



AL-MISHKAH

SULTAN SHARIF ALI ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY , BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

A Progressive And Dynamic International Islamic University Based On Al-Quran And Al-Sunnah

* NEWSLETTER

* ISSUE 1

* ZULHIJAH 1427 - REJAB 1428 / JANUARY - JULY 2007



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah delivering his titah

HIS MAJESTY ANNOUNCES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UNISSA

On the eve of the new year 2007, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam in His New Year *Titah* (Royal Address) announced the establishment of an Islamic University.

In the titah, His Majesty underscored the importance of education to human development and the significant role of the newly established university in fulfilling the nation's needs.

"As a small developing nation, the country will not neglect human development in a wider meaning and the platform of this development is education where it will continue to be inculcated and developed. It must be superior and stand strong in line with the nation's aspiration.

Therefore, in conjunction with the new year 2007, I am very pleased to announce the establishment of an Islamic University as the second university in the Sultanate. The university will be known as "Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali" (Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University).

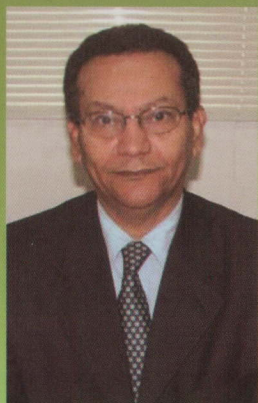
The establishment of this university is hoped to be a landmark of Islamic glory in the country and hopefully will also play a role in producing Muslim scholars and intellectuals that the nation needs. The first batch of students for the university will hopefully enter sometime in August 2007."

Inside

- ◆ Message from the Chief Editor **2**
- ◆ Message from the Minister of Education **3**
- ◆ Message from the Deputy Minister of Education cum Rector **5**
- ◆ University's Visions and Objectives **7**
- ◆ UNISSA Executive Officers **8**
- ◆ Administration Structure **8**
- ◆ An Overview of the Establishment of UNISSA **9**

- ◆ Working Visits by the Rector and Delegation **12**
- ◆ Sultan Sharif Ali: A Historical Background **14**
- ◆ Majlis Doa Kesyukuran Sempena Penubuhan UNISSA **16**
- ◆ Briefing Session by the Deputy Minister/ Rector **16**
- ◆ UNISSA Open Day **17**
- ◆ Appointment of UNISSA Executive officers **17**

- ◆ Three-Month Intensive Language Course **18**
- ◆ Penyertaan Di Dalam Majlis Perhimpunan dan Perarakan Maulud Nabi Muhammad Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam **20**
- ◆ Al-Mishkah Newsletter Editorial Board's First Meeting **21**
- ◆ First Issue of Darul Hikmah Translation Club's Newsletter **21**
- ◆ An Interview with the Deputy Rector **22**



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EDITOR

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious,
Most Merciful

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the first issue of your *Al-Mishkah* newsletter, the chief organ of the Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University (UNISSA). *Mishkah*, which basically means niche as well as pendant lamp, has both educational and religious meanings reflecting the dual

principles on which UNISSA is founded. This Arabic word is derived from verse 35 of Surah 24 (An-Nur) which reads:

God is the Light of the heavens and the earth. The Parable of His Light is as if there were a Niche and within it a Lamp.

Al-Mishkah will appear, with God's will, three times annually. As you can see, this issue contains numerous articles pertaining to the establishment of the Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University (UNISSA), a precious and clear vision of His Majesty the Sultan and a lofty educational edifice in our time.

First of all, you will read some excerpts of His Majesty's historical titah on the establishment of UNISSA. Secondly, you will receive special messages from the Minister of Education and Deputy Minister of Education cum Rector of UNISSA. Thirdly, you will find an interview with the Deputy Rector of UNISSA. Fourthly, you will read a historical overview on the establishment of UNISSA written by the Assistant Rector of UNISSA.

In addition, you will find many other news items, most notably the working visits of UNISSA's delegation to universities in Asia, Africa, Europe, USA and Canada, the participation in Maulud Nabi Muhammad Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam Mass Gathering, the three-month intensive language course, the first issue of Darul Hikmah Translation Club's Newsletter, and many more.

We are grateful to His Excellency Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman Bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Minister of Education, His Excellency Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Mohammad Bin Pengiran Haji Abd Rahman, Deputy Minister of Education cum Rector of UNISSA, Dr Hj Md Yusop Bin Hj Awg Damit, Deputy Rector, and Dr Hjh Masnon Binti Hj Ibrahim, Assistant Rector, for their encouragement and support.

My felicitations go to my fellow editors of *Al-Mishkah* newsletter for their splendid work.

Finally, I wish you great joy in reading this first issue of our *Al-Mishkah* newsletter.

Wassalam.

Associate Professor Dr Arif Karkhi Abukhudairi
Chief Editor

EDITORIAL BOARD

Chief Editor

Assoc Prof Dr Arif Karkhi Abukhudairi

Assistant Chief Editor

Wan Habib Bin Wan Ibrahim

Editors

Assoc Prof Dr Imtiaz Ahmad
Dr Hj Abdurrahman Raden Aji Haqqi
Dr Ayman Abdel Raouf Saleh
Dr Korany Abdel Halim Abdullah Safa
Dr Saber Ahmed Taha
Hj Md Samari Bin Hj Md Noh
Hayatuddin Bin Hj Moksini
Pg Hj Saiful Bahrin Bin Pg Hj Kula
Hjh Sri Rahayu@Nurjanah Bt Hj Dollah
Kujaimah Binti Hj Abd Kahar

Photographer

Md Zefri Bin Hj Besar

Graphic Designer

Wan Habib Bin Wan Ibrahim

For enquiry:

Call: +6732463001 ext 1435

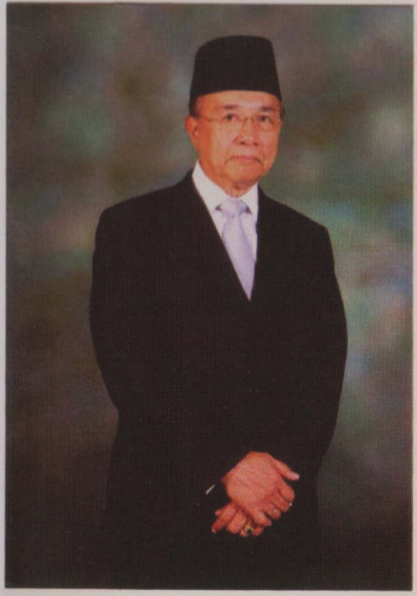
or email to:

almishkah@gmail.com

For accessing the electronic copy of the
newsletter, please visit:

www.almishkah.blogspot.com

©Al-Mishkah January-July2007



MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

كلمة معالي وزير التربية والتعليم

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على أشرف المرسلين،
السراج المنير والرحمة المهداة والنعمة المسداة سيدنا محمد وعلى
آله وصحبه ومن تبعهم بإحسان إلى يوم الدين.

