

No. S 39

**INCOME TAX  
(CHAPTER 35)**

**INCOME TAX (RELIEF FROM DOUBLE TAXATION)  
(BAHRAIN) ORDER, 2008**

WHEREAS it is provided by subsection (1) of section 41 of the Income Tax Act (Chapter 35) that if His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan in Council by order declares that arrangements specified in the order have been made with the Government of any territory outside Brunei Darussalam with a view to affording relief from double taxation in relation to tax under that Act and any tax of similar character imposed by the laws of that territory, and that it is expedient that those arrangements should have effect, the arrangements shall have effect in relation to tax under the Act notwithstanding anything in any written law.

AND WHEREAS by an Agreement dated the 14th. day of January, 2008 between the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain, arrangements were made amongst other things for relief from double taxation.

NOW THEREFORE it is hereby declared by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan in Council —

(a) that the arrangements specified in the Schedule have been made with the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain; and

(b) that it is expedient that those arrangements should have effect notwithstanding anything in any written law.

SCHEDULE

ARRANGEMENTS MADE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

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 and on capital imposed on behalf of a Contracting State or of its political subdivisions or local authorities, irrespective of the manner in which they are levied.

2. There shall be regarded as taxes on income and on capital all taxes imposed on total income, on total capital, or on elements of income or of capital including taxes on gains from the alienation of movable or immovable property, taxes on the total amounts of wages or salaries paid by enterprises, as well as taxes on capital appreciation.

3. The existing taxes to which this Agreement shall apply are in particular —

(a) in the case of Brunei Darussalam —

(i) income tax imposed under the Income Tax Act (Chapter 35); and

(ii) petroleum profits tax imposed under the Income Tax (Petroleum) Act (Chapter 119);

(hereinafter referred to as "Brunei Darussalam tax"); and

(b) in the case of Bahrain income tax payable under Amiri Decree No. 22 of 1979

(hereinafter referred to as "Bahrain tax").

4. This Agreement shall apply also to any identical or substantially similar taxes which are imposed after the date of signature of this Agreement in addition to, or in place of, the existing taxes. The competent authorities of the Contracting States

shall notify each other of significant changes made to their tax laws within a reasonable period of time.

### Article 3

#### GENERAL DEFINITIONS

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires —

(a) (i) the term "Brunei Darussalam" means the territory of Brunei Darussalam including its territorial sea, extending to the airspace above such territory, over which it exercises sovereignty, and the maritime area beyond its territorial sea, including sea-bed and subsoil, which has been or may hereafter be designated under the laws of Brunei Darussalam, over which it exercises its sovereign rights and jurisdiction in accordance with international law;

(ii) the term "Bahrain" means the territory of the Kingdom of Bahrain as well as the maritime areas, seabed and subsoil over which Bahrain exercises, in accordance with international law, sovereign rights and jurisdiction;

(b) the term "company" means any body corporate or any entity incorporated or recognised under the laws of one or other of the Contracting States or that is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;

(c) the term "competent authority" means —

(i) in the case of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Finance or his authorized representative; and

(ii) in the case of Bahrain, the Minister of Finance or his authorized representative;

(d) the term "a Contracting State" and the "other Contracting State" mean Brunei Darussalam or Bahrain as the context requires;

(e) the term "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;

(f) the term "international traffic" means any transport by a ship or aircraft operated by an enterprise that has its place of effective management in a Contracting State, except when the ship or aircraft is operated solely between places in the other Contracting State;

(g) the term "national" means —

- (i) any individual possessing the nationality of a Contracting State under the applicable laws of that Contracting State;
- (ii) any legal person, partnership or association deriving its status as such from the laws in force in a Contracting State.

(h) the term "person" includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons;

(i) the term "tax" means Brunei Darussalam tax or Bahrain tax, as the context requires.

2. As regards the application of this Agreement at any time by a Contracting State, any term not defined therein shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning that it has at that time under the laws of that Contracting State for the purposes of the taxes to which this Agreement applies, any meaning under the applicable tax laws of that Contracting State prevailing over a meaning given to the term under other laws of that Contracting State.

