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State Visit to
Brunei Darussalam
by King Carl XVI
Gustaf of Sweden

Front Page



Left to right:
HRH Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf, Her Majesty Queen Silvia and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha

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Her Excellency Prime Minister of Bangladesh visits Brunei Darussalam

Her Excellency Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, paid an official visit to Brunei Darussalam at the invitation of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, from 25 to 26 January 2004. She was the first Bangladesh's Head of Government to visit Brunei Darussalam.

Present at the airport to welcome the Prime Minister of Bangladesh was His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam.

During the visit, official talks between the two delegations were held at the Istana Nurul Iman on 25 January 2004. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh led their respective delegations. The talks, held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere covered both bilateral and international matters of common interest and concern. These included cooperation in the fields of trade, investment, labour and defence.

At a State Banquet held in honour of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh's visit, His Majesty the Sultan and yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam saw the need for nations in the region to work closely together, share experiences and learn from each other in dealing with issues like globalisation.

His Majesty said the two regions had vast resources, people and strong resilience in culture. The challenge to us all is to harness these to the task of making vast political, social, economic challenges that will be offered in the 21st century.

"To this extent, South Asia and Southeast Asia are important. I feel the importance we as individual nations are placing our role in our regional associations. The 20th century has highlighted the dangers of pure nationalism.

"The current concept of globalisation may have similar dangers. Thus, it emphasises the need for us all to work



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers the speech at the banquet hosted in honour of the Bangladeshi Premier HE Begum Khaleda Zia

closely together, share experiences and learn from each other."

"You and I have both recently returned from summit meetings of our respective regional organisations. Leaders of ASEAN Summit in Bali and SAARC Summit in Islamabad appeared to have been united in the approach to the immediate future.

"In ASEAN, we are confident that our people have the talent, innovative skills and imagination to master today's world.

"What leaders are urgently addressing is the far-reaching question of how to deal with an environment to enable this quality to flourish. Such an environment will require practical economic programme that links our whole region and even our neighbours.

"It will require great political sophistication from national leaders and patience, understanding and commitment from the citizens. It will mean cohesion in the sense of common purpose, tolerance and flexibility.

"What it will not invite, as some would try persuading our people, is violence of action and division of society and nation. For this reason, I was most encouraged by the Islamabad Declaration issued three weeks ago.

"Your Social Charter represents profound and far reaching programme for social development. Your regional convention on the suppression for terrorism is also a very important contribution.

"Above all, the action taken by SAARC members on security matters is a sign of renewed confidence that ancient conflict and dispute can be addressed non-violently."

Her Excellency, Begum Khaleda Zia, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh said there are many areas of cooperation in which the two countries can profitably learn from one another. These included information technology,



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs welcoming the arrival of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Her Excellency Begum Khaleda Zia at the Brunei International Airport

energy cooperation, human resources development and hardcore economic areas of trade investment and services.

"I am confident that our discussions will identify useful areas for advancement. I am also hopeful that our business delegation will act as a catalyst to boost trade and investment.

"Bangladesh offers a highly attractive business environment. Given its strategic location, low cost of labour and availability of skilled labour, businessmen from Brunei will find a profitable, base for investment. I encourage

entrepreneurs from Brunei to visit Bangladesh and explore the prospects for themselves.

The Prime Minister said that Bangladesh also looked forward to strengthening cooperation with Brunei within the regional and sub-regional framework.

"Bangladesh supports various ASEAN initiatives and is keenly pursuing its membership of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). We recall with gratitude Brunei's support to our nomination and look forward to its invaluable support for our membership."

(see Joint Statement on page 13)

His Majesty the King of Sweden Visits Brunei Darussalam

His Majesty Carl XVI Gustaf, the King of Sweden and Her Majesty Queen Silvia arrived in Brunei Darussalam for a three-day State Visit from 7 to 9 February 2004.

Welcoming the Royal Swedish visitors at the Brunei International Airport were His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al Muthaddee Billah, and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam bestowed the State Decoration, the Darjah Kerabat Mahkota Brunei (DKMB) or the Royal Family Order of the Crown of Brunei to His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf and the Darjah Kerabat Laila Utama Yang Amat Dihormati (DK) or the Most Esteemed Family Order Laila Utama to Her Majesty Queen Silvia.

His Majesty the King of Sweden bestowed the Royal Order of the Seraphim to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Brunei Darussalam and the Royal Order of the Polar Star to Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha.

This was the first State Visit of His Majesty Carl XVI Gustaf, the King of Sweden and Her Majesty Queen Silvia to Brunei Darussalam. His Majesty was on a private visit to the country in January last year.

His Majesty Carl XVI Gustaf, the King of Sweden and Her Majesty Queen Silvia began their separate itinerary of their State Visit two hours after their arrival in Brunei Darussalam. His Majesty the King of Sweden visited the Brunei Darussalam Scout Association Headquarters in the capital and saw various exhibitions outlining the history and activities of the Brunei Darussalam Scout Association.

Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden visited the Jame



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah greets Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden. Also in the picture are His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha

'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque in Kampong Kiarong accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brunei Darussalam.

At a State Banquet held in honour of the royal visit, His Majesty the Sultan highlighted the progress made in recent years in strengthening ties between the two countries. His Majesty the Sultan said that the two countries had much to offer each other and looked forward to the respective government and business sectors continuing to work together in close cooperation and friendship.

In reply, His Majesty the King of Sweden expressed the hopes that the state visit would result in growing commercial cooperation between the two countries.

During the visit, His Majesty the King of Sweden also led a delegation of Swedish businessmen at a seminar held at the Empire Hotel and Country Club in Jerudong. Various topics were discussed including investment potential, information technology, telecommunications, infrastructure and the environment.

His Majesty the King of Jordan visits Brunei Darussalam

His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein, the King of Jordan arrived in Brunei Darussalam on 26 February 2004 on a two-day private visit.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam greeted His Majesty King Abdullah II at the Brunei International Airport, Berakas. Also present to welcome His Majesty King Abdullah II at the airport was His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam.

From the Brunei International Airport, His Majesty King Abdullah II made a visit to the Empire Hotel and Country Club in Jerudong.

The excellent relations between the two countries are marked by the close personal relationship between members of the two royal families. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visited Jordan in 1984 and 1999. Whilst the late His Majesty King Hussein visited Brunei Darussalam in 1986 and 1992.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty King Abdullah of Jordan attending a dinner at the Pantar Restaurant in Jerudong. Also present was HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Brunei Darussalam.



Their Majesties at the farewell ceremony

His Excellency President of Ukraine visits Brunei Darussalam

His Excellency Leonid Kuchma, President of Ukraine and the First Lady, Mrs. Lyudmyla Kuchma made a State Visit to Brunei Darussalam from 7 to 9 March 2004. This was the first-ever Head of State level visit to Brunei Darussalam by a President of Ukraine.

At the Istana Nurul Iman, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam bestowed a state decoration, the Darjah Kerabat Laila Utama Yang Amat di Hormati (DK) or The Most Esteemed Family Order Laila Utama on President Kuchma, and the Darjah Kerabat Seri Utama Yang Amat Dihormati, (DK) or the Most Esteemed family Order Laila Utama on Mrs. Lyudmyla Kuchma.

President Kuchma, bestowed the order of Prince Yaroslav The Wise, First Class on His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Order of Princess Olha, First Class on Her Majesty the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Hj Al-Muhtadee Billah with His Excellency Leonid D. Kuchma, President of Ukraine and First Lady Lyudmyla Kuchma at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Darussalam and His Excellency Leonid Kuchma later held a bilateral meeting. Present at the meeting was His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam.

On 8 March 2004, His Majesty the Sultan hosted a State Banquet in honour of the visiting President at the Istana

Nurul Iman .

During the dinner, His Majesty delivered a speech calling for greater and closer cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Ukraine. His Majesty urged Brunei officials and the business community to take every opportunity to strengthen bilateral relations with Ukraine. "Not only as friends but in a cooperative and substantial manner ."

His Majesty said that bilaterally he saw several areas in which the Brunei government and business communities may wish to look into future cooperation with Ukraine.

"We are delighted that we have begun to strengthen our ties with Ukraine. We have little knowledge of Eastern Europe and that which we have about your own country has come largely from books. In this way, we have learnt your long and proud history, unique culture, your wealth of natural resources and the many talents and achievements of your people in the arts, industry and in sport.

"We would like to offer our congratulations to you and your government and people on the achievements made in your country over the last decades. I particularly would like to commend you on the far-reaching programme of economic reform that you are undertaking both nationally and in terms of providing each Ukrainian family with the means and skills to plan their future with hope and

confidence.

"We in Brunei have embarked on a similar national plan for economic development and diversification with the same ultimate aim in mind. It will therefore be of great interest to us to share and exchange views and progress of these vital national endeavours"

His Majesty added that the visit by the Ukrainian president would bring both the countries closer together as friends and partners in international affairs, especially through the United Nations where goodwill and understanding among fellow members is such a vital force for progress today.

