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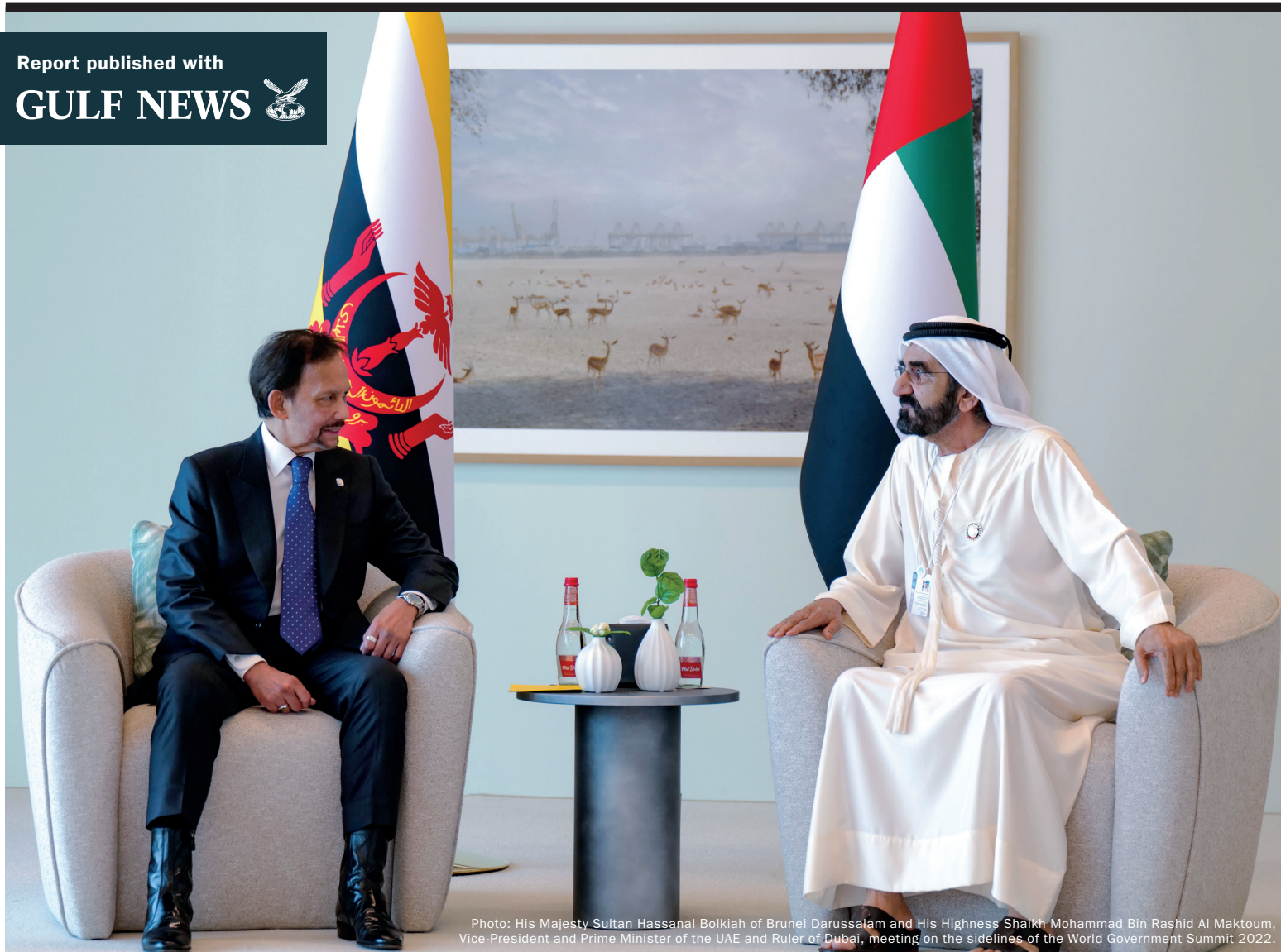


Photo: His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam and His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, meeting on the sidelines of the World Government Summit 2022.

## Discover Investment Opportunities in Brunei Darussalam

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Call us: +673 223 0111 / 2384830

Email us: [info@bedb.gov.bn](mailto:info@bedb.gov.bn)

Explore more: [bedb.gov.bn](http://bedb.gov.bn)

Design and Technology Building, Spg 32-37, Kg Anggerek Desa  
Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam BB3713



**BRUNEI ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

The Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) is your comprehensive gateway for investing in Brunei. With personalized relationship management and essential resources tailored to your business needs, we ensure a prosperous venture, making us the single point of contact for all your FDI needs.

## OVERVIEW



# A gateway to ASEAN for investors

Brunei Darussalam stands as a pivotal gateway to the ASEAN region, drawing investors with its strategic location, robust economy, and dynamic diversification efforts in various high-value sectors.

