

12th Melaka International Youth Dialogue

“Health, It’s My Right!”

Opening Ceremony Introduction Speech by

Ms. Ediola Pashollari

Thank you Mr. Speaker...

YAB Datuk Seri Mohd Ali bin Mohd Rustam, Chief Minister of Melaka

Datuk Datuk, Dati Datin,

Hon. Datuk Wira Ir. Idris Haron, President of WAY,

Representatives of WAY member organizations,

Honourable Chief Guests,

Special Guests, Head of Missions, Dignitaries,

Distinguished Participants from home and abroad,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to yet another life changing programme by WAY, the 12th Melaka International Youth Dialogue. Today I assume as a privilege and a right to introduce to you the theme for this year, **Health, It’s My Right!** The planning of this event has been long lived, with the secretariat working night and day to make it a success via the meet of the objectives. I would like to extend my appreciation for all the organizers and sponsors who had the passion to make his event worthwhile.

It is my honour and pleasure to thank the entire special guests especially the presence of the honourable Chief Minister, ambassadors, and members of parliament for taking time from their busy schedules to grace us with their wonderful presence. I also appreciate the head of the delegations and the delegates from abroad to have come to attend this dialogue. Your valued participation has tremendously increased the importance of this dialogue.

For the past 11 years, we have discussed diverse youth issues, such as unemployment, youth participation in decision making, youth and globalisation, human capital development and many more. We have been working closely with

National youth councils and youth organisations to the service of youth and administering purpose in every region.

This year we are back with more vivacity, passion and commitment to employ efforts towards the chosen theme to alleviate the youth from the burdens of gaps caused by its catastrophe. We aim to undertake all the objectives of this dialogue so as to change the preconceived notions on health by raising an informative generation who will foster youth action towards implementation of ideas brought forward in this event. It is our heart's concern to also involve other sectors and prominent figures in the society to advice and dialogue with the youth hence bringing forth mutual understanding, cooperation and positive mental transitions.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen the global community has long recognized the need for international collaboration and governance to contain the spread of infectious diseases. This has necessitated the formation of this dialogue to promote international work towards health. The organisers of the MIYD have provided a world platform to allow diverse youth, and world leaders to convene on matters of such calibre.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have gathered here youth and youth leaders from all over the world. It gives me great pleasure to know that we have more than 50 countries from all continents represented in this dialogue with 200 participants. Since the inception of the MIYD, WAY has gathered more than 2000 participants from 200 countries. These are the very people whom the world is awaiting for the improvement and fulfilment of lucid development policies of nations.

It is their right to speak, collectively discern and mutually agree on terms and conditions that would better work for them with reference to health. Education is the right of everyone, which makes it pertinent for the youth need to be informed, in a generation where we are losing millions of people due to lack of knowledge on good health, incurable diseases and inadequate health facilities to cater for the needs of everyone.

WAY recognised the need to strategize this event in the pleasure of achieving our Plan of Action towards the Millennium Development Goals for 2015; the organization has obliged to fight together with the world to improve our health care systems. WAY

plans to raise awareness among young people and produce publication of the dangers and disastrous impact of both non communicable and communicable diseases. The organization will also reduce by 10 % the death rate resulting from HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases, encourage all members to organise programs to combat the causes of deadly diseases and create and fund facilities for young people. Pertaining maternal health, our aim is to provide medical assistance to young mothers to help reduce the mortality ratio by 10%, and to lessen unsafe motherhood.

That is why today I am grateful that we have a number of speakers, scholars and professionals with ample knowledge to equip us all especially the youth hence a transformed paradigm and a chance to take responsibility for one's own life. This dialogue is packed with different topics to tackle, from psychosomatic health, spiritual, and social to economic health.

Education in all spheres will be dispersed. So I implore all the youth present here today to really get themselves involved throughout the dialogue and immerse themselves in intense participation, learning and sharing of ideas. Your suggestions are welcome to influence world policies. Take advantage of this opportunity to network and build international relations with other youth from different backgrounds to promote international unity, cooperation and strategic alliance towards building a healthy sustainable environment.

Thank you for your participation I believe we are going to have a rewarding and refreshing time.

I wish us a fruitful dialogue.