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Official Visit to Australia by
His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah,
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Cover Page



Photograph of His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Alexander Downer, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Australia. The photograph was presented to His Royal Highness in appreciation for the visit of Australia and participation at the Official Launch of 'Lost for 500 years: Sunken Treasures of Brunei Darussalam' National Museum of Australia, Canberra, 3 August 2004.

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



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia before attending a luncheon held at the Istana Negara in Kuala Lumpur on 15 September 2004

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made a three-day Working Visit to Malaysia on 14 September 2004 in conjunction with the Annual Consultation of the Heads of Government of Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia. This was the eighth Annual Consultation and the first between His Majesty and the Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Right Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi.

On 15 September 2004, His Majesty attended a Luncheon hosted by His Majesty Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin, the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia at the Istana Negara in Kuala Lumpur. In the afternoon, His Majesty held consultations with Dato' Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi at the Prime Minister's Office in Putrajaya. During the meeting, His Majesty and Dato' Seri Abdullah discussed issues of mutual interest, especially pertaining to efforts to resolve land and maritime boundaries. The two leaders also discussed efforts to enhance and strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries. A joint statement was issued at the end of the meeting.

In the evening, His Majesty attended a dinner hosted by Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, held at his residence in Putrajaya. The

dinner was attended by several cabinet ministers and senior government officers of both countries.

After the dinner, His Majesty and the Malaysian Prime Minister toured a lake in Putrajaya on a boat. During the cruise, His Majesty was briefed on the development of Putrajaya and Tasik Putrajaya, a 600-hectare man-made lake at the heart of the new city.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam holds consultations with Dato Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi at the Prime Minister's Office in Putrajaya.

Working Visit by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to the People's Republic of China

At the invitation of President Hu Jintao, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam undertook a working visit to China from 20 to 22 September 2004. His Majesty arrived in Dalian, the Chinese coastal city on 20 September 2004 as his first leg of a three-day working visit to China.

This is the fifth visit by His Majesty to China. He made a state visit in 1993 and a working visit in 1999. His Majesty was in Beijing to co-host the APEC High Level Meeting for Human Capacity Building in May 2001. In October the same year, he attended the APEC Summit in Shanghai.

His Majesty began his itinerary in Dalian with a visit to Dalian Naval Academy in the afternoon. He was greeted upon arrival by Rear Admiral Zheng Baohua, the Superintendent of the Academy, and other senior officials. His Majesty was later briefed on the academy and the types of training taking place at the institution by Rear Admiral Zheng. At the end of the briefing, His Majesty exchanged plaques with the academy.

In Dalian, His Majesty had a meeting with His Excellency Xu Weigo, 1st Vice Governor of Liaoning Province, His Excellency Xia Deren, Mayor of Dalian, and other leaders of Liaoning Province. During the audience, His Majesty exchanged views on bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China.

His Majesty then attended a dinner hosted by H.E. Xu Weigo during which an acrobatics and cultural performance was presented by the community of the Liaoning Province.

Dalian is located about 640 kilometres from Beijing. It has a population of almost six million people and an area of more than 12,000 square kilometres. Rapid progress has been made in Dalian's high-tech industry, and it is China's only city to be authorized by the Central Government in Beijing to demonstrate the internationalized software industry.

On Tuesday, 21 September 2004, His Majesty was in Beijing to continue his working visit to the People's Republic of China.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam holds discussion with His Excellency Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing during His Majesty's working visit in China.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam greeted by His Excellency Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China.

His Majesty met with His Excellency Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China at the Great Hall of the People. During the meeting the leaders discussed efforts to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries. They also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

His Majesty also attended a Welcoming Banquet hosted by H.E. President Hu Jintao at the Great Hall of the People in honour of His Majesty's Working Visit.

In Beijing, His Majesty visited the China North Industries Corporation located in Fengtai District. Upon arrival at the Complex, His Majesty was greeted by the Corporation's President, Mr. Xu Bin. His Majesty was briefed on the Corporation as well as shown around an exhibition of military arms.

His Majesty also visited the China National Petroleum Corporation Research and Development Centre located in Xicheng District. On arrival His Majesty was greeted by the President of Petroleum China, Mr. Jiang Jiemin. CNPC is one of the world's leading integrated energy companies. Its operations cover many upstream and downstream activities, field operations and technical services as well as equipment manufacturing and supply. CNPC serves as China's largest producer and supplier of crude oil and natural gas, holding a dominant position in domestic petroleum production, processing and marketing sectors. His Majesty's one hour tour included a visit to the corporation's laboratories.

On the last day of the working visit, His Majesty met the Chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, His Excellency Wu Bangguo at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. During the meeting, His Majesty and His Excellency discussed bilateral and international matters of mutual interest.

His Majesty receives Prime Minister of Singapore



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan hosts a luncheon in honour of the visit of His Excellency Lee Hsien Leong, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore at the Istana Nurul Iman on 4 October 2004.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Leong of Singapore visited Brunei Darussalam in early October. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received the Prime Minister at the Istana Nurul Iman. Also present was His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Prime Minister's delegation included His Excellency George Yeo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Teo Chee Hean, Minister of Defence and His Excellency Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Minister of Education.

In a private meeting, His Majesty and the Singaporean Prime Minister discussed a number of bilateral interests.

Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore established diplomatic relations in January 1984. Before this Brunei had set up a government agency in Singapore in 1975. Brunei's High Commission was opened in Singapore on the 1st of January 1984. The two nations enjoy cordial relations and have formal cooperation in many areas including trade, defence, health, education, technology, broadcasting and culture. Bilateral relations between the two countries were enhanced by His Majesty's second State Visit to Singapore in February last year.

During the Prime Minister's visit, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs met his Singaporean counterpart, Mr. George Yeo at Istana Nurul Iman and discussed bilateral relations.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs meets His Excellency George Yeo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore at the Istana Nurul Iman.

HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs visits Australia

On 29 July 2004, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah, left for Canberra for a four-day Official Visit to Australia.

His Royal Highness met His Excellency Alexander Downer, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia and held discussions on a wide range of matters including regional security challenges. The two Ministers also agreed to look at measures to strengthen bilateral counter-terrorism cooperation with a view to negotiating a bilateral MOU. His Royal Highness and Mr. Downer later opened the 'Sunken Treasures of Brunei Darussalam' exhibition at the National Museum as part of celebrations to mark the 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and Australia.

Addressing assembled dignitaries and visitors, His Royal Highness expressed Brunei's great appreciation to the Australian Government and mentioned that Brunei and Australia had twenty years of close cooperation and warm friendship, and that the two countries had become very good neighbours. His Royal Highness then officially opened the exhibition of the 'Sunken Treasures of Brunei Darussalam' at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra. His Royal Highness thanked Mr. Downer for inviting him to open the exhibition and added that the invitation showed how close



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah viewing the artefacts at the exhibition of the 'Sunken Treasures of Brunei Darussalam' held at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra.

and friendly the relations were between both countries.

The Sunken Treasures of Brunei Darussalam exhibition consists of around 500 artifacts especially chosen from the Sunken Treasures collection such as cannons, gongs, bronze ware and fine antique cloths as well as the hand-woven Songket. The exhibition is scheduled to run in three separate venues in Australia, and the exhibition in Canberra is the second of a series that will run until October this year. The next venue will be the New Maritime Museum at Fremantle in Perth from November 2004 until February 2005.

During the course of the visit, His Royal Highness made a courtesy call on His Excellency Major-General Michael Jeffery, Governor-General of Australia and Her Excellency Mrs. Mariena Jeffery at Government House in Canberra.

His Royal Highness also met His Excellency Mark Vaile, Minister for Trade of Australia at Parliament House where the two Ministers discussed economic and trade matters, including Australian investment in Brunei Darussalam. The visit ended with a dinner attended by Senator Robert Hill, the Australian Minister for Defense and leader of the government in the Senate.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and HRH Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah with the Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency Major-General Michael Jeffery and Her Excellency Mrs. Mariena Jeffery.

