



Parliament of Australia

Report of the Parliamentary Delegation
to
the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei

30 March to 10 April 2014

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Members of the Delegation

Hon Bruce Scott MP
Leader of the Delegation

Senator the Hon Don Farrell
Deputy Leader of the Delegation

Senator Helen Kroger

Mr Ken Wyatt AM MP

Hon Alan Griffin MP

Mr Peter Banson
Delegation Secretary

Introduction

The aims of the annual Australian parliamentary delegation visit to ASEAN countries are to gain a better understanding of developments in ASEAN countries and to examine opportunities to broaden links with those countries, focusing on:

- economic development, including responses to global economic issues and opportunities to strengthen trade and investment links;
- environment, including policies and initiatives to meet the challenges of climate change;
- security, including defence cooperation and responses to the threat of terrorism;
- cooperation within the multilateral system; and
- social development, including community health and education.

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) was formed in 1967 by the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand. Membership has expanded over the years to include Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam and Burma (Myanmar). Australia became ASEAN's first dialogue partner in 1974, and entered into a free trade agreement with ASEAN and New Zealand in 2010.

The 2014 delegation visited the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei. The considerable program of activities in each country was well-targeted and relevant to the delegation's aims, allowing delegates to gain a substantial insight into developments in the region and issues facing individual countries, and an understanding of where opportunities exist to strengthen Australia's relationship with those countries.

The delegation also took the opportunity in each of the three countries it visited to pay its respects at memorials commemorating campaigns of the World War II Pacific theatre.

The delegation felt very welcome in each country it visited, and was warmly received by parliamentarians and Government officials, business representatives and local communities. It was clear that Australia is held in high regard in the ASEAN region, and the delegation relished the opportunity to build on the strong bilateral relationships between Australia and the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei.

The delegation wishes to record its appreciation of the work that went into preparing for the visit, including the briefings provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Parliamentary Library. The delegation would also like to thank Australia's diplomatic missions in the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei for their work in developing the programs and the excellent support and hospitality provided during the visits.

This report outlines the places visited, matters discussed and aspects of the bilateral relationship with each country visited. The visit program is included as an appendix to the report.

Philippines

The delegation visited the Philippines from 31 March to 3 April as the first leg of the annual Australian parliamentary visit to ASEAN countries. The visit was based in Manila but included a trip to Tagbilaran City in Bohol Province.

The Philippines is one of the foundation members of ASEAN, and in addition to its relationships with ASEAN member countries and Australia, the Philippines has important bilateral ties with the United States and several other nations.

The bilateral relationship

Australia has a strong bilateral relationship and friendship with the Philippines, sharing similar values and interests and very strong people to people links. Over 250,000 people of Filipino heritage live in Australia, and over 8,400 Filipino students were enrolled in Australian education institutions in 2013.

Australia is currently the largest grant donor to the Philippines, which includes significant aid for the recovery process following Super Typhoon Haiyan, and development cooperation programs in many areas with a particular focus on education. Other major areas of aid focus are governance, disaster risk management and improving prospects for peace and security.

Australia has a long history of defence cooperation with the Philippines, dating back to World War II. While in the Philippines, the delegation visited the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial and laid a wreath at the graves of two Australian soldiers, Private Wilbert T Wiley and Private First Class Steven G Parkinson.

Education

Australia recently announced a six-year, \$150 million Basic Sector Education Transformation program in the Philippines, which is a new aid investment developed in partnership with the Philippines Government aiming to assist the Philippines in improving learning quality and access to education. The program will help the Philippines build new classrooms, train teachers, and run its kindergarten to year 12 program, adding two years to the country's basic education system.

It is expected that the new Colombo Plan will be rolled out in the Philippines in 2015, a prospect which was welcomed by the delegation and likewise by the parliamentarians and officials it met with. The new Colombo Plan will initiate a two-way flow of students between Australia and the Indo Pacific region, with Australian undergraduates undertaking study and internships in the Philippines and other countries beginning in 2015.

