



WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH

REPORT

ON THE 7TH MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE

"YOUTH AND TOURISM"

25 - 27 JUNE 2007

**MITC HOTEL,
MELAKA, MALAYSIA**

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1 BACKGROUND

The 7th Melaka International Youth Dialogue was held from 25 to 27 June at the MITC Hotel, Ayer Keroh, Melaka, Malaysia.

The Melaka International Youth Dialogue (MIYD) is an annual programme organised by the World Assembly of Youth (WAY), which brings together young people and youth leaders from around the world to discuss pertinent and topical issues. Since 2001, the MIYD has been convened on a wide range of themes including globalisation, youth employment, youth and ICTs, youth participation in decision-making processes, strengthening national youth councils for global development and human capital development. More than 1,500 young people have attended the MIYD since its inception. Each MIYD produces a declaration which serves as a guideline for youth to address the selected issues in the own communities, countries and regions.

Organisers

The 7th MIYD was organised by the World Assembly of Youth in collaboration with the Malaysian Youth Council, Asian Youth Council, Melaka State Government and the Ministry of Youth and Sports (Malaysia).

MIYD 2007 Theme

The theme selected for MIYD 2007 was *Youth and Tourism*. This theme was selected in realisation of the vast opportunities available to young people in the tourism sector. Tourism is the fastest-growing business sector in the world. This theme also coincided with the launch of academic programmes in tourism management by WAY's World Youth Institute.

Objectives

The objectives of MIYD 2007 were:

- To identify opportunities for youth in the tourism sector;
- To outline strategies for youth to tap on the opportunities;
- To provide a platform for sharing of knowledge and experiences in tourism;
- To develop the capacities of participants to start and run viable tourism ventures;

- To discuss the role of governments, NGOs and the private sector in assisting youth to enter the tourism business;
- To develop skills in participants and enable them to positively harness their talents and business acumen; and
- To encourage networking, collaboration and cooperation amongst participating delegates and organisations

Participants

A total of 180 participants drawn from 38 countries attended this edition of the MIYD.

Dignitaries

Several dignitaries attended the 7th MIYD including:

Hon Datuk Liow Tiong Lai, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, Malaysia

Hon Datuk R. Raghavan, State Executive Councillor for Youth & Sports, Melaka

Honourable Saviour Kasukuwere, Deputy Minister of Youth Development and Employment Creation, Zimbabwe

Honourable Pohamba Shifeta, Deputy Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, Namibia

Honourable Moamar Al-Eryani, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, Yemen

Honourable Patrick Zhuwao, Deputy Minister of Science and Technology Development, Zimbabwe

Honourable Dr Edwin Muguti, Deputy Minister of Health and Child Welfare, Zimbabwe

Yang Mulia Dato' Raja Ruslan bin Raja Samah, Director of the International Youth Centre, Kuala Lumpur

Mr Norizan Shariff, Secretary General of the Asian Youth Council

2 PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

The following countries participated in the 7th MIYD:

1	Albania
2	Armenia
3	Australia
4	Bosnia
5	Brunei
6	Cameroon
7	Canada
8	Ethiopia
9	Fiji
10	Gambia
11	Ghana
12	Hong Kong
13	Indonesia
14	Kenya
15	Korea
16	Libya
17	Malaysia
18	Maldives
19	Mauritius

20	Namibia
21	Nepal
22	Nigeria
23	Pakistan
24	Papua New Guinea
25	Peru
26	Philippines
27	Sierra Leone
28	South Africa
29	Sudan
30	Thailand
31	Trinidad & Tobago
32	Tunisia
33	Uganda
34	United Arab Emirates
35	United Kingdom
36	United States of America
37	Yemen
38	Zimbabwe

3 SPEAKERS

The following were the key speakers during the 7th MIYD, and the respective titles of their papers:

NAME	PAPER TITLE
Honourable Datuk Liow Tiong Lai, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, Malaysia	<i>Official Opening Address</i>
Honourable Saviour Kasukuwere Deputy Minister of Youth Development and Employment Creation, Zimbabwe	<i>Tourism and Opportunities to Create Employment for Youth</i>
Honourable Pohamba Shifeta Deputy Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, Namibia	<i>Sport and Cultural Tourism and Opportunities Available to Youth</i>
Mr Norizan Shariff Executive Secretary Asian Youth Council	<i>Youth and Tourism: Implications for Asian Youth</i>
Mr Khaidir bin Jamal President, Negeri Sembilan State Youth Council, Malaysia	<i>Think Tourism Through Youth Tourism</i>
Suryati Abdul Shukr, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Universiti Utara Malaysia	<i>Workshop Facilitator</i>
Mr Ahmed Edwin Mohamed, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Universiti Utara Malaysia	<i>Workshop Facilitator</i>

4 PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

DATE	TIME	AGENDA ITEM	VENUE
24 June	All day	Arrivals	Kuala Lumpur International Airport
	2000hrs	Dinner	MITC Hotel
25 June	0800hrs	Breakfast	MITC Hotel
	0900hrs	Opening Ceremony	MITC Hotel
	1030hrs	Tea Break	MITC Hotel
	1100hrs	Plenary Session 1: Opportunities in the Global Tourism Sector	MITC Hotel
	1300hrs	Lunch	MITC Hotel
	1400hrs	Plenary Session 2: Enabling youth to venture into tourism	MITC Hotel
	1530hrs	Tea Break	MITC Hotel
	1600hrs	Plenary Session 3: Preparation for Workshop Groups	MITC Hotel
	1700hrs	Break	MITC Hotel
	1900hrs	Dinner hosted by the Melaka State Government	Mini Malaysia Garden
26 June	0800hrs	Breakfast	MITC Hotel
	0900hrs	Workshops: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nature-based tourism 2. Cultural tourism 3. Educational tourism 4. MICE tourism 5. Health tourism 6. Family and honeymoon tourism 7. Non-traditional tourism 	MITC Hotel
	1030hrs	Tea Break	MITC Hotel
	1100hrs	Workshops continued	MITC Hotel
	1300hrs	Lunch	MITC Hotel
	1400hrs	Workshops continued	MITC Hotel
	1530hrs	Tea Break	MITC Hotel
	1600hrs	Plenary Session 4: Feedback from Workshops	MITC Hotel
	1730hrs	Break	MITC Hotel

	1900hrs	Dinner hosted by the WAY President	Chief Ministers' Residence
	2300hrs	Drafting Committee Meeting	MITC Hotel
27 June	0800hrs	Breakfast	MITC Hotel
	0900hrs	Plenary Session 5: Discussion and Adoption of MIYD 2007 Declaration	MITC Hotel
	1030hrs	Tea Break	MITC Hotel
	1100hrs	Tour of Homestay Programmes in Melaka	Masjid Tanah
	1300hrs	Lunch	MITC Hotel
	1400hrs	Tour of Melaka	MITC Hotel
	1700hrs	Break	MITC Hotel
	1900hrs	Gala Dinner	MITC Hotel
28 June	All day	Departures	Melaka to KL International Airport

5 MESSAGES

MESSAGE FROM THE RIGHT HONOURABLE DATUK SERI ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI, PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA

It gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all participants attending the 7th Melaka International Youth Dialogue.

This Dialogue is taking place during the auspicious occasion of Visit Malaysia Year, in which the nation is celebrating 50 years of independence. We have extended a warm invitation for the world to visit Malaysia and to join us in celebrating the many successes that we have enjoyed as a nation, as well as to sample the numerous offerings that we have for tourists.

The contribution of tourism to any nation is indispensable. Not only does the tourism sector employ a large proportion of the workforce in Malaysia and elsewhere, but tourism also constitutes a significant proportion of the Gross Domestic Product.

Tourism also increases understanding amongst the various peoples of the world. It bridges divides and can be a proponent of peace.

I am therefore pleased to learn that the theme of the 7th Melaka International Youth Dialogue is on youth and the tourism sector. Young people, with their boundless enthusiasm and vibrancy, are the life blood of the tourism sector.

Congratulations are extended to the World Assembly of Youth for convening this annual Dialogue for the seventh time.

I wish you every success in this Dialogue, and that it will yield fruitful discussion and debate, resulting in a deepening of knowledge and understanding in all the participants. I also hope that all participants, in particular those from overseas, will have the opportunity to experience the various tourism products that Malaysia has to offer.

With best wishes,

**MESSAGE FROM THE HON DATUK AZALINA OTHMAN SAID,
MINISTER OF YOUTH AND SPORTS, MALAYSIA**

A warm welcome to all participants attending the 7th Melaka International Youth Dialogue!

The Ministry of Youth and Sports is pleased to be a partner in this Dialogue, organised by the World Assembly of Youth, which has become one of the key international youth programmes hosted in Malaysia on an annual basis.

This particular edition of the Dialogue is taking place in Malaysia's 50th year of independence, in which we have extended an invitation for the world to join us in our Golden celebrations.

The theme of Youth and Tourism is welcome and fitting the spirit prevailing in the country, as well as the international boom in the tourism industry.

Through the tourism sector, youth can find employment and recreation. Sports tourism, in particular, inculcates positive values in the youth and also keeps youth engaged in productive activities. We have all seen how occasions such as the Olympics have inspired mankind and encouraged young people to pursue positive goals.

