

# Call for action plan in tune with economic situation

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successful entrepreneurs. "This is the factor that makes UNISSA more globally recognised; more international students desire to make it their favourite place to study. Increase in international student admissions at UNISSA each year is a sign that the university has a privilege in the eyes of the world.

"I also support UNISSA's efforts to attract more international students and it is one of the government's contributions to the development of the universal community."

His Majesty noted that UNISSA is celebrating its 10-year anniversary. During this period UNISSA has made many achievements as intended.

"In line with its growing maturity, I hope, UNISSA will continue to emerge as the landmark of

Islamic glory in the country. The university needs to grow in line with current developments and needs.

"I am pleased to note that UNISSA's Leadership and Lifelong Learning Centre has begun its operations. This centre is capable of being a catalyst for the enrichment of knowledge and skills of all levels of society regardless of age. The centre will also be able to strengthen the professionalism of civil servants by offering various courses to them," the monarch said.

His Majesty congratulated the graduates who have successfully completed their studies as well as their parents, guardians and lecturers for their sacrifices in producing successful graduates.

"Finally, I take this opportunity to express my congratulations and thanks to all UNISSA staff members including Council and Senate members, the rector,

principal officers and all the academics for their sincere contributions. May Allah the Almighty reward them amply," His Majesty concluded.

Also present at the event was His Royal Highness Prince (Dr) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and Pro-Chancellor of UNISSA.

Some 182 graduates received their degrees and certificates in various courses. One received PhD, 38 were awarded with their Master's Degree, six received Diploma in Islamic Law and Syar'ie Court; 14 received Post Graduate Diplomas, 95 received Bachelor's Degree, three received Special Degree for 30 Juzuks of Al-Quran memorisation; two were awarded with Higher National Diploma in Dirasat Islamiyyah; and 23 students received certificates in Barnamij At-Tarqiyyah (Upgrading Programme) and Syariah Criminal Justice System.

## UNISSA sets standards of excellence within a decade: Rector

| ROKIAH MAHMUD |

A DECADE after it was first established, Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) has become a model of excellence and continuing success, thanks to the keen wish of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to see the development, consolidation and empowerment of the Islamic faith in the country.

This was underscored yesterday by Dr Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, the Rector of UNISSA, during his welcoming remarks at the university's 7<sup>th</sup> Hafl Al-Takharruj (Convocation Ceremony), at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas.

"Up until now, UNISSA has successfully produced 908 graduates from various faculty levels, with several already working in the government or private sector, while others have set up their own enterprises and built up successful careers," said Dr Haji Norarfan in his remarks.

"Meanwhile, international students who have studied at UNISSA are able to secure jobs in their respective countries and indirectly contribute towards Islamic development there. This is proof that while UNISSA may be small, it has made some significant contributions towards the development of Ummah on a global scale.

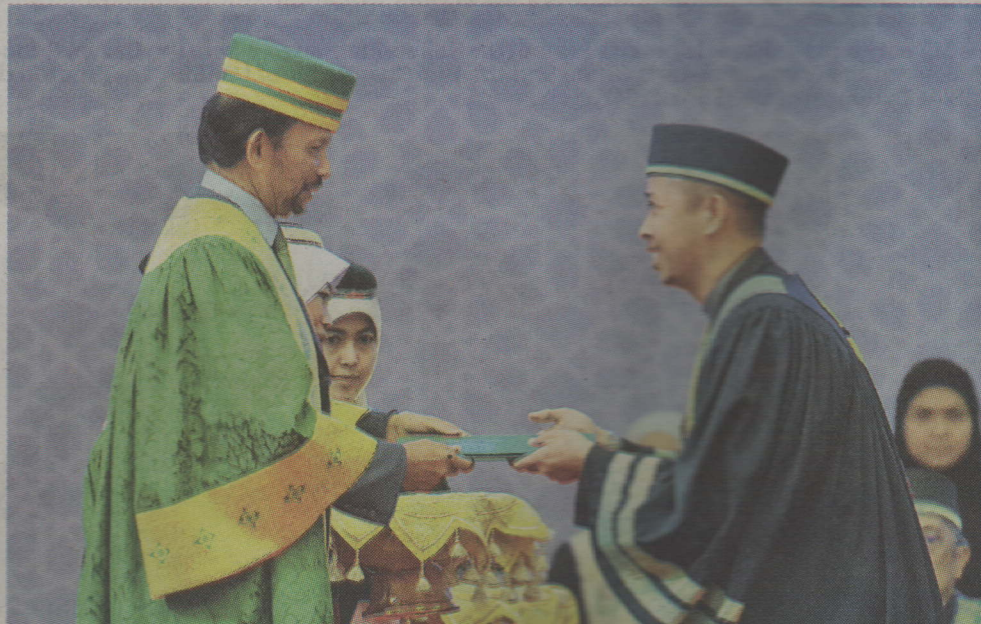
"In witnessing the positive developments

of UNISSA as a choice of further studies for local and international students, the university has constantly maintained its integrated niche curriculum. Apart from Al-Quran as a core course for all level of studies, UNISSA has also made Information Communication Technology (ICT) as one of its compulsory courses, along with entrepreneurship for all pre-graduates."

Dr Haji Norarfan also mentioned the Halal industry with its potential to generate income for Brunei's economy. "To achieve His Majesty's vision of this country becoming a global Halal hub, UNISSA has established the Halalan Tayyiban Research Centre, which offers minor programmes in Halal Science, one of the popular minor courses among our students," he said.

"In the international arena, UNISSA has forged strategic collaborations with 74 higher education institutions as well as with regional and international professional bodies through Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)," he said. "This strategic networking has opened many synergic collaborative opportunities, knowledge sharing and research explorations. Apart from that, we have also been able to carry out study abroad programmes for our students, at a minimal cost.

"Up until now, UNISSA has accepted a total of 197 international students from 34 countries, and this is expected to grow from time to time, as the students gain confidence with the quality of the learning and teaching offered at UNISSA," said Dr Haji Norarfan, concluding his speech.



Photos above show His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, and the Chancellor of UNISSA presenting certificates to graduates



Graduates during the convocation with their certificates

PHOTOS: AZROL AZMI