

# Brunei Darussalam National Day Special

## Cooperation continues to grow

**HAJI SHAHBUDIN HAJI MUSA**  
AMBASSADOR OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



It is my great pleasure to convey the warm greetings of His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the people of Brunei to their majesties the emperor and

empress, members of the imperial family, the government and people of Japan on this unique day when we celebrate the auspicious 38th National Day anniversary of Brunei Darussalam, as well as the birthday of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito.

The theme this year is "Succeeding in the Vision of the Nation" and it represents our aspirations in achieving Brunei Vision 2035, and our readiness to achieve the goals of an advanced country and to bring all walks of life forward. Brunei's economic growth and prosperity have prevailed over the years, and the support and contributions from the Japanese government that helped shape it are most valued. This is a reflection of our strong partnership and we look forward to strengthening this in the future.

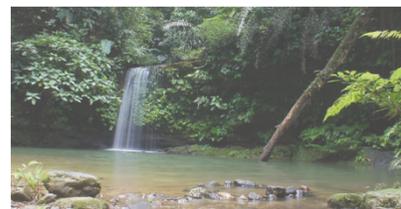
Japan remains one of Brunei's largest trading partners, underpinned by trade in oil and gas. Brunei will continue to ensure the reliable supply of liquefied natural gas to Japan and encourage both sides to mutually explore more areas of cooperation in such sectors as downstream oil and gas, agriculture and aquaculture, tourism, and digital and green initiatives, among others. We encourage more Japanese companies and individuals to participate in Brunei's economic diversification efforts and welcome more foreign direct investment in our country.

Although connectivity through direct flights between Bandar Seri Begawan and Tokyo is currently suspended, Brunei is working hard to prepare for the resumption of bilateral tourism. We hope to see more Japanese visitors post-COVID-19 as this will enhance the friendship and camaraderie among our people.

We take pride in the fact that our younger generation has actively promoted a greater understanding of our cultures, traditions and heritage. Through various exchange activities, such as the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program, Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths Programme and many more, we are confident our friendship will further flourish.

We also thank the Japanese government for its seamless support of Brunei's COVID-19 control efforts and Brunei's chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations last year. The support from Japan and our partners will contribute to ASEAN's community-building efforts, and we look forward to marking the 50th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan friendship and cooperation in 2023.

In conclusion, we would like to convey our thanks to the Japan-Brunei Parliamentary League for Promotion of Friendship, the Japan-Brunei Friendship Association, and the ASEAN-Japan Centre and other prefectural friendship organizations for their active promotion of our bilateral cooperation. Thank you to The Japan Times for allowing me to say a few words this year and to the sponsors for their contribution.



The Wasai Teraja waterfall in Brunei's verdant rainforest is popular with hikers.  
BRUNEI TOURISM DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

## Ongoing support to further bolster robust ties

**MICHIAKI HIROSE**  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-BRUNEI FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION



I hereby extend with pleasure my sincere 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 38th anniversary of their national day.

The 2021 Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit, chaired by his majesty under the theme of "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper," was carried out successfully, confirming that the member states share the same goals and future, as well as the readiness to take a further step forward on a number of regional and global issues in a dynamically changing world where the unity and collective efforts of the ASEAN nations are especially vital.

Earlier this year, Brunei Darussalam was filled with bliss for the royal wedding, and we extend our best hopes for the future to her royal highness on her eternal celebrated journey.

The JBFA hosted online cultural engagements between university students of both countries as part of efforts to foster bilateral friendship and to respond to their eagerness to learn from each other even during a pandemic situation.

We will continue to render our utmost support to maintain and strengthen the excellent ties between our countries throughout this period, while wishing for an early end to the pandemic.

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



Bandar Seri Begawan is home to the Taman Mahkota Jubli Emas waterfront park.  
BRUNEI TOURISM DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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on the Occasion of  
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Negara Brunei Darussalam



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**Congratulations**  
to the People of  
**Negara Brunei Darussalam**  
as They Celebrate Their National Day  
**JAPAN-BRUNEI FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION**

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