I believe that this Dialogue will be an opportune time for participants to exchange views as well as to enjoy the various tourism offerings that can be found throughout Malaysia.

I wish you success in your deliberations.

MESSAGE FROM THE RIGHT HONOURABLE DATUK SERI HJ MOHD ALI BIN MOHD RUSTAM, CHIEF MINISTER OF MELAKA AND PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH

Selamat datang ke Melaka, a warm welcome to Melaka, Malaysia!

I am pleased to welcome all participants to the 7th Melaka International Youth Dialogue, the annual event organised 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.

The Melaka International Youth Dialogue (MIYD) provides a platform for youth to network, exchange views and also deliberate on key thematic issues.

The theme selected for the 7th MIYD is *Youth and Tourism*. This theme was selected in the realisation that tourism has a significant role to play in terms of creating employment for youth, as well as providing a vocation and form of recreation.

Tourism has been described as the fastest-growing business sector in the world. Due to the advancements in global travel and communications, the tourism industry has been experiencing phenomenal growth worldwide. Places that used to be perceived as remote and inaccessible are now becoming popular tourist centres.

Through this dialogue, participants will be able to obtain more information on the opportunities available for them in the tourism sector. There will also be some opportunities for excursions to some tourism products in Melaka, which I hope will be enjoyable learning experience for MIYD participants.

As this MIYD is also taking place during Visit Malaysia Year, I would like to thank all participants for joining Malaysia in the celebration of 50 years of independence and nationhood. You may also be pleased to know that the proclamation of Malaysia's independence was done in Melaka in August 1957!

I do hope you have a pleasant stay in Melaka and in Malaysia, and that you return to your homes with cherished memories.

Selamat berdialog, have a pleasant Dialogue!

MESSAGE FROM THE RIGHT HONOURABLE DATO' SERI MOHD KHIR BIN TOYO, PRESIDENT OF THE ASIAN YOUTH COUNCIL

A warm welcome to all participants at the 7th Melaka International Youth Dialogue!

I am pleased to note that this dialogue is taking place for the seventh time, and continues to draw participants from all corners of the world to engage in constructive debate and discussion.

The MIYD has evolved to become one of the principal platforms for the world's youth to meet regularly and address pertinent global issues. Organised by the World Assembly of Youth, the MIYD also incorporates partners such as the Asian Youth Council and the Malaysian Youth Council.

The theme of this year's Dialogue - Youth and Tourism - is in line with the global developments in the tourism sector, as well as with the current celebrations of 50 years of independence of Malaysia.

Indeed, 2007 is Visit Malaysia Year, and is an opportune time for tourists to visit the country and experience some of the numerous tourism products that Malaysia has to offer.

The Asian region as a whole is currently experiencing a tremendous boom in the tourism sector. Tourists are attracted by the vast array of natural as well as man-made wonders in Asia, as well as the relatively low cost of travel, food and accommodation in this region.

The Asian Youth Council is therefore cognisant of the important role played by tourism in Asian economies, as well as in terms of social development.

I am sure that the Dialogue will provide ample opportunities for deliberations on the role that tourism can play to enhance the economic and social lives of youth, and to make the world a better place.

Best regards,

**MESSAGE FROM DATUK SHAMSUL ANNUAR NASARAR, PRESIDENT
OF THE MALAYSIAN YOUTH COUNCIL,**

On behalf of the Malaysian Youth Council, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all participants attending the 7th Melaka International Youth Dialogue.

It is indeed a great honour to host international visitors, such as yourselves, during the Visit Malaysia Year 2007, which is a celebration of 50 years of Malaysia's independence.

The Malaysian Youth Council joins the other institutions in the country to commemorate the advances that the nation has made since its 1957 independence. As with most other developing countries, Malaysia has been travelling a journey towards achieving developed status and providing a better quality of life to its population.

Fifty years after the proclamation of independence, Malaysia has made huge strides in terms of economic, social and political advancement.

As the theme of the 7th Melaka International Youth Dialogue is Youth and Tourism, this will provide the opportunity for all participants to experience Malaysia's culture and heritage, as well as its tourism facilities.

I hope that you all enjoy your stay in Melaka, and that you will also take time to visit other places around the country.

**MESSAGE FROM DONALD TINOTENDA CHARUMBIRA, SECRETARY
GENERAL OF THE WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH AND CHAIRMAN OF
THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

Selamat datang!
Bienvenue!
Benvenuto!
Boa vinda!
Recepción!
Tigashire!
Welkom!
Willkommen!
Welcome!

On behalf of the Organising Committee, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all participants attending the 7th Melaka International Youth Dialogue.

