

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

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

**10 December 2009**

**Seri Bendahara, Melaka, Malaysia**

Hon. Dato’ Razali Ibrahim, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, Malaysia

Rt. Hon. Datuk Seri Mohd Ali bin Mