculture Minister Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, Industries and Production Minister Jahangir Khan Tareen, Information Technology and Telecommunication Minister Awis Ahmed Khan Leghari, and Labour Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis Minister Ghulam Sat-war Khan.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha later granted an audience to the Pakistani Prime Minister and Begum Aziz.

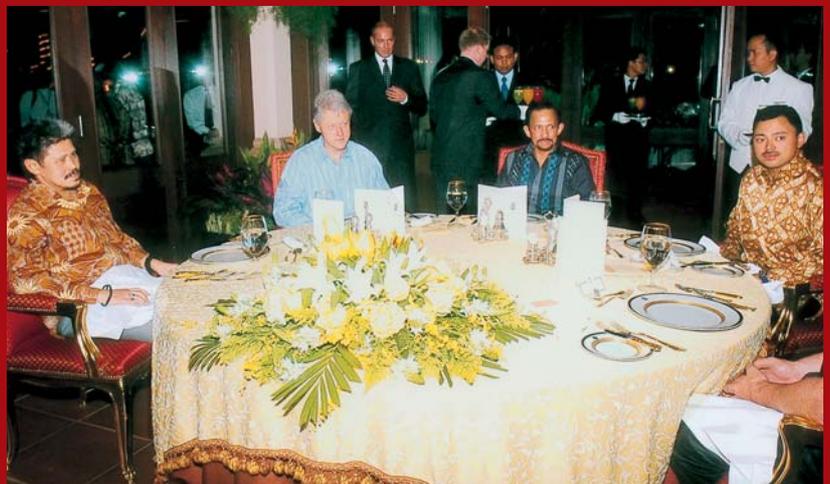
The Prime Minister also met members of the business community in the country, made a call to Minister of Education Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Pehin Dato Haji Awang Umar, and held a discussion with the Chairman of the Brunei Investment Agency ■

## Former U.S. President William Clinton Visits Brunei Darussalam

On 1 March 2005, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam hosted a dinner for the former President of the United States of America, His Excellency William J. Clinton in Jerudong. Also present at the function were HRH the Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Former President Clinton, the 42nd President of the United States visited Brunei Darussalam for a brief personal visit following his tour of the region as the United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy for the tsunami-affected countries.

The former President last visited Brunei Darussalam in 2000 as the American President to attend the APEC summit, hosted by Brunei Darussalam.



## H.E. Alberto Romulo, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Republic of the Philippines Visits Brunei Darussalam

His Excellency Alberto G. Romulo, Foreign Secretary arrived in Brunei Darussalam on 7 March 2005 for a two-day working visit. During the visit, the Foreign Secretary held a series of audiences with His Majesty, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and High Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The highlight of the visit was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Academic Cooperation in Higher Education between the Brunei Darussalam and Philippine governments.

The signing was held at the Balai Penghadapan Indera Kayangan on 10 March 2005. HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Romulo signed on behalf of their respective governments.

The MOU is aimed at promoting cooperation in higher education and professional training between the academic institutions of the Philippines and Brunei Darussalam on facilities, faculty, student and staff exchanges in the areas of Information Technology, Mathematics, Science and other disciplines.

It also provides a framework for cooperation and collaboration by government and private academic institutions on education and training systems, curriculum



His Majesty the Sultan and yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives in audience His Excellency Alberto Romulo, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines at the Istana Nurul Iman on 8 March 2005

development and research development in higher education.

It will build on the existing scholarship programmes of student exchange and other joint undertakings ■



HRH Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and HRH Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah receive H.E. Alberto Romulo and Mrs. Rosie Lovely Romulo on 8 March 2005



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and H.E. Alberto Romulo sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Academic Cooperation in Higher Education between Brunei Darussalam and the Philippines at the Balai Penghadapan Bukit Kayangan on 10 March 2005.

# HRH The Crown Prince Visits Republic of Singapore

On 9 March 2005, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and YTM Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Salleh Ab Rahaman began a three-day official visit to Singapore at the invitation of the Singapore Minister of Defence, H.E. Teo Chee Hean. Accompanying Their Royal Highnesses was YAM Prince Abdul Qawi.

The visit included meetings with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong and Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew.

On the first day of visit, HRH the Crown Prince and YTM Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah went on separate programmes.

HRH the Crown Prince began by visiting the Headquarters of the Singapore Ministry of Defence. Also present was YAM Pengiran Muda Qawi. HRH also attended a series of briefings on Singapore's Defence Policy.

In the afternoon, HRH visited the Changi Naval Base and attended a working luncheon hosted by the Minister of Defence at the Fleet Command Centre, Changi Naval Base. HRH also went to board the RSS Chieftain Submarine and Landing Ship Tank RSS Persistence.

In the evening, HRH the Crown Prince and YTM Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah attended a dinner in honour of their hosted by President S.R Nathan and Mrs. Nathan at the Istana. Among dignitaries attending the dinner were Defence Minister Rear Admiral Teo Chee Hean and Mrs Teo, and National Development



The Crown Prince calls on Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

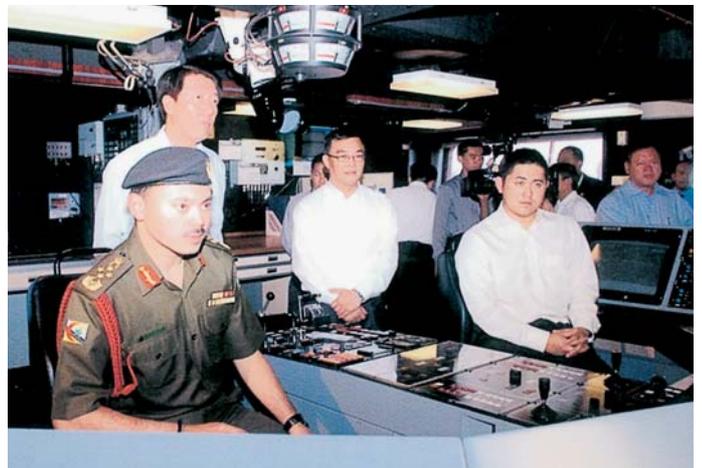
Minister, Mr. Mah Bow Tan and Mrs. Mah. Prior to the dinner, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince held a meeting with Minister Mentor, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew.

