

Penyampai : DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH BINTI HAJI MOHD. ALI
Tajuk : PERASMIAN PERSIDANGAN ASIA PASIFIK KE-16 KIWANIS ANTARABANGSA
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Encik Wil Blechman Presiden Kiwanis Antarabangsa; Dif-dif Kehormat; Para peserta dan perwakilan;
Puan-puan dan Tuan-tuan sekalian.

Saya berasa sukacita kerana Malaysia dipilih menjadi tuan rumah kepada satu lagi persidangan antarabangsa yang besar -- kali ini Persidangan Asia Pasifik ke-16 Kiwanis Antarabangsa. Persidangan ini telah menarik lebih daripada 400 orang perwakilan dan peserta daripada 13 buah negara dan jajahan di seluruh rantau Asia Pasifik ke Kuala Lumpur.

Saya ingin mengambil kesempatan ini untuk mengucapkan selamat datang ke Malaysia kepada semua peserta, terutamanya para perwakilan dari luar negeri.

2. Sempena pembukaan persidangan ini, saya berharap para peserta dari Malaysia dan luar negeri akan menggunakan kesempatan ini untuk menjalin hubungan yang lebih rapat, memupuk keharmonian dan bertukar-tukar fikiran serta pandangan demi kebaikan masyarakat dan keadaan di sekeliling kita.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. I wish to extend a warm welcome to all participants, especially those who have come from overseas. Malaysia is honoured to host yet another major International Conference -- The Kiwanis International 16th Asia-Pacific Conference in Kuala Lumpur. With more than 400 delegates and participants gathered here from 13 countries and territories across the Asia-Pacific region, I hope you will take this opportunity to foster closer ties, promote harmony and exchange ideas that will contribute towards the betterment of societies and the environment around us.

4. The Kiwanis International movement has done much in community services the world over since its founding in 1915, such as the children benefit programmes, anti-drug campaigns and assistance for the aged, amongst others.

5. The current Major Emphasis Programme (MEP) theme for 1991-93 of Kiwanis International is "Young Children; Priority One". This theme is most apt in view of the many ills facing children across the world. There are children deprived of basic needs through sheer ignorance of parents.

Thousands upon thousands of children are suffering from hunger and malnutrition because of lack of food and famine.

Many more are abused physically, sexually and mentally because they are children, and now, the hundreds and thousands of them are struggling to survive after a war in which they had no part. I congratulate the Kiwanis Movement for focussing its efforts on children.

6. Closer to home, I had the privilege of declaring open the Kiwanis Down's Syndrome Centre in Petaling Jaya in July last year. The Early Intervention Programme being conducted has benefitted about 40 children.

7. As you are gathered for this important conference, I pray that you will be blessed with greater strength, motivation and inspiration to carry out the various community service projects. The satisfaction derived from helping the less fortunate is surely a strong fulfillment for many of you.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. Some of you, if not most of you may not have been in Malaysia before. Some may have pre-conceived

ideas or views of what Malaysia is all about from books and articles by non-Malaysian authors. I hope that you will take every opportunity to visit as many places and to talk to as many of our Malaysian people as possible so that you will return home with happy memories and understanding of our Country.

9. To Kiwanis International President Wil Blechman, I wish you and all Kiwanis members every success in your endeavours in making the community service ideals a reality.

Tuan-tuan dan Puan-puan,

10. Dengan ini saya dengan sukacitanya mengisytiharkan Persidangan Asia Pasifik ke-16 Kiwanis Antarabangsa dibuka dengan rasminya.

Terima kasih.