The theme that was selected by the Executive Committee of the World Assembly of Youth (WAY) for this dialogue is Youth and Tourism, in the realisation of the major role that tourism plays in the lives of young people. Tourism is both a creator of employment and a means of entertainment and recreation. At the macro level, tourism makes a significant contribution to any nation's economy.

We do hope that you will find this dialogue stimulating, educative, entertaining and empowering.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those that have contributed towards the successful convening of the dialogue including the Melaka State Government, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Asian Youth Council and Malaysian Youth Council, and the private sector.

Thanks are also extended to all staff and volunteers serving in the various committees of the MIYD.

Have a successful Dialogue!

5 DECLARATION

7TH MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE

"YOUTH AND TOURISM"

DECLARATION

1 PREAMBLE

- 1.1 We, the 180 delegates from 38 countries have participated in the 7th Melaka International Youth Dialogue (MIYD) convened in Melaka from 25-27 June 2007. The MIYD is an annual programme organised by the World Assembly of Youth (WAY), which brings together young people and youth leaders from around the world to discuss pertinent and topical issues.
- 1.2 The theme selected for MIYD 2007 is Youth and Tourism. This theme was selected in the realisation that tourism has a significant role to play in terms of creating employment for youth, as well as providing a vocation and a form of recreation. Thus vast opportunities are available to young people in the tourism industry as the fastest-growing business sector in the world. The 7th MIYD has therefore considered the opportunities available for the youth in the tourism sector, and outlined strategies to encourage and enable youth to benefit from the lucrative sector.
- 1.3 The 7th MIYD has therefore considered the opportunities available for youth in the tourism sector, and outlined strategies to encourage and enable youth to benefit from the lucrative sector.
- 1.4 After thorough deliberations through plenary sessions, workshops and side events we, the participants at the MIYD on Youth and Tourism have put together this document with the following recommendations that we strongly feel ought to be implemented to enable youth to effectively participate and benefit from the tourism industry.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Nature Based Tourism

- 2.1.1 Develop youth policies and laws to enhance youth participation in the tourism sector

- 2.1.2 Create an enabling environment for youth participation in the tourism sector
- 2.1.3 Establish credit schemes to provide soft loans for youth who are already in the industry and upcoming tourism industry players.

2.2 Cultural tourism

- 2.2.1 Youth are encouraged to focus more on cultural authenticity and sustainability more than profit making.
- 2.2.2 Youth should be encouraged to get formal or informal education before venturing in to this field
- 2.2.3 Industry captains should not overshadow and kill upcoming and potential youth in tourism industry players
- 2.2.4 Renowned players in the tourism industry should play a social responsibility in the form of mentorship to upcoming companies.

2.3 Educational tourism

- 2.3.1 Need to bridge the language barriers
- 2.3.2 Advocate for political stability
- 2.3.3 Flexible immigration rules and regulations
- 2.3.4 Need to develop youth friendly packages

2.4 M.I.C.E. Tourism

- 2.4.1 Provide experts to co-ordinate mice tourism skills and knowledge
- 2.4.2 Upgrade facilities to mice tourism with the latest technology in order to cater for all participants in line with globalization
- 2.4.3 Give incentives to youth as a way of motivating them to penetrate them MICE Tourism
- 2.4.4 Lack of infrastructural facilities and capacities to explore in the tourism industry.

2.5 Health tourism

- 2.5.1 Indigenous remedies overshadowed by western ways of healing.
- 2.5.2 Youth ought to be encouraged to learn the skills from their elders who are knowledgeable on the traditional remedies.
- 2.5.3 There is need for further research into traditional remedies.
- 2.5.4 Need for aggressive marketing of health tourism.

2.6 Non traditional tourism

- 2.6.1 Governments, NGOs and the private sector ought to be convinced of the integrity of young people intentions.
- 2.6.2 Environment not conducive for Youth in tourism due to lack of trust and marginalisation.

2.7 Honeymooners and Family

- 2.7.1 Make information on franchise deals readily available
- 2.7.2 Flexible and affordable packages for honeymooners.
- 2.7.3 Encouragement of holiday homes since they create a home way from home experiences.

3 GENERAL COMMENTS

- 3.1 Advocating and lobbying for the elimination of bureaucratic red tape and systems at all levels of development which can hinder exploration of youth in the tourism sector.
- 3.2 Ensure youth participation is actively sought and maximised within the tourism industry.
- 3.3 Need to develop the capacities of youth to start and run viable tourism ventures with the assistance of governments and NGO's and the private sector.
- 3.4 Through the tourism sector youth can find employment and recreation thus incorporating positive value in youth.
- 3.5 Young people with their boundless enthusiasm and vibrancy are the life blood of the tourism sector.
- 3.6 Enhance development capabilities through dialogues and trainings which will motivate, build confidence and encourage risk taking amongst the youth.
- 3.7 Encourage global peace and youth friendly policies to be incorporated into the UNWTO plan of action for sustainable tourism.
- 3.8 Condemn the use of international media as a means of false propaganda to deter tourists from visiting nations that are unfairly cast as unsafe, unstable or not recommended for tourism
- 3.9 Call for stern action to curb child sexual abuse and human trafficking
- 3.10 Encourage tourism between developing nations in the spirit of south-south cooperation