وبعد،

*It gives me great pleasure to welcome the inaugural publication of **Al-Mishkah**, the newsletter of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali and I hope it will play an important role in linking the university with the community and the world at large.*

It is imperative for a newly-established university to forge a strong link with the community and with other renowned universities in order to make itself more well-known.

The establishment of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali as the second university early this year is another milestone in the development of higher education in Brunei Darussalam. It will give more opportunities and choices for the young people to obtain higher education in different areas, particularly in Islamic education.

I believe the university will develop into a centre of excellence that would not only attract students from this country but also from the region and beyond.

فإنه لمن دواعي الغبطة والسرور أن أرحب
بصدور العدد الأول من مجلة "المشكاة"
الميمونة، مجلة جامعة السلطان الشريف علي
الإسلامية أملاً أن تقوم هذه المجلة بدورها
المرجوة منها في ربط هذه الجامعة الفتية
المباركة بالمجتمع البروناي خاصة وبالعالم
كله عامة.

إنه لمن الضروري لأية جامعة جديدة أن توطد
صلاتها الوثيقة بالمجتمع من ناحية
وبالجامعات المعروفة من ناحية أخرى حتى
تنبوأ مكانة مرموقة بين جامعات العالم كلها.

إن إنشاء جامعة السلطان الشريف علي
الإسلامية كجامعة ثانية في بروناي دارالسلام
يعدّ مرحلة رئيسة بالغة الأهمية في تطور
التعليم العالي في بلادنا لأنها ستمنح شبابنا
فرصاً جمة واختيارات عدّة لتحصيل العلم في
مناحيه المختلفة وبخاصة التعليم الإسلامي.

وإنني لعلّ ثقة من أن هذه الجامعة ستغدو
مركزاً للامتياز العلمي ومنارة للتفوق
الأكاديمي الذي سيجذب الطلاب إليها ليس من
أبناء هذه البلاد فحسب، بل من أبناء البلاد
الإسلامية الأخرى.

Continued on page 4 ...

However, it is important for the university to develop academic programmes of high quality by employing modern methods of teaching to ensure relevancy in meeting current and evolving market needs.

The graduates should be equipped with communication and thinking skills as well as moral values so that they would be able to compete in the job market.

It is the hope of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, when announcing the establishment of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali early this year, that the new university would be a symbol of Islamic glory in the country and play a role in producing Muslim scholars and intellectuals whom our nation requires.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the editorial board members and all contributors for their commendable efforts in realising the publication of this newsletter.

Haji Abdul Rahman Bin Haji Mohamed Taib
(Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela)
Minister of Education,
Brunei Darussalam

ومن ثم تقع على عاتق هذه الجامعة مسؤولية كبرى تتمثل في ضرورة تقديمها برامج أكاديمية رفيعة المستوى، واستخدامها طرق التدريس الحديثة لتلبي بذلك مطالب واحتياجات سوق العمل المتغيرة.

وفي نطاق هذه المسؤولية ينبغي أن يزود الخريجون منها بمهارات الاتصال والتفكير السديد، فضلاً عن ترسيخ القيم الإسلامية لديهم حتى يتمكنوا باقتدار من مواجهة المنافسة في أسواق العمل.

لقد أفصح جلالة سلطان بروناي دارالسلام المعظم عند إعلانه تأسيس جامعة السلطان الشريف علي الإسلامية عن أمل جلالته في أن تكون هذه الجامعة الجديدة رمزا حياً للأمجاد الإسلامية في هذه البلاد، وأن تقوم بدورها في تخريج الباحثين والمتقنين المسلمين الذين تحتاجهم البلاد.

وختاماً أهني أعضاء هيئة تحرير مجلة المشكاة وكل الذين أسهموا بجهودهم في إصدار هذا العدد من المجلة.

الحاج عبد الرحمن بن الحاج محمد طيب
(فيهين أورغ كايا سري ليل)
وزير التربية والتعليم،
ببروناي دارالسلام



MESSAGE FROM
THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION
CUM THE RECTOR OF UNISSA

كلمة معالي نائب وزير التربية والتعليم ورئيس الجامعة

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على أشرف المرسلين،
السراج المنير والرحمة المهداة والنعمة المسداة سيدنا محمد وعلى
آله وصحبه ومن تبعهم بإحسان إلى يوم الدين.

وبعد،

It is my great pleasure to welcome the first issue of *Al-Mishkah* newsletter which is published by the Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University. I am glad that this newsletter has started its steps along with the recent establishment of the university.

Its name “Al-Mishkah” (an Arabic word means niche of light) is taken from a verse from the Holy Quran (Surah an-Nur: 35), in which Allah says:

“Allah is the Light of the heavens and the earth, The parable of His Light is as if there were a niche, And within it a Lamp: The Lamp enclosed in Glass”

The name symbolically reflects the role of the newsletter to spread the latest news and information about the university as well as the significance of the university to the country in particular and to humanity at large.

I hope that this newsletter will become a very useful medium for its readers to follow the university’s latest news, events, and academic activities.

فإنه ليسعدني غاية السعادة أن أرحب
بصدور العدد الأول من مجلة “المشكاة”
المنبثقة من جامعة السلطان الشريف علي
الإسلامية. إنه لمن دواعي سروري أيضا
أن تبدأ هذه المجلة مسيرتها مواكبة
لمسيرة تلك الجامعة الفتية المباركة
بمشيئة الله تعالى.

وإنني لأرجو صادقا أن يكون لهذه المجلة
نصيب من اسمها المستوحى من رحاب
كتاب الله تعالى:

اللَّهُ نُورُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ مِثْلُ نُورِهِ كَمِشْكَاةٍ فِيهَا مِصْبَاحٌ

الآية ٣٥ من سورة النور.

وأرجو أن تكون هذه المجلة نافذة إشعاع
قوي من هذه الجامعة ينطق باسمها
ويتابع أنباءها، ويوحى بما ستموج به
هذه الجامعة في المستقبل القريب من
حركة علمية متميزة.

Continued on page 6 ...

I believe that this newsletter will be read not just by local people, but also by readers in various countries all over the world. This will undoubtedly raise the name of the university on the international level.

