EXPERIENCE OF A DIPLOMAT

DATO’ KU JAAFAR KU SHAARI
Director General,
Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia
Presentation Outline

The Diplomatic World

The Diplomatic Journey

Lesson Learnt
The Diplomatic World

The management of international relations by negotiation; the method by which these relations are adjusted and managed by ambassadors and envoys; the business or art of the diplomatist.

(Oxford English Dictionary)

The application of intelligence and tact to the conduct of official relations between the governments of independent states.

(Sir Ernest Satow)

A continuing process. The skill lies in obtaining what your country wants, whether it is a treaty, an exchange of students, or a trade agreement, while still leaving the other country satisfied.

(Harold Nicolson)

The art of conducting external relations and preserving the objectives of the Islamic State with other states or international organizations by applying wisdom and intelligence in order to reconcile the conflicts in the best manner.

(Prof. Wang Yong Bao {Ahmed Musa})
Diplomacy is ...

•* To charm
•* To persuade, dissuade
•* To prevent war
•* To use polite words to oil the points of contact between people and nations
•* To soften negative impact
•* Be correct, precise, truthful
The Importance of Language in Diplomacy

In matters of language, the art of the diplomatist is that of expressing hostility with courtesy, in difference with interest, and friendship with prudence.

(André Maurois)

A diplomat is a person who can tell you to go to hell in such a way that you actually look forward to the trip.

(Caskie Stinnett)

In order to be a diplomat, one must speak a number of languages, including double-talk.

(Carey McWilliams)
The Rule of the Diplomat

An ambassador is an honest man who is sent to lie abroad for the good of his country.

(Ambassador quoted in Eric Clark’s ‘Corps Diplomatique’)

(Sir Henry Wotton, British ambassador in Germany c. 1620)

Once all the diplomat had to do was walk with kings. Now you have to be acceptable to the president, local importers, television viewers and the trade unions.
My Diplomatic Journey

Wisma Putra (SEA)
Ottawa

Wisma Putra (SEA)
Vientiane

New York

Zagreb

Wisma Putra (Economic Division)
Amman

Wisma Putra (IDFR)

Wisma Putra (OIC)
Doha

Bandar Sri Begawan

Wisma Putra (IDFR)
Lessons Learnt As A Diplomatic Officer

1) Moral Values: AZAN
A : Adherence
Z : Zealous
A : Able
N : Noble

2) How To Do It?
- Adopt and adapt
- Hands-On
- Hearts-On
- Minds-On
- Stand-Up
- Stand-Out
Everyone is born a Diplomat
Web Site for Reference

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: www.kln.gov.my

Institute of Diplomacy & Foreign Relations: www.idfr.gov.my
THANK YOU!

DATO’ KU JAAFAR KU SHAARI
E-Mail : kujaafar@idfr.gov.my
Institute of Diplomacy & Foreign Relations (IDFR),
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jalan Wisma Putra, 50460 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Tel: 603 - 2149 1000 | Fax: 603 - 2144 5640 | info@idfr.gov.my