President Kuchma in his return speech highlighted the high stability and harmony of social relations in Brunei that enabled the country to move towards progress without any political upheaval.

"It goes without saying that outstanding achievements in Brunei are first and foremost the result of the indefatigable efforts of His Majesty, a prominent statesman whose authority and merits are well known all over the world.

"We, the Ukrainians, are sincerely glad to learn of the achievements of your people and we regard the modern history of Brunei as a vivid example of successful development of a contemporary and thriving country in the world of globalisation"

(see Joint Statement on page 14)

His Excellency President of Singapore visits Brunei Darussalam

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received the President of Singapore, Mr Sellapan Ramanathan Nathan and his wife, Mrs S.R Nathan on 16 March 2004 for a three-day State Visit

They were welcomed at the Brunei International Airport by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

At a state banquet in honour of the visiting President, His Majesty highlighted the common interest of Singapore and Brunei Darussalam in maintaining peace to ensure the future of its citizens.

His Majesty declared that both Brunei and Singapore had joint interests in ensuring regional peace and security which are special factors that link the two small nations in today's world.

His Majesty said it required both countries to direct their efforts towards two aims.

"The first, of course, is to ensure the future for our own individual citizens. Our people must do far more than merely accept passively the changes that are shaping every aspect of modern life.

"They must be equipped to face them with confidence. As you have pointed out, our countries have physical limitations. Hence, our people must do far more than just cope with modern changes. They must master them and



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Hj Al-Muhtadee Billah with the President of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Mr. S R Nathan and Mrs S R Nathan at the Istana Nurul Iman.

benefit from them.

“That, I believe, is the only path that leads to stability and the personal security it can offer our people in the deepest sense of the word.

“The rest of the world will not help us to develop unless we offer it a reason to be involved with us and to invest in our future. That is the challenge we face economically and technologically.

“For this reason, we in Brunei greatly appreciate the opportunities our relations with Singapore provide. Through them, we gain knowledge, increase expertise and share experiences in many walks of life today.

“We have developed great respect for each other and we hold regular consultations at all levels of public and private life. These form part of a network of similar relations we have with our partners in ASEAN.

“Cooperation is the heart of ASEAN and the relations between members are of the vital arteries. They contain the association’s lifeblood. Its programmes, its projects and its ultimate objectives flow through them. So, ultimately, they ensure that Asean’s heart is strong. I therefore judge the relations between Brunei and Singapore in that light.

His Majesty also pointed out that over the last 20 years, the two countries had established a very strong and important tie.

“It has many strands. They range from the specific links, which bind our currencies to the broad sweep of the consultations we conduct in almost every aspect of modern life, both public and commercial. Our cooperation is far-reaching and lasting.”

His Majesty said 20 years since Brunei’s independence, the country greatly appreciates the generosity and encouragement given by the leaders of Singapore and its representatives in international affairs.

“Your people have been our close companions on our journeys into the demanding world of international statehood. It is a matter of great satisfaction to my government and people to have enjoyed Singapore’s confidence and cooperation for all this time.”

President S R Nathan in his reply said His Majesty had brought modernisation to Brunei while preserving the country as an abode of peace and beauty for all to enjoy.

“Your Majesty’s vision in ensuring a successful future for Brunei and her citizens in meeting the modern economic and technological challenges also inspires confidence.

“Since we hold so many common and complementary interests, we must encourage our younger generation to continue the tradition of close interaction for our closeness to endure over time.”

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visits Islamic Republic of Pakistan



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency Pervez Musharraf, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan during a four-eyes meeting at Alwan-e-Sadr, President Palace.

His Majesty, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam undertook a State Visit to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan at the invitation of His Excellency Pervez Musharraf, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, from 18 to 20 May 2004.

During the visit, official talks between the two delegations were held at the Alwan-e-Sadr, on 18 May 2004. The President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, His Excellency Pervez Musharraf, and His Majesty the Sultan and yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam led their respective delegations. The talks, held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, were substantive and productive and helped strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also met with Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali and attended a banquet and dinner hosted in His Majesty's honour by the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

During the course of the State Visit, His Majesty was conducted on a tour of the Special Services Group [SSG] in Chirat.

Present to welcome His Majesty were senior Pakistani Chiefs of Staff as well as the Commander of the SSG, Major General Amir Faisal Alavi.

Formed in 1956, the SSG are the tip of the spear for Pakistan's

military arsenal. Even though, they are approximately small in number with only six companies in strength or 600 men, the SSG have served with distinction in several past conflicts and are renowned in many Middle Eastern nations for providing bodyguard protection services. One of the SSG's main purposes is counter-terrorism .

His Majesty then received the Red Beret of the SSG from General Musharraf as well as the commando insignia. His Majesty, in his return titah, expressed his appreciation to the host and remarked that he was proud to be associated with the elite forces of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

His Majesty toured the two mile area of the elite training grounds which is situated on top of a mountain, three thousand feet above sea level.

His Majesty ended his tour of Chirat by taking a break to enjoy the high scenery as well as lunch at the Pearl Oriental Hotel in Burban, which was about another forty minute helicopter ride from Chirat. Burban is a highland resort.

In the afternoon, His Majesty left for the Rawalpindi Polo Club to watch an exhibition polo match. The exhibition polo match played was in honour of His Majesty to formally launch The Sultan of Brunei Darussalam Challenge Cup.

His Majesty was presented with a souvenir from the Pakistan Polo Association and two polo ponies from the President of Pakistan.

(see Joint Statement on page 15-16)

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visits Kingdom of Bahrain

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made a private visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain on 20 May 2004 and was received by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa of Bahrain. Also present were Prime Minister His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa and other officials.

Their Majesties held a round of talks at Al-Bustan Palace, Manama. These focused on regional and international developments and other matters of mutual interest.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made a similar visit from 1-3 November 2002 and a working visit from 21-23 April 2000.

The Prime Minister of Bahrain, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa, made a working visit to Brunei Darussalam on 24 - 25 January 2003 with a 36-member delegation including His Excellency Sheikh Mohamed bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain, H.E. Mohamed Ibrahim Al-Mutawa, the Cabinet Affairs Minister and H.E. Abdullah Hasan Saif, Minister of



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa during a meeting held at Al-Bustan Palace.

Finance and National Economy.

Brunei Darussalam and the Kingdom of Bahrain established diplomatic relations on 24 September 1988, during His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's State Visit to the country.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attends Jordanian Royal Wedding

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam arrived in Amman on 27 May 2004, to attend the Royal Wedding of Jordanian Crown Prince Hamzah bin Al-Hussein and Princess Noor Harnzah.

A reception in conjunction with the celebration of the Royal Wedding was held in the evening at the Zahran Palace in Amman, Jordan. HRH the Crown Prince Pengiran Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah accompanied by Prince Abdul Qawi also attended the reception.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam left Amman for Aqaba in Southern Jordan on the second day of the visit where he attended a gala dinner held in conjunction with the celebrations of the royal wedding at Beit Al Bahar, Aqaba Palace.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam accompanied by His Majesty King Abdullah II toured of the city of Aqaba and its development area. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan left Jordan later in the



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam proceed to greet Princess Noor Hamzah after greeting HRH Crown Prince Hamzah bin Al Hussein

afternoon. Present at the King Hussein International Airport in Aqaba to bid farewell were His Majesty King Abdullah II and Her Royal Highness Princess Basma bint Talal.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visits Ukraine

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made a State Visit to Ukraine at the invitation of His Excellency Leonid Kuchma, President of Ukraine, from 17 - 20 June 2004. This was the first such visit to Ukraine President Kuchma undertook a State Visit to Brunei Darussalam from 7 - 9 March 2004.

President Kuchma and His Majesty expressed satisfaction with the warm bilateral relations and agreed on the importance of strengthening cooperation between the two countries.

After attending the official welcoming ceremony, His Majesty and President Kuchma met for bilateral talks and discussed bilateral and international issues.

On the second day of the State Visit, His Majesty received an honorary doctorate degree from the Ukraine National University of Technology.

Established more than 100 years ago, the Ukraine National University of Technology is well known throughout Europe.

In the citation for the honorary doctorate, the rector of the university, Professor Myhailo Zgurovsky stated that the institution had agreed to bestow the award based on His Majesty's efforts in developing Brunei especially its economy, the welfare of society and education.

The university noted His Majesty's work in enhancing Brunei's relations at international and regional levels and his efforts to establish close bilateral relations with Ukraine.

On receiving the award, His Majesty said it was an honour both for His Majesty and the people of Brunei.

The honour, said His Majesty, was a token of a strong bond of friendship between the two nations.

His Majesty quoted a poem by Ukrainian nationalist, Taras Shechenko who said that "every person should respect, learn and appreciate one another".

His Majesty went on to say that Brunei Darussalam would continue to conduct its foreign affairs based on friendship, respect and cooperation.

Later in the afternoon, His Majesty continued the programme with a busy schedule of visits in the capital, Kiev.

