

**SPEECH BY
DONALD T. CHARUMBIRA
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH**

**AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE
6TH MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE
SUNDAY 18TH JUNE 2006 AT 2000HRS**

WATER CITY RESORT, AYER KEROH, MELAKA

Rt. Hon. Datuk Seri Hj Mohd Ali bin Mohd Rustam, Chief Minister of Melaka and President of the World Assembly of Youth

Honourable Pohamba Shifeta, Deputy Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, Republic of Namibia, also Executive Committee Member of the World Assembly of Youth,

Honourable Datuk R. Raghavan, State Executive Councillor for Youth and Sports,

Hon. Datuk Idriss Harun, President of the Melaka State Youth Council

Mr. Sobri Ahmad, Vice President of the Malaysian Youth Council

WAY Executive Committee Members,
Representatives of WAY member organisations,

Invited Guests,

Melaka International Youth Dialogue participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

1. On behalf of the organising committee, and the World Assembly of Youth, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all participants and guests who are gathered here to attend the 6th Melaka International Youth Dialogue.

2. This is indeed an historic occasion, which marks the sixth time that this event has brought together young people and youth leaders from around the world, converging on the historic city of Melaka, to deliberate on futuristic issues of international importance.

3. Melaka has become a home for the world's youth, and it continues to play a big role in global youth development. For those of you who are here for the first time, I am certain that you will enjoy your stay in Melaka and feel rejuvenated when you return to your countries.

4. This year, the theme of the Melaka International Youth Dialogue is *Developing Human Capital*. The topic was selected in line with WAY's determination to find value in every human being. It is our belief that every person has value to add to the world. We believe that people are

the world's greatest resource, and should therefore be utilised to make the world a more prosperous, peaceful and equitable place for all mankind.

5. The Rt Hon Chief Minister of Melaka has been one of the leading lights in term of the issue of Human Capital Development. The Chief Minister introduced a concept entitled 3K plus One, modelled around the ideas of the Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Rt Hon Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. The three Ks are Malay words which stand for critical elements that need to be developed to enhance human capital.

6. The first K is for KEPIMPINAN, means leadership. Leadership skills are critical in order to ensure that our progress and development is guided by principled, committed and excellent leadership that sets the right direction and strategies for our advancement.

7. The second K is for KEMAHIRAN, which means skills. This includes all kinds of technical skills that are essential for productivity, innovation and industrial development to take place.

8. The third K is for KEUSAHAWAN, which means entrepreneurship. It is essential for young people to see themselves as employers, creators of wealth and value adders, than as mere employees. Entrepreneurship is an important element in achieving a paradigm shift in human development.

9. These were the original 3Ks, but the Chief Minister added one extra. This is a K for KESUKARELAAN which means volunteerism. In this globalising world, we often forget that service to humanity is the best work of life. It is important for us to remember that all our deeds are aimed at a larger service towards our communities, countries and the world at large. This K therefore reiterates the need for human capital to be aware of its social role in nation-building and international cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

10. The question of human capital development is one which is important to young people, as it is the youth that have the greatest potential to become valuable national assets if they undergo proper training and development.

11. I believe that during this Dialogue we shall have fruitful and interesting discussion and debate that will increase our understanding and appreciation of the various dimensions of human capital development.

12. I would like to convey our appreciation to various entities that have assisted us to make this Dialogue possible. Thank you to:

- Melaka State Government
- Ministry of Youth and Sports Malaysia

- Malaysian Youth Council
- Melaka State Youth Council
- Asian Youth Council
- Council for ASEAN Youth Cooperation
- Malayan Banking Berhad
- Proton
- Royal Malaysian Police
- Melaka ICT Holdings
- Yayasan Melaka
- Kuala Lumpur International Airport
- Kolej Universiti Teknikal Kebangsaan Malaysia
- PKNM and
- last but not least, our hotel, the Water City Resort
- Also thanks to all committee members and volunteers

We thank you all for your support.

12. I sincerely hope that you shall enjoy your stay in Melaka, and that you will be pleased with everything that we have prepared for you.

I thank you.