

**SPEECH BY  
YB DATO' SRI ANIFAH HJ AMAN  
MINISTER  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MALAYSIA  
ON THE OCCASION OF  
THE GRADUATION CEREMONY  
OF THE DIPLOMA IN DIPLOMACY (DiD) 2012  
MONDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2012**

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**BISMILLAHIRRAHMANIRRAHIM**

**ASSALAMU'ALAIKUM WA RAHMATULLAHI WA BARAKATUH**

**SALAM 1MALAYSIA AND A VERY GOOD EVENING.**

**YANG BERTHORMAT SENATOR A. KOHILAN PILLAY  
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MALAYSIA,**

**YANG BERBAHAGIA TAN SRI MOHD RADZI ABD RAHMAN  
SECRETARY GENERAL  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MALAYSIA,**

**YANG BERBAHAGIA DATO' KU JAAFAR KU SHAARI  
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IDFR**

**YOUR EXCELLENCIES AMBASSADORS AND HIGH COMMISSIONERS,**

**TAN SRI, TAN SRI, DATO', DATO'**

**GRADUATING CLASS OF DiD 2012,**

**PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS,**

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

- 1. IT IS MY GREAT PLEASURE TO BE HERE THIS EVENING FOR THE GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE DIPLOMA IN DIPLOMACY PROGRAMME ORGANIZED BY IDFR. AT THE OUTSET, I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DiD CLASS OF 2012 FOR SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING THE PROGRAMME.**
- 2. MY CONGRATULATIONS ALSO GOES TO THE 13 INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS FROM AUSTRALIA, BRAZIL, EGYPT, LAOS, NAMIBIA, QATAR, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, UKRAINE AND UZBEKISTAN FOR SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS MODULE OF THE PROGRAMME.**
- 3. I AM HAPPY TO NOTE THAT THE PARTICIPANTS OF DiD HAILS FROM VARIOUS MINISTRIES INCLUDING WISMA PUTRA, MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MITI), MINISTRY OF HEALTH, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, MINISTRY OF PLANTATION INDUSTRIES AND COMMODITIES, MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MATRADE) AND THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (INTAN).**
- 4. THIS WILL CERTAINLY ENHANCE NETWORKING AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS FROM WISMA PUTRA WITH THEIR FELLOW PARTICIPANTS FROM OTHER AGENCIES. I AM HOPEFUL THAT THE RELATIONSHIP WILL CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THEIR CAREER IN THE CIVIL SERVICE AND BRING WITH IT MANY BENEFITS PROFESSIONALLY.**

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

- 5. WHILE MALAYSIA'S DIPLOMATIC WORK AND OUTREACH BEGAN MUCH EARLIER FROM THE 14<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, I WOULD VENTURE THAT IT WAS FORMALIZED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WISMA PUTRA WHICH DATES BACK TO MALAYSIA'S INDEPENDENCE IN 1957. OVER THE YEARS, THE SERVICE HAS MATURED AND TRANSFORMED GRADUALLY TO WHAT IT IS TODAY. I AM PROUD TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THROUGH THE EXCELLENT, TIRELESS AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF OUR**

**FORMER AND PRESENT DIPLOMATS, MALAYSIA TODAY IS VIEWED WITH RESPECT FOR OUR PRINCIPLED STAND ON MANY INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND IN CHAMPIONING THE CAUSE OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.**

- 6. MALAYSIA CONTINUES TO ADVOCATE ITS PRINCIPLED VIEWS AT THE BILATERAL, REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL LEVELS TO PROTECT OUR SOVEREIGNTY AS WELL AS TO FURTHER OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS.**
- 7. AS IT GROWS AND PROSPERS, WE HAVE TO DEDICATE MORE RESOURCES AND EXPERTISE TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS A WIDER RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGES THAT INCLUDE NON-TRADITIONAL ISSUES SUCH AS TRANSNATIONAL CRIME, TERRORISM, DISASTER MANAGEMENT, HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND CLIMATE CHANGE AT THE INTERNATIONAL FORA.**
- 8. MALAYSIA HAS ALWAYS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ASEAN. WE BELIEVE A STRONG AND SUCCESSFUL ASEAN IS CRUCIAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MALAYSIA AND THE REGION AS A WHOLE. AS SUCH, MALAYSIA LOOKS FORWARD TO ITS CHAIRMANSHIP OF ASEAN IN 2015 AND THE REALISATION OF THE ASEAN COMMUNITY IN THE SAID YEAR.**
- 9. UNDOUBTEDLY MALAYSIA HAS MADE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO VARIOUS ISSUES OF GLOBAL CONCERN AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. MALAYSIA'S VOICE OF MODERATION CONTINUES TO BE HEARD BY BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IN FACT, THE GLOBAL MOVEMENT OF THE MODERATES FIRST PROMULGATED BY OUR HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER, DATO' SRI NAJIB CONTINUES TO GAIN ACCEPTENCE INCLUDING BY ASEAN, THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT OR NAM.**
- 10. WE HAVE AND CONTINUE TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN AID AND SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES LIKE PALESTINE AND CERTAIN GROUPS IN DIRE NEED OF ASSISTANCE. WISMA PUTRA PARTICULARLY HAS PLAYED AN INTEGRAL ROLE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND**

