



PRESS RELEASE

GRADUATION CEREMONY OF DIPLOMA IN DIPLOMACY 2014

8 SEPTEMBER 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia hosted a Graduation Ceremony for participants of the Diploma in Diplomacy 2014 on 6th September 2014, in Marriott Putrajaya. The ceremony was officiated by YB Datuk Hamzah Zainuddin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and attended by senior officials of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, members of the diplomatic corps, the facilitators and trainers, parents and spouses of the graduates. In his opening remark, YBhg. Deputy Minister expressed that professional education and training are essential to raise the overall performance of our Foreign Service officers. This need is made even more acute by the shifting dynamics of international relations, characterized by geo-strategic changes, rapid technological changes and the need for leadership to deal with the myriad of international issues. With the looming ASEAN Chairmanship in 2015, it is important for these junior diplomats to gear up and play their roles at raising the profile of ASEAN and ensure a successful Chairmanship for Malaysia.

The Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) programme is conducted annually by IDFR over a period of six months for Malaysian diplomats. Currently in its fifth year, the programme is designed to groom junior diplomats in improving their soft skills including English language, international negotiations, public speaking and presentation skills as well as in substantive subjects and current issues of interest at the national, regional and international level. This year, 32 participants underwent training in five (5) modules namely; Diplomacy and Foreign Relations, Diplomatic Soft Skills, Attachment and Study Visits, English Language and Foreign Language.

In addition, junior foreign diplomats were invited to participate in a week-long Regional and International Affairs (RIAM) module. This year they hail from six countries namely, Chile, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Libya and The Philippines. After graduating from the programme and being conferred the Diploma in Diplomacy, the participants will return to

serve in various divisions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Subsequently, they will then be assigned to serve in various Malaysian Embassies abroad.

**Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR)
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