His Majesty first attended a wreath-lying ceremony at the Tomb of Unknown Soldiers. The Tomb of Unknown Soldiers is a cemetery for military personnel who died during the Second World War, between 1941 and 1945.



His Majesty inspects the guard of honour during the welcoming ceremony held at Kiev's Mariinsky Palace.

His Majesty also visited one of the key industries of Ukraine, the Gostomel Airfield of the Aviation Scientific and Technical Complex.

At the complex, His Majesty had an opportunity to witness the flight demonstration presented by the Company.

The Complex was founded in 1946 by Oleg Antonov, a well-known aircraft designer. Since then more than 100 types and modifications of aircraft of various classes and purposes have been designed.

All in all more than 22,000 aircraft have been built.

Meanwhile, on the third day of the state visit to Ukraine, His Majesty attended a breakfast meeting with the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Viktor Yanukovych. The audience was held at the State Residence in Kiev.

During the audience, His Majesty and Ukrainian Premier discussed bilateral matters between Brunei and Ukraine including opportunities for economic cooperation and investment between both countries.



Bilateral Meeting between His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Leonid Kuchma, President of Ukraine.

(see Joint Statement on page 16)

HRH the Crown Prince Visits Jordan

His Royal Highness Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince arrived in Amman, Jordan on 24 May 2004 to attend the wedding of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Hamzah bin Al-Hussein and Her Royal Highness Princess Noor Hamzah.

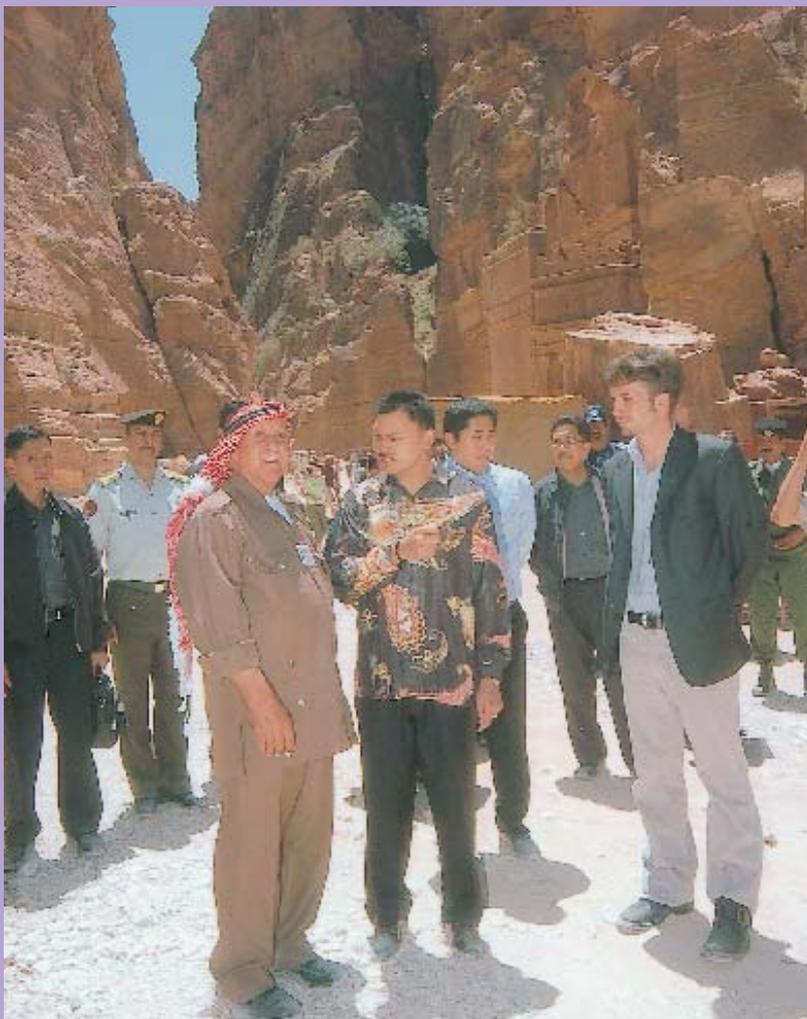
Upon arrival at the Queen Alia International Airport, His Royal Highness was welcomed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hamzah and Dato Seri Setia Al- Syed Walid Ismail Al-Kurdi.

Before attending the Royal Wedding His Royal Highness Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah visited the Historic city of Petra, which is located about 300 kilometers south of Amman.

From there, His Royal Highness's itinerary continued with a trip to the Dead Sea in Jordan, about 40 minutes journey by helicopter from Petra.

On the third day of the visit, His Royal Highness Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah the Crown Prince visited University of Jordan.

Accompanying His Royal Highness throughout the visit was HRH Prince Abdul Qawi.



HRH the Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah visiting the ancient city of Petra.



HRH the Crown Prince accompanied by HRH Prince Hashem bin Al-Hussein and HRH Prince Abdul Qawi during a lunch in Petra.

HRH Minister of Foreign Affairs co-chairs the First Meeting of the Philippine - Brunei Darussalam Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation in Manila

31 January 2004

On 31 January 2004, Brunei Darussalam and the Philippines held the Inagural meeting of the Philippines - Brunei Darussalam Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) at the Manila Hotel. The meeting was co-chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam and the Hon. Delia Domingo Albert, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines.

Secretary Albert reaffirmed the Philippines' commitment to pursue strong, stable and dynamic bilateral relations with Brunei Darussalam. On his part, HRH noted that the meeting was an excellent follow-up to the State Visit of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah and the opportunity to build on all the goodwill that has been shared between the two countries over the years. Both sides expressed deep satisfaction at the convening of the inagural JCBC Meeting and noted that the JCBC Meeting came at an opportune time when Brunei and the Philippines were commemorating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of full diplomatic relations.

The JCBC provides the framework for facilitating consultation and cooperation between the Philippines and Brunei Darussalam and is headed by both countries' respective Foreign Ministers. Since the establishment of the JCBC, there have been a number of agreements signed, among which are the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Defense Cooperation, MOU on Merchant Shipping and Related Matters, MOU on Technical and Trade Cooperation in Fisheries and the Philippines - Brunei Air Service Agreement. The Philippines will host the First Meeting of the Joint Committee and the Joint Technical Fisheries Working Group at dates to be mutually agreed upon.

The JCBC agreed to continue consultations on the provisions of MOUs on the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investment, the Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation on Income, Academic Cooperation in Higher Education and Tourism Cooperation.

Both sides noted the progress in the rehabilitation of the Al Amanah Islamic and Investment Bank of the Philippines (AAIIBP). This was discussed between Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei during the President's visit to Brunei Darussalam during the 15th General Meeting of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) on 3 September 2003. The rehabilitation and eventual operation of the bank would provide a stimulus for economic development bilaterally as well as in the BIMP-EAGA region.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam and Hon. Delia Domingo Albert, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines during the first Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) Meetings.

Both sides agreed on the important role of air links in their social and economic development, particularly in facilitating the promotion of trade and tourism between the two countries. The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of the Philippines for granting the fifth freedom traffic lights within the BIMP-EAGA sub-region. Complimenting this initiative, Secretary Albert strongly encouraged Brunei to establish a consulate in Davao City. Both countries also agreed to pursue negotiations on Brunei's request for additional frequencies to the Philippines.

As close ASEAN partners, the two sides reiterated their commitment to ASEAN's relevance and ability to promote peace, security and development in the region and expressed determination that the decisions made during the 9th ASEAN Summit in Bali in October 2003 are implemented accordingly.

Both sides exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual concern. Secretary Albert reiterated the Philippines appreciation for Brunei Darussalam's support for the successful Philippine bid for a non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council.

The Philippines expressed its deep appreciation to Brunei Darussalam for being a gracious and generous host to about 15,000 overseas Filipino workers through all these years, while Brunei Darussalam acknowledged the contribution of Filipino workers in the development of the country.

