

GENERAL INFORMATION

Brunei is located on the island of Borneo and comprises an area of 5,765 square kilometers. The population of 1974 is estimated at 240,000. The population is composed of Malays (67%), Chinese (23%) and indigenous Brunei. The language spoken includes Malay, English and Chinese. A British protectorate from 1888, Brunei joined the Malay Federation in 1963 and became an independent Sultanate in 1984 at the expiration of a 25-year old treaty relationship with Britain.

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION

The Sultanate of Brunei is ruled by the Sultan, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah. The Sultan and his family members own all the major assets. They are known as the 'Bumiputera' and are the dominant group in the country. The Sultan is the head of state and the Islamic faith is the official religion. Brunei is a constitutional monarchy. The Sultan appoints and dismisses the Prime Minister and other Ministers. The Sultan also appoints and dismisses the judges. The Sultan is the head of the armed forces and also has the power to declare a state of emergency.

Brunei citizens enjoy one of the highest per capita incomes in the world, estimated at about \$9,000. Ninety-eight percent of Brunei's GDP derives from oil and gas exports. The government runs a \$2 billion surplus and reserves are estimated at \$10 billion. Efforts are being made to diversify the economy away from over-dependence on oil and gas. Other areas of interest such as agriculture, forestry and financial activities have been identified in Brunei's Five Year Plan (1985-1990).

BRUNEI

BRUNEI POLICY ORIENTATIONS

Brunei has joined ASEAN, the Commonwealth Organization for the Islamic Conference and the United Nations. It is also a member of the Islamic Development Bank and the Islamic Finance Program. Brunei is not a member of OPEC but it holds a permanent seat on the OPEC Council. Brunei's main trading partners are Singapore, Britain, the USA and Japan. Brunei has a trade surplus with all these countries.

BRUNEI - CANADA RELATIONS

Canada's relations with Brunei have been friendly and cooperative. Brunei is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. Brunei is a member of the Islamic Development Bank and the Islamic Finance Program. Brunei is not a member of OPEC but it holds a permanent seat on the OPEC Council. Brunei's main trading partners are Singapore, Britain, the USA and Japan. Brunei has a trade surplus with all these countries.