

Opening Address at the Thai Malaysian Border Scout Jamboree Songkhla, Thailand, August 26, 2007

Honorable Mrs. P.Komala Devi, Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Malaysia,
Khunying Kasama Varavan Na Ayutthaya, Secretary-General of Basic Education Commission
Governors of Songkhla, Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat, and Satun Provinces,
Directors of Educational Service Areas,
Scout leaders, Boy and girl scouts,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Thai Prime Minister, General Surayud Chulanond, who is unable to join us today owing to a previous commitment, it is a great pleasure for me to join you all in Songkhla for the official opening of the **Thai-Malaysian Border Scout Jamboree 2007**. It is quite overwhelming to see so many young people, from our border provinces, gathered together today in a spirit of warmth and friendship. I am sure all the Thai scouts will join me in giving a very special welcome to the Malaysian scouts and scout leaders from Perak, Perlis, Kelantan, Penang, Kedah, Selangor and Terengganu, who have come to participate in this event.



During our 50 years of diplomatic relations, Thailand and Malaysia have been keen to promote initiatives that recognize the importance of youth as the nation and the region's future. Young people are

our greatest asset, and tapping into their creativity, flexibility and energy can make a meaningful contribution towards strengthening the future relationship between our two countries, and helping us to resolve some of the challenges we currently face.

It is widely accepted that the Scout Movement has a proven track record in bringing out the true potential of young people, keeping scout's promise. The Scout Movement also promotes self-development and social conscience, inspiring young people with a sense of individual and teamwork responsibility, in relation to the family, community, nation, and the world. It does this by cultivating appropriate values and skills which lead to a greater awareness in terms of the impact of personal decisions and the social choices we all make. It is initially established as a means to foster a worldwide brotherhood, which would help those involved in the movement to learn about other peoples and nations without discrimination.

Over the years, opportunities for direct interaction and face to face exchanges have been arranged in the form of joint activities such as camps and jamborees. This has helped members of the World Scout Movement gain a better understanding and appreciation of the diverse cultures and religions of the world. Some of you here today have been lucky enough to participate in a World Scout Jamboree. Maybe some of you even attended

the 20th World Scout Jamboree which took place in Sattahip, Thailand four years ago. If so, you will all agree that it was indeed an extremely valuable experiences to be shared in this Jamboree according to our theme "**Scouting : Road to Borderless Friendship**".

I am sure that the more we can organize and facilitate similar exchanges, the greater our chances of building a strong and lasting tolerance and respect among our young people. This will provide the foundations to ensure a greater peace, human security and prosperity for everyone in the region. This year's Jamboree provides some unique learning experiences and offers a wide range of activities for those attending. It is designed to encourage the development of leadership skills, increase knowledge and promote human values. By this way, we can help to build bridges between our two countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Boy and Girl Scouts,

Finally, I would like to thank all those who have been involved in the organization of this event. My special thanks is given to the Ministry of Education of Malaysia for sending 500 scouts and scout leaders to join this Jamboree. At this auspicious moment, it gives me great pleasure to declare the **2007 Thailand-Malaysia Border Scout Jamboree** open.