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'The Heart of Borneo'

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Annual Raya Gathering

The Minister underscored the importance of educating our youth and the responsibility that the present and younger generations hold in ensuring that nature's gifts can be preserved for future generations to come.

The dominant oil and gas industries have in fact provided Brunei Darussalam with an avenue to grow and sustain her development without sacrificing much of her pristine forests - Brunei Darussalam remains one of the top 10 forested countries in the world, the Minister noted.

In a strong message on the commitment of Brunei Darussalam in conserving the Bornean rainforests and ensuring environmental sustainability, Yang Berhormat Pehin added that "the HoB Initiative in

Protecting Nature in 'The Heart of Borneo'

In his keynote address for the 'Protecting Nature in the Heart of Borneo (HoB): Stock Take, Present Challenges, Future Directions' forum held at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) in Singapore on 5 September 2012, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awg Hj Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Hj Bakar, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, stated that "being small, Brunei Darussalam has its equal share of problems and challenges. Any environmental degradation or

ecological changes would have a magnified and profound impact on the country."

Brunei Darussalam is a strong advocate on the HoB Initiative, knowing very well that in terms of per capita carbon dioxide (CO2) emission, as last monitored by the World Bank in 2008, Brunei Darussalam ranks among the top emitters at 27.5 metric tons per head (largely due to the oil and gas industry) of her population compared to, for example, Singapore which is only about 6.7 metric tons.



“ For Brunei Darussalam, Heart of Borneo means a lot more than just a commitment to preserving the last remaining rainforests. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam foresaw that the Heart of Borneo Initiative would provide the additional and necessary impetus to further conserve the country’s pristine ecosystems and at the same time promote a more balanced national economic development. ”

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awg Hj Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Hj Bakar, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources

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Brunei Darussalam is institutionalised within the Government machinery through the creation of a National Council. A Central Secretariat was also established with the task of executing the mandate of the Brunei HoB Council as well as to implement and monitor projects as provided for by the Project Implementation Framework (PIF). More than 58 percent of Brunei’s land area has also been committed into the Initiative.”

During his speech, the Minister also conveyed his feelings on the difficulty of “commoditising or monetising nature and the benefits it brings.” He cited an example where world experts estimated that nature’s ecosystem services were worth “at least US\$36 trillion annually”, and that the dearth of nature investors or donors will “perpetuate the destruction of nature.”

The Minister also underscored the importance of educating our youth in this area and the responsibility that the present and younger generations hold in ensuring that nature’s gifts can be preserved for future generations to come. More resources, both local and international, need to be channeled into the area of forest conservation – only with this can benefits to humankind be reaped, he added.

Brunei Darussalam Maintains Position in Latest GCR Rankings

Economy	2012/2013		2011/2012	
	Rank/142	Score	Rank/139	Change in Rank
Singapore	2	5.67	2	0
Malaysia	25	5.06	21	(4)
Brunei Darussalam	28	4.87	28	0
Thailand	38	4.52	39	1
Indonesia	50	4.40	46	(4)
Vietnam	n/a	n/a	n/a	-
Philippines	65	4.23	75	10
Cambodia	85	4.01	97	12

In the 33rd edition of the Global Competitiveness Report (GCR 2012-2013) released on 5 September 2012 by the World Economic Forum, Brunei Darussalam’s Overall Global Competitiveness ranking remained unchanged at 28th position when compared to last year’s GCR 2011-2012. The table shows how Brunei stacks up against her ASEAN counterparts.

The GCR’s competitiveness ranking is based on the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI), developed for the World Economic Forum by Xavier Sala-i-Martin, Professor of Economics, Columbia University, USA. The GCI comprises 12 categories of competitiveness for each country:

institutions, infrastructure, macroeconomic environment, health and primary education, higher education and training, goods market efficiency, labour market efficiency, financial market development, technological readiness, market size, business sophistication and innovation.

Out of the 142 countries covered in this year’s report, Switzerland tops the overall rankings for the fourth consecutive year. Singapore remains in second position and Finland in third position, overtaking Sweden (4th). The Netherlands (5th), Germany (6th), United States (7th), United Kingdom (8th), Hong Kong (9th) and Japan (10th) complete the ranking of the top 10 most competitive economies.

MIPR's Annual Raya Gathering

The Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) and its related departments held a Hari Raya Aidil Fitri gathering recently on 7 September 2012.

Present as the guest of honour was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awg Hj Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Hj Bakar, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources. Also present were the Deputy Permanent Secretaries, Heads of Departments, and around 600 officers and staff of the Ministry.