YTM Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah meanwhile began her programme with a guided city tour and visited the Asian Civilisations Museum in the afternoon.

On Friday, the Crown Prince visited Mediacorp and Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies at the Nanyang Technological University and YTM Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah spent the morning visiting the Singapore Sports School ■



Visit to Singapore Botanical Gardens with YTM Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah



Visit to Changi Naval Base accompanied by YAM Pengiran Muda Abdul Qawi

# Presentation of Credentials



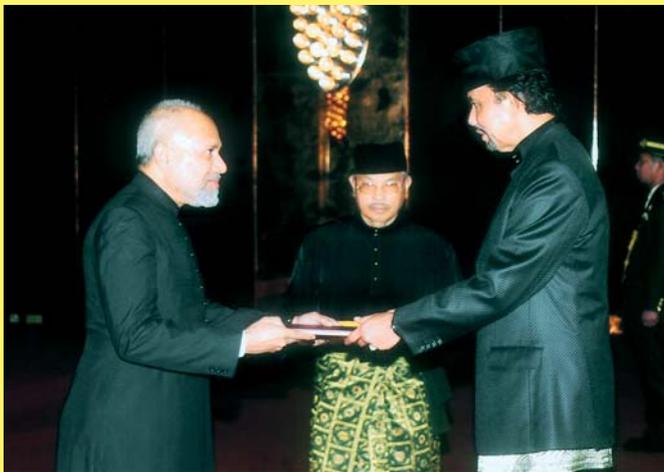
His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presents a Letter of Credentials to Pengiran Haji Sahari bin Pengiran Haji Salleh, the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Islamic Republic of Iran on 3 February 2005.

H.E. Pengiran Haji Sahari, 48, is the Director of the Department of Multilateral Economy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. H.E began his career in 1982 as an Education Officer.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presents a Letter of Credentials to Pengiran Datin Paduka Hajah Masrainah, the newly appointed High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Australia on 3 February 2005.

H.E. Pengiran Datin Hajjah Masrainah, 48, is the Director of the Department of ASEAN at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2003. H.E. began her career as an Education Officer in September 1980 and joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in July 1984.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives a Letter of Credentials from His Excellency Bustishkan Singh, the newly appointed High Commissioner of India to Brunei Darussalam on 3 February 2005.

H.E. Butshikan Singh, 58, is the Deputy Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi since January 2003 and holds the rank of joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives a Letter of Credentials from His Excellency Abbas Talebifar, the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic Iran to Brunei Brunei Darussalam on 3 February 2005.

H.E. Abbas Talebifar, 45, is the Director of Second Department for East Asia and Pacific since January 2002 until today. He holds the post of Deputy Director of Second Department for East Asia and Pacific since 2001.

# Presentation of Credentials



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives a Letter of Credentials from His Excellency Somsilp Polteja, the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam on 3 February 2005.

H.E. Somsilp Polteja, 57, is the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Thailand to Pakistan since January 2001.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presents a Letter of Credentials to the newly-appointed Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Pakistan, Pehin Datu Panglima Col. (Ret) Haji Abdul Jalil bin Haji Ahmad, on 5 February 2005.

H.E. Pehin Col. (Ret) Hj. Abdul Jalil, 52, began his career in the military as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1973. He was formerly the Commander of the Royal Brunei Navy in 1995.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presents a Letter of Credentials to Emaleen binti Abdul Rahman Teo, the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Philippines on 5 February 2005.

H.E. Emaleen Abd. Rahman Teo, 40, began her career in 1985 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a Research Officer. She was formerly the Director at the Permanent Secretary's Office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives a Letter of Credentials from Her Excellency Yang Yani, the newly-appointed Ambassador of the Peoples Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam on 5 February 2005.

H.E. Yang Yani, 50, has been the Deputy Director General, Department of Policy Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2001.

## Presentation of Credentials



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives a Letter of Credentials from His Excellency Andreas G Skarparis, the newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Cyprus to Brunei Darussalam. H.E. Andreas Skarparis is based in New Delhi.

H.E. Andreas Skarparis, 59, was formerly the Ambassador of Cyprus to Denmark and also accredited to Algeria.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives a Letter of Credentials from His Excellency Alfredo Raul Morelli, the non-resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Argentina. H.E. Alfredo Morelli is based in Kuala Lumpur.

H.E. Alfredo Morelli, 55, had several posts such as the Economic Counsellors of the Argentina Embassy in Washington, DC.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presents a Letter of Credentials to Magdalene Teo Chee Siong, the newly-appointed High Commissioner of Brunei to Canada on 15 March 2005.

H.E. Magdalene Teo, 49, was previously the Deputy High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam in London from August 2003 to March 2005.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, Sultan of Brunei presents a Letter of Credentials to Pengiran Dato Haji Sharifuddin bin Pengiran Haji Yusof, the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Thailand on 15 March 2005.

H.E. Pg Dato Haji Sharifuddin, 56, started his career with His Majesty's Government in 1977.

# Presentation of Credentials



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives a Letter of Credentials from the newly-appointed Ambassador of Libya to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Dr Ahmed Ali Hanesh on 15 March 2005.

H.E. Dr Ahmed Ali Hanesh, 63, is also the Country's Ambassador to Malaysia since 2002.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives a Letter of Credentials from the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Turkey, His Excellency M. Barlas Ozener on 15 March 2005.

H.E. Barlas Ozener, 60, was a former member of the political advisory group of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2002.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives a Letter of Credentials from the newly-appointed non-resident High Commissioner of Nigeria to Brunei, His Excellency Dr Wahab Olasseinde Dosunmu on 15 March 2005. H.E. Dr Wahab Dosunmu, 66, was a senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria representing Lugos West Senatorial District from 1999 to 2003.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives a Letter of Credentials from the newly-appointed High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam His Excellency Datuk Ali bin Abdullah on 31 March 2005.

