

# Brunei Darussalam national day

## Key agreements enrich ties with Japan

Mohamad Alias Serbini  
AMBASSADOR OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM TO  
JAPAN

On the auspicious occasion of our 26th National Day, it gives me great pleasure and honor to convey, on behalf of the government of His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the people of Brunei Darussalam, our respectful greetings and best wishes to Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor Akihito and the Empress Michiko, members of the Imperial Family, and to the government and people of Japan.

Similarly the diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and Japan has also reached its 26th year. Looking back, I am pleased to note a number of significant milestones achieved and that our bilateral relations at all levels have grown from strength to strength. The bilateral meeting between His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Yukio Hatoyama, prime minister of Japan, and the conferment of a medal to His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, minister of foreign affairs and trade, by His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito in 2009 further cemented these relations.

The Brunei Darussalam-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (BJEPA), which came into force in July 2008, is Brunei Darussalam's first bilateral economic agreement. The agreement further elevates the relationship to another height and symbolizes the expansion in the economic and trade cooperation.

Under the agreement, several cooperation projects had been and will continue to be undertaken particularly on capacity building programs. These cooperations could contribute toward Brunei's effort in realizing one of its goals under the national vision, or was-wasan 2035, with respect to creating an educated and highly skilled workforce in a world

that is increasingly competitive and knowledge-based.

The Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA), which entered into force at the end of last year, lays the foundation for the prevention of double taxation on income by companies from both countries. It sets up guidelines on the taxation procedures on income such as company profits, dividends and other types of income, which are generated through numerous trades and business between the two countries.

Japan continues to be Brunei's biggest trading partner and one of its sources of foreign direct investment (FDI). The

trade ties have long been established over the span of more than 30 years, dating back to the first liquefied natural gas shipment from Brunei Darussalam to Japan in 1972. Since then, Brunei Darussalam has been continuously and steadily supplying LNG to Japan. Over 40 percent of Brunei's total exports go to Japan mainly in energy resources. In 2008 alone, Brunei exported 6.45 billion Brunei dollars' worth of LNG, making Japan Brunei Darussalam's main export market.

A methanol plant developed at the Sungai Liang Industrial Park (SPARK) by

the Brunei Methanol Co. Sdn. Bhd. (BMC) is the latest joint venture inked between Mitsubishi Gas Chemical of Japan, Itochu Corp. of Japan and PetroleumBRUNEI. It is considered to be a success story of fruitful collaboration between Japan and Brunei. BMC's \$450 million, 850,000 tons per day methanol plant is the first gas-based petrochemical plant in Brunei. The plant is currently being commissioned and on target for commercial operation on April 1, 2010.

The Brunei government has constructed a \$76 million methanol export facility that is leased to BMC for the duration of its project. The methanol export facility comprises a 13.8 km pipeline connecting the methanol plant to a fixed floating buoy. It will transport grade AA methanol from the plant straight to the vessels.

Another project is the Tenaga Suria Brunei, the first of its kind in Brunei and will be the largest in Southeast Asia. In August 2008, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Mitsubishi Corp. and the Energy Division of the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam. Under the MOU, both parties have agreed to work together to carry out the large-scale photovoltaic (PV) demonstration project known as the Tenaga Suria Brunei (TSB). The installation ceremony of a PV system with a nominal capacity output of approximately 1,344 megawatts per year at the Seria Power Station in Belait District was held earlier this year. The project is scheduled to begin its operation this August with

the aim of providing alternative energy resources in the country toward sustainable development efforts.

Last year was of significant importance as we marked the silver jubilee of the establishment of diplomatic relations with Japan. In conjunction with the event, we organized several activities such as business matching between government officials and private sectors alike from Brunei and Japan in the area of tourism and investment. In addition, we also held cultural performances and participated in several local exhibitions throughout Japan.

Through the existing bilateral relations, I am also pleased to note a significant increase in the number of interactions in various levels. There have been many exchange visits from both sides, be it official, study tours or training courses. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of the royal family have visited Japan quite a number of times in the past years. Likewise, His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince Naruhito of Japan and other Japanese royalties have also visited Brunei.

In conclusion, we also would like to acknowledge the commendable role played by the Japan-Brunei Parliamentarians' League, Japan-Brunei Friendship Association and Kyushu-Brunei Darussalam Club in enhancing the relations. We hope that such collaboration between both countries at all levels will be further deepened and enhanced on a mutually beneficial manner in the years to come.