Joint Statement on the 8th Annual Consultation Between Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam issued in Putrajaya on 16 September 2004

1. The Eight Annual Leaders' Consultation was held in Putrajaya, Malaysia on 15 September 2004. The Consultation was held between YAB Dato' Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, the Prime Minister of Malaysia and His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.
2. The two Leaders expressed satisfaction at the excellent bilateral relations between Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam. They discussed the maritime boundary issue between the two countries, as well as functional cooperation, namely in the field of finance, agriculture and education. The leaders also discussed avenues for further cooperation in expediting ASEAN regional integration, the role of OIC in enhancing the economies of member countries and the proposed East Asia Summit (EAS), which Malaysia offered to host in Kuala Lumpur in 2005.
3. The two Leaders discussed proposals to resolve the maritime boundary issue and directed the Senior Officials of both countries to follow up with bilateral discussion with a view to resolving the issue.
4. On cooperation in Islamic Affairs, both Leaders took cognizance of the close cooperation that exists between Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam. The Prime Minister of Malaysia took the opportunity to explain to His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei on how Malaysia is implementing Islam Hadhari.
5. The Prime Minister of Malaysia and His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei exchanged views on the role of the OIC in enhancing the economies of member countries. Both leaders proposed that OIC introduce economic and social programmes to assist lesser developed member countries in order to empower the people, increase their income level and improve the standards of living.
6. The two Leaders also discussed bilateral civil aviation matters and instructed the officials from both countries to meet and discuss the issue.
7. The two Leaders also exchanged views on cooperation in the field of agriculture. The Prime Minister of Malaysia briefed His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei on efforts to reinvigorate and modernize the agriculture sector in Malaysia. The Prime Minister of Malaysia agreed to share Malaysia's expertise and experience in this endeavour with Brunei Darussalam.
8. Both Leaders discussed the proposed East Asian Summit which Malaysia has offered to host in Kuala Lumpur in 2005. His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei expressed support for Malaysia's proposal to host the summit in Kuala Lumpur. Both Leaders also agreed that the East Asian Summit should be ASEAN driven. In this connection, the two leaders took cognizance of the size of the ASEAN market and the importance of the region as an attractive investment destination. Towards this end, ASEAN member countries should cooperate to strengthen ASEAN regional integration.
9. The two Leaders agreed that the 9th Annual Consultation would be held in Brunei Darussalam in 2005.

Joint Communiqué between the People's Republic of China and Brunei Darussalam issued in Beijing on 22 September 2004

1. At the invitation of H.E. Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, made a working visit to China from September 20 to 22, 2004.
2. During the visit, H.E. Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China held talks with His Majesty the Sultan. Leaders of the two countries exchanged views on further deepening China-Brunei traditional friendship, strengthening bilateral ties and on regional and international issues of mutual interest in a sincere and friendly atmosphere. Chairman Wu Bangguo of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress also met with His Majesty.
3. The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the progress of current bilateral cooperation in the political,

- economic and trade, cultural, educational, health, legal, defence and other fields since the establishment of diplomatic relations 13 years ago. They agreed that the development of friendly relations and cooperation between China and Brunei is in the fundamental interest of the two countries and their people. They expressed their readiness to make joint efforts to bring this bilateral relationship to a new level.
4. The two sides emphasized the importance of the principles enshrined in the Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations 1991 and the Joint Communiqué 1999, which include the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-interference in each other's internal affairs, in guiding the development of friendly relations between the two countries. The Brunei side reaffirmed its continued and longstanding commitment to the "one China policy", holding that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China. The Chinese side expressed appreciation for this.
 5. The two sides agreed to maintain frequent exchanges between leaders of the two countries and to promote exchanges between officials at various levels. They also agreed to advance bilateral cooperation in all dimensions in order to enhance mutual understanding and trust, and welcomed the establishment of the China-Brunei Friendship Association as a means to encourage non-governmental relations.
 6. The two sides noted that the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Higher Education and the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Supreme Courts that has just been signed indicated the growing interest amongst relevant agencies to create closer linkages in their respective fields.
 7. The two sides agreed to enhance economic relations and increase trade and mutual investment with the objective of reaching bilateral trade target of US\$1 billion by the year 2010. Brunei Darussalam has also recognized the People's Republic of China as a full market economy.
 8. The two sides also agreed that the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Promotion of Trade, Investment and Economic Cooperation will enable the two governments to strengthen and expand bilateral cooperation in areas such as agriculture, energy, tourism, transportation, communication and infrastructure development. The two sides also welcomed the signing of the Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income.
 9. Considering the important contribution of the business sector to the development of economy, the two sides encouraged enterprises from both countries to make investments in the areas that have been identified. The two sides welcomed Chinese enterprises to participate in the exploration and development of oil and gas resources in Brunei Darussalam.
 10. On regional development, the two sides commended the significant progress of the China-ASEAN relations over the recent years and agreed to work closely to promote the ASEAN-China strategic partnership. The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to develop the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area (FTA). The two sides agreed that the existing ASEAN + 3 mechanisms could further develop the East Asia Cooperation. China reaffirmed its support for ASEAN to continue to be the driving force in East Asia cooperation. In sub-regional development, Brunei Darussalam welcomes China's support and participation in the development of the Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA)
 11. The two sides agreed to continue to commit themselves to the maintenance of peace and stability in the South China Sea and they agreed to work with other ASEAN members to implement the follow-up measures of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea. The two sides also expressed their readiness to look for ways to cooperate in the South China Sea. In Northeast Asia, Brunei Darussalam expressed its appreciation for the important role that China has played in the Six-Party Talks which contribute to the maintenance of peace, security and stability in the region.
 12. In order to further promote peace, stability and development, the two sides agreed to strengthen coordination and cooperation at the United Nations, ARF, APEC, ASEM, WTO and other international and regional organizations.
 13. The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to combat terrorism in all forms and manifestations in a comprehensive manner, including the need to address root causes of terrorism. The two sides also expressed their objection to the linkage of terrorism to a certain ethnic group or religion. They also called for enhanced international cooperation on this matter.
 14. His Majesty expressed his appreciation for the hospitality and warm reception accorded to him during the visit and extended invitations to the Chinese leaders to visit Brunei Darussalam. The Chinese leaders accepted this invitation and looked forward to the opportunity to visit Brunei Darussalam.

Foreign Diplomats host His Majesty



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddien Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha attended a function in honour of His Majesty's 58th Birthday anniversary. It was organised by Heads of Diplomatic Mission in Brunei Darussalam on 28 July 2004 at the Royal Berkshire, Jerudong Park Country Club.

His Majesty and Her Majesty were introduced to members of the diplomatic missions and mingled with the diplomats. Also present were HRH the Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji

Al-Muhtadee Billah, HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and HRH Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; and HRH Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and High Commissioner of Pakistan, His Excellency Badr-Ud Deen welcomed His Majesty and expressed appreciation for the sense of togetherness felt on this occasion. His Excellency expressed thanks for the help given to members of the Diplomatic Corps and for the spirit of cooperation in which they worked.

Diplomatic Corps host Grand Dinner for the Royal Couple

The Heads of Diplomatic Missions in Brunei Darussalam hosted the Royal Couple at a Grand Dinner held at the Royal Berkshire, Jerudong Park Country Club on 2 September 2004.

Upon arrival, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Pg Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah, were greeted by the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Mr Badr-Ud Deen, the High Commissioner of Pakistan to Brunei, the Deputy Dean of Diplomatic Corps, Mr Ajai Choudhry and their spouses.

Speaking on behalf of the Diplomatic Corps, Mr Badr-Ud Deen, conveyed their congratulations to the Royal Couple on the occasion of the Royal Wedding. He also expressed his thanks on behalf of the Diplomatic Corps for being officially involved in the Royal Wedding by attending and witnessing many of the traditional ceremonies.

Mr. Badr-Ud Deen added that the Diplomatic Missions in Brunei have been glad to be able to witness the Royal Wedding and Brunei Darussalam's 20th Independence Day celebration, which are highly significant events in the modern history of Brunei Darussalam.