The gathering, organised by the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood, was intended to strengthen ties among the staff of the Ministry, and to brighten the atmosphere during this year's Hari Raya Aidil Fitri celebrations.

Various performances, contests and lucky draws were held during the gathering. Highlights included students from Sunshine School singing a 'Hari Raya' song, as well as a 'Dakwah' singing competition between departments under the Ministry; this year, six groups performed – the Department



of Agriculture and Agrifood, Department of Tourism Development; Department of Forestry, Department of Fisheries, Department of BINA and a combination of divisions and centres under MIPR comprising of the Management and Finance Division, Policy and Planning Division, National Standards Centre and Entrepreneurial Development Centre. Winners received prizes donated by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources.



Congratulations!

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awg Hj Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Hj Bakar, Permanent Secretary of MIPR, Deputy Permanent Secretaries of MIPR, and staffs of MIPR and its related departments would like to congratulate the following individuals on being bestowed State Decorations and Honorary Medals by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, in conjunction with His Majesty's 66th birthday for the year 2012:

DARJAH SERI PADUKA MAHKOTA BRUNEI
YANG AMAT MULIA THIRD CLASS - S.M.B.

Department of Forestry

- Yang Mulia Awg Mahmud bin Hj Yussof, PSB, PIKB, PKL, Deputy Director

Department of Fisheries

- Yang Mulia Dyg Ranimah bte Hj A. Wahab, PSB, PKL, Senior Fisheries Officer
- Yang Mulia Dyg Munah bte Hj Lampoh, PSB, PKL, Senior Fisheries Officer

BINA

- Yang Mulia Awg Hj Metassan bin Hj Abd Salim, PSB, PIKB, PKL, Senior Special Duties Officer

DARJAH SETIA NEGARA BRUNEI YANG
AMAT BAHAGIA FOURTH CLASS - P.S.B.

MIPR

- Yang Mulia Awg Asut bin Kadai, PIKB, Special Duties Officer Grade I

Department of Agriculture and Agrifood

- Yang Mulia Dyg Hjh Halimah bte Ahmad, PIKB, PKL, Senior Agriculture Assistant
- Yang Mulia Awg Mosli bin Hj Abd Hadis, PIKB, Senior Agriculture Assistant
- Yang Mulia Dyg Hjh Rokiah bte Hj Mohd Zain, PIKB, PKL, Assistant Agriculture Officer
- Yang Mulia Dyg Zainab bte Hj Abd Hamid, PIKB, Chief Laboratory Technician
- Yang Mulia Dyg Hjh Jamilah bte Hj Abidin, PIKB, PKL, Assistant Agriculture Officer

Department of Agriculture and Agrifood supports

- Yang Mulia Awg Ong Chek Teng, PIKB, Manager, Soon Lee Farm and Trading Sdn Bhd

MIPR Diary

SEPT 03 **Boosting Brunei-Korea Tourism**

The ASEAN Tourism Human Resources Development (HRD) Programme, organised by the ASEAN-Korea Centre together with the Brunei Tourism Development Department, MIPR was held recently from 3-4 September 2012 in the capital. The programme aims to build the capacity of tourism professionals and boost tourism exchange between Brunei and Korea.



The two-day HRD Programme, participated by 40 tourism professionals from both public and private sectors, included a series of lectures which provided an in-depth analysis of tourism trends and prospects of the Korean tourism market; a general overview of Korea including its history, culture, and lifestyle; and a practical language training course on basic Korean expressions that can be used by tourism professionals in providing better services for Korean tourists.

Meanwhile, His Excellency Mr. Hae Moon Chung, Secretary General of ASEAN-Korea Centre, made a courtesy call to the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awg Hj Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Hj Bakar, on 4 September 2012.



SEPT 05 **MZB Farming gets New Coops**

A foundation laying ceremony in conjunction with the construction of the enclosed chicken house for MZB Farming Company Sdn Bhd was officiated by Yang Mulia Puan Hj Hasnah bte Ibrahim, Deputy Permanent Secretary at MIPR, on Wednesday, 5 September 2012.

The broiler and egg laying chicken sector is part of the livestock industry - an important sector which contributes to the development of agriculture in this country. The industry encompasses the rearing of buffaloes, cattle, goats, deer, broiler and egg laying chickens, in addition to a hatchery which has contributed millions of dollars to the country's economy each year.

To ensure continuous production in both broiler and egg laying chickens, the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood has worked towards transitioning system maintenance technology from the less efficient and less productive traditional housing system to the closed-housing system. So far, eight broiler breeding companies have been employing the modern closed-housing system. The benefits of such a system include: an increase in revenue, effective disease control, efficient use of manpower, low mortality rate and yield of quality meat.