As the university's voice, it will play its important role to show the ability and reputation of the university whose establishment is considered one of the superb works, achievements and landmarks of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah. His Majesty sees its significance in spreading Islamic religion and teachings especially among the people of the country, as well as showing the world our peaceful and harmonious religion and true image of Islam.

Hopefully all dear readers will find reading this newsletter beneficial and enjoyable through its varied contents such as news columns, pictorial pages, interviews, overviews and book reviews. It also covers most activities in the university such as religious events, national or international conferences and exchange visits between representatives from this university and other universities.

My appreciation goes to the members of the editorial board, who have put their best efforts into realizing the publishing of the first issue of *Al-Mishkah*.

**Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr Hj
Mohammad Bin Pg Hj Abd Rahman**
Deputy Minister of Education,
Rector, Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University,
Brunei Darussalam

كما أرجو أن تكون هذه المجلة نبراسا وشاهد عصر عما ستقوم به جامعة السلطان الشريف علي الإسلامية من جهد مأمول في سبيل خدمة المجتمع البروناوي خاصة والإنسانية عامة.

إنه لمن دواعي الفخر أن هذه المجلة الوليدة لن يقرأها مواطنو هذه البلاد فحسب بل سيقراها أيضا قراء آخرون في شتى أنحاء العالم، ولا شك في أن هذا سيرفع اسم هذه الجامعة عاليا في أرجاء الدنيا كلها.

إن إصدار هذه المجلة ذو دلالة كبيرة إذ أنها ستؤدي دورا مهما في إظهار قدرة وكفاءة هذه الجامعة.

ولذلك أريد أن تكون هذه المجلة صوتا معبرا عن جامعة السلطان الشريف علي الإسلامية التي يعدّ إنشاؤها من أجل أعمال جلالة السلطان الحاج حسن البلقية معزّ الدين والدولة، حيث إنها ستكون معلما بارزا ناطقا بحرص جلالته على نشر الدين الإسلامي وحرصه على رفعة وطنه وإعلاء شأنه وخدمة مواطنيه.

ولا شك في أن هذه الجامعة المباركة بمشيئة الله تعالى ستنبوأ تحت رعاية جلالته مكانة رفيعة ومركزا مرموقا ينشر الأمن والسلام ويقدم صورة صادقة لسماحة الإسلام.

تحية صادقة من أعماق قلبي للعاملين في صمت، القائمين على إصدار هذه المجلة الباذلين جهودهم في سبيل إخراجها في صورة تتلاءم مع مكانة هذه الجامعة الفريدة. ولعل هذا العدد الأول وما يصاحبه من عدد خاص دليل صادق على هذه الجهود التي تبذلها هيئة التحرير.

**فغيران داتو سري ستيا الدكتور الحاج محمد بن
فغيران الحاج عبد الرحمن**
نائب وزير التربية والتعليم
ورئيس جامعة السلطان الشريف علي الإسلامية،
بروناوي دار السلام

UNIVERSITY'S VISION AND MISSION

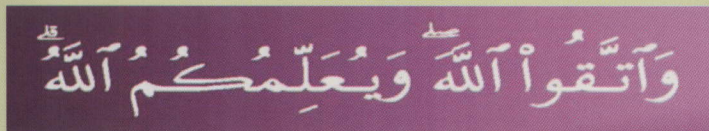
➤ Vision

To be a progressive and dynamic international Islamic university based on al-Quran and al-Sunnah.

➤ Mission

To be an international university which offers various programs of study, research and human development using holistic methods and up-to-date technology in accordance with global development, in order to produce pious, high spirited and valuable graduates as well as to contribute to the development of the community and the country.

➤ Motto



“Observe your duty to Allah, and it is Allah that teaches you” (Surah al-Baqarah: 282)

➤ Objectives

- Delivering well-coordinated and effective higher Islamic learning programs at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, in order to form a comprehensive education system that will produce Islamic scholars and human resources who are high spirited, well equipped, professional, knowledgeable, pious and very well mannered.
- Enhancing teaching and learning skills and effectiveness, educational programs, research and publications using up-to-date technology.
- Promoting and urging more effort of study and research work as well as delivering consultation and expert services within the Islamic perspective.
- Giving effective and meaningful input to the country's philosophy as a “Malay Islamic Monarchy” state, especially in the context of Islam as the main basis and pillar of the philosophy.
- Generating and assisting the development of a knowledgeable, pious and well mannered nation, based on the teachings of the Ahlis Sunnah Wal Jamaah and Shafi'i Mazhab.
- Enriching Islamic knowledge heritage and reference, and spreading the knowledge that will benefit the community.
- Realizing the importance and significance of the establishment of the Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University not only to Brunei Darussalam, but also to neighboring countries and to countries all over the world, as well as realizing its possibility to be a centre of Islamic da'wah in the Asian Pacific region.

UNISSA EXECUTIVE OFFICERS



RECTOR

Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Mohammad
Bin Pengiran Haji Abd Rahman
(Deputy Minister of Education)
BA Al-Azhar (Egypt), MA UKM, PhD UM (Malaysia)



DEPUTY RECTOR

Dr Hj Md Yusop Bin Hj Awg Damit
Teachers' Cert. (Brunei), BA (Hons), MA Kent (UK), PhD London (UK)



REGISTRAR

Hj Tarip Bin Mat Yassin
*Teachers' Cert. (Brunei), Dip RELC (Singapore), BA Hull (UK),
MA NUS (Singapore)*



ACADEMIC CONSULTANT

Prof Datuk Dr Abdul Munir Yaacob
BA Al-Azhar (Egypt), MA London (UK), PhD UIAM (Malaysia)



