



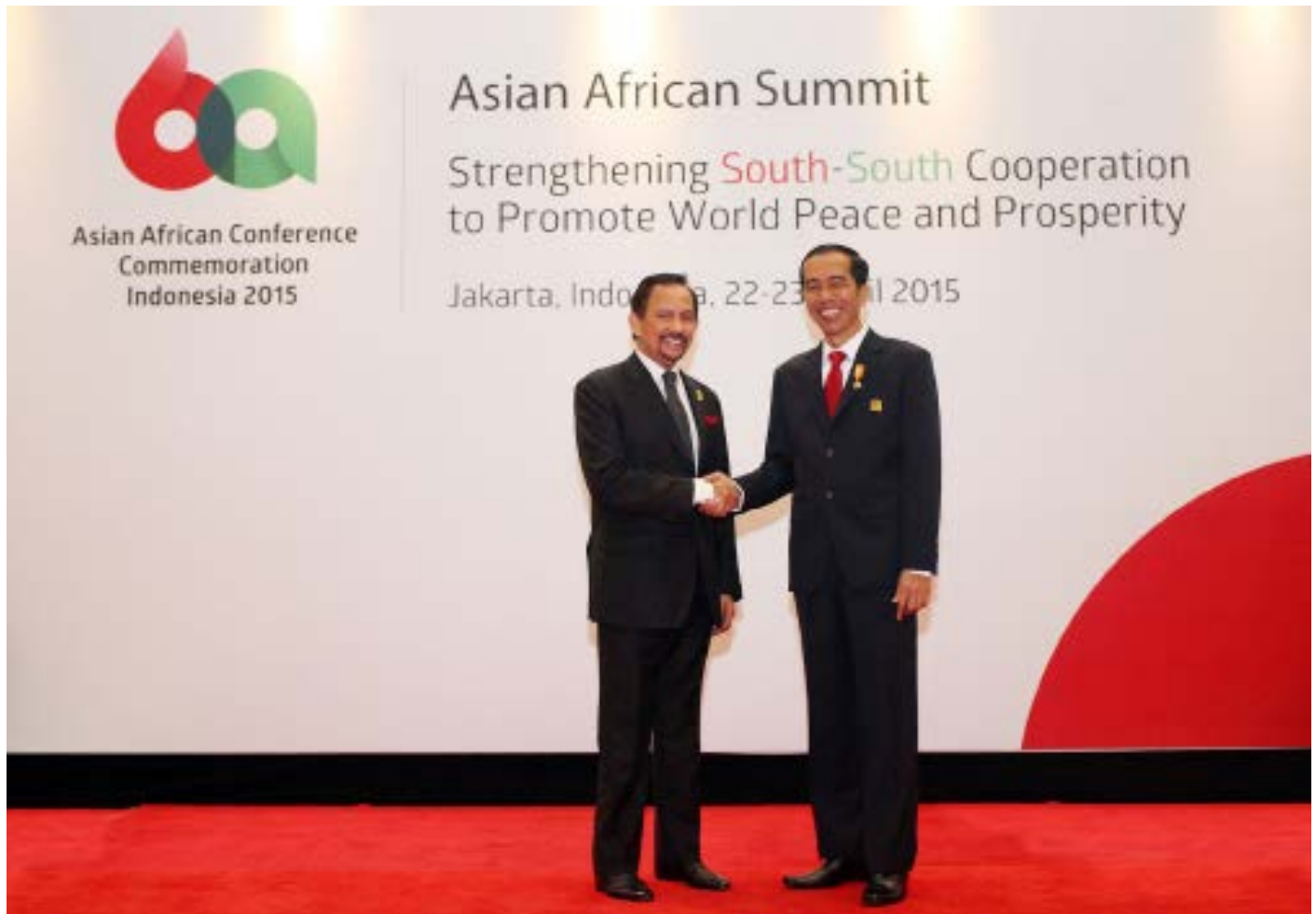
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Brunei Darussalam

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with the President of the Republic of Indonesia.

His Majesty attends Asian African Conference Commemoration 2015

NAASP as platform for sustainable development



JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, April 22 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam expressed pleasure that the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership

(NAASP) serves as a bridge of goodwill and friendship, which includes political solidarity, economic cooperation and socio-cultural relations.

His Majesty said this in a *titah* (royal speech) at the plenary session of the Asian African Summit 2015 at Jakarta Convention Centre.

The NAASP contributes to the realisation of a better life of the people of member countries.

All member countries must continue to

emphasise areas such as trade, industry, investment and tourism. At the same time, there is importance in promoting human development through capacity-building and technical cooperation, His Majesty said.

While member countries pursue to achieve the objectives of sustainable development, peace and prosperity, they are also vulnerable to challenges such as pandemic diseases, economic crises,

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Brunei Darussalam

>> BRUNEI IN BRIEF

Official name is Negara Brunei Darussalam.

Capital is Bandar Seri Begawan.

It is located on the north-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia.

Land size is 5765 sq. km.

Population is estimated at 422,700 people (2012).

It is divided into four districts – Brunei-Muara, Tutong, Kuala Belait and Temburong.

Malay is the official language but English is widely spoken.

Islam is the official religion and it allows other religions to be practiced.

National carrier is Royal Brunei Airlines.

It has an equatorial climate, a uniform temperature, high humidity and heavy rainfall.

Public Warning: The trafficking of controlled drugs carries the death penalty in Brunei Darussalam

His Majesty receives audiences



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 1 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience the Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) of the Guangxi Committee cum Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Guangxi People's Congress, His Excellency Peng Qinghua.

