

Japan and Brunei

30 YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS





Welcoming the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Brunei Darussalam

Fumio Kishida
Foreign Minister of Japan

It is gratifying that the diplomatic relations between Japan and Brunei Darussalam marks the 30th Anniversary this year.

For the last 30 years, Japan and Brunei Darussalam have built amicable relations and have had exchanges at high level. Last year, Brunei Darussalam played a very important role as the chair of ASEAN, in the meantime, our leaders and Foreign Ministers visited each other's countries. I myself had a chance to visit Brunei Darussalam twice within the last year and observed Kampong Ayer, which is known as the traditional scenery of Brunei and the rich tropical rainforest. I want the Japanese people to know much more about the splendor of Brunei Darussalam.

The cooperation in the field of energy is the foundation of our amicable bilateral relations. Japan's import of energy resources from Brunei Darussalam dates back to 40 years ago, which was before the establishment of our diplomatic relations. When Japan was struck by the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Bruneian people sent warm messages of sympathy and supplied emergency LNG to Japan. They helped the Japanese people tremendously. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my deepest appreciation for the support.

The Exchange between Japan and Brunei Darussalam has been active in various fields. The

Imperial Family of Japan and the Royal Family of Brunei Darussalam are tied by strong bond. When His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha visited Japan last May, Their Majesties Emperor and Empress invited them for tea.

Diplomacy by parliamentarians is also active. The Japan-Brunei Parliamentarians' League for Promotion of Friendship, which was established one year before the establishment of our diplomatic relations, has contributed to promote our bilateral relations significantly.

In the economic field, Japan invests in the petrochemical plants and cooperates in the energy-saving field in Brunei Darussalam. Moreover, our bilateral relations have become closer and closer based on various types of exchanges such as youth exchange including JENESYS 2.0 program and Ship for South East Asian Youth Program (SSEAYP), exchange by local governments, academic exchange and assistance by private organizations.

During this year, which marks our 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations, I am determined to raise our bilateral relations to a higher level by promoting our people's mutual understanding and strengthen our cooperation for the peace and stability of the region.

The deepening Japan-Brunei relationship

A solid bilateral relationship was built up between Japan and Brunei more than ten years prior to the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1984, founded on a stable supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and petroleum to Japan. Since the establishment of their diplomatic relationship, Japan and Brunei have expanded and deepened the relations in a number of areas stretching from technical cooperation to education, youth exchange and culture. Today, Japan and Brunei have become indispensable partners.

When the Great East Japan Earthquake struck in March 2011, the Government and people of Brunei were quick to reach out and support Japan. As is often said, "A friend in need, is a friend indeed." With both sides working to create a relationship that can truly be called one of "friends indeed," Brunei and Japan continue to walk hand-in-hand toward the future.

Japan: an island nation with a unique culture, a leader in Asia and the international community

A country comprising four main islands and as many as 7,000 smaller ones, Japan has long fostered a unique culture, one that since ancient times has incorporated Chinese and Korean culture, and more recently American and European culture since the Meiji Restoration. Experiencing truly astounding economic growth after World War II, Japan has grown to be one of the world's most influential economic powers, a nation of advanced technology, and a leader in Asia and the international community. While Japan has struggled with such issues as deflation, global economic fluctuations and a strong yen since the 1990s, the achievements of the economic policies known as "Abenomics" are now leading Japan back to steady economic growth. Japan continues to face a variety of problems stemming from the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 2011, but the people of Japan are now working together as one nation for reconstruction. Moreover, with plans now in place for the holding of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020, hopes are rising for the revival of Japan.

Brunei: the abode of peace, a land with rich natural resources, working to promote economic diversification

Although Brunei contains a land area of less than approximately one-sixtieth and a population of less than one-three-hundredth that of Japan, it has been blessed with natural resources such as petroleum and natural gas, and has been promoting social welfare programs that have realized a high standard of living for its people. Since becoming independent in 1984, Brunei has maintained high-economic growth by utilizing its rich natural resources and domestic stability under the governance of His Majesty the Sultan. Presently, Brunei is also promoting the diversification of its industries and development of human resources in order to reduce its dependence on oil and gas. Japanese companies have been actively contributing to business operations and job creation in the oil and gas sector as well as in new industrial fields. Expectations are high for the further strengthening of cooperation between Japan and Brunei.