- 3.11 Call for the enforcement of the right of rebuttal of every state to negative publicity, especially that which is not factual
- 3.12 Condemn occupation, wars, destruction of infrastructure and other forms of aggression by the Super Powers, designed to disturb peace and stability of weaker nations

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 We the participants of the 7th MIYD have realised the major role that tourism plays in the lives of young people, hence the need to create youth forums for lobbying and advocating at all levels of development.

6 SPEECHES

SPEECH

**BY THE HONOURABLE DATUK LIOW TIONG LAI, DEPUTY MINISTER
OF YOUTH AND SPORTS, MALAYSIA
AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE
7TH MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE
MONDAY 25 JUNE 2007
MITC HOTEL, MELAKA**

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

Honourable Saviour Kasukuwere
Deputy Minister of Youth Development and Employment Creation, Republic
of Zimbabwe

Honourable Pohamba Shifeta
Deputy Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, Republic of
Namibia

Honourable Moamar Al-Eryani, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports,
Republic of Yemen

Honourable Patrick Zhuwao, Deputy Minister of Science and Technology
Development, Zimbabwe

Honourable Dr Edwin Muguti, Deputy Minister of Health and Child Welfare,
Zimbabwe

Yang Mulia Dato' Raja Ruslan bin Raja Samah, Director of the International
Youth Centre, Kuala Lumpur

Mr. Donald Charumbira
Secretary General of the World Assembly of Youth

Mr Nundkeswarsing Bossoondyal, Vice President of the World Assembly of
Youth

Mr Ernesto Kesar, Vice President of the World Assembly of Youth

Mr Norizan Shariff, Secretary General of the Asian Youth Council
Mr Khider Ahmen Musa, President of the National Federation of Sudanese Youth

Government Officials

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Executive Committee Members of the World Assembly of Youth

Youth Leaders from around the World

Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to officiate at this opening ceremony of the 7th Melaka International Youth Dialogue.

It is indeed a pleasure for me to see such a diversity of faces, representing all corners of the world, gathered to further the cause of youth development in the world.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports is delighted to be a partner in this event, one of the annual youth programmes organized in a regular annual basis in Malaysia. Through such forums, it is hoped that young people will be able to network, exchange experiences, form partnerships, and work towards alleviating the challenges faced by youth around the world.

I am further pleased to recognize the participation of esteemed ministers responsible for youth and also members of parliament in this Dialogue. This is evidence of the commitment of these leaders towards empowering the youth in their countries. I extend my deepest appreciation to you for taking time off your busy schedules to engage with other young people at this Dialogue.

To all the participants who have come from far and wide, I would like to extend to you a warm welcome to Malaysia. You are visiting us at a time when we are also celebrating our 50th Independence, and this year has been named Visit Malaysia Year. We have extended an invitation for the world to come to Malaysia and join us in our golden celebrations.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The youth development agenda is gaining momentum worldwide. Not only has it been realised that youth are the most vulnerable segment of any nations society, but it is also acknowledged that youth can make tremendous contributions towards the economic, social, cultural and political developments in their countries. Every young person has the potential to contribute positively towards his or her country, region, and indeed, the world at large.

The question that remains is on the best strategies to employ to bring out this potential in the youth.

Malaysia has recently enacted the Youth Act which stipulates that youth leaders should be between the ages of 15 to 40. This landmark piece of legislations intends to ensure that the youth become more involved in the leadership of youth organisations, and that they are not only beneficiaries but also the managers, controllers and organisers of their own programmes and activities.

We anticipate that from the introduction of this Act, more youth will be absorbed into leadership positions, which should have a positive stimulating effect on all our youth organisations.

It is essential for any nation to groom its youth into responsible leaders that will be invaluable assets for the country in the present and into the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am pleased to note that the theme of the 7th Melaka International Youth Dialogue is Youth and Tourism. It affords the participants a platform to reflect on how the tourism industry can contribute to the youth development process.

Tourism helps to create jobs, provide livelihood and also encourage the creativity of youth. Through the increasing trends of global travel and communications, the world has become a smaller global village, and this has created better understanding and intercultural relations between the various peoples of the world. Tourism therefore advances the prospects of peace and equity.

The United Nations World Tourism Organisation has recorded a 4.5% annual increase in tourist arrivals in 2006. A total of 842 million international tourist arrivals were recorded last year.

