

Brunei-Japan bonds expand in diverse areas

By Wan Hadfi Latif
Ambassador-designate of Brunei Darussalam

On the auspicious occasion of the 42nd 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 the people of Japan.



Wan Hadfi Latif

National Day is always a moment of pride and reflection for the people of Brunei Darussalam as it commemorates the proclamation of full independence as a sovereign nation in 1984 and celebrates our journey as a peaceful, stable and prosperous country with economic development and the welfare of the people in mind.

Under the enlightened and farsighted leadership of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the country continues to enjoy harmony, good governance and steady development that is 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.

This includes placing strong emphasis on the well-being of its people, particularly with investments in education, health care, housing and social welfare continuing to be at the heart of national policies.

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.

The friendship between Brunei Darussalam and Japan holds a special place in our foreign relations. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1984, the nations have developed a close and enduring relationship based on mutual trust, respect and shared interests that has progressed to a strategic partnership in 2024 and will only continue to grow from strength to strength.

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



Beyond energy cooperation, bilateral relations have expanded steadily into diverse areas including trade and investment, infrastructure development, education, tourism, science and technology, and cultural exchange. 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 that 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 nat-

ural beauty, rich biodiversity and warm hospitality. These personal connections strengthen mutual understanding and ensure that our bilateral ties remain vibrant and forward-looking.

Navigating through an increasingly complex global environment, Brunei Darussalam remains com-



Brunei Tourism

Above: The Empire Brunei resort hotel

Left: The canopy walk at Ulu Temburong National Park in Brunei Darussalam

mitted to continue the long-standing relations and working closely with Japan to address common challenges and strengthening cooperation in emerging areas such as renewable and clean energy, digital transformation, innovation, climate resilience, food security and sustainable tourism.

Brunei Darussalam also values Japan's continued engagement

in ASEAN and the Asia-Pacific region, and we look forward to strengthening collaboration in support of regional peace, stability and prosperity.

On this meaningful occasion, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the government and the people of Japan for its friendship and cooperation with Brunei Darussalam over the years. I am confident that the close and friendly relations between our two countries will continue to flourish, bringing mutual benefit and deeper understanding to our peoples.

Last but not least and on behalf of the Embassy, I would like to convey our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Mitsubishi Corp., Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company, Inc., Itochu Corp. and the Japan-Brunei Friendship Association, amongst others, for their continued close collaboration with Brunei Darussalam as well as The Japan News and the sponsors for their contributions.

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to the People of

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as They Celebrate Their

42nd National Day

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