

12th Melaka International Youth Dialogue

28 June 2012

Speech by President of WAY

Honorable Mayor Mr. Zainal bin Hj. Abu,

Distinguished guests,

Participants of the 12th MIYD,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure and honor to warmly welcome you to this dinner. It gives me delight to continue the achievements of WAY's former president YAB Datuk Seri Mohd Ali bin Mohd Rustam, Chief Minister of Melaka. The Melaka International Youth Dialogue is in its twelfth year now and we are continuing with the efforts to impact the world, especially the youth with positive achievements.

It gives me great delight and pleasure to welcome our guest of Honor, the Melaka Mayor, Mr. Zainal bin Hj. Abu, for graciously accepting our invitation and taking time from his demanding schedule to be with us. Your support is most assuredly a source of inspiration for us all especially the youth I believe. I appreciate your kind gesture and that of the Majlis Bandaraya Melaka Bersejarah (MBMB) for having hosted this dinner to show case Melaka's rich culture.

Apart from being the Mayor of Melaka, Mr. Zainal bin Hj. Abu is also a member of the Board of the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC). He is a man who is driven to achieve the best results, especially in the preservation and improvement of this heritage city. Mr. Zainal believes in having goals to help us establish pure directions in everything we do be it simply or difficult one he establishes it is always a positive challenge and a learning path. Since his appointment he has brought many establishments to Melaka including enforcing the preservation of the sites and retaining the status of the heritage site to be the best place for tourism, rehabilitation of the

Melaka riverside to be clean, ensuring community involvement in preserving its own heritage and raising awareness to all stakeholders.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is just the first day of the deliberations of the 12th MIYD, and I am glad that we are making remarkable progress. We have speakers from different environments to shed some light into us, giving us a new paradigm on health. It gives me joy indeed that this year we have chosen such a theme and have provided such a marvelous platform for the youth to tackle health as an issue of rights. This is one of the examples what WAY, being one of the representatives of Melaka as a whole, with the youth at the centre, is doing concerning having a healthy and sustainable world.

Though I am the president of WAY I am also a Melaka citizen cum a member of parliament and I have survived to see the lively improvements the state has made with regards to health. Melaka through the state government, ministry of health and relevant organizations has been significantly contributing to the local health systems as we have affordable and easily accessible clinics, hospitals and outlets to cater for the population of the state. Melaka though small, has 3 private and one general hospital which cater to the growing demand of medical care services or health related illnesses. We have equipped personnel to care for the needs of the sick among us, especially the youth. The state has been increasingly encouraging the youth to take delight in medical education, especially young girls and through the recent years we have seen many young people engaging in health sciences through education.

We are among the top choices for medical health tourism mainly because of the availability of well equipped state of art medical facilities and personnel. Participants, we also have a number of organizations that are designed to care for the needs of youth, dealing with diverse areas such as child care, psychiatric problems, sexual reproductive health, marginalized and orphan youth, counseling centers and many more.

Furthermore, we aspire to be a healthy state by 2020, in line with building the nation's vision. The state through the Ministry of Health has achieved a milestone by improving the people's well being, raising awareness and educating the youth and reducing the number of deaths associated with ill health, accidents and youth substance abuse. This

should be the heart of youth, seeking to bring change, restitution of broken policies and rebuilding our health care facilities. We still have a chance to make such a global impact through the declaration that shall be adopted on the 30th June – your own voice of ideas. Let us not be fully dependent on free things or expectations of what should be done for us but rather bring change that we desire to see.

Ladies and gentlemen without wasting much time let me take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful dinner, enjoy our Melaka delicacies.

Thank you.