#### Article 4

#### RESIDENT

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "resident of a Contracting State" means any person who, under the laws of that Contracting State, is domiciled or resident in, a citizen of, or having their place of incorporation or management within that Contracting State or is liable to tax therein by reason of his domicile, residence, place of management or any other criterion of a similar nature, and also includes that Contracting State and any political subdivision or local authority thereof. This term, however, does not include any person who is liable to tax in that Contracting State in respect only of income from sources in that Contracting State or capital situated therein.

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 as follows —

(a) he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Contracting State in which he has a permanent home available to him; if he has permanent home available to him in both Contracting States, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Contracting State with which his personal and economic relations are closer (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 only 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 only 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 only of the Contracting State in which its place of effective management is situated.

#### 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 store, warehouse or premises used as a sales outlet unless the activities fall within paragraphs 3(a) or (b);

*(e)* a factory;

*(f)* a workshop;

*(g)* a farm or plantation;

*(h)* a mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or other place of extraction of natural resources, including timber or other forest produce;

*(i)* a drilling rig or working ship or refinery used for the exploration of natural resources;

(j) a building site or construction project or supervisory activities in connection therewith, provided such site, project or activity continues for a period of more than 183 days;

(k) an assembly or installation project which exists for more than 183 days; and

(l) the furnishing of services, including consultancy services by an enterprise through employees or other personnel engaged by the enterprise for such purpose, but only where activities of that nature continue (for the same or a connected project) within the country for a period or periods aggregating more than 183 days within any twelve-month period.

3. 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 purposes of storage, display or delivery 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 purpose of storage, display or delivery;

(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 purpose of purchasing goods or merchandise, or for collecting information for the enterprise;

(e) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of advertising, for the supply of information, for scientific research or for similar activities which have a preparatory or auxiliary character, for the enterprise;

(f) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in subparagraphs (a) to (e), provided that the overall activity of the fixed place of business resulting from this combination is of a preparatory or auxiliary character.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, where a person — other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 7 applies — is acting in a Contracting State on behalf of an enterprise of the other Contracting State, that enterprise shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the first-mentioned Contracting State in respect of any activities which that person undertakes for the enterprise, if such a person —

(a) has and habitually exercises in that Contracting State an authority to conclude contracts in the name of the enterprise, unless the activities of such

person are limited to those mentioned in paragraph 4 which, if exercised through a fixed place of business, would not make this fixed place of business a permanent establishment under the provisions of that paragraph; or

(b) has no such authority, but habitually maintains in the first-mentioned Contracting State a stock of goods or merchandise from which he regularly delivers goods or merchandise on behalf of the enterprise.

5. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, an insurance enterprise of a Contracting State shall, except with regard to re-insurance, be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the other Contracting State if it collects premiums in the territory of that other Contracting State or insures risks situated therein through a person other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 7 applies.

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 and conditions are made or imposed between that enterprise and the agent in their commercial and financial relations which differ from those which would have been made between independent 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 constitute 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 (including income from agriculture, forestry or fishery) situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. The term "immovable property" shall have the meaning which it has under the law 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, forestry 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 as consideration for

the working of, or the right to work, mineral deposits, sources and other natural resources; ships, boats and aircraft shall not be regarded as immovable property.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall also 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 so much of them as are attributable to —

(a) that permanent establishment;

(b) sales in that other Contracting State of goods or merchandise of the same or similar kind as those sold through that permanent establishment; or

(c) other business activities carried on in that other Contracting State of the same or similar kind as those effected through 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 determination of the profits of a permanent establishment, there shall be allowed as deductions expenses which are incurred for the purposes of the business of the permanent establishment including executive and general administrative expenses so incurred, whether in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere which are allowed under the provisions of the domestic law of the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated. However, no such deduction shall be allowed in respect of amounts, if any, paid (otherwise than toward reimbursement of actual expenses) by the permanent establishment to the head



office of the enterprise or any of its other offices, by way of royalties, fees or other similar payments in return for the use of patents or other rights, or by way of commission, for specific services performed or for management, or, except in the case of a banking enterprise, by way of interest on moneys lent to the permanent establishment. Likewise, no account shall be taken, in the determination of the profits of a permanent establishment, for amounts charged (otherwise than towards reimbursement of actual expenses), by the permanent establishment to the head office of the enterprise or any of its other offices, by way of royalties, fees or other similar payments in return for the use of patents or other rights, or by way of commission for specific services performed or for management, or, except in the case of a banking enterprise, by way of interest on moneys lent to the head office of the enterprise or any of its other offices.