In his message on World Tourism Day 2006, the secretary general of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation said:

"There is no doubt that tourism keeps the world economy on the move. It is number one in world trade, the largest export earner, and employs millions of people. Most of these jobs are in small or medium-sized, family-owned businesses... Jobs and enterprises are usually created in the most underdeveloped regions, helping to spread economic opportunities throughout the country and providing an incentive to remain in rural areas."

Unlike most forms of business enterprises, tourism businesses are not capital intensive, and only require a little creativity and marketing. Cultural performances, tour operations, sport and recreation activities are all different types of tourism enterprises that are not very resource-intensive.

An opportunity therefore exists for governments, youth organisations and international agencies to harness the potential of tourism to contribute towards youth development goals.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would like to urge all participants in this Dialogue to make maximum use of the sessions in order to gain knowledge, share experiences and network with youth from other parts of the world.

When you return to your countries, I do hope that you will work to implement projects and ideas that will improve your lives, as well as the lives of other youths.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the World Assembly of Youth on organising this key annual event, as well as all the partners and contributors.

I do hope that you will all have a pleasant and enjoyable stay, and that you will take back some sweet memories to your countries.

I thank you.

**SPEECH BY DATUK R. RAGHAVAN, STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR
FOR YOUTH AND SPORTS, AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 7TH
MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE ON YOUTH AND
TOURISM**

25 JUNE 2007, MITC HOTEL, AYER KEROH, MELAKA

YB Datuk Liow Tiong Lai, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, Malaysia

Honourable Saviour Kasukuwere, Deputy Minister of Youth Development and
Employment Creation, Zimbabwe

Honourable Pohamba Shifeta, Deputy Minister of Youth, National Service,
Sport and Culture, Namibia

Honourable Moamar Al-Eryani, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, Yemen

Honourable Patrick Zhuwao, Deputy Minister of Science and Technology
Development, Zimbabwe

Honourable Dr Edwin Muguti, Deputy Minister of Health and Child Welfare,
Zimbabwe

Yang Mulia Dato' Raja Ruslan bin Raja Samah, Director of the International
Youth Centre, Kuala Lumpur

Mr Nundkeswarsing Bossoondyal, Vice President of the World Assembly of
Youth

Mr Ernesto Kesar, Vice President of the World Assembly of Youth

Mr Norizan Shariff, Secretary General of the Asian Youth Council

Mr Donald Charumbira, Secretary General of the World Assembly of Youth

Mr Norizan Shariff, Secretary General of the Asian Youth Council

Mr Khider Ahmen Musa, President of the National Federation of Sudanese
Youth

Mr Farai Mutamangira, Chairman of the Zimbabwe Youth Council

Government Officials

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen:

1. It give me great pleasure to welcome you all to the official opening ceremony of the 7th Melaka International Youth Dialogue.
2. I would like to convey the warm greetings and best wishes of the Right Honourable Datuk Seri Hj Mohd Ali bin Mohd Rustam, Chief Minister of Melaka, who is currently travelling in Latin America, but I am informed that he will be with you tomorrow night.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

3. The Melaka International Youth Dialogue is an annual event organised by the World Assembly of Youth in collaboration with the Melaka State Government, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Malaysian Youth Council and other partners.
4. It is indeed pleasing to note that this Dialogue has taken place consistently over the past seven years, and we hope it will continue to be one of the major annual international youth programmes in the world.
5. On behalf of the Melaka State Government, I would like to reaffirm our commitment to supporting the Melaka International Youth Dialogue and ensuring that it achieves maximum impact every year.
6. The theme of this year's Dialogue, Youth and Tourism, is very welcome in this occasion of Visit Malaysia Year, and the celebration of our 50 years of independence and nationhood.
7. I would like to thank all of you for travelling from all corners of the world to participate in this Dialogue and being a part of Visit Malaysia Year.
8. I do hope that you will enjoy your stay in Melaka and in Malaysia and take time to enjoy the many sights, sounds and tastes that we have to offer.
9. I thank you

**SPEECH BY DONALD T. CHARUMBIRA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH, AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE
7TH MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE ON YOUTH AND
TOURISM**

25 JUNE 2007

YB Datuk Liow Tiong Lai, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, Malaysia

YB Datuk R. Raghavan, State Exco for Youth & Sports, Melaka

Honourable Saviour Kasukuwere, Deputy Minister of Youth Development and
Employment Creation, Zimbabwe

Honourable Pohamba Shifeta, Deputy Minister of Youth, National Service,
Sport and Culture, Namibia

Honourable Moamar Al-Eryani, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, Yemen

Honourable Patrick Zhuwao, Deputy Minister of Science and Technology
Development, Zimbabwe

