

TOMORROW'S LEADERS SUMMIT

“Developing High Income Youth”

18-20 March 2011

Sarawak, Malaysia.

Topic: “WAY's Role in Developing the Next Generation of Leaders”

Presented by: Ediola Pashollari, Secretary General of the World Assembly of Youth

Distinguished guests,

Datuk Datuk, Datin Datin,

Participants of TLS,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning everyone.

It is indeed a privilege to be here among all of you and to talk about one of my passion, being an advocate for the youth globally. As some of you may have been aware of the organization in which I am serving as the Secretary General of WAY.

Since its inception in 1949, World Assembly of Youth or WAY as it is known is the international coordinating body which aims to change and connect countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help youth build a better life.

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

The programs are organized from our Secretariat office in Melaka in collaboration with WAY members, Youth NGOs, Youth Ministries and UN agencies. Our aspiration through the various programs, that are held locally, regionally and internationally WAY is in preparing and educating, youth and youth leaders to achieve their goals and to take a step forward towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

We have all gathered here in this beautiful city of Kuching for a purpose, for we have in our hearts the desire see that the youth of our future are well prepared to face the many obstacles and be empowered and equipped as much as possible to for the future. And yet at the same time, we do realize the many challenges that are faced by the youth of this world. We need to realize that their participation in our program is vital for the future of the world.

We have established many programs that are continuously building, encouraging and strengthening the youth and the young people. Through our Volunteer programs we have enlisted over 400 young people from the ages of 20-35 to assist in WAY programs and activities around the world. They were chosen based on their skills, abilities, talents, availability and most of all a willingness to serve the communities of youth at a given event and as needed.

Their training preparation consists of working at events, developing organization skills, leadership skills and also how to response to disaster and communicating cross culturally.

Indeed this program has proved its effectiveness as when the Tsunami and other earthquake disasters hit the nation of Indonesia, our volunteers were there to help. They were there also to render help to the victims of China earthquake and the flooding of Myanmar and the struggles of Palestine. They were our hand of extension of hope, compassion and support to the victims of these nations.

Most of our volunteers have continued to be involved in their country's youth organization holding places of leadership. They had seen the work and the role that WAY has taken in meeting some of the major needs of youth around the world. I am happy to say that we were able to pass the torch to these young people and the flame continues to be visible.

To be successful and well educated is one of the goal that all of us have and its the same for the youth. They want success, riches, education and all the great things the world has to offer. With that as the background, the World Youth Institute (WYI) was formed as the realization for education, training and development programmes, is an essential aspect in helping our youth.

Thus far we have offered seven (7) Executive Certificate Programs in collaboration with local and international universities. The programs have brought in young people from more than twenty different countries to come and be trained.

The topics presented were in the areas of Tourism Management, International Relations and Diplomacy, Leadership and Communications Skills, Entrepreneurship Development, Leadership and Society Program. This year we are organizing a few more educational and training programs to equip our young and future leaders.

There are so many significant events happened in the world that is facing the youth and hindered their development. Being aware of that we have created different local, regional and international events to guide, combat issues, educate and to bring awareness to its members globally. The young people globally have had to face famine, droughts, wars, earthquakes, tsunamis, various types of discriminations including genders and poverty.

We at WAY, through many deliberations, forums and dialogues have developed different types of policies, resolutions and declarations against some of these battles or challenges that the youth faces. These documents were created to provide the tools needed to promote and to address the matters to the all those that are willing to hear the voices behind these papers.

One of our main annual events that brings together youth from various backgrounds to engage in a dialogue on pertinent global youth issues is the Melaka International Youth Dialogue. Last year was the 10th Anniversary of the dialogues. Pertinent issues that are fundamental to the youth were chosen as themes, such as Developing Human Capital; Youth and Tourism; Towards a Drug

Free Generation; Youth and Gender Equality; Youth Leadership Power and its Influence to the Society.

Our goal has always to been to prepare, bring awareness, train, educate and address issues that are at the heart and cause for/of youth around the world. The dialogue has given us that realm of opportunity to bring the awareness, discussions and action to the surface.

Each and every program that we offered through seminars, workshops and forums are given from the national level to international level. ALL youths have the rights to education and have the opportunity to access it in every possible way and we will be right there alongside them to make it happen. If the youth leaders and their young people are not able to come due to lack of funds, and distance, we try our best to work with the youth organizations within that country and grant them the chance to attend and be involved.

We sincerely believed that supporting the youths in their potential growth even as entrepreneurs can be a highly effective way to reduce youth unemployment and stimulate growth in their communities. That is why we are going all out in addressing the issues that are before them and develop the different avenues on how we can help them combat it.

There are so many ways that we as organizations, youth leaders and communities leader can do to encourage the youth, raise up young leaders, mentoring them, coaching them, giving them opportunities to work alongside us and be giving them exposure to working life.

We just need to put any hidden agenda aside and give the youth our full support. They deserve it! They are our future, carrying our goals and dream along with theirs.

It is our recommendation that there is a partnership, a collaboration among the the private sectors, local business owners, and NGO with youth organizations and with other agencies. Some of the areas that we may need to look at in working together are:

- 1) Encourage their employees to provide advice and support to young people starting out in business – especially in mentoring capacities.
- 2) Provide work experience schemes, together with internships, apprenticeships and training programmes, in order to strengthen the local enterprise culture.
- 3) Support the development of effective educational initiatives that include teaching the benefits and opportunities of self-employment .
- 4) Partner with youth enterprise organisations to strengthen their operational capacity and efficiency.

We do realized that the needs of youth does not always correspond to the NGOs' programs. Some of it is due to lack of information sharing. We must need not fear change. We must provide a united leadership at all level, there is a need for a light for them to follow. Right now it is still fragmented.

- 5) Working together with NGO's in organizing specific programs to train youths in areas of leadership, entrepreneurship, skills development.
- 6) Partnership or collaboration in sponsoring some of the events or sponsoring individuals from undeveloped countries to attend the programs we offered.
- 7) Develop a strong network with all other agencies etc

I sincerely hope that we will be able to come up with some constructive plans of working together in bringing forth a new generation of leaders that will be well trained, equipped and was given every opportunity to succeed.

We are not encouraging interdependency but independency, the youth or young people making their own decision, planning and charting their own growth and that they will pass forward those opportunities to the next group of young leaders.

Thank you