

REMARKS

BY

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IDFR

AT THE

OPENING CEREMONY

OF

DIPLOMA IN DIPLOMACY (DID) 1/2021

DATE: 4 JANUARY 2021 (MONDAY)

TIME: 9.00 AM

VENUE: TREATY ROOM, WISMA PUTRA

Ms. Hafizah Abdullah
Director of Competency Enhancement Centre

Dr. Jafri Abdul Jalil
Director of Cyber Security
Research Division
Prime Minister's Department

Other Heads of Centre

Participants of Diploma in Diplomacy 1/2021

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and salam sejahtera

1. Welcome to the Diploma in Diplomacy serie 1/2021. For this serie, we are welcoming 21 PTD officers from Wisma Putra and the Research Division of the Prime Minister's Department.
2. As you may have known, Wisma Putra and IDFR have decided to conduct 2 DiD programmes per year, starting this year, to clear the backlog of diplomatic officers who have not undergone the compulsory diplomatic training. We hope to clear this backlog by 2023, after which, we expect those PTDs who have graduated from DPA, will be able to enroll into DiD straight away.
3. Because of this, we have come out with a new format of 2+4 months for DiD. The format entails a mixture of on-the-job training at the Ministry or the Prime Minister's Department and full-time course in IDFR. This way, we hope that we will be able to further enrich your experience and knowledge.

Dear participants,

4. DiD aims at providing a training platform to groom and mould all of you to be highly competent diplomats. Our priority is to fortify your skills and knowledge in the fields of diplomacy and international relations besides cultivating the right attitude.

5. In the current era, the main challenge facing our diplomats is to quickly adapt to the dynamics of foreign service and to remain competent and relevant. As we know, knowledge and skills, without the right attitude, will never be sufficient for us to gain respect and admiration of our fellow diplomats around the globe. Thus, the prime focus of the DiD programme is character-building. At the end of the programme, I hope to see all of you coming out as diplomats with reputable attitude; who will not just uphold the good image of the country, but also bring dynamism in you to promote and protect Malaysia's foreign policy agenda.

6. In the process of gaining knowledge, never forsake essential values like integrity, humility and courtesy. It is only a courtesy for all of you to be on time for your classes; for example. Not to mention that at the same time, it instills discipline. Likewise, stay humble all the time. I always like to quote the following Malay proverb as I cannot find a better proverb in English - 'Ular menyusur akar, tidak akan hilang bisanya' You will not lose your greatness or dignity by being humble. In fact, it is by being humble that you become greater and more dignified.

Ladies and gentlemen,

7. The Covid-19 pandemic has certainly affected us in many ways. We are supposed to have this event at IDFR, for example, but because of certain SOPs and other rules that we have to adhere to, we are having the DiD at Wisma Putra for the time being. We look forward to having you at IDFR soon. But for now, please follow strictly the SOPs that have been laid out. IDFR will strive to provide you the best training environment as possible within our current limitations.

8. When you move to IDFR later on, please make yourselves comfortable and take care of the campus as if it is your own home. You will notice that IDFR is in the middle of improving its facilities. So please bear with the ongoing renovation work.

9. You are most welcome to participate in IDFR co-curriculum activities. This would include sports and other semi-academic activities. This would be the right place and time to polish your talent. I strongly encourage you to contribute to IDFR's publications. For your information, IDFR is celebrating its 30th anniversary of its establishment this year. I welcome any initiative by DiD participants to give meaning to the celebration.

10. Last but not least, please remain modest and courteous, to everyone at IDFR; greet them whenever you see them and be friendly towards them, regardless of ranks and status. Do not hesitate to talk to us should you have any issue. Our doors are always open for all of you but do remember to use proper channel to voice out your concerns. The secretariat will always be there for you.

Dear participants,

11. As you embark on this new journey, I hope you will kick it off with renewed spirit and energy. You have four months from now to learn, reflect and grow as diplomats, Show your full commitment and dedication towards this programme. Bring out your full potential and I am sure you will be on the right track to be world class diplomats.

On that note, I officially open the Diploma in Diplomacy 1/2021 programme.

Thank you.

Prepared by:

Johan Arief Jaafar

Competency Enhancement Centre (CEC)

Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations