

Penyampai : DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH BINTI HAJI MOHD. ALI  
Tajuk : SEMPENA PERASMIAN KURSUS  
Lokasi : INSTITUT DIPLOMASI DAN HUBUNGAN LUAR NEGERI  
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Terlebih dahulu saya bersyukur kepada Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala kerana telah dapat bersama hadirin sekalian pada pagi ini.

2. Saya juga ingin mengucapkan terima kasih kepada pihak Institut Diplomasi dan Hubungan Luar Negeri (IDHL) kerana memberi penghormatan kepada saya untuk menyampaikan sepatah dua kata dan seterusnya merasmikan kursus "APEC Liaison Officers Course 1998".

3. Saya difahamkan bahawa inilah kali pertama kursus dalam bidang protokol dan tugas-tugas Liaison yang dihadiri oleh sebilangan besar peserta seperti ini dianjurkan oleh institut ini sebagai persiapan kepada mesyuarat antarabangsa penting di Kuala Lumpur. Dalam hal ini sukacita sekali saya mengucapkan tahniah kepada Kementerian Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri (MITI) di atas inisiatif yang diambil termasuk penyediaan peruntukan yang mencukupi bagi membolehkan pihak IDHL menjayakan kursus ini.

4. Kepada peserta-peserta kursus sekalian, saya mengucapkan tahniah kerana dipilih untuk melaksanakan tugas-tugas protokol dan liaison semasa mesyuarat keenam ketua-ketua ekonomi APEC yang akan diadakan di Kuala Lumpur pada 12 - 19 November 1998.

5. Malaysia is proud to be given the honour to host the sixth APEC Summit this year. It marks yet another historic event in our 1998 calendar following the success of the just concluded 16th Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur. The eyes of the world will again be on Malaysia. It is time again for us to show what we can do in the spirit of "Malaysia Boleh.". Given our past performance including the hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), I am confident that we will be successful yet again.

6. Much is expected out of the Kuala Lumpur summit.

Malaysia itself has its own agenda of issues of common concern. The current financial and economic crisis makes it all the more important for the twenty two (22) member regional grouping of developed and developing economies to achieve positive results that would be beneficial to all members.

7. But, as a host country, other aspects of the summit are equally important. How the conference is organised and how our foreign guests are treated will certainly create a lasting impression on all those who will be attending the summit. Serious consideration should therefore be given to protocol related matters as an important dimension of the organisation of the summit. Failure to do so, leading to organisational and protocol blunders on our part, will have a significant impact on the overall outcome of the summit. We will then have only ourselves and no one else to blame.

8. It is important that all protocol and liaison officers understand the unique supportive role that they have to play during the course of the summit. The necessary preparations should be made and various aspects of protocol and liaison duties would have to be learned or relearned. The peculiarities of such duties should also be well understood. Protocol duties may not be as simple as they sound and may not only involve the act of merely accompanying VVIPs. It is important that your presence as protocol officers be felt at all times and be considered helpful in facilitating the needs and requirements of our foreign guests in accordance with the programme of the summit.

9. I wish to stress that, proper dress sense and grooming, pleasant disposition, understanding of the programme including the related issues of the summit, general knowledge of Kuala Lumpur and Malaysia, effective communication and appreciation of the requirements of protocol and liaison duties under different circumstances or situation are some of the major areas that should be given particular attention by all participants of the course. Equally important are other aspects like security and cross cultural

communication.

10. I am glad to note that a comprehensive programme to cover all the above had been drawn up by the institute in consultation with the agencies and individuals concerned so as to meet the objectives of the course.

It is also my sincere hope that all participants of the course will make full use of the series of lectures and discussions to be held on the various protocol related areas so as to fully equip yourself with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively carry out your responsibilities.

11. A 3-day course alone, such as this, however comprehensive, will not be able to cover everything that you need to know about protocol and liaison duties. Not everything can be taught. Actual situations during the summit may differ from what is originally planned.

Sudden changes may have to be made to the programme. And different circumstances would require different protocol treatment. The necessary adjustments therefore would have to be made. It is here that personal initiative, discretion, sound judgement and common sense, quite apart from dedication, responsibility and commitment should be called upon to help you in the performance of your duties.

12. Many of you from Wisma Putra and MITI perhaps, are quite familiar with and, have had some exposure and experience in undertaking protocol and liaison duties.

Some of you are perhaps already familiar with the protocol work involved in handling visits to Malaysia made by foreign Heads of Government of state. I hope that such experiences could be shared with the other less fortunate participants during the course of your discussions on the various issues involved.

13. Akhir kata, sukacita saya tekankan di sini bahawa Kerajaan Malaysia menaruh harapan yang tinggi sekali ke atas kejayaan mesyuarat keenam Ketua-Ketua Ekonomi APEC yang akan diadakan di Kuala Lumpur pada bulan depan.

Oleh yang demikian saya harap minat dan tumpuan sepenuhnya dapat diberikan oleh saudara/saudari semasa menghadiri kursus ini, bagi meningkatkan pengetahuan saudara/saudari dalam bidang protokol dan liaison ini.

Semoga dengan khidmat yang akan saudara/saudari berikan nanti akan mengharumkan lagi nama baik Malaysia di peringkat antarabangsa.

14. Dengan harapan ini dan lafaz Bismillahir rahmanir rahim saya dengan ini merasmikan "APEC Liaison Officers Course 1998".