

**WELCOMING SPEECH BY
YBHG. TAN SRI MOHD RADZI ABD RAHMAN
SECRETARY GENERAL
OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MALAYSIA
ON THE OCCASION OF
THE GRADUATION CEREMONY
OF THE DIPLOMA IN DIPLOMACY (DiD) 2012**

MONDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2012

BISMILLAHIRRAHMANIRRAHIM,
ASSALAMU'ALAIKUM WA RAHMATULLAHI WA BARAKATUH,
SALAM 1MALAYSIA AND GOOD EVENING

YANG BERTHORMAT DATO' SRI ANIFAH HJ. AMAN
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MALAYSIA

YANG BERBAHAGIA DATO' KU JAAFAR KU SHAARI
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMACY AND FOREIGN
RELATIONS
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MALAYSIA

DiD PARTICIPANTS,

PROUD AND BEAMING PARENTS,

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

1. FOREMOST, I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION TO YB DATO' SRI ANIFAH HJ. AMAN, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MALAYSIA FOR GRACING THIS EVENT.

2. IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO CONGRATULATE THE GRADUATES OF THE DIPLOMA IN DIPLOMACY CLASS OF 2012. MY CONGRATULATIONS AS WELL TO THE THIRTEEN (13) INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS FROM AUSTRALIA, BRAZIL, EYGPT, LAOS, NAMIBIA, QATAR, UKRAINE, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND UZBEKISTAN WHO HAVE SUCESSFULLY COMPLETED THEIR TWO-WEEK "REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS" MODULE OF THE DiD PROGRAMME.

3. I AM CERTAIN THAT YOU LOOK FORWARD TO EMBARKING ON THE JOURNEY OF YOUR PROFESSIONAL CAREER AS A NEWLY MINTED DIPLOMAT. I TRULY HOPE THAT THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS ACQUIRED DURING THE PROGRAMME HAS ENHANCED YOUR UNDERSTANDING ON WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU AS A DIPLOMAT.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

4. THE DIPLOMA IN DIPLOMACY IS THE FIRST IN-HOUSE DIPLOMA COURSE CONDUCTED BY IDFR. THE COURSE IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE AN IN-DEPTH EXPOSURE ON THE VARIOUS INTRICACIES OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WHICH WOULD PREPARE THE PARTICIPANTS FOR THE LONG DIPLOMATIC CAREER AHEAD. IN FACT, IT IS A PRE-REQUISITE FOR OFFICERS BEFORE THEY ARE POSTED ABROAD. THE TRAINING THAT THE PARTICIPANTS HAVE RECEIVED OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS WAS DESIGNED TO MAKE THEM A WELL-ROUNDED DIPLOMAT.

5. AN OUTSTANDING DIPLOMAT IS ONE WHO IS KNOWLEDGEABLE, INTELLIGENT, ADAPTABLE, RESILIENT, ELOQUENT, ENTHUSIASTIC, AND DETERMINED. EVEN WITH THESE CHARACTERISTICS, A DIPLOMAT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT HIS OR HER RESPONSIBILITIES WITHOUT PASSION AND COMMITMENT. I TRUST ALL OF THESE QUALITIES HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY ANALYSED, DISSECTED AND HOPEFULLY INTERNALIZED AND INCULCATED IN YOU. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THEY WILL SERVE YOU WELL AS YOU FACE THE CHALLENGES AHEAD.

6. AT TIMES, THE TASKS FACED BY A DIPLOMAT SEEMS OVERWHELMING DUE TO TIME CONSTRAINTS AND COMPOUNDED BY THE NEED TO ADDRESS OTHER MATTERS SIMULTANEOUSLY. A DIPLOMAT'S ABILITY TO MULTI-TASK, TO COLLABORATE WITH HIS COLLEAGUES, TO PERSEVERE AND TO PRIORITISE IS ALSO PROOF OF HIS OR HER PASSION AND COMMITMENT TOWARDS PROFESSIONALISM IN MALAYSIA'S FOREIGN SERVICE.

7. DIPLOMATS NOT ONLY NEED TO HAVE BROAD AND DEEP KNOWLEDGE OF PEOPLES AND COUNTRIES, BUT ALSO BE UNDERSTANDING AND SENSITIVE OF THEIR NORMS, CULTURES AND VALUES. OVER AND ABOVE, THE SHARING OF EXPERIENCES IS PERTINENT IN SEEKING COMMON GROUND AND MUTUAL RESPECTS BETWEEN PEOPLES AND COUNTRIES. THESE ARE AMONG THE TRAITS THAT I WOULD EXPECT FROM OUR DIPLOMATS IN ENSURING THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO MANAGE OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS EFFECTIVELY.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

8. I AM VERY GLAD TO SEE THAT WE HAVE WITH US THIS EVENING MANY PROUD PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS. YOUR PRESENCE TONIGHT REFLECTS NOT ONLY YOUR PRIDE AND JOY FOR THE GRADUATING SONS AND DAUGHTERS, BUT ALSO AN UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR THEIR CHOSEN CAREER. HAVING BEEN IN THIS LINE FOR MORE THAN THREE (3) DECADES, I CAN ATTEST THAT FAMILY SUPPORT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT MOTIVATION IN OUR LIFE AS A DIPLOMAT.

9. BEFORE I CONCLUDE, I WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND DATO' KU JAAFAR KU SHAARI, OFFICERS AND STAFF OF IDFR, OUR GUEST LECTURERS, AND THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS MAKING THIS PROGRAMME A SUCCESS.

10. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL DID PARTICIPANTS FOR HAVING SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED YOUR COURSE. I WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS IN YOUR CAREER. BON VOYAGE AND HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY HOME TO OUR GUESTS FROM ABROAD. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL BRING BACK THE PLEASANT MEMORIES OF YOUR STAY HERE. MALAYSIA WILL ALWAYS WELCOME YOU BACK.

THANK YOU