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 Russia, His Excellency Mohd Janin bin Erih on 8 July 2004.

His Excellency was formerly the Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Administration and Student Affairs of the University Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives a Letter of Credentials from the newly-appointed High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency M.A. Hakim on 8 July 2004.

His Excellency had served as the Chairman, Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority Board.

Brunei and Bangladesh established diplomatic relations in May 1984.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives a Letter of Credentials from the newly-appointed Ambassador of Germany to Brunei, His Excellency Conrad Karl Cappell on 8 July 2004.

Before holding the current post His Excellency was the Consul-General at the German Consulate General in Dubai.

Brunei and Germany established diplomatic relations in 1984.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Sri Mohd. Najib Tun Haji Abdul Razak on 12 July 2004.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam grants an audience to the newly-appointed Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Russia, His Excellency Mohd. Janin bin Erih on 8 July 2004.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives His Excellency M. A. Hakim, the new High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam on 8 July 2004.



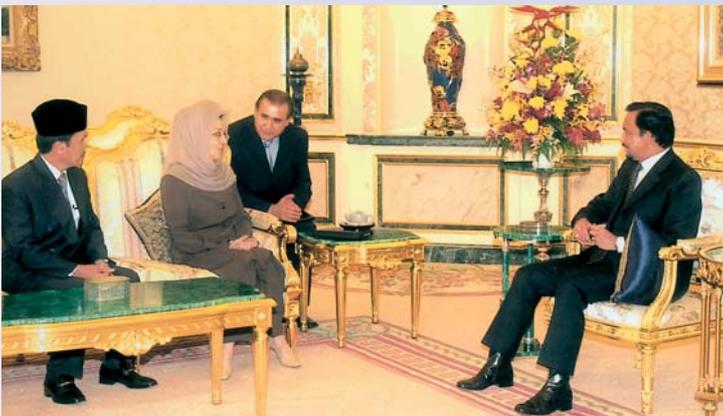
His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives the new Ambassador of Germany to Brunei, His Excellency Conrad Karl Cappell on 8 July 2004.





His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives the outgoing Malaysian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Tan Sri Jamil bin Johari on 28 July 2004.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam grants an audience to the Minister of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Professor Doctor Haji Said Agil Hussin Al-Munawar on 4 August 2004.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam grants an audience to the Minister of Public Health of Afghanistan, Her Excellency, Doctor Sohaila Sediqq on 4 August 2004.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives His Excellency Lieutenant Sunthorn Niyomyath, the Outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Thailand to Brunei on 27 September 2004.





His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives His Excellency Ajai Choudhry, the outgoing High Commissioner of India to Brunei on 11 December 2004.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives His Excellency Abolfazi Mohammad Alikhan, the outgoing Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Brunei Darussalam on 11 December 2004.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives His Excellency Dr. Guido Scilaci, the outgoing non-resident Ambassador of Italy on 11 December 2004.

His Excellency is accredited to Brunei Darussalam since November 2000 and is based in Singapore.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah receives HRH Prince Andrew, Duke of York at the Istana Nurul Iman on 29 November 2004.

Also present during the audience was His Excellency Andrew Caie, the British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.

HRH Prince Andrew, the Duke of York was in Brunei Darussalam for a two-day working visit.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, receives the newly appointed High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, His Excellency M.A Hakim on 2 August 2004.

His Excellency presented his credentials to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on 8 July 2004.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah receives the Kingdom of Thailand's outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Lt. Sunthon Niyomyath

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, receives the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Conrad Karl Cappel on 14 October 2004.

His Excellency presented his credentials to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on 8 July 2004.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Deputy Sultan receives the outgoing Indian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Ajai Choudhry on 23 November 2004.

His Excellency has been the Indian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam since September 2001



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs receives a courtesy call from Dato Sri Mohd. Najib Tun Haji Razak, the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia on 14 July 2004.

HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs receives the newly-appointed High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency M.A. Hakim on 8 July, 2004.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah receives the new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Conrad Karl Cappell on 8 July 2004.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs receives a farewell audience of the outgoing High Commissioner of India to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Ajai Choudhry on 11 December 2004.

His Excellency has been High Commissioner of India to Brunei Darussalam since September 2001.

HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs receives a farewell audience of the outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Abolfazl Mohammad Alikhani on 11 December 2004.

His Excellency has been Ambassador of the Republic of Iran to Brunei Darussalam since May 2001.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs receives a farewell audience of the outgoing non-resident Ambassador of Italy to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Guido Scalici on 11 December 2004.

His Excellency has been non-resident Ambassador of Italy accredited to Brunei Darussalam based in Singapore since November 2000.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamad Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah host a farewell luncheon for the outgoing High Commissioner of Malaysia, His Excellency Tan Sri Mohamad Jamil Johari and Puan Sri Zahrah binti Haji Seruji on 27 July 2004 at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs hosts a farewell luncheon for the outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of The Kingdom of Thailand, His Excellency Sunthorn Niyomeyath, and Mrs. Suranta Nyomeyath on 27 September 2004 at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan.

59th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, the Special Envoy left Brunei Darussalam on 22 September 2004 for New York to attend the 59th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Addressing the 59th Session of the UNGA, HRH Princess Hajah Masna assured member nations that Brunei Darussalam fully supported efforts to strengthen and revitalize the United Nations. HRH emphasized that the need for a strong and effective United Nations that was equipped to address today's complex challenges and threats.

HRH also referred to the casualties inflicted among the innocent people by terrorist acts. She said that Brunei Darussalam strongly condemned these acts.

During HRH's stay in New York, she also attended a number of bilateral and multilateral meetings. HRH attended the Informal ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting and the ASEAN Ministerial Working Lunch with Mr. Jean Ping, the President of the UN General Assembly and Mr. Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General.

ASEAN Foreign Ministers meet at 59th UN General Assembly

On 24 September 2004, HRH Princess Hajah Masna attended a breakfast meeting hosted by Her Excellency Yoriko Kawaguchi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan. The meeting was for the ASEAN foreign ministers attending the 59th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The breakfast meeting took place at a leading hotel in New York.

During the meeting, the foreign ministers discussed reform of the United Nations and exchanged views on the proposed expansion of the Security Council, the strengthening of the General Assembly and the role of UN agencies on economic and social matters.

HRH Princess Hajah Masna attends Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)

On 28 September 2004, HRH Princess Hajah Masna attended the Asia Cooperation Dialogue Ministerial Breakfast Meeting held at the United Nations headquarters.

During the meeting, HRH and other ACD Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reviewed the progress of the process and agreed on the importance of further strengthening of cooperation between member countries. They also exchanged views on matters related to the work



of the United Nations, especially the UN Reform.

In the afternoon, HRH held a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, His Excellency Cyril Svoboda. During the meeting, HRH and His Excellency discussed bilateral matters and exchanged views on regional and international issues. Both countries established diplomatic relations on 3 April, 1995.

HRH Princess Hajah Masna urges the UN to Reflect Non-Aligned Movement Interests

On 30 September 2004, HRH Princess Hajah Masna attended the Annual Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held at the United Nations Headquarters.

HRH Princess Masna, in her remarks at the meeting, stated that it was essential for the common interest of the Non-Aligned Movement to be reflected in the overall UN reform process. In this respect, HRH was encouraged by the constructive contribution of the Movement towards this.

HRH also stated that solidarity, cooperation, unity and efficiency were important pointers for NAM to take into account in ensuring its relevance.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

“It will also be a critical time for us next year when we review the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. To ensure that the commitments set forth in the Declaration are implemented as scheduled, we must act without delay. As far as Brunei Darussalam is concerned, we are doing our part in achieving the objectives of these Goals.”

*Excerpt from Statement by
Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna,
Special Envoy at the 59th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 29 September 2004*

The Millennium Development Goals is the framework for measuring development progress throughout all countries. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Millennium Development Summit held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in September 2000.