The delegation was pleased to hear that 2013 saw growth of 35 per cent in the number of Philippine students coming to Australia for higher education and vocational training, representing a good opportunity to help fill the gap in Australia between available skills and industry needs.

Investment

The Philippines' economy has been growing considerably in recent years, although this will be impacted as a result of Super Typhoon Haiyan, which caused widespread devastation and the loss of over 6,200 lives.

Two-way trade between Australia and the Philippines is increasing due to the

ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement, but remains well below its potential. The delegation was told that there remains scope to strengthen trade and investment in many areas including infrastructure, mining, energy, food and education.

The recent growth in the Philippines' economy presents a range of opportunities for investment by Australian businesses and collaboration on major projects in the country. In particular, the delegation noted that if changes were made to the existing regulatory environment for business, collaboration on environmentally and socially responsible mining ventures in parts of the Philippines is one area of considerable potential.

Mindanao peace process

The delegation was briefed extensively on recent developments in the region of Mindanao in the Southern Philippines, which has endured decades of civil unrest and violence.

In the week leading up to the delegation's visit, the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro was signed by the Philippines Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), aimed at formally ending the conflict and setting up an autonomous region with its own government. The Bangsamoro Government will operate concurrently with the Central (Philippines) Government, with each having its own specific exclusive powers. Legislation to set up this region is still before the Parliament, and it is hoped that it will be passed by the end of the year to enable a referendum on which Islands or Provinces wish to be included in the Bangsamoro.

The delegation passed on Australia's strong support for the peace process, and expressed its hopes for a successful end to the conflict in Mindanao.

South China Sea conflict

On 30 March 2014, the Philippines filed a case in the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague against China over its territorial claims in the South China Sea. The submission argues that the Second Thomas Shoal is well inside the 200 nautical miles of the Philippines' exclusive economic zone, allowing the Philippines to exploit the waters around the shoal under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The 'nine dash line' on Chinese maps indicates China's claim to over 80 per cent of the sea, and includes the Second Thomas Shoal within its boundary.

The Philippines is one of seven sovereign nations involved in land and maritime disputes in the South China Sea, although the Philippines and China are the only parties to the current case before the Court. The Court will decide on the next steps that will be taken and advise the parties, and is expected to give a ruling sometime in 2015.

The delegation reaffirmed Australia's view in relation to the South China Sea conflict – that it does not take a position on how countries resolve their claims, but wishes to see the dispute resolved peacefully and in accordance with international law. The delegation was assured that the Philippines appreciates Australia's position – even without taking sides, the principles Australia stands by supports the Philippines in its stance on the issue.

Earthquake assistance in Bohol

The delegation was very pleased to have the opportunity to travel to Tagbilaran City in the Province of Bohol, Central Philippines, to meet with the Provincial Government, business representatives and aid agencies, and to see first-hand the reconstruction activities taking place. In October 2013 Bohol was struck by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake, which killed over 200 people and destroyed buildings, schools, hospitals, bridges and roads.

The delegation received a briefing from the Provincial Government on Australian assistance to Bohol, which includes disaster relief, road rehabilitation, agricultural assistance, governance reform, volunteer work and support for graduate scholarships and schooling for children with disabilities. We were also briefed by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), which runs an Integrated Crop Management Project in Bohol, developing systems to help farmers profitably produce selected

vegetable crops and for long-term management of pests and diseases.

The delegation was also privileged to visit two rehabilitation sites in Bohol, where we were able to see Australia's aid assistance at work helping the local communities. The first was a site in the Municipality of Antequera where model disaster resilient homes have been built as part of a project to assist families whose homes were destroyed by the earthquake. The project is a partnership between the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Catholic Relief Services, and will provide conditional cash grants to 870 families to enable them to rebuild their homes quickly and with seismic resistance. With low-cost building techniques, a disaster-resilient home can be built for approximately AU\$800.

The second site the delegation visited was the project to rehabilitate the Antequera to Balilihan Road, which is being funded by the Australian Government following significant



Delegation members donating school kits to children from Bungahan Elementary School, Bohol

damage sustained from the earthquake. The delegation was pleased to participate in a ground-breaking ceremony for the project, which was attended by local government officials, community members and school children from Bungahan Elementary School, located near the site. 100 school kits were donated to the children present during the visit.

During its visit to Bohol, the delegation also met with the Bohol Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Alumni of the Australia Awards Scholarship. The Alumni were proud recipients of the 31 post-graduate scholarships provided to the Province of Bohol by Australia since 2006, and had all returned to the Philippines to complete their government service requirements.

The visit was a welcome opportunity to see first-hand the reconstruction work underway following last year's terrible earthquake, and to witness the tremendous impact that Australia's aid program is having in the Province.

Malaysia

The delegation visited Malaysia from 3 to 7 April on the second leg of its visit. The program was centred around Kuala Lumpur and included visits to Monash University Malaysia, and the Battle for Gemas Memorial.

Like the Philippines, Malaysia is a foundation member of ASEAN. Malaysia has close trading relationships with Singapore, China, Japan and Australia, and is expected to deepen its trade relationships in the region with the anticipated implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015.

The bilateral relationship

The relationship between Australia and Malaysia dates back to 1957, and is based on strong and long-standing cooperation on defence, education and trade, and on deep people-to-people links with excellent tourism between the two countries.

Malaysia is Australia's 9th largest trading partner, and our third largest within ASEAN. A free trade agreement between Australia and Malaysia commenced in 2013, from which two-way trade has already seen benefits. Australia is also a major provider of education services to Malaysia, and incentives in the agreement encourage investment by Australian Universities in Malaysian education.

Australia's defence relationship with Malaysia is long-standing, and is based on practical cooperation through the Malaysia-Australia Joint Defence Program, the Australian presence at the Royal Malaysian Air Force Base at Butterworth and common membership of the Five Power Defence Arrangements.

During its visit, the delegation travelled to the site of the Gemencheh Bridge ambush near Gemas, and laid a wreath at the Battle for Gemas Memorial. This



Delegation members laying a wreath at the Battle for Gemas Memorial, Philippines

memorial commemorates the first action by an Australian Infantry Battalion against the Japanese and was one of the most successful actions in the Malayan Peninsula during World War II, prior to the fall of Singapore.

The delegation notes that more than 1800 Australians died and more than 1400 were wounded during the World War II Malayan Campaign and the Battle for Singapore, and over 15,000 Australians became Prisoners of War at the Fall of Singapore. We also wish to recognise that Lieutenant Colonel Charles Anderson was awarded the first Victoria Cross to an Australian during the war in the Pacific for his role in the Battle of Muar River, south of Gemas.

Education

Australia and Malaysia have strong links and a history of cooperation in the education sector dating back to before the Colombo Plan. Malaysia regards Australia's expertise in education very highly, and many Malaysian students have been educated at universities in Australia. Three Australian Universities now have campuses in Malaysia – Curtin University, Monash University and Swinburne University of Technology.

The delegation was given a tour of Monash University Malaysia, which is fully integrated with and governed by Monash University in Australia. The University was established in 1998 in a joint venture with Sunway Group on the invitation of the Malaysian Government, and was the first foreign university established in Malaysia. Over 60 nationalities are represented among students, and the university operates seven faculties including business, engineering, medicine and health

sciences and the highly regarded new School of Pharmacy.

Approximately 20,000 Malaysians are currently studying for Australian qualifications in Malaysia and around the same number are studying in Australia, and it was clear to the delegation that Malaysia is looking forward to participating in the New Colombo Plan from 2015.