Message on the 30th Anniversary of Friendship between Brunei Darussalam and Japan

HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Brunei Darussalam

Upon resuming independence in 1984 Brunei Darussalam defined its foreign policy.

"In her foreign policy, its principle purposes and objectives are the maintenance of international peace and security, the development of friendly relations among nations based on sovereign equality, respect for territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states and settlement of disputes by peaceful means"

It was in this spirit of friendship and respect that we met on 2 April to establish diplomatic relations with our neighbors in Japan.

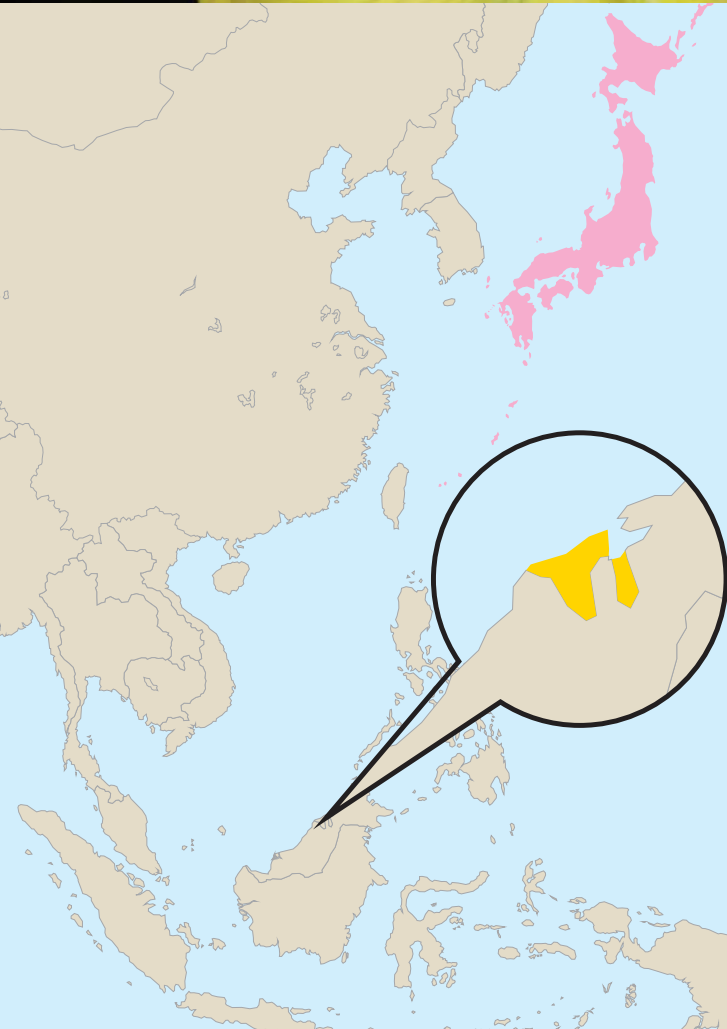
That spirit has steadily grown in strength and purpose for the last 30 years.

The first 20 years of our relations, from 1985-2005, saw our people gaining common understanding and great appreciation of each other's culture, history and ways of life. We brought our young people together and we shared our customs, ceremonies, arts and sports.

It was all done in a practical way. We learned each other's tastes in food. We practiced each other's customs. We played each other's games and we listened to each other's music. It was a wonderful experience for us all and involved many visits and exchanges.

It has led over the past 10 years to an increasingly important emphasis on economic, technical and educational development. The most far-reaching development to date came in 2007 with the signing of the Brunei-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement. This was followed in 2011 by the construction of the 'Tenaga Suria Brunei' Power Generation Plant, fully funded by Mitsubishi Corporation to help Brunei with its clean energy initiative.

