

Brunei-Japan relations grow stronger year after year

By 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 the people of Japan on this unique day on which we celebrate the auspicious occasion of the 38th National Day of Brunei Darussalam as well as the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor.



Haji Shahbudin
Haji Musa

The theme of the National Day celebration this year is "Menjayakan Wawasan Negara" or Succeeding in the Vision of the Nation. The theme represents Brunei's aspirations in achieving Brunei Vision 2035 while meeting the country's sovereignty as an independent Malay Islamic Monarchy (MIB), and our readiness to achieve the goals of an advanced Brunei and bring all walks of life forward.

Brunei has adopted core strategies in our efforts towards achieving Brunei Vision 2035. Therefore, we sincerely appreciate the support received over the years from all our partners, including Japan, in our

country's steadfast pursuit of this vision. The valued contributions from the Government of Japan towards charting Brunei's economic growth and prosperity is a testament to the long-standing bilateral ties and friendship that have long existed between us.

As the world enters the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the dire situation and tremendous challenges that all of us are facing have not dampened our spirits, dreams and hopes. Rather, we are all determined and resolute that humanity will come out of this crisis stronger and ever more resilient. In this regard, we believe that the same can be said of the ties between Brunei and Japan. Our partnership has come out stronger year after year and we are confident that this will continue in the future.

As one of Brunei's largest trading partners, we will continue to ensure the steady and reliable supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Japan for many years to come. We also welcome Japan's interest to participate in Brunei's economic diversification efforts by tapping other potential areas in the country, including downstream oil and gas, manufacturing, agriculture and aquaculture, tourism and much more. We encourage more Japanese companies, businesses and individuals to explore the trade and investment opportunities in these highly valuable areas, including digitalization and green investment.

The direct flights between Bandar Seri Begawan and Tokyo (Narita), although currently suspended, have showcased the great potential for more bilateral cooperation in tourism. We look forward to their resumption soon, as this will greatly assist in furthering the friendship and camaraderie among the people of Brunei and Japan. We also hope to welcome more Japanese visitors of all ages to the country post-COVID-19 and have them enjoy all the wonderful activities that we have to offer in our abode of peace and green tranquility.

The friendship between Brunei and Japan resonates deeply within the younger generation and we are happy that they have played instrumental roles as ambassadors in promoting our ties. Although some limited interactions have been continued in virtual realms during the current pandemic situation, we also look forward to the resumption of such in-person exchanges as the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Programme (SSEAYP), the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths Programme (JENESYS) and many others. We believe such activities have contributed to the admiration of our countries' cultures, heritage and traditions. We therefore look forward to our young generation continuing on the strong and valuable bilateral cooperation that we all have enjoyed.

Education continues to be a core area of our bilateral ties. Both

Bruneian and Japanese students alike are keen to pursue higher education in each other's countries and we hope that furthering education cooperation – be it through research collaboration, training, exchange or student mobility programs – can make a valuable contribution to our overall cooperation in this very important area.

Let me also express my sincere appreciation to the Government of Japan for their seamless support of Brunei's measures against COVID-19 and Brunei's role as the Chair of ASEAN last year. The support of all our partners will help strengthen ASEAN's community-building efforts, especially as the region looks ahead to deal with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other regional issues. We also look forward to marking the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation in 2023 and raising the ASEAN-Japan relations to a new stage.

Finally, we would like to convey our thanks to the Japan-Brunei Parliamentarian's League for Promotion of Friendship, the Japan-Brunei Friendship Association, the ASEAN-Japan Centre (AJC) and other prefectural friendship organizations for their cooperation in promoting the bilateral ties between Brunei and Japan.

My sincere appreciation also to The Japan News for allowing me again to say a few words this year and to all the sponsors for their kind contributions.



Photos courtesy of Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism, Brunei Darussalam

Children in Brunei



Labi, Luagan Lalak Recreational Park

CONGRATULATIONS
on the Occasion of the 38th National Day of
Negara Brunei Darussalam



Freedom Co., Ltd.

<http://www.d-freedom.com/>

Congratulations
on the Occasion of
the 38th National Day of
Negara Brunei Darussalam



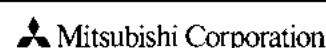
CONGRATULATIONS

to the People of

Negara Brunei Darussalam

as They Celebrate Their

38th National Day



Congratulations
on the Occasion of
the 38th National Day of
Negara Brunei Darussalam
JAPAN-BRUNEI FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

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

E-mail: info@jbfa.or.jp

TEL: 070-7796-5886