The audience took place at the Istana

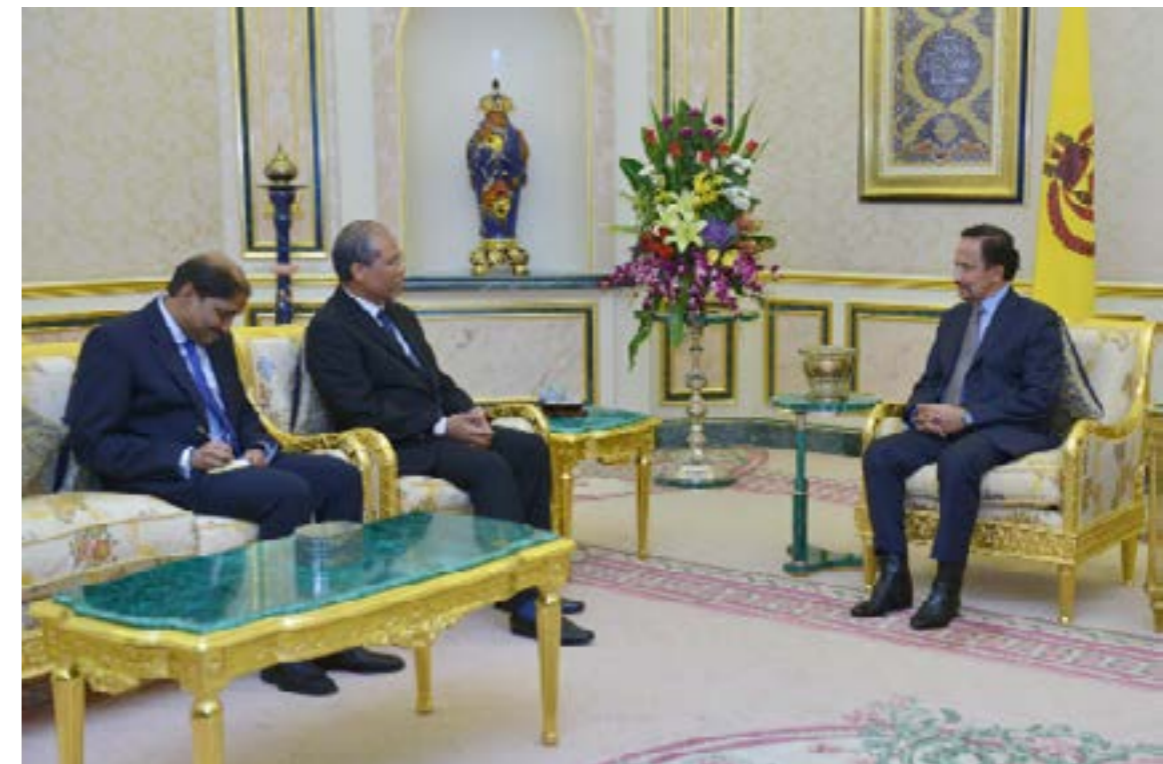
Nurul Iman.

The visit aimed to enhance the technical cooperation, trade and investment between the two countries, especially in the development of the Halal industry and bio-industry through the Brunei-Guangxi Economic Corridor.

His Excellency was accompanied by Liu Youming, Deputy Secretary-General of the CPC of the Guangxi Committee; Wang Naixue, Director-General of Guangxi Commerce Department; Li Wenjie, Director General of Foreign Affairs

Guangxi; Wang Lei, Director-General of the China-Asean Expo Secretariat; and senior officials from the Guangxi Foreign Affairs Office.

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar and Her Excellency Yang Jian, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam were also present at the audience ceremony.



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, APRIL 18 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience His Excellency Masagos Zulkifli bin Masagos Mohamad, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister at the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, who was on a two-day visit, at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Their Majesties grace royal wedding ceremony

The 'Istiadat Bersanding Pengantin Diraja' ceremony



Their Majesties with the royal couple.



His Royal Highness during the 'Istiadat Akad Nikah Diraja', or the solemnisation ceremony held at Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Mosque

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 12 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam graced the 'Istiadat Bersanding Pengantin Diraja', the sitting-in-state, ceremony between His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah at Balai Singhasana Indera Buana, the Istana Nurul Iman.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji

Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Norhayati binti Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah also graced the ceremony.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bokiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Muta-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzillah Lubabul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah were also present.

The ceremonial proceedings began with Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Dewa Retired Major General Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Haji Mohammad bin Haji Daud duly informing Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar that the ceremony to invite the royal couple was ready.

His Majesty then consented for the royal couple to proceed.

Datin Dayang Hajah Edah binti Haji Mohd Noor, the wife of The Honourable Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib and Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Jahrah binti Haji Mohammad, the wife of The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doktor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong as well as other wives of royal dignitaries proceeded to invite the royal bride.

Meanwhile, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Setia Diraja Sahibul Karib Pengiran Anak Haji Idris bin Pengiran Maharaja Lela Pengiran Muda Abdul Kahar, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Maharaja Setia Laila Diraja Sahibul Irshad Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahman bin Pengiran Indera Mahkota Pengiran Anak Doktor Kamaludin Al-Haj and a number of Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran-Pengiran Cheteria proceeded to invite the royal groom to the Balai Singhasana Indera Buana.

His Royal Highness was led to the dais by State Mufti, Yang Mulia Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr) Ustaz Haji Awan Abdul Aziz bin Juned.

His Majesty then led His Royal Highness to the bride seated on the royal dais and placed His Royal Highness's right hand on the head of the royal bride in a ritual called the 'Manapak Tangan' to signify their matrimony before leading the royal groom to his seat on the royal dais.

Following this, a 'selawat' upon Prophet Muhammad was recited by the State Mufti as the royal groom sat next to the royal bride accompanied by 17-cannon fire shots echoed outside the Istana Nurul Iman to mark the occasion. This was followed by the recital of the *Doa Selamat* by the State Mufti.

Over 4,000 guests were present at the royal wedding ceremony.

*Continued on page 5

*Continued from page 4
(Their Majesties graces royal wedding ceremony)



His Majesty applying powder paste on the palms of His Royal Highness during the 'Istiadat Berbedak Pengantin Diraja', or the royal powdering ceremony at Istana Nurul Iman.



His Majesty pouring scented water on the palms of Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri.



Her Majesty applying powder paste on the palms of His Royal Highness.



Her Majesty taking powder paste to apply on the palms of Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri.

*Continued on page 13



His Majesty attends dinner reception at Istana Negara

JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, April 22 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to attend a dinner reception for the Heads of State and Government who attended the opening ceremony of the Asian African Summit 2015 hosted by the President of Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Joko Widodo.

Upon arrival at the Istana Merdeka, His Majesty greeted was by the Head of the State Protocol, Tuan Yang Terutama Ahmad Rusdi.

His Majesty was accompanied by the Minister of Finance II, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng.

His Majesty with the President of the Republic of Indonesia and spouse at the welcoming dinner held at the Istana Negara.



*From frontpage
(His Majesty attends Asian African Conference Commemoration 2015)

natural disasters, climate change and terrorism.

In this aspect, the NAASP provides another multilateral platform to achieve goals and address challenges, His Majesty said.

To a certain extent, member countries are working towards realising the Millennium Development Goals. Therefore, the summit was very timely in strengthening collective actions as they prepare for the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda.

His Majesty hopes to see the NAASP mature into a platform for inter-regional cooperation that would strengthen people-to-people connectivity.

His Majesty also urged the member

countries to not lose focus on achieving the goals that were declared at the Millennium Summit in 2000. His Majesty expressed optimism that the visions would be updated and expanded in the coming Post-2015 Development Agenda.

In the *titah*, His Majesty also expressed appreciation to the Republic of Indonesia for its excellent role in the South-South Cooperation and the Strategic Partnership.

His Majesty believed that the presence of representatives of over 100 countries from Asia and Africa at the summit demonstrated the continued support of member countries in strengthening South-South Cooperation towards promoting world peace and prosperity.

The Asian-African member countries account for more than half of the UN membership. With a population of over five billion people, a global community that is capable of benefiting many can certainly achieve the wider objectives of the global development agenda.

