



# بروني دارالسلام

## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

Published by the Department of Information  
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

15 JANUARY 2002

## Unity and cooperation pre-conditions for prosperity and peace, says His Majesty



*His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam addresses the nation on new year's eve, calling for the maintenance of unity and cooperation for achieving further prosperity.*

**B**runei Darussalam ushered in the new year with His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam urging the people to maintain unity and cooperation – which, he said, are pre-requisites for further prosperity and peace.

Addressing the nation over radio and television on new year's eve, the ruler also urged civil servants to be more innovative in carrying out their duties and to increase their productivity. His Majesty extended the call to members of the private sectors, who he said, like their counterparts in the government sector need to carry out their duties efficiently and transparently because they, too, share the responsibility in determining the progress and growth of the country.

"Prosperity and peace are priceless and can only be achieved through unity and cooperation. Neither do they come easily, hence, should not be taken for granted especially at these times of uncertainties", he asserted.

His Majesty pointed that the years immediately preceding the new century saw many countries holding high hopes for the better in the new global era. These hopes are enhanced with the United Nations convening the Millennium Summit which involved many countries.

However, this was not to be with the occurrence of events that suddenly shocked the world which subsequently resulted in war in West Asia – barely a decade after the end of the Gulf War, His Majesty lamented.

This had a sudden impact on world economy, especially on aviation and tourism-related industries. Furthermore, this further worsened the world economic situation which was already badly hit by the Asian financial crisis, the ruler went on.

Nevertheless, in spite of this some peace-loving countries including Brunei Darussalam continue the efforts in their pursuit to maintain peace and achieve further prosperity and progress.

At the same time, he added, regional and international organizations are also playing their respective roles towards achieving these goals.

\* Continued on page 3

## **BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER**

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### **Editorial Staff**

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### **YOUR TURN**

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 31 January 2002. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-383400/ext.BDN Division or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.

# **Customer-focus, customer-friendly civil service**

**W**ith the coming of the new year, the Prime Minister's Department has renewed its call to civil servants to be diligent and give full attention to the duties entrusted them with full commitment so as to achieve maximum productivity.

Through a circular distributed to civil servants on January 1, the Prime Minister's Department reminded that as the pillar and administrative machinery responsible for planning, policy and implementation of development projects, the civil service should be efficient, clean and dynamic, and capable of competing and facing challenges.

To fulfill these requirements, civil servants should carry out their duties wholeheartedly with diligence and wisdom so quality productivity can be benefited, the circular emphasised.

It further stated that in addition, civil servants also need to possess various disciplinary attributes such as morality, sincerity, trustworthiness and good work ethics while at all times observing the teamwork and mutual cooperation concepts in the course of conducting of their tasks.

The Prime Minister's Department, through the circular, also highlighted efforts being undertaken by the government to embody e-Government in its administration and this calls for employees to equip themselves with relevant and up-to-date know-how in the employment of information technology and also constantly keep abreast with its development.

On the continuing efforts to make the civil service a facilitator and partner to the private sector and the public at large, the Prime Minister's Department underscored the need on the part of the civil service to be sensitive to the demand of changing times by constantly revising procedures, regulations and methodologies.

"The civil service now needs to be more customer-focus and customer friendly while being sensitive to the needs of the public and government so as to enable ministries deal with their clients more accessibly. This is vital in supporting the government's aspirations to diversify the national economy and make the country a service hub for trade and tourism or ShuTT, and International Offshore Financial Centre or IOFC", asserted the circular.

All these aside, the circular continued, work productivity should be aligned to achieve the goal of creating a peaceful, prosperous, progressive and caring nation whose people are loyal to the monarch, uphold the purity of Islam and embed the Malay Muslim Monarch philosophy within them.

The circular also urged for prudent approaches to be exercised in government spending in order not only to prevent wastages, but also to enable the government carry out its programmes based on 'value for money' effectively.

Brunei Darussalam has vigorously worked towards making its civil service as one of excellence through the introduction in 2000 of the Civil Service Vision for the Twenty First Century.

