



PRESS RELEASE

27 January 2005

National University Of Singapore Confers Honorary Doctor Of Laws On Sultan And Yang Di-Pertuan Of Negara Brunei Darussalam

The National University of Singapore (NUS) will confer the Honorary Doctor of Laws on His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam in an award ceremony to be held on 27th January 2005 at the University Cultural Centre. This award will be given in recognition of His Majesty's leadership in leading Negara Brunei Darussalam in its impressive development, as well as for His Majesty's outstanding contributions to bilateral relations between Singapore and Negara Brunei Darussalam.

The conferment of NUS' highly prestigious honorary degrees are approved by the University's Senate and conferred on persons who have rendered distinguished service to the University or the community, in the advancement of learning or knowledge. The degree may also be conferred on persons who are worthy of such a degree or academic award for outstanding human endeavour or devotion to the greater good of mankind. The Doctor of Laws degree is one of the two main honorary degrees conferred by the University. The other honorary degree is the Doctor of Letters.

Presiding at the ceremony will be Singapore's President and NUS Chancellor, His Excellency President S R Nathan. Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong and other cabinet ministers will also be present.

Domestic Achievements

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah is involved in the conduct of the State affairs internally and globally as Brunei's Prime Minister, Defence Minister, Finance Minister and head of the religion of Brunei Darussalam. As a working and caring monarch, the Sultan works tirelessly for the well being of the Brunei people and takes every effort towards maintaining the peace, progress and prosperity of his country as well as his people's quality of life. His people have access to a high standard of education, housing, health care and social facilities and the high literacy and life expectancy rates are testimony to excellent facilities that His Majesty's Government has made available to all Bruneians.

One of his many noteworthy achievements was the setting up of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation in 1992, which is targeted at financing research-related works, especially in the fields of knowledge. These include the awarding of scholarships, providing of donations to the unfortunate, and contributing of funds to the building of mosques and religious schools in Brunei. This foundation is a gift from his Majesty to his people.

International Achievements

His Majesty has also guided Brunei in the active pursuit of a foreign policy that develops bonds with other nations. His sustained effort in ensuring the good relations between Singapore and Brunei is evident during his second State Visit to Singapore in February 2003. During that visit, he highlighted the following: -

"Today, from two struggling countries half a century ago, we have become strong modern partners, sharing our hopes and trying to help each other realise them. We are doing this, both bilaterally and as cooperative partners in a host of regional and international bodies. Our formal cooperation extends

now to many areas of trade, defence, health, education, technology and culture. At more personal levels, we are very close friends indeed. For us, it is a key association.”

Through his official overseas visits and meetings with world leaders, Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah has enhanced his country's recognition as a responsible participant in Regional and International Organisations. The leaders of other nations also acknowledge him as a trusted and respected partner.

Other noteworthy recipients of the Doctor of Laws degree include Mr. Paul John Keating, former Prime Minister of Australia; General Prem Tinsulanonda, former Thailand Prime Minister and Defence Minister; and Dr. David Saul Marshall, former Chief Minister of Singapore.