During the summit, the Millennium Development Goals was adopted by 189 countries which commit the international community to an expanded vision of development. It also promotes human development as the key to sustaining social and economic progress in all countries, and recognizes the importance of creating a global partnership for development.

THE GOALS

All the 8 development goals addressed the following:

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women;
- Reduce child mortality;
- Improve maternal health;
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases;
- Ensure environmental sustainability; and
- Develop a global partnership for development.

THE TARGET

Many of the target of the MDGs were first set out by international conferences and summits held in the 1990s. They were later compiled and became known as the International Development Goals.

The goals are set in precise terms and measures in numbers to ensure accountability. The openness and transparency of such numbers can help track progress on achievement of the goals. These goals are worthwhile because they will improve the quality of human life for its 6 billion people and for the projected 7 billion people in 2015.

COMMITMENT OF EACH COUNTRY

Each country must identify its own particular goals, its own path to development, and make its own commitment through dialogue with its citizens to effectively measures

national progress towards meeting the MDGs, and to engage even more closely with other relevant agencies in helping governments improve human development.

OBSTACLES IDENTIFIED TO ACHIEVE MDGs

Identified obstacles to MDGs are weak governance, bad policies, human rights abuses, conflicts, natural disasters and other external shock, the spread of HIV/AIDS, the failure to address inequities in income, education and access to health care, and the inequalities between men and women.

In order to overcome these obstacles, it is emphasized that cooperation with relevant government agencies in all countries concerned is very crucial especially the efforts to reduce/eliminate poverty in its many decisions.

Achieve Universal Primary Education

Target: 2015

Ensure that all boys and girls complete primary school

Brunei Darussalam's Status

In the field of education, citizens of Brunei Darussalam continue to be given free education from the age of 5 right up to tertiary level on the basis of ability. Non-citizens may apply for permission to send their children to government schools on a fee-paying basis. Most, however, send their children to private schools or abroad. The number of school days in a year varies between 202 and 210. There are four school terms starting from January to December.

Brunei Darussalam's education policy stipulates the provision of at least basic education to all children of schooling age. Schools are provided throughout the country, from urban to rural and remote areas. The national education policy and programs will continue to be geared towards developing human resources who, as agents of development, are responsive to changing needs and the challenges of the future.

[Source: Ministry of Education's website / Ministry of Education, Ref: KPE/M11/11/87/2 dated October 21, 2004]

Promote gender equality and empower women

Target: 2005 and 2015

Eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015

Brunei Darussalam's Status

Brunei Darussalam has given equal education opportunity to all its citizens. In year 2004, there are 15,235 female and 17,180 male in Government Primary Schools and 14,590 male and 14,904 female in Government Secondary Schools. However, there are 12,632 male and 12,030 female in Non-Governmental Primary Schools and 2,786 male and 2,398 female in Non-Government Secondary Schools.

[Source: Ministry of Education's website / Ministry of Education, Ref: KPE/M11/11/87/2 dated October 21, 2004]

Reduce child mortality

Target: 2015

Reduce by thirds the mortality rate among children under five

Brunei Darussalam's Status

As stated in the Millennium Development Goals' report, Brunei Darussalam's under five mortality rate in 1999 was recorded as 11 cases and 6 cases in 2001. In 1999, Brunei Darussalam's infant mortality rate was recorded as 10 cases and 6 cases in 2001.

[Source: UNDP HDI 2004 Report]

Improve maternal health

Target: 2015

Reduce by three-quarters the ratio of women dying in childbirth

Brunei Darussalam's Status

As stated in the Millennium Development Goals' report, Brunei Darussalam's maternal mortality ratio in 1995 was recorded as 22 cases while in 1995-2001, there were 99 cases recorded on birth attended by skilled health personnel.

[Source: UNDP HDI 2004 Report]

Combat HIV / AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Target: 2015

Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV / AIDS and the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

Brunei Darussalam's Status

The Ministry of Health has developed a National Health Care Plan 2003-2010 with a two-pronged Approach. The 1st Approach is to forge new directions in health development and health care according to which the Ministry of Health is committed to providing adequate and sustainable resources for health promoting and primary health care programmes, and to improve standards and quality in all aspects of curative health care. The second approach is to re-invigorate institutional capabilities to manage change competently and on a sustainable basis. This includes upgrading leadership,

management and operational skills at all levels so that critical resources can be managed efficiently and effectively, and reforming existing modes of financing health developments in general and health care in particular.

The number of reported HIV and AIDS cases, have decreased in recent years in Brunei Darussalam. Brunei Darussalam follows the WHO guidelines for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS. The country established a high level National Committee and Communicable Disease in 1988 with special reference to AIDS. The aim of the committee is to coordinate the national prevention and control programme for AIDS. The main strategies for prevention and control HIV/AIDS adopted are: (a) ensure safety of blood products; (b) intensifying surveillance of high risk groups; (c) routine screening of residents expatriates (d) case management; and (e) strengthening AIDS education and awareness.

[Source: UNDP HDI 2004 Report]

Ensure environmental sustainability

Target: integrate the principle of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resource,

2015:

Reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water

2020:

Achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

Brunei Darussalam's status

According to The Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation Division, Brunei Darussalam is endowed with relatively clean environment and extensive natural resource base. The country's forests occupy almost 80% of the land area and encompass a wide biological diversity. Therefore, environmental protection and conservation continue to be the integral components of the country's development process to ensure sustainable development in line with the long term objective of maintaining a clean and healthy environment.

The Government of Brunei Darussalam is fully committed to the concept of sustainable development and has enshrined it in its seventh and eighth National Development Plans. As a part of this commitment, it has improved institutional and legal foundation for environmental managements and promoted policies and programmes for conserving its environment and natural heritage with a view to bequeathing it unspoiled to the future generations. It has promulgated the Forestry Conservation and Protection Policy, implemented pollution control measures and solid waste management programmes and programmes for landscape improvement.

To further integrate the principles of sustainable

development into the country policies and programmes, the environment strategy was prepared which provides the basis for the long-term policies and actions needed to protect and conserve the country's environment from pollution and excessive exploitation of natural resources.

As the country emphasizes balanced development, Brunei Darussalam has never experiences serious pollution.

In general, the air quality as measured by the Pollution Standard Index (PSI) was in good condition except during the haze episode in 1997 and 1998. Several technical, institutional and legal measures have been introduced to manage air pollution problems in the country:

- The National Committee on Haze was established in February 1998 to address haze problem;
- Air quality monitoring system was also established in the four districts to monitor air quality;
- Legal provision relating to open burning was enforced in May 1998;
- An Environment Disaster Fund was introduced with private sector cooperation; and
- * The full utilization of unleaded gasoline was enforced since March 2000.

With regards to the protection of the ozone layer, Brunei Darussalam is currently implementing appropriate action programme to phase out in stages the consumption of the chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) which depletes the ozone layer, which includes the restriction on the usage of CFC dependent equipment and encouragement on the usage of alternative materials and technologies. Potentially a permit/licensing will be introduced to monitor and control the import and export of ozone depleting substances.

The chief source of energy in Brunei Darussalam is from fossil fuels, namely, oil and gas. The country has a high per capital energy demand, estimated to be more than 300 Gig joules per person and per capita electricity demand is increasing at a rate of between 7% to 10% every year. This increasing is mainly due to the rise in the standard of living of country. About 99.6% of the total population have enjoyed electricity supply direct from the power station networks while the remaining supply direct from the power station networks while the remaining particularly living in remote areas are supplied by sub-station generators. The country's power stations are fueled by natural gas.

Continuous efforts had been carried out by government to enhance the efficiency and management of safe potable water to meet future demands. Clean safe water supply contributes to the improvement in the quality of life of the people. In Brunei Darussalam, almost 99.9% of the country's total population has been provided with continuous clean safe potable water supply which complies to the World Health Organization (WHO) International guidelines

in terms of water quality. Continuous improvements in the upgrading of infrastructures of various water supply treatments and other facilities and sewerage projects are to be implemented under the country's National Development Plan.

