Brunei Darussalam National Day Special

Forward-looking ties based on mutual trust

WAN HADFI LATIF
AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE OF BRUNEI

On the auspicious occasion of the 42nd anniversary of the National Day of Brunei Darussalam, it is my great honor and pleasure to convey warm greetings and heartfelt best wishes from His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, to their majesties the emperor and empress, members of the imperial family, the government and people of Japan.

Under the enlightened and far-sighted leadership of the sultan, the country has continued to enjoy harmony, good governance and steady development firmly rooted in the national philosophy of "Melayu Islam Beraja" (Malay Islamic Monarchy). This philosophy continues to guide Brunei Darussalam's approach to nation-building, ensuring a balance between tradition and modernity, spiritual values and economic progress.

At the same time, the country continues to diversify its economy, strengthen its institutions and pursue sustainable development in line with Wawasan 2035 (Vision 2035), which aims to produce a highly educated and skilled population, a dynamic and sustainable economy and a high quality of life for all citizens.

Toward this end, Brunei Darussalam's foreign policy plays an important role as it connects our domestic development goals with external opportunities.

This includes the special friendship between Brunei Darussalam and Japan that has, over decades, developed into a close and enduring relationship based on mutual trust, respect and shared interests leading to the establishment of a strategic partnership in 2024.

As an early investor in Brunei's oil and gas industry, particularly in liquefied natural gas, Japan has long been one of Brunei Darussalam's most important partners, with decades of cooperation contributing significantly to Brunei's economic development and Japan's energy security.

Far left: Longboats are a common transport method in Ulu Temburong National Park. Left: Taman Mahkota Jubli Emas is a riverfront park inaugurated to celebrate the golden jubilee of the sultan of Brunei.
BRUNEI TOURISM

Beyond energy cooperation, bilateral relations have expanded steadily into diverse areas, including trade and investment, infrastructure development, science and technology, education, tourism and cultural exchanges. Japanese companies have played an important role in Brunei Darussalam's industrial development, while academic and technical cooperation has helped nurture human capital and skills among the younger generations.

This has fostered a continuous increase in people-to-people exchanges, which form a vital pillar of our relationship. Many Bruneians have studied, trained or worked in Japan, gaining not only professional expertise but also a deep appreciation of Japanese culture, values and work ethic. Likewise, Japanese visitors to Brunei Darussalam often remark on the country's natural beauty, rich biodiversity and warm hospitality. These personal connections strengthen mutual understanding and ensure that our bilateral ties remain vibrant and forward-looking.

Brunei Darussalam also values Japan's continued engagement in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Asia-Pacific region, and we look forward to strengthening collaboration in support of regional peace, stability and prosperity.

Finally and on behalf of the embassy, I would like to convey our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Mitsubishi Corp., Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Co., Itochu Corp. and the Japan-Brunei Friendship Association, among others, for their continued close collaboration with Brunei Darussalam, as well as The Japan Times and the sponsors for their contributions.

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

Student visits foster friendship

MICHIAKI HIROSE
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-BRUNEI FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

It is with the deepest respect that I extend, on behalf of the Japan-Brunei Friendship Association, my heartfelt congratulations to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah and the people of Brunei Darussalam on the 42nd anniversary of their National Day. The JBFA has long been committed to strengthening the friendship between our nations.

Each year, we welcome five Bruneian students to Japan for a weeklong educational and cultural program, offering institutional visits and cultural exchanges with Japanese university students. These interactions deepen mutual understanding and highlight the strong interest Bruneian youth have in Japan, reaffirming the enduring spirit of cooperation that unites our countries. The JBFA remains dedicated to supporting these promising individuals and Brunei's development.

Last April, I had the great honor of having an audience with the sultan. It stands as one of the most significant and inspiring experiences of my life, and a lasting source of motivation for the JBFA's mission. I respectfully offer my sincere prayers for the continued prosperity, harmony and well-being of Brunei Darussalam and its people.

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on the Occasion of
the National Day of
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on the Anniversary of
Negara Brunei Darussalam's
National Day
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