



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION  
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

## **MEDIA RELEASE: INDO-PACIFIC ENDEAVOUR RETURNS TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM IN OPERATION OBOE 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR**

Australia flagship regional defence program, Indo-Pacific Endeavour (IPE25), touched down in Brunei Darussalam on 12 September 2025.

IPE25 brings together personnel from Australia’s Navy, Army, Air Force and Department of Defence to strengthen connections with the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and Brunei Ministry of Defence.

Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2025 coincides with 80th anniversary commemorations for Australia’s Operation Oboe landings for the liberation of Borneo. Australia and Brunei Darussalam enjoy a longstanding defence partnership stretching back to World War Two.

In 2025, Australian and Bruneian participants will build ties through exchanges on defensive cyber, military law, workforce planning. Faith-based and cultural engagements will also build people-to-people links.

To support IPE2025, the Royal Australian Navy's ANZAC class frigate HMAS Ballarat arrived at Muara Naval Base for Exercise Penguin, a biennial maritime security exercise. A Royal Australian Air Force P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft will also support the exercise.

IPE 2025 will also conduct activities with Timor-Leste, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

Quotes attributable to Commander IPE 2025, Brigadier Jennifer Harris, CSC:

“Australia and Brunei Darussalam have a common interest in an open, stable and prosperous Indian Ocean region.”

“Since its establishment in 2017, IPE has evolved into a unique program that is flexible and tailored to engage our regional partners in areas of mutual interest.”

“IPE25 is about more than military cooperation — it’s about building lasting connections through training, cultural exchange and shared experiences.”

“We’re able to conduct a broad range of activities focused on knowledge exchange, from shared security challenges through to cultural foundations such as faith-based engagements, and community initiatives.”

“We look forward to building stronger defence ties, learning from one another, and deepening our close cooperation this week.”

Quotes attributable to His Excellency Michael Hoy, Australian High Commission to Brunei Darussalam:

“IPE25 reflects the breadth of the Australia-Brunei defence partnership – covering cyber, maritime, legal, planning and mental health issues. We need such collaborative and wholistic approaches to solve the complex security problems we see emerging in our shared region.”

“Our exchanges with Brunei Darussalam under IPE25 reinforce Australia’s commitment to a peaceful, stable and prosperous region, founded on openness, respect for sovereignty and adherence to agreed rules and norms.”

**Image captions:**

Image 1: (R to L) Guest of Honor, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, Brigadier General (Retired) Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Alirupendi bin Haji Perudin; Commander IPE 2025, Brigadier Jennifer Harris; Australian High Commissioner, His Excellency Michael Hoy on the HMAS Ballarat.

Image 2: Commander IPE 2025, Brigadier Jennifer Harris, Australian High Commission, His Excellency Michael Hoy, and the crew of HMAS Ballarat.

Image 3: (R to L) Commander of the Royal Brunei Land Forces, Brigadier General Aldi bin Haji Hassan; Guest of Honor, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, Brigadier General (Retired) Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Alirupendi bin Haji Perudin; Commander IPE 2025, Brigadier Jennifer Harris; Australian High Commissioner, His Excellency Michael Hoy.

Image 4: (R to L) Defence Advisor to the Australian High Commission, Lieutenant Colonel Paul Sanderson; Australian High Commissioner, His Excellency Michael Hoy; Commander IPE 2025, Brigadier Jennifer Harris; Commander Dean Uren, Commanding Officer HMAS Ballarat.

Image 5: Commander IPE 2025, Brigadier Jennifer Harris, Australian High Commissioner, His Excellency Michael Hoy, Guest of Honor, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, Brigadier General (Retired) Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Alirupendi bin Haji Perudin, and Commander Dean Uren, Commanding Officer HMAS Ballarat, with Defence Advisors in Brunei.

Image 6: Sunset ceremony conducted on HMAS Ballarat.

**Media note:**

Information about IPE 2025 is available at: <https://www.defence.gov.au/operations/indo-pacific-endeavour>

Blog updates will be available at: <https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/news/2025-07-03/ipe-blog>

*For media enquiries, please contact:*

*Amanina Shofry, Public Diplomacy & Political Engagement Officer*

*2229435 (Ext 219) / 8905753*

*[amanina.shofry@dfat.gov.au](mailto:amanina.shofry@dfat.gov.au)*