# Presentation of Credentials



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives a Letter of Credentials from the newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Benin to Brunei Darussalam H.E. Bantole Yaba, on 31 March 2005

H.E. Bantole Yaba is based in Tokyo, Japan.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives a Letter of Credentials from the newly-appointed Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Brunei Darussalam H.E. Yousif Rashid Alsarhan, on 31 March 2005

H.E. Yousif Rashid Alsarhan is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives a Letter of Credentials from the newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Brunei Darussalam, H.E. Eugeniusz Sawicki, on 31 March 2005

H.E. Eugeniusz Sawicki is based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presents a Letter of Credentials to Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adam bin Haji Ahmad, the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Sultanate of Oman on 26 May 2005.

H.E. Dato Seri Haji Adam, 56, was previously the Director of Islamic Dakwah Centre, Ministry of Religious Affairs.

# Presentation of Credentials



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives a Letter of Credentials from His Excellency John Donald William Saville, the newly appointed High Commissioner of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Brunei Darussalam on 26 May 2005.

H.E. John Saville, 45, was previously a Counsellor at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London, England.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives a Letter of Credentials from His Excellency Patricio Torres Espinosa, the newly appointed non-resident Ambassador of Chile to Brunei Darussalam on 26 May 2005.

H.E. Patricio Torres is currently based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives a Letter of Credentials from His Excellency Alexander Alexeevich Karchava, the newly appointed non-resident Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Brunei Darussalam on 26 May 2005.

H.E. Alexander Karchava, 57, began his career in diplomatic service in 1992. He is currently based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

## Excerpt from Speech

“The International environment today is vastly different from 1945. We face new global issues, even while several old ones still remain to be solved.

Economics is high on the international agenda. Free markets and open competition have become the basis for economic co-operation. That most countries in the world are now concentrating on economic issue is an advance on a world pre-occupied with ideological conflicts.

The United Nations is still the best organisation to uphold a world order based on international law and the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity. Interdependence between nations has increased but has not displaced the the sovereignty of nations as the basic principle in international relations.

The United Nations give all members, big and small, an equal voice. This is important for small states like Brunei Darussalam. The United Nations Organisations must change to meet new challenges, but I hope it will continue to give small nations and adequate voice in its deliberations.”

*[ His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiyah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Commemorative Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly of the United Nations Organisation, New York, 1995 ]*

## Audiences at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs receives the outgoing Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Wei Wei on 5 January 2005.

H.E. Wei Wei has been the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam since January 2003.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Deputy Sultan receives Prof Ahmud Swaley Kasenally, the Special Adviser of the Prime Minister of Mauritius on 24 February 2005.

During the audience, Prof Ahmud, conveyed a personal message from Prime Minister Paul Raymond to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs receives His Excellency Thierry Borja de Mozota, the outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of France on 29 January 2005.

H.E. Thierry Borja de Mozoto has been the Ambassador of the Republic of France to Brunei Darussalam since March 2002.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs receives His Excellency Butishkan Singh, High Commissioner of India to Brunei Darussalam on 3 February 2005.

During the audience, HRH welcomed the new envoy and discussed bilateral matters.

## Audiences at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs receives His Excellency Abbas Talebifar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Brunei Darussalam on 3 February 2005.

During the audience, HRH welcomed the new envoy and discussed bilateral matters.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs receives His Excellency Sornsilp Polteja, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam on 3 February 2005.

During the audience, HRH welcomed the new envoy and discussed bilateral matters.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs receives Her Excellency Yang Yanyi, the newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam on 5 February 2005.

During the audience, HRH welcomed the new envoy and discussed bilateral matters.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs receives His Excellency Andreas G Skarparis, the new non-resident High Commissioner of Cyprus to Brunei Darussalam on 5 February 2005.

During the audience, HRH welcomed the new envoy and discussed bilateral matters.

## Audiences at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs receives His Excellency Alfredo Raul Morelli, the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Argentina to Brunei Darussalam on 5 February 2005.

During the audience, HRH welcomed the new envoy and discussed bilateral matters.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, receives His Excellency Dr. Oswald Soukop, the outgoing non-resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Austria to Brunei Darussalam on 24 February 2005.

During the audience, HRH expressed his appreciation to the envoy for his work and wished him much success in his future undertaking.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs receives in audience Gen. Ehsan UI-Haq, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs-Of-Staff Committee of Pakistan on 26 February 2005.

During the meeting, HRH and Gen. Ehsan UI-Haq discussed bilateral matters as well as regional and international affairs. Gen. Ehsan UI-Haq was in Brunei Darussalam as part of an introductory tour to Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam following his appointment on October 8, 2004.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs receives H.E. Sidi Morro Sanneh, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Gambia on 3 March 2005

H.E. Sidi Morro Sanneh is in Brunei Darussalam for a four-day official visit.

## Audiences at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs receives H.E. Dr Ahmad Ali Hanesh, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Libya to Brunei Darussalam based in Kuala Lumpur on 15 March 2005.

During the audience, HRH welcomed the new envoy and discussed bilateral matters.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs receives H.E. M. Barlas Ozener, the Ambassador of Turkey to Brunei Darussalam based in Kuala Lumpur on 15 March 2005.

During the audience, HRH welcomed the new envoy and discussed bilateral matters.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs receives H.E. Dr Wahab Olasseinde Dosunmu, the High Commissioner of Nigeria based in Kuala Lumpur on 15 March 2005.

During the audience, HRH welcomed the new envoy and discussed bilateral matters.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs receives the newly-appointed High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam H. E. Datuk Ali bin Abdullah on 31 March 2005.

During the audience, HRH welcomed the new envoy and discussed bilateral matters.

## Audiences at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan . . .



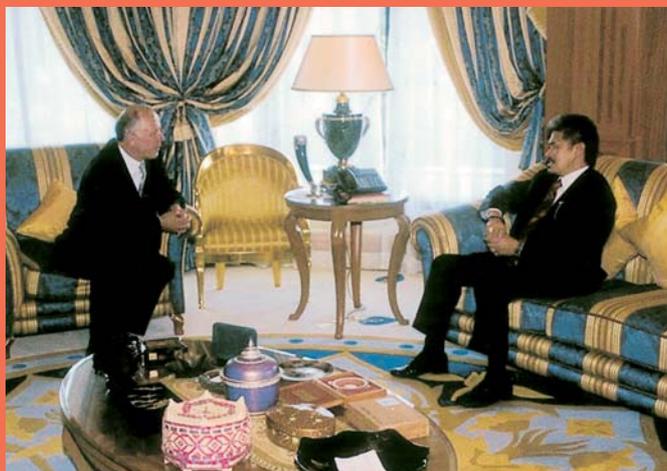
HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs receives the newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Benin to Brunei Darussalam H.E. Bantole Yaba, on 31 March 2005.