The summit has developed since the Bandung Conference in 1955. Since then, the world has undergone numerous changes and has witnessed historic events such as the end of world war. Today, His Majesty said, there has been much progress in terms of human development and more people-centred multilateral efforts to promote socio-economic growth around the world.

His Majesty expressed pleasure



His Majesty with leaders at the Asian African Summit and the Asian African Conference Commemoration in Jakarta.

*From page 6
(His Majesty attends Asian African Conference 2015)



His Majesty with the Minister of Finance II at the Asian African Summit and the Asian African Conference Commemoration.



that the outcome documents reflected the spirit and principles of Bandung will continue to guide cooperation and mutual interaction among member countries in the future.

His Majesty believed that when member countries act together driven by principles that include mutual interest and cooperation based on equality and respect for each other, they could achieve the goals that they have established.

Member countries need to build cooperation based on these principles, whether in the context of south-south cooperation and north-south as well as cooperation with development partners

and other stakeholders, His Majesty said.

As for Brunei Darussalam, the country is taking an inclusive approach with emphasis on education, good governance, disaster management, trade and investment, health and the environment. Brunei Darussalam will continue to work with member states within its means and capability.

His Majesty also encouraged people-to-people interactions, especially in the fields of business, education, youth and sports.

Brunei Darussalam welcomes cooperation among educational institutions through exchanges between

students, academics and researchers, His Majesty further said.

His Majesty was accompanied by The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abd Rahman Haji Ibrahim, the Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office; The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng, the Minister of the Foreign Affairs and Trade II; and The Honourable Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Rtd) Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin Haji Umar, the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office.

His Majesty: Support Palestinians to realise their rights

JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, April 22 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam called upon the member countries of Asia and Africa to support the Palestinians in their struggle to realise their rights to self-determination, dignity and independence.

His Majesty expressed concern that the plight of the Palestinians remains unresolved and that they continue to be victims of Israeli aggression and military occupation.

His Majesty said this in a *titah* (royal speech) at the plenary session of the Asian-African Summit 2015 at Jakarta Convention Centre.

His Majesty also expressed pleasure

to support the Declaration on Palestine, which is one of the three important documents that will be issued at the end of the conference.

His Majesty said that the summit has provided member countries an opportunity to share their aspirations for a future that includes the aspirations of the Palestinians.

Member countries have seen several positive events in recent years especially the overwhelming recognition of Palestine's statehood and the elevation of its status in the international arena, His Majesty said.

In his welcoming speech, the President of the Republic of Indonesia His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Joko Widodo noted that the world has helplessly witnessed the suffering of

Palestine's people, who live in fear and injustice under a protracted occupation.

He said that member countries could not turn away from the suffering of the people of Palestine and have to struggle alongside them to support the birth of an independent Palestine.

Earlier in the *titah*, His Majesty congratulated the co-chairmen, the President of the Republic of Indonesia and the President of Zimbabwe, His Excellency Robert Mugabe, for convening the summit.

His Majesty also expressed appreciation of their efforts and expressed hope that the 60th Asian African Conference Commemoration in Bandung would be able to build on the work of the founding fathers for a peaceful and prosperous future together.

Their Majesties attend 26th ASEAN Summit Gala Dinner

KUALA LUMPUR, April 27 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam attended a Gala Dinner to welcome the ASEAN Heads of State and Government attending the 26th ASEAN Summit.

The reception was hosted by Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Laila Utama Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, the Prime Minister of Malaysia and Chairman of the 26th ASEAN Summit, and his wife, Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor.

His Majesty is in Langkawi to attend the 26th ASEAN Summit Retreat, the Closing Ceremony of the 26th ASEAN Summit and the 11th Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Summit.

Upon arrival at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC), Their Majesties were greeted by His Excellency Dato' Kamilan Maksom, the Chief of Protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia; and Yang Berbahagia Datuk Wan Hamidah binti Wan Ibrahim, the Chief of Ceremony and Conference Secretariat.

Before proceeding to the Banquet Hall together with other Heads of State and Government of ASEAN, Their Majesties were greeted by the Prime Minister of Malaysia and his wife.

Their Majesties then joined other leaders attending the ASEAN Summit and their respective spouses for a group photo session before proceeding to the gala dinner.

During the reception, the Prime Minister of Malaysia delivered his remarks welcoming all leaders and delegates attending the 26th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur. The gala dinner was also graced with musical performances.



Their Majesties with the Prime Minister of Malaysia and spouse at the gala dinner held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.



His Majesty at the plenary session of the 26th ASEAN Summit.



The Prime Minister of Malaysia delivering a speech.



His Majesty with heads of states and governments at the opening ceremony of the 26th ASEAN Summit.



Their Majesties at a dinner reception held at the Westin Hotel in Langkawi.



His Majesty with heads of states and governments at the 26th ASEAN Summit Retreat Session in Langkawi.

ASEAN must be more strategic and forthcoming, says His Majesty

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, April 27 – ASEAN needs to be more strategic and forthcoming in its external engagements to bring further benefits.

This will ensure that the region continues to be peaceful, stable and prosperous for decades to come.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said this in a *titah* (royal speech) at the 26th ASEAN Summit Plenary Session held at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in Malaysia.

His Majesty said since 1967, ASEAN has contributed to the peace and stability enjoyed by more than 600 million people in the region.

On the economic front, ASEAN has enabled the region's overall trade to grow from US\$10 billion in 1967, to US\$2.3 trillion in 2013.

This year, His Majesty added, ASEAN must demonstrate its political will to achieve the ASEAN Community and generate further confidence in the region's political and economic stability.

Community-building is a constantly

evolving process. It is necessary for ASEAN to continue to build on the achievements over the last few decades to attain greater integration, His Majesty said.

ASEAN's aspirations to be a community should focus not only on economic integration, but also on being highly competitive, innovative and a relevant part of the global value chain.

ASEAN, His Majesty stated, has made significant progress in facilitating the cross border flow of goods, services and investments.

ASEAN has also succeeded in forming strong links with key economies outside ASEAN, which have brought ASEAN greater economic prosperity.

Public expectations will be high to see what positive steps ASEAN has taken towards realising an economic community, which includes a single market and production base that is inclusive, more dynamic and resilient to external shocks, His Majesty added.

Therefore, ASEAN needs to maintain its momentum and be more committed in reaching deeper integration while ASEAN composes its post-2015 agenda.

In this regard, His Majesty said

Brunei Darussalam gave full support to the priorities presented by Malaysia as chairman.

As global economies become more integrated and interdependent, His Majesty said ASEAN needs the cooperation and support of all its partners.

His Majesty also believes that ASEAN needs to further their cooperation with current and future potential partners to be a successful regional community in the wider global community of nations.

In the *titah*, His Majesty expressed appreciation to the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Laila Utama Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, for the warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements accorded to His Majesty and delegation.

