

# Islamia

# إسلامية

EVERY FRIDAY

## The Hospitality, Warmth and Kindness of A Muslim

Brunei Darussalam is a Muslim country and proud of it. But Islam, whether here in Brunei or anywhere else, was not bestowed upon humanity for the purpose of mere identification, as in "I am a Muslim," and that is that. Indeed, to be a Muslim is to embrace Islam's ideals, principles, to obey its rules and follow its teachings.

What we learn from the Holy Quran and the Sunnah are meant to guide our lives, in fact every aspect of it, in everything we say, do, or even intend on saying or doing.

So before you embark on any action, which you are uncertain of its moral

validity, try to find out what your great religion says about it. Even contemporary issues that Islam has not addressed in a specific, the spirit of Islam is encompassing enough to address it, whatever it is. Okay, so there was no Global Warming at the time of the Prophet, but Islam has been so keen on respecting nature, the environment, and all of its creatures, that should make any mindful Muslim a champion for the environment, among other present-day issues and causes.

But today's topic is in fact not the environment, but hospitality and generosity in Islam, compelled by the arrival of an estimated 1,500 delegates, who are here in Brunei to take part in the Asean Tourism Forum (ATF), starting January 21.

Asean tourism, and Islam; what is this all about? You must be wondering by now. But in fact, this is not about tourism per se, business dealings or joint ventures. All of these issues aside, it's ultimately

about Brunei's guests. The Messenger of Allah said "Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should be hospitable with his or her guests."

Hospitality, kindness, generosity and solidarity are major Islamic values that no truly practicing Muslim could claim to be one without adhering to, fully. This is as relevant to the welcoming of our ATF guests as it is of anything else pertinent to the four concepts above.

On generosity, the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "Nothing shall ensure the welfare (and interests) of your religion except generosity and good disposition."

The Noble Prophet (PBUH) also led by example. "No person could ever equal Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in generosity. Whatever he received he gave away to others and felt more pleasure than those who received the gift. He never turned anyone away empty-handed from his house and always gave preference to the needy over his own needs," wrote the Living Sharia staff at IslamOnline.

On solidarity, Ibn `Abbas said that he heard Allah's Messenger say, "The believer is not the one who eats when his neighbor beside him is hungry." Abu Hurairah reported Allah's Messenger as saying, "The believer is simple and generous, but the wicked person is deceitful and ignoble."

We pray to Allah Almighty to always be of those who are simple and generous, and never deceitful and ignoble. Let us be generous and hospital to our guests; welcome them to our Abode of Peace with the warmth and kindness expected of a Muslim.



**Infection control in Islam**



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**UK Stop and Search Law Illegal: EU Court**



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**Raising Fearless Kids**



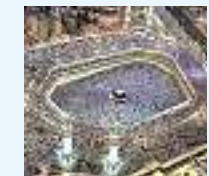
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**Study to expand Grand Mosque's Tawaf area**



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