

SPEECH BY MISS EDIOLA PASHOLLARI
ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH
AT THE GRAND DINNER OF THE
WAY 60TH ANNIVERSARY
(London to Melaka, 1949-2009)

“One Youth – One World: We are the World”

12 December 2009

Dewan Seri Negeri, Melaka, Malaysia

Salutation....

I extend a warm welcome to all of you for joining us tonight.

Today is a special anniversary celebration of WAY, for ours is a unique organization. The reason World Assembly of Youth or WAY came into existence was to establish a youth organization with the intention of promoting global cooperation and understanding amongst the young people of the world. That first gathering of youth leaders from youth councils for the then member countries of the United Nations 60 years ago has started the ball rolling.

As we look around this room tonight, we can see the evidence of their work that has been carried through in the last 6 decades. All of us here have been touched one way or another by the programs and activities that have been held around the globe.

Through the initiative of WAY, we have had so many activities and changed so many things and created so many policies for the youth. We have been the guardian of work among the youth and we will continue to do so into the next year and the next century. The baton for **“One Youth – One World, We are the World”** will and shall be passed on to the next generation.

The objectives of this gathering are as follows:

- To celebrate the significant roles and contribution that WAY has established throughout its 60 years.
- To strengthen its role as a global youth institution for development.
- To establish network between the past, present and future youth leaders.
- To invigorate youth participation in youth issues.

As long as there are youths in this world, WAY will always be by their side to stand with them on issues that are significant to them, WAY will be there to guide and advise on policies that are needed to govern their programs.

WAY will be there with Youth leaders and Youth organization to train, encourage and lead them to look beyond their circumstances and find a better solutions for their situations.

As the Acting Secretary General, I have had the opportunity to work with many youth leaders around the world for their programs or dialogues with their local leaders and it is always an exciting moment when we are able to address issues that are needful and meaningful to them.

Tonight, we can all agree and acknowledge the fact that WAY has indeed made a considerable impact around the world in its endeavor to unite the youths of the world.

I would like to thank personally all the different Non Governmental agencies' and numerous International Aids organizations that has work with us to accomplished the many goals we have had.

WAY will continue its relevancy into the future, therefore the need to flow with the changes of times, ideas and environment will be crucial. The challenges before our youth are enormous and we must assist in building a bulwark, so that they will not be lost in the midst of it all.

I am also grateful for the many leaders we have had that have carried through the dreams and visions of previous leaders in the past. The fire and passion for youth and their concerns will continue to burn around the

world as continue to ignite the purpose of uniting the youth to stand for their own cause.

Indeed, united we shall stand and united we will and shall accomplish the objectives set out even way back in August 1949.

Thank you,