

Brunei Darussalam National Day Special

Collaboration toward peace and prosperity

HAJI SHAHBUDIN HAJI MUSA
AMBASSADOR OF BRUNEI



On the occasion of the 39th National Day of Brunei Darussalam, I am pleased to convey the greetings of His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam and the people of Brunei to their majesties the emperor and empress, members of the imperial family, and the government and people of Japan.

This year's theme of "Succeeding in the Vision of the Nation" continues to represent our aspirations in achieving Brunei Vision 2035, in our journey toward the

goal of developing highly educated, skilled and accomplished people, increasing quality of life, and establishing a dynamic and sustainable economy. The support and assistance of the government of Japan during this journey is much acknowledged and appreciated, and we look forward to a continuous collaborative relationship with Japan and others toward a peaceful and prosperous region.

Over the past half century, relations between Brunei Darussalam and Japan have been characterized by close economic cooperation and deep friendship, underpinned by people-to-people contacts and trade in oil and gas. Just last December, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first delivery of liquefied natural gas from Brunei to Japan. Our commitment to ensure the reliable supply of LNG to Japan will continue, while at the same time welcom-

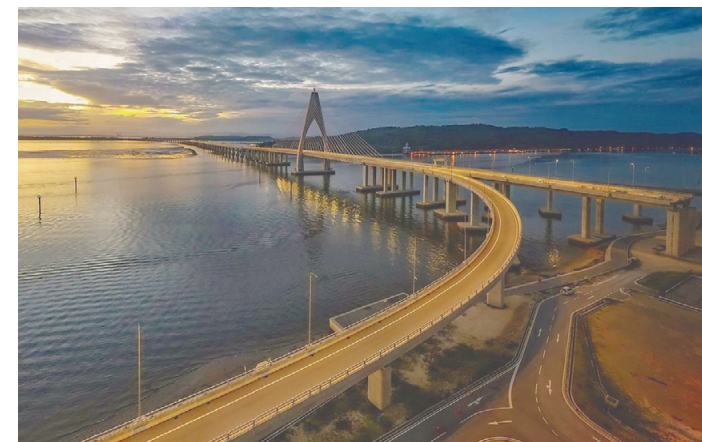
ing exploration in wider areas such as downstream oil and gas, agriculture and aquaculture, tourism and other sectors of mutual benefit. In this regard, we encourage more Japanese companies and individuals to participate in Brunei's economic diversification efforts with more foreign direct investment in our country.

Equally important is the promotion of our people-to-people ties. In that regard, with the reopening of borders in both our countries from the pandemic restrictions caused by COVID-19, the resumption of air connectivity between Bandar Seri Begawan and Tokyo in the fourth quarter was met with much enthusiasm by Bruneian travelers. The national carrier, Royal Brunei Airlines, has since reinstated its four weekly direct flights between our capitals and, with our relaxed border controls, made visiting Brunei easy and convenient.

While Japan has always been a popular destination for Bruneians, we in turn very much encourage our Japanese friends to visit Brunei and enjoy all that the country has to offer, including great food, pristine nature and peaceful surroundings.

Lastly, we would also like to convey our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the Japan-Brunei Friendship Association and the ASEAN-Japan Centre for their active promotion of our bilateral cooperation, as well as The Japan Times and the sponsors for all their contributions.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.



Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Bridge spans Brunei Bay and is the longest bridge in Southeast Asia.

EMBASSY OF
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

High time to add momentum to bilateral exchanges

MICHIAKI HIROSE
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-BRUNEI FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION



It is my privilege to extend my heartfelt congratulations on behalf of the Japan-Brunei Friendship Association to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah and the people of Brunei Darussalam on the auspicious occasion of the 39th anniversary of their National Day.

It is to my great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to the newly cel-

ebrated couple on their royal wedding. This joyous occasion marks the beginning of a wonderful journey together, filled with love, happiness and companionship, ensuring further prosperity in Brunei Darussalam.

Last year, we witnessed a few remarkable reopening events between Brunei and Japan. In October, Royal Brunei Airlines announced the resumption of direct flights between Bandar Seri Begawan and Narita Airport. I strongly hope more Japanese people fly to Brunei and are captivated by the beauty of its nature and the warmth of its citizens, which will further strengthen our bond.

The JBFA also recommenced its main activity — a study tour program — for five Bruneian university students with eagerness

to learn from Japan. Although it has been proven that almost everything can be done virtually in the post-pandemic world, these experiences have reassured us that there is nothing that surpasses firsthand experience and face-to-face interaction, which constitute the foundation for nurturing companionship at any time.

I hope these joyous events mark a fresh start to bilateral exchanges between our countries and provide a boost for further development in our relations, which remained conservative due to the pandemic over the past few years. As has been the case in the past, the JBFA will further continue to render utmost support to maintain and strengthen the excellent ties between us with these tailwinds.



Bruneian people in traditional dress
EMBASSY OF
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Congratulations
on the Occasion of
the National Day of
Negara Brunei Darussalam



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***Congratulations
to the People of
Negara Brunei Darussalam
as They Celebrate Their National Day***

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