

# Forum boosts rise in breastfeeding rate

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| Aziz Idris |

A WELCOMING dinner was hosted by the Minister of Health, Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mohd Yusof in conjunction with the 10th One Asia Breastfeeding Partners Forum 2014 at Hua Ho Manggis Mall last night.

The dinner was attended by international speakers from Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, India, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Korea, Thailand and Afghanistan including a representative from the International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN) and officials from the Ministry of Health.

In his welcoming remarks, the minister said he believed that the convergence of renowned speakers and participants who have a wealth of knowledge and extensive experience would enrich this forum.

He added, "The forum also provided closer networking and synergy amongst relevant stakeholders to work together in accelerating the improvement of maternal, infant and young child nutrition in Asia."



The Minister of Health presenting a token of appreciation to one of the international speakers



Top three winners of the Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition logo competition. – PHOTOS: AZIZ IDRIS

The minister said the forum could serve as a significant milestone towards increasing the breastfeeding rate in Brunei.

“We also fully support this forum for the immense benefits that the Asia region can gain in ensuring the nutritional status and the health of mothers, infants and young children, said the minister.

“All of us must share this responsibility in meeting the nutritional needs of mothers and children from early on, so we are on track in ensuring a healthy, good quality of life, productive and dynamic future generations that will contribute to progressive and sustainable development of our region,” he noted.

During the forum prize were presented to winners of the Mother, Infant and Young Child Nutrition Logo Competition, active members of the Breastfeeding Support Group were awarded and the international delegates and main contributing partners were presented with certificates.