

OPENING REMARKS BY
DATIN:SERI DR. SITI HASMAH BTE MOHD. ALI
AT THE RESEAP ISLAMIC WOMEN'S CONVENTION
AT THE SUBANG VIEW HOTEL, SUBANG JAYA, SELANGOR
ON TUESDAY, 5TH. OCTOBER, 1982
AT 8.00 P.M

ASSALAMU 'ALAIKUM WARAHMATULLAHI WABARAKATUH.

It is a great honour and privilege for me to extend a warm personal welcome, especially to our distinguished Muslim sisters from overseas who are here to attend the RISEAP Islamic Women's Convention. I would like to thank the Organising Committee for honouring me to give a few introductory words.

2. "Women in Development" is a very interesting topic for a Convention to deliberate on. Simple it may seem, the subject has many dimensions. "Women" and "development" have their controversial underpinnings.

3. Women has been a subject of studies by researchers and institutions. In some institutions it constitutes an area of study. Today we are concerned with women not only because of their problems but also because of their role and contributions in societies. In the 60s we saw a new trend in the struggle of women for equality and justice. It is a western-based movement, whose ideals went beyond the traditional religious values. For us, Muslim women, we do have our own clear parameters in our struggle to have our rightful position in society.

4. Development is often understood, especially by western-biased quarters as basically an economic and material pursuit. Islam has throughout being concerned with

development. But our concept of development is a totality of human development. It incorporates the moral and socio-economic betterment of mankind.

5. In discussing the subject of women in development it is very important that there is a clear understanding of Islam. As Muslims we must admit that the pursuit of knowledge, in particular knowledge pertaining to our religion, is obligatory and there is no short cut to it. Without such an understanding, through the complete understanding of the Quran and sunnahs, we cannot provide the perspective that is required of any subject. One may even adopt a wrong interpretation of things.

6. Our guest speaker this evening, Dr. Nafis Sadek, is a well-known figure in her field and is an inspiration to all of us. I am sure all of us are very eager to hear Dr. Nafis Sadek who will enlighten us on the subject of the role of Muslim women in development, in particular the international arena.

7. Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to say a few words this evening.

WASSALAMU 'ALAIKUM WARAHMATULLAHI WABARAKATUH.