His Majesty also congratulated the President of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Joko Widodo, on the success in hosting the Asia-Africa Summit 2015 held in Jakarta.

His Majesty then offered his condolences to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong on the passing of His Excellency's late father, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew.



His Majesty delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the National Al-Quran Reading Competition for Adults finals at the International Convention Centre.

His Majesty graces National Al-Quran Reading Competition for Adults 1436 Hijrah/2015

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 30 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddien Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to attend the National Al-Quran Reading Competition for Adults 1436 Hijrah/2015 finals at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

His Majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at The Prime Minister's Office, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddien Waddaulah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddien Waddaulah.

In a *titah* (royal speech), His Majesty announced the establishment of a fund to provide a platform for Muslims to invest in the bounties of Allah SWT in the hereafter

by contributing to the construction of mosques.

The money collected through the fund will be used beneficially not only to build new mosques, but also to repair the existing ones. However, it is still the government's responsibility to build and manage the mosques.

His Majesty also touched upon the theme of this year's competition, 'Building an Al-Quran Generation', which emphasises the importance of understanding Al-Quran and its content.

His Majesty highlighted that the meaning of the theme is to produce a generation that is not only able to read but also have the potential to become experts in all fields related to the Al-Quran.

Thus, the government, through the Ministry of Religious Affairs, published the Mushaf Brunei Darussalam and its translation in 2014 to serve as a reference for Muslims in this country to understand Al-Quran.

In the *titah*, His Majesty also congratulated the participants of this year's National Al-Quran Reading



His Majesty presents a trophy to one of the winners.

Competition for Adults.

The Minister of Religious Affairs The Honourable Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr Hj Mohammad Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman, in his welcoming remark, said that a total of 76 participants entered in this year's competition. Out of the total, 51 managed to qualify into the quarterfinals. The competition also invited jury of experts from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Malaysia and the Republic of Indonesia.

Awangku Adibul Amin bin Pengiran Haji Marzuki emerged as the champion of male category while Hajah Siti Noor Dzuhairah binti Haji Damit won the female category. The champion scored 92.41 per cent and 91.42 per cent respectively.

They also received BND7,000 each alongside the championship trophy and will also be representing Brunei Darussalam at the International Tilawah Al-Quran in Kuala Lumpur at a later date.

Earlier, His Majesty was greeted by upon arrival by the Minister of Religious Affairs as well as other members of the organising committee.



Her Majesty receives a *pesambah* (gift) from the Women and Children's Centre Executive Committee.

Her Majesty launches new Women and Children's Centre at RIPAS Hospital

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 22 – Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to launch the BND69.2 million Women and Children's Centre at Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital.

Her Majesty was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien

Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien.

The Minister of Health, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mohd Yusof, as the Chairman of the Women and Children's Centre Executive Committee, in his welcoming speech said that centre is a landmark and a significant achievement for health services in the country.

The 11-storey building accommodates 382 beds and offers paediatric services, midwifery and obstetrics and gynaecology. The centre is equipped with the latest facilities, infrastructure and quality medical equipment which meet international standards. It also includes prayer rooms, breastfeeding rooms, emergency drop-off points, children's playground, bus stop, shuttle bus services and parking area for the comfort and convenience of the centre's patients and visitors.

The minister said that the majority of

the skilled health professionals operating at the centre comprised of locals.

At the launching ceremony, Her Majesty and members of the royal family visited a special exhibition on the construction and development of the Woman and Children's Centre to commemorate its 30th anniversary as well as the history of RIPAS.

Her Majesty also toured the facilities and services provided at every level of the Women and Children's Centre.

Earlier, Her Majesty was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Health as well as permanent secretaries and senior officers at the Ministry of Health.

The ceremony began with the recital of *Surah Al-Fatihah* led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Yahya bin Haji Ibrahim.

Her Majesty then officiated the centre and watched a video showcasing the extensive facilities, before proceeding to the paediatric clinic to sign a commemorative plaque.

Doa selamat was also read by Yang Berhormat Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Yahya bin Haji Ibrahim.

The Minister of Education, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong; the Minister of Development, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman; the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar; the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah and the Deputy Minister of Finance, Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Bahrin bin Abdullah were also present at the event.



Her Majesty tours the new centre at the launching ceremony.



Her Majesty and members of the royal family meeting a patient.

His Royal Highness The Crown Prince visits RKN10 sites

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 25 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, as the Chairman of the National Committee of the 10th National Development Plan (RKN10), paid a working visit to five sites under the RKN10.

His Royal Highness was accompanied by members of the RKN10.

Through the leadership of His Royal Highness, within the third year of RKN10's implementation, 252 projects have been completed. Ninety per cent of these projects are expected to be completed by the end of the initiative.

The visit started with the Protection of Brunei Bluff and Control of Beach Erosion project site in Meragang.

His Royal Highness was greeted by Chua Pheng Kheong, the Acting Director-General of the Public Works. There was a briefing on the mangroves, a Brunei Darussalam ecosystem, which is part of the marine breeding ground.

His Royal Highness also visited the coastal protection of sea turtles site.

His Royal Highness was accompanied by The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources; Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar, the Permanent Secretary (Technical and Professional) at the Ministry of Development; and Dr Hajah Norimtihan binti Haji Abdul Razak, the Acting Director of Drainage and Sewerage, Public Works Department.

After a briefing, His Royal Highness released Olive Ridley and Hawksbill sea turtles to the sea.

His Royal Highness then proceeded to the Protection of Brunei Bluff and Control of Beach Erosion project.

His Royal Highness was greeted by Haji Marzuke bin Haji Mohsin, Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Development.

His Royal Highness then signed a commemorative parchment and received a *pesambah* (gift).

The BND10.2 million project aims to protect the Tanjong Batu Coast and the eastern part of Meragang Beach from erosion. It is also intended to preserve the river ecology of Sungai Pemburungan and the turtle nesting areas. It is expected to be completed next month.

Coastal management in Brunei Darussalam is driven by shoreline degradation and varying rates of coastal erosion affecting a significant length of the foreshore. Climate change leading to increased storminess and sea level will accelerate the erosion problems.

Hence, there is a need for integrated coastal management between tourism, agriculture, fisheries, recreation and local community and also the need to identify and evaluate the importance of various ecological resources such as turtle nesting habitats, wildlife, fisheries and aquaculture and other coastal habitats.

The objectives of the Protection of Brunei Bluff and Control of Beach Erosion in Meragang are to increase the protected coastline from 42 per cent to 45 per cent by 2018, reduce risks to people and property from coastal erosion, improve the quality of the tourist beaches, plan the best use of public and private funds to protect the coastline taking into account the amenity and environment benefits.

The 18-month project, which started in April 2013, is expected to be completed on May 14.

His Royal Highness also viewed an exhibition by Universiti Brunei Darussalam's Marine and Aquatic Research. Brunei Darussalam marine realm is diverse with coral reefs located at the western edge of the coral triangle. More than 400 species of coral reefs are present in Brunei waters, which is three times as diverse as the corals in the whole of Caribbean.

Universiti Brunei Darussalam is expanding its research into marine biodiversity studies within Brunei waters in collaboration with the Marine Biodiversity and the Wildlife Division. Ongoing research includes acidification effects on macro invertebrate communities, coral growth and reproduction and climate warming effects on tropical marine organisms.

Prospective research includes turtle and coral conservation with the Marine Biodiversity Centre of the Ministry of Industry and Primary



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office releasing a turtle during the working visit.

Resources, impacts of climate change on diversity and distribution of gastropods and crustaceans, aquarium based research with Marine Biodiversity Centre to reproduce main marine habitats in the country, monitoring and research on coastal pollution and capacity building and awareness programmes through workshops and training programmes.

His Royal Highness later proceeded to the project site of the flyover of the Muara – Meragang National Housing Scheme Area Highway and was accompanied by Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, who is also Chairman of the Economic Development Board.

Following a briefing by Haji Abdul Hamid bin Haji Matussin, the Acting Director of Roads at the Ministry of Development, His Royal Highness signed a commemorative parchment. The BND21.8 million project is expected to be completed by October this year. The flyover is expected to increase the safety of road users and facilitate the movement of traffic.

His Royal Highness afterward visited the Building Project Sites for the Royal Brunei Police Force Training Centre Package 1, which completed in August 2013; and the Operation Centre Package 2 which is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

His Royal Highness ended the working visit at the Design and Technology at Anggerek Desa Technology Park, where His Royal Highness was accompanied by the deputy minister.

His Royal Highness was greeted by Hajah Hasnah binti Haji Ibrahim, the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Brunei Economic Development Board and several officers from the Brunei Economic Development Board.

There was a briefing by Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali on Anggerek Desa Technology Park's BND19.9 million project, which was completed last October.

The construction of the Design and Technology Building is an initiative under the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) and an extension of the Knowledge Hub Centre.

It is built to encourage entrepreneurship in ICT, multimedia and animation, and the high-tech creative industry.

The Design and Technology building is geared with eco-friendly equipment including a water-saving system, light sensors, air-conditioning management system, and a green wall with green foliage and with an integrated water delivering system that saves energy.

His Royal Highness then toured the building and signed a commemorative parchment.

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(Their Majesties graces royal wedding ceremony)

The 'Istiadat Persantapan Pengantin Diraja' ceremony

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 12 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam graced the 'Istiadat Persantapan Pengantin Diraja', the royal banquet of the royal wedding ceremony, between His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah.

The ceremony took place at the Istana Nurul Iman.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah

binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Norhayati binti Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah also graced the ceremony.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bokliah binti His

Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Muta-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzillah Lubabul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Nor'ain binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam binti Al-



Their Majesties and the royal couple (left) with the special guests (below) at the 'Istiadat Persantapan Pengantin Diraja' ceremony (below).



His Majesty receives in audience the special guests at the Istana Nurul Iman.



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Her Royal Highness cutting a birthday cake to commemorate the occasion.



Her Royal Highness receives a *pesambah* (gift) from BLGA Vice-Chairperson.

Her Royal Highness attends birthday celebration hosted by BLGA

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 27 – Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman consented to attend a special hi-tea ceremony organised by the Brunei Ladies Golf Association (BLGA) to celebrate Her Royal Highness's birthday at the presidential lounge of Rizqun International Hotel.

At the celebration, Her Royal Highness, who is also the royal patron of BLGA, cut a cake accompanied by singing of the birthday song by members of the association. Then, Her Royal Highness received a *pesambah* (gift) to commemorate the occasion.

In her welcoming remarks, BLGA

Vice-Chairperson Dayang Hajah Sarinah binti Haji Masri updated the association members on the results of the recent Annual General Meeting (AGM) whereby the BLGA President Yang Dimuliakan Seri Laila Pengiring Diraja Datin Seri Utama Dayang Hajah Rosnah binti Abdullah has agreed to continue to be the chairlady until the next AGM and introduced the 12 new main committee members appointed.

She also recalled the recent activities of the association where from March 17 to 19, 12 female golf players formed a team and participated in the annual Borneo Ladies Golf Tournament at the Sabah Golf and Country Club and obtained fourth place. The next host of the event will be Sarawak.

In addition, she announced that the Royal Patron Charity Golf Tournament had been proposed to be held in early October 2015 to raise funds for the charity of Her Royal Highness's choice.

Earlier, Her Royal Highness was greeted upon arrival by the BLGA President as well as other committee members.

BLGA will participate in the Asian Golf Interport Tournament, which will be held in November this year at the Republic of the Philippines.

The BLGA Vice-Chairperson hopes that the new members will join the tournament of which BLGA performed well at the Republic of Singapore last year.

HRH graces 17th Princess Rashidah Young Nature Scientist Award Ceremony

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 29 - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkihah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkihah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah consented to attend the 17th Princess Rashidah Young Nature Scientist Award (PRYNOSA 17) ceremony at the Rizqun International Hotel.

Her Royal Highness was accompanied by Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuruul Bolkihah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkihah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Hj Yahya Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Hj Bakar, in his welcoming speech, said that PRYNOSA has contributed to enhance the

minds of the young generation towards a deeper understanding of biological diversity – the forest ecosystems and the natural environment.

The minister, who is also the Chairman of the PRYNOSA Steering Committee, said that it is in the national interest to explore economic potential without destroying natural resources and bring a huge contribution to a growing economy through discovery and environmental services.

Therefore, he explained that the ministry has opened forests and the natural environment as one of the global research destinations and also intends to enhance local capabilities in carrying out more specific research activities.

He said the research theme for

PRYNOSA 17, 'Island Biodiversity', is appropriate as Brunei Darussalam is part of Borneo Island.

"Their findings are useful starting points for further research and policy development in strengthening our conservation and development strategies. The recommendations are important inputs in Brunei Darussalam's aggressive actions in economic diversification of natural resources," he said.

He added, the research implemented by students can be an instrument in fulfilling the country's commitment to the Convention of Biological Diversity 2020 Aichi Targets, particularly on the 'Strategic Goal E on enhancing biodiversity

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(HRH graces 17th Princess Rashidah Young Nature Scientist Award Ceremony)

management.

At the event, Her Royal Highness presented prizes to the winners of the PRYNOSA 17.

Chung Hwa Middle School in Kuala Belait emerged as this year's champion with its study 'Diversity of Benthic Diatoms and Water Quality along the Mouth of Sungai Belait', winning cash prize of BND4,000, trophies and certificates.