During the audience, HRH welcomed the new envoy and discussed bilateral matters.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs receives the newly-appointed Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Brunei Darussalam H.E. Yousif Rashid Alsarhan, on 31 March 2005.

During the audience, HRH welcomed the new envoy and discussed bilateral matters.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs receives the newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Brunei Darussalam, H.E. Eugeniusz Sawicki, on 31 March 2005.

During the audience, HRH welcomed the new envoy and discussed bilateral matters.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs receives the newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador of Chile to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Patricio Torres Espinosa on 28 May 2005.

His Excellency is currently based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

## Audiences at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs receives the newly-appointed High Commissioner of Britain to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency John Donald William Saville on 28 May 2005.

HRH welcomed the envoy and discussed bilateral matters. Prior to his appointment, the British High Commissioner was a Counsellor at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London, England.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs receives Mr. Xu Dunxin, the representative of His Excellency Li Zhaoxing, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China on 28 May 2005.

During the meeting, HRH received a letter from the Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs and exchanged views on current and regional affairs.

Mr. Xu Dunxin was in Brunei Darussalam on a three-day visit.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Deputy Sultan, receives the Hon. De-Anne Kelly MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs of Australia on 12 June 2005.

His Royal Highness welcomed Ms. Kelly, who is also Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence of Australia, and discussed bilateral matters between Brunei and Australia.

The Minister was in Brunei Darussalam on a two-day visit and leading eleven WWII veterans who were currently on a regional tour to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the landings by Australian forces in Borneo. Before arriving in Brunei Darussalam, the delegation was in Balikpapan, Tarakan and Labuan.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Deputy Sultan, receives His Excellency Luiz Augusto de Araujo Castro, Ambassador of Brazil to Mexico and Special Envoy of the President of Brazil on 13 June 2005.

His Royal Highness welcomed the envoy and exchanged views on a number of bilateral and international affairs.

His Royal Highness was also presented with a letter from President Lula de Silva of Brazil to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. His Excellency Luiz Augusto is currently in the country on a three-day visit.

## Reception at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan



- HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, hosted a luncheon for His Excellency Sidi Morro Sanneh, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Gambia on 3 March 2005 at the Balai Penghadapan Bukit Kayangan.

Prior to the luncheon, HRH and His Excellency discussed bilateral matters and exchanged views on a number of regional and international affairs.

Also present at the luncheon was HRH Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



- HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, hosted a luncheon for His Excellency Sidi Morro Sanneh, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Gambia on 3 March 2005 at the Balai Penghadapan Bukit Kayangan.

Prior to the Luncheon, HRH and His Excellency discussed bilateral matters and exchanged views on a number of regional and international affairs.

Also present at the luncheon was HRH Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



- HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah hosted a dinner for the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Philippines, the Hon. Alberto G. Romulo and Mrs. Rosie Lovely T. Romulo, as well as the Minister of Education of Malaysia, the Hon. Dato Hishamuddin Tun Hussein and Tengku Datin Marsilla Tengku Abdullah.

Also present at the dinner was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, accompanied by yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz.

## Reception at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan



- HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Deputy Sultan, hosted a dinner for His Excellency Nobutaka Machimura, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan on 8 June 2005.

Prior to the dinner, HRH and the Japanese minister, who was on a two-day visit, to Brunei Darussalam discussed bilateral relations between both countries and exchanged views on a number of current regional and international affairs.

HRH Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was also present at the dinner.



- HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Deputy Sultan hosted a luncheon Her Excellency Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan on 22 June 2005.

Prior to the luncheon, HRH and South African Foreign Minister bilateral relations and exchanged views on a number of current regional and international affairs. Dr. Nkosazana is in the country on a three-day visit.

Also present during the luncheon was HRH Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



- HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Deputy Sultan hosted a luncheon for Archbishop Giovanni Lajolo, Secretary for the Holy See's Relations with States at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan on 20 June 2005.

Prior to the luncheon, HRH and Archbishop Lajolo discussed international and regional matters of mutual interest. Archbishop Lajolo is in the country on a three-day visit.

Also present during the luncheon was HRH Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

ASEAN

## His Majesty Joins ASEAN Leaders in Jakarta, Indonesia



His Majesty addresses the "Special ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on Afetrmath of Earthquake and Tsunami" in Jakarta on 5 January 2005.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the "Special ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on Aftermath of Earthquake and Tsunami" in Jakarta on Wednesday, 5 January 2005. Accompanying His Majesty

was His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Special ASEAN Leaders Meeting was part of regional efforts to coordinate measures to deal with the aftermath of the recent earthquake and tsunami. At the meeting, leaders discussed ways to develop cooperation on disaster management at the national, regional and international level.

Among the matters discussed were immediate relief effort, long-term assistance and rebuilding, and a prevention system.

