



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

MEDIA RELEASE

Australia Appoints New Business Champion for Brunei Darussalam

5 May 2026 – The Australian Government has appointed Ms Lisa Rodgers PSM as the new Business Champion for Brunei Darussalam under Australia's *Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040*.

Ms Rodgers is a leader in global education and CEO of the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). ACER is one of the world's leading educational research centres, with strong links to Brunei Darussalam. ACER has partnered with Brunei's Ministry of Education for over two decades to ensure the education system aligns with the aspirations of Brunei Darussalam's Wawasan (Vision) 2035. In April 2026, the OECD selected ACER to lead the next 2029 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), the global benchmark for school testing.

As Business Champion, Ms Rodgers will facilitate greater commercial links between Australia and Brunei Darussalam, particularly in the skills, agrifood and decommissioning sectors. Ms Rodgers' appointment follows the signing of a Joint Statement on Energy and Food Security in Brunei Darussalam on 15 April 2026 by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, and the Honourable Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister of Australia.

Ms Rodgers said she was honoured to take on the role and support efforts to bring Australia and Brunei closer together. "Australia and Brunei Darussalam already share strong foundations, built on respect, trust and long-standing relationships. As Brunei Darussalam looks to the future, building the right skills and capabilities will be critical for young people entering the workforce, and for industries adapting to change across key sectors. Through this role, my focus will be on listening, sharing experience and supporting practical collaboration, particularly where education and skills unlock workforce capability and growth."

Australian High Commissioner, H.E. Mr Michael Hoy said, "Ms Rodgers' experience will help connect Australian and local education institutions, ensuring young Bruneians graduate with the right skills for Brunei's diversifying economy. Australia is already Brunei Darussalam's largest trading partner. Ms Rodgers will help expand further our exchange of ideas and investment, in accordance with the direction set by His Majesty and Prime Minister Albanese."

The High Commissioner thanked the inaugural Business Champion for Brunei Darussalam, Dr Nur Rahman, for his committed service in the role.

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