ASSISTANT RECTOR

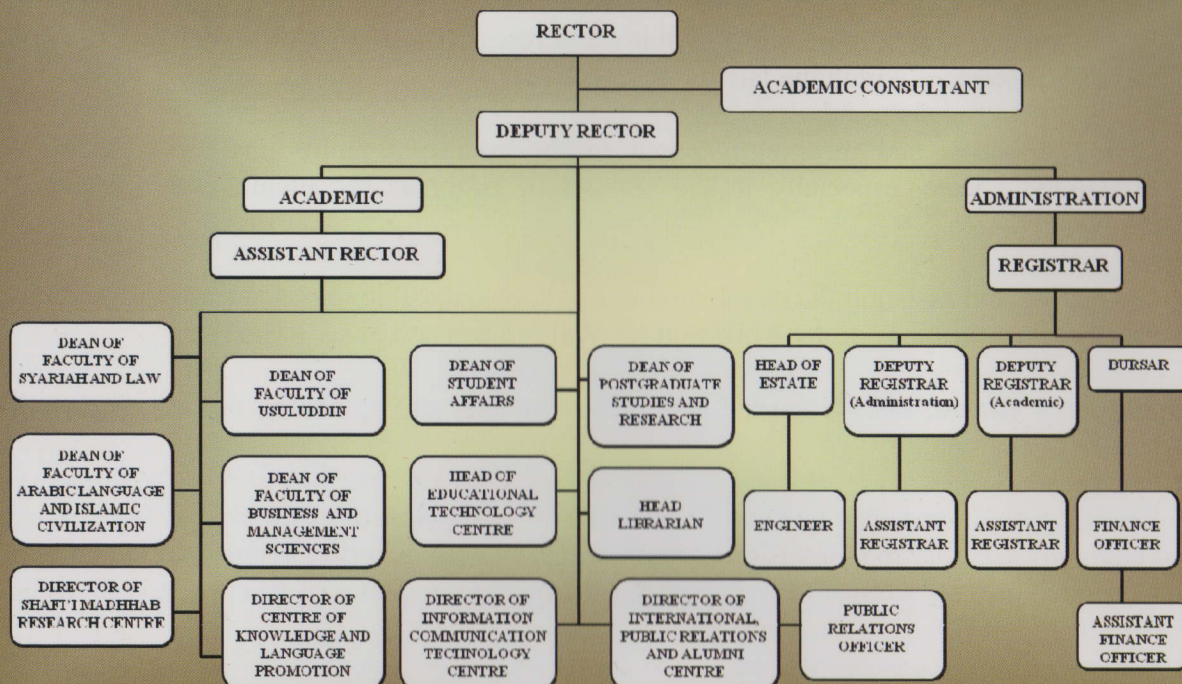
Dr Hjh Masnon Binti Hj Ibrahim
BA Al-Azhar (Egypt), MA UKM, PhD UM (Malaysia)



BURSAR

Hj Sulaiman Bin Hj Latip
Teachers' Cert. (Brunei), BEd Wales (UK), MEd Birmingham (UK)

ADMINISTRATION STRUCTURE



AN OVERVIEW OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UNISSA

By Dr Hjh Masnon Binti Hj Ibrahim

Background

The idea of forming another university, specifically an Islamic university in Brunei Darussalam, came from His Majesty Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddin, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam. In a series of *titah* (royal addresses), His Majesty expressed his hope either directly or indirectly on several occasions such as:

♦ **Universiti Brunei Darussalam 16th Convocation (3 Sya'ban 1425 / 18 September 2004):**

His Majesty referred to the Universiti Brunei Darussalam, which had reached 20 years of establishment; His Majesty suggested it was probably now the right time to form another university in the country.

♦ **Brunei Darussalam's 21st National Day (23 February 2005):**

His Majesty stressed the importance of strengthening the religious education system at the elementary level, while at higher level it should be able produce *ulama* (scholars) and intellectuals.

♦ **Universiti Brunei Darussalam 17th Convocation (2 Sya'ban 1426 / 6 September 2005):**

His Majesty made clear that the second university he had proposed previously was going to be an Islamic university, as its formation would fulfill the nation's need and the country already had the base for that formation.

♦ **Universiti Brunei Darussalam 18th Convocation (11 Sya'ban 1427 / 4 September 2006):**

His Majesty highlighted that the second university that he aimed for would be a pure Islamic higher educational institution, which would be our landmark in the world and the hereafter.

Steering Committee for the Formation of Islamic University

Following His Majesty's *titahs*, a steering committee for the formation of the Islamic university was formed in November 2005. This committee was given the responsibility to form a comprehensive proposal for the university's establishment.

It was chaired by Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Mohammad Bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman, Deputy Minister of Education. Other members were: Dato Paduka Haji Sheikh Adnan Bin Sheikh Mohamad, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education (Deputy Chairman); Haji Mohd Said Bin POKPS Dato Paduka Haji Hashim, Permanent Secretary (Technical and Professional), Ministry of Development; Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Rahman Bin Haji Mohiddin, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs; Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali Bin Haji Apong, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance; Dato Paduka Dr Awang Haji Ismail Bin Hj Duraman, Vice Chancellor, Universiti Brunei Darussalam; Datin Paduka Dayang Magdalene Chong, Solicitor General, Attorney General's Chamber, Prime Minister Department Office; Haji Ishaaq Bin Hj Abdullah, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs; Dayang Apsah Binti Hj Abdul Majid, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Core Education), Ministry of Education; Haji Md Daud Bin Hj Mahmud, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Planning and Policy), Ministry of Education; Dato Paduka Awang Haji Saifon Bin Hj Awang Besar, Director General, Civil Service Department, Prime Minister's Office; Dr Haji Mohd Yusop Bin Haji Awang Damit, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Universiti Brunei Darussalam; Dayang Hajah Norjum Binti Haji Yusop, Director General, Ministry of Education; Dr Hjh Masnon Binti Haji Ibrahim, Deputy Dean, Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Institute of Islamic Studies, UBD; and Awang Haji Japar Bin Haji Maidin, Head *Istinbat* Officer, State Mufti's Office, Prime Minister Department Office.

Continued on page 10 ...



***Sitting from left:** Datin Paduka Dayang Magdalene Chong, Dayang Apsah Binti Hj Abdul Majid, Dato Paduka Dr Awang Haji Ismail Bin Hj Duraman, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali Bin Haji Apong, Dato Paduka Hj Sheikh Adnan Bin Sheikh Mohamad, Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Mohammad Bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Rahman Bin Haji Mohiddin, Haji Ishaaq Bin Hj Abdullah, Haji Md Daud Bin Hj Mahmud, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Saifon Bin Hj Awang Besar*

***Standing from left:** Dr Hjh Masnon Binti Haji Ibrahim, Dayang Hajah Norjum Binti Haji Yusop, Dr Haji Mohd Yusop Bin Haji Awang Damit*

***Not in the photo:** Haji Mohd Said Bin POKPS Dato Paduka Haji Hashim, Awang Haji Japar Bin Haji Maidin*

Under this committee, several working committees were formed :

- **Legal Committee:** Chaired by Datin Paduka Dayang Magdalene Chong, Solicitor General, Attorney General's Chamber, Prime Minister Department Office.
- **Logistic Committee:** Chaired by Awg Hj Daud Bin Mahmud, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education.
- **Personnel Committee:** Chaired by Dato Awang Haji Ishaaq Bin Haji Abdullah, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs.
- **Academic Committee:** Chaired by Dr Hj Md Yusop Bin Hj Awg Damit, Assistant Vice Chancellor, UBD.

