

**DOUBLE TAXATION AVOIDANCE AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

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Signed : 5 August 2009.  
Entry into Force: 17 June 2010.  
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**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN AND YANG DI-PERTUAN OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME**

THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF HIS MAJESTY  
THE SULTAN AND YANG DI-PERTUAN OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Desiring to conclude an Agreement for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income, have agreed as follows:

Article 1

**PERSONS COVERED**

This Agreement shall apply to persons who are residents of one or both of the Contracting States.

Article 2

**TAXES COVERED**

1. This Agreement shall apply to taxes on income imposed by a Contracting State, irrespective of the manner in which they are levied.

2. The existing taxes on which this Agreement shall apply are:

(a) in the case of Malaysia:

- (i) the income tax; and
  - (ii) the petroleum income tax;
- (hereinafter referred to as "Malaysian tax");

(b) in the case of Brunei Darussalam:

- (i) the income tax; and

(ii) the petroleum income tax;

(hereinafter referred to as “Brunei Darussalam tax”).

3. This Agreement shall also apply to any identical or substantially similar taxes which are subsequently imposed in addition to, or in place of, the existing taxes referred to in paragraph 2 above. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall notify each other of any significant changes which have been made in their respective taxation laws.

### Article 3

#### **GENERAL DEFINITIONS**

1. In this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) the term "Malaysia" means;

the territories of the Federation of Malaysia, the territorial waters of Malaysia and the sea-bed and subsoil of the territorial waters, and the airspace above such areas, and includes any area extending beyond the limits of the territorial waters of Malaysia, and the sea-bed and subsoil of any such area, which has been or may hereafter be designated under the laws of Malaysia as in accordance with international law as an area over which Malaysia has sovereign rights and jurisdiction for the purposes of exploring and exploiting the natural resources, whether living or non-living:

Provided that nothing contained in the above definition shall be construed as conferring recognition or acceptance by one State of the outstanding maritime and territorial claims made by the other State, nor shall be taken as pre-judging the determination of such claims;

(b) the term “Brunei Darussalam” means;

the territory of Brunei Darussalam and the territorial waters of Brunei Darussalam extending to the airspace above them and the sea-bed and subsoil of the territorial waters, over which its exercises its sovereignty, and includes any area extending beyond the limits of the territorial waters of Brunei Darussalam, and the sea-bed and subsoil of any such area, which has been or may hereafter be designated under the laws of Brunei Darussalam as in accordance with international law as an area over which Brunei Darussalam has sovereign rights and jurisdiction for the purposes of exploring and exploiting the natural resources, whether living or non- living:

Provided that nothing contained in the above definition shall be construed as conferring recognition or acceptance by one State of the outstanding maritime and territorial claims made by the other State, nor shall be taken as pre-judging the determination of such

claims;

- (c) the terms “a Contracting State” and “the other Contracting State” mean Brunei Darussalam or Malaysia as the context requires;
- (d) the term “tax” means Brunei Darussalam tax or Malaysian tax as the context requires;
- (e) the term "person" includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons which is treated as a person for tax purposes;
- (f) the term "company" means anybody corporate or any entity which is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;
- (g) the terms "enterprise of a Contracting State" and "enterprise of the other Contracting State" mean respectively an enterprise carried on by a resident of a Contracting State and an enterprise carried on by a resident of the other Contracting State;
- (h) the term "national" means:
  - (i) in the case of Malaysia;
    - (a) any individual possessing the nationality or citizenship of Malaysia;
    - (b) any legal person, partnership and association, and any other entity deriving its status as such from the laws in force in Malaysia;
  - (ii) in the case of Brunei Darussalam;
    - (a) any natural person who is accorded the status of a national under the applicable laws in Brunei Darussalam;
    - (b) any legal person, partnership and association, and any other entity deriving its status as such from the laws in force in Brunei Darussalam;
- (i) the term "international traffic" means any transport by a ship or aircraft operated by an enterprise of a Contracting State, except when the ship or aircraft is operated solely between places in the other Contracting State;
- (j) the term "competent authority" means the Minister of Finance or his authorised representative.

2. In the application of this Agreement by a Contracting State, any term not defined therein shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning which it has under the laws of that Contracting State concerning the taxes to

which this Agreement applies.

