

Brunei Darussalam National Day Special

Multifaceted partnership with room to grow

AMIR ISMAIL
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.

On the joyous occasion of the 41st National Day of Brunei Darussalam and on behalf of the Embassy 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 the emperor and empress, members of the imperial family, the government and people of Japan.

The theme adopted for Brunei Darussalam's National day this year is "Bersatu Mencapai Cita Negara" (United to Achieve National Aspirations), which represents the commitment to achieve the Brunei Vision 2035 through a nationwide

approach for the ongoing advancement of the country.

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

Last year was an especially joyous year as Brunei Darussalam and Japan celebrated the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, during which the embassy was honored to facilitate the visit in March of His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the crown prince and senior minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

Over the past four decades, Brunei-Japan relations have grown into a multifaceted partnership, encompassing cooperation in areas such as trade, energy, education, culture and environmental sustainability.

As strategic partners, economic collaboration lies at the heart of our relationship, particularly in the energy sector. Japan has long been one of Brunei's most important trading partners as the country has been a reliable supplier of liquefied natural gas to Japan for decades, playing a crucial role in supporting domestic energy needs. This partnership not only enhances Japan's energy security, but also contributes to Brunei's economic growth.

Equally important are the close people-to-people connections that span all levels,

particularly with regard to educational and cultural exchanges. These have played a vital role in fostering mutual understanding and friendship between the citizens of Brunei and Japan.

Japanese government scholarships and training programs have provided Bruneian students and professionals with opportunities to study and gain valuable experience in Japan. These programs not only enhance individual skills and knowledge, but also deepen the ties between our nations. Similarly, Brunei continues to welcome Japanese students and professionals, creating an environment for cultural exchange and mutual learning.

Going forward, there is immense potential for Brunei and Japan to deepen and expand their partnership. The rapidly changing global landscape presents both challenges and opportunities in which both countries are well-positioned to address together.

In this regard, the embassy looks forward to working closely with the relevant Japanese government agencies as well as organizations and institutions such as the Japan-Brunei Friendship Association to further advance the special ties shared between Brunei and Japan.



A view of the walkway leading to Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque.
BRUNEI TOURISM

Deepening bilateral cooperation for a brighter future

MICHIAKI HIROSE
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-BRUNEI FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION



It is with the utmost honor and privilege that, on behalf of the Japan-Brunei Friendship Association, I extend my most heartfelt congratulations to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah and the

esteemed people of Brunei Darussalam on the occasion of their 41st National Day.

I wish to convey my profound respect for the remarkable prosperity that the nation has achieved over the years, and I am confident that Brunei will continue to flourish in peace and economic growth.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1984, Brunei Darussalam and Japan have successfully expanded cooperation across various strategic domains, fostering a profound mutual understanding and respect. 2024 marked the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and I believe commemorating this gave us the opportunity to renew our cordial ties and further work together to build a brighter future for our nations.

Complementing this, the JBFA has persistently engaged in grassroots efforts to play a pivotal role in fostering our friendship by offering a myriad of opportunities.

One of our main activities is the annual study program, which includes visits to the Tokyo Gas liquefied natural gas receiving terminal and other facilities students have high interest in, such as smart agriculture or waste management. The JBFA also offers opportu-

nities to meet Japanese youths by organizing interactive sessions with local university students. By inviting five Bruneian students passionate and enthusiastic about learning from Japan, we continually recognize the importance of firsthand experience and face-to-face communication.

The JBFA believes that the continuing groundwork for these opportunities supporting Bruneian youths will contribute to the country's brighter future. We remain dedicated to strengthening the bonds of friendship and will actively pursue opportunities to cultivate a vibrant and enduring relationship between our countries. I fervently pray for the continued prosperity and progress of Brunei and for the enduring happiness of its peace-loving people, with the hope that the nation will continue to thrive and flourish toward a promising and harmonious future for generations to come.

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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