



# Congratulations



To the people of Brunei Darussalam,

Congratulations on the Golden Jubilee of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN this year. The fact that the people of ASEAN, including Brunei Darussalam, have overcome various differences while developing into a community and establishing its current position in the international community is indeed a historic achievement. We Japanese, whom deepened friendship and cooperation in a wide range of fields with the people of ASEAN to date, share both the hardship and the joy of the past 50 years.



Picture Source:

[Cabinet Public Relations Office of the Government of Japan](#)

As a friend of ASEAN, I have visited all of the ASEAN countries. When I visited Brunei Darussalam in 2013, I was deeply impressed by the extremely stable social economy under the leadership of His Majesty, who is strongly trusted among his people.



In December 2013, in commemoration of the 40th year of ASEAN-Japan friendship and cooperation, His Majesty and I, the joint chairs, released the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, under which various projects have been conducted.



I would like to express my sincere appreciation for Brunei Darussalam's efforts as the ASEAN coordinating country for Japan, a role it has been performing since 2015. I hope to deepen our relationship in the future, in order to further contribute to regional stability and prosperity.



Japan and ASEAN have now become indispensable "Strategic Partners" for peace and prosperity. I am convinced that Japan-ASEAN relations in the next 50 years will be bright if we can continue to cooperate, while firmly upholding common values such as freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. Let's forge the future of Asia and the world together, hand in hand.



Shinzo Abe,  
Prime Minister of Japan

