

OPENING OF DIPLOMA IN DIPLOMACY 2/2022 PROGRAMME

13 JULY 2022 | TREATY ROOM, IDFR

- Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, salam sejahtera and good morning.
- Welcome to IDFR and the Diploma in Diplomacy Cohort 2/2022 programme. For the next 4 months starting today, IDFR will be your new home.
- For this cohort, there are 21 Administrative and Diplomatic Officers (PTD) of grade M41 and M44 from Wisma Putra and Research Division, Prime Minister's Department. Congratulations to all of you.
- DiD aims at providing a training platform to groom and mould all of you to be highly competent diplomats. As such, IDFR has worked out on an extensive programme, specifically tailored for the needs of our Foreign Service reflecting the National Agenda. Our priority is to fortify your skills and knowledge in the field of diplomacy and international relations besides cultivating the right attitude in your heart and mind.
- 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, without skills and attitude will never be sufficient for us to gain the 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 our country, but also bring the dynamism in you to promote and protect Malaysia's foreign policy agenda, wherever you are stationed at without forgetting our humble values that was taught to us by our parents and ancestors.
- This year, for the first time ever, we have introduced the four pillars for DiD, namely Diplomatic Arsenal, Core Diplomatic Skills, Social Diplomat and Management Skills.
- I urge all of you to learn as much as you can and bring the best out of you in all programmes and activities. We have included in your programmes among others; visits, CSR and cultural programmes besides the many assignment papers that you have to prepare. We may even reinstate the mission attachment programme for the first-time post-pandemic, this year. We'll see how that goes.
- As I mentioned earlier, in the process of gaining knowledge, never forsake essential values like integrity, humility and courtesy. Stay humble all the time. You will not lose your greatness and dignity by being humble. In fact, it is by being humble that you become great and dignified. Remember why you chose to in the service and always remain grounded while still aiming for the stars.
- So, 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. I do not wish to see a gap between the DiD participants and the rest of IDFR. As Benjamin Franklin put it “**To be humble to superiors is duty, to equals - courtesy, to others - nobleness”.**

- Whilst it is important to learn substantive knowledge that would assist you greatly when we return you to Wisma Putra and JPM, it is also imperative to keep tabs on punctuality and time management. As you juggle through the courses, you must learn how to organize your schedules and to always be on time.
- As IDFR will be your home for the next four months, please make yourselves comfortable and take care of IDFR as if it is your own. As you may notice, we are still in the midst of improving the quality of our facilities. Please bear with the ongoing renovation work. Expect some discomforts along the way but I assure you that we have everything taken care of. Please work within the constraints and do not hesitate to talk to us should you have any issues. Our doors are always open for all of you but do remember to use the proper channel to voice out your concerns. The secretariat will always be there for you.
- One word of caution. Whilst we live in an era of technology and advancement, we must always be reminded that not everything should be shared online. We must practice discretion and protect the sanctity of our privacy whenever possible. These days things escalate quickly online and the power of viral content is often a double-edged sword. Please be mindful of what you upload online

as we do not want to pull unwanted attention that could smear the name of this institution as well as the Ministry.

- That being said, as you embark on this new journey, I hope you will kick 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 programme for cohort 2/2022.
- Thank you.