**Joint Press Statement issued by the Government of
His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam
and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh at the
conclusion of the official visit of Her Excellency Begum Khaleda Zia,
Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh,
to Brunei Darussalam on 25-26 January 2004**

1. Her Excellency Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, paid an official visit to Brunei Darussalam at the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, from 25 to 26 January 2004. This was the first-ever Head of Government level visit between the two countries.
2. During the visit, official talks between the two delegations were held at the Istana Nurul Iman on 25 January 2004. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Her Excellency Begum Khaleda Zia, and His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam led their respective delegations. The talks, held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, were substantive and mutually beneficial.
3. The two sides expressed satisfaction with the excellent bilateral relations and close cooperation enjoyed in various fields. Both countries share common perceptions on major regional and international affairs and continue to work together in the United Nations and in other forums like the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Commonwealth. The visit demonstrates the importance that Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of Bangladesh attach to strengthening traditional friendship and cooperation in socio-economic development, in an environment of peace and stability.
4. During the official talks, bilateral and international matters of common interest and concern were discussed. These included cooperation in the fields of trade, investment, labour and defence. The Bangladesh side offered places for the Royal Brunei Armed Forces in the Defence Services Command and Staff College and other Military Institutions in Bangladesh.
5. In considering cooperation in economics, trade and investment, the two sides agreed to expand trade relations. Brunei Darussalam agreed to encourage its private sector to invest in, and import from, Bangladesh. Considering the active role of Bangladeshi manpower in the development process of Brunei Darussalam, the latter agreed to consider the request to recruit more skilled and semi skilled workers including professionals of different disciplines like doctors, engineers, IT experts, nurses, pharmacists, accountants and teachers from Bangladesh.
6. Brunei Darussalam offered scholarships under the Commonwealth for Bangladesh's students in the higher education institutions, including the Universiti of Brunei Darussalam.
7. In order to create and manage an environment that will encourage such cooperation, the two sides agreed to establish a Joint Committee consisting of senior officials from both Foreign Ministries. It was agreed that the Joint Committee would discuss all aspects pertaining to the formation of a Joint Commission at the level of Foreign Ministers.
8. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Her Excellency Begum Khaleda Zia, expressed her sincere appreciation to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for the support for the candidature of Bangladesh for the post of the Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and Bangladesh's membership to the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).
9. Brunei Darussalam expressed its admiration for the achievements in the socio-economic fields made by Bangladesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.
10. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Her Excellency Begum Khaleda Zia expressed her sincere thanks to the people of Brunei Darussalam for the warm welcome and most cordial hospitality extended to her and the members of her delegation during their visit to Brunei Darussalam. She expressed the hope that the relations between the two countries would continue to be strengthened for the benefit of the peoples of Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Joint Statement between Brunei Darussalam and Ukraine issued on 9 March 2004 in Bandar Seri Begawan

1. Her Excellency Leonid Kuchma, President of Ukraine, made a State Visit to Brunei Darussalam at the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, from 7-9 March 2004. This was the first-ever Head of State level visit between the two countries.
2. During the audience of His Excellency Leonid Kuchma with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on 8 March 2004, both leaders expressed satisfaction with progress in bilateral relations and agreed on the importance of further strengthening cooperation between the two countries.
3. The two sides recognized the potential for the development of mutually beneficial trade, investment and economic relations. As such, they agreed to encourage their private sectors to explore opportunities for investment and trade.
4. The President of Ukraine introduced to His Majesty the Sultan the potential of Ukrainian companies in the field of oil and gas equipment manufacturing, telecommunications, machine building, space technology including the use of the Ukrainian rocket launchers for putting telecommunications satellites in orbit.
5. Both sides agreed to continue studying opportunities to establish air links between the two countries.
6. The two sides also agreed to encourage discussions between officials of both countries to identify specific projects for cooperation in education, human resources development, information technology, transport infrastructure development, mineral and hydrocarbon resources.
7. Both sides expressed interest in developing military and defence cooperation as well as encouraging exchanges of visits of military experts.
8. The two sides also expressed interest in promoting cultural and tourist exchanges.
9. Both sides welcomed the arrangement to mutually abolish visa requirement for holders of Diplomatic, Service and Official Passports between Brunei Darussalam and Ukraine.
10. Both sides exchanged views on regional and international affairs noting their common approaches on many major matters of concern. They shared the conviction that the emerging world order should be built on the principles of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of states and peaceful settlement of disputes. They supported the need to continue reform of the UN to make it more representative and responsive to new threats and challenges.
11. Both sides condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. They supported efforts of the international community to prevent and eliminate, in comprehensive manner, all forms of terrorism.
12. Both leaders expressed satisfaction with the result of the State Visit and concluded that it had contributed positively to the strengthening of the friendly ties between the two countries.
13. The President of Ukraine expressed deep gratitude to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for the kind reception and warm hospitality extended to him and his delegation. The President of Ukraine reiterated his invitation to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to undertake a State Visit of Ukraine in 2004.

Joint Statement between The Government of His Majesty and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on 20 May 2004 in Islamabad

1. His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaullah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, paid a State Visit to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan at the invitation of His Excellency Pervez Musharraf, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, from 18-20 May 2004.
2. During the visit, official talks between the two delegations were held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad, on 18 May 2004. The President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, His Excellency Pervez Musharraf, and His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam led their respective delegations. The talks, held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, were substantive, productive and helped strengthen further cooperation in bilateral and multilateral fields between Pakistan and Brunei Darussalam.
3. His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaullah the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also met with the Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali and attended the banquet and dinner hosted in his honour by the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan respectively.
4. The two sides expressed satisfaction over their excellent bilateral relations and their close cooperation in political, economic, defence, commercial and cultural fields.
5. The Two countries share common perceptions on major regional and international issues. The two sides agreed to continue to work together in the United Nations and in other forums including the Organization of the Islamic Conferences, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Commonwealth, guided by the principles of international law as well as traditions of friendly relations between the two countries, and on the basis of mutual respect of national sovereignty, non-interference in each other's internal affairs and on the basis of sovereign equality.
6. The two side agreed to continue cooperating in the maintenance of peace and stability in Asia Pacific region especially East Asia and South Asia and other regions of the world; and in promotion and preservation of international security, they reaffirmed their commitment to implement the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and to contribute to the strengthening of the peacekeeping role of the United Nations and also to the peaceful settlement of conflicts and disputes.
7. The two sides affirmed the need for reform and restructuring of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and expressed deep interest in promoting the concept of Enlightened Moderation, as a way forward, as endorsed by the Twelfth Islamic Summit. They agreed that OIC reform and restructuring and the promotion of Enlightened Moderation would contribute to promoting peace and stability as well as to the socio and economic development of the Islamic Ummah.
8. The two sides also agreed to cooperate closely and take all necessary measures to contribute towards the international effort in comprehensively combating transnational crime including terrorism, people smuggling, economic crimes, financial crimes, illegal weapon trade and other criminal activities, and in this context establish cooperation between their respective competent authorities by concluding appropriate arrangements. The two sides also reiterated their condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.
9. Furthering economic cooperation such as in the area of trade and investment, the two sides agreed to initiate a consultative process for enhancing trade and investment promotion and facilitation between the two countries. These steps should lead gradually toward a Comprehensive Economic Partnership. The two sides also agreed to cooperate in all forums for promotion of non discriminatory, fair and equitable trade regime that takes into consideration the concerns of the developing world and aims at participatory development.
10. The two sides also agreed to promote joint ventures and encourage greater collaboration between the private sectors of both countries in all fields of mutual interest. In this regards, both sides also agreed to consider establishing air-links between the two countries.
11. The two sides agreed to develop mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of information technology and telecommunications. They also agreed to promote cooperation in science and technology through sharing of expertise, joint research and development and encouraging and facilitating industrial applications of high technology.
12. The two sides also agreed to increase collaboration in the field of defence by encouraging exchanges of visits of military delegations.
13. The two sides also agreed to promote activities and programmes to enhance people-to-people and cultural contacts including student exchanges, collaboration among academic institutions and exchange of television and radio programmes.
14. In order to create and manage an environment that will encourage such cooperation, the two sides agreed to establish regular working level consultations between the Foreign Ministries. They also agreed to coordinate and cooperate closely in multilateral fora.
15. His Excellency Pervez Musharraf, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, expressed his appreciation

to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, for the support extended to Pakistan's membership of the ASEAN Regional Forum and in establishing Full Dialogue partnership with ASEAN.

16. The two leaders expressed satisfaction with the results of the State Visit and concluded that it had contributed positively to the further strengthening of the friendly and cooperative ties between the two countries.

17. His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, expressed deep gratitude to His Excellency Pervez Musharraf, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, for the kind reception and warm hospitality extended to him and his delegation. He also thanked the Prime Minister H.E. Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali and the Government and people of Pakistan for the warm welcome accorded to him and his delegation.

Joint Statement between Brunei Darussalam and Ukraine issued on 20 June 2004 in Kiev, Ukraine

1. His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, made a State Visit to Ukraine at the invitation of His Excellency Leonid Kuchma, President of Ukraine, from 17 - 20 June 2004. This was the first-ever Head of State level visit from Brunei Darussalam to Ukraine. His Excellency Leonid Kuchma was in Brunei Darussalam for a State Visit from 7 - 9 March 2004.

2. During the audience of His Excellency Leonid Kuchma with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on 18 June 2004, both leaders expressed satisfaction with the warm bilateral relations and agreed on the importance of further strengthening cooperation between the two countries.

3. The two sides agreed to develop and strengthen a relationship of cooperation on the basis of the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity and political independence, the peaceful settlement of disputes, non-interference in internal affairs. This friendly cooperation will be undertaken in a spirit of mutual respect, trust and partnership.

4. The two sides also agreed to cooperate in maintaining stability and strengthening the security both on the global and the regional scale. The two sides agreed to promote the disarmament process, the reduction and gradual elimination of all types of weapons of mass destruction.

5. Both sides agreed to develop mutually beneficial cooperation in the fields of trade, economy, science and technology, culture, education, protection of health, tourism and sports as well as military and military technical cooperation on the basis of the principles of equality and mutual interests.