*\* From page one  
(Sultan's new year address )*

For her part, His Majesty further said, Brunei Darussalam is stepping up her development efforts through projects in the Eighth Five-Year National Development Plan, which apart from the establishment of the National Oil Company and formation of the Economic Development Board, will hopefully strengthen and stabilize the national economy.

In this context, said His Majesty, "I hope everyone from individuals to members of the private sectors will work together with the government in carrying out efforts towards reviving the country's economy".

He said: "At the same time, I hope efforts would also be continued by everyone to maintain peace and harmony in the country by together stamping out all social problems. Without commitment and united efforts, these problems will not be overcome".

Such efforts, His Majesty pointed, should start with the family as this is the ideal institution to bring about individuals of potentials who could become the backbone of the country and its people.

"Hence, it is of great importance for families to possess moral obligations in together bringing about young generations with high morality and faith, because it is only with these qualities can we achieve true harmony, tranquility and peace".

## His Majesty makes visits to more government departments

In line with his wish to ensure that government machineries run smoothly and efficiently, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has made another visit to government departments – this time to those in Belait district.

On December 26, 2001 the ruler flew by helicopter to the district to round up his visits to government departments and communities in various districts for the year, which saw him earlier making about half a dozen similar visits.

In the latest occasion, His Majesty brought under scrutiny the Kuala Belait and Seria Municipal Board, district branches of the Departments of Internal Security, Islamic Dakwah, Radio Television Brunei and Narcotics Control Bureau; and the Seria Police Station and Brunei Shell's headquarters.

First though, before touring each of the agencies, the ruler stopped at the residence of the Belait District Officer to witness the conversion ceremony to Islam of one of the district's longest-serving penghulu (village chieftain), Datu Maharaja Setia

*\* Continued on Centrepage*



*An official of the Ministry of Religious Affairs guides 69 year-old Awang Simpok in uttering words of 'dua kalimah syahadah', thus, proclaiming himself to be a Muslim, upon which he assumed a Muslim name of Awang Muhammad Simpok. The conversion ceremony was conducted before His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, seen seated, looking on.*

# Deputy Sultan grants audiences

**H**is Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Deputy Sultan, and his wife, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah, had received a farewell audience of Britain's outgoing high commissioner, His Excellency J. Stuart Laing and his wife, Mrs. Sibella Laing. The audience took place at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan on 14 January.

His Royal Highness the same

day also granted a farewell audience to the outgoing ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Highness Prince Sisowath Phandaravong.

His Highness Prince Sisowath Phandaravong and His Excellency J. Stuart Laing have been diplomats of their respective country to Brunei Darussalam since August 1999 and November 1998 respectively.

Also being granted an audience on 14 January was The Hon. Watanuki Tamisuke, Speaker of the Japanese House of Representatives. Mr. Tamisuke led a delegation of several members of the Japanese House of Representatives for a three-day visit to the country.

During the audience, His Royal Highness and Mr. Tamisuke discussed ways to further promote

friendship and cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Japan.