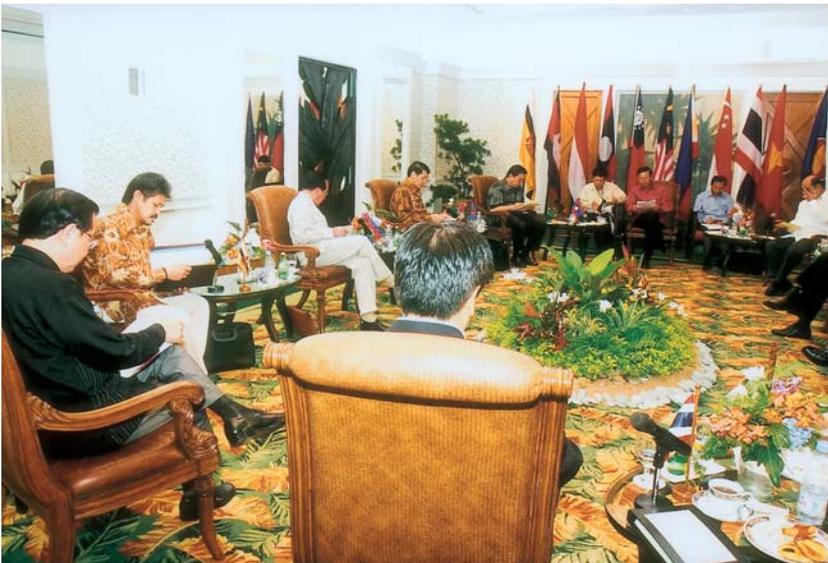
The meeting also requested the United Nations to take action, including the establishment of a special emergency fund for the relief and reconstruction of countries affected by the tsunami.

The meeting concluded with the adoption of the joint declaration ■



His Majesty and HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah on arrival at the Halim Perdana Kusuma Airport, Jakarta receive by H.E. Dr. Sofyan Djalil, Minister of Communication and Information.

## HRH Minister of Foreign Affairs Joins The Retreat of ASEAN Foreign Ministers in Cebu, Philippines



**HRH Prince Mohamad Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs with his fellow ASEAN Foreign Ministers and the ASEAN Secretary General in a group photo of solidarity (top) and during a closed-door discussions at the Ministerial Retreat at the Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort Hotel in Cebu, the Philippines (below)**

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the annual ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat held in Cebu City, Philippines, from 10 to 12 April 2005.

The ministers discussed regional and international issues, follow-up action to the latest ASEAN Summit and preparations for the ASEAN Summit to be held in Kuala Lumpur in December this year.

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers also discussed the East Asia Summit, the ASEAN Charter, ways to strengthen cooperation within ASEAN and Myanmar's Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2006.

In the afternoon, His Royal Highness attended a working lunch hosted by the Philippines' Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Francisco Benedicto.

His Royal Highness left Cebu, Philippines on 12 April 2005 ■

## The 2nd ASEAN-Canada Dialogue, Vancouver, Canada



The 2nd ASEAN-Canada Dialogue was held on April 4, 2005 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The Dialogue was preceded by a Retreat at Whistler on April 3, 2005. Delegations from ASEAN Member Countries and Canada, and the ASEAN Secretariat attended the Meeting and Retreat.

The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. David Mulroney, Assistant Deputy Minister (Bilateral Relations), Foreign Affairs Canada, and Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Mulroney expressed Canada's pleasure at hosting the Meeting. He noted that last year's Dialogue represented a watershed, being the first time that both sides had formally met at senior officials' level in seven years. He further noted the success of the ASEAN-Canada Partnership Symposium, held on 15 February 2005, and thanked Brunei Darussalam

for their assistance as Canada's ASEAN Coordinating Country, which had helped to make the dialogue possible. His Excellency further looked forward to upcoming events such as the inaugural ASEAN-Canada Senior Economic Officials' Meeting and Business Forum, to be held in Toronto in May 2-4, 2005 and the launch of the joint analytical study on ASEAN-Canada trade and investment.

In his opening remarks, Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng highlighted that the Dialogue had paved the way in revitalising and enhancing ASEAN-Canada relations. He also welcomed recent progress in the relations, in particular the successful convening of the ASEAN-Canada Partnership Symposium in Brunei Darussalam. He also welcomed the outcome of the visit by a representative from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to the ASEAN Secretariat in February 2005 as a useful way to enhance the understanding of both sides in developing and implementing specific areas of cooperation ■

*ASEAN-Canada relations was formalized in 1981 through the setting up of the ASEAN-Canada Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC). The Joint Planning and Monitoring Committee (JPMC) was set up in 1994 to oversee various projects at the planning and implementation level. Canada has provided technical assistance to ASEAN for projects on science and technology, human resources development, information and culture, and women in development, with a very strong emphasis on science and technology. Greater impetus is being given to the expansion of trade and investment between ASEAN and Canada.*

## The 15th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting, Jakarta, Indonesia

Pengiran Dato Paduka Osman bin Pengiran Patra, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs led the Brunei delegation to the 15th ASEAN-European Union Ministerial Meeting (AEMM) from 9 to 10 March 2005 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The 15th AEMM was preceded by an ASEAN-European Union Senior Officials' Meeting on 9 March 2005.

At the 15th AEMM, the Ministers discussed political-security issues, exchanged views on the regional and international situation, and reviewed ASEAN-European Union relations. The meeting also aimed to strengthen ties between ASEAN and the European Union.

## Brunei and ASEAN to Start Free Trade with Korea



Brunei and other ASEAN member countries have agreed to start free merchandise trade with South Korea by next year. This consensus came to light during the first round of negotiations between both sides in Jakarta aimed at tariff-free access by 2009.

Four more rounds of talks are scheduled to take place between South Korea and ASEAN member countries in order to establish a specific timetable for cutting tariffs on merchandise, according to Korean news agencies on March 2.

Once the accord is signed in December, duties on 80 per cent of products traded between the two sides will be eliminated by 2009, with Korean corporations having tariff-free access to one of the world's top three economic blocks with EU and North America FTA, the 530 million-strong ASEAN market.

Unlike previous FTA talks, Korea engaged in two-track discussions with ASEAN, due in part to the different levels of development among ASEAN economies, where the initial focus on merchandise will be followed by free-crossborder services and investment.

The first three-day talks between Korea and ASEAN on 23 February 2005 in Jakarta were co-chaired by Hong Jong-Ki, Deputy Minister for Trade, and David Chin, the Director-General at Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry, who headed the ASEAN delegation. About thirty delegates from ASEAN member countries took part.

The first round sprang from the decision to conclude a free-trade deal within two years from 2005 following the 'Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Co-operation Partnership between ASEAN and Korea'.

His Majesty the Sultan of and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei together with other ASEAN Heads of States urged its acceleration at the Korea-ASEAN Summit last November in Vientiane.