Our 30 years together has thus laid a foundation for a future of friendship, goodwill and very important partnership. We value it greatly and present our warmest respects to His Imperial Majesty, the Royal Family and the Government and People of Japan.



JAPAN

Land Area

377,955 km²

Population

127 million (Estimate of 2013)

Capital

Tokyo

Political System

Constitutional Monarchy
(Parliamentary Cabinet System)

Major Language

Japanese

Major Religion

Shinto, Buddhism

Currency

Yen (As of Dec 2013, ¥ 100 = B\$ 1.2 or US\$ 1)

Number of Bruneians living in Japan

41 persons (As of Dec 2012).

Source: Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice, Japan)



BRUNEI

Land Area

5,765 km²

Population

410 thousand (Estimate of 2013)

Capital

Bandar Seri Begawan

Political System

Constitutional Monarchy

Major Language

Malay, English

Major Religion

Islam (79%), Christianity (9%), Buddhism (8%)

Currency

Brunei dollar (As of Dec 2013, B\$1 = ¥82 or US\$ 0.8)

Number of Japanese living in Brunei

146 persons (As of October 2013).

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan)

MILESTONES IN JAPAN - BRUNEI RELATIONS

Japan begins to import oil from Brunei.

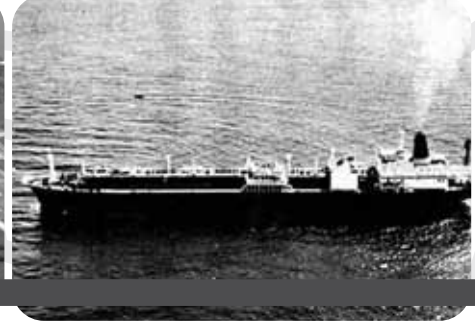


1969

Brunei LNG is established as a joint venture between a Japanese company, the Government of Brunei, and Shell Oil Company, and begins exporting liquefied natural gas (LNG).



1972



Following the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Government of Brunei donates US\$1 million to Japan and transfers US\$372,458 (approx. 23.84 million yen) as private sector donations. The Government of Brunei also provides Japan with an emergency supply of LNG.



2011



2009

- Agreement between Japan and Brunei Darussalam for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income enters into force.
- In January, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade visits Japan to sign the agreement.

In June, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visits Japan to sign the Japan-Brunei Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).



2007



2013



- Brunei assumes chairmanship of ASEAN during the milestone of the 40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation.
- In December, Prime Minister Abe and His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam co-chair the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit Meeting held in Tokyo.

- In May, Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone becomes the first Japanese Prime Minister to visit Brunei.
- The Japan-Brunei Parliamentary Friendship Promotion League is established.
- In July, Japan opens a Government office in Brunei

- On January 1, Brunei becomes completely independent from the United Kingdom.
- In April, Japan and Brunei establish diplomatic relations, and His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visits Japan as an official state guest.
- In June, Japan establishes the Embassy of Japan in Brunei Darussalam.
- In September, the Japan-Brunei Friendship Association is established in Tokyo.



1983



1984



His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Naruhito attends the wedding of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.



2004



1996

In September, Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Hitachi become the first members of the Imperial Household to visit Brunei.

1985

The Japanese Association is established in Brunei.

1989

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visits Japan to attend the Funeral Ceremony of Emperor Showa.

1998

The Brunei-Japan Friendship Association is established in Brunei.

1990

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visits Japan to attend the coronation of His Majesty the Emperor.



2014

30th
Anniversary

Japan-Brunei
Friendship

The 30th Anniversary of Friendship between Japan and Brunei. Both Japan and Brunei hold a variety of events in celebration.

