

**SPEECH BY DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH BINTI HAJI MOHD. ALI  
UIA, KUALA LUMPUR  
DURING A VISIT BY BAKTI TO THE INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC  
UNIVERSITY  
30 AUGUST 1991**

Bismillahir rahmanir rahim.

Yang Berbahagia Dr Abu Sulayman, Rector of U.I.A.; Senior Members of the Board and Faculty; Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

By the grace of the Almighty we are able to gather here today in peace and harmony. On behalf of members of BAKTI and myself, I wish to thank the Rector and his Senior Members for consenting to our visit and for the arrangements that has been made. To most of us, this is the first time we are visiting the International Islamic University and we are very pleased to be here and to meet with you. We would like to thank you also for the briefing you gave us and extend our congratulations for the progress this University has achieved.

2. Since 21st August, the Executive Committee and Chairpersons of Sub-Committees of BAKTI have been visiting universities and, insya-Allah, we should complete our rounds by 2nd September. These visits are special, it is the result of a meeting between the Vice-Chancellors and Representatives of the 8 Institutions of Higher Learning in Malaysia with BAKTI on 31st July. It was the intention of BAKTI to expand its scholarships or financial assistance to students of the 8 institutions.

3. BAKTI is a Welfare Body formed in 1977 by wives of Cabinet Ministers, their Deputies and Parliamentary Secretaries. The prime objective is to collect funds and to distribute them to the very needy: the poor, the handicapped, the orphans and the aged. As BAKTI grew in strength and was substantially supported by all races and religion in this country, we were able to start a minor scholarship in 1985 for 10 primary, secondary and 6th formers from each state giving them \$200.00, \$300.00 and \$400.00 respectively per year for 2 years to help them along in school. In 1990, the number of students per state was increased to 20 and we also gave 10 scholarships to Orang Asli school children.

4. Realising that university students are always in financial difficulties at the beginning of their course, BAKTI decided to also extend assistance to university students. At the meeting with university representatives, it was decided that BAKTI should set up a Fund in each university for this purpose, and this will be managed by the university itself.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. BAKTI gives top priority to education for we believe that a person can only live a

meaningful existence if he has education. It is basic that one should learn to read and write so that with that knowledge one can expand one's knowledge into doing other things which would help in making life more comfortable and more useful. Our religion requires us to seek knowledge and to use it most meaningfully, not only for the benefit of oneself but also for the community and nation. It is therefore imperative that education and the seeking of knowledge anywhere be a part of one's life. This university welcomes students from foreign lands and BAKTI is very happy to meet with you on this special occasion. We hope your stay in this university will be fruitful and satisfy the special needs that you have come for. For any developing country, the young people became the main source of manpower. It becomes more important and valuable when that human resource is made up of intelligent and motivated people. They will be the greatest asset which can help government fulfill their aspirations towards being a developed country through rapid industrial growth and developing a nation with high moral standards, discipline and productivity

6. Therefore, towards this end for Malaysians, BAKTI is very happy to contribute in a humble way. We received generous donations from the public, Muslims and non-Muslims alike, and we on our part wish to distribute part of this donation to the universities. We hope the \$20,000.00 donation will help as many students within 2 years and that the recipients will use them usefully for their studies.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. Once again, I would like to thank the Rector and the Senior Officers of UIA for their warm welcome and fruitful program. We pray that the Almighty would give us more guidance along the right path to do more charitable work for the needy.

Wabilahitaufik walhidayah wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.