

**Malaysia, Brunei cement ties**  
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**By ALANG BENDAHARA**

**STRONG BONDS: Both countries pledge to enhance cooperation in various fields**

PUTRAJAYA: MALAYSIA and Brunei reinforced the goodwill between both countries with the exchange of documents pertaining to the Agreement on Economic Cooperation here yesterday.

The exchange of agreement documents was witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and Sultan of Brunei, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, during the ruler's official working visit to the Prime Minister's Office here.

Malaysia was represented by Deputy International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir, while Brunei, by its Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister (II) Datuk Seri Lim Jock Seng.

The agreement was signed on Sunday between Lim and International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed.

Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah is here for the two-day 16th Malaysia-Brunei Darussalam Annual Leaders' Consultation, which started on Monday.

The consultation was the most important event in the annual calendar of both countries, serving as a mechanism for discussions on a wide range of bilateral, regional and global issues of common concern.

Earlier, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah was greeted upon arrival at the Perdana Putra Complex by Najib at 10.55am, before the two leaders proceeded to Level Five for their meeting.

Later, after witnessing the exchange of documents, Najib and Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah went to the Perdana Meeting Room for a briefing by the Performance Management and Delivery Unit (Pemandu).

Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah then attended a luncheon hosted by Najib and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, at the prime minister's official residence, Seri Perdana.

Bernama reported that Wisma Putra had said the two leaders would take the opportunity of the annual meeting to appraise the progress of the ongoing cooperation and explore new potential for an enhanced partnership that could benefit the peoples of the two countries.

The 15th Malaysia-Brunei Darussalam Annual Leaders' Consultation, held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, on Sept 12 last year, saw the two leaders witnessing the signing of an agreement and three MoUs.

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