The final report of the Steering Committee was reviewed and approved by the Brunei Darussalam's Higher Learning Review Committee in September 2006 for presentation to His Majesty for his consent and approval. The Review Committee members consisted of:

- ♦ Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman Bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Minister of Education (Chairman),
- ♦ Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr Ustaz Awang Hj Mohd Zain Bin Hj Serudin, Minister of Religious Affairs,
- ♦ Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abu Bakar Bin Haji Apong, Minister of Communication,
- ♦ Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Paduka Haji Suyoi Bin Haji Osman, Minister of Health,
- ♦ Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdullah Bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Minister of Development,
- ♦ Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Rahman Bin Haji Ibrahim, Minister of Finance II, and
- ♦ Dato Paduka Haji Sheikh Adnan Bin Sheikh Mohamad, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education (Secretary)

Secretariat of the Formation of Islamic University

As a means of coordination towards the university's establishment, Brunei Darussalam's Higher Learning Review Committee agreed to form a special secretariat known as **The Secretariat of the Formation of Islamic University** in September 2006.

The Secretariat members are:

- ♦ Dr Hj Md Yusop Bin Hj Awang Damit (Chairman)
- ♦ Dr Hjh Masnon Binti Hj Ibrahim
- ♦ Awang Hj Abdullah Bin Tapa
- ♦ Awang Hj Isa Bin Hj Shahminan
- ♦ Dayang Asmah Binti Hj Abd Majid
- ♦ Associate Professor Dr Hj Mahayudin Bin Hj Yahaya
- ♦ Associate Professor Dr Hj Mohamad @ Md Som Bin Sujimon
- ♦ Dr Sayyid Abdel Hamid Al-Mahdaly
- ♦ Dayang Hjh Ramiah Binti Hj Abu Bakar
- ♦ Awg Hj Tarip Bin Hj Mat Yassin (Secretary)
- ♦ Awg Hayatuddin Bin Hj Moxsin (Assistant Secretary)



Sitting from left: Awang Haji Abdullah Bin Tapa, Awang Haji Isa Bin Hj Shahminan, Dr Hj Md Yusop Bin Hj Awang Damit, Dr Hjh Masnon Binti Hj Ibrahim, Dayang Asmah Binti Hj Abd Majid.

Standing from left: Awg Hayatuddin Bin Hj Moxsin, Awg Hj Tarip Bin Hj Mat Yassin, Dr Sayyid Abdel Hamid Al-Mahdaly, Associate Professor Dr Hj Mahayudin Bin Hj Yahaya, Dayang Hjh Ramiah Binti Hj Abu Bakar

Not in the photo: Associate Professor Mohamad @ Md Som Bin Sujimon

The Establishment

By Allah's will, on 11 Zulhijjah 1427 / 1 Januari 2007 His Majesty Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddin, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam has consented to and announced the establishment of the university with the name :

UNIVERSITI ISLAM SULTAN SHARIF ALI

WORKING VISITS BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DELEGATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SULTAN SHARIF ALI ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY

In effort to bring about His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam's will to establish an Islamic university as announced in His Majesty's titah on 2nd Sya'ban 1426 corresponding to 6th September 2005 in conjunction with the UBD 17th convocation, a steering committee of the Islamic university was formed to organize the structure of the university.

As part of the structural planning efforts, several visits to regional and international universities were made. These visits were aimed at gathering information related to the administration and management of higher educational institutions, and the development of Islamic studies and general programmes. Academic, logistic and personnel system were also discussed with the universities visited.

The series of working visits was carried out in two stages. The first stage focused more on Islamic higher educational institutions such as those in Malaysia, Egypt, Jordan and Qatar. This lasted for 13 days from 16th to 28th of April 2006.

The second stage lasted for 19 days from 12th to 30th of April 2007. It was directed to higher educational institutions in Canada, the United States of America and the United Kingdom.



*Having an opportunity to meet Sheikh Yusuf Al-Qardhawi
in Qatar in April 2006*



*Visit to Kedah Institute of Islamic Studies
(INSANIAH) in Malaysia in April 2006*



*Visit to Yarmouk University in Jordan
in April 2006*



*Visit to Al-Azhar University in Egypt
in April 2006*



*Exchanging souvenirs with Dr. Farhan Nizami
from the Oxford Centre of Islamic Studies,
Oxford University*

Continued on page 13 ...



Visit to the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Shown above Professor MAS Abdel Haleem, Director, Centre of Islamic Studies (3rd from left)



Photo of the delegation with Dr D.K. Campbell, Provost, University of Boston, USA (5th from left)



Group photo with fellow from University of Waterloo, Canada (2nd from right) on 18th July 2007



Besides the main objective, these visits also aimed to create early relationship between the institutions and UNISSA.

In addition, these visits also discussed the chances of bilateral co-operation between them, mainly in the field of exchanging students or lecturers, academic projects and research and consultation projects.

In both series of working visits, the Deputy Minister of Education, Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad bin Pengiran Haji Abd. Rahman led the delegation, which comprised of the Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Education, Haji Mohd. Daud bin Haji Mahmud, Deputy Rector, Dr Hj Mohd Yusop Bin Hj Awg Damit, Assistant Rector, Dr Hj Masnon Binti Hj Ibrahim and a few other officers.

The outcome of these visits was successful, as demonstrated by the objectives which were achieved. The visits were seen as the gateway to maintaining a cooperative relationship in various fields of higher education. The friendly environment created, and the shared professionalism between institutions visited and UNISSA, will support UNISSA in its achievement of excellence.

