

MIDDLE EAST

THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

Diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and Bahrain were established on 24 September 1988. On 20 June 2001, Brunei Darussalam opened its mission in Manama at Chargé d' Affaires level, whilst non-resident Ambassador is accredited from Saudi Arabia.

Over the years, several high-level visits were made to Bahrain which include His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in 1988 and 2000; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office in 2008; and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 2002 and 2009. High level visits to Brunei Darussalam include His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa in 2004; His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister of Bahrain in 2003; and His Highness Shaikh Salman Bin Khalifa, Adviser to the Prime Minister and Owner of Al Salam Travel, General Sales Agent for Royal Brunei Airlines in 2010.

A number of cooperative agreements have been signed between the two countries including ***Air Services Agreement*** (27 June 1990); ***MOU on Cooperation in Investment and Financial Sectors*** (25 January 2003); ***Agreement for the Promotion and the Protection of Investments*** and ***the Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation*** (14 January 2008)

THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

Brunei Darussalam and Egypt established diplomatic relations on 2 May 1984. The Embassy of Brunei Darussalam was established in Cairo on 21 October 1984. The non-resident Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Brunei Darussalam is based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Several high level visits were made to Egypt which include His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in 1984, 2004 and 2013; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah in 2008; and The Honourable Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 2006.

Brunei Darussalam and Egypt have a long established and close cooperation in education and religious affairs. Brunei Darussalam has been sending students to Al Azhar University, Cairo University and Alexandria University. The Ministry of Religious Affairs, Universiti of Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) have also signed MOUs with several universities in Egypt.

Brunei Darussalam has also been sending participants to Egypt for the International Quran Memorizing Competition every year since 1999.

THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and Iran were established on 1 May 1990. Brunei Darussalam established its embassy in Tehran at Chargé d' Affaires level in 1993. The mission was later upgraded to ambassadorial level in 1996. Iran first established its embassy in BSB in 1994. It was, however, closed in 1999. The Embassy was reopened in May 2001.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made a State Visit to Iran in 1994 and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Official Visit was in 1995.

A number of cooperative agreements were in place including ***MOU on Economic, Commercial, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation*** (15 October 1994); ***MOU on exemption of visa requirements for holders of Diplomatic and Officials Passports*** (8 April 1995); and ***MOU between National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Brunei Darussalam and Iran Chamber of Commerce and Mines*** (12 March 1996).

THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

Diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and Jordan were established on 18 February 1985. Brunei Darussalam set up its embassy in Amman on 18 March 1996. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visited Jordan in 1984, 1999 and 2004 while His Majesty King Abdullah II visited Brunei Darussalam in 2008 and 2009.

Bilateral cooperation between the two countries mainly focused on defence, education and Islamic affairs. BD regularly sends representatives to participate in the annual International Quran Memorising Contest in Jordan.

Both countries have signed several agreements and MOUs: ***Agreement on Islamic Affairs Cooperation*** (18 September 1990); ***MOU on Air Transport Agreement*** (31 August 1994); ***MOU on Education and Training Cooperation*** (19 December 1996); ***MOU on Education between UBD and Yarmouk University*** (13 November 1997); ***MOU between UNISSA and Yarmouk University Jordan*** (7 May 2011)

STATE OF KUWAIT

Diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and Kuwait were established on 1 May 1990. Brunei Darussalam opened its Embassy in Kuwait City in December 2009. While, the Embassy of Kuwait was set up in Bandar Seri Begawan on 23 Sept 2008.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visited Kuwait in 1994, 2009 and 2012; while His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office made an Official Visit in 2010. His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade visited Kuwait in 1987 and twice in 2011 for an Official visit and for the 10th Asia Cooperation Dialogue Ministerial Meeting. His Royal Highness Prince Sufri Bolkiah attended the 1st Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Sport Congress in March 2009.

High-level visits to Brunei Darussalam include His Highness Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed Al Sabah, Prime Minister of Kuwait in July 2008; and His Excellency Dr. Yousef Hamad Al-Ibrahim, Advisor at the Al-Diwan Al-Amiri of Kuwait as a Special Envoy of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait.

Several agreements and MOUs have been signed namely the ***Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion*** with respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, ***Agreement for the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investments, Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation, Agreement on Trade, Air Services Agreement, MOU on Oil and Gas Cooperation, MOU between Aeronautical Authorities*** and ***MOU on Bilateral Consultation between Foreign Ministries***.

The 1st Brunei Darussalam - Kuwait Joint Committee Meeting was held on 13 December 2010 in Bandar Seri Begawan.

KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

Diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and Morocco were established on 28th May 1988. Brunei Darussalam opened its diplomatic mission in Rabat in 2001 at the level of Charge d 'Affaires.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visited Morocco in 1988, 1999 and 2000. His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended the 10th Tourism Forum in Marrakech in 2010. High-level visits to Brunei Darussalam include His Excellency Yassir Zenagui, Minister of Tourism and Handicraft as a Special Envoy of His Majesty King Mohammed VI.

In 2010 and 2011, Brunei Darussalam participated in Mohammed VI International Award relating to Reading, Psalmony and Explanation of the Holy Quran Competition in Rabat.

SULTANATE OF OMAN

Diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and Oman were established on 24 March 1984. On 1 February 1990, Brunei Darussalam opened its mission in Muscat. Oman opened its Embassy in Bandar Seri Begawan on 25 August 1986.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visited Oman in 1984, 1985 and 2009; while His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade made similar visits in 1984, 1985 and 1992. High level visits to Brunei Darussalam include His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmood al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Ministerial Council of Oman in January 1997; and His Highness Sayyid Haitham bin Tariq bin Taimour Al-Said, Minister of Heritage and Culture in June 2004. There were also exchanges of visits among ministers since 1999.

The Bilateral Consultative Meeting (BCM) between Brunei Darussalam and Oman was established in 1992 to review bilateral cooperation. The thirteenth session of the BCM was held in Bandar Seri Begawan on 28 April 2012.

Cooperative agreements have also been signed between the two countries which cover the areas of economic, investment, education, air services, cultural and heritage, Islamic affairs and health.

STATE OF QATAR

Diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and the State of Qatar were established on 2 October 1991. In June 2001, Brunei Darussalam opened its Embassy in Doha at Charge d'Affaires level and this was later upgraded to Ambassadorial level in March 2012. Qatar opened its Embassy in Bandar Seri Begawan in October 2008, also headed by Charge d'Affaires and later upgraded to Ambassadorial level in June 2012.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made a State Visit to Doha in April 2006. His Majesty the Sultan also attended meetings in Doha in 2003 and 2005. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, made an Official Visit in March 2012. His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended meetings hosted in Doha in 2000, 2001 and 2006.

His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Amir of Qatar made a State Visit to Brunei Darussalam in January 2012.

Cooperation between the two countries includes visa arrangement and air services. In April 2006, an MOU on the Establishment of Bilateral Consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar was signed.

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and Saudi Arabia were established on 1 July 1987. Brunei Darussalam set up its embassy in Riyadh in November 1987 and opened its Consulate General in Jeddah in October 1989.

Over the years, several high-level visits were made to Saudi Arabia which include the visits of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in 1999, 2005 and 2012; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office in 2011; and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 1995, 1997, 2005 and 2012. High level visits to Brunei Darussalam include His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud as the Governor of Riyadh in 1998; His Royal Highness Prince Muqrin bin Abdulaziz as the Head of General Intelligence in 2006 and His Excellency Dr. Nizar bin Obaid Madani, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in 2006.

Bilateral cooperation between the two countries mainly focused on Islamic and pilgrimage affairs. BD regularly sends representatives to participate in the annual "*King Abdul Aziz International Competition for Memorization, Recital and Explanation of the Holy Quran*" as well as to the "*Prince Sultan's International Prize for the Memorization of the Holy Quran for Military Personnel*" which is held every two years.

Both countries have signed several agreements and MOUs: ***Air Services Agreement*** (9 February 1992); ***MOU on Health Cooperation between the Ministry of Health and King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre*** (2 June 2001); ***General Agreement in Economic, Trade, Investment, Technical, Culture, Youth and Sport*** (22 May 2006); ***MOU between The Aeronautical Authorities of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and The Aeronautical Authorities of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the Implementation of Bilateral Air Services*** (7 July 2009)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were established on 28 May 1992. In 1994, Brunei Darussalam opened its Embassy in Abu Dhabi at the Charge d'Affaires level, which was later upgraded to a full Ambassador in 2001.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made State Visits to Abu Dhabi and Dubai in 2000 and 2006; while His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, made an Official Visit to Fujairah, Abu Dhabi and Dubai in April 2008. His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade also visited the UAE in 2009.

High level visits to Brunei Darussalam include His Highness General Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the then Dubai Crown Prince and Minister of Defence of the UAE in July 2002; and His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the UAE in June 2009.

With effect from 12 March 2001, the UAE granted Brunei Darussalam's passport holders entry into the UAE for a period of 30 days without visa. On 1st October 2003, Brunei Darussalam started exempting visa for the UAE passport holders for a period of 30 days.

Brunei Darussalam and the UAE also signed an Air Services Agreement in March 1993 and the Open Sky Agreement in April 2005.