



SPEECH

YANG BERTHORMAT

**PEHIN ORANG KAYA PEKERMA LAILA DIRAJA DATO SERI
SETIA AWANG HAJI HAZAIR BIN HAJI ABDULLAH
MINISTER OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS**

‘THE CULTURAL PRESENTATION OF UZBEKISTAN’

MONDAY

14 SYAWAL 1432 / 12 SEPTEMBER 2011

8.00PM

DEWAN DIGADONG,

MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS

Please Check Against Delivery

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim.

Alhamdulillah Rabbil 'Alamin, Wassalatu Wassalamu 'Ala Assrafil

Mursalin Saidina Muhammadin Wa'ala Alihi Wasahbihi Ajma'in.

His Excellency

Mr. Akhmedov Bakhodir Majidovich

Deputy Minister of Culture and Sports

Republic of Uzbekistan

His Excellency

Dr. Sabitov Shukur

Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Brunei Darussalam

Your Excellencies

High Commissioners and Ambassadors of Foreign Missions in Brunei
Darussalam

Yang Mulia

Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd Hamid bin Haji Mohd Ja'afar

Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Brunei
Darussalam

Senior Government Officials of Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports;

Senior Government Officials of Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of
Uzbekistan,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and a very good evening.

First and foremost, on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam may I extend a warm welcome to his Excellency Akhmedov Bakhodir Majidovich, the Deputy Minister of Culture and Sports of the Republic of Uzbekistan and his delegation to Brunei Darussalam.

In particular, I most happy to be able to reciprocate in a small way without having to wait too long your warm welcome and kind hospitality during my visit to Uzbekistan three weeks ago in the month of Ramadhan upon invitation from His Excellency, Tursunali Kusiev, Minister of Culture and Sports Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It was a memorable and rewarding visit in Samarkand and Tashkent, especially to the very important Islamic and historical monuments.

The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports supports any incentive towards celebrating and strengthening the bilateral relations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and Negara Brunei Darussalam.

Also, I am pleased to be present at this evening's auspicious occasion in welcoming the first time ever of a cultural troupe from the Republic of Uzbekistan to Brunei Darussalam. Tonight's showcase not only marks the first cultural cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Uzbekistan, but it also symbolizes the manifestation of our unity of purpose with the aim of cultivating close friendship amongst our people through culture.

I have been informed that after tonight's performance that there will be a second performance which will be opened to the general public on the afternoon of 13 September 2011 at The Mall, Gadong. This will give a better opportunity for the people of Brunei Darussalam to enjoy the performances from the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Culture represents the cradle of civilization. It reflects upon the social changes throughout the course of history. At the same time culture is the mirror to our past, and it is also a vital element in the shaping of our future. Understanding each other through culture is one of the keys to accept, respect, establish and maintain cordial relations pertaining towards the peace and prosperity between peoples.

The first ever cultural event of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Brunei Darussalam will not only enrich our understanding of Uzbekistan, but it also represents a valuable opportunity to further organise broader programmes for the inclusion of concerts, arts and handicrafts exhibitions and other areas in the cultural and art fields.

The United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) have stated that it is the basic human right for every community to have their basic rights in culture and the arts, and it should be nurtured and protected because culture is the source to a country's image and towards shaping the principles of its people. Therefore, it is important that the appreciation for our culture be instilled and fortified amongst our

people, so that our civilizations shall remain distinguished in the globalized world.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Uzbekistan enjoy cordial diplomatic relations since the Republic of Uzbekistan gained her independence in December 1991.

As a demonstration of Brunei's commitment to increasing bilateral ties between our two countries, this year also marks the first time Brunei Darussalam participated in one of the biggest festivals in Asia: The VIII International Music Festival "Sharq Taronalari" (Melodies of the Orient) held from 25-30 August 2011, under the 'Best Performance of a National Song' category.

It is my sincere hope that we can work together to develop and promote comprehensive collaboration between the Republic of Uzbekistan and Brunei Darussalam not just in the field of culture but also in the areas of youth and sports, which will spearhead to a more wider cooperation such as economy, trade and tourism.

May I take this opportunity to express my appreciation on the participation of cyclists from Uzbekistan during the recent Butra HeidelbergCement Tour de Brunei which ended yesterday. This was the first mileage of our cooperation in sports, which can be further developed.

Brunei Darussalam lauds Uzbekistan's efforts in hosting the festival for the eighth consecutive year as it is aimed at promoting culture of peace and

intercultural dialogue, preserving cultural diversity, supporting creativity as well as safeguarding traditional musical heritage of humanity for future generations.

Uzbekistan, being the most populous country in Central Asia with a population of 28.1 million, is well-known for its vibrant history, cultural diversity and vitality of its people. Uzbekistan music and crafts are a manifestation of all these values. I have been informed that the cultural shows staged here in Brunei Darussalam represent not only the variety of music of the people of Uzbekistan, but also the traditional skill of their craftsmen which will both showcase a part of the Uzbekistan cultural experience.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to welcome the cultural troupe from the Republic of Uzbekistan to Brunei Darussalam. Your performances, as well as your presence here will not only be enjoyed, valued and remembered fondly by the local people of Brunei Darussalam for a long time, but I sincerely hope that you will take this opportunity to experience, understand and appreciate the diversity and vitality of Brunei Darussalam as well.

THANK YOU

WABILLAHIT TAUFIQ WALHIDAYAH, WASSALAMU'ALAIKUM
WARAHMATULLAHI WABARAKATUH.