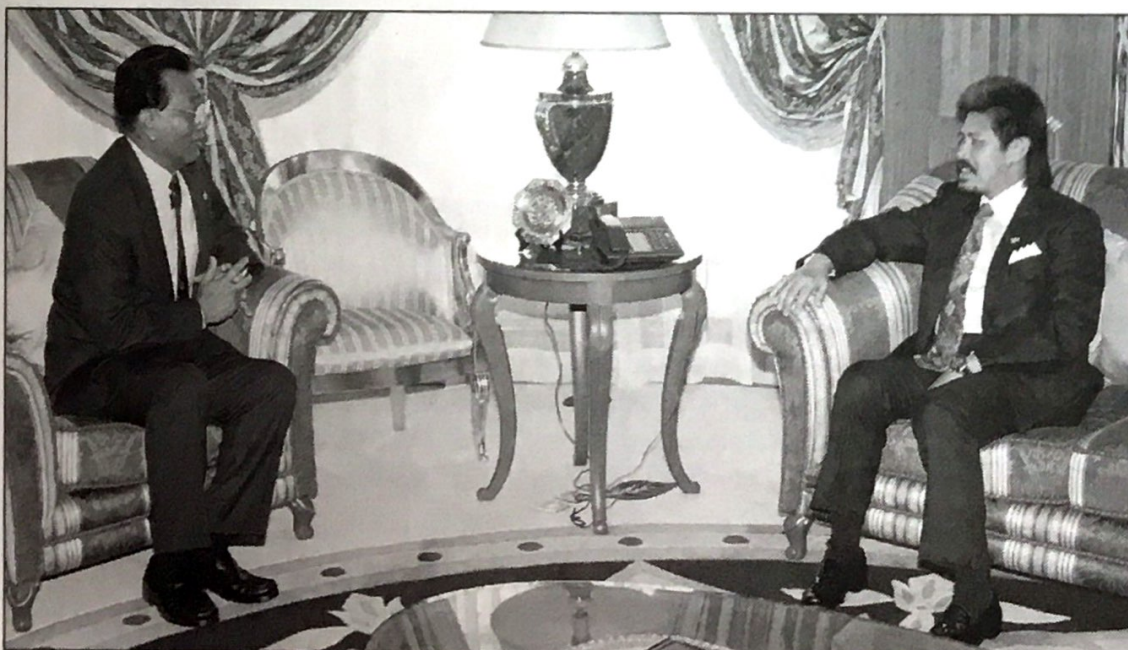
Two days earlier, the Deputy Sultan granted an audience to the Special Envoy of the President of the Republic of Gabon, His Excellency David Desire Benoni, also at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan.

During the audience, His Excellency delivered a message from His Excellency President El Hadji Omar Bongo of the Republic of Gabon. His Excellency was accompanied by Professor Jean Bruno Boguikouma, Personal Adviser of the President and Jean Marie ADZE, Presidential Deputy Chief of Staff.

Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Gabon established diplomatic relations in June 1997.



*Above: His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Deputy Sultan, and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah receiving in audience Britain's outgoing high commissioner, His Excellency J. Stuart Laing and his wife Mrs. Sibella Laing.*



*Left: His Royal Highness in conversation with Cambodia's ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Highness Prince Sisowath Phandaravong during a farewell audience at Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan.*



*His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Deputy Sultan, granting an audience to The Hon. Watanuki Tamisuke, Speaker of the Japanese House of Representatives, above, and to the Special Envoy of the President of the Republic of Gabon, His Excellency David Desire Benoni, below.*



## ***His Majesty congratulates Prime Minister of Myanmar***

**H**is Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has sent a congratulatory message to His Excellency Senior General Than Shwe, Prime Minister and Chairman of the Council of Peace and Development of the Union of Myanmar, in conjunction with his country's Independence Day on 4 January.

*His Majesty in the message expressed happiness on the cordial relations and close understanding that has long been established between Brunei Darussalam and Myanmar.*

*The ruler hoped that such relations could be further enhanced and upgraded in the future for the benefit of both countries and their peoples, and that the people of Myanmar would always enjoy continuing peace and prosperity.*

*Meanwhile, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Foreign Affairs, also congratulated his counterpart, His Excellency U Win Aung, the government and people of Myanmar in conjunction with the country's Independence Day.*

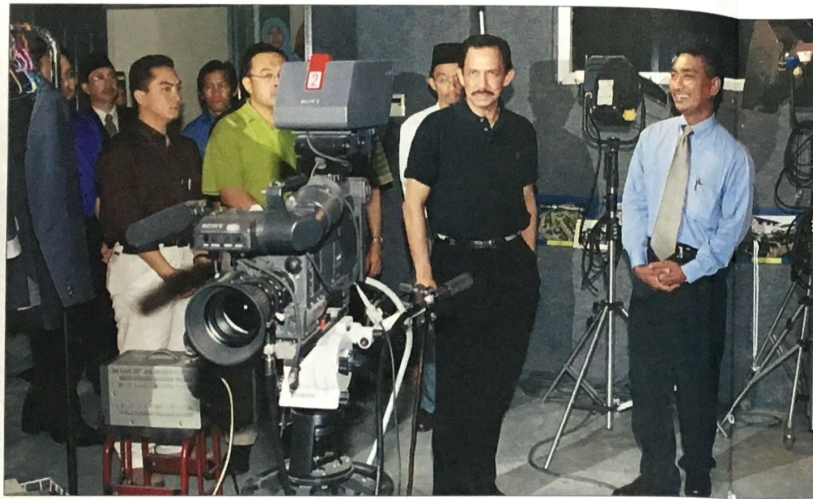
*Myanmar was together with other ASEAN member countries in the ASEAN Summit in the first week of November 2001. His Royal Highness hoped that Brunei Darussalam and Myanmar would continue to strengthen their relations and upgrade regional cooperation.*

