

UNITED NATIONS



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

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WELCOMING REMARKS

INAUGURATION OF THE NEW UNITED NATIONS OFFICES IN MALAYSIA

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UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT COORDINATOR
UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE
FOR MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE & BRUNEI

7 FEBRUARY 2018
3.15 PM
PUTRAJAYA, MALAYSIA

- **Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Anifah Haji Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia,**
- **Mr. Haoliang Xu, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific - representing the UNDP Administrator,**
- **Yang Berbahagia Dato' Seri Ramlan Ibrahim, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
- **Yang Berbahagia Dato' Saiful Anuar, Deputy Director General (Policy), the Economic Planning Unit under the Prime Minister's Department,**
- **Excellencies and Members of the Diplomatic Corps,**
- **Members of the UN Country Team and colleagues from UN agencies,**
- **Our friends from the media,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

A very warm welcome to the new offices of the United Nations system in Malaysia!

And I take this opportunity to convey on behalf of the co-locating agencies of United Nations Country Team, namely UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNU-IIGH and UNCTAD-ASYCUDA, our utmost appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for hosting us here in Menara PJH.

Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, it is a great privilege and honour to have you inaugurate our new premises.

Our heartfelt thanks goes out especially to:

1) The Economic Planning Unit under the Prime Minister's Department – its top Management, led by Director General, Datuk Nik Azman; and the amazing team at EPU's

International Cooperation Section, the Legal Services Section, and Management Services Section;

3) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

4) The Attorney General's Chambers;

5) The management and staff of Putrajaya Holdings and Putrajaya Corporation;

6) Our contractors and project manager;

6) And last, but not least the high-spirited members of our staff;

- all of whom, played their part in a smooth and efficient relocation process, in more ways than one.

- in fact, the time required – less than three months may well be a record and this is due to the close cooperation of the Government and the UN system – thank you!!

With the great view of the Putrajaya Lake and the pink-domed Putra Mosque, directly outside our windows, the ambience is hard to compare and has made our work experience, in this initial two weeks that we have been here, enjoyable and inspiring, even as we explored the fastest routes to get through traffic and new and interesting lunch destinations.

Delivering together on the SDGs

Indeed, co-location of agencies is increasingly more of a requirement as countries around the globe call on the support of the United Nations system in implementing of the SDGs, to ensure the kind of integrated support that is necessary in the era of the 2030 Agenda and UN Reform.

When before, we occupied four floors in Wisma UN in KL and many little coves, we are now on one large floor, in an open office concept. And I can see that this has already begun to positively impact the way we work and interact not only across agencies but also

within our own agencies. The breaking down of physical walls, is definitely a big step toward fulfilling our commitment to deliver together on the SDGs.

Responding to the call by Member States

Being located in the main boulevard of the Federal Government Administrative Centre, close to the heart of policy-making, I see the UN as better positioned to closely collaborate with Government in line with national priorities, international standards and conventions, and commitments made to sustainable development, rights and 'leaving no one behind' as embodied in the transformative global agenda – and bringing to the fore, the voices of our broad range of stakeholders, namely civil society, the private sector, and the vulnerable.

And so, let me now end, by saying a big thank you to each and every one of you for taking time to attend this event to celebrate our partnership and the establishment of our new offices in Putrajaya.