

Penyampai : TAN SRI DATO SERI AHMAD SARJI BIN ABDUL HAMID
Tajuk : THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE DIPLOMATIC TRAINING COURSE FOR
FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF THE CENTRAL ASIA REPUBLICS
Lokasi : INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMACY AND FOREIGN RELATIONS
Tarikh : 04-03-1993

I would like to thank the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations for inviting me to formally close the Diplomatic Training Course for the Foreign Service Officers of the Central Asian Republics. This is the first project offered to the Governments and peoples of the newly independent States of the Central Asian Republics under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP).

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the nineteen course participants from the Republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzatan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, for having been selected by your respective governments to attend this three-month diplomatic training course. I hope that the course has helped to enhance your knowledge and skills in diplomacy and foreign relations. You belong to that special group of people known as diplomats. I am sure you have heard of the light definition of a diplomat. If a diplomat says perhaps he means no, and when he says no, he is no diplomat. We hope that through you, the foundation for a useful networking between Malaysia and your countries in the years to come has been laid.

We believe that for maximum impact, a course such as this must combine formal classroom activities on diplomatics skills and knowledge, with visits to and briefings by Malaysian Governemnt Agencies. I hope that your visits to the States of Pahang, Trengganu, Melaka, Pulau Pinang and Sarawak have led you to understand the dynamics of development in Malaysia. We have also exposed you to our Foreign Minister and our Prime Minister. We hope that these opportunities have provided you with first hand information that you might find useful as you become involved in the development of your own countries in the future.

As diplomats, you will be involved in the management of foreign relations of your respective countries. Modern day relations amongst nations have grown increasingly complex due to the advancement of communication technology and the ever changing global environment. No single nation can stand on its own. Co- operation among nations is the ideal objective of diplomacy achievable through both bilateral or multilateral contact. Your republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzatan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are newly independent states. Your countries are the product of the end of the Cold War. As young nations, you are at the beginning of the search for a place in the world community.

Apart from strengthening and consolidating your domestic polices, you will be looking around the world for friends to help you in the nation-building process. Newly emerging states like yours who aspire for political stability, national development and economic growth, demand a great deal from their diplomatic officers in the effort to gain more friends and increase co- operation between your nations and the rest of the world. Being newly independent countries, among other things, external trade, foreign investment, tourism, and other areas are the key sectors that need assistance and co-operation from friendly countries. In essence, economic diplomacy is an essential tool of national development. It requires strategic thinking. Create a demand for your products and services, any way you can.

Malaysia has given increasing emphasis to economic diplomacy. Training and acquiring skills in these areas are the main emphasis of the courses at this Institute. I am pleased that the Institute has exposed you to some aspects of economic diplomacy courses such as International Economics and International Trade Laws.

For you, as former states of the Soviet Union, I have no doubt you will continue to maintain useful contacts with Russia and other former States of the Soviet Union for traditional and historical reasons. You can't have a better tomorrow if you are thinking about yesterday all day today.

We make our future by the best use of the present. Your diplomatic horizon will surely widen. This extension will bring you into contact with new regions and new countries such as Malaysia where mutually beneficial relations can be forged. I hope that your stay here in Malaysia has created a certain

level of awareness of the potential that this region and in particular Malaysia has to offer.

On behalf of the Malaysian Government I once again congratulate you for having successfully completed this course. I hope that this training programme will benefit you personally and that the bonds of friendship which you have developed at this Institute will be strengthened further. I bid you bon voyage and a safe journey home. I am, therefore, pleased to officially close the Diplomatic Training Course for Foreign Service Officers of the Central Asian Republics.