\* From page 3  
(Sultan visits Belait district)

Sampok, aged 69 years, who is now known under his Muslim name of Muhammad Simpok and his wife, Dayang Putih binti Melingkong now known as Dayang Siti Khadijah binti Abdullah Melingkong, aged 63 years. Datu Maharaja Setia Muhammad Simpok has served as penghulu of Kampong Sukang (Sukang village) in Belait interiors for more than 30 years.

With the latest conversion, the district recorded a total of 100 people embracing the Islamic faith in the 12-month period from January 2001.

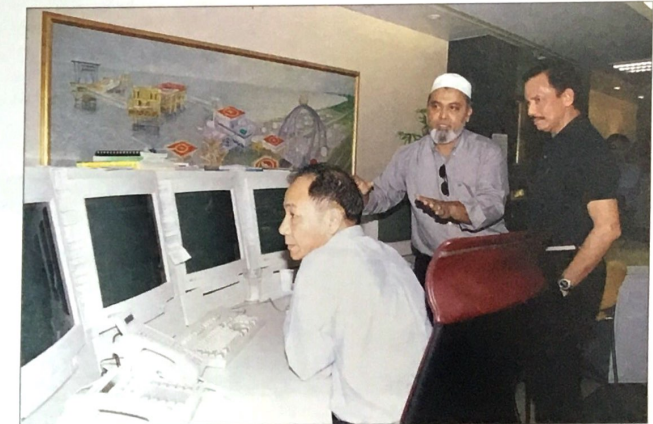
Belait, which has the largest land area amongst the country's four districts with the second largest population, is home to a number of ethnic groups that compose the Brunei Malays. It is also the seat of the country's oil and gas industries.



Far left: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is briefed by a Radio Television Brunei official as he toured the department's branch in Kuala Belait, including its studio facilities. Left: The acting district officer of Belait and other officials greet His Majesty as the ruler alights from his helicopter to start the visit.



Far left: His Majesty being briefed by an official of the Belait branch of the Islamic Dakwah (Propagation) Centre, Ministry of Religious Affairs, on developments with regards to the spread of Islam in the district. Left: The ruler taking a close look at various charts during his visit to the Department of Ports, while an official is on hand to provide briefing and respond to queries. Right: the ruler getting an informal briefing while visiting the Brunei Shell headquarters at Seria.



Left: The Chairman of the Belait-Seria Municipal Board briefing His Majesty while other officials of the department look on. Right: The ruler tours the Kuala Belait police station while the district commanding officer gives a briefing.



Above: His Majesty talking to officials of the Belait Immigration control post, which was one of the many government agencies in the district visited by the ruler.



Above: His Majesty having an informal talk with the ketua (headman) of Kampong Lorong Tiga Selatan, which is one of the district's fast growing communities with the construction of major housing projects in the area.



Above: His Majesty tours various departments and sections of the Brunei Shell headquarters at Seria.



Above: His Majesty being briefed by an official during a stop at the Belait branch of the Internal Security Department, while picture above right shows the ruler inside the control tower of the Anduki airstrip, from which helicopters of the Brunei Shell Company fly to and fro to transport workers working on off-shore oil rigs. Right: Accompanied by officials, the ruler takes a walk-about of the airstrip.



# RTB Awards Night 2001

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah recently was given special recognition for his many contributions to the development of music in Brunei Darussalam. The presentation of the award was held during the RTB (Radio Television Brunei) Awards Night 2001, held at the Dewan Raya, Radio Television Centre in Bandar on January 6.

