

M'sia needs diplomats who can adapt fast to global events

By Ferida Abdul Kudhus

Kuala Lumpur, Mon: The government needs more diplomatic officers who can adapt to rapidly changing global events.

These officers should be able to respond swiftly and successfully to new and demanding situations.

Foreign Ministry deputy secretary-general (I) Datuk Abdul Halim Ali said this after giving out certificates to 20 administrative and diplomatic service (PTD) officers assigned to Wisma Putra and the PM's Department.

The officers completed a four-month programme for PTD officers at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations.

Halim said their job demands a lot but gives back just as much in terms of job satisfaction and international exposure.

Institute director-general Datuk Ghazzali Sheikh Abdul Kadir said the course provided the participants with the knowledge

of and basic operating skills in diplomacy and international relations.

This will help the officers to prepare themselves for immediate adjustment required in their work environment and to face the challenges in their career in the foreign service.

Madzli Tasrin Mohamad, 28, a British graduate in economics, joined the civil service despite hearing many unpleasant things about it.

He felt that he can contribute towards the upgrading of the government services by being a good worker. By doing so, he hopes to dispel the public's misconceptions about the civil service.

Madzli, who is married and has two children, said he is used to moving to new places as his father was a teacher. Thus he feels that he will not have any problem going abroad.

Sharrina Abdullah, 24, a psychology graduate, said it has been her ambition to join the foreign service.



Madzli and Sharrina with their certificates. - SUNpix by WAN ANUAR WAN JUSOH

The course, she added, taught her how to mix with various levels of people from all over the world,

learn their cultures and histories.

Sharrina aspires to be an ambassador.