The housing sector will continue to be given priority to build more housing in view of the continuing increase in demand for housing in tandem with the population growth. The National Housing Scheme (NHS) has allocated a total land area of 23,000 hectares for housing development. The NHS is in line with the development objectives and policies of enhancing the standard of living and improving the quality of life of the people in a better and orderly ways. By the end of 2004, more than 11,000 houses and land lots for housing would be provided to eligible citizens under the schemes. Besides the NHS, other schemes are also created to provide the housing needs of the eligible citizens. These include the Landless Indigenous Citizen Housing Scheme, Land Entitlement Scheme, infill Scheme as well as the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation housing scheme. In addition, the government also provides housing for its staffs whilst the private sector and individuals have also implemented their own respective housing programmes.

[Source: Jabatan Alam Sekitar, Taman dan Rekreasi, Ref: JASTRE/HEA/UN dated February 7, 2004 and up-dated input ref: KPN/RDU/S&T/ASEAN/MISC dated October 28, 2004 from the Ministry of Development]

Develop a global partnership for development

Target: 2015

- *Develop further an open trading and financial system that includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction - nationally and internationally*
- *Address the least developed countries' special needs, and the special needs of landlocked and small island developing States*
- *Deal comprehensive with developing countries' debt problems*
- *Develop decent and productive work for youth*
- *In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries*
- *In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies - especially information and communications technologies.*

Brunei Darussalam's status

The role of Jabatan Telekom Brunei (JTB), Data Stream Technologies (DST) and other private sectors are to provide Negara Brunei Darussalam with new and advance technology particularly in the telecommunication sectors whereby this does not limit the need to expand new technologies for the benefits of consumers.

[Ministry of Communications, Ref: KP(MCO SUT/4 (UN), dated March 6, 2004]

5th ASEM Leaders' Summit (ASEM 5) Hanoi, Vietnam, 8-9 October 2004



His Excellency Tran Duc Luong, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam delivers the opening speech of the 5th Asia-Europe Meeting in Hanoi on 8 October 2004.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined other ASEM Heads of States and Governments at the opening ceremony of the 5th Asia-Europe Meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Upon arrival at Ba Dinh Hall, His Majesty was greeted by the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, His Excellency Tran Duc Luong. His Majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs. The ceremony began with the opening speech by the President of Vietnam. This was followed by remarks by leaders of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Japan, the European Commission and Denmark.

Under this year's summit theme, 'Further Revitalising and Substantiating the Asia Europe Partnership', ASEM leaders of states and governments addressed regional and international developments and reaffirmed their commitment to working together to tackle major international security threats such as terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. A number of major international matters of common concern were discussed, such as the situation in the Korean Peninsula, in Iraq, Sudan, in the Middle East and in Afghanistan. ASEM leaders also looked at ways to promote Asia-Europe economic partnership in the context of globalization and trade regionalism.

Taking place every two years, alternatively in Asia and Europe, the summits are the most important feature of the ASEM process and provide the main political impetus. The 5th ASEM in Hanoi set the pace and guidelines for the next two years of the ASEM process in the context of enlargement.

In his address during the closed session of the summit, His Majesty emphasized the importance of multilateralism,

with all governments working closely together with regional associations like ASEM or the United Nations. His Majesty said that he felt both Asia and Europe could do much to strengthen the ASEM process.

On terrorism, His Majesty said that not insufficient efforts were being taken to find the root causes of terrorism, stating that he wished to see understanding on this matter enhanced. His Majesty also expressed the hope that ASEM would work towards practical common goals.

His Majesty attended Friday's gala night hosted by Vietnamese President Tran Duc Luong for ASEM delegates at the Melia Hanoi Hotel, along with His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

In the final statement after the two-day Asia-Europe Meeting, the leaders of the 25 European Union and 13 Asian nations reiterated their call for the UN to spearhead the fight against international terrorism.

They also agreed that ASEM should embrace the fight against the "global emergency" of HIV/AIDS.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs attend the 5th ASEM Summit in Hanoi.

12th Asia-Pacific Economic Summit (APEC), Santiago, Chile, 20-21 November 2004



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam arrived in Santiago, Chile on 21 November 2004 to attend the Asia Pacific Economic Summit (APEC 2004). His Majesty was met by state dignitaries and other officials at the Santiago International Airport.

APEC's members include Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam.

APEC members have pledged to implement new security measures to tighten access to shoulder-fired missiles, preventing the possibility of terrorist acquiring them and downing civilian jetliners. They also scheduled for a development of a counterterrorism passenger alert system to make flights safer.

His Majesty joins APEC Leaders for Second Retreat Session

On 22 November 2004, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Second Retreat Session for the APEC leaders in Santiago, Chile on the final day of the two-day summit. His Majesty was greeted on arrival at the Palacio de La Moneda or the Government Palace, by the President of Chile, His Excellency Ricardo Lagos.

Before the meeting began, the leaders donned the traditional Chilean costumes for a photo session, a customary of the APEC summit. Called the chamantos, the costumes are originating from southern Chile. His Majesty and the other leaders then got on with the main agenda of the day, in the closed door session of the Second Retreat. The focus of the final session was trade and investment issues, which included Regional Trade Agreements and Free Trade Agreements as well as trade facilitation policies with which to implement and generate the trade agreements. Transparency and anti-corruption measures were also discussed by the leaders as an important step in attracting more foreign investments and

in ensuring freer trade. Ways to revive the stalled WTO talks were also debated which culminated in newer talks set for January next year.

His Majesty speaks out on human security at APEC Economic Retreat

At this retreat session, His Majesty and other APEC leaders also discussed human security issues such as counter terrorism and the control of infectious diseases. The leaders also exchanged views on the development of trade security. At the retreat session, His Majesty delivered a statement in which he stressed the importance of human security issues that will continue to be one of the top priorities on the APEC agenda.

His Majesty also called for the APEC members to continue to work closely together in protecting the Asia Pacific Region from all threats in order to prevent disruption in trade flows and to maintain the good prospects in trade and investment of the region. Thus His Majesty welcomed the STAR programmes on counter terrorism that have provided beneficial and practical measures. His Majesty further stressed that it was not enough to tackle terrorism only by addressing through economic aspects and it was not an issue about religion. His Majesty believed that the root cause of terrorism should be addressed in a comprehensive manner. Being a moderate Islamic state, Brunei Darussalam was sharing its experiences with other economies in the region on the ways it practices its religion. His Majesty urged all the APEC members to work closely together to win the hearts and minds of the people in order to create a better understanding and tolerance amongst all the people on the way we perceive things.

On the subject of infectious diseases, His Majesty stated that HIV/AIDS and the resurgence of Avian flu needed immediate attention as these diseases have a huge impact on the trade and tourism industries. In this regard, His Majesty urged the APEC members to cooperate closely and to work together with other international organisations in order to have a surveillance and control system of infectious diseases and to obtain a global network of partnership for them.

10th ASEAN Summit Vientiane, Laos, 29-30 November 2004



ASEAN leaders line-up for a photo call at the start of the ASEAN summit in Vientiane, Laos, November 29, 2004. From left, Thailand's Thaksin Shinawatra, Vietnam's Phan Van Khai, Brunei's Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah, Cambodia's Hun Sen, Indonesia's Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Bounnhang Vorachith of host nation Laos, Malaysia's Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Myanmar's Soe Win, Philippines' Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Singapore's Lee Hsien Loong.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the 10th ASEAN Summit and related summits that were held on 29-30 November 2004 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

The Summit meetings were attended by the Heads of State and Government and Foreign Ministers from ASEAN Member Countries as well as 6 other Dialogue Partners including China, Japan, Republic of Korea (ROK), India, Australia and New Zealand. Discussions at the ASEAN Summit centred on the integration of ASEAN; the strengthening of the East Asia cooperation; deepening ASEAN's cooperation with India; and enhancing the AFTA-CER Linkage with Australia and New Zealand.

At the 10th ASEAN Summit, the Leaders adopted the Plans of Action for the ASEAN Security Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community and signed the Vientiane Action Programme. This demonstrated ASEAN's commitment to the goals of Bali Concord II for comprehensive regional integration.