This is the first time that Radio Television Brunei (RTB) has held an award ceremony in recognition and appreciation of its personalities and personnel who had been working with dedication, innovation and creativity to broadcast both radio and television programmes for viewers and listeners, both within Brunei and beyond.

The Acting Director of Radio Television Brunei, Awg Haji Mohd. Yusof, presented the special recognition award to His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah.

All in, there were 20 trophies together with cash prizes and certificates presented to the best in their categories in various radio and television production.



*His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah presenting the RTB 2001 award in TV Current Affairs category to Dayang Khairul Aini Dato Paduka Haji Abd. Wahab. His Royal Highness has earlier been awarded the RTB Special Award in recognition for his many contributions to the development of music.*

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## ONE BILLION DOLLAR FUNDING

The Department of Economic Planning and Development has announced that the Government of Brunei Darussalam will spend B\$1 billion to implement development projects in the year 2002 – an 82 per cent increase compared to last year's allocation of B\$550 million.

According to a news statement from the Department of Economic Planning and Development, the funding is earmarked for industrial promotion, education, roads, electricity, telecommunication, water supply, public buildings, and State housing. 31 sectors were identified and each sector receives funds ranging from B\$50-156 million.

14 sectors, said the news statement, are given priority and therefore receive a funding increase of more than 100 per cent from the previous year. This excludes three newly introduced ones: information technology, human resources, science and technology, and Pulau Muara Besar project.

50 per cent of the B\$1 billion funding is for fresh projects to be implemented in this year. The remainder is earmarked for on-going projects including ones that have been completed and awaiting payment.

The one billion dollar injection is accompanied by investment in the oil and gas sector, designed to re-invigorate the economy. For example, more than B\$90 million is allocated for industrial promotion. This contributes to infrastructure upgrade, entrepreneurship, and employment opportunities.

The electricity sector receives B\$160 million, enabling the construction of network for power generation and distribution that is expected to meet local demand for the next five years. The road, telecommunication, and water supply sectors are also recipients of multi-million dollar funding with B\$80 million earmarked for the national housing so as to increase housing capacity.

The education, information technology and information-communication, human resources, science and technology will each receive more than B\$150 million. This enables the implementation of projects such as the e-government, awareness and development programme for science and technology, in addition to the setting up of a human resource fund.

B\$77 million is allocated for public building. A raft of new projects is designed to reactivate the building sector. The multiplier effect is expected to generate employment opportunity.

The Department of Economic Planning and Development supervises the project implementation. New approaches to project monitoring are employed to streamline the entire operation and process that promises efficient payment.





## ASEAN leaders called on officials for action

**A**SEAN (the Association of the South East Asian nations) leaders have called on their officials for action that will bring direct benefits to their peoples through the major policy initiatives that have been approved.

These particular efforts are to promote greater economic integration, to narrow the development gap among its members and to reach levels of social and technological development that will offer exciting new opportunities for the peoples of Southeast Asia.

This was said by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Deputy Sultan who is also Minister of Foreign Affairs, in his speech delivered by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Foreign Affairs Ministry before she declared open the first meeting of the 35<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Standing Committee, at the International Convention Centre, on 9 January. His Royal Highness is the Chairman of the 35<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Standing Committee.

His Royal Highness stressed that in all these efforts the Standing Committee has a crucial role.

“You are the ones who must ensure that it produces top-class results and remain a relevant force in these times of great change throughout the region.”

His Royal Highness said, ASEAN’s programme would succeed or fail in proportion to the expertise and dedication of its senior officials, from Directors-General to the newest members of their team.

“It means the Standing Committee has an enormous amount to work on after the recent summit as our leaders will be expecting solid results before they meet again in

*Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (seated fourth from left) declaring the first meeting of the 35<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Standing Committee open, above, while picture below shows Her Royal Highness shaking hands with a delegate prior to the luncheon she hosted for delegates attending the meeting.*



Phnom Penh this year,” he said.

The Deputy Sultan earlier noted that the Standing Committee has an extremely challenging time ahead, especially in finding ways to implement ASEAN’s Development Plan of Action and to reach its levels of integration in the region.

