

**SPEECH BY
DIRECTOR GENERAL
ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT**

**SIGNING OF PROJECT DOCUMENT
CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORT FOR MALAYSIA'S ROLE IN
MULTIDIMENSIONAL PEACEKEEPING TRAINING
9 APRIL 2010, 4.00 p.m.**

Mr. Kamal Malhotra
Resident Representative
UNDP Malaysia Country Office

His Excellency
Ambassador Masahiko Horie
Ambassador of Japan to Malaysia

Major General Dato' Ismail Ibrahim
Assistant Chief of Staff Defense Planning
Malaysian Armed Forces

Col. Johar Ramli Ahmad
Commandant of the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre
(MPTC)

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Malaysian Government, let me extend a warm welcome to our distinguished guests from the UNDP, the Government of Japan, representatives from Ministry of Defense and implementing agency, the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre (MPTC), and officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2. The signing of the project document today, a significant event on its own. This follows the approval of the Cabinet of Malaysia on the use of a standard project document to be used for all UNDP

projects in Malaysia. This decision would benefit all parties in preparing a project document of this kind having a standard template.

3. Our utmost appreciation goes to the Government of Japan and UNDP, for extending the support of USD1 million under the Japan-UNDP Partnership Fund for the project. The Government of Japan has been instrumental in supporting Malaysia's development, bilaterally or together with other development partners. Assistance from Japan has evolved from transforming the Malaysian economy to other areas such as in security enhancement, counter terrorism and peacekeeping. It is evident that the cooperation has been nurtured throughout the years in many platforms and we look forward to a stronger future cooperation.

4. We would also like to thank our partner of many years, UNDP, for which the signing would not be possible without its rigorous effort in securing the fund for Malaysia and in recognizing Malaysia's capability in implementing the project. UNDP has been supporting Malaysia through cooperation in the fields of global partnership for development, fostering inclusive globalization and promoting inclusive growth and towards improved quality of life through sustainable environmental management. Cooperation in peacekeeping is a new field where we hope to be followed by other such ventures jointly. Though cooperation with UNDP has been on a cost-sharing basis, the provision of funding under the Japan-UNDP Partnership Fund for this project is most welcomed as it enables us to participate in the global agenda for peacekeeping. As the UNDP is at the forefront of

this initiative, Malaysia looks forward to provide support and cooperation in this area and learn more from the experience of UNDP.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. We have full confidence in Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre's capability as an implementing agency due to its record in carrying out such projects in the past. The Centre has been organizing training and capacity building in the form of seminars and fora and has established modules of training for the purpose. This project will further uplift the Centre as a prominent training organization in peacekeeping, and prepare personnel of the armed forces, as well as other agencies for peacekeeping missions. Clearly, it would reflect Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre as an international training organization capable of organizing and sharing its expertise and knowledge for the benefit of the countries involved.

6. I sincerely hope that the USD1 million fund for the project will be utilized well by MPTC. To keep abreast of current need, MPTC must ensure its personnel continue to be trained, within the context of a complex and multidimensional peacekeeping environment. Particular focus in the areas of gender and civil-military coordination must be enhanced so that the training provided will be comprehensive and holistic. I am sure that our peacekeeping officials would be able to better fulfill their roles and functions within multidimensional as well as integrated missions.

7. We hope to have a continuous cooperation from all parties for the benefit of human cause. Peace is a pre-requisite for development, for without peace, nations would not be able to prosper in terms of economic growth and social stability. We would like to again thank the Government of Japan and UNDP for making this project possible and for the continuous support to Malaysia in our development effort. At the end of the day, we are optimistic that MPTC would not only upgrade its capacity and capability but would also be a prominent peacekeeping centre and fulfill the agenda of partnership for development. This win-win formula must be extended to other areas of cooperation where Malaysia can contribute significantly.

Thank you.