His Majesty in his address at the Summit, stated that the measures in the ASEAN Security Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Plans of Action would help prepare ASEAN in its efforts to respond to the many challenges facing the region. Furthermore, His Majesty welcomed the progress of regional economic integration with the signing of the Framework Agreement for the Integration of the Priority Sectors.

The Summit also provided an opportunity for the Leaders to reaffirm the ASEAN policy of open regionalism and its commitment to strengthen cooperation with Dialogue Partners. The increase in the number of Summits with Dialogue Partners from 5 to 6, with the addition of the

ASEAN-Australia and New Zealand Commemorative Summit, reflects ASEAN's continuing political and economic relevance in international diplomacy.

Generally, all six summits concluded on a positive note for the future direction of relations. All sides indicated their desire to elevate relations by expanding and deepening cooperation in a comprehensive manner. The dialogue partners also reiterated their continued support for ASEAN's integration and developmental efforts.

The next ASEAN Summit will be hosted by Malaysia next year.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives Laos' highest medal, Phoxay Lane Xang from His Excellency Mr. Khamtay Siphandone, the President of Laos. The medal is in recognition of His Majesty's efforts in enhancing the friendly ties and cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Laos. His Majesty in turn conferred the Bintang Darjah Kerabat Laila Utama Yang Amat Dihormati, DK on the President of Laos. The ceremony was held on Sunday, 28 November 2004 at the Presidential Palace, Vientiane.

ASEAN Ministerial Meetings, Vientiane, Laos



ASEAN Foreign Ministers line up for a photo call at the start of their meeting in Vientiane, Laos From Left to Right - H.E. Dr Surakiart Sathirathai, Thailand, H.E Le Van Bang, Vietnam, HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam, H.E Hor Naintiong, Cambodia, H.E Dr. N. Hassan Wirajuda, Indonesia, H.E. Somsavat Lengsavad, Laos, H.E Dato. Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Malaysia, H.E Nyan Win, Myanmar, H.E Alberto G. Romulo, Philippines, H.E George Young Boon Yeo, Singapore and H.E Ong Keng Yong, ASEAN Secretary General.

On Tuesday 27 November 2004, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam attended an ASEAN Ministerial Meeting at the International Cooperation and Training Centre in Vientiane, Lao DPR at which Ministers discussed preparations for 10th ASEAN Summit.

His Royal Highness also joined Ministerial colleagues in an ASEAN dialogue meeting with the People's Republic of China and later met Foreign Ministers His Excellency Li Zhaoxing of China, His Excellency Nobutaka Machimura of Japan, His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon of Republic of Korea and His Excellency Natwar Singh of India at a luncheon hosted by the Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, His Excellency Somsavat Lengsavad.

In the afternoon, His Royal Highness attended separate ASEAN dialogue meetings with Japan and the Republic of Korea before joining colleagues at a signing ceremony to mark Korea's accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia.

His Royal Highness completed the day's ministerial sessions by attending a meeting between ASEAN and Foreign Minister Natwar Singh of India.

The dialogue meetings focused on the current progress of regional cooperation, the future direction of ASEAN dialogue relations and arrangements for the Summit Meetings with partners from East and South Asia.

ASEAN-Russia Ministerial Meeting

On 29 November 2004, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam joined other ASEAN Foreign Ministers in a dialogue meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia, His Excellency Mr. Sergei Lavrov at the International Cooperation and Training Centre in Vientiane, Lao DPR.

During the meeting, Ministers discussed the current progress and future direction of their dialogue relations. His Royal Highness together with fellow ASEAN Foreign Ministers and their Russian colleague, later attended the signing ceremony to mark Russia's accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah at the ASEAN-Russia Ministerial Meeting held on 29 November 2004 in Vientiane, Laos.

39th National Day Reception of Singapore

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the 39th Singapore's National Day Celebration held at the International Convention Centre, Berakas on 9 August 2004.

HRH highly commended the relationship between Brunei Darussalam and Singapore. The relationship, HRH noted, helped to remind the two countries of the friendship and respect enjoyed not only between the two governments but between the people in every walk of life.

His Royal Highness stated that the state visits by leaders of the two countries had generated much goodwill.

His Royal Highness conveyed his appreciation to the leaders of Singapore, Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew and Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong for the encouragement they had given in building excellent relations over the years with Brunei.

The future relationship between the two governments was also underscored by His Royal Highness in looking forward to building on the already existing close ties with the new



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah with HE Hirubalan VP, the Singaporean High Commissioner and Mrs. Hirubalan during the cake-cutting ceremony

administration under the leadership of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

On this note, His Royal Highness highlighted the extensive cooperation with the new administration in trade and commerce, defence, social and cultural affairs, and technical development and in every aspect of life that brought the two countries' people together as very close neighbours and partners.

His Excellency Hirubalan V.P., the Singapore High Commissioner praised the guidance of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei in steering the nation towards achieving economic and socio-cultural development and in strengthening Brunei's commitment to Asean integration and regional cooperation.

He also recognised the status of the nation in commanding respect in the international community.

In reflecting the 20 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries, the High Commissioner highlighted the state visits made by leaders of both countries that were enhanced by visits of Singapore's senior government officials to Brunei Darussalam and exchange programmes, involving the young generation of the two countries.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and members of the Singaporean High Commission and the invited guests during the reception ceremony to mark the 39th Singapore's National Day Celebration

59th Anniversary of Indonesian Independence

The 20 years of diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Indonesia were praised by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, as very rewarding for both countries.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, delivered his address during a special reception to mark the 59th anniversary of Indonesian Independence at the International Convention Centre in Berakas. Accompanying His Royal Highness was Her Royal Highness Pg. Anak Isteri Pg. Anak Hj Zariah. They were greeted on arrival by Mr. Yusbar Djamil, the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam, and Mrs. Madam Praptiningsih Djamil.

In his address, His Royal Highness noted how both countries' ability to work together as equals, share each other's ideas, learn from each other's experiences and live peacefully together in mutual respect, meant a great deal to Brunei Darussalam.

"In many ways, it represents the highest aims of international cooperation and we in Brunei Darussalam have greatly appreciated this. It also has a strong practical side, as well.

We now have a most valuable body of formal cooperation,

covering defence, economics and trade. Not only have this but we also worked very well indeed regionally and internationally, especially in efforts to promote South-South Cooperation."

His Royal Highness continued that Brunei Darussalam had always admired the leadership that Indonesia offered the developing world and congratulated the Republic for its fine record.

In concluding his address, His Royal Highness also noted that the relations between the people of both countries shared great respect for each other and underlined the friendly relationship shared by the two countries.

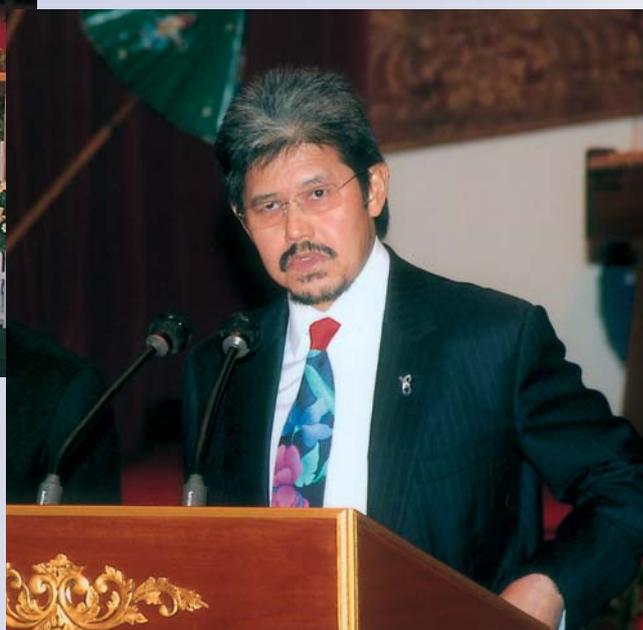
His Excellency Yusbar Djamil, the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, delivered a special message conveyed by Dr. N. Hassan Wirajuda, the Foreign Minister of the Republic. In his welcoming remarks, the Foreign Minister praised the excellent relationship binding the two countries at bilateral, regional and global levels.