4. In so far as it has been customary in a Contracting State to determine the profits to be attributed to a permanent establishment on the basis of an apportionment of the total profits of the enterprise to its various parts, nothing in paragraph 2 shall preclude that Contracting State from determining the profits to be taxed by such an apportionment as may be customary; the method of apportionment adopted shall, however, be such that the result shall be in accordance with the principles contained in this Article.

5. 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.

6. 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 of 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. For the purposes of this Article, profits from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic include —

(a) profits from the rental on a bareboat basis of ships or aircraft; and

(b) profits from the use, maintenance or rental of containers (including trailers and related equipment for the transport of containers) used for the transport of goods or merchandise,

where such rental or such use, maintenance or rental, as the case may be, is incidental to the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic.

3. The provisions of paragraph (1) of this Article shall also apply to profits from the participation in a pool, a joint business or an international operating agency, but only to so much of the profits so derived as is attributable to the participant in proportion to its share in the joint operation.

#### Article 9

#### ASSOCIATED ENTERPRISES

1. 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, than any profits which would, but for those conditions, have accrued to one of the enterprises, but, by reasons of those conditions, have not so accrued, may be included in the profits of that enterprise and taxed accordingly.

2. Where a Contracting State includes in the profits of an enterprise of that Contracting State – and taxes accordingly – profits on which an enterprise of the other Contracting State has been charged to tax in that other Contracting State and the profits so included are profits which would have accrued to the enterprise of the first-mentioned Contracting State if the conditions made between the two enterprises had been those which would have been made between independent enterprises, then that other Contracting State shall make an appropriate adjustment to the amount of the tax charged therein on those profits. In determining such adjustment, due regard shall be had to the other provisions of this Agreement and the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall, if necessary, consult each other.

3. The provisions of paragraph 2 shall not apply where judicial, administrative or legal proceedings have resulted in a final ruling that by actions giving rise to an adjustment of profits under paragraph 1, one of the enterprises concerned is liable to penalty with respect to fraud, gross negligence or wilful default.

**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, shall be taxable only in that other Contracting State if such resident is the beneficial owner 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.

2. The term "dividends" as used in this Article means income from shares, "jouissance" shares or "jouissance" rights, mining shares, founders' shares or other rights, not being debt-claims, participating in profits, as well as income from 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.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 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, or performs in that other Contracting State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 15, as the case may be, shall apply.

4. Where a company which is a resident of a Contracting State derives profits or income from the other Contracting State, that other Contracting State may not impose any tax on the dividends paid by the company, except in so far as such dividends are paid to a resident of that other Contracting State or in so far as the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with a permanent establishment or a fixed base situated in that other Contracting State, nor subject the company's undistributed profits to a tax on the company's undistributed profits, even if the dividends paid or the undistributed profits consist wholly or partly of profits or income arising in such other Contracting State.

5. The provisions of this Article shall not apply if it was the main purpose or one of the main purposes of any person concerned with the creation or assignment of the shares or rights in respect of which the dividend is paid to take advantage of this Article by means of that creation or assignment.