Sayyidina Umar Al-Khattab Secondary School in Mukim Lumapas won second place with its project on 'The Tangle Roots of Pulau Si-Bungur' while Rimba Secondary School II won third place with its study on 'The Effect of Urbanisation on the Distribution of Ghost Crabs in Brunei Beaches'.

The second and third place winners were awarded a cash prize of BND3,000 and BND2,000 respectively along with trophies and certificates.

Earlier, Her Royal Highness was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Industry and Primary



Her Royal Highness with the winners of the PRYNOSA 17.

Resources.

The ceremony began with the recital of *Surah Al-Fatihah* led by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Seria Awang Haji Salim bin Haji Besar.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Mulia Dayang Hajah Normah Suria Hayati binti Pehin Jawatan Dalam Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama (Dr.) Haji Awang Mohd. Jamil Al-Sufri, the Deputy Permanent

Secretaries at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Mulia Dayang Hajah Hasnah binti Ibrahim and Yang Mulia Awang Khairuddin bin Haji Abdul Hamid as well as senior officers were also present at the event.

At the event, Their Royal Highnesses viewed a mini exhibition on the projects.

HRH officiates 4th Annual Executive Secretaries and Administrative Professionals Conference



Her Royal Highness delivering a speech at the opening ceremony of the conference at the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 30 – Her Royal Highness Prince Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, consented to officiate the opening ceremony of the 4th Annual Executive Secretaries and Administrative Professionals Conference 2015 at the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

In a *sabda* (royal speech), Her Royal Highness urged secretaries and administrative professionals to empower themselves with knowledge and skills by adopting a lifelong learning attitude.

They have to constantly acquire new

or in-depth knowledge and upgrade their skills so that they will become more self-reliant and adaptable to ever changing situations, Her Royal Highness added.

Her Royal Highness further stated that as we live in a progressively advanced world, there is a fear that the development of computers, smartphones and other electronic hardware and software would diminish the role of administrative professionals.

While it is true that our gadgets and office equipment

have evolved into dramatically advanced machines, we still do require the commitment and human touch that our administrative professionals provide us with. It is the human factor – the emotions and face-to-face interactions – which makes all the difference in the workplace, Her Royal Highness said.

Her Royal Highness also emphasised the importance of creating a conducive working environment for the professionals as it will enable them to develop a positive attitude while striving to become more innovative.

It is also crucial to balance their work and personal lives, she added.

Various courses concerning the matter have been taking place in Brunei Darussalam.

The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, through the Institute of Civil Service, has been conducting courses on work-life balance for both the public and private sector. The Special Committee under the National Plan for Women also organises courses and road shows on work family balance with emphasis on time and stress management.

The two-day conference was organised by CONFEX Training Services.

About 100 representatives from the public and private sector comprising secretaries, confidential clerks, human resource executives and business owners attended the conference.

Her Royal Highness also expressed hope that the delegates would make good use of the opportunities at the conference by interacting with guest speakers and that they would be able to share their experiences, expand their knowledge and return to work with motivation and inspiration.

The event also saw the launching of a new bi-monthly e-newsletter by CONFEX called FOCUS, which covers recent, current and future events as well as tips and quizzes.

Brunei Darussalam – Vietnam explore various cooperation in education

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, April 2 – The Deputy Minister of Education attended the first Joint-Working Group Meeting between the Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam and the Ministry of Education and Training of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in Hanoi.

The meeting was held at the Ministry of Education and Training headquarters in Hanoi, Vietnam, and was co-chaired by the Deputy Minister of Education of Brunei Darussalam, Yang Mulia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yusoff bin Haji Ismail and Dr Bui Van Ga, the Vice Minister of Education and Training of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

At the meeting, the deputy minister shared Brunei Darussalam's current education development, particularly the transformation of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) into a newly established Institute of Brunei Technical Education (IBTE), a system that builds on the educational

foundation under the National Education System for the 21st Century (SPN21) and placed as a new pathway in post-secondary education for school leavers, helps build a better educated and skilled manpower workforce and attract as well as equip school leavers for jobs and careers in industries.

He also underlined other current developments in SPN21 where various programmes have been initiated to further improve the education system in the country namely the progress made in areas of literacy and numeracy, leadership development, the Whole School ICT Development (WSID) in Brunei schools, the newly launched of the Brunei Teachers' Standard (BTS) and others.

During the meeting, both leaders agreed on a number of project proposals that will be implemented over the next two years. Some of these projects include exchange programmes of both students

and teachers; linkages and exchanges on science, technology, engineering and mathematics education; and the exchange of information and materials on education experience, teaching and learning.

Besides the meeting, the deputy minister and delegation also visited the Hanoi University of Industry and the Hanoi-Amsterdam High School for the Gifted organised by the Ministry of Education and Training of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

The deputy minister was accompanied by the Permanent Secretary (Core Education) at the Ministry of Education, Yang Mulia Dr Haji Junaidi bin Haji Abdul Rahman, and several officers from the Minister of Education.

The Joint-Working Group meeting is the outcome of the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed by both countries in the Brunei Darussalam on April 9, 2014.



The Deputy Minister at the first Joint-Working Group Meeting between the Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam and the Ministry of Education and Training of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in Hanoi.

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(Their Majesties graces royal wedding ceremony)

Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Nasibah binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Noor Ehsani binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and other members of the royal family were also present.

The bride's parents, Yang Mulia Pengiran Haji Bolkiyah bin Pengiran Haji Halaluddin and Yang Mulia Pengiran Hajah Noor'aismah binti Pengiran Haji Ismail were also in attendance.

The royal guests included Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah of Pahang Darul Makmur and Duli Yang Maha Mulia Sultanah Pahang Sultanah Hajjah Kalsom; Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin ibni Almarhum Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail of Perlis Indera Kayangan and Duli Yang

Maha Mulia Tuanku Tengku Fauziah binti Almarhum Tengku Abdul Tashid; Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Al-Wathiqu Billah Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin of Trengganu Darul Iman and Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Sultanah Nur Zahirah binti Adil Bakeri; Duli Yang Maha Mulia Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Al-Haj ibni Almarhum Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Azizi Shah Al-Haj of Selangor Darul Ehsan; Duli Yang Maha Mulia Tuanku Muhriz ibni Almarhum Taunku Munawir of Negeri Sembilan Darul Khusus; Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Azlan Muhibuddin Shah Al-Maghfur-lah of Perak Darul Ridzuan and Duli yang Maha Mulia Tuanku Zara Salim; Duli Yang Maha Mulia Sultan Ibrahim ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Johor Darul Takzim.