In conveying the special message from the Republic's Foreign Minister, the Ambassador described the strong relationship shared not only between the countries' leaders and governments but also between the people of both countries.



HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs conducts the cake-cutting ceremony in honour of the 59th anniversary of Indonesian Independence. Joining the ceremony HRH Pg. Anak Isteri Pg. Anak Hj Zariah, His Excellency Yusbar Djamil, the Indonesian Ambassador and Mrs. Praptiningsih Djamil.

HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs delivers an address during the reception



47th National Day Reception of Malaysia



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs with members of the staff of the Malaysian High Commission in Brunei Darussalam and the Cultural Performers from Malaysia

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs attended a reception to mark the 47th National Day of Malaysia at the International Convention Centre in Berakas on 1 September 2004.

HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah said that in 1984 when both countries first began working together, Malaysia had given great help to Brunei when it joined the international community and added that this had characterised relations ever since, especially in the warm personal ties built up between the two heads of government, among both countries' business leaders and between people from every walk of life.

The Acting Malaysian High Commissioner, Mr. Saiful Azam Abdullah in his welcoming speech said bilateral ties between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia had continued to reach new heights during the past years. The presence of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the convocation ceremony of the International Islamic University of Malaysia was a recent testimony to the excellent bond the two neighbours shared.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah conducts the cake-cutting ceremony in honour of the 47th National Day of Malaysia with the Acting High Commissioner, Mr. Saiful Azam Abdullah.

HRH Duke of York stops in Brunei for working visit



His Royal Highness Prince Andrew, the Duke of York was in Brunei Darussalam for a two-day working visit to mark the start of the British Garrison accommodation and infrastructure project as well as to attend the commissioning of the Queen's Gurkha Officers parade. His Royal Highness arrived at the Air Force Base in Rimba on Sunday, 28 November 2004. Present at the Base to greet His Royal Highness Prince Andrew, the Duke of York was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, the Ambassador-At-Large, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

HRH Princess Hajah Masna meets the Minister of Public Health of Afghanistan.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs received the Minister of Public Health of Afghanistan, Her Excellency Dr. Sohaila Sediqq at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 3 August 2004. Her Royal Highness and Dr. Sohaila Sediqq discussed matters of bilateral interest and cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Afghanistan.

Dr. Sohaila Sediqq was leading a four-member delegation on a seven-day visit to Brunei Darussalam.

HRH Princess Hajah Masna joins Girl Guides in celebrating Peace Day

On 6 September 2004, the Brunei Darussalam's Girl Guides Association Sunday celebrated Peace Day to uphold and support the efforts carried out by world bodies including the United Nations and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, WAGGGS, to create peace in this world. Present at the Peace Day celebration was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, the President of the Brunei Darussalam's Girl Guides Association.

The Peace Day has been celebrated every year since 1991 with various community project activities. It is also designed to create and strengthen understanding and foster a closer relationship among the young members of the association. The young members are the future leaders and the existing feelings of understanding and friendship will help them achieve the peace they desire.



The Hon. Pehin Lim Jock Seng, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs officiates the 124th Intake Passing Out Parade

The Honourable Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that the publication of the Brunei Darussalam's Defence White Paper 2004 was one of the country's contributions to the process of creating transparency and confidence building in this region. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng made the statement at the Passing Out Parade for the 124th Intake of the male recruits of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces on 6 August 2004. The Permanent Secretary said that the effort came at the right time when the current concern on defence and security needed to be considered in a new context.

Pehin Lim also said that two important aspects needed to be considered, the contribution of the force towards development within the country and its interaction with the community and involvement in maintaining world peace and prosperity.

New Appointments of Senior Government Officials

- Pengiran Dato Hj Sallehuddin bin Pg. Hj. Yusof, the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with effect from 23 October 2004.
- His Excellency Awg. Hj. Mustapha bin Hj. Sirat, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence with effect from 25 October 2004.
- Awang Serbini bin Haji Ali, the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the Acting Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health with effect from 13 December 2004.
- Her Excellency Dy. Hjh Maimunah binti Dato Haji Elias, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of the Philippines as Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

APPRECIATION

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs gratefully acknowledges the services and dedication of Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Consul General, who retire this year :

1. **Colonel (ret) Dato Seri Laila Jasa Jocklin bin Kongpaw**
1998 – 2001 : High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Canada
2001 - 2004 : High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Australia
2. **Brigadier General (ret) Dato Paduka Hj Ibrahim bin Hj Muhammad**
2001 – 2002 : High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
2002 – 2004 : Director of Protocol and Consular Affairs
3. **Dato Paduka Hj Yahya bin Haji Harris**
1989 – 1993 : Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Indonesia
1993 - 1996 : Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Thailand (1993)
1996 – 2002 : Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of the Philippines
2002 – 2004 : Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Sultanate of Oman
4. **Dato Paduka Hj Abd Aziz bin Mohammad**
1997 – 2000 : Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Korea
2001 – 2004 : High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Canada
5. **Dato Paduka Hj Mohd Yunos bin Hj Mohd Hussein**
1998 – 1999 : Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Vietnam
1999 – 2004 : Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Thailand
6. **Haji Salleh bin Abdul Hamid**
2002 – 2004 Consul-General of Brunei Darussalam in Kuching, Sarawak



Presentation of Credentials

His Excellency Haji Shofry Ghafor, Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations presented his Letter of Credentials as non-resident Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Cuba to His Excellency Juan Almeida Bosque, Vice-President of the Republic of Cuba.

The presentation of credentials was held on 7 July 2004 at the Palace of the Revolution, Cuba.



His Excellency Dato Paduka Hj Abdullah Jaafar, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Malaysia taking photo with His Majesty King Mswati III of Swaziland after presenting his Letter of Credentials as non-resident High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the Kingdom of Swaziland.

The presentation of credentials was held at Lozitha Palace, Manzini, Kingdom of Swaziland on 23 September 2003.



His Excellency Dato Paduka Hj Yusoff Hamid presented his Letter of Credentials as Chief of Mission of Brunei Darussalam to His Excellency Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission, European Community.

The presentation of credentials was held in Brussels, Belgium on 25 October 2004.

On 10 November 2004, His Excellency Dato Paduka Hj Yusoff Hamid presented his Letter of Credential as non-resident Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Netherlands to His Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands.

The presentation of credentials was held at the Noordeinde Palace, the Hague.

On 18 November 2004, His Excellency Dato Paduka Hj Zainidi Sidup presented his Letter of Credentials as non-resident Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Italy to His Excellency Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, President of the Republic of Italy.

The presentation of credentials was held in Rome.

Celebration of the 58th Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at Brunei Missions Abroad



His Excellency Dato Haji Abdul Mokti Daud, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Bangladesh with Heads of Missions from ASEAN, Palestine (Dean of the Diplomatic Corps), South Korea, Bhutan, Morocco, Turkey and People's Republic of China during the 58th Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, held at Hotel Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka on 14 July 2004.

His Excellency Dato Haji Yahya Harris, Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Sultanate of Oman [fourth from left] during the cake cutting ceremony in honour of the 58th Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. The reception was held on 15 July 2004 at Grand Hyatt Hotel, Muscat, Oman on 15 July 2004.



Joining the ceremony were H.E. Shaoqin, Ambassador of People's Republic of China, H.E. Thinakorn Kanasuta, Ambassador of Thailand, H.E. Acmad D Omar, Ambassador of the Philippines and H.E. Awni Mohamad Hamid Battash, Ambassador of Palestine.



Pengiran Haji Jaberuddin Pg. Salleh, Consul-General of Brunei Darussalam in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in a group photo with Consuls-General from ASEAN and their wives during the Reception to mark the 58th Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held at Jeddah Hilton on 15 July 2004.