Relations between the Royal and Imperial Households

Good relationship has been maintained between Japan and Brunei over a period of more than 30 years in numerous fields. The basis for these good relations is the close bond between Japan's Imperial Household and Brunei's Royal Family.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha visited Japan in April 1984, the very same year that Brunei became independent. In the time since then, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has also visited Japan on numerous other occasions, including the Funeral Ceremony of Emperor Showa (1989), the coronation of His Majesty the Emperor (1990), the

inaugural Japan-ASEAN Commemorative Summit Meeting (2003), Signing Ceremony of Japan-Brunei Economic Partnership Agreement (2007), APEC Summit Meeting in Yokohama (2010), the Japan-Brunei Summit Meeting (May 2013), and the Japan-ASEAN Commemorative Summit Meeting (Dec 2013). Relations between His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress continue to deepen. Furthermore, many other members of the Royal Family of Brunei frequently visit Japan as well.

The first members of the Imperial Household to visit Brunei were Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Hitachi (1996). His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Naruhito also visited Brunei to attend the wedding of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah (2004).



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha met Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress in Japan (May 2013)

Economy

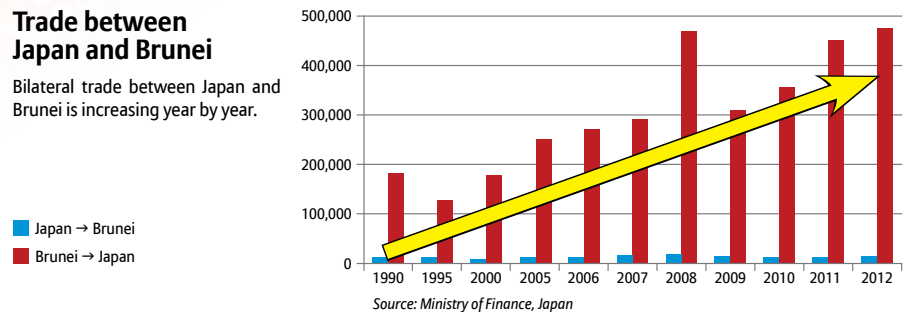
One of the foundations supporting the friendship of Japan and Brunei is the robust economic relationship that has been forged through the import and export of liquid natural gas (LNG). Brunei's exports of LNG to Japan go all the way back to 1972. After 40 years and two contract renewals, Brunei continues to make an important contribution to the stable energy procurement of Japan, supplying LNG mainly for Tokyo and the Kansai region. As of 2012, LNG imports from Brunei accounted for approximately 7% of Japan's total LNG imports.

Japan and Brunei continue to work toward ever closer economic relations, having both signed the Japan-Brunei Economic Partnership Agreement (entered into force in July 2008), the Japan-ASEAN Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (entered into force in January 2009), and the Agreement between Japan and Brunei Darussalam for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income (entered into force December 2009).

Furthermore, in recent years Japanese companies have been active in new industries such as the manufacturing of petrochemical products and halal food. For Brunei, which is dependent on its energy resources, these activities are making a tremendous contribution to the diversification of the country's economic structure and job creation. It is expected that both countries will continue to develop their relations even more through further economic activities.

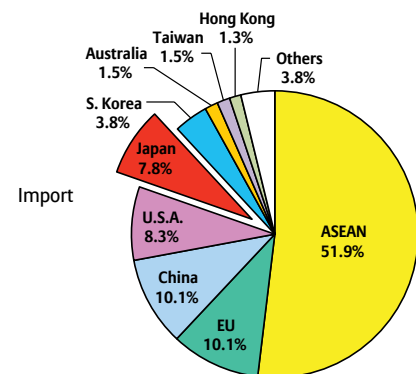
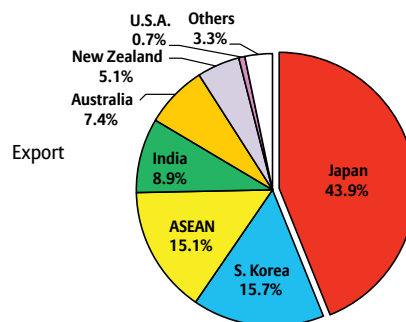
Trade between Japan and Brunei

Bilateral trade between Japan and Brunei is increasing year by year.