#### Article 4

#### **RESIDENT**

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "resident of a Contracting State" means:
  - (a) in the case of Malaysia, a person who is resident in Malaysia for the purposes of Malaysian tax; and
  - (b) in the case of Brunei Darussalam, a person who is resident in Brunei Darussalam for the purposes of Brunei Darussalam tax.
  
2. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then his status shall be determined in accordance with the following rules:
  - (a) he shall be deemed to be a resident of the Contracting State in which he has a permanent home available to him. If he has a permanent home available to him in both Contracting States he shall be deemed to be a resident of the Contracting State with which his personal and economic relations are closest (centre of vital interests);
  - (b) if the Contracting State in which he has his centre of vital interests cannot be determined, or if he has not a permanent home available to him in either Contracting State, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the Contracting State in which he has an habitual abode;
  - (c) if he has an habitual abode in both Contracting States or in neither of them, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the Contracting State of which he is a national;
  - (d) if he is a national of both Contracting States or of neither of them, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the question by mutual agreement.
  
3. Where, by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1, a person other than an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then it shall be deemed to be a resident of the State in which the control and management of its business is exercised. If its place of control and management cannot be determined, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the question by mutual agreement.

#### Article 5

#### **PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT**

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "permanent establishment"

means a fixed place of business through which the business of an enterprise is wholly or partly carried on.

2. The term "permanent establishment" shall include especially:
  - (a) a place of management;
  - (b) a branch;
  - (c) an office;
  - (d) a factory;
  - (e) a workshop;
  - (f) a farm or plantation;
  - (g) a mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or other place of extraction of natural resources including timber or other forest produce;
  - (h) a building site or construction, installation or assembly project which exists for more than 6 months.
  
3. An enterprise of a Contracting State shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the other Contracting State if it carries on supervisory activities in that other Contracting State for more than 6 months in connection with a construction, installation or assembly project which is being undertaken in that other Contracting State.
  
4. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, the term "permanent establishment" shall not be deemed to include:
  - (a) the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage, or display of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise;
  - (b) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purposes of storage or display;
  - (c) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purposes of processing by another enterprise;
  - (d) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purposes of purchasing goods or merchandise, or for collecting information for the enterprise;
  - (e) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purposes of activities which have a preparatory or auxiliary character for the enterprise, such as advertising, the supply of information or scientific research.

5. A person (other than a broker, general commission agent or any other agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 6 applies) acting in a Contracting State on behalf of an enterprise of the other Contracting State shall be deemed to be a permanent establishment in the first-mentioned Contracting State, if:

- (a) he has, and habitually exercises in the first-mentioned Contracting State, an authority to conclude contracts in the name of the enterprise, unless the activities are limited to the purchase of goods or merchandise for the enterprise;
- (b) he maintains in the first-mentioned Contracting State a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise from which he regularly fills orders on behalf of the enterprise; or
- (c) he manufactures or processes in the first-mentioned Contracting State for the enterprise goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise.

6. An enterprise of a Contracting State shall not be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the other Contracting State merely because it carries on business in that other Contracting State through a broker, general commission agent or any other agent of an independent status, provided that such persons are acting in the ordinary course of their business. However, when the activities of such an agent are devoted wholly or almost wholly on behalf of that enterprise or its associated enterprises, he will not be considered an agent of an independent status within the meaning of this paragraph.

7. The fact that a company which is a resident of a Contracting State controls or is controlled by a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State, or which carries on business in that other Contracting State (whether through a permanent establishment or otherwise), shall not of itself make either company a permanent establishment of the other.

#### Article 6

#### **INCOME FROM IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State from immovable property situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. The term "immovable property" shall be defined in accordance with the laws of the Contracting State in which the property in question is situated. The term shall in any case include property accessory to immovable property, livestock and equipment used in agriculture and fishery, rights to which the provisions of general law respecting landed property apply, usufruct of immovable property and rights to variable or fixed payments in cash or kind as consideration for the working of, or the right to work, mineral deposits, oil or gas wells, quarries and other places of extracting of natural resources including

timber or other forest produce. Ships, boats and aircraft shall not be regarded as immovable property.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall apply to income derived from the direct use, letting, or use in any other form of immovable property.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 3 shall also apply to the income from immovable property of an enterprise and to income from immovable property used for the performance of independent personal services.

#### Article 7

### **BUSINESS PROFITS**

1. The profits of an enterprise of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that Contracting State unless the enterprise carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein. If the enterprise carries on business as aforesaid, the profits of the enterprise may be taxed in the other Contracting State but only on so much of them as is attributable to that permanent establishment.

2. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 3, where an enterprise of a Contracting State carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, there shall in each Contracting State be attributed to that permanent establishment the profits which it might be expected to make if it were a distinct and separate enterprise engaged in the same or similar activities under the same or similar conditions and dealing wholly independently with the enterprise of which it is a permanent establishment.

3. In determining the profits of a permanent establishment, there shall be allowed as deductions expenses including executive and general administrative expenses, which would be deductible if the permanent establishment were an independent enterprise, insofar as they are reasonably allocable to the permanent establishment, whether incurred in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere.

4. If the information available to the competent authority is inadequate to determine the profits to be attributed to the permanent establishment of an enterprise, nothing in this Article shall affect the application of any law of that State relating to the determination of the tax liability of a person by the exercise of a discretion or the making of an estimate by the competent authority, provided that the law shall be applied, so far as the information available to the competent authority permits, in accordance with the principles of this Article.

5. No profits shall be attributed to a permanent establishment by reason of the mere purchase by that permanent establishment of goods or merchandise for the enterprise.

6. For the purposes of the preceding paragraphs, the profits to be attributed to the permanent establishment shall be determined by the same method year

by year unless there is good and sufficient reason to the contrary.

7. Where profits include items of income which are dealt with separately in other Articles of this Agreement, then the provisions of those Articles shall not be affected by the provisions of this Article.

Article 8

### **SHIPPING AND AIR TRANSPORT**

1. Profits derived by an enterprise of a Contracting State from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

2. Paragraph 1 shall also apply to the share of the profits from the operation of ships or aircraft derived by a resident of a Contracting State through participation in a pool, a joint business or an international operating agency.

Article 9

### **ASSOCIATED ENTERPRISES**

Where –

- (a) an enterprise of a Contracting State participates directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of the other Contracting State, or
- (b) the same persons participate directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of a Contracting State and an enterprise of the other Contracting State,

and in either case, conditions are made or imposed between the two enterprises, in their commercial or financial relations, which differ from those which would be made between independent enterprises, any profits which would, but for those conditions, have accrued to one of the enterprises but by reason of those conditions, have not so accrued, may be included in the profits of that enterprise and taxed accordingly.

Article 10

### **DIVIDENDS**

1. Dividends paid by a company which is a resident of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. However, such dividends may also be taxed in the Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident and according to the laws of that Contracting State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the dividends the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends.

This paragraph shall not affect the taxation of the company in respect of the profits out of which the dividends are paid.

3. The term "dividends" as used in this Article means income from shares or other rights, not being debt-claims, participating in profits, as well as income from the other corporate rights which is subjected to the same taxation treatment as income from shares by the laws of the Contracting State of which the company making the distribution is a resident.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the dividends, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State, of which the company paying the dividends is a resident, through a permanent establishment situated therein, and the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such a case, the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.

5. Where a company which is a resident of a Contracting State derives income or profits from the other Contracting State, that other State may not impose any tax on the dividends paid by the company to persons who are not residents of that other State, or subject the company's undistributed profits to a tax on the company's undistributed profits, even if the dividends paid or the undistributed profits, even if the dividends paid or the undistributed profits consist wholly or partly of profits or income arising in such other State.

#### Article 11

#### **INTEREST**

1. Interest arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

2. However, such interest may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which it arises and according to the laws of that Contracting State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the interest the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the interest.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2, interest to which a resident of Brunei Darussalam is beneficially entitled shall be exempt from Malaysian tax if the loan or other indebtedness in respect of which the interest is paid is an approved loan as defined in section 2(1) of the Income Tax Act, 1967 of Malaysia.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3, interest arising in a Contracting State and paid to the Government of the other Contracting State shall be exempt from tax in the first-mentioned Contracting State.

5. For the purpose of paragraph 4, the term "Government":

(a) in the case of Malaysia means the Government of Malaysia

and shall include:

- (i) the governments of the states;
  - (ii) the local authorities;
  - (iii) the statutory bodies; and
  - (iv) the Bank Negara Malaysia
- (b) in the case of Brunei Darussalam means the Government of Brunei Darussalam and shall include:
- (i) the local authorities;
  - (ii) the statutory bodies; and
  - (iii) the Brunei Currency and Monetary Board.