**N**estled in the heart of Southeast Asia, Brunei Darussalam, with a population of approximately 450,500, offers a strategic gateway to the burgeoning ASEAN market. This small nation, spanning 5,765 square kilometres, parallels the UAE through the role oil and gas has played in its economic development. However, much like its Middle Eastern counterpart, Brunei is rapidly diversifying, emerging as a regional hub in high-value sectors such as downstream industries, food production, and high-tech services.

Brunei's transformation is underpinned by its excellent geographic positioning within ASEAN. A mere three-hour flight from major cities across the region, coupled with regular flights and expanding shipping links through the Muara Port, Brunei offers convenient access to a market of 672 million people. The nation is actively enhancing its trade relations, being a party to major trade agreements, including the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which collectively reach more than three billion people.

Investors are drawn to Brunei for several compelling reasons. The country allows for full foreign ownership in business, no personal income tax, low corporate taxes at 18.5%; political stability, a historic lack of significant natural

disasters and a commitment to environmental sustainability. Its strategic location within ASEAN, legal framework aligned with commonwealth standards, and a highly educated, English-speaking workforce further augment its attractiveness as a business and investment destination. Brunei's government also actively engages in joint ventures, particularly in high-potential foreign direct investments (FDIs), fostering an environment conducive to growth and innovation.

## BRUNEI IS RAPIDLY DIVERSIFYING, EMERGING AS A REGIONAL HUB IN HIGH-VALUE SECTORS.

Central to facilitating these investment opportunities is the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB). With a vision to foster a resilient and diversified economy, BEDB's Investment Promotion and Facilitation (FAST) acts as the focal agency for both foreign and domestic investors. From market and feasibility studies support to ongoing facilitation through its Investors' Concierge service, BEDB ensures a seamless transition for businesses entering Brunei offering tailored relationship management and extending support from the

early stages through to aftercare services once projects are implemented.

Moreover, BEDB Industrial Site Management (ISM) develops and manages industrial parks across the nation tailored to different industrial clusters, ensuring efficiency and fit-for-purpose facilities. The board's Enterprise Development unit, known as DARE, provides support and resources to local enterprises to spur innovation and growth, thus enabling fruitful collaborations between foreign investors and local businesses.

Looking ahead, Brunei is focused on diversifying its economy through the Economic Blueprint guiding towards achieving its Wawasan (Vision) Brunei 2035. The government has identified five key sectors for economic diversification and investment – downstream oil and gas, food production, tourism, services (including aviation and maritime), and ICT. Each of these sectors presents unique opportunities for investors while drawing on Brunei's existing strengths. For instance, leveraging its upstream oil & gas capabilities and availability of feedstock from existing petrochemical facilities, Brunei's downstream sector aims to become a regional chemical hub. In food production, one emphasis is on establishing Brunei as a hub for halal food exports. In all these endeavors, Brunei prioritizes sustainable develop-

ment and the use of innovative, technology-driven solutions to improve the quality of life for its population.

Tourism in Brunei capitalizes on its pristine rainforests and rich biodiversity, offering potential in eco-tourism and cultural experiences. The maritime and aviation sectors are set to transform Brunei into a significant trading and logistics hub through exports and transshipment activities, further enhancing its strategic importance in ASEAN, and the country's ICT sector has a robust telecommunication infrastructure and educated workforce to set up export-oriented operations.

As Brunei redefines its role in the global and ASEAN markets, it emerges as a significant contender for investment from the UAE and beyond. The efforts of BEDB underscore the country's commitment to fostering a stable, supportive environment for investors. This commitment to growth and diversification presents UAE investors with a strategic opportunity to tap into the expanding ASEAN economic landscape. For those considering expanding their business or exploring new ventures, Brunei offers a combination of reliability, strategic positioning, and substantial support. Further details on investment opportunities can be accessed through the BEDB's investment promotion website at [www.invest.gov.bn](http://www.invest.gov.bn), or by direct inquiry at [info@invest.gov.bn](mailto:info@invest.gov.bn).

## PRIORITY SECTORS



### Downstream Oil and Gas

Brunei aims to become a regional chemicals hub by diversifying product offerings and ensuring access to intermediate products for downstream processing, with a strong focus on energy transition and sustainability.



### Food

Through the development of a food production hub, Brunei aims to balance domestic food security with export growth, with the focus on halal exports, aquaculture, and high-technology agriculture.



### Tourism

Brunei's strengths lie in its pristine rainforest, biodiversity, and cultural uniqueness. Areas the country is looking to develop include eco-resorts, adventure holidays, and wellness rehabilitation and research tourism.



### Services

With its prime position in ASEAN, Brunei's government aims to enhance the country's aviation and shipping capacity by promoting logistics hubs, manufacturing, value-added facilities, as well as maritime services.



### ICT

Leveraging on the availability of local talents and high-speed connectivity for the global market, Brunei aims to promote the ICT sector by encouraging companies in the emerging technology to set up export-oriented operations.