Article 11

INCOME FROM DEBT-CLAIMS

1. Income from debt-claims 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 income may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which it arises and according to the laws of that Contracting State, but if the beneficial owner of the income is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed five (5) per cent of the gross amount of the income.
3. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of this limitation.
4. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2, income arising in a Contracting State and paid to the Government of the other Contracting State or a local authority or statutory body or agency or authority thereof, or to the National Bank or any wholly owned company of that other State, shall be exempt from tax in the first-mentioned Contracting State.
5. The terms "income from debt-claims" or "income" as used in this Article mean 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 income for the purpose of this Article.
6. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the income, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the income arises, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other Contracting State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the debt-claim in respect of which the income is paid is effectively connected with (a) such permanent establishment or fixed base or with (b) business activities referred to in subparagraph (c) of paragraph 1 of Article 7. In such a cases the provisions of Article 7 or Article 15, as the case may be, shall apply.
7. Income from debt-claims shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is a resident of that Contracting State. Where, however, the person paying the income, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or a fixed base in connection with which the indebtedness on which the income is paid was incurred, and such income is borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such income shall be deemed to arise in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.

8. 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 income, 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.

9. The provisions of this Article shall not apply if it was the main purpose or one of the main purposes of any person concerned with the creation or assignment of the debt-claim in respect of which the income is paid to take advantage of this Article by means of that creation or assignment.

## 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 beneficial owner of the royalties is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed five (5) per cent of the gross amount of the royalties.

3. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of this limitation.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2, royalties arising in a Contracting State and paid to the Government of the other Contracting State or a local authority or statutory body or agency or authority thereof, or to the National Bank or any wholly owned company of that other State, shall be exempt from tax in the first mentioned Contracting State.

5. 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 copyright of literary, artistic, or scientific work but not including cinematographic films or films or tapes used for radio or television broadcasting, any patent, trademark, or model, plan, secret formula or process, 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 receipt of, or right to receive, any visual, images or sounds, or both, transmitted by satellite, cable, optic fibre or similar technology in connection with television, radio or internet broadcasting;

*(c)* the supply of any assistance that is ancillary and subsidiary to and is furnished as a means of enabling the application or enjoyment of, any such property or right as mentioned in clauses *(a)* and *(b)*;

*(d)* the disposal of any property or right referred to in clauses *(a)* and *(b)*.

6. 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, or performs in that other Contracting State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the royalties are paid is effectively connected with *(a)* such permanent establishment or fixed base, or with *(b)* business activities referred to in subparagraph *(c)* of paragraph 1 of Article 7. In such cases, the provisions of Article 7 or Article 15, as the case may be, shall apply.

7. Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is a resident of that Contracting State. Where, however, the person paying the royalties, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or a fixed base in connection with which the liability to pay the royalties was incurred, and such royalties are borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such royalties shall be deemed to arise in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.

8. 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, 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.

9. The provisions of this Article shall not apply if it was the main purpose or one of the main purposes of any person concerned with the creation or assignment of the shares or rights in respect of which the royalties are paid to take advantage of this Article by means of that creation or assignment.

Article 13

**TECHNICAL FEES**

1. Technical fees arising in a Contracting State which are derived by a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.
2. However, such technical fees may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which they arise and according to the laws of that Contracting State, but if the beneficial owner of the technical fees is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed ten (10) per cent of the gross amount of the technical fees.
3. 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.
4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 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 from a fixed base situated therein, and the technical fees are effectively connected with *(a)* such permanent establishment or fixed base or with *(b)* business activities referred to in subparagraph *(c)* of paragraph 1 of Article 7. In such cases, the provisions of Article 7 or Article 15, as the case may be, shall apply.
5. Technical fees shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is a resident of the Contracting State. Where, however, the person paying the technical fees, whether he is a resident of that Contracting State or not, has in that Contracting State a permanent establishment or a fixed base in connection with which the liability to pay the technical fees was incurred, and such technical fees are borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such technical fees shall be deemed to arise in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.
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 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 laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.
7. The provisions of this Article shall not apply if it was the main purpose or one of the main purposes of any person concerned with the creation or assignment of

the rights in respect of which the technical fees are paid to take advantage of this Article by means of that creation or assignment.

Article 14

CAPITAL GAINS

1. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of immovable property referred to in Article 6 and situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.
2. Gains from the alienation of movable property forming part of the business property of a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State or of movable property pertaining to a fixed base available to a resident of a Contracting State in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing independent personal services, including such gains from the alienation of such a permanent establishment (alone or with the whole enterprise) or of such fixed base, may be taxed in that other Contracting State.
3. Gains derived by an enterprise of a Contracting State from the alienation of ships or aircraft operated in international traffic, boats engaged in inland waterways transport or movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships or aircraft shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.
4. Gains from the alienation of shares of the capital stock of a company, or of an interest in a partnership, trust or estate, the property of which consists directly or indirectly principally of immovable property situated in a Contracting State may be taxed in that Contracting State. In particular –
  - (a) nothing contained in this paragraph shall apply to a company, partnership, trust or estate, other than a company, partnership, trust or estate engaged in the business of management of immovable properties, the property of which consists directly or indirectly principally of immovable property used by such company partnership, trust or estate in its business activities;
  - (b) for the purposes of this paragraph, "principally" in relation to ownership of immovable property means the value of such immovable property exceeding 50 percent of the aggregate value of all assets owned by the company, partnership, trust or estate.
5. Gains from the alienation of any property other than that referred to in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 shall be taxable only in the Contracting State of which the alienator is a resident.



**Article 15**

**INDEPENDENT PERSONAL SERVICES**

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of professional services or other activities of an independent character shall be taxable only in that Contracting State except in the following circumstances, when such income may also be taxed in the other Contracting State --

*(a)* if he has a fixed base regularly available to him in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing his activities; in that case, only so much of the income as is attributable to that fixed base may be taxed in that other Contracting State; or

*(b)* if his stay in the other Contracting State is for a period or periods amounting to or exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in any twelve-month period commencing or ending in the fiscal year concerned; in that case, only so much of the income as is derived from his activities performed in that other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

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 16**

**DEPENDENT PERSONAL SERVICES**

1. Subject to the provisions of the Articles 17, 19 and 20, 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 any twelve-month period commencing or ending in the fiscal year concerned; and

*(b)* the remuneration is paid by, or on behalf of, an employer who is not resident of the other Contracting State; and

(c) the remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment or a fixed base which the employer has in the other Contracting State.

3. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, remuneration derived in respect of an employment exercised aboard a ship or aircraft operated in international traffic, or aboard a boat engaged in inland waterways transport, may be taxed in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

#### Article 17

##### **DIRECTORS' FEES AND REMUNERATION OF TOP-LEVEL MANAGERIAL OFFICIALS**

1. 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.

2. Salaries, wages and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in his capacity as an official in a top-level managerial position of a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

#### Article 18

##### **ARTISTES AND SPORTSPERSONS**

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 15 and 16, 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 sportsperson, from his personal activities as such exercised in the other Contracting State, may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. Where income in respect of personal activities exercised by an entertainer or a sportsperson in his capacity as such accrues not to the entertainer or sportsperson himself but to another person, that income may, notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 7, 15 and 16, be taxed in the Contracting State in which the activities of the entertainer or sportsperson are exercised.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, income derived from activities referred to in paragraph 1 shall be exempt from tax in the Contracting State in which the activities are exercised if the visits to that Contracting State are wholly or substantially supported by funds of one or both of the Contracting State, a local authority or public institution thereof.

Article 19

PENSIONS AND SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS

1. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 20, pensions and other similar remuneration paid to a resident of a Contracting State in consideration of past employment may be taxed in that Contracting State.
2. However, such pensions and other similar remuneration may also be taxed in the other Contracting State if the payment is made by a resident of that other Contracting State or a permanent establishment situated therein.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, pensions paid and other payments made under a public scheme which is part of the social security system of a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

Article 20

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

1. *(a)* Salaries, wages and other similar remuneration, other than a pension, paid by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that Contracting State or subdivision or authority shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.  
  
*(b)* However, such salaries, wages and other similar remuneration shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the services are rendered in that other Contracting State and the individual is a resident of that 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 purpose of rendering the services.
2. *(a)* Any pension paid by, or out of funds created by, a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that Contracting State or subdivision or authority shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.  
  