6. The term "interest" as used in this Article means income from debt-claims of every kind, whether or not secured by mortgage and whether or not carrying a right to participate in the debtor's profits, and in particular, income from government securities and income from bonds or debentures, including premiums and prizes attaching to such securities, bonds or debentures. Penalty charges for late payment shall not be regarded as interest for the purpose of this Article.

7. The provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the interest, being a resident of a Contracting State carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the interest arises, through a permanent establishment situated therein, and the debt-claim in respect of which the interest is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such a case, the provisions of Article 7, shall apply.

8. Interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that State itself, a political subdivision, a local authority or a statutory body thereof, or a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying the interest, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment in connection with which the indebtedness on which the interest is paid was incurred, and such interest is borne by such permanent establishment, then such interest shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment is situated.

9. Where by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the interest, having regard to the debt-claim for which it is paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State,

due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

## Article 12

### **ROYALTIES**

1. Royalties arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. However, such royalties may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which they arise, and according to the laws of that Contracting State, but, if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the royalties, the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties.

3. The term "royalties" as used in this Article means payments of any kind received as a consideration for:

- (a) the use of, or the right to use, any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or any copyright or scientific work, or for the use of, or the right to use, industrial, commercial or scientific equipment, or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience;
- (b) the use of, or the right to use, cinematograph films, or tapes for radio or television broadcasting, any copyright of literary or artistic work.

4. Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that Contracting State itself, a political subdivision, a local authority or a statutory body thereof, or a resident of that Contracting State. Where, however, the person paying such royalties, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment in connection with which the obligation to pay the royalties was incurred, and such royalties are borne by such permanent establishment, then such royalties shall be deemed to arise in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated.

5. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the royalties, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the royalties arise through a permanent establishment situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the royalties are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such a case, the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.

6. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the royalties paid, having regard to the use, right or information for which they are paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the

laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

#### Article 13

### **TECHNICAL FEES**

1. Technical fees derives from one of the Contracting State by a resident of the other Contracting State who is the beneficial owner thereof and is subject to tax in that other Contracting State in respect thereof may be taxed in the first-mentioned Contracting State at a rate not exceeding 10 per cent of the gross amount of the technical fees.

2. The term "technical fees" as used in this Article means payments of any kind to any person, other than to an employee of the person making the payments, in consideration for any services of a technical, managerial or consultancy nature.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the technical fees, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the technical fees arise through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other Contracting State independent personal services, and the technical fees are effectively connected with such permanent establishment or such services. In such case, the provisions of Article 7 or 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

4. Technical fees shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that Contracting State itself, a political subdivision, a local authority or a statutory body thereof, or a resident of that Contracting State. Where, however, the person paying the technical fees, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment in connection with which the obligation to pay the technical fees was incurred, and such technical fees are borne by such permanent establishment, then such technical fees shall be deemed to arise in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated.

5. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the technical fees paid exceeds, for whatever reason, the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the law of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

#### Article 14

### **INDEPENDENT PERSONAL SERVICES**

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of professional services or other independent activities of a similar character shall be taxable only in that Contracting State. However, in the following

circumstances such income may be taxed in the other Contracting State:

- (a) if his stay in the other Contracting State is for a period or periods amounting to or exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in the calendar year concerned; or
- (b) if the remuneration for his services in the other Contracting State is either derived from residents of that Contracting State or borne by a permanent establishment which a person not resident in that Contracting State has in that Contracting State and which, in either case exceeds twelve thousand US dollars in the calendar year concerned, notwithstanding that his stay in that Contracting State is for a period or periods amounting to less than 183 days during that calendar year.

2. The term "professional services" includes especially independent scientific, literary, artistic, educational or teaching activities as well as the independent activities of physicians, lawyers, engineers, architects, dentists and accountants.

Article 15

#### **DEPENDENT PERSONAL SERVICES**

1. Subject to the provisions of Articles 16, 18, 19, 20 and 21, salaries, wages and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment shall be taxable only in that Contracting State unless the employment is exercised in the other Contracting State. If the employment is so exercised, such remuneration as is derived therefrom may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment exercised in the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in the first-mentioned Contracting State if:

- (a) the recipient is present in the other Contracting State for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in the calendar year concerned; and
- (b) the remuneration is paid by, or on behalf of, an employer who is not a resident of the other Contracting State; and
- (c) the remuneration is not borne by a resident or a permanent establishment which the employer has in the other Contracting State.

3. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, remuneration in respect of an employment exercised aboard a ship or aircraft operated in international traffic by an enterprise of a Contracting State may be taxed in that Contracting State.

Article 16

**DIRECTORS' FEES**

Directors' fees and other similar payments derived by a resident of a Contracting State in his capacity as a member of the board of directors of a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

Article 17

**ARTISTES AND SPORTSMEN**

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 14 and 15, income derived by a resident of a Contracting State as an entertainer, such as a theatre, motion picture, radio or television artiste, or a musician, or as a sportsman, from his personal activities as such exercised in the other Contracting State, may be taxed in that other State.

2. Where income in respect of personal activities exercised by an entertainer or a sportsman in his capacity as such accrues not to the entertainer or sportsman himself but to another person, that income may, notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 7, 14 and 15, be taxed in that Contracting State in which the activities of the entertainer or sportsman are exercised.

3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply to remuneration or profits derived from activities exercised in a Contracting State if the visit to that Contracting State is directly or indirectly supported wholly or substantially from the public funds of the other Contracting State, a political subdivision, a local authority or a statutory body thereof.

Article 18

**PENSION AND ANNUITIES**

1. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 19, any pension and other similar remuneration for past employment or any annuity arising in a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State.

2. The term "annuity" includes a stated sum payable periodically at stated times, during life or during a specified or ascertainable period of time, under an obligation to make the payments in return for adequate and full consideration in money or money's worth.

Article 19

**GOVERNMENT SERVICE**

1.  
(a) Remuneration and benefits, other than a pension, paid by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority or a statutory body thereof to an individual in respect of

services rendered to that Contracting State or political subdivision or local authority or statutory body thereof shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

- (b) However, such remuneration and benefits shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the services are rendered in that other contracting State and the recipient is a resident of that other Contracting State who:
  - (i) is a national of that Contracting State, or
  - (ii) did not become a resident of that Contracting State solely for the purposes of performing the services.

2. Any pension paid by, or out of funds created by, a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority or a statutory body thereof to any individual in respect of services rendered to that Contracting State, political subdivision, local authority or statutory body thereof shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

3. The provisions of Articles 15, 16, and 18 shall apply to remuneration and benefits or pensions in respect of services rendered in connection with any trade or business carried on by a Contracting State, a political subdivision or a local authority or a statutory body thereof.

#### Article 20

### **STUDENTS AND TRAINEES**

An individual who is a resident of a Contracting State immediately before making a visit to the other Contracting State and is temporarily present in the other Contracting State solely:

- (a) as a student at a recognised university, college, school or other similar recognised educational institution in that other Contracting State;
- (b) as a business or technical apprentice;
- (c) as a recipient of a grant, allowance or award for the primary purpose of study, research or training from the Government of either Contracting State or from a scientific, educational, religious or charitable organisation or under a technical assistance programme entered into by the Government of either Contracting State;

shall be exempt from tax in that other Contracting State on:

- (i) all remittances from abroad for the purposes of his maintenance, education, study, research or training;

- (ii) the amount of such grant, allowance or award; and
- (iii) any remuneration not exceeding three thousand US Dollars per annum in respect of services in that other Contracting State provided the services are performed in connection with his study, research or training or are necessary for the purposes of his maintenance.

#### Article 21

### **TEACHERS AND RESEARCHERS**

1. An individual who is a resident of a Contracting State immediately before making a visit to the other Contracting State, and who, at the invitation of any public university, college, institution primarily for research purposes or other similar public institutions, visits that other Contracting State for a period not exceeding two years solely for the purpose of teaching or research or both at such public institution shall be exempt from tax in that other State on any remuneration for such teaching or research which is subjected to tax in the first-mentioned Contracting State.

2. This Article shall not apply to income from teaching or research if such teaching or research is undertaken not in the public interest but primarily for the private benefit of a specific person or persons.

#### Article 22

### **INCOME NOT EXPRESSLY MENTIONED**

Items of income of a resident of a Contracting State which are not expressly mentioned in the foregoing Articles of this Agreement shall be taxable only in that Contracting State except that if such income is derived from sources in the other Contracting State, it may also be taxed in that other Contracting State.