Source: Ministry of Finance, Japan

Trade partners of Brunei (2012)

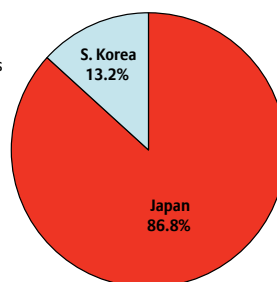


Source: Brunei Darussalam International Merchandise Trade Statistics Q2-Q4 2012

LNG Export of Brunei (2012)

Around 87% of Brunei's export of LNG goes to Japan.

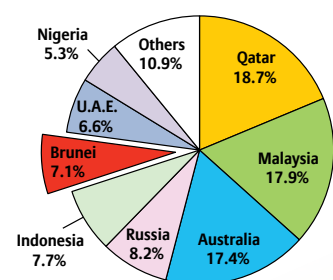
After the renewal of long-term export contract in April 2013, the share of Japan became around 60%



Source: Brunei Darussalam International Merchandise Trade Statistics Q2-Q4 2012

Japan's Import of LNG (2012)

Around 7% of Japan's LNG import is from Brunei.



Source: Ministry of Finance, Japan

Politics

With no political issues between Japan and Brunei, the countries have established good bilateral relations and continue to enjoy active exchange. At the leadership level, exchanges have recently taken place beginning with the ASEAN summit meetings held in Cambodia in November 2012, when the two countries took the opportunity to hold a Japan-Brunei Summit Meeting. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visited Japan after that in May 2013 for another summit meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and in October, the Prime Minister visited Brunei for another bilateral summit and the ASEAN Related Summit Meetings Brunei hosted as ASEAN chair for 2013. In December of the same year, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam again visited

Japan for the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit Meeting celebrating the 40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation. At the foreign minister level too, in January and June of 2013, Minister for Foreign Affairs Fumio Kishida visited Brunei and held Foreign Ministers' Meetings with His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Other cabinet members as well have actively been making trips to each other's country.



Japan-Brunei Summit Meeting (October 2013)

It is expected that the 30th Anniversary of Friendship between Japan and Brunei will be a milestone that further develops the political relationship existing between the two countries.

Defense



ADMM Plus (August 2013)

There has been a great deal of defense exchange between Japan and Brunei in recent years, including among such high-level personnel as

defense ministers, parliamentary officials, and vice-ministers. In terms of visits from Japan, in June of 2013, Chief of Joint Staff of the Japan Self-Defense Forces, General Shigeru Iwasaki visited Brunei, and in August, Minister of Defense Itsunori Onodera visited as well to attend the Second ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus). At the troop level too, Japan sent military assets and medical as well as rescue teams for the ADMM Plus Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) / Military Medicine (MM) Exercises, which were held in the sultanate in June 2013. Also, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force ships first visited Brunei in the year following the establishment

of diplomatic relations in 1984, and as of 2013, a total of ten visits have been made. Active efforts are underway for exchange, including these goodwill visits by the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force.

At the same time, people from Brunei are also actively participating in seminars and programs operated by Japan, such as the Tokyo Defense Forum (TDF), the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS) Short Term Exchange Program for Officers of the Next Generation, and the Multinational Cooperation Program in the Asia Pacific (MCAP). It is expected that defense cooperation too will be further deepened.

Cultural/Person-to-Person Exchanges

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1984, the Japanese Government has been actively pursuing a range of cultural/person-to-person exchange programs to promote interest and understanding related to Japanese culture in Brunei. Cultural exchange centers around a historical Japanese Speech Contest that will celebrate its 28th year in 2014 and the Japanese Language and Culture Week that always draws many Japanophiles. In addition, there are many Japanese language learners in Brunei: Japanese classes have been created at UBD and within the Continuing Education Section of the Ministry of Education of Brunei. Every year, over 200 students and citizens study the Japanese language.

