

Brunei Darussalam National Day Special

Marking 40 years of prosperous cooperation

Haji Shahbudin Haji Musa
Ambassador of Brunei



On this joyous occasion of the 40th anniversary of the National Day of Brunei Darussalam, I wish to extend the heartfelt greetings of His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan and

Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the people of Brunei to Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, to members of the imperial family, and to the government and people of Japan.

The theme adopted for this year's National Day is "Bersatu Mencapai Cita

Negara" ("United to Achieve National Aspirations"), which represents our commitment to achieve the Brunei Vision 2035 through a nationwide approach for the continued advancement of the country.

With the monarchy as the bedrock of the state, Brunei Darussalam will continue in its journey toward developing highly educated, skilled and accomplished people, increasing the quality of life and establishing a dynamic and sustainable economy.

As we commemorate this auspicious event, we reflect on the shared values that have served as our bond, especially as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and Japan, which have not only endured the test of time, but also continue to flourish, creating a foundation of understanding and cooperation.

In the sphere of collaboration, both Brunei and Japan have achieved remarkable milestones. The exchange of knowledge, technology and expertise has propelled us forward in areas ranging from economic development to cultural enrichment. These accomplishments stand as a testament to the commitment and dedication of our leaders, governments and people.

An especially joyous highlight of our cordial bilateral relations in 2023 was the visit the sultan to Japan to attend the Commemorative Summit for the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation last December. His attendance reflects the importance and commitment that Brunei Darussalam attaches to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, as well as the close friendship it

shares with Japan on a multilateral level.

This is particularly relevant as Brunei Darussalam and Japan share a common goal and commitment to peace, stability and prosperity as reflected in our collaboration to address regional and global issues. Whether addressing environmental challenges, promoting sustainable development, or contributing to international peacekeeping efforts, our nations stand side by side.

Furthermore, economic partnerships have thrived, creating opportunities for businesses in both countries. The strategic collaborations in energy, trade, investment and technology transfer have not only strengthened our economies, but also created a platform for innovation and growth.

Brunei's commitment to ensure the reli-



Lalak Lake is a popular site in Luagan Lalak Recreation Park, about 100 kilometers southwest of the capital. BRUNEI TOURISM

able supply of energy in the form of liquefied natural gas to Japan will continue, while at the same time welcoming exploration in wider areas such as downstream oil and gas, agriculture and aquaculture, tourism and other sectors of mutual benefit.

Together, we will navigate the ever-evolving global landscape, adapting to challenges and seizing opportunities.

Last but not least, is the significant role that people-to-people exchanges have played in deepening our understanding of one another.

Events and programs, such those orga-

nized by the Japan-Brunei Friendship Association and the ASEAN-Japan Centre, include the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youth Programme and the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program, which have continued to bridge the gap between our countries, fostering mutual respect, understanding and appreciation.

In conclusion, I once again express my sincere appreciation to the government and people of Japan for the continued friendship and cooperation that have underpinned our long-cherished relations.

Opportunity to enhance exchanges and deepen friendship

Michiaki Hirose
Chairman, Japan-Brunei Friendship Association



With my privilege, I am honored to extend my sincerest 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 40th anniversary of their National Day.

It is my greatest pleasure to extend

my congratulations to His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Mateen and his wife Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Anisha Rosnah binti Adam on their royal wedding in January. I believe this joyous occasion has marked the beginning of a wonderful journey together, filled with love, happiness and companionship, ensuring further prosperity in Brunei Darussalam.

2024 marks the 40th anniversary of Brunei-Japan diplomatic relations. Our nations have successfully deepened their relationships and expanded cooperation in areas of strategic interest as well as fostered a deep mutual understanding and respect. I am confident this commemoration will encourage us to renew our

cordial ties, and further continue to work together in exploring new development projects based on friendship and the complementarity of our economies for mutual benefit.

Behind the excellent official relations, the JBFA has laid the groundwork to play a significant role in fostering friendship between our nations by offering various opportunities, such as one of our main activities, the annual study program. This program entails visiting various sites, including the Tokyo Gas liquefied natural gas receiving terminal and facilities related to renewable energy, as well as organizing interactive sessions with Japanese university students. By inviting five Bruneian university students with great

passion and enthusiasm to learn from Japan, we could rediscover the importance of raw experience and interaction as well as the great interest in Japan shown by many Bruneian youths.

The JBFA believes that the continuing efforts to support young Bruneians with these opportunities will contribute to the country's bright future. Through our activities, we remain committed to deepening our friendship and will work to strengthen a firm, amicable and long-lasting relationship between Brunei and Japan.

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

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