#### Article 23

### **ELIMINATION OF DOUBLE TAXATION**

1. Subject to the laws of Malaysia regarding the allowance as a credit against Malaysian tax of tax payable in any country other than Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam tax payable under the laws of Brunei Darussalam and in accordance with this Agreement by a resident of Malaysia in respect of income derived from Brunei Darussalam shall be allowed as a credit against Malaysian tax payable in respect of that income. Where such income is a dividend paid by a company which is a resident of Brunei Darussalam to a company which is a resident of Malaysia and which owns not less than 25 per cent of the voting shares of the company paying the dividend, the credit shall take into account Brunei Darussalam tax payable by that company in respect of its income out of which the dividend is paid. The credit shall not, however, exceed that part of the Malaysian tax, as computed before the credit is given, which is appropriate to such item of income.

2. For the purposes of paragraph 1, the term "Brunei Darussalam tax payable" shall be deemed to include the amount of tax which would have been paid if the tax had not been exempted or reduced in accordance with the special incentive laws designed to promote economic development in Brunei Darussalam, effective on the date of signature of this Agreement, or which may be introduced hereafter in modification of, or in addition to, those laws so far as they are agreed by the competent authorities of the Contracting States to be of a substantially similar character.

3. Subject to the laws of Brunei Darussalam regarding the allowance as a credit against Brunei Darussalam tax of tax payable in any country other than Brunei Darussalam, Malaysian tax payable under the laws of Malaysia and in accordance with this Agreement by a resident of Brunei Darussalam in respect of income derived from Malaysia shall be allowed as a credit against Brunei Darussalam tax payable in respect of that income. Where such income is a dividend paid by a company which is a resident of Malaysia to a company which is resident of Brunei Darussalam and which owns not less than 25 per cent of the voting shares of the company paying the dividend, the credit shall take into account Malaysian tax payable by that company in respect of its income out of which the dividend is paid. The credit shall not, however, exceed that part of the Brunei Darussalam tax, as computed before the credit is given, which is appropriate to such item of income.

4. For the purposes of paragraph 3, the term "Malaysian tax payable" shall be deemed to include Malaysian tax which would, under the laws of Malaysia and in accordance with this Agreement, have been payable on any income derived from sources in Malaysia had the income not been taxed at a reduced rate or exempted from Malaysian tax in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and

- (a) the special incentives under the Malaysian laws for the promotion of economic development of Malaysia or any other provisions which may subsequently be introduced in Malaysia in modification of, or in addition to, those laws so far as they are agreed by the competent authorities of the Contracting States to be of a substantially similar character; and
- (b) interest to which paragraph 3 of Article 11 applies had that interest not been exempted from Malaysian tax in accordance with that paragraph.

#### Article 24

#### **NON-DISCRIMINATION**

1. The nationals of a Contracting State shall not be subjected in the other Contracting State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which nationals of that other Contracting State in the same circumstances are or may be subjected.

2. The taxation on a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State shall not be less favourably levied in that other Contracting State than the taxation levied on enterprises of that other Contracting State carrying on the same activities.

3. Enterprises of a Contracting State, the capital of which is wholly or partly owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by one or more residents of the other Contracting State, shall not be subjected in the first-mentioned Contracting State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which other similar enterprises of that first-mentioned Contracting State are or may be subjected.

4. Nothing in this Article shall be construed as obliging:

- (a) a Contracting State to grant to individuals who are resident of the other Contracting State any personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for tax purposes on account of civil status or family responsibilities which it grants to its own residents;
- (b) Malaysia to grant to nationals of Brunei Darussalam not resident in Malaysia those personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for tax purposes which are by law available on the date of signature of this Agreement only to nationals of Malaysia who are not resident in Malaysia;
- (c) Brunei Darussalam to grant to nationals of Malaysia not resident in Brunei Darussalam those personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for tax purposes which are by law available on the date of signature of this Agreement only to nationals of Brunei Darussalam who are not resident in Brunei Darussalam.

5. Nothing in this Article shall be construed so as to prevent either Contracting State from limiting to its nationals the enjoyment of tax incentives designed to promote economic development in that Contracting State.

6. In this Article, the term "taxation" means taxes to which this Agreement applies.

#### Article 25

#### **MUTUAL AGREEMENT PROCEDURE**

1. Where a resident of a Contracting State considers that the actions of one or both of the Contracting States result or will result for him in taxation not in accordance with this Agreement, he may, notwithstanding the remedies provided by the taxation laws of those States, present his case to the competent authority of the Contracting State of which he is a resident, or if his case comes under paragraph 1 of Article 24, to that of the Contracting State of which he is a national. The case must be presented within three years from the first

notification of the action resulting in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

2. The competent authority shall endeavour, if the objection appears to it to be justified and if it is not itself able to arrive at an appropriate solution, to resolve the case by mutual agreement with the competent authority of the other Contracting State with a view to the avoidance of taxation which is not in accordance with this Agreement.

3. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall endeavour to resolve by mutual agreement any difficulty or doubt arising as to the interpretation or application of this Agreement. They may also consult together for the elimination of double taxation in cases not provided for in this Agreement.

4. The competent authorities of the Contracting States may communicate with each other for the purpose of reaching an agreement in the preceding paragraphs.

#### Article 26

### **EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting State shall exchange such information as is foreseeably relevant for carrying out the provisions of this Agreement or to the administration or enforcement of the domestic laws concerning taxes covered by this Agreement insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the Agreement. The exchange of information is not restricted by Article 1.

2. Any information received under paragraph 1 by a Contracting State shall be treated as secret in the same manner as information obtained under the domestic laws of that State and shall be disclosed only to persons or authorities (including courts and administrative bodies) concerned with the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, the determination of appeals in relation to the taxes referred to in paragraph 1, or the oversight of the above. Such persons or authorities shall use the information only for such purposes. They may disclose the information in public court proceedings or in judicial decisions.

3. In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 1 and 2 be construed so as to impose on a Contracting State the obligation:

- (a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws and the administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;
- (b) to supply particulars which is not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administration of that or of the other Contracting State;

- (c) to supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade process, or information, the disclosure of which would be contrary to public policy (*ordre public*).

4. If information is requested by a Contracting State in accordance with this Article, the other Contracting State shall use its information gathering measures to obtain the requested information, even though that other State may not need such information for its own tax purposes. The obligation contained in the preceding sentence is subject to the limitations of paragraph 3 but in no case shall such limitations be construed to permit a Contracting State to decline to supply information solely because it has no domestic interest in such information.

5. In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 3 be construed to permit a Contracting State to decline to supply information solely because the information is held by a bank, other financial institution, nominee or person acting in an agency or a fiduciary capacity or because it relates to ownership interest in a person.

Article 27

#### **DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR OFFICIALS**

Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the fiscal privileges of diplomatic or consular officials under the general rules of international law or under the provisions of special agreements.

Article 28

#### **ENTRY INTO FORCE**

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date on which the Contracting States exchange notes through the diplomatic channel notifying each other that the last of such things has been done as is necessary to give this Agreement the force of law in Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam, as the case may be, and thereupon this Agreement shall have effect:

- (a) in respect of taxes withheld at source, to income derived on or after the first day of January in the calendar year following the year in which this Agreement enters into force; and
- (b) in respect of other taxes on income, to taxes chargeable for any year of assessment beginning on or after the first day of January of the second calendar year following the year in which this Agreement enters into force and subsequent years of assessment.

Article 29

#### **TERMINATION**

This Agreement shall remain in effect indefinitely, but either Contracting State

may terminate this Agreement, through diplomatic channels, by giving to the other Contracting State written notice of termination on or before June 30th in any calendar year after the period of five years from the date on which this Agreement enters into force. In such an event this Agreement shall cease to have effect:

- (a) in respect of taxes withheld at source, to income derived on or after the first day of January in the calendar year following the year in which the notice is given; and
- (b) in respect of other taxes on income, to taxes chargeable for any year of assessment beginning on or after the first day of January of the second calendar year following the year in which the notice is given.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE in duplicate at Bandar Seri Begawan this 5th day of August 2009 in the English language.

### **Protocol**

At the signing of the Agreement between the Government of Malaysia and the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement"), the Government of Malaysia and the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam have agreed upon the following provisions, which shall form an integral part of the Agreement:

1. With reference to paragraph 5 of Article 26 of the Agreement:
  - (a) It is understood that the provisions of that paragraph shall not be construed as preventing a Contracting State from declining to supply the information which is owned by any institution referred to in paragraph 5 of Article 11 of the Agreement by reason of public policy.
  - (b) A Contracting State may decline to supply information relating to confidential communications between attorneys, solicitors or other admitted legal representatives in their role as such and their clients to the extent that the communications are protected from disclosure under the domestic law of that Contracting State.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Protocol.

DONE in duplicate at Bandar Seri Begawan this 5th day of August 2009 in the English language.