His Excellency Dato Abdul Rahman Hamid, Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Korea during the cake-cutting ceremony in honour of the 58th Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. The reception was held at Millenium Hotel in Seoul on 16 July 2004.

From left : Charge-de-affairs of the Malaysian Embassy, Ambassador of Thailand, Ambassador of Vietnam, Ambassador of the Philippines, Ambassador of Myanmar, H.E. Dato Abdul Rahman, Ambassador of Singapore, Ambassador of Afghanistan and Charge-d'affaires of the Indonesian Embassy.

His Excellency Haji Shofry Ghafor, Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the UN in New York with H.E. Sichan Siv and H.E. Stuart W. Halliday from the Permanent mission of the United States to the UN and H.E. Fuad Al-Hinai, Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the UN during the reception in honour of the 58th Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in New York.



His Excellency Mehdi Mehmandoost, Director-General of East Asia and Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran conducts the cake-cutting ceremony in honour of the 58th Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held at Azadi Grand Hotel in Teheran on 15 July 2004.

Also attending the reception were [from left] : H.E. Omar Kamil, Ambassador of Sri Lanka, H.E. Rodrigo Aragon, Ambassador of the Philippines, H.E. Haj Alarie Cole, Ambassador of Sierra Leone, H.E. Dr. Basri Hassanuddin, Ambassador of Indonesia, H.E. Nicolae Stan, Ambassador of Romania, H.E. Khalid Salman Saleh, Ambassador of Iraq and H.E. Kamal Saleh Al-Saleh, Ambassador of Bahrain.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM : OVERVIEW ON EXPORTS & IMPORTS

Overview

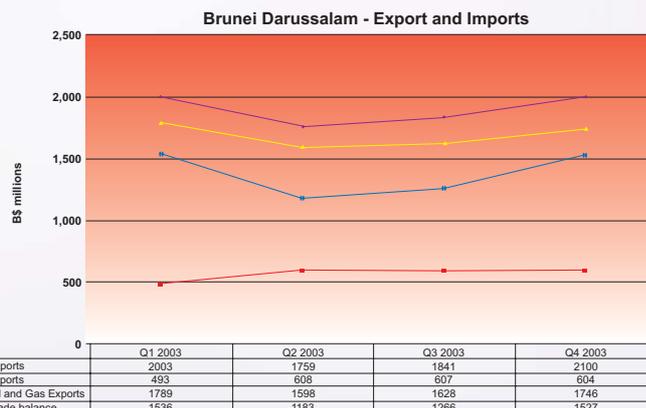
- In Q4 2003, oil and gas exports comprised of 83.1% of the total export.
- Korea and Japan remained the major export markets.
- In Q4 2003, export increased by 14.0% whereas import decreased by 0.5%.
- Both trade and current balances showed surplus trend.
- The average prices of crude oil and gas were US\$32.00 per barrel and US\$4.4832 per MMBtu respectively.
- Total international reserves¹ stood at B\$1,210 million equivalent to 6.3 months of imports.

Exports

Total exports increased by 14.0% at B\$2,100 million in Q4 2003 compared to the previous quarter. Oil and gas exports increased by 7.2% at a value of B\$1,764 million. In 2003, oil and gas exports was at its highest in Q1 with a value of B\$1,789 million.

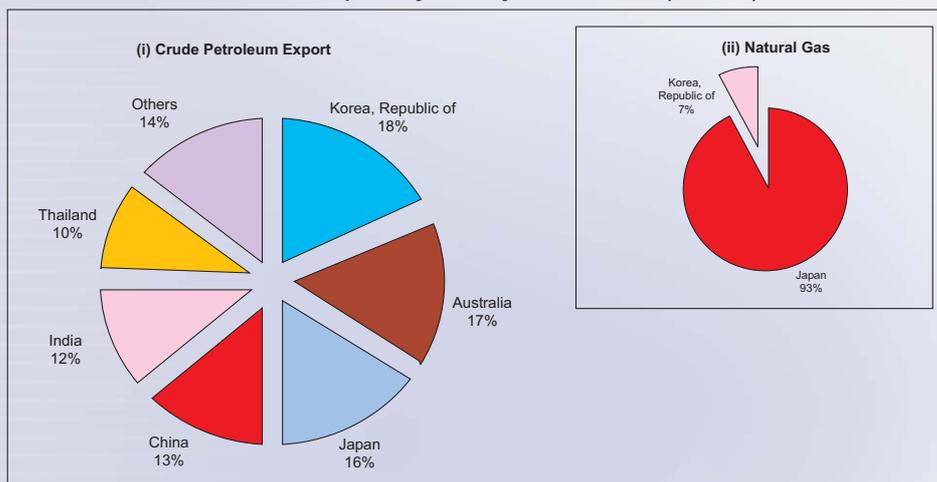
Imports

Total imports declined by 0.5% at a value of B\$604.0 million in Q4 2003 compared to the previous quarter. This decline was due to the decrease in the import of crude material inedible (14.6%), mineral fuel (8.5%), animal and vegetable oils and fats (0.4%), chemicals (7.2%), manufactured goods (9.5%) and miscellaneous transactions and commodities (15.9%). Manufactured imports declined by 4.9% amounted to a value of B\$263.2 million in Q4 2003. Imports from ASEAN and Japan increased by 0.91% and 4.6% respectively, while imports from USA and EU declined by 22.9% and 18.3% respectively.



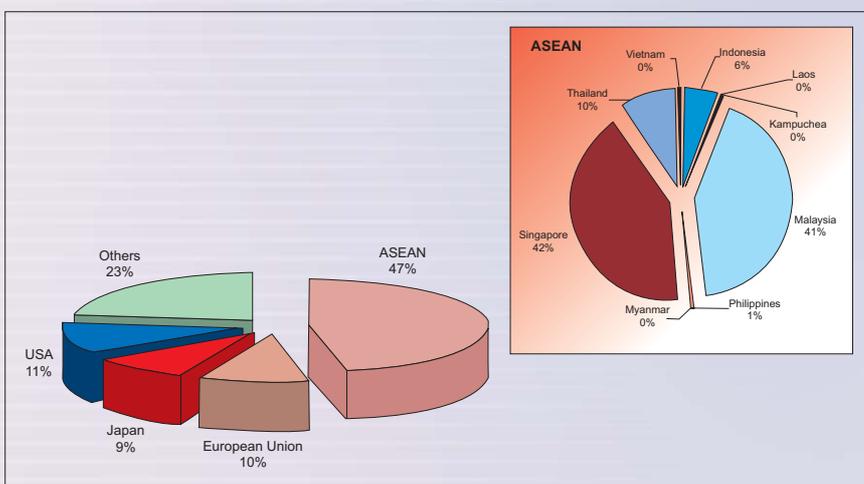
¹Brunei Darussalam's international reserves refer to Brunei Currency and Monetary Board's external assets plus IMF quota subscription and holdings of SDR.

Oil and Gas Exports by Country of Destination (Q4 2003)



Source: Economic Planning and Development Department, Prime Minister's Office

Imports by Country of Origin (Q4 2003)



Source: Economic Planning and Development Department, Prime Minister's Office

On Sunday, 12 December 2004, officers and staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs together with their families headed to Pantai Seri Kenangan in Tutong District for the annual MFA Fun Day. Also joining were members of the diplomatic corps where they were treated to a day of beach fun, games and entertainment.

Among the guests present were Permanent Secretaries, Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Pengiran Dato Osman Patra and Pg. Dato Haji Sallehuddin and Deputy Permanent Secretaries Serbini Ali, Hj. Abd. Hamid Jaafar and Hj Maimunah Dato Elias.

Many activities were lined-up including games for both men and ladies such as tug-of-war contests and sack-relay race. For the children, attraction such as horse riding, beach buggy rides and fun races were also provided.



An aerobics session was conducted before the start of the sports event.



Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng looking on the preparation for the tug-of-war



Tug-of-war for the ladies



Pengiran Dato Osman, Permanent Secretary with members of the Diplomatic Corps



His Excellency Paul Lau, High Commissioner of Canada joining the sack race



Time for delicacies

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