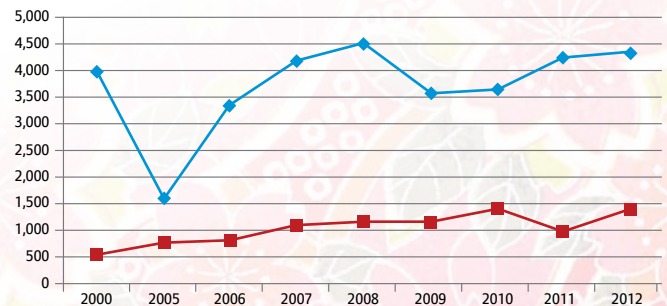
Person-to-person exchanges have continued since 1984 through a government-financed exchange student program. In addition, since 1985, Brunei has participated in the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program (SSEAYP). Up until the 1990s, people from Brunei were trained through technical cooperation from JICA: in 2007, Brunei participated in the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for

Students and Youths (JENESYS and JENESYS 2.0) programs, and Brunei also participates in the Kizuna Project. These are just some of the ways in which many young people from Japan and Brunei have visited each other's countries and helped to deepen mutual understanding. These exchanges are contributing to friendly relations between the two countries.

Person-to-Person Exchanges: Trend of Travellers

— Japanese visiting Brunei
— Bruneians visiting Japan

Source: Japan Tourism Agency and Brunei Tourism



SSEAYP



Japan Festival in Brunei (2013)



Cultural event organized by the Embassy of Japan

DID YOU KNOW ? THAT



The golden thread that connects Brunei and Japan

The most famous traditional handicraft of Brunei is surely tenunan, a kind of textile using an abundance of gold thread. Since ancient times, most of that gold thread has been imported from Japan. According to weavers who carry on this traditional craft from generations long past, there is no particular reason why thread from Japan is used – when people first started to weave, the only thread on the market was from Japan. There have been times since then when thread from other countries has been used, however, after everything is said and done, the quality of the thread from Japan makes it the gold standard for tenunan textiles.



Halal bentos in Tokyo

Bento boxes are one part of the proud food culture of Japan. There are many different kinds of bento boxes, including those featuring Japanese, Western, or Chinese cuisine. Recently, a new kind of bento maker has started to appear on the streets of Japan – the halal bento seller. Along with an increase in Muslims living in and visiting Japan, interest in halal food is starting to grow among the Japanese too. Halal bento catering services are specially appreciated by Muslim business people at business events and by Muslim sports teams who visit Japan for international games. It is said that they are particularly well received by the increasing number of visitors to Japan from ASEAN. It is expected that the variety of halal food will increase across Japan in the next few years.



Official Logo for the 30th Anniversary of Friendship between Japan and Brunei

The logo for “the 30th Anniversary of Friendship between Japan and Brunei” has been created by Mr. Masaki Ogiwara from Japan. The logo represents the hope for many years of continued friendship between the two countries. The image shows the exchange of “Simpur” (Dillenia suffruticosa), the national floral emblem of Brunei, and “Sakura” (the cherry blossom) from Japan with the message of “the 30th Anniversary of Friendship between Japan and Brunei”.

The logo will be used in Japan and Brunei for the events related to “the 30th Anniversary of Friendship between Japan and Brunei”. For further information on the use of the logo, please check the website at <http://www.bn.emb-japan.go.jp/jbyear2014/index.html>.

“ Simple Japanese Conversation ”

Selamat pagi / Good morning
Ohayou gozaimasu

Selamat petang / Good afternoon
Konnichiwa

Selamat malam / Good evening
Konbanwa

Gembira berjumpa awda / Nice to meet you
Hajimemashite

Apa kabar? / How are you?
Ogenki desuka

Nama saya XXX / My name is XXX
Watashi no namae wa XXX desu

Sampai jumpa lagi / See you again
Mata aimashou

Selamat jalan / Goodbye
Sayounara

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- ASEAN-Japan Centre

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