Trade

Malaysia's economy is the third-largest in ASEAN after Indonesia and Thailand, and it is one of the world's largest producers of electronic and electrical products. Manufactured goods comprised 67% of Malaysia's exports in 2012, and it is also the world's second-largest exporter of palm oil.

Malaysia has bilateral free trade agreements with Australia, Japan, Pakistan, New Zealand, Chile and India, and is also a significant participant in multilateral trading systems including the WTO, ASEAN Free Trade Area and APEC. Malaysia will be Chairing ASEAN when the ASEAN Economic Community is implemented in 2015, which it expects to deliver significant trade opportunities in the region. In discussions with the delegation, officials expressed the hope that Australia will work closely with Malaysia when this occurs to make the most of opportunities to further develop our trade relationship.

Discussions on trade and investment centred around opportunities to strengthen links between Australia and Malaysia, for example in the areas of higher education, medical tourism and agricultural products. The delegation was interested in pursuing ways of

getting more Australian beef into Malaysia – currently frozen buffalo from India is cheaper to import and much more common as a result, representing approximately 80% of beef imported into Malaysia.

The delegation also recognised that although a long history of cooperation on research and development exists between our countries, opportunities remain for Australia to work in close collaboration with Malaysia and other ASEAN countries on research and development in various sectors, to address and solve issues of mutual interest.

Malaysian officials were interested in raising awareness in Australia of investment opportunities in Malaysia, and the delegation agreed that more Australian investment was desirable to address the current trade imbalance. Interest was also expressed in gaining Australian expertise on innovation in agriculture, and closer collaboration in respect of small and medium enterprises.

MH370

Regularly across the delegation's meetings with parliamentarians and government officials, Malaysia's appreciation was expressed for Australia's contribution to the search for the missing Malaysian Airlines flight 370, including Australia's agreement to manage the search off the coast of Western Australia.

It was very clear that this tragedy was foremost in the minds of the Malaysian people, and the delegation expressed its sympathies in this very difficult time and its wishes for a swift outcome for the families of the passengers.

Brunei

The delegation visited Brunei Darussalam from 7 to 10 April on the final leg of its 2014 visit to ASEAN countries. The visit was based around the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

Brunei has been a member of ASEAN since 1984, and chaired ASEAN and the East Asia Summit (EAS) in 2013. ASEAN is seen as the cornerstone of Brunei's foreign policy, and it also has strong trading relationships with Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, China and India.

The bilateral relationship

Australia's bilateral relationship with Brunei dates back to before 1959 and has strengthened in recent years, particularly in the areas of education, trade, defence and security.

Brunei is a valued partner to Australia in the Commonwealth and numerous multilateral organisations, and was the coordinator for ASEAN in the negotiations leading to the signing of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement in 2009. The delegation congratulated Brunei on the successful Chairing of ASEAN and hosting of the EAS in 2013.

Australia and Brunei hold regular joint defence exercises and strategic dialogues, and have an MOU on Combating Transnational Crime and Developing Police Cooperation, and an MOU on Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism.

The delegation was honoured to pay its respects and lay a wreath at the Brunei-Australia Memorial at Muara Beach, in remembrance of Australian servicemen

who fought and died in northern Borneo during World War II. Muara Beach (or 'Green Beach') is where Australian troops landed during Operation OBOE 6 in June 1945. The delegation understands that a veterans' mission will travel to Brunei and East Malaysia in June/July 2015 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Australian operations to liberate the former North Borneo.

Trade and investment

Brunei's economy is largely based on revenue from oil and gas output, which makes up approximately 67% of GDP. Brunei also has extensive foreign investments managed by the Brunei Investment Agency, and small manufacturing and primary production sectors.

The delegation was impressed by the development of the government managed BruneiHalal brand, under which a wide variety of food products are sold in regional and international markets with a credible halal certification. The brand was launched in 2009, and is expected to expand soon to include meat, poultry and other fresh produce, thereby encouraging investment in regional agriculture.