First round discussions culminated with trade partners' agreement to begin talks on investment and services early next year and to conclude negotiations by the end of 2006. The next round of formal talks building on the latest round is set for April 19 in Seoul ■

### ASEAN - Republic of Korea

*The Republic of Korea (ROK) became a Dialogue Partner of ASEAN in July 1991. Cooperation between ASEAN and ROK covers trade, investment, tourism, science and technology, human resource development and development cooperation. Future areas of cooperation will include youth, media and culture. The ASEAN-ROK Special Cooperation Fund was established under the dialogue to finance technical and development cooperation activities.*

*An ASEAN-ROK Forum for the 21st Century has also been inaugurated in 1997 to recommend measures for the improvement of ASEAN-ROK relations for the next century.*

*ASEAN-ROK cooperation in the political field has been strengthened by regular dialogue and exchange of views on regional and international issues through existing mechanisms such as Summit, ministerial meeting, ASEAN-ROK Dialogue, ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation, Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) + 10 and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).*

## His Majesty Attends ASROC Summit in Jakarta and Bandung



**His Majesty and other Heads of States and Governments at the opening of 55th Asian-African Summit in Jakarta**

On 29 April 2005, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Asia and Africa Summit held in Jakarta, Indonesia. His Majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam. The Asian-African Summit in Jakarta brought together more than forty heads of state and government and other leaders representing well over one hundred nations in the continents of Asia and Africa.

The meeting was co-chaired by the President of Indonesia, Doctor Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and the President of South Africa, Mr. Thabo Mbeki. The meeting began with a minute of silence to remember the thousands who lost their lives during the earthquake and tsunami tragedy that hit many countries in the Indian Ocean Basin.

At the Summit, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam signed the declaration of

Strategic Partnership which sealed the renewed commitment of the leaders to help improve the fate of the people in the two continents.

In his address at the Summit, His Majesty said that Brunei offered its solidarity with all leaders attending the Asian African Summit in Indonesia, its friendship and commitment for peaceful cooperation amongst all the countries

His Majesty expressed deepest sympathy to all families who had suffered a great personal loss in the December tsunami and the more recent earthquake in Sumatra. His Majesty said the people of Brunei were

deeply distressed and would continue do whatever they could assist in rebuilding their lives and communities ■



**His Majesty was received on arrival at the Halim Perdanakusuma Airport by H.E. Purnomo Yusgiantoro, Minister of Energy and Resources. Accompanying His Majesty at the 55th Asian-African Summit was HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs.**

### Asian and African leaders pay homage to predecessors' landmark achievements

On 1 May 2005, His Majesty together with the other leaders attending the Asia-Africa Summit visited Bandung to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first conference. Also with His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam.

The colourful gathering in the heart of Bandung was held to commemorate what happened fifty years ago at the first post-colonial meeting of Asian and African Leaders.

As His Majesty and his colleagues stepped out from Savoy Hotel, they were in fact re-enacting the historic walk to the Gedong Merdeka or the Hall of Independence. The short walk which took about ten minutes was the actual path taken by the leaders fifty years ago. The historic walk was led by the President of Indonesia, Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

## His Majesty Attends the Second South Summit of the G-77 & China in Doha, Qatar



**His Majesty delivers an address at the first session of the Second South Summit of the G-77 and China in Doha, Qatar.**

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined other heads of state at the inaugural ceremony of the Second South Summit of the Group of 77, known as G-77, in Doha, Qatar on 15 June 2005.

His Majesty was welcomed on arrival by the Minister of State for Family Affairs of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Mohammad bin 'Eid Al-Thani.

The summit was attended by 132 states from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Caribbean. It opened with a call to

address the State of South-South Cooperation and to review the development challenges facing by members of the group and the creation of a special development fund for the countries of the South.

At the first session of the Second South Summit of the Group 77 [G77], His Majesty spoke of Brunei Darussalam's wish to contribute to the Second South Summit's goal on development.

His Majesty referred to the first South Summit in Havana, which laid a unified foundation for South countries. This unity, His Majesty stated, had placed the G77 to successfully work with developed nations

His Majesty saw the importance of G77 transforming itself into a unified force in international affairs, and hoped discussions on improvising the United Nations would be deliberated not just for the sake of a political agenda. In this regard, His Majesty said Brunei would have an open mind in attending the upcoming High Level Plenary Meeting in September.

On the sidelines of the meeting, His Majesty held separate bilateral meetings with King of Nepal, Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev and President Mathieu Kerekou from the Republic of Benin.

His Majesty discussed efforts to enhance bilateral cooperation with both leaders ■



**His Majesty held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency President Mathieu Kerekou of the Republic of Benin.**



**His Majesty and King of Nepal, His Majesty Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev held a bilateral meeting in Doha, Qatar.**

## HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs Attends the 7th ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting in Kyoto, Japan



**HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs joins the ASEM's Foreign Ministers for a photo call.**

HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs joined ASEM ministers at the official opening of the 7th Asia Europe Meeting [ASEM] Foreign Ministers' meeting at the Kyoto State Guest House on 7 May 2005.

Japan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Nobutaka Machimura hosted the ministers at a working dinner. In his statement during the course of the working dinner, HRH reaffirmed the basic objectives of ASEM and its importance to overall Asia-Europe relations.

The 7th ASEM saw foreign ministers calling on North Korea to return to the six-party negotiations on its nuclear programme amid growing concern that it is now preparing to test a nuclear weapon.

The Chairman's Statement of the 7th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting, also confirmed the commitment to multilateralism and to a fair, just and rule-based international order with the United Nations playing the central role in addressing new global challenges and threats.

The ministers also reiterated the need to strengthen efforts on disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and called upon all states to implement urgently all international counter-terrorism conventions and relevant UN security convention.

The environment remains a priority as the statement from the Chairman of ASEM reiterated the importance of the Kyoto Protocol and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The statement also urged countries that had not yet concluded the Kyoto Protocol to do so as soon as possible to ensure wider participation. The Kyoto protocol is a requirement for 35 industrialized nations to cut down greenhouse emission.

The countries affected by the recent tsunami called for support from the countries and people of Asia and Europe to establish regional early warning systems in accordance with national priorities and under the coordination of UN agencies.