Honourable Dr Edwin Muguti, Deputy Minister of Health and Child Welfare,
Zimbabwe

Yang Mulia Dato' Raja Ruslan bin Raja Samah, Director of the International
Youth Centre, Kuala Lumpur

Mr Nundkeswarsing Bossoondyal, Vice President of the World Assembly of
Youth

Mr Ernesto Kesar, Vice President of the World Assembly of Youth

Mr Norizan Shariff, Secretary General of the Asian Youth Council

Mr Khider Ahmen Musa, President of the National Federation of Sudanese
Youth

Mr Farai Mutamangira, Chairman of the Zimbabwe Youth Council

Government Officials

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen:

1. On behalf of the World Assembly of Youth, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all participants who have travelled far and wide to attend the 7th Melaka International Youth Dialogue, this year with the theme Youth and Tourism.
2. It is evident from the wide range of faces in this room that virtually every corner of the world is represented here, and that this Dialogue, in itself, is evidence of the way in which tourism can unite us and bring us together.
3. We are further honoured in this particular dialogue at the tremendous show of support by youth leaders from various countries who have taken time to attend the Dialogue, namely the leaders of government and senior government officials amongst us.
4. Your presence here tells us that you are committed to addressing the challenges of youth and to contributing positively to youth development in your countries and the world at large.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

5. Youth are a huge mass of the population that is vibrant yet unsettled in life.
6. This vibrancy gives youth zeal, energy and enthusiasm, yet being unsettled means the youth is often facing challenges of unemployment, identity crises, poverty, peer pressure and isolation from decision-making processes.
7. Youth face many challenges, including being the worst affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, constituting the majority of drug and alcohol abusers, and generally being an unproductive appendage to society.
8. It is in this realm that the World Assembly of Youth seeks to make an intervention to address the challenges that youth face, and to enable the youth to be productive members of society.

9. The theme of this Dialogue, Youth and Tourism, is a direct attempt to empower the youth through the dissemination of knowledge and information on the opportunities in the tourism sector. The tourism sector is the fastest growing business sector in the world, and therefore has the potential to create jobs and livelihood for youth around the world, and to foster global unity, peace and understanding.

Honourable Datuk Liow, Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. The objectives of the 7th Melaka International Youth Dialogue are:
 - To identify opportunities for youth in the tourism sector;
 - To outline strategies for youth to tap on the opportunities;
 - To provide a platform for sharing of knowledge and experiences in tourism;
 - To develop the capacities of participants to start and run viable tourism ventures;
 - To discuss the role of governments, NGOs and the private sector in assisting youth to enter the tourism business;
 - To develop skills in participants and enable them to positively harness their talents and business acumen; and
 - To encourage networking, collaboration and cooperation amongst participating delegates and organisations
11. To the participants in this Dialogue, let me, however, emphasise that the output of any dialogue is only as good as its input. This is to say that the Dialogue is made more enriching by the sharing of knowledge and experiences that will be of mutual benefit. The whole principal of a Dialogue is to have an open and free environment to exchange views, and I encourage each of you to participate fully and actively.
12. Finally, I would like to thank our partners in this Dialogue, the Melaka State Government, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Malaysian Youth Council and the Asian Youth Council. We are also grateful to the many contributors who have made this event possible, and to all the committees which have been doing lots of hard work behind the scenes.
13. Our deepest appreciation to Honourable Datuk Liow, who has taken time off his busy schedule to join us in this special occasion.
14. I do hope you enjoy the Dialogue and that you will find it useful in your careers and businesses.
15. I thank you.

SPEECH BY THE RT. HON. DATUK SERI HJ MOHD ALI BIN MOHD RUSTAM AT THE WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH GALA DINNER,

27 JUNE 2007

MITC HOTEL, AYER KEROH, MELAKA, MALAYSIA

Honourable Pohamba Shifeta
Deputy Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, Namibia

Honourable Dr Edwin Muguti
Deputy Minister of Health and Child Welfare, Zimbabwe

Honourable Moammar Al-Eryani
First Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, Yemen

YB Datuk R. Raghavan
State Executive Councillor for Youth and Sports, Melaka State Government

YB Datuk Idris Harun
President of the Melaka State Youth Council and Deputy President of the Malaysian Youth Council

Senior Assistant Commissioner 1 Dato' Mortadza bin Nazarene
Chief of Police, Melaka
Represented by Superintendent Arif

Mr Nundkeswarsing Bossoondyal
Vice President of the World Assembly of Youth

Mr Ernesto Kesar
Vice President of the World Assembly of Youth

Mr Donald Charumbira
Secretary General of the World Assembly of Youth

Corporate Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to officiate at this Gala Dinner, which is an occasion to mark the end of the 7th Melaka International Youth Dialogue, as well as a platform to appreciate the contributions of corporate sponsors to WAY fundraising efforts this year.