Australia's imports of crude petroleum from Brunei make up the vast majority of trade between the two countries, with meat and other food products making up most of Australia's merchandise exports to Brunei.

Opportunities exist to enhance the trade and investment links between Australia and Brunei, particularly in professional service exports from Australia in the oil, gas and education sectors, and further investment by



Delegation Members with High Commissioner Todd Mercer laying a wreath at Muara Beach, Brunei

Brunei in Australian real estate, tourism infrastructure and agriculture. Localisation policies in Brunei do create some challenges however, with any company operating in Brunei required to have 70 per cent Bruneian staff and a 50% Bruneian board.

On the subject of Brunei's investment in Australian assets and infrastructure, the delegation encouraged the Brunei Investment Agency to continue to seek investments in Australia, and to consider setting up an office in Australia to be closer to decision makers and potential investment opportunities.

Education

Australia's education and training relationship with Brunei has been strengthening, and the New Colombo Plan has potential to boost the numbers of students travelling between the two countries for higher education and internship opportunities.

Brunei has been implementing its National Education System for the 21st Century, which is aimed at providing multiple pathways for students, including applied and vocational, and special education for gifted students and those with special needs. The delegation was impressed by the comprehensive plan in place for education from the primary level up, and the training system in place to provide continuous professional development for teachers.

The new approach for the education system promotes school based assessment for learning, reducing the focus on public exams and therefore encouraging teachers to concentrate on students' individual needs and equipping them with the necessary skills for their future.

Students in Brunei receive free education up to university level, and are encouraged to travel overseas for their

university education – particularly to the UK, Australia and Malaysia. Brunei’s Ministry of Education advised the delegation that it is working closely with industry in the area of technical and vocational education, and is considering partnering with some of Australia’s vocational and technical education institutions.

Health

Brunei’s health system is of a high standard, and the country is ranked 30th in the world for the health of its people. Brunei’s Government provides all medical services through a large network of health centres and clinics across the country.

The Ministry of Health has five strategic goals, which are:

- promoting primary healthcare
- focusing on the management of priority chronic diseases
- pursuing high quality in healthcare
- achieving a more equitable allocation of funds for diverse health services and to venture into alternative sources of healthcare funding, and
- promoting selected areas of excellence in health services.

Brunei’s leading causes of death are cancer, followed by heart disease and diabetes. In addition, there are high rates of kidney failure in rural parts of the country, the reasons for which are currently unclear. The Health Ministry is also focused on tackling the current level of obesity, and the delegation was told that a major contributor to the problem appears to be the unaffordability of healthy food for the lower socio-economic community.

The delegation found some similarities between the health priorities of Australia and Brunei, particularly the stringent anti-tobacco measures in place in both countries and the focus on encouraging individuals to maintain a healthy lifestyle and take responsibility for their weight and fitness. We were interested to hear about Brunei’s Health Promotion Centres, which people can visit to acquire information, skills and tools to manage their health. The mission of the centres is “Empowering People Towards Healthy Living”, and they also function as community outreach centres focusing on providing health education programs and activities for children and youth.

The delegation discussed with the Health Minister and officials the student links between the two countries in the medical profession. It was noted that the University of Queensland sends students to Brunei for clinical studies through the Brunei Clinical School, and that Brunei-trained doctors and nurses travel to other countries including Australia for post-graduate studies, internships and other training. It was observed during the discussions that there may be potential for more Australian medical and nursing students to travel to Brunei and other ASEAN countries for their final/specialist training.

Introduction of Sharia law

The Bruneian Government has announced the implementation of a Sharia Penal Code, to be phased in from April 2014. Three tranches of offences will be introduced over a 24 month period, with some offences to be punishable by whipping, amputation or death. The Code is expected to apply mainly to Muslims, however non-

Muslims may also be charged under the Code for certain offences.