HRH Prince Mohamed, the Minister of Foreign Affairs also attended the Second Plenary Session of the Foreign Minister's Meeting. In the morning session, ministers discussed economic, social and cultural relations. This was followed by a working luncheon, during which His Royal Highness delivered a statement on the future direction of ASEM.

HRH also held a bilateral meeting with Benita Ferrero-Waldner, EU Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighborhood Policy, and discussed Brunei Darussalam EU relations ■

# His Majesty Pledges Brunei's Active Participation in the Commonwealth



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a message on the occasion of the Commonwealth Day on March 15, acknowledged the contributions, benefits and uniqueness of the Commonwealth and pledged Brunei's continuous active participation in all its endeavours.

"Today we celebrate Brunei Darussalam's membership of the Commonwealth and the spirit of goodwill and mutual respect that link us with our fellow members," stated His Majesty.

"We honour a partnership in which members seek, above all, to improve the day-to-day lives of all citizens by sharing each other's expertise and special experiences and, this year, we particularly support the Commonwealth's efforts to reach this fundamental objective through education."

In highlighting the relationship with the Commonwealth, His Majesty said, "We in Brunei Darussalam, like our fellow members, have benefited a great deal from our membership of the Commonwealth and will continue to

offer our active participation in all its endeavours.

"In doing so, we recognise the unique qualities of a free association of 52 nations, which, although diverse in so many ways, brings its members together in friendship and in their commitment to social, economic and cultural development,

"We acknowledge the powerful contribution this makes to the principle of dialogue, peaceful negotiation and consensus that we believe are vital in the conduct of international diplomacy," added His Majesty.

His Majesty said that Brunei appreciated the Commonwealth's constant commitment to bringing direct, practical benefits to the day-to-day lives of its citizens.

He also praised the Commonwealth for doing all it could to ensure those future generations had the opportunities and the means to live peaceful, purposeful lives in peaceful, purposeful communities ■

*The Commonwealth is an association of 53 independent countries and their people. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is the Head of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth has no charter but is an informal grouping of countries in different regions of the world, consisting of different races and representing a number of interests, to exchange opinions in a friendly and intimate atmosphere. Its aims are to promote international peace and order, equal rights for all citizens and a fairer global society.*

### **Brunei Darussalam's role in Commonwealth**

*Brunei Darussalam became the 49th member of the Commonwealth upon resumption of its independence on 1st January 1984. The Commonwealth has provided Brunei Darussalam with opportunities to pursue and promote its foreign policy objectives in a multilateral forum.*

*Since joining the Commonwealth, Brunei Darussalam has attended every Commonwealth Heads of the Government Meeting (CHOGM) respectively held in Nassau in 1985, Vancouver in 1987, Kuala Lumpur in 1989, Harare in 1991, Limmasol in 1993, Auckland in 1995, Edinburgh in 1997 in Durban South Africa in 1999, Coolom, Australia in 2002 and Abuja, Nigeria in 2003. The next CHOGM will be in Valletta, Malta from 25-27 November 2005 and in Kampala, Uganda in 2007. These meetings have provided a platform on which international affairs can be discussed and bilateral relations developed and strengthened. Ministers have also attended the Commonwealth meetings in areas of education, finance, health, law, women and youth. This year, for the first time, the Commonwealth will convene a Pre-CHOGM Meeting for Foreign Ministers which will discuss substantive issues previously deliberated by leaders in CHOGM.*

*Brunei Darussalam has also participated in the Commonwealth Games since 1990 in Auckland and most recently in Manchester, England in 2002. The next Commonwealth Games will be in Melbourne in 2006.*

*The Heads of Government in 1965 established the Commonwealth Secretariat under the direction of Commonwealth governments. The Secretariat, which is based in London, is headed by the Secretary-General, Rt. Hon. Don McKinnon. The Secretariat co-ordinates the work of the association, organises intergovernmental consultations, services Commonwealth meetings and conducts programmes of co-operation and disseminates information.*

## HRH Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-large attends APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting in Jeju, Korea



HRH Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs joins the group-photo of the APEC Ministers responsible for Trade Meeting in Korea.

HRH Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting in the Republic of Korea. The meeting was held in Jeju Island from 2 to 3 June 2005. Her Royal Highness also held a bilateral meeting with Kim Hyun-Chong, Minister for Trade at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Republic of Korea at the Shilla Hotel.

Brunei Darussalam together with Chile, New Zealand and Singapore became the founding members of the first ever Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement.

Present at a joint press conference to announce the new agreement was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Also present were Mr. Ignacio Walker, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Hon. Jim Sutton, New Zealand Minister for Trade negotiations, and Mr. Li Hug Kiang,

Singapore Minister for Trade and Industry.

The new agreement signaled the beginning of a partnership that bridges Latin America, the Pacific and Asia.

The Trans-Pacific SEP was formally known as the Pacific Three Closer Economic Partnership (P3-CEP) with its negotiations first launched at the APEC Leaders Summit in Los Cobos, Mexico in 2002 by the Chilean President and Prime Ministers of Singapore and New Zealand.

In the Joint Press Statement, ministers from Chile, New Zealand and Singapore formally

accepted Brunei as a founding member of the agreement, on terms that allow Brunei progressively to implement some of its commitments over the next two years.

Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi, Director General of the WTO, briefed the morning session meeting on the latest development in the WTO Doha Development Agenda negotiations. HRH Princess Hajah Masna thanked Dr Supachai for his efforts over the past three years in advancing the Doha Development Agenda.

In the afternoon session, the APEC Mid-Term Stock Take process of the Bogor Goals of freer and more open trade in the Asia-Pacific region by 2020 were discussed. Ministers heard a report on the recommendation by the recently concluded Mid-Term Stock-Take Symposium.

HRH Princess Hajah Masna attended a Gala Dinner hosted by Mr. Hyun Chong Kim, Minister of Trade of the Republic of Korea ■

## HRH Princess Hajah Masna Opens the International HRD Convention and Exhibition



**HRH Princess Hajah Masna delivers an opening remark at International HRD Convention and Exhibition held at the ICC, Berakas**

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna in her opening remarks during the International HRD Convention and Exhibition said that open-mindedness should be the answer to the growing awareness of the complexity of HRD in the New Economy and the challenges it posed.

