Welcome Address by Dr. Imke Börner on Day of German Unity Reception 2026 in Brunei

12th November 2026, 7:00 p.m.
Royal Polo Club, Jerudong, Bandar Seri Begawan

Distinguished guests,

Welcome to The German National Day Reception 2026!

We have guests from Germany, from Brunei and from all over the world, and we are happy about each and every one who came tonight.

It is an honour and a pleasure to share this important day with you.

Germany calls its National Day “The Day of German Unity”.

Germany was divided into two parts after the nightmare of the Nazi regime and the Second World War.

A separation line was cut through the heart of our country.

This line was part of the so called “Iron Curtain” that ran between the Western world and the Soviet Union.

At both sides of the “Iron Curtain”, arsenals of weapons were facing each other.

Passing this harsh separation line from one part of Germany to the other was more or less impossible.

In 1990, the political situation in the world changed.

The world powers came into a new constellation.

This opened the way for Germany to reunite.

For us Germans, the joy about Germany's reunification is still tremendous.

But it is more than that.

The achievement of a reunification after decades of harsh separation shows that the world is able to overcome its disputes, hostilities and wounds.

This is hope and evidence at the same time.

It shows that reconciliation is never impossible.

It is the first time for Weert and me to celebrate our National Day in Brunei.

Bruneians welcomed us here very warmly.

You Bruneians shared your perspectives and ideas with us and invited us to learn about your society.

It is a pleasure to see that so many of you are here tonight.

Our invitation is also meant as a thank you for your warm welcome.

Let us start the official part of the event tonight and honour the National Anthems of our two countries.

Thank you.