Group photo with Gurney Prof. Roy P. Mottahedeh, Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal Islamic Studies Program, Harvard University, USA



Presenting souvenir to Assoc Prof R. Wisnosky, Director, Institute of Islamic Studies, University of Mc Gill, Montreal, Canada



Photo of the delegation with Dr. John A. Haigh, Executive Dean, JFK School of Government, Harvard University

SULTAN SHARIF ALI: A Historical Background

By Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Mohammad Bin Pengiran Haji Abd Rahman

In the 14th century, it was an historical event for Brunei when a *Sharif* (a man whose root was from the family of the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam) came to this country. The devoted, pious and generous man possessed an excellent knowledge of Islam and a very good manner. He married the daughter of his foster father, Sultan Ahmad, the ruler of Brunei. His wonderful characteristics, together with his outstanding capability in administration, made him the most suitable nominee to lead the government and the people of Brunei. With full trust and consent from the Bruneian people, he was appointed as the third Sultan of Brunei. Datu Imam Yakub wrote in "The Geneology of the Sultans of Brunei" in the 18th century:

... an Arabian man from Taif named Sharif Ali Bilfakih came to Brunei. He was from the family of Amirul Mu'minin Hasan, the grandson of Rasulullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam. Not long after residing in Brunei, Sharif Ali married the daughter of Sultan Ahmad. His marriage ceremony was held according to the royal customs and tradition. He upheld the Islamic religion and the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam, and built a mosque in Brunei. Sultan Ahmad sent his son-in-law, Sharif Ali, to the throne, and he was known by the people of Brunei as Sultan Berkat. (P.L. Amin Sweeney, 1968: 54)

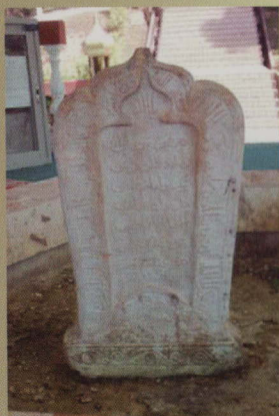
Regarding the activities of the Arabs in the Malay Archipelago, it is commonly heard that many Arabs, whose title is "Sharif", have made so many contributions in spreading Islam among local people.

According to Hamka (1963: 75), a prominent scholar in the Malay Archipelago, the title "Sharif" is given to the descendants of Hassan bin Ali bin Abi Talib, while the title "Sayyid" is given to the descendants of Husain bin Ali bin Abi Talib. In certain states, the title "Sayyid" is given to all descendants of both Hasan and Husain, and the title "Sharif" will be given to any of them who becomes a king (Sultan).



The Tomb of Sultan Sharif Ali in Kota Batu, which is situated 5 kilometers from Bandar Seri Begawan

This statement was supported by Haji Ismail bin Omar Abdul Aziz (1965: 17): "The Sharifs of Mecca are descendants of Sayyidina Hasan ... the Sharifs of Mecca did not do their trade across the sea, but those who were mostly working and trading by sea were the descendants of Sayyidina Husain who originated from Hadaramaut."



Sayyid Alwi bin Tahir al-Haddad and Najeeb M. Saleeby furthermore affirmed these arguments by saying that the title of Sharif generally refers to the descendants of the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam. Even though the full title is "Al-Sayyid Al-Sharif", the Arabs only use the title "Sayyid", while in the Phillipines, Moro people usually use the full title (Sayyid Alwi bin Tahir al-Haddad, 1957: 53) or only use the title "Sharif" which literally means "royal family", the title they are really proud of (ibid: 40).



The Tombstone of Sultan Sharif Ali

Continued on page 15 ...

Another statement, however, claims that Sharif Ali came from the family of Sayyid Abdul Kadir Jailani, who came from the family of Sayyidina Hasan, as yet another statement claims that Sharif Ali came from the family of Sharif Zainal Abidin who came from the family of Sayyidina Husain. The most important thing, whether Sharif Ali came from the family of Abdul Kadir Jailani or Sharif Zainal Abidin, is the fact that he is the descendant of the Messenger of Allah, Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam (Pehin Jamil al-Sufri, 1990: 60-61, 55; Mahayudin Haji Yahya, 1984: 24-25).

In *Silsilah Raja-Raja Brunei* (The Family Tree/Genealogy of the Kings of Brunei), it was stated that the first Sultan of Brunei was Sultan Muhammad and the second Sultan of Brunei was Sultan Ahmad. However, there is no concrete evidence that says either of them had any sons. They only had daughters. Even so, there is a hidden wisdom behind it: Brunei was then ruled by a king whose root was from the family of Rasulullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam. It was from his marriage to the princess of Sultan Ahmad that came all the subsequent Kings of Brunei who have ruled this country to date.

Sultan Sharif Ali did not just continue the family tree of the holiest creature of Allah biologically, but he also became the person who was responsible for bringing and torching the light of Islam successfully in Brunei Darussalam.

By seeing Brunei Darussalam as a Malay Islamic Sultanate that upholds the teachings of Al-Quran and Al-Sunnah and makes Islam its official religion, along with the desire to nurture the Islamic teachings and to interact with the globalized world, His Majesty announced the establishment of Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University in conjunction with the new year on 1 January 2007 (11 Zulhijjah 1428).



An artist's impression of the first mosque in Brunei

The designated name is indeed absolutely right and appropriate to Bruneian tradition, the history of the Sultanate, and the Islamic faith. It is also in accord with the university's mission, vision, motto, and objectives to produce high quality, well equipped graduates who seek happiness in this world and the hereafter.

Bibliography:

P,L Amin Sweeney, 1968. "Silsilah Raja-Raja Brunei", JMBRAS, Vol. 41., Pt. 5.

HAMKA, 1963. "Masuk dan Berkembangnya Agama Islam di Daerah Pesisir Sumatera Utama" in *Risalah Seminar Sejarah Kemassukan Islam ke Indonesia*, Medan : t.pt.

Haji Ismail bin Omar Abdul Aziz, Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama, 1965, "Kaifa Dakhala al-Islam fi Brunei", in *Al-Islam Fi Brunei* , Abdul Hafiz Mahmasani (Ed.) Beyrut: Dar al-Asimah.

Sayyid Alwi bin Tahir Al-Haddad, 1957. *Sejarah Perkembangan Islam di Timur Jauh*, Jakarta: Maktab al-Daimi.

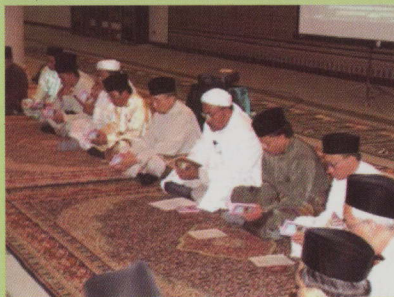
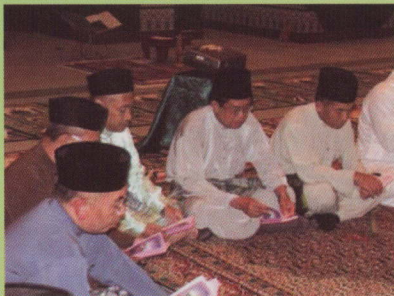
Haji Mohd. Jamil al-Sufri, Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Diraja Dato Seri Utama (Dr.), 1990. *Tersilah Brunei. Brunei: Jabatan Pusat Sejarah*.