It is pleasing to see such a variety of young people gathered here from all corners of the world, and we appreciate the effort and time that all of you have taken to travel to Melaka and to join us in this auspicious occasion.

The World Assembly of Youth was established in August 1949 as the international coordinating body of national youth councils. Today, WAY has more than 115 member countries from all continents of the world. It is therefore the largest representative body of youth in the world.

WAY has general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and works in close cooperation with several UN agencies including UNAIDS, UNEP, ILO UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO.

WAY works for promotion of youth and youth organisations in programme areas such as: youth employment, environment, human rights, democracy, population, health, drugs, community development and leadership training.

The WAY headquarters has moved throughout the years to various bases including Brussels , Paris , London and Copenhagen . In 1999, the WAY headquarters moved to Kuala Lumpur , Malaysia and now has finally established its headquarters building, the World Youth Complex, in Melaka.

Some of the aims of the World Assembly of Youth are:

- To increase interethnic respect and to foster inter-cultural and international understanding and co-operation.
- To facilitate the collection of information about the needs and problems of youth.
- To disseminate information about the methods, techniques and activities of youth organisations.
- To promote the interchange of ideas between youth of all countries.
- To co-operate in the development of national youth councils of voluntary youth organisations.
- To support and encourage the national movements of non self governing countries in their struggle for national liberation.

- To promote tolerance, understanding, solidarity and co-operation among young men and women irrespective of race, sex, language, religion or political orientation and
- To encourage the full participation of young men and women in the development process of their countries.

One of the main annual programmes of the World Assembly of Youth is the Melaka International Youth Dialogue. This is an annual event at which youth leaders can exchange views, knowledge and experiences on youth development issues.

I am pleased to note that the 7th Melaka International Youth Dialogue has been successfully concluded and that participants have reported enjoying the programme. I do hope that you will all return to your countries to take advantage of the opportunities in the tourism industry.

Tonight we are also honouring the contributions to the fundraising efforts of the World Assembly of Youth. I would like to convey special thanks to the following:

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Bronze (below RM5000)

Konsortium YKIP Bersatu

Santarli Sdn Bhd

ICM Industries Corporation Berhad

Kumpulan Melaka Berhad

YM Mediscience, and

Sha Itma Construction and Engineering

More than RM100,000 was raised in the fundraising activities for the past six months. To all the corporate sponsors, thank you for your support towards the programmes and activities of the World Assembly of Youth.

To all the participants in the 7th MIYD, I hope you have enjoyed the Dialogue and have the pleasure to declare the 7th Melaka International Youth Dialogue officially closed.

Enjoy the rest of your stay in Malaysia.

I thank you.

7 MIYD 2007 COMMITTEES

Steering Committee

Chairman	Rt. Hon. Datuk Seri Hj. Mohd Ali bin Mohd Rustam
Vice Chairman	Hon Datuk R. Raghavan
Secretary	Hon. Datuk Idriss Harun Donald T. Charumbira
Committee Members	Ediola Pashollari Norizan Shariff Tajudin Ahmad Andre Young

Preparatory Meeting

Chairman	Hon. Datuk R. Raghavan
Vice Chairman	Hon. Datuk Idriss Harun
Secretary	Donald T. Charumbira
Committee	Ediola Pashollari Andre Young Chua Mew Leng Yusof Jantan Mohd Nizam bin Omar Koosha Najmi Nor Rafiah Abu Bakar Lim Chow Beng Ismail Lajen Shuhainie Shamsudin

Organising Committee

Chairman	Donald T. Charumbira
Vice Chair	Ediola Pashollari
Secretary	Andre Young
Committee Members	Mohd Nizam bin Omar Chua Mew Leng Koosha Najmi Abubakr Abdulla Bakhiet Armando Pashollari Shyamala Johthi Syahela Syairah Jaafar Norazreen Mohd Aris Ooi Mei Ying Binita Patel Seyed Pejman Sajjadi Masoud Sadeghi Attar Priscilla Prashini Pillay Geoffrey Katiedzo Aligula

8 IN APPRECIATION

The World Assembly of Youth is sincerely grateful to the following for their support and contributions towards the 7th Melaka International Youth Dialogue:

Melaka State Government
Ministry of Youth & Sports
Ministry of Tourism
Malaysian Youth Council
Melaka State Youth Council
Asian Youth Council
Melaka Tourism Promotion Division
Yayasan Melaka
Kuala Lumpur International Airport
Melaka Tourism Action Council
Royal Malaysia Police
Melaka Historic City Council (MBMB)
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