The delegation pursued an interest in understanding the goals for the introduction of the Sharia Penal Code in Brunei, and in particular what impact the action might have on Australians living in and visiting the country. The delegation explained that, as an example, travel guidance issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to Australians intending to visit Brunei may need to be amended based on the potential consequences of the introduction of Sharia Law.

Bruneian Ministers and officials advised the delegation that their expectation was that the introduction of the Code would not affect non-Muslims in a significant way, and stressed that the standard of evidence required before a corporal punishment can be imposed is very high.

Nevertheless, the delegation remains concerned about the level of detail available regarding the implications of the new Code to foreign residents and visitors, and about the rights of women and members of minority religious groups living in Brunei.

Conclusion

Members of the delegation were very pleased to participate in the annual Australian Parliamentary visit to ASEAN in 2014, and to have the opportunity to contribute to the valuable relationships that Australia has with the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei.

The delegation held frank and fruitful discussions in each of the three countries visited, and concluded the trip with a greater understanding of the challenges being faced by those countries, and of the nature of Australia's relationships with them and ways in which those relationships could be enhanced and consolidated.

Parliamentary delegations such as this provide a strong bipartisan mechanism to engage with our regional neighbours and support the excellent work being done by Australia's diplomatic missions and of all Australians in the region.

Hon Bruce Scott MP
Delegation Leader

June 2014

VISIT PROGRAM

PHILIPPINES

SUNDAY 30 MARCH

Delegation arrives in Manila

MONDAY 31 MARCH

Embassy Briefing

- Ambassador Bill Tweddell
- Deputy Ambassador David Dutton
- Layton Pike, Minister-Counsellor, Development Cooperation
- Anthony Weymouth, Senior Trade Commissioner
- Colonel Bruce Murray, Defence Attache
- Paul Hopkins, Counsellor, Australian Federal Police
- Graeme Tinney, Counsellor and Consul-General

Courtesy call on Speaker of the House of Representatives Feliciano Belmonte, Jr

Working lunch – Philippine update roundtable

- Ambassador Bill Tweddell
- Layton Pike, Minister-Counsellor, Development Cooperation
- Paul Hutchcroft, Senior Governance Adviser
- Senator Benigno ‘Bam’ Aquino IV
- Rep. Henedina ‘Dina’ Abad, Deputy Speaker
- Aileen Baviera, Asian Centre, University of the Philippines
- Bruce Davis, Asian Development Bank
- Dr Shanaka Jayanath Peiris, International Monetary Fund

Department of Foreign Affairs Briefing with Assistant Secretary Henry Bensusanto

Embassy Reception with Members of Congress and the international business and development community

TUESDAY 1 APRIL

Depart Manila/Arrive Tagbilaran (Bohol)

Courtesy call on Provincial Governor Edgardo Chatto

Briefing from Provincial Government on Australian Assistance to Bohol

Briefing from ACIAR on local project

Lunch with Provincial Governor and Provincial Government Officials

Site visit to Municipality of Loon and interaction with community members who received post-earthquake shelter assistance

Site visit to earthquake affected road in Municipality of Loon – ceremonial ground breaking of road rehabilitation project and interaction with local community members

Dinner with Australian Scholarships Alumni and Governor Edgar Chatto

WEDNESDAY 2 APRIL

Meeting with Bohol Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Depart Tagbilaran/Arrive Manila

Courtesy call on Senate President Franklin Drilon

Courtesy call on Senator Aquilino 'Koko' Pimentel III, Vice Chair, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation Committee

Security, counter-terrorism and defence cooperation dinner

- Deputy Ambassador David Dutton
- Colonel Bruce Murray, Defence Attache
- Paul Hopkins, Counsellor, Australian Federal Police
- Assistant Secretary Oscar Valenzuela, Head, Anti-Terrorism Council – Program Management Centre
- Assistant Secretary Atty Anne Marie Corominas, Head, Legal and International Affairs, ATC-PMC
- Major-General Virgilio Hernandez, Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Armed Forces of the Philippines
- Director Charles Calema, Director for Intelligence, Philippine National Police
- Director Marcelo Garbo Jr, Chief of Staff, Philippine National Police