Mahayudin Haji Yahya, 1984. *Sejarah Orang Syed di Pahang*. Kuala Lumpur: Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka.

NEWS AND EVENTS



Membaca Surah Yasin

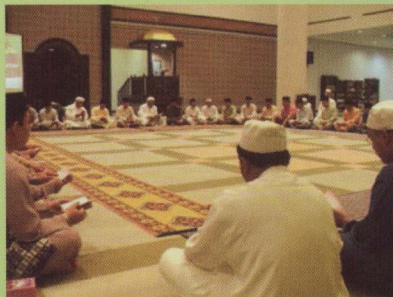


MAJLIS DOA KESYUKURAN SEMPENA PENUBUHAN UNISSA

*B*agi meraikan penubuhan UNISSA sepertimana yang dititahkan oleh Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan sempena Sambutan Awal Tahun Baru 2007 yang lalu, satu majlis doa kesyukuran telah diadakan di Masjid Universiti, Universiti Brunei Darussalam pada 1 Februari 2007.

Majlis dimulakan dengan sembahyang fardhu Maghrib berjemaah, seterusnya membaca surah Yasin, *Dikir Marhaban* and doa selamat yang diketuai oleh Yang Mulia Imam Hj Abd Warith Bin Haji Raini.

Hadir ke majlis tersebut ialah Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Hj Abdul Rahman Bin Dato Setia Hj Md Taib, Menteri Pendidikan, Timbalan Menteri Pendidikan, ahli-ahli Jawatankuasa Pandu Penubuhan Universiti Islam, para pegawai dan pensyarah dari Kementerian Pendidikan, UBD dan UNISSA.



*Dikir
Marhaban*

BRIEFING SESSION BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER

*O*n 23 January 2007, a briefing session was held for the staff of Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Institute of Islamic Studies (IPISHOAS, UBD). The purpose of this session was to provide them information about the overall idea of the formation of UNISSA in terms of objectives, departmental and academic structures, programmes offered, and how the formation of UNISSA would affect them.

It was decided by the Steering Committee of the Formation of Islamic University that IPISHOAS, UBD and its staff to be absorbed by the new university. However, the students registered under IPISHOAS, UBD will be phased out until the last cohort graduated. The students intake beginning from the academic session 2007/2008 will be under UNISSA.

The briefing was given by Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr Hj Mohammad Bin Pengiran Hj Abd Rahman, Deputy Minister of Education. Towards the end of the session, the audience was given the chance to ask questions.



*The Deputy Minister of Education and
Executive Officers of UNISSA*



*Among the staff that attended the
briefing session*

UNISSA OPEN DAY



A welcoming address by the Deputy Rector

On 11 February 2007, UNISSA organized an open day which was aimed to provide interested members of the public with information about the programs available as well as entry requirements through a series of briefings and discussions.

Hundreds of people attended the event held at the Multi-Purpose Hall, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

Five booths were set up representing UNISSA Administration, Faculty of Arabic Language and Islamic Civilization, Faculty of Syariah and Law, Faculty of Usuluddin, and Faculty of Business and Management Sciences.

The Open Day attracted members of the public especially those interested in undertaking diploma, first degree and postgraduate degree programs offered by the university.



Visitors listening to the address



Attending the booths



One of the officers (far left) explaining the offered programmes to the visitors

APPOINTMENT OF UNISSA EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

On 28 February 2007, the Civil Service Department of the Prime Minister's Office announced that His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam had consented to appoint Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Mohammad bin Pengiran Haji Abd Rahman, the Deputy Minister of Education, as the Interim Rector of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), in addition to his duty as the Deputy Minister of Education.

His Majesty also consented, with effect from January 1, 2007, to the transfer, promotion and appointment of Dr Awang Haji Mohd. Yusop bin Haji Awang Damit, the Assistant Vice Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam, to be transferred to and promoted as the Deputy Rector at UNISSA, and Dr Dayang Hajah Masnon binti Haji Ibrahim, the Dean of the Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Institute of Islamic Studies to be transferred and promoted as Assistant Rector at UNISSA.

Meanwhile, Awg Hj Tarip Bin Mat Yassin, former Deputy Registrar of UBD and Awg Hj Sulaiman Bin Hj Latip, former Bursar of UBD were also appointed as Registrar and Bursar of UNISSA respectively.



The Rector delivering his speech

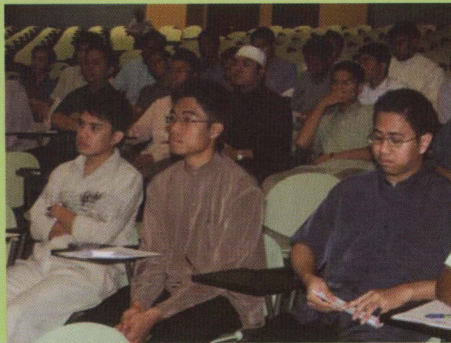
THREE-MONTH INTENSIVE LANGUAGE COURSE

In order to strengthen the language ability of prospective students of UNISSA and to equip them with useful language skills before beginning their study in August 2007, the administration of UNISSA has organized a three-month intensive language course which focused on both Arabic and English languages.

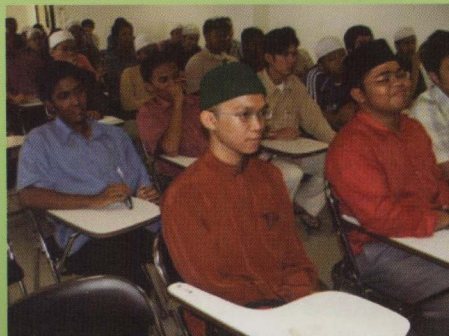
121 students took part in the course, which started on 16 March 2007 and ended on 16 June 2007.

With collaboration and assistance from UBD's IPISHOAS Arabic Language Department, UBD's Language Centre and CfBT (The Centre for British Teachers), the course, which emphasized eight aspects of language skills: listening, reading, speaking, writing, language structure, vocabulary enrichment, language of media and academic writing skills, was seen as a very important effort to boost the students' confidence in using these languages.

In order to explain the Arabic intensive component, a briefing session was held during the opening ceremony of the course on 17 March 2007 at the Chancellor Hall, UBD. A special briefing session was also held separately for the English component.



Combo pictures of the Intensive Course Opening Ceremony



Combo pictures of the English component briefing session

Continued on page 19...

As a result of placement tests held before the course, the students were allocated to different groups e.g. for Arabic language component: Level 1, Level 2A, Level 2B and Level 3. The English stream had three levels: Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced.



Students attending the placement test



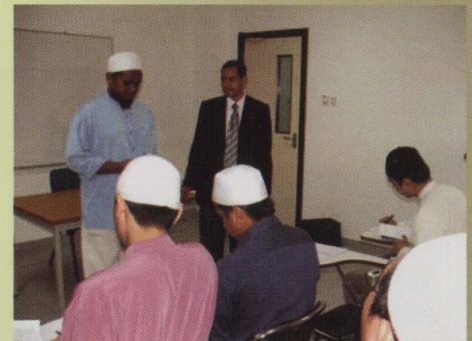
Throughout the three months, the students were required to attend classes, which focused on the specific language skills. Apart from attending lectures, the students were also given various assignments and projects which were assessed as part of continuous assessment marks totalling 30%. The remaining 70% was allocated for the final examinations, which were held on 14th and 16th May 2007.



One of the English classes



The lecturer explaining the subject in Arabic

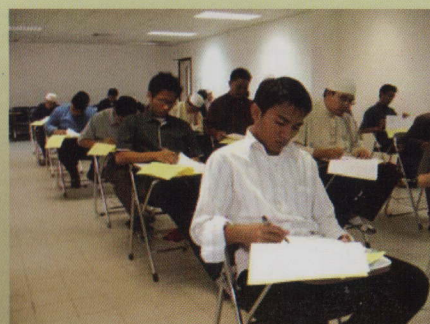


A student (standing left) delivering a speech in front of his colleagues as one of the class activities

The results, which were announced a week after the examinations concluded, showed very good progress. This indicated that the course did benefit the students in enhancing their language ability and skills before pursuing their study in UNISSA in August 2007.

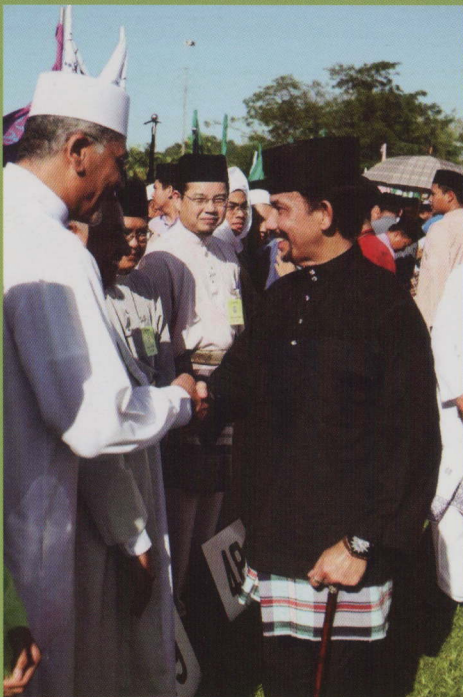


Oral examination



Written examination





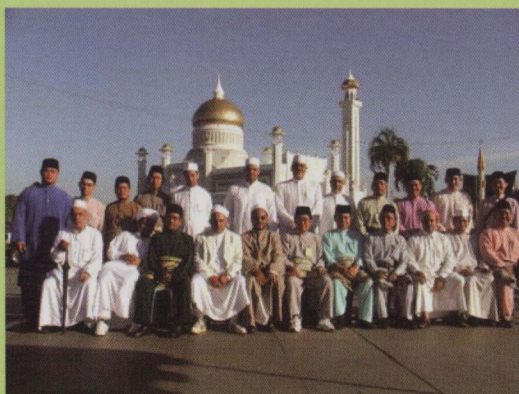
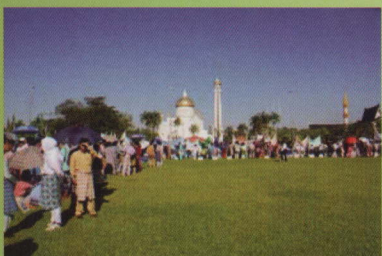
*Menjunjung ziarah
Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia
Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah
Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah*

**PENYERTAAN DI DALAM MAJLIS PERHIMPUNAN
DAN PERARAKAN SEMPERA
MEMPERINGATI MAULUD NABI MUHAMMAD
SALLALLAHU 'ALAIHI WASALLAM**

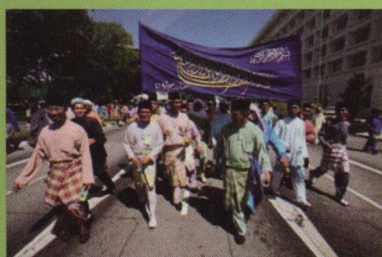
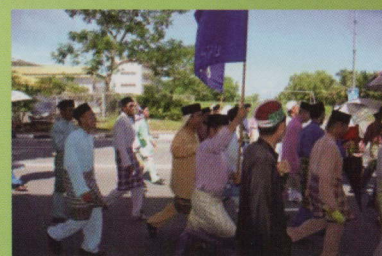
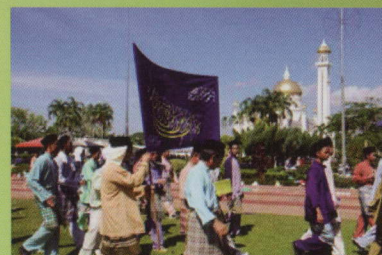
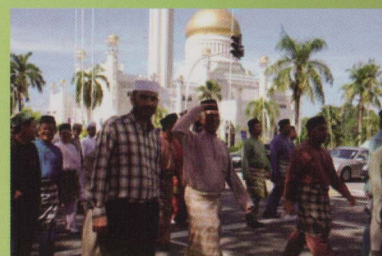
Pada 22 April 2007 yang lalu, UNISSA telah mengambil bahagian di dalam Majlis Perhimpunan dan Perarakan Sempena Memperingati Maulud Nabi Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam yang diadakan di Padang Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddin di Bandar Seri Begawan.

Para peserta lelaki kursus intensif UNISSA juga turut sama hadir meraikan majlis bagi memperingati kelahiran Junjungan kita Nabi Muhammad Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam bersama pegawai-pegawai eksekutif UNISSA dan para pensyarah.

Pasukan UNISSA diketuai oleh Dr Hj Md Yusop Bin Hj Awg Damit, Timbalan Rektor, yang juga seterusnya mengetuai pasukan di dalam perarakan berjalan kaki mengelilingi Bandar Seri Begawan.



*Bergambar ramai berlatarbelakangkan
Masjid Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin
sebelum majlis bermula*



Pegawai-pegawai dari UNISSA dan UBD

