

**SPEECH BY RT. HON. DATUK SERI MOHD ALI BIN MOHD RUSTAM  
PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH AND CHIEF MINISTER OF MELAKA**

**AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE  
10<sup>TH</sup> MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE**

**“YOUTH LEADERSHIP POWER AND ITS INFLUENCE TO THE SOCIETY”**

**THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2010 AT 1400 HRS**

**MELAKA**

Ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all participants to the 10th Melaka International Youth Dialogue. We are delighted to have you here to participate in this significant event.

Thank you for coming and many of you have travel long distances and that serves to remind us all just how important our work is. The annual event is organized by the World Assembly of Youth in collaboration with the Melaka State Government, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Asian Youth Council and the Malaysian Youth Council.

World Assembly of Youth is committed to actively raising the quality of life for every youth. We want all our youth, regardless of race, creed or circumstances to achieve their full potential. Our task is to make it possible! Our mission is to provide practical, step by step assistance. MIYD aims to develop skills, competencies and sense of responsibility for us (the youth) to become successful leaders in the future.

This year's theme "**YOUTH LEADERSHIP POWER AND ITS INFLUENCE TO THE SOCIETY**" is of utmost importance as we recognize more and more the need to get the youth involved in leadership. As they are given that freedom to lead other youths they will without a shadow of a doubt influence the society at large.

As we are all aware they have been enough negative empowerment given to our youth that has led to their early destruction and bringing a negative influence on their societies, we can help to change that state of affairs.

This is a youth event organized by the youth for the youth. We want you to enjoy yourselves while you are engaging in serious conversations about the issues in this dialogue. Make new acquaintances and renew friendship within the global youth community that is present here

Thanks to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights we are aware of 'rights' in many spheres, including leadership empowerment of our youth.

We are honored to have different speakers, youth ministers, youth leaders and youth organizations with us today. The results of these collaborations shall speak for themselves. All of them brought their passion and knowledge of how to reach and influence those in our communities through our youth who are frequently overlooked or bypassed.

We want our endeavor here to help bridge gaps that were deep dark chasms. In a few days, a celebration will emerge with a powerful voice of youth unified and empowered.

**PREPARE YOURSELF TO BE CHALLENGED, EXCITED AND INSPIRED!**

The next few days, we are going to talk about an important principle which is leadership. The youth have the potential to inspire and make a difference and have the power to guide others.

It is our duty as youth leaders and youth of today to take advantage of all the opportunities that we can get to develop ourselves and gain more knowledge and

help gear other youth towards leadership. I would like to believe that everyone in this room is destined for something greater than themselves.

That is why I would like to encourage everyone to take into heart all of the things you will hear and learn. May those thoughts and suggestion help you realize what you are capable of, and the many things that you can make a difference in your own way.

As the saying goes “a thousand mile journey begins with a step”. May your efforts to be here right now be a step forward into realizing your goals. And may it be a step up as well for you to take the challenge for you to be the leader you are meant to be!

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all involved in helping us gather here today for this exciting event. There are many cultural diversity presented here today and yet we all have the same need: to be heard and given the opportunity to change our world and influence the society.

I wish you fruitful deliberations and great success in the outcome of this conference.

Thank you for your kind attention.