“There is a growing realisation that human resource practitioners need to be able to work on problem focused and solution-driven issues in multi-disciplinary teams and are capable of developing strategies that support and drive business growth,” she stressed.

The Princess said that the Convention upheld His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei’s tith on the importance of continuously updating the skills of Burundians in order to prosper in the New Economy.

HRH also said that a consultative study was currently being undertaken in Brunei to review and improve the present state of HRD policies and programmes.

This essentially took into account the evaluation of education, academic, vocational, technical and other related programmes carried out in the country.

In line with the theme “HRD Challenges and Opportunities in the New Economy”, the convention discussed areas of critical importance in HRD, Strategic HRD, Learning Culture, Talent Development, Competency Development and Performance Management Tool.

“What we are aiming at is a comprehensive formulation that best serves the objectives of the HRD needs of our country,” Princess Masna said, recognising the new demands placed on both government and the private sector by the sheer speed of modernisation and the human qualities it called for.

“This convention,” HRH further stressed, “represents a giant stride in our efforts to strengthen the competitiveness of our people by continuous learning, unlearning and relearning.”

HRH reminded Human Resources practitioners of the importance of constantly deepening and widening their knowledge to enable them to deliver their thoughts and ideas with assurance and credibility.

Their decisions had to stand the test of time for the sustainable economic and social development of the country, HRH Princess Masna added.

The three-day Brunei International HRD Convention & Exhibition, held at the International Convention Centre, began with a keynote address by former prime minister of Malaysia, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad ■



## HRH Princess Hajah Masna Attends Philippine's Independence Day

HRH Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, graced a reception to mark the 107th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas on 14 June 2005. Also present at the event was YAM Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz.

In her speech, HRH highlighted the relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Philippines that had seen much progress. Cooperation in various fields had been intensified where economic linkages continued to strengthen. Regular exchange of visits had also forged closer ties between the two countries.

On trade relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Philippines, HRH said that it is increasing and believed it could be improved further and encouraged both stakeholders to explore ways to expand trade cooperation between the two countries.

Earlier, the Ambassador of Philippines, Her Excellency Virginia H. Bienavidez, in her speech, praised the on-going scholarship programs being implemented



Photo shows HRH Princess Hajah Masna and Philippines Ambassador to Brunei, Her Excellency Virginia Benavidez, cutting the anniversary cake.

by His Majesty's Government for Filipino Muslims Madrasah School Teachers and Administrators. It will pave the way towards capacity building and skills upgrading provided to Muslims in the Philippines. Her Excellency also expressed her gratefulness for Brunei Darussalam's hand of partnership and consistent support for her country's steadfast, determined and ultimate objective to bring peace to the people in Mindanao, Philippines ■

## HRH Launches Girl Guides Bazaar for the Tsunami victims



On 27 February 2005, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna launched the Girl Guides Bazaar held at Girl Guides Headquarters near the National Stadium in Berakas. The bazaar was organised in conjunction with the Think Day 2005. All proceeds from the bazaar sale was donated to the tsunami victims fund.

HRH who is also the President of Girl Guides Association, also donated some of her personal belongings for auction at the bazaar.

The Think Day was initiated in 1926 at the fourth Girl Guides/Girl Scouts International Conference held at Camp Edith Macy in USA.

The Think Day is a day to think of something around the world, and in Brunei Darussalam all thoughts are with the tsunami victims in the region ■

## HRH Attends Open House at the Chinese Embassy

On 14 February 2005, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-At-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, attended an open house in conjunction with the Chinese New Year at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Berakas.

HRH was greeted on arrival by Her Excellency Yang Yani, the newly appointed Chinese Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam. HRH was accompanied by YAM Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz.

**Berlin,  
Federal Republic  
of Germany**

H.E. Dato Paduka Hj. Adnan Buntar, Brunei Darussalam's Ambassador in Berlin caters guests during the reception to mark the 21st National Day Anniversary held on 23 February 2005.

**Muscat, Oman**

Dyg Hj Nor Huda bte BPK Hj Ahmad, Cahrgé d'affair a.i. hosting the reception to mark the 21st National Day Anniversary on 23 February 2005. Attending the reception was H.E. Sheikh Abdullah bin Salem Al-Rowas, Minister of Regional Municipalities, Environment and Water Resources as Guest of Honour.

**Beijing,  
Peoples Republic  
of China**

H.E. Haji Abdul Hamid Jalil, Brunei Darussalam's Ambassador to China receives H.E. Wu Duwei, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs as Special Guest at the reception which was held on 23 February 2005 at Hilton Hotel in Beijing.

**Singapore**

H.E. Pengiran Dato Yussof Kula, Brunei Darussalam's High Commissioner to Singapore with the Special Guests, H.E. Lim Boon Heng, Minister at the Prime Minister's Department and two members of Parliament from the GRC at the reception on 23 February 2005.



## Presentation of Credentials



H.E. Dato Paduka Haji Yusoff Hj. Abd. Hamid presented his Letter of Credentials as non-resident Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Hungary to H.E. Ferenc Madl, President of the Republic of Hungary.

The presentation of credentials was held at the Sandor Palace, Budapest on 17 March 2005.



H.E. Pengiran Haji Sahari bin Pengiran Haji Salleh presented his Letter of Credentials as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to H.E. Hojatol Islam Wal Moslemin Seyyed Mohammad Khatami, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The presentation of credentials was held at the President Saadabad Palace, Teheran on 14 April 2005.



H.E. Magdalene Teo Chee Siong presented her Letter of Credentials as High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Canada to H.E. Adrienne Clarkson, Governor-General of Canada.

The presentation of credentials was held at the Rideu Hall, Ottawa on 27 May 2005.

## Appointments & Transfers

### Effective 4 January 2005 :

Haji Mohd Hamid bin Haji Mohd Jaafar, Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was appointed as the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.

Haji Md. Mahdi bin Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Abdul Rahman, the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health was transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the Deputy Permanent Secretary.

Published by:

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

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