*(b)* However, such pension shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the individual is a resident of, and a national of, that other Contracting State.

3. The provisions of Articles 16, 17, 18 and 19 shall apply to salaries, wages and other similar remuneration, and to pensions, in respect of services rendered in connection with a business carried on by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof.

**Article 21**

**TEACHERS AND RESEARCHERS**

1. A teacher or researcher 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 approved university, college, school, or other similar educational institution or scientific research institution, visits that other Contracting State for a period not exceeding two years from the date of his arrival in that other Contracting State solely for the purpose of teaching or research or both at such educational or research institution, shall be exempt from tax in that other Contracting State on any remuneration derived from such teaching or research.

2. The term "approved" in paragraph 1 refers to the approval given by the Contracting State in which the university, college, school or other similar educational institution or scientific research institution is situated.

3. This Article shall not apply to income from research if such research is undertaken primarily for the private benefit of a specific person or persons.

**Article 22**

**STUDENTS**

Payments which a student or business trainee or apprentice who is or was immediately before visiting a Contracting State a resident of the other Contracting State and who is present in the first-mentioned Contracting State solely for the purpose of his education or training receives for the purpose of his maintenance, education or training shall not be taxed in that Contracting State, provided that such payments arise from sources outside that Contracting State.

**Article 23**

**OTHER INCOME**

1. Items of income of a resident of a Contracting State, wherever arising, not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Agreement shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply to income, other than income from immovable property as defined in paragraph 2 of Article 6, if the recipient of such income, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the

other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other Contracting State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the income is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 15, as the case may be, shall apply.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, items of income of a resident of a Contracting State not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Agreement and arising in the other Contracting State may also be taxed in that other Contracting State in accordance with domestic laws.

#### Article 24

#### METHODS FOR THE ELIMINATION OF DOUBLE TAXATION

1. Where a resident of a Contracting State derives income or owns capital which, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, may be taxed in the other Contracting State, the first-mentioned State shall allow as a deduction from the tax on the income of that resident an amount equal to the income tax paid in that other Contracting State; and as a deduction from the tax on the capital of that resident, an amount equal to the capital tax paid in that other Contracting State. Such deduction in either case shall not, however, exceed that part of the income tax or capital tax, as computed before the deduction is given, which is attributable, as the case may be, to the income or the capital which may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. Where, in accordance with any provision of this Agreement, income derived or capital owned by resident of a Contracting State is exempt from tax in that Contracting State, such Contracting State may nevertheless, in calculating the amount of tax on the remaining income or capital of such resident, take into account the exempted income or capital.

#### Article 25

#### NON-DISCRIMINATION

1. 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, in particular with respect to residence, are or may be subjected. This provision shall, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 1, also apply to persons who are not residents of one or both of the Contracting States.

2. Stateless persons who are residents of a Contracting State shall not be subjected in either 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 the Contracting State concerned in the same circumstances, in particular with respect to residence, are or may be subjected.

3. 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. This provision shall not be constructed as obliging a Contracting State to grant to residents of the other Contracting State any personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for taxation purposes on account of civil status or family responsibilities which it grants to its own residents.

4. Except where the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 9, paragraph 8 of Article 11, or paragraph 6 of Article 12 or paragraph 6 of Article 13 apply, income from debt-claims, royalties, fee for technical services and other disbursements paid by an enterprise of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State shall, for the purpose of determining the taxable profits of such enterprise, be deductible under the same conditions as if they had been paid to a resident of the first-mentioned Contracting State, however, the preceding provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to the disbursements made without withholding and depositing tax chargeable under the domestic law and in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

5. 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 the first-mentioned Contracting State are or may be subjected.

6. Where a Contracting State grants tax incentives to its nationals designed to promote economic or social development in accordance with its national policy and criteria, it shall not be construed as discrimination under this Article.

