

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

Office of the Resident Coordinator Of The United Nations
System's Operational Activities For Development in Malaysia

PRESS RELEASE

RENEWED CALL FOR PEACE ON THE 64th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Kuala Lumpur, 27 October 2009 – The United Nations (UN) resolved even greater commitment to promoting peace for a safer and better world during the celebration of its 64th Anniversary here today.

The UN Day, held to commemorate the founding of the United Nations, was attended by Malaysians who joined the United Nations in reaffirming a societal commitment to justice, peace and development.

“UN Day has historically been an occasion for us to reflect on how far we have come in our efforts to give the poor a more secure foundation,” said Mr. Kamal Malhotra, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Malaysia, adding, “It is also a day to focus the national and international community’s attention on the crucial relationship between human rights and development, which are inexorably linked.”

The event was officiated by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Dato’ Lee Chee Leong, who said in his address, “In view of the common challenges confronting mankind today, the United Nations, with its multilateral principles, has an increasingly vital role to play in resolving global issues that require the collective efforts of a multilateral forum, such as the promotion of peace and security, poverty eradication, sustainable development, environmental conservation, human rights and democracy.”

Dato’ Lee added, “Malaysia stands ready and fully committed to its support of the UN, as the political will and commitment of its member states play a determining role to empower the UN in its efforts on behalf of the international community.”

Mr. Kamal highlighted in his speech that over the last 64 years, the role of the UN had evolved beyond the realm of peacekeeping and conflict resolution. The organization and its agencies are substantially involved in a vast array of work to improve people’s lives around the world today.

“The UN, comprising all its constituent parts, will continue to work with the Malaysian government to support those who are poor and vulnerable, while safeguarding the investments and efforts that have been cumulatively made towards poverty reduction and achieving the UN’s Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Malaysia,” he said.

The UN Day celebrations featured messages of peace from young people, including a choir performance from the Methodist Boys School Kuala Lumpur (MBS), and singing performances and original poetry readings by students of HELP University College.

In a video message in conjunction with the anniversary, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon spoke of the role of the United Nations in advancing the international development agenda.

“People look to the United Nations to defeat poverty and hunger, to keep the peace, to expand education and stand up for human rights in every corner of the globe,” said Ban. “As such, the United Nations is doing its utmost to respond by forging a new multilateralism that can deliver real results for all people, especially those most in need.

“On this UN Day, let us resolve to redouble our efforts on behalf of the vulnerable, the powerless, and the defenceless. Let us stand more united than ever – united in purpose and united in action to make the world a safer, better place”.

About the United Nations in Malaysia

United Nations Technical Assistance programmes date back to the time of Malaysia's Independence in 1957, focusing on specific areas such as health and nutrition, education curriculum development and the establishment of country's telecommunication base.

The UN Country Team in Malaysia is headed by the Resident Coordinator, who brings together all specialised funds and agencies dealing with operational activities for development, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Health Organisation (WHO), and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

About United Nations Day:

24 October is celebrated annually, since 1948, to mark the founding of the UN on the principles of justice, peace, equality and human rights as ratified in its charter. In 1945, representatives of 50 countries met in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference on International Organization to draw up the United Nations Charter. The Organization officially came into existence on 24 October 1945, when the Charter had been ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and a majority of other signatories.

The purposes of the United Nations, as set forth in the Charter, are to maintain international peace and security; to develop friendly relations among nations; to cooperate in solving international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems and in promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in attaining these ends.

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