**MALAYSIANS ABROAD ESPECIALLY THOSE AFFECTED IN CONFLICT ZONES. MOST RECENTLY, WISMA PUTRA HAS BEEN DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN EVACUATING MALAYSIANS FROM SYRIA, EGYPT AND YEMEN.**

- 11. WITH SUCH VARIED AND CHALLENGING RESPONSIBILITIES THAT WISMA PUTRA FACE, IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT IDFR AS THE TRAINING ARM HAS TAKEN A VERY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN TRAINING OUR DIPLOMATS AND OTHER MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICERS IN THE AREAS OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.**
- 12. SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1991, IDFR HAS TRAINED AND GROOMED OUR DIPLOMATS TO BE WELL EQUIPPED AND HOLISTIC, BY IMPARTING TO THEM THE NECESSARY SKILLS TO EXECUTE THEIR TASKS AT HOME AND ABROAD.**
- 13. IDFR HAS ALSO BEEN PREPARING OUR JUNIOR DIPLOMATS FOR THEIR FIRST POSTING BY OFFERING ORIENTATION COURSES TO EQUIP THEM WITH KNOWLEDGE SUCH AS THE ROLE OF MALAYSIAN DIPLOMATS, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, PROMOTING MALAYSIA AS A TRADE AND INVESTMENT DESTINATION, PUBLIC SPEAKING AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS TO NAME A FEW.**
- 14. IDFR ALSO TRAINS DIPLOMATS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES THROUGH THE MALAYSIAN TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME, ASEAN-REPUBLIC OF KOREA SPECIAL FUND, COLOMBO PLAN AND THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT.**
- 15. I WAS INFORMED THAT IDFR CONTINUOUSLY RECEIVES REQUESTS FOR TRAINING AND LATELY AN INFLUX OF PARTICIPANTS BOTH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL. THIS SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE, EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES HAS HELPED TO ELEVATE IDFR'S STATUS AS A VERY IMPORTANT EXTENSION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. BY INFERENCE, THIS ATTESTS TO MALAYSIA'S GROWING STATURE AND RECOGNITION AS A LEADER AMONG MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES.**

**DiD CLASS OF 2012,**

**16. WE HAVE A MAMMOTH TASK AHEAD OF US AND I BESEECH YOU TO GIVE YOUR LEVEL BEST, YOUR FULLEST SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT TO THE MINISTRY. I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO EXECUTE OUR DUTIES WITH VIGOUR AND INTEGRITY TOWARDS PROTECTING AND FURTHERING MALAYSIA'S NATIONAL INTERESTS AT THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE.**

**17. TO THAT END, I ENCOURAGE ALL OUR YOUNG OFFICERS TO CONTINUE LEARNING BECAUSE LEARNING IS A LIFELONG PROCESS – WE NEED TO LEARN, UNLEARN AND RELEARN. I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING ALL OF YOU BACK IN THE MINISTRY AND WELCOME YOUR THOUGHTS AND IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE PERFORMANCE OF OUR MINISTRY.**

**18. TO THOSE RETURNING TO YOUR RESPECTIVE AGENCIES, I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO WISH YOU THE VERY BEST AND DO YOUR AGENCIES PROUD.**

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

**19. ON THAT NOTE, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO IDFR, ESPECIALLY TO DATO' KU JAAFAR KU SHAARI AND THE DEDICATED OFFICERS AND STAFF FOR SUCCESSFULLY ORGANISING THE DiD 2012.**

**THANK YOU.**