7. In this Article the term "taxation" means taxes which are the subject of this Agreement.

#### Article 26

#### MUTUAL AGREEMENT PROCEDURE

1. Where a person considers that the actions of one or both of the Contracting States result or will result for him in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, he may, irrespective of the remedies provided by the domestic law of those Contracting 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 25, 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 a satisfactory 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. Any agreement reached shall be implemented notwithstanding any time limits in the domestic law of the Contracting States.

3. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall endeavour to resolve by mutual agreement any difficulties or doubts 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 directly, including through a joint commission consisting of themselves or their representatives, for the purpose of reaching an agreement in the sense of the preceding paragraphs. The competent authorities, through consultations, shall develop appropriate bilateral procedures, conditions, methods and techniques for the implementation of the mutual agreement procedure provided for in this Article. In addition, a competent authority may devise appropriate unilateral procedures, conditions, methods and techniques to facilitate the above-mentioned bilateral actions and the implementation of the mutual agreement procedure.

#### Article 27

#### EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information as is necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Agreement or of the domestic laws of the Contracting States concerning taxes covered by this Agreement, in so far as the taxation there under is not contrary to this Agreement, in particular for the prevention of fraud or evasion of such taxes. The exchange of information is not restricted by Article 1. Any information received by a Contracting State shall be treated as secret in the same manner as information obtained under the domestic laws of that Contracting State. However, if the information is originally regarded as secret in the transmitting State it 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, or the determination of appeals in relation to, the taxes which are the subject of this Agreement. Such persons or authorities shall use the information only for such purposes but may disclose the information in public

court proceedings or in judicial decisions. The competent authorities shall, through consultation, develop appropriate conditions, methods and techniques concerning the matters in respect of which such exchanges of information shall be made, including, where appropriate, exchanges of information regarding tax avoidance.

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

*(a)* to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws and administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;

*(b)* to supply information 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; and

*(d)* to supply information, which is neither held by its authorities nor in the possession or control of persons who are within its territorial jurisdiction.

#### Article 28

#### MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND CONSULAR POSTS

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

#### Article 29

#### ENTRY INTO FORCE

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of receipt of the later of the two notifications through diplomatic channels by which either Contracting State notifies the other Contracting State that its internal legal requirements for the entry into force of this Agreement have been fulfilled.

2. This Agreement shall have effect —

*(a)* in the case of Brunei Darussalam;

in respect of Brunei Darussalam tax for the year of assessment beginning on or after 1st January in the calendar year immediately following the year in which this Agreement enters into force and subsequent years of assessment; and



*(b)* in the case of Bahrain;

in respect of Bahrain tax for the year of assessment beginning on or after 1st. January in the calendar year immediately following the year in which this Agreement enters into force and subsequent years of assessment.

### Article 30

#### TERMINATION

This Agreement shall remain in force until terminated by a Contracting State. Either Contracting State may terminate this Agreement, through diplomatic channels, by giving notice of termination at least six months before the end of any calendar year starting five years after the year in which this Agreement entered into force. In such event, this Agreement shall cease to have effect —

*(a)* in the case of Brunei Darussalam;

in respect of Brunei Darussalam tax for the year of assessment beginning on or after 1st. January in the second calendar year following the year in which the notice is given and subsequent years of assessment; and

*(b)* in the case of Bahrain;

in respect of Bahrain tax for the year of assessment beginning on or after 1st. January in the second calendar year following the year in which the notice is given and subsequent years of assessment.

#### PROTOCOL

On signing the Agreement between the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the undersigned representatives have, in addition, agreed on the following provisions which shall form an integral part of the Agreement —

##### 1. Proviso to Article 17

It is understood that a Contracting State shall accord to a resident of the other Contracting State, acting in his capacity as director or a top level managerial official of the company under Article 17 of the aforesaid Agreement, treatment which shall not be less favourable than that accorded to the residents of any third State acting in the same capacity.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

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Made this 14th. day of Syawal, 1429 Hijriah corresponding to the 15th. day of October, 2008 at Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

PEHIN ORANG KAYA PEKERMA JAYA  
DATO PADUKA HAJI JUDIN BIN HAJI ASAR  
Secretary to the Council of Ministers,  
Brunei Darussalam.