Minister discusses SEAMEO issues with Laos, Cambodia

THE Minister of Education Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Hj Abu Bakar Hj Apong paid courtesy visits as the 46th president of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation Council (SEAMEO) to the Minister of Education, Youth of Sports in Cambodia and the Minister of Education and Sports in Lao PDR recently, on January 17.

According to a press statement, His Excellency Im Sethy, Cambodia’s Minister of Education, Youth and Sports received YB Pehin Dato Hj Abu Bakar. During the meet, they exchanged views on various matters related to SEAMEO as well as the bilateral relationship between the two countries and cooperation in education.

YB Pehin Dato Hj Abu Bakar thanked the Cambodian Minister for the contribution and the sharing of experience, especially acknowledging Cambodia as being the longest serving member of the SEAMEO council.

The education minister also paid a courtesy call to His Excellency, Phankham Viphavanh, Minister of Education and Sports of Lao People’s Democratic Republic (PDR). During the call, he shared his observations from recent visits to various SEAMEO Regional Centres and reiterated to his counterparts to utilise fully the expertise and resources of these centres for their human resource development.

Additionally, the minister expressed his gratitude to the government of Cambodia and Lao PDR for their support. YB Pehin Dato Hj Abu Bakar expressed his hope for SEAMEO Regional Centres to be set up in their respective countries so all SEAMEO member countries will have their own regional centres in the future.

As the President of the SEAMEO Council, YB Pehin Dato Hj Abu Bakar extended an invitation to his counterparts for the upcoming 47th SEAMEO Council Conference which is scheduled for March 2013 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The press statement said that the minister looked forward to the ministerial round table meeting as an avenue to discuss agendas on regional issues for SEAMEO to pursue.

During the visit to Cambodia, the Cambodian Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports arranged a cultural visit to the Royal Palace followed by an educational visit to the Royal University of Phnom Penh and the Preah Sisowath High School.

While in Lao PDR, the Ministry of Education and Sports arranged a programme of visit to the Dongkhamxang Teacher Training College and the National University of Laos. Both the Royal University of Phnom Penh and the National University of Laos are partner universities to Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

Present to accompany the minister during the visits were the Brunei Darussalam Ambassador to the respective countries, His Excellency Shaikh j Fadilah Shaikh Hj Ahmad, Brunei Darussalam Ambassador to Cambodia and His Excellency Dr Haji Emran bin Bahar, Brunei Darussalam Ambassador to Lao PDR.