

EUROPE, RUSSIA AND CENTRAL ASIAN STATES

THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

Diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Kingdom of Belgium were established on 3 May 1984. In 1992, Brunei Darussalam opened its embassy in Brussels while Belgium opened its Honorary Consul in Brunei Darussalam in 1990. In 1996, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made a working visit to Belgium. On October 2010, His Majesty the Sultan made a second working visit to Belgium to attend the 8th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) held in Brussels.

THE REPUBLIC OF FRANCE

Diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of France were established on 8 May 1984. Brunei Darussalam has an embassy in Paris while the French embassy in Brunei is situated in Bandar Seri Begawan.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made a state visit in 1996 and working visits to France in 1999, 2001 and 2008. His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office made an official visit to France in 2006.

A number of cooperative agreements have been signed between the two countries which include the **MOU on Defence Cooperation** (25 February 1999) and several **MOU on Education Cooperation** between UBD and some of France's higher education institutions such as the Universite de la Rochelle, the Universite de Montpellier and the Universite de Sophia Antipolis in Nice.

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and Germany were established on 1 May 1984. In 1991, Brunei Darussalam opened its Embassy in Bonn, which was later relocated to Berlin in 1999.

Over the years, several high-level visits were made to Germany which include His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in 1998, 2002 and 2011; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah in 2006; and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 1994 and 2007. High level visits to

Brunei Darussalam include Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, in 1997; Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Vice Chancellor and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, in 1985; and Dr. Guido Westerwelle, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, in 2012.

A number of cooperative agreements have been signed between the two countries including ***Air Services Agreement*** (1993); ***an MOU between Brunei Darussalam and German Private Sectors*** (1997); ***Bilateral Investment Treaty*** (1998); ***Research and Technical Cooperation Agreement*** between SEAMEO VOCTECH and training institutions in Germany (1997 and 2010); ***Agreement on Mutual Protection of Classified Information*** (2009); and ***Health Cooperation Agreement between Jerudong Park Medical Centre and Krankenhaus Nordwest Hospital*** (2010 and 2012).

Both countries have cooperation in various fields. The most active and significant areas of cooperation are in defence, education and health. Currently, there are several German companies in Brunei Darussalam.

THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Russian Federation were established on 1 October 1991. Brunei Darussalam's mission in Russia was set up in 1998 at a Charge d'Affaires level and was later upgraded to an Embassy in September 2001.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visited Russia in 2005, 2009 and 2012. President Vladimir Putin visited Brunei Darussalam during the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in 2000 and His Excellency Sergey Lavrov, Foreign Minister of Russia visited Brunei Darussalam in 2012.

The ***MOU on Trade, Economic and Technical Cooperation*** was signed between both countries during His Majesty the Sultan's state visit to Russia in 2009. An ***MOU on Commercial Cooperation in Oil and Gas Sector*** was signed in 2012 between Petroleum Brunei and JSC Zarubezhneft.

THE UNITED KINGDOM

Brunei Darussalam and the United Kingdom have a long history of relations. Formal diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and the United Kingdom (UK) were established in January 1984.

A number of high-level visits have taken place between the two countries over the years. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has made

a State Visit to the UK in 1992 and official visits in 2004, 2008, 2009 and 2011. His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office made an official visit to the UK in 2001. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II made a State Visit in 1972 and 1998. His Royal Highness the Duke of York made an official visit to Brunei Darussalam in 2004.

Both countries have cooperation in various fields. The most active and significant areas of cooperation are in education and defence.

A number of agreements have also been signed between Brunei Darussalam and the UK, including ***Treaty of Friendship on Co-operation*** (7 Jan 1979); ***MOU on the Joint Defence Commission*** (31 Dec 2002); and ***MOU on Air Services*** (24 Aug 2011). Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) has also signed Memorandum of Understandings with a number of universities in the UK.