

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to bolster economic opportunities

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah Ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifudien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, in a titah said that it would continue to be in the interest of ASEAN and United States of America to continue working together to bolster more economic opportunities and in facing common challenges in areas such as transnational crime, the environment, on climate change, health pandemics and natural disasters. His Majesty made the titah at the 2nd ASEAN-US Meeting held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York. The meeting was co-chaired by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, His Excellency President Barack Obama.

In the titah, His Majesty thanked His Excellency President Barack on his initiative to invite ASEAN leaders for the meeting to discuss ways of enhancing ASEAN-US relations. This shows a new level of commitment that the United States places on the ASEAN region. His Majesty in the titah also expressed appreciation to US businesses, and particularly through the US-ASEAN Business Council for its effectiveness in enhancing ASEAN's visibility amongst US companies and lawmakers. The US' renewed interest for economic engagement, not only with ASEAN but also through the Trans Pacific Partnership reflects a growing commitment to establish a stronger foundation in the wider Asia-Pacific region. His Majesty also hopes to see greater development in people-to-people relationships and friendships, such as through education, and student exchange between learning institutions of ASEAN and the United States, and through scholarships. Such exchanges would enable a better understanding of each other's cultures and reinforce bilateral connections even further. His Majesty also touched on working together in areas where the ASEAN can learn from the United States, such as in the area of forest conservation.

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