This is due to the new and increased awareness of the scale and scope of each member’s security needs, both regionally and in internationally, and a severe economic situation in Southeast Asia and in the economies of ASEAN’s major trading partners, he said.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna also hosted a luncheon for delegates attending the meeting.

Brunei Darussalam is currently the Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee until July 2002, and will host the 35<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM), Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) and 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in July – August 2002.

# e-Government website, to upgrade the capability of the core government administration

The success of every strategy and action plan depends on the commitment and persistence of every government ministry and agency because without the commitment and enthusiasm in working as a team, the efforts will not achieve success.

This was said by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa, Special Adviser to His Majesty at the Prime Minister's Office cum Minister of Home Affairs, who was the guest of honour at the official launch of Brunei Darussalam's e-Government website, at the Ministry of Communications on December 27.

He also said that the commitment and persistence were critical factors in ensuring excellent public service and it was also important to bring attention to the follow-up measures to ensure that the objectives were met within the estimated period of time and cost.

'The launching of the e-Government website is a significant step in the public service, particularly for the advancement and development of information communication in upgrading the productivity and quality of the public services', he added.

A welcoming remark was also made by Dato Paduka Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office in his capacity as Chairman of e-Government Programme Executive Committee (EGPEC).

He said that among his committee's main initiatives was to implement strategic action plan to encourage more staff to use information technology in ministries, department and agencies beside to support the achievement of the objectives outlined in the Brunei Darussalam Public Service Vision in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Dato Haji Hazair further added that the flagship application that has

been acknowledged by the Executive Working Committee included (TAFIS) Treasury Accounting Financial Information System that includes the project on management and procurement of human resource management, labour exchange and GITNet, BIT Centre and Common Office Environment (COE).

'In the preparation of infrastructure, hardware and software that were needed, the big challenges faced by the e-Government were the change of the mindset, attitude and working environment that includes the application of communication technology and information in the working environment of the public servants', he said.

'Various courses, training, workshops and seminars will be conducted with the aim of upgrading the skills of civil servants in different levels of ICT usage and application in

their offices.

The e-Government programmes Executive Committee (EGPEC) is the advisory and consultative body to the BIT Council for the Development and Implementation of the e-Government programme listed in the e-Government Strategic Framework for Action 2001-2005.

After the ceremony, four speakers from ACCENTURE, KKIP Communications Sdn Bhd, SAPURA (B) Sdn Bhd and HAK & Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) presented talks on customer relationship management, the overall Sabah.Net MSP Architecture, Change Management and E-Government TCIL Vision.

The e-Government Programme Executive Committee is pleased to present a wealth of information for public access at [www.e-government.gov.bn](http://www.e-government.gov.bn).



*The General Adviser to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in the Prime Minister's Office cum Minister of Home Affairs, The Hon. Pehin Dato Haji Awang Isa speaking to an official at the launching of Brunei's e-Government website.*

# Audience for outgoing Cambodian ambassador

**H**is Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah consented to receive in audience the outgoing ambassador of Cambodia, His Highness Prince Sisowath Phandaravong. The audience took place at Istana Nurul Iman in Jalan Tutong, on 31 December.

Present at the audience was the Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Awang Haji Adanan.

The Cambodian ambassador who would shortly end his tour of duty, had been granted an audience by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on 27 December.



*His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah in conversation with Cambodia's ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Highness Prince Sisowath Phandaravong.*

## Brunei In Brief

**Official name:** Negara Brunei Darussalam

**Capital:** Bandar Seri Begawan

**Land size:** 5675 sq. km

**Geographical Position:** North-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia

**Population:** 336,376 (July 2000 estimate)

**National Carrier:** Royal Brunei Airlines

**Official Language:** Malay

**Official Religion:** Islam

**Official Website:** [www.brunei.gov.bn](http://www.brunei.gov.bn)

**December Rainfall:** 173.9 mm

**The Trafficking and illegal importation of Controlled Drugs are very serious offences in Brunei Darussalam and the penalty is death.**

Printed by BORNEO PRINTERS & TRADING SDN. BHD. Simpang 636, No. 5, 6, 7, Block B, Ong Keh Beng Building, Jalan Tutong, Bandar Seri Begawan BF1320, Negara Brunei Darussalam.