The special guests were Di-Pertuan Negeri Sarawak, Tuan Yang Terutama Tun Dato Laila Utama Pehin Sri Dr. Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud and Yang Amat Berbahagia Toh Puan Datin Ragad Kurdi Taib; His Highness Prince Saud bin Abdul

Mohsen bin Abdul Aziz, Governor of Hail Region, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Chief Minister of Sabah, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Sero Paduka Dato Seri Panglima Haji Musa bin Haji Aman and Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Seri Panglima Hajah Faridah binti Haji Tussin; the Minister of Environment and Resource Planning II, Ministry of Public Facilities and the Minister of Industrial Development, Sarawak, The Honourable Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hassan and Yang Berbahagia Dato Dayang Hajah Norliah binti Datuk Haji Ahmad; and the Speaker of Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Sarawak, Datuk Amar Haji Mohammad Asfia bin Awang Nassar and Yang Berbahagia Datin Amar Hajah Fatimah binti Haji Mohammad Iskandar were also in attendance.

Other guests were state dignitaries, cabinet ministers, foreign diplomats and others.

Prior to the banquet, Their Majesties consented to hold an audience with the Malaysian royalties and heads of states.

Minister: Growth of transportation sector vital in supporting Brunei Darussalam's economy

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 15 - The growth of the transportation sector, and in turn, the logistics industry as a whole, is crucial in supporting the country's economic growth.

The Minister of Communications, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdullah bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar said this in a ceremony held at Muara Port to mark the maiden voyage of a new container ship, the MV MTT Muara.

He said, to achieve the target set in Brunei Vision 2035, the objective of the Ministry of Communications is to not only make it as a supporting industry, but to create it into a viable, dynamic and growing industry that contributes to an increased share of the country's GDP.

He said that this could be achieved by establishing sustainable hub activities in all modes of transportation and communications.

It is also aligned with the ministry's long-term plan and mission for Muara Port, which hinges on six strategic thrusts. These are: corporatisation and privatisation; private sector participation and facilitation; infrastructure development; operational enhancement; HRD and safety and security; and the environment.

The transportation sector, he said, serves as a very critical component of the wide perspective of the logistics industry.

"We may safely conclude that the logistics industry, being a major contributor to the GDP, must also grow by at least the same rate of five to six per cent," he said.

He added that this would require "robust economic strategies" by reducing supply chain barriers to trade in five areas, namely: market access requirements; cross border facilitation; telecom and transport infrastructure; regulatory environment; and physical security.

In the speech, the minister highlighted a number of initiatives the ministry is currently implementing, which he believes



The Minister of Communications delivering a speech at the welcoming ceremony of the maiden voyage of a new container ship, the MV MTT Muara.

would stir the sector in the desired direction.

"First, the Ports Department is currently in the midst of two tender processes. One is the Extension of Muara Container Terminal Project by another 150 to 200 metres, which is scheduled to be completed before the end of 2016."

"The second project is the tender on operation contract of the Muara Container Terminal which we hope will attract an established international operator with local content to promote and market it as a transshipment hub of the sub-region of BIMP-EAGA."

He also noted that as part of the Pulau Muara Besar development, the Muara Channel is to be dredged to a depth of 14 metres from the current 12 metres. It would undoubtedly complement the two projects and would enable bigger vessels to call at Muara Port, he added.

On the institutional mechanism front, the ministry is driving the corporatisation process of the Ports Department, which would make it more efficient, productive, dynamic, competitive and able to respond

to market changes faster, he said.

A second institutional initiative is the establishment of the Brunei Maritime and Ports Authority by corporatising the Marine Department and making it an independent statutory body in order to better manage and regulate the logistics industry.

In addition, a project headed by the Town and Country Planning Department as part of the Serasa Local Plan will see the port land-area boundary redrawn and expanded to accommodate future storage capacity requirements in anticipation of increased industrialisation, including value-adding industries in the port area.

"This is being complemented by an initiative of the Ports Department itself to develop a Port Masterplan to redesign and rearrange the layout of Muara Port to become more efficient, environmentally friendly and anticipative of future needs."

He also touched upon the construction of three bridges – one to connect Pulau Muara Besar with the mainland, another to connect the Brunei-Muara District with Temburong and a third to connect Sungai Kebun with Bandar Seri Begawan.

These bridges, he said, will facilitate the movement of not only people but also logistics supplies within and across the Brunei Darussalam border and subsequently transforms Muara Port into an important entry and exit point for Brunei Darussalam".

These projects and initiatives would support major industrial and infrastructural development being implemented in the country such as a pharmaceutical manufacturing plant, the bio-innovation corridor, huge housing projects and the upcoming construction of an oil refinery in Pulau Muara Besar, he added.



The MV MTT Muara at Muara Port.

Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports to offer cultural courses for youth

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 14 - The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports is drafting modules and short syllabus cultural courses that will be offered to youths and school leavers who are interested in the field of culture.

This was announced by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah at the launch of a cultural festival at the Airport Mall in Berakas.

The minister said that ensuring continued efforts in preserving and developing the national culture and arts requires the help of the creative industry. It is necessary to introduce, learn, train and develop the national culture and arts through a more structured and systematic manner.

With such approach, the ministry would achieve its vision of producing individuals who can continue to develop the national arts and traditional culture and thus contribute to the tourism industry and growth of the creative industry, he said.

Under the theme of 'Customs Ethnic Malays in Brunei Darussalam', one of the objectives of the festival is to introduce to the public the uniqueness of Brunei's seven ethnic groups.

The minister said he believed that the festival would be able to develop and prevent the country's cultural heritage from being forgotten and added that it would also help create a sense of appreciation from the community on the diversity of the cultural customs of the Malay ethnicities.

He noted that the objectives of the festival are to introduce to the public the uniqueness of Brunei's seven ethnic groups, enhance a sense of friendship and understanding through culture and arts interaction as well as to expand network in the context of multilateral



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports viewing the cultural exhibition at the Airport Mall in Berakas.

Malay arts – particularly in the aspects of socio-economy, for the development of Malay civilisation.

He said that it aimed to enhance a sense of friendship and understanding through culture and arts interaction as well as instil a sense of belonging to the cultural heritage.

"We must maintain the cultural customs we have inherited and be recognised by the world as an independent and sovereign nation, with a respected and esteemed community," he stated.

The ability of the people of Brunei Darussalam in comprehending and retaining the cultural heritage shows strength, resilience and strong morals, he added.

Organised by the Ministry of Culture,

Youth and Sports in collaboration with the Brunei History Centre, the Language and Literature Bureau and Museums Department, the event also saw a presentation on a working paper entitled 'Custom of Brunei Darussalam's Seven Ethnic Groups' by Associate Professor Ampuan Dr Haji Brahim bin Ampuan Haji Tengah from Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

This was then followed by a cultural talk on 'Alai Bubu', a traditional game played by the Kedayan people.

The exhibition, set to run for five days, showcases the various traditions and customs of the seven ethnic groups of Brunei Darussalam. Numerous cultural performances have also been organised to enliven the event.

for the advanced course.

The minister pointed out that the Community Development Department (JAPEM) has provided various incentives such as allowance, food and beverages, clothing and even transportation to bring in more participants.

