

**SPEECH BY DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH BINTI HAJI MOHD. ALI
MAHKOTA BALLROOM, HOTEL ISTANA, KUALA LUMPUR
THE INTER-CITY FRIENDSHIP RECOGNITION BANQUET
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1. "Firstly, I would like to thank the organizer, the Rotary Club International, for the honour in conferring me this recognition in the course of my work towards the prevention of drug abuse in the world and in Malaysia in particular. I regret very much for not being able to be with you tonight but your kindness and confidence is truly appreciated.

2. As a non-governmental organization, the Rotary Club can play an important role in interfacing with the public at the grassroots level, thus ensuring better coverage and tackling of social problems. It can also function as an important change agent particularly in mobilizing the necessary resources to help those in need. In this context, I have no doubt that the Rotary Club will continue to provide its useful social services to the community. This will go a long way towards ensuring that the Malaysian society is not only united, healthy and crime free but also with no incidence of drug abuse.

3. Since Malaysia is fast becoming an industrialized nation, it is not uncommon to see a concomitant rise in social problems. In the context of such rapid social and economic development in Malaysia, efforts must be stepped up to ensure that our society and moral disintegration and the falling apart of the marital institution. Therefore, social clubs and associations must play their part towards making Malaysian value system but one that is caring, supportive and ever willing to reach out to those in need. This is indeed the spirit that must be cultivated by all. I thank you for the honour you have given me."

4. Once again on behalf of the Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Seri Dr. Siti Hasmah Haji Mohd Ali, I thank the organiser for the recognition given to her.