Good ties: His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam meets Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama at the APEC summit in Singapore on Nov. 14. CABINET PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

## Economic relations help bring nations closer

Kozo Watanabe  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-BRUNEI  
PARLIAMENTARIAN'S LEAGUE FOR THE  
PROMOTION OF FRIENDSHIP

On the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the independence of Brunei Darussalam, I would like to convey on behalf of the Japan-Brunei Parliamentarian's League for the Promotion of Friendship my heartfelt



felicitations to Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah and the people of his state. The relationship between Japan and Brunei Darussalam, as seen in active official visits on trade and economic matters, has been very good. Especially in recent years, the conclusions of the economic partnership agreement and the tax

agreement have made bilateral relations, mainly economic exchanges, even closer. Japan, a country poor in energy resources, relies on overseas imports for most of its raw materials, such as crude oil, natural gas and iron ore. More than 10 percent of the natural gas that is consumed in our country is supplied by imports from Brunei Darussalam. The circumstances surrounding these energy resources, such as the recent sudden changes in the price of crude oil, remain quite uneasy, which make us anxious about future costs and availability. I think that the import of liquefied natural gas from Brunei Darussalam counts greatly in terms of its continuous and stable supply, as well as the amount imported. I would say that this is the fruit of efforts by the parties concerned in both countries.

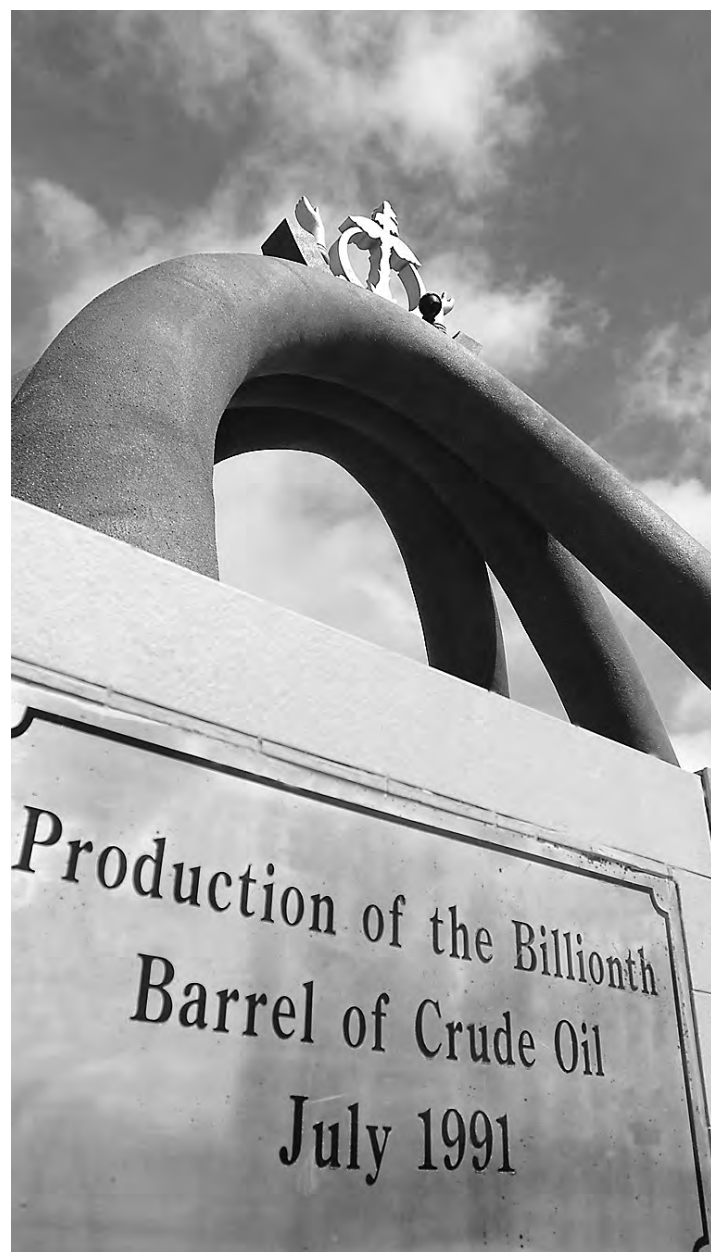
While cherishing these economic relations, I think it is

important to promote human and cultural interactions further.

The Japanese government is encouraging a "Visit Japan" campaign and various policies to induce more tourists — even one more person — to come to our country. I expect more people from Brunei will visit Japan and discover its charms. Also, I would like more and more Japanese, not only businesspeople but also ordinary people, to visit Brunei and establish friendly relations.

We the members of the Japan-Brunei Parliamentarian's League for the Promotion of Friendship are resolved to make every effort to further promote our friendship and develop our relationship.

Last but not least, I sincerely would like to extend my best wishes to Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah and the people of Brunei Darussalam for their further prosperity and development.



Energy: The Billionth Barrel Monument in Kuala Belait memorializes the birthplace of the nation's wealth. BRUNEI TOURISM DEPARTMENT

## Brunei blessed with natural beauty

Ulu Temburong National Park is located in the southern part of the Temburong District. The national park offers an exciting array of ecotourism and adventure activities. The park occupies approximately 50,000 hectares of the Batu Apoi Forest Reserve, one of two forest reserves in Brunei Darussalam.

The Batu Apoi Forest Reserve encompasses 58 percent of the total land area that Brunei Darussalam has pledged under the "Heart of Borneo" initiative, which was endorsed in January 2007 by the leaders of three Borneo governments: Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia. Ulu Temburong National Park is considered

one of Asia's best nature reserves. The park's locality and steep, swampy terrain have limited human impact on the area and helped preserve its rich biodiversity.