However, despite the incentives, the community empowerment programme has not been able to meet the intended target as only a total of 91 individuals have participated in the community empowerment programme since its launch in October 2013.

He explained that based on the initial planning and key performance indicators, the programme aims to provide training to 200 individuals a year. This is to help participants to gain employment or start a business.

*Continued on page 19

Welfare recipients encouraged to partake in community empowerment programme

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 16 - The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports urged individuals who receive monthly financial assistance from the ministry to participate in the community empowerment programme for the betterment of their future and their families.

The minister, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah said this at the Phases One, Two and Three of the Community Empowerment Programme certificate presentation ceremony held at the Youth Development Centre.

He stressed that despite facing hardships and life challenges, there is

nothing that could not be achieved that could lead to self-improvements and creating positive changes in life.

Individuals must have the will and confidence as well as the effort, initiative, diligence and prayer to realise their dreams, he said.

The minister lauded the 87 participants who have successfully completed the three-month programme organised by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

He said that nine recipients have successfully gained employment while a total of 19 previous participants are currently engaging in home-based businesses, and five others have enrolled

*From on page 18
(Welfare recipients encouraged to partake in community empowerment programme)

He further stated that various strategic approaches and efforts have been taken to increase the participation in the programme.

However, it requires both the efforts of both stakeholders and welfare recipients to improve the standard of living. It would be futile if the targeted groups do not have the will and initiative to change their own and their families' lives, he added.

The Community Empowerment Programmes offers training and skill courses including cooking, catering and pastry; computer and office administration; technology and fashion design; and beauty therapy.

The ceremony concluded with a slideshow presentation of the programme's activities and the presentation of certificates to the participants.



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports presenting a certificate to one of programme's participants.

Brunei Darussalam celebrates World Water Day Minister urged public to conserve water

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 27 - Disregarding the tendency to waste water must stop, said the Minister of Development at the Water Seminar held in conjunction with World Water Day 2015 at the Ministry of Development Training Centre.

The minister, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, urged the public to use water wisely by practicing water conservation practices and habits.

"We can start from small steps at home, in the schools, at the mosques and at work place. And it is these small steps that will eventually be significant in our overall effort to better manage our water resources and ensure water sustainability," he said.

The 2015 Global Risk Report published by the World Economic Forum in February ranked water crisis at the top risk, while fiscal crisis is ranked at number eight. This is the very first time a non-fiscal crisis is being identified as top global risk. The minister said that this is not a surprise.

"From food to energy to environmental health and biodiversity, human and all living things are dependent upon water for well-being and for growth," he said and added that inappropriate land use practices and inefficient use of water also threatened the quality and quantity of fresh water.

"No country is immune to negative impacts of climate change, environmental threats and water pollution risk. As water is essential for living and growth, it is increasingly important for countries to take measures to ensure efficient and effective water resource management to sustain social, ecosystem and economy.

"It demonstrates the dire needs of proper water management for sustainable

development," he said.

The minister said the government has done its part in building reservoirs and laying water pipelines, providing the essential resources to maintain efficient round the clock operation and maintenance of water supply system.

"At times, the Water Department has to operate in 'fire-fighting' mode to restore disrupted water supply, for both planned and unplanned maintenance work," he stated.

He applauded the management and the operation team in discharging their duties selflessly. However, it is insufficient if it is only the government that is doing its part.

"I believe we all, as consumers of water, have to work hard together. Every one of us has the duty and responsibility to save and conserve water," he said.

As the country continues to diversify its economy, the minister said, there is a need to increase efficiency in water demand management at all levels. This is necessary to ensure that water does not become an impediment to continuous growth.

He explained that implementing water conservation and water management strategies into our daily lifestyle would not only develop a savings culture, it could also help to delay the need for building new water infrastructure, which can be very costly, and enable the relocation of financial resources to promote economic growth in other sectors.

Increased commercial and industrial activities, climate change and urbanisation can threaten the country's water ways and water production both in terms of quality and quantity, he added.

"In Brunei, we have worked hard to achieve Millennium Development Goal before 2010 in water supply with



The Minister of Development delivering a speech at the water seminar held in conjunction with World Water Day 2015 at the Ministry of Development Training Centre.

systematic planning and development of water infrastructures so that our country can always have adequate clean water to meet social and economic needs," he said.

In conjunction with World Water Day 2015, the Public Works Department through the Department of Water Services organised a water seminar that emphasised on the importance of sustainable water development.

Under the theme of 'Water and Sustainable Development', the seminar aimed to raise awareness of water for living on the challenges facing water management in light of the increase in demand for water access and services.

It also aimed to share lessons and experience of all the invited speakers on trends, issues, solutions and relevant technical innovations related to water and sustainable development in the region.



His Majesty at the 11th BIMP-EAGA Summit in Langkawi.



His Majesty calls for greater environmental work at 11th BIMP-EAGA Summit

LANGKAWI, MALAYSIA, April 28 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam called for a greater urgency in environmental protection.

His Majesty believed that greater collaboration in initiatives such as the 'Heart of Borneo' and the 'Coral Triangle' could have a positive impact upon mitigating global climate change.

His Majesty said this in a *titah* (royal speech) at the 11th Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Summit at the Langkawi International Convention Centre in Kedah.

His Majesty also urged the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to extend its support in this endeavour.

In relation to the involvement of BIMP-EAGA's development partners, His Majesty welcomed the continuous support that has been provided to BIMP-EAGA especially from the People's Republic of China and expressed anticipation of greater engagement with the partner from Northern Territory, Australia later this year.

His Majesty encouraged officials to continue the good work in the post-2016 agenda by identifying projects for new infrastructures, facilitating trade and investment in business sectors as well as more proactive involvement with development partners, which will ensure that people at the grassroots level will continue to feel the positive impacts as a result of such cooperation.

In the *titah*, His Majesty congratulated the chairman on the successful chairmanship of both ASEAN and BIMP-EAGA Summit. His Majesty also stated the discussions over the past two days have provided momentum to BIMP-EAGA'S efforts at the sub-regional level to support the realisation of the ASEAN Community 2015.

The key economic indicators for trade, investment and cross-border movement of people also have shown improvement.

It is heartening to see the success of the various projects and programmes initiated under the BIMP-EAGA cooperation, His Majesty said.

His Majesty further said that connectivity, including power interconnection, would be enhanced. There will also be efforts to increase tourism and agricultural production to catalyse economic development in the BIMP-EAGA region.

His Majesty also welcomed the discussions to further enhance the 'people-centered' component of the BIMP-EAGA's cooperation and expressed anticipation to see more socio-cultural programmes involving students and the youth.

Before concluding the *titah*, His Majesty expressed appreciation to ADB for their continued support in various sectors of cooperation. His Majesty also noted that the BIMP-EAGA has made steady progress in implementing its blueprint since 2012.



His Majesty with BIMP-EAGA leaders before the start of the 11th BIMP-EAGA Summit.