

**ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY TOUR/TRAINING COURSE  
ON PRACTICAL ENFORCEMENT & ON-SITE INVESTIGATIONS FOR  
BHUTAN  
MINISTRY OF TRADE & INDUSTRY OFFICIALS**

**Welcome Speech  
by  
Hajah Rosnani Ibarahim  
Director General of Environment, Malaysia**

Mr. Tandin Tshering  
Regional Director  
& Head of Bhutan Delegation

Distinguished participants from Bhutan,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

As this is dinner time, I will keep my speech short and appetising.

As a starter, let me say that I am pleased to have this opportunity to welcome our friends and colleagues from Bhutan at the beginning of your nine days Environmental Study Tour and Training Course on Practical Enforcement , here in Malaysia.

In our Malaysian language, we say ' Selamat Datang ' and in your mother tongue ' Junpalekso '

We are honored by your choice of Malaysia as your training ground to hone your knowledge and understanding of environmental management and in particular law enforcement , a responsibility we have shouldered over the past 27 years.

As you are all officials from the Ministry of Trade and Industry, our task will be more challenging, more so to convince you that development and environment can be complimentary and not mutually exclusive. Thus your presence here will enable both of us to share views and experiences and consequently benefit from the interaction . For example, we are eager to learn more of your success and good work in nature conservation as Bhutan has been singled out as one of the biodiversity 'hotspots' of the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Environmental management is not straight forward law enforcement work. There are many other elements to consider such that we maintain a balance or equilibrium between development for a better standard of living against an equally important need for conserving the resources upon which development is dependant upon in the first place.

This brings me to the point about ' prevention'. It is more sensible and cheaper in the long run to prevent than to solve problems. Thus I urge you to bear in mind that law enforcement alone will not be enough. In our Malaysian experience, we give a good deal of emphasis to other strategies such as environmental education, raising environmental awareness, fostering commitment, self regulating incentives, EIAs and so on. I hope that in this course you will get a chance to deliberate on these areas.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Capacity building is also an important component of the overall environmental management effort, if not the most important. Without well-trained and dedicated personnel, environmental programmes cannot be executed effectively. Towards this end, Malaysia has established the Environment Institute of Malaysia or EiMAS in short, which is responsible for your training here. You will get a chance to visit this Institute in the later part of your course. I understand that

several field trips have been planned for you, among which is a trip to the sea front and a bird sanctuary in Port Dickson, which have been specially requested for.

I hope the programme we have put together for you will meet your expectations. I wish you a pleasant stay here and that you will carry home with you fond memories of Malaysia. We have a tourist promotion slogan that says, "To Know Malaysia is to Love Malaysia". Hope it will also be true in your case.

Thank you and enjoy your seafood dinner.