Established forest trails through the park include 7 km of wooden walkways which protect ground vegetation and help prevent erosion. A canopy walkway provides visitors with an opportunity to observe the rain forest's surprisingly diverse treetop ecosystems.

In addition, a series of tree houses some 20 meters above ground and linked by hanging bridges provides excellent points of observation. The park is accessible by temuai, or longboat, and visitor ac-

commodations within the park consists of some seven guest houses and three well-equipped campsites.

The Kuala Belalong Field Studies Center is located in the Ulu Temburong National Park. A joint venture of Brunei Shell Petroleum and Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), the center was established as a training and research base for scientists, students and government bodies to conduct studies on Brunei's lowland tropical forests.

The center provides field research facilities made up of a complex of seven timber houses linked by walkways situated at the river's edge. It also offers accommodations and dining facilities for up to 35 people, a laboratory and a meeting hall. For overnight visits, applications can be made through UBD.

The journey to the center will take up to 2½ hours of pushing and pulling a longboat over a series of 23 upriver rapids. But, aside from the sheer beauty of the site, its importance can be distilled from the experience of just one entomologist who found over 400 species of beetles on a single tree in this area.



Canopy walk: Visitors enjoy the rain forest's surprisingly diverse treetop ecosystems. BRUNEI TOURISM DEPARTMENT


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**JAPAN-BRUNEI FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION**

URL: <http://www.jbfa.or.jp/>

E-mail: [info@jbfa.or.jp](mailto:info@jbfa.or.jp)

TEL: 03-3210-8824

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# Japan-Brunei Friendship continues to bloom

Kunio Anzai  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-BRUNEI FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the Japan-Brunei Friendship Association (JBFA)

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei



Darussalam, the government and people of the sultanate on the occasion of their 26th National Day.

Brunei is a key supplier of energy resources to Japan and I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to everyone involved in this important endeavor for their steady and continual support.

Last year saw various special events such as the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and the sultanate. It gives me great pleasure to note that Dato Paduka Haji Adnan Buntar, former ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Japan, was awarded an honorary doctoral degree by Kagawa University in October and that His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, minister of foreign affairs and trade of Brunei Darussalam, was presented with the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun by His Majesty the Emperor Akihito in November.

Every year the Japan-Brunei Friendship Association invites a number of Bruneian students to Japan to lay the foundation for cultural exchanges with their Japanese counterparts. Last December, participants from the University of Brunei Darussalam were invited to visit Tokyo Electric Higashi-Ohgishima Thermal Power Station (LNG Terminal) and Tokyo Gas Negishi LNG Terminal, two points of delivery for liquefied natural gas from Brunei. Also offered were a tour of the JR East Shinkansen General Rolling Stock Center, a seminar that enabled them to interact and hold discussions with their counterparts from Tohoku Gakuin University and a brief homestay with Japanese families in Sendai. I am confident that activities such as these, even if they are modest, will encourage our young people

to act as a bridge between the two cultures through continuing interaction, thus deepening the bonds of friendship between our two nations further in the future.

Negara Brunei Darussalam ("The Country of Brunei Darussalam, Abode of Peace") is a sovereign state situated on the northern shores of Borneo blessed with abundant natural resources, including oil and natural gas. As the name suggests, it is a peaceful and tranquil nation with a genuinely friendly and hospitable population grounded in noble Islamic traditions. Brunei scores highly also in areas like social stability, health care and education, and has one of the lowest crime rates in the world, making it an attractive destination for the foreign visitor.

Brunei offers a richly diverse cultural heritage, architectural marvels, first-class amenities and recreational facilities. Yet in spite of a well-developed and efficient infrastructure, with good-quality roads and facilities that make it easy to navigate the country, as much as 70 percent of its territory is still covered by unspoiled tropical rain forest, a living tribute to the nation's continuing dedication to ecological preservation and sustainable development.

I sincerely hope to see an increase in the number of Japanese people visiting and exploring this fascinating country in the future. To coincide with the celebration of the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Brunei, JBFA has just published "Brunei Darussalam," a commemorative collection of photographs offering a glimpse of the lives and colorful traditions of the Bruneian people. Copies of the book will be distributed to a number of Japanese universities and local public entities.

Our two nations have enjoyed a strong and enduring friendship for many years. JBFA remains committed to the deepening of that friendship and will continue to promote further people-to-people exchanges through various activities.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my sincere and cordial wishes to His Majesty the Sultan and the people of Brunei Darussalam for their continued and further prosperity.



Landmark: The Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque, built in 1958, dominates the skyline of Brunei's capital Bandar Seri Begawan. BRUNEI TOURISM DEPARTMENT

Congratulations on the 26th Anniversary  
of the National Day of  
**Negara Brunei Darussalam**

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157 Totsuka-cho, Totsuka-ku, Yokohama 〒244-8558  
Tel: 045-861-0025 Fax: 045-862-3131

Tokyo Branch

Tel: 03-5715-4134 Fax: 03-5715-4137

Higashi-totsuka Branch

Tel: 045-820-2825 Fax: 045-820-2833

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