

17/11/2015 - 1st ASEAN Civil Service Games 2015

Excellencies;

Distinguished Heads Civil Service of ASEAN Member States;

Chefs De Mission;

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

OPENING REMARKS

1. First of all, I would like to bid *Selamat Datang* and a heartfelt welcome to all the athletes and officials from the ten ASEAN Member States to the 1st ASEAN Civil Service Games (ACSG). Tonight, we welcome over 600 ASEAN athletes and officials to Kuala Lumpur, who will be competing in five sports, namely tenpin bowling, golf, badminton, table-tennis and futsal.

2. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues from the ASEAN civil service family for making this historic event a reality. Historic in the sense that no other regional bloc has ever organised an event like this, where we are able to gather the best civil servants from all ten ASEAN member states to compete in five different sports. I am sure this is something that all of us can be proud of by being a part of this inaugural event.

ROLE OF SPORTS

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. Sports play a significant role as a driving force for peace and development, as well as a tool to foster cooperation and solidarity among ASEAN Member States. The ASEAN Civil Service Games aims to enhance friendship, and networking among the civil servants of ASEAN through sports, whilst promoting a healthy lifestyle. This event is also a great opportunity for the civil

servants of the ASEAN Member States to come together, and celebrate the spirit of ASEAN solidarity, as we will be witnessing the establishment of the ASEAN Community at the end of this year.

4. As the current Chair of ASEAN, Malaysia is indeed proud to have the privilege to host the ASEAN Civil Service Games, and hope that all of you will not only compete to the best of your abilities but showcase the highest level of sportsmanship and make this Games a truly memorable and enjoyable one, both on and off the competition grounds.

CLOSING REMARKS

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. It has taken a lot of hard work by many people to get us to this point. I want to thank the entire team of the ASEAN Civil Service Games Organising Committee, namely the Malaysian Civil Service Sports Council (MAKSAK), and the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Malaysia for their hard work and dedication. We would also like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the sponsors, partners and our volunteers who have helped to ensure the smooth running and success of ACSG.

6. To all the athletes, I know you have trained long and hard for this moment. As the greatest boxer of all time, Muhammad Ali, once said *"I hated every minute of training. But I said, don't quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion."*

7. With that I wish you all the best for the Games, and I look forward to meeting all of you again during our Gala Dinner on 19 November 2015.

8. With that, I now declare the 1st ASEAN Civil Service Games open. *Let the Games begin!*

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