6. The two sides also agreed, in accordance with their domestic legislation and on the basis of their international obligations, to provide legal and material conditions conducive to all forms of economic activity, including promotion and reciprocal protection of investments.

7. Both sides also agreed to promote the establishing of the commercial contacts between public and private organizations, and to promote business cooperation

between the two countries.

8. The two sides also expressed interest in cooperating to protect and improve the state of the environment, the rational and sustainable use of natural resources, broaden the range of environmentally clean production methods and take highly effective measures to protect and rehabilitate the environment.

9. The two sides, with a view to ensuring the necessary conditions for bringing their peoples closer together on the basis of friendship and trust, agreed to promote the expansion of contacts between their citizens. The two sides also agreed to consider facilitating contacts between non-governmental organizations, particularly between educational, scientific and cultural associations of citizens, and the mass media of the two States.

10. Both sides agreed to cooperate, exchange experience and information in the field of combating crime, particularly organized crime, international terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, air and sea piracy and the illicit export of objects of cultural value. The two sides also agreed to consider in a comprehensive manner taking joint measures in this field within the framework of international cooperation.

11. The two sides agreed to develop cooperation in consular matters. The two sides intend, on mutual basis, as far as possible, to facilitate the issuance of entry visas for the nationals of other Party for business, cultural, and tourism purposes.

12. The two sides envisage that the development of relations between them may lead to the conclusion of separate agreements and arrangements in different areas of cooperation.

13. Both leaders expressed satisfaction with the results of the State Visit and concluded that it had contributed positively to the strengthening of the friendly ties between the two countries.

14. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam expressed deep gratitude to the President of Ukraine for the kind reception and warm hospitality extended to him and his delegation.

20th National Day Celebration, “ Exhibition on Leadership of His Majesty ”

On the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the National Day of Brunei Darussalam, an exhibition on the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mui'zzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas from 18 February to 3 March 2004. The exhibition which showed the nation's development under the leadership of His Majesty was officially opened by His Majesty on 18 February 2004.

The exhibition depicted various aspects of His Majesty's roles and achievements in the nation's development such as on politics, socio-economics, education and on Islamic matters.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs viewing the exhibition



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam viewing the Ministry's booth during the Exhibition on the Leadership of His Majesty.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' participation in the exhibition showed Brunei Darussalam's development and commitment in the international arena. The exhibition also gave a brief account on the country's 20 years involvement in international affairs through the effective leadership of His Majesty.

The exhibition also highlighted Brunei Darussalam's successes in chairing and hosting various international meetings such as the 12th Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in 2000, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meetings/Post Ministerial Conferences and the Asian Regional Forum and the 15th Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) Meeting in 2003.

HRH Minister of Foreign Affairs accompanies His Majesty in a Walkathon



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on Sunday morning, 11 April 2004 joined thousands of his subjects in a four-kilometre walkathon. The event was also attended by HRH the Crown Prince Pg Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, HRH Prince Hj Abdul Azim and HRH Prince Abdul Mateen.

The walkathon organized by the Ministry of Defence commenced at the Taman Haji Sir Omar Ali Saifuddien in Bandar Seri Begawan participated by all the ministries and government departments. It was aimed at promoting health awareness and the importance of healthy lifestyle through daily exercise.

HRH Minister of Foreign Affairs joins His Majesty in a Maulud Procession



On 2 May 2004, Brunei Darussalam observed the birthday of the Prophet Muhamad with a mass rally and procession at the Taman Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan. The gathering comprised of government ministries and departments, uniformed personnel, private sectors, associations and students.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined the gathering of over 25,000 peoples and led the 4.3 km procession. Accompanying His Majesty were HRH The Crown Prince Pg. Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, HRH Prince Haii Sufri Bolkiah, HRH Prince Abdul Malik and HRH Prince Abdul Mateen.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives a Letter of Credentials from the Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, HE Christian Davis Bennett on 16 February 2004 at the Istana Nurul Iman.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives a Letter of Credentials from the non-resident Ambassador of Greece to Brunei Darussalam, HE Alexios G. Christopoulos on 16 February 2004 at the Istana Nurul Iman.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives a Letter of Credentials from the non-resident Ambassador of Ukraine to Brunei Darussalam, HE Dr. Oleksandr Horin on 16 February 2004 at the Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives a Letter of Credentials from the non-resident Ambassador of Peru to Brunei Darussalam, HE Javier Gonzales Terrones on 16 February 2004 at the Istana Nurul Iman.





His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presents a Letter of Credentials to H.E. Pg. Dato Paduka Hj. Yusof bin Pg. Kula, the new High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Singapore on 3 April 2004.

H.E. Pg. Dato Hj. Yusof was formerly the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

His Majesty presents a Letter of Credentials to H.E. Dato Paduka Awg. Hj Yusof bin Abd. Hamid, the new Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Belgium on 3 April 2004.

H.E. Dato Hj. Yusof was formerly the Chairman of the Brunei Economic Development Board and the High Commissioner of Brunei to the United Kingdom and Ireland.



His Majesty receives a Letter of Credentials from the newly appointed non-resident Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, H.E. Lucas Pande Tavaya of the Republic of Zimbabwe on 3 April 2004.

His Majesty receives a Letter of Credentials from the newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, H.E. Pedro Monzon Barata of the Republic of Cuba on 3 April 2004.





His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presents a Letter of Credentials to the newly-appointed Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to United Arab Emirate, H.E. Hj. Adanan bin Hj. Zainal on 12 April 2004.

H.E. Hj. Adanan bin Hj. Zainal was formerly the Brunei Darussalam's High Commissioner to the Republic of Singapore.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presents a Letter of Credentials to the newly-appointed Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Royal Kingdom of Cambodia, H.E. Dr. Hj. Imbran bin Bahar on 12 April 2004.

H.E. Dr. Hj. Imbran bin Bahar was formerly the Confidential Secretary to HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives a Letter of Credentials from the newly-appointed non-resident envoy from the Republic of Croatia, H.E. Zeljko Cimbur at the Istana Nurul Iman, on 12 April 2004.

H.E. Zeljko Cimbur is currently Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia based in Kuala Lumpur.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives a Letter of Credentials from the newly-appointed non-resident envoy from the Republic of Zambia, H.E. Godfrey S. Simasiku at the Istana Nurul Iman, on 12 April 2004.

H.E. Godfrey S. Simasiku is currently High Commissioner of the Republic of Zambia based in Tokyo.





His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam grants an audience to His Excellency Professor S. Jayakumar, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Law of the Republic of Singapore on 19 January 2004.

His excellency was in Brunei Darussalam for a two-day Official Visit on 19-20 January 2004

His Majesty grants an audience to the newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to Brunei Darussalam, H.E. Pedro Monzon Barata. Also present during the audience on 3 April 2004 were YDM Pehin Dato Haji Isa, Special Adviser to His Majesty in the Prime Minister's Office cum Minister of Home Affairs, and YDM Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



His Majesty grants an audience to the newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Zimbabwe to Brunei Darussalam, H.E. Lucas Pande Tavaya. Also present during the audience on 3 April 2004 were YDM Pehin Dato Haji Isa, Special Adviser to His Majesty in the Prime Minister's Office cum Minister of Home Affairs, and YDM Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam grants an audience to Tan Sri Hasmy Agam, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Malaysia on 1 May 2004.

Also present during the audience were Pehin Dato Hj. Awg. Yahya, Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office and Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.





On 12 April 2004, HRH the Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah receives the outgoing Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, His Excellency Adalbert Ritmueller. The outgoing German Ambassador has been in Brunei since July 2001.

On 8 April 2004, HRH the Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah receives the newly-appointed Brunei High Commissioner to the Republic of Singapore, H.E. Pengiran Dato Paduka Hj Yusof bin Pg Kula and the newly appointed Ambassador of Brunei to Belgium, H.E. Dato Paduka Hj Yusof bin Hj. Abdul Hamid.



On 6 May 2004, HRH the Crown Prince Pg. Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah receives the new Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, H.E. Mr. Christian David Bennett.

H.E. Mr. Bennett was formerly the Assistant Secretary at the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs welcomes the new ambassador of Vietnam H. E. Ha Hong Hai and discussing bilateral matters at the audience on 14 January 2004.

His Excellency was previously the Deputy Director of the International Studies Review at the Vietnamese Institute of International Relations.

HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs receives His Excellency Prof. S. Jayakumar, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Law of the Republic of Singapore. H.E. Prof. S. Jayakumar was in Brunei Darussalam for a two-day official visit on 19 - 20 January 2004.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs receives His Excellency Morshed Khan, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on 26 January 2004.

His Excellency was in Brunei Darussalam for a two-day Official Visit on 25-26 January 2004

HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs receives a farewell audience of the out-going Ambassador of Finland His Excellency Unto Juhani Turunen on 27 March 2004.

His Excellency has been Non-Resident Ambassador of Finland to Brunei Darussalam since October 2001.





HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs receives a farewell audience of the out-going High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, His Excellency Habibul Islam Bhuiyan on 27 March 2004.

His Excellency has been High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam since September 2002.

HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs with the new non-resident Ambassador of Greece to Brunei Darussalam, H. E. Alexios G. Christopoulos

H.E. Christopoulos is currently Ambassador of Greece based in Jakarta. H.E. presented his credentials as the non-resident Ambassador of Greece to Brunei Darussalam on 16 February 2004.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs with H. E. Javier Gonzales Terrones of the Republic of Peru.

H.E. Javier Gonzales Terrones is currently the Ambassador of Peru to Malaysia. H.E. presented his credentials as the Non-Resident Ambassador of Peru to Brunei Darussalam on 16 February 2004.

HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs with H. E. Dr. Oleksandr Horin the new non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Ukraine to Brunei Darussalam.

H.E. Dr. Oleksandr Horin is currently Ambassador of Ukraine to Singapore. H.E. presented his credentials as the Non-Resident Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam on 16 February 2004.





HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs receives H. E. Christian David Bennett as the new High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam at an audience on 16 February 2004.

Diplomatic relations between the two countries was established in 1984 with Brunei Darussalam's High Commission in Canberra opening in 1989.

On 1 May 2004, HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs receives Tan Sri Hasmy Agam, Special Envoy to the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

During the audience, HRH and the visiting envoy discussed current developments in the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] and other international matters.



On 5 May 2004, HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs receives Mr. Kozo Watanabe, President of the Brunei-Japan Friendship Parliamentarian's League and two other members of the league.

During the audience, HRH welcomed Mr. Watanabe and his delegation and discussed ways to promote goodwill and friendship between Japan and Brunei.



On 12 May 2004, HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs receives a farewell audience to H.E. Adalbert Rittmuller, the outgoing Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany.

His Excellency has been Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Brunei Darussalam since July 2001.



On 12 May 2004, HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, receives the newly appointed non-resident foreign envoy to Brunei Darussalam, H.E. Zeljko Cimbur, Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia based in Kuala Lumpur.



On 12 May 2004, HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, receives the newly appointed non-resident foreign envoy to Brunei Darussalam, H.E. Godfrey S. Simasiku, High Commissioner of the Republic of Zambia, based in Tokyo.

HRH Minister of Foreign Affairs joins the Retreat of ASEAN Foreign Ministers in Ha Long Bay, Vietnam

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs joined his fellow ASEAN colleagues at the Retreat of ASEAN Foreign Minister held at Ha Long Bay, Quang Ninh Province, Vietnam on 3-5 March 2004. During the Retreat, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers discussed important matters to ASEAN including the implementation of the decisions made at the 9th ASEAN Summit.

The Foreign Ministers also exchanged views on the draft Plan of Action to the ASEAN Security Community. They also discussed the preparation for the AMM/ PMC/ARF Meetings to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 29 June to 2 July 2004 and the 5th ASEM Summit in Hanoi, Vietnam to be held in October 2004.

An Asean security community was one of three “pillars” included in the Bali Concord II endorsed in October last year at the ASEAN summit in Bali. Together with the creation of similar economic and socio-cultural communities, the concord lays the foundations for the creation of an ASEAN Community by 2020.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs shakes hands with H. E. Tran Duc Luong, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam and other ASEAN Foreign Ministers during a courtesy call on H.E. Phan Van Khai, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

HRH Princess Hajah Masna, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs attends the 37th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting/ Post-Ministerial Conferences and 11th ASEAN Regional Forum in Jakarta, Indonesia



HRH Princess Hajah Masna, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs in a group photo with Her Excellency Megawati Sukarnoputri, President of the Republic of Indonesia during the official opening of the 37th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the 37th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM), the annual Post Ministerial Conferences (PMC) and the 11th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 29 June to 2 July 2004. HRH was accompanied by Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz.

The theme of the 37th AMM is “Striving for Full Integration of ASEAN: A Prosperous, Caring and Peaceful Community”. The meeting was officially opened by President Megawati Soekarnoputri.

During the AMM, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers reviewed the progress of ASEAN’s activities over the past year and charting new directions for the year ahead. On 1 July, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to establish the ASEAN Community by 2020, which comprises of the ASEAN Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-cultural Community. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers expressed their satisfaction on the progress of the 3 ASEAN Communities. The Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) that was previously known as the Vientiane Action Plan, was also discussed, as it is the successor to the Hanoi Plan of Action (HPA). The VAP is a six-year plan to realize the medium term goals of the ASEAN Community, while focusing, inter alia, on deepening regional integration and narrowing the development gap between and among Member Countries, particularly the least developed Member Countries.

At the PMC 10+10 Retreat on 1 July, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers met their 10 Dialogue Partners and discussed regional and international issues namely the ASEAN Community and the outcomes of the G8 Summit. They also met individually with six of the Dialogue partners during PMC 10+1, namely Australia, Canada, The European Union, New Zealand, Russia and the United States, to exchange

views on regional cooperation and also focusing on the overview and future direction.

On 2 July 2004, the ARF Ministers met and exchanged views on regional and international developments. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of ARF as the main political and security forum in the region, and reiterated the importance of further strengthening the ARF. The Ministers also reiterated their support for ASEAN as the primary driving force of ARF and further encouraged the contribution of all ARF participants in moving the ARF process forward. Among other issues discussed and considered was the ARF Statements on Non-Proliferation and Strengthening Transport Security Against International Terrorism. The ARF Statement on Non-Proliferation, proposed by the US, is intended to encourage ARF participants to enhance efforts to prevent the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery. Philippines and Russia had proposed the ARF Statement on Strengthening Transport Security Against International Terrorism as a follow-up to earlier ARF Ministerial Statements on Border Security and Maritime Security adopted in 2003.



HRH Princess Hajah Masna, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs co-chairs the PMC 10+1 Sessions with Canada held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

ASEAN-Canada Dialogue



His Excellency Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Co-Chairs the ASEAN-Canada Dialogue held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 30-31 March 2004.

The ASEAN-Canada Dialogue was held on 30th-31st March 2004 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Meeting was attended by delegations from the governments of all ASEAN member countries and Canada, and the Secretary General of ASEAN, His Excellency Ong Keng Yong.

The Meeting was co-chaired by His Excellency Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, and His Excellency David Mulroney, Assistant Deputy Minister (Asia-Pacific), Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada. A Co-Chair statement was issued at the end of the Meeting.

Summary of the discussions at the Meeting is as follows:

- The Meeting agreed to establish possible future areas of cooperation, such as in information communications technology (ICT), trade and investment, e-government, human resources development (HRD), animal health, food safety standards, as well as addressing emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.
- The Meeting also agreed for sectoral experts from both regions to establish collaboration in the areas of customs, animal husbandry and sanitary and phytosanitary. It is also agreed that both sides would increase regular meetings between senior officials, youth, experts and students from ASEAN and Canada's institutions.

- The Meeting encouraged the participation of the Canadian private sector at the ASEAN Business Investment Summit in Vientiane, November 2004.
- Canada will be organising a Canada-ASEAN Trade and Investment Summit in Toronto in April next year and to undertake a Joint Analytical Study on Canada-ASEAN trade and investment relationship. In this regard, ASEAN looked forward to receiving further information on their proposals.
- Canada proposed to hold a symposium to discuss how development cooperation between Canada and the members of ASEAN might be further developed.
- Canada welcomed ASEAN's resolve and determination to combat international terrorism and noted the ongoing efforts to address the menace with its Dialogue Partners. In this regard, Canada expressed its readiness to work with ASEAN in implementing the Work Programme to Implement the ASEAN Plan of Cooperation to combat Transnational Crime
- ASEAN and Canada agreed to work together to address the problem of illicit drugs from both the supply and demand sides, taking into account ASEAN's goal to make the region free from drugs by 2015.
- The Meeting agreed that the next ASEAN-Canada Dialogue will be held in Toronto, in April 2005.

HRH Minister of Foreign Affairs attends the 6th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, left Brunei Darussalam attended the 6th Asia-Europe Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM) held in County Kildare, the Republic of Ireland on 17-18 April 2004.

A wide range of topics, which focused on the theme "How Asia-Europe can sustain an international order based on effective multilateralism" were discussed at the First Plenary session of the meeting. Among these were global terrorism, Iraq, non-proliferation of Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD), North Korea and the Middle East peace process, WTO, sustainable development, Dialogue on Cultures and Civilisation and international public health. At the Second Plenary session of the meeting, Ministers addressed the future of ASEM, its working methods, the enlargement of ASEM and Myanmar.

At the end of the meeting, Ministers:

- agreed on the necessity for a strong United Nations system, in order to handle threats and challenges successfully. On this Ministers agreed on a separate ASEM Declaration on Multilateralism.
- reaffirmed that proliferation of WMD is a major international threat, requiring proper and firm response by the international community and including intensified regional cooperation to combat terrorism.
- reaffirmed their support for the commitment made by

the parties concerned to a nuclear-weapon-free Korean Peninsula, and to resolving the nuclear issue peacefully through dialogue.

