

SPEECH BY DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH BINTI HAJI MOHD. ALI
TREATY ROOM, WISMA PUTRA, KUALA LUMPUR
THE PRESENTATION OF THE PAINTING "GLOBAL VISION" - "GLOBAL
COOPERATION FOR A BETTER WORLD"
13 AUGUST 1991

Yang Berhormat Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi Minister of Foreign Affairs;
Yang Mulia Tengku Tan Sri Ahmad Rithauddeen President United Nations
Malaysia Association; Yang Berbahagia Canl - Erik Wiberg U.N.D.P Regional
Representative to Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei; Distinguished Guests; Ladies and
Gentlemen,

I wish to thank the National Advisory Committee of "Global Cooperation For A Better World" project, the United Nations Malaysia Association, the main sponsors, the participants of the project, Government agencies, universities, schools, business and commercial organisations, financial institutions, hospitals, unions, the public and, last but not least, the children in kindergartens who, through their various activities, have voluntarily and with dedication, helped to lay a valuable foundation for the creation of a renewed and better world.

2. A mighty rain tree grows from a very tiny seed – and now, this seed has been created as a foundation to a better world. With our consistent care, attention and nurturing over time we will be able to see the full grown tree in the future, a global cooperation to shape a dream into reality.

3. No man is poor. Only the vision of him has become poverty-stricken. The objective of Global Cooperation project is to encourage individuals and groups of individuals to visualize in their minds a vision of a better self, family, community, nation and the world, untarnished by drudgeries of today and to follow up this vision with constructive actions to enable that vision to become a reality.

4. This painting for which we have come together to view is a result of an idea conceived by a single student and planned out by a group of students. The original painting of "Global Vision" measured 120 feet by 90 feet was sectioned into 1,200 pieces of three-foot square plywood so that 1,200 students of the Malaysian Institute of Art could paint them in one day.

5. The whole institute, right up to the Dean of Studies, was involved. ICI supplied 420 litres of paint in various colours and the Malaysian Plywood Manufacturers Association donated the wood.

6. Ideas grow rich and reach out to touch the hearts of others only when they are filled with truth, mutual trust and love. It is indeed very heartening to know that Malaysia being a multi-racial country with different religious upbringing can truly live as a family in harmony and peace. We know how to take care of the interest of each

other. In order to reflect this image of our multi-racial country to our invited guests from all the Commonwealth countries, 600 students from the Malaysian Institute of Art voluntarily stepped down, despite the fact that they had invested so much of themselves for nearly a year in the project, so as to enable 600 students from the Mara Institute of Technology to join hands to work together.

7. There was a further turn of events when the Mara Institute of Technology students saw the model of the painting after the press conference. They felt that the design along the border of the painting was against Islamic beliefs and wanted it to be changed into something more abstract. The Malaysian Institute of Art students though in compromising to their aim of unity, love and respect for all religions, yet compromising to the changing circumstances, handed over the painting for redesign. As the pieces of the painting had already been numbered and arranged in sequence, the changes to the border meant changes to the entire layout. The students sat down together day and night to alter the design and it was completed on time.

8. What I hold before you is not just a painting, but the pride and dignity of our youth, a national heritage memorial. Though our country is small, the spirit of love and peace each Malaysian has is enough to accommodate the world. Let us become open in our visions and learn to say what we think and do what we say. Self-transformation brings world transformation. On behalf of every Malaysian, I formally hand over to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Honorable Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, a living memorial of the unity of our people and the hope of peace and love for every citizen of the world.