THURSDAY 3 APRIL

Department of Defence Briefing

Visit to Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, Briefing on ANZAC Day preparations and Australia Memorial to be constructed

Depart Manila/Arrive Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIA

FRIDAY 4 APRIL

Embassy Briefing

- Deputy Head of Mission Jane Duke
- Mr Ridwaan Jadwat, Counsellor
- Captain Geoff Uren, Defence Adviser
- Ms Karen Welsh, Counsellor - Education
- Mrs Melissa Hutchings, First Secretary
- Mrs Elyssa Sarban, Second Secretary

Tour of Islamic Arts Museum

Lunch hosted by Mrs Jane Duke, Deputy Head of Mission

- Mrs Melissa Hutchings, First Secretary
- Mrs Elyssa Sarban, Second Secretary
- Mr Stephen CM Wong, Deputy Chief Executive, Institute of Strategic & International Studies, Malaysia
- Mr Ben Suffian, Director, Merdeka Centre
- Ms Tricia Yeoh, Operations Manager, Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs
- Ms Ratna Osman, Executive Director, Sisters in Islam

Courtesy call on Mr Ku Kok Peng, PEMANDU

Visit to Monash University Malaysia

- Professor Helen Bartlett, Pro Vice-Chancellor
- Mr Gavin Gomez, Director, External Relations, Developments and Alumni

SATURDAY 5 APRIL

Day trip to Gemas, Johor, accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Fomiatti, Assistant Defence Adviser

- Gemencheh Bridge
- Memorial to remember fallen Australian soldiers

MONDAY 7 APRIL

Courtesy call on Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dato' Hamzah Zainudin

Courtesy call on Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister for International Trade and Industry

Courtesy call on H.E. Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia, Speaker of the House of Representatives

Courtesy call on the Hon. Datuk Doris Sophia, Deputy President of the Senate

Observation of Parliament in session

Courtesy call on Dato Saifuddin Abdullah, CEO, Global Movement of Moderates Foundation

Reception hosted by High Commissioner Rod Smith with Malaysia Australia Business Council and trade, investment and education contacts

TUESDAY 8 APRIL

Depart Kuala Lumpur/Arrive Bandar Seri Begawan

BRUNEI

TUESDAY 8 APRIL

Visit to Brunei-Australia Memorial at Muara Beach and laying of wreath by Delegation Leader

Welcome dinner and delegation briefing hosted by the High Commissioner

- High Commissioner Todd Mercer
- Mrs Orieta Ossio, High Commissioner's spouse
- Ms Selina Cho, Deputy High Commissioner
- Ms Lara Hope

WEDNESDAY 9 APRIL

Meeting with Hj Khairuddin Hj Abd Hamid, Acting Managing Director of the Brunei Investment Agency (BIA)

Meeting at the Legislative Council with The Speaker, Pehin Isa, and Legislative Council Members

Tour of the Legislative Council Building

Lunch with Legislative Council Members hosted by the Speaker

Meeting with His Majesty, the Sultan

Meeting with Pehin Lim, Second Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade

Meeting with Total E&P Deep Offshore Borneo B.V.

- Yves Grosjean, General Manager
- Douglas Haldane, Business Development and Joint Venture Manager

Reception with representatives of the Australian community in Brunei hosted by the High Commissioner

THURSDAY 10 APRIL

Meeting with Minister for Education, Pehin Abu Bakar

Meeting with Minister for Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Yahya

Meeting with YM Dato Hj Mustappa, Deputy Minister for Defence and Pehin Major General Tawih, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces

Working lunch with Brunei Economic Development Board, Chairman Dato Ali Apong

Meeting with Minister for Health, Pehin Adanan

Depart Brunei/Return to Australia