- expressed their support for the earliest possible return of sovereignty to people of Iraq
- stressed their commitment to a negotiated two-State solution in the Middle East Peace Process and agreed that the Quartet Roadmap represents the only route to achieving such an outcome.
- welcomed Myanmar's decision to hold the National Convention on 17 May as a positive move towards national reconciliation in the country.
- held an in-depth discussion on the issue of ASEM enlargement and concluded that progress has been achieved.
- reaffirmed their commitment to the ASEM Process as a means for dialogue and cooperation between Europe and Asia. They agreed that the high level of participants is a key characteristic of the dialogue and cooperation taking place within ASEM.

His Royal Highness also held a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Mr. Li Zhaoxing in which the two ministers discussed bilateral matters and exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual concern.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and His Excellency Brian Cowen, (centre, front row) Irish Foreign Minister and other Asia and EU Foreign Ministers pose for a group picture at the 6th ASEM FMM in Ireland.

HRH Minister of Foreign Affairs attends the Second FEALAC Meeting in Manila, Philippines

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs joined Foreign Ministers from East Asian and Latin American countries at the second Foreign Ministers Meeting for the Forum of East Asia - Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) held in Manila the Philippines on 30-31 January 2004. The first Ministerial Meeting had been held in Santiago, Chile in March 2001.

The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegation from Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El-Salvador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Uruguay, Venezuela and Vietnam.

The plenary session was co-chaired by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, Ms. Delia Domingo Albert and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Ms Carolina Barco.

At the meeting, Ministers approved the admission of Nicaragua and Guatemala as new members of FEALAC, which now consists of 32 members. FEALAC aims to strengthen friendship and cooperation between the regions of East Asia and Latin America.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Foreign Minister greeted by Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo at a dinner hosted by the President

Brunei Darussalam has participated in FEALAC since its first meeting and encourages active participation of its lead agencies and academics in coming up with project proposals, which address requirements of the country in areas such as SMEs, education, science and technology and cultural exchanges.



HE President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in a group photo in Malacanang Palace with the Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegations from East Asia and Latin America attending the 2nd FEALAC meeting in Manila.

HRH Princess Hajah Masna, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Addresses the 31st Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) in Istanbul, Turkey

On 15 June 2004, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, delivered a statement at the plenary session of the 31st Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) held from 14-16 June in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey.



Her Royal Highness highlighted some of the challenges facing the OIC including the situation in the Middle East and the need for the organisation to become more effective in dealing with them. Her Royal Highness also stressed the need to counter the misconception of Islam by promoting dialogue and cooperation within and outside the organisation. In that regard, Her Royal Highness cited examples of such efforts such as "Dialogue Among Civilisation", "International Symposium on Enlightened Moderation" as well as the upcoming "OIC-EU Joint Forum on Civilisation and Harmony".

Her Royal Highness welcomed the formation of the Interim Government of Iraq and added that this was a very important step forward in regaining full sovereignty for the Iraqi people. Therefore, Her Royal Highness welcomed the recent adoption of the UN security Council resolution on Iraq, which had reaffirmed Brunei Darussalam's view that the UN could provide the leadership in helping to establish lasting peace, security and stability in the country.

Her Royal Highness stated the urgency to address the root causes of terrorism, and at the same time, find ways to prevent and eradicate these acts. Her Royal Highness added that, as an organisation sensitive to its own situation, the OIC could contribute and support the UN in the search for a long-term solution to combat terrorism.

Furthermore, Her Royal Highness emphasised the importance of modern education and human capacity development when it comes to the well being of the next generation.

Outcome of the 31st Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM), Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, 14 - 16 June 2004

Two main documents were adopted namely the Final Communiqué and Istanbul Declaration.

The Final Communiqué:

- called on the UN Security Council to deploy UN peacekeeping forces in the occupied Palestinian territories in order to ensure international protection of the Palestinian people and their holy places;
- called on the Quartet to intensify efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East in accordance with the Road Map and related agreements and resolutions, and on the basis of the principles of the peace process and the Arab Peace Initiative;
- affirmed its firm conviction of the need to safeguard Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence and to be ruled by its own people through a broad-based, inclusive and fully representative Iraq in conformity with a constitution accepted by the Iraqi people;
- expressed firm support for the rightful cause of the Muslim Turkish Cypriots and urged member states to closely associate with the Turkish Cypriots with a view to helping them materially and politically and to increase and expand their relations in all fields;
- supported the ongoing peace process between India and Pakistan;
- affirmed that Islamic States have an interest in a reformed United Nations system;
- paid special tributes to the Pakistani President's timely and important initiative of "Enlightened Moderation" which was adopted during the 10th Islamic Summit in Putrajaya, Malaysia 2003;
- urged the Republic of the Philippines to complete Phase II of the Peace Agreement concluded in 1996 between the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF); and
- condemned all forms of international terrorism; including hijacking and acts against civilian aircraft safety and security.

The Istanbul Declaration:

- decided to offer full support to enhance the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and for their right to freedom and to the establishment of the independent and sovereign Palestinian State;
- supported the steps towards ending the occupation in Iraq;
- continue to support Afghanistan's rebuilding process;
- strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms, including state terrorism, and expressed deep sympathy and support for those countries which have become victims of such attacks;
- commend the Turkish Cypriots people for overwhelmingly endorsing the UN Settlement Plan, on the unification of the island of Cyprus;
- endorsed the concept of Enlightened Moderation and call for the early establishment of the Commission of Eminent Persons to enable the Ummah to meet the challenges of the 21st Century; and
- looked forward to the Second Meeting of the OIC-EU Joint Forum on Civilisation and Harmony that will be convened in Istanbul between 4 and 5 October 2004.
- The election of the new OIC Secretary-General was held for the first time by secret ballot in accordance with Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of OIC meeting. This is due to lack of consensus between the countries that have announced their nominations namely Bangladesh, Malaysia and Turkey. Turkey's candidate, Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu won the secret ballot with 32 votes. The candidates from Bangladesh and Malaysia got 12 votes respectively.
- The 32nd ICFM will be held in Yemen, 2005.

11th Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XI)

The 11th session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XI) was held on 13-18 June 2004 in São Paulo, Brazil. At the conference Brunei Darussalam was represented by His Excellency Haji Shofry bin Haji Ghafor, Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, USA and some officials from the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.

The conference is UNCTAD's highest decision-making body. It meets every four years to set priorities and guidelines for the organisation, and provides an opportunity to debate key economic and development issues.

During the week-long conference, a number of sessions on trade, investment, finance, technology and development-related topics were organised around the main theme, "Enhancing the coherence between national development strategies and global economic processes towards economic growth and development, particularly of developing countries". Debates were focused on ways to make trade work for development, bearing in mind the outcomes of the summits on Financing for Development and Sustainable Development. Emphasis was on improving competitiveness and building capacity in the productive sector.

The Conference ended with calls for trade liberalisation to help developing countries improve living standards. According to Rubens Ricupero, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, the most important points of the conference were "acknowledgment of the new geography of trade and the new self-assertiveness of the developing countries". He also said that the biggest advance of the conference was a decision by 44 developing countries belonging to the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) group to hold new negotiations on reducing their mutual trade barriers.

The GSTP countries agreed to start negotiating next year and hope to reach an agreement by 2006. They also want to sign up new member countries to make the bloc stronger.

UNCTAD XI also agreed on a Declaration called "The Spirit of São Paulo".

The next UNCTAD conference will be held in Africa in 2008. African delegates however have not decided which country will host the event.

UNCTAD XI also coincided with its fortieth anniversary. According to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, His Excellency Rubens Ricupero in the 40 years since UNCTAD was founded, the international environment has been radically transformed by globalisation, and the problems experienced by developing countries today require innovative approaches. UNCTAD XI offered the opportunity to address those problems and define the type of national and multilateral measures needed to ensure that integration into the world economy yields real development gains for developing countries.

For four decades, UNCTAD has been the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade and development and related issues in the areas of investment, finance, technology, enterprise development and sustainable development. Established in 1964, UNCTAD promotes the development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy. UNCTAD has progressively evolved into an authoritative knowledge-based institution whose work aims to help shape current policy debates and thinking on development, with a particular focus on ensuring that domestic policies and international action are mutually supportive in bringing about sustainable development.

20th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Brunei and Japan



HRH Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-At-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and YAM Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz, attended a ceremony to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Brunei-Japan Diplomatic Relations.

The event took place on 5 May 2004 at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

Welcoming the arrival of HRH was H.E. Mr Yoshinobu Nisaka, the Japanese Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam and Mr. Kozo Watanabe, the President of Japan-Brunei Parliamentarians' League of Promotion of Friendship.

Speaking as Guest of Honour, HRH Princess Masna expressed appreciation to Japan for its efforts in organizing events to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Brunei Darussalam and Japan diplomatic relations.

HRH stated that since 1984, the relations have evolved into a vital friendship and partnership. The close personal relationship between members of both Royal Families and increasing contact among officials and individuals have strengthened the bilateral ties. Areas of cooperation range from trade and investment, human resources development and education to culture. Japan is still Brunei Darussalam's most important trading partner and major investor in the country.

