

SPEECH BY RT. HON. DATUK SERI MOHD ALI BIN MOHD RUSTAM,

PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH

AT THE LAUNCH OF THE BOOK:

“YOUTH AND DRUG ABUSE”

26th June 2009

Seri Bendahara, Melaka, Malaysia

Distinguished guests,

MIYD participants,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome everyone once again to Historic Melaka, to the 9th Melaka International Youth Dialogue and also to my home. It is a pleasure and honor to have delegates from many countries and even young youth leaders who desire to see changes and growth to take place among their peers with us today.

It is with great satisfaction and determination that I am launching my book on “**Youth and Drug Abuse**”. The topic and its concerns have been on my heart and mind for a very long time. My desire in writing this book is to bring all of us again to a sense of awareness as never before. It is also very significant that the launching of this book is in conjunction with the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Before I go any further, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Ms Ediola Pashollari, the Acting Secretary General for WAY for her time in editing this book, and for WAY in publishing this book that we are launching today. Once again thank you Ediola and to all that has contributed to make this day become a reality.

You are being here affirmed to me, your commitment to the youths in your respective country and to the needs of youths around the world. As youth leaders we are all responsible to see that we lead the young people on the right path.

I am very sure that as we traveled around the world we see many seas of humanity. Everywhere we looked we can see young people, some are well dressed and well taken care of and then we see some that really breaks our hearts.

My heart indeed is filled with compassion as I see so many young people that are lost without direction, hope or even a future. They become preys to those that are looking to consumed them and poisoned them with drugs and illicit life styles.

This book is written greatly with them in mind. How can we help them? How can we give them hope? How can we warn them of the danger that is lurking around? They need to know that we care and that we in some way do apologize to them for allowing drugs to take over their lives.

Our world is now facing all kinds of disasters, natural and man made, wars and rumors of wars, and of recent recession. In these circumstances our young people and children are the normally among the casualties.

They lived in a much more challenging world than we do when we were their age. The battle is still the same but the weapons have changed and so are the tactics that continues to try and destroy our youths. Drugs have become their source of strength to live and for survival.

It is never too late to turn back the tides. It is never too late to educate, reeducate and even prevent drugs from taking control of our young people.

I am sure some of us if not all of us knows someone who has taken this path and we have seen how their lives have changed painfully. We are not able to penetrate those areas because of the powerful impact drugs have become to them.

We may have lost a few but there are many that are at the door of abuse that we can help. Help to educate them with love and care. Let us organize programs and activities that would take them away from gangs and the dependencies on drugs. Watch their body language and see the

transformation that has taken place on a young active person who is now lethargic and temperamental with red eyes and sullen.

We must stop making excuses for their behavior and also we must open our eyes as never before. Read all materials that are available about drugs and its abuses. Attend and organize training that will enable us to be better equipper and supporters of the young people.

Your presence here today totally encourages me that there is still hope as long as we stand united with one vision, one mission and one goal.

And our goal for this day and this particular hour is to educate, bring awareness and even redeem our young people. I have faith in our youths and I believed that with the proper guidance and involvement from the adults as role model we can break this cycle of dependency on drugs.

Let us give them the opportunity to better citizens of their land and the world.

Thank you once again for coming and do make use of the book for yourself, your organization and youth in your country.

Thank you!