HRH felt confident that through the shared enthusiasm and commitment, the future of Brunei Darussalam - Japan relationship would be even more promising.

20th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Brunei and Korea

On 26 June 2004, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz attended the "Korea - Dance of the Millennium" cultural performance at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

The cultural performance was to mark the 20th Anniversary of Brunei Darussalam-Republic of Korea diplomatic relations and was put up by the Kook Soo Ho Didim Dance Company.

Upon arrival, HRH was greeted by H.E. Kim Woong-nam, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam, and Mr. Kim Jae-sup, former Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea as congratulatory envoy of the Government of the Republic of Korea.

Addressing the gathering, HRH noted that the presence of Mr Kim Jae-sup together with a cultural delegation from South Korea symbolized the commitment of the Government of the Republic of Korea to further enhance the relationship between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Korea.

HRH said that the cultural performance is indeed an excellent example of cultural exchanges and brings with it the important human dimension to all aspects of relationship between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Korea.

Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Korea established diplomatic relations in January 1984.



HRH Princess Hajah Masna arrives at the ICC Berakas receives by HE Kim Woong-Nam, Korean Ambassador to Brunei and HE Kim Jae-Sup, former Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade as congratulatory Envoy of the Republic of Korea.

HRH Princess Masna, Ambassador-at-large Meets HE Li Jheng, Vice Governor Of Guangxi Autonomous Region, People's Republic Of China

A meeting between Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-At-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and His Excellency Li Jiheng, Vice Governor of Guangxi Autonomous Region and Mayor of Nanning City was held on 1 June 2004 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam.

The purpose of H.E. Li Jiheng's visit to Brunei Darussalam is to introduce the China-ASEAN Expo, which will be held in November 2004 at Nanning, the capital city of Guangxi Autonomous Region. H.E. Li Jiheng is also visiting Brunei Darussalam to promote bilateral economic and cultural cooperation.



Courtesy Call from HE Zhao Qinping, Vice Minister of Chinese Education Ministry, People's Republic of China

On 4 June 2004, YDM Pehin Dato Ali Daud, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs received a Courtesy Call from His Excellency Zhao Qinping, Vice-Minister of Chinese Education Ministry of the People's Republic of China.

The Courtesy Call was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jalan Subok, Brunei Darussalam.



NEWS FROM MISSIONS ABROAD

Presentation of Credentials by Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam in Belgium

His Excellency Dato Paduka Hj Yusof Abdul Hamid presented his Letter of Credentials as Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Belgium to His Majesty King Albert II, King of Belgium.

The presentation of credentials was held at the Palace of Brussels, Belgium on 9 June 2004.



Brunei Darussalam Establishes Diplomatic Relations with Eritrea, Tajikistan and Guatemala

The government of His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam established diplomatic relations with the government of the State of Eritrea, the government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the government of Guatemala.

The signings of the joint communiqué took place at the Permanent Mission of Brunei Darussalam at the United Nations [UN] in New York.

The signing of the joint communiqué between Brunei Darussalam and Eritrea was held on 13 May 2004. H.E. Haji Shofry Ghafor, Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the UN represented the Brunei's government and H.E. Ahmed Tahir Baduri, State of Eritrea's Permanent Representative to the UN on behalf of Eritrean government.

ERITRIA

Capital : Asmara
Land Area : 124,800 sq. km
Location : Eastern Africa between Djibouti and Sudan
Population : 4.2 mil [Nov. 2003]
Currency : Nafka, US\$1 - 6.5 Nafka
Main religion : Muslim and Christians
Official Language : Arabic and Tigrinya

The signing of the joint communiqué between Brunei Darussalam and Republic of Tajikistan was held on 2 June 2004. H.E. Haji Shofry Ghafor, Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the UN represented the Brunei's government and H.E. Rashid Alimov, Permanent Representative of the Republic Tajikistan to the UN on behalf of Tajikistan government.

REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

Capital : Dushanabe
Land Area : 143,100 sq. km
Location : Central Asia, West of China
Population : 6.9 mil
Currency : Somoni, US\$1-2.7 Somoni
Main religion : Islam practiced by about 90%, mainly Sunni, reminder Russian Orthodox and small Jewish groups
Official Language : Tajik

The signing of the joint communiqué between Brunei Darussalam and Guatemala was held on 30 June 2004. H.E. Haji Shofry Ghafor, Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the UN represented the Brunei's government and H.E. Mr. Gert Rosenthal Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the UN on behalf of Guatemalan government.

GUATEMALA

Capital : Guatemala
Land Area : 109,000 sq. km
Location : Middle America between El Salvador and Mexico
Population : 12.4 mil
Currency : Quetzales, US\$1-6 Quetzales
Main religion : Roman Catholic, Protestants, indigenous Mayan beliefs
Official Language : Spanish, Amerindian

FACTS AT A GLANCE

ECONOMY

(Source : *Brunei Economic Bulletin Vol.2, Issue 4, 2/2004*)

GDP Growth	3.2%
[Provisional Estimate]	
Change in CPI	0.3%
Total Exports	BND 7,704.3 million
Total Imports [c.i.f]	BND 2,311.8 million
Government Revenue	BND 4,921.1 million
Government Expenditure	BND 2,787.1 million

POPULATION

The total population of Brunei Darussalam in 2003 is estimated at 348,800 and growing at an average of 2.3% per year.

Break down of the 2003 census

Total Population	348,800
Male	176,300
Female	172,500
Annual Rate of Increase	2.3%
Population density [per sq km]	61

Population by age-group [thousand and %]

0 - 4	36,800 or 10.6%
5 - 19	95,800 or 27.5%
20 - 54	192,500 or 55.2%
55 - 64	13,400 or 3.8%
65 and over	10,300 or 2.9%

Population by Racial Group [thousands]

Malay	232,200
Other indigenous	12,500
Chinese	38,200
Others	65,900

Population by District [thousands]

Brunei Darussalam is divided into four districts. They are Brunei & Muara, Belait, Tutong , and Temburong	
Brunei & Muara	242,600
Belait	58,000
Tutong	39,600
Temburong	8,600

Human Development Report 2003- Brunei Darussalam

The Human Development Report is a more sophisticated and well-accepted way to measuring development compared to measuring development according to economic performance or GDP.

In 2003, the report has shown improvement in Brunei Darussalam's Human Development Index [HDI] rank and all its indices. The

Year	Rank	Life expectancy at birth	Adult Literacy Rate	Combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio (%)	GDP per capita (PPP US\$)	Life expectancy index	Education index	GDP index	HDI index	GDP per capita (PPP US\$) rank minus HDI rank
1999	25	75.5	90.1	72	29,773	0.84	0.84	0.95	0.878	-23
2000	32	75.7	90.7	72	16,765	0.84	0.84	0.85	0.848	-4
2001	32	75.7	91.0	76	17,868	0.85	0.85	0.86	0.857	-4
2002	32	75.9	91.5	76	16,779	0.85	0.86	0.86	0.856	-1
2003	31	76.1	91.6	83	19,210	0.85	0.89	0.88	0.872	-4

Brunei Darussalam's HDI has increased by one rank from 32 to 31 over 4 years. This may be the overall outcome of increased life expectancy at birth, adult literacy rate, combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio (76 % to 83%) and GDP per capita. Other indices have shown that the difference is only by 0.01 % to 0.1 %.

The GDP per capita rank minus the HDI rank produced a -4, which consequently means that the human development for Brunei Darussalam is quite high in relation to its GDP.

[Source : United Nation Development Programme 2003]

DIRECTIONS

" The peace and security, welfare and happiness of our people and the maintenance of friendly relations among nations on the principle of mutual respect for the independence sovereignty, equality and territorial integrity of all nations free from external interference."

[His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mui'zzadin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the Brunei Darussalam Independence Day's Proclamation on 1st January 1984]

" Without peace and political stability, however, there can be no economic progress; and without economic progress our independence and freedom will be in jeopardy.

It is therefore, my country's declared policy to work together with all our friends and allies towards the achievement of peace, economic progress and friendship and amongst nation on the basis of equality, mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity; and on the principle of non-interference in the affairs of the other nations."

[His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mui'zzadin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Royal Banquet on 24th February 1984]

" As a small nation, Brunei Darussalam is very deeply concerned with the socio-economic development and the well being of its people. Nonetheless, it is only through the stability and security of our Southeast Asian region that these objectives can be realized"

" As we have made clear in our previous policy statements, we shall always strive for the maintenance of international peace and security, the development of friendly relations among nations and the settlement of disputes by peaceful means. Brunei Darussalam, therefore, welcomes any proposal from its Asean co-members towards the preservation and promotion of regional peace and stability so that we can all proceed with our socio-economic development unhindered."

[HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs during HRH's visit to the Republic of Singapore on 31st August 1984]

performance of Brunei Darussalam's education is doing very well in terms of emphasis on educational investment for its future generation. Compared to other ASEAN member countries, Brunei Darussalam has a high education index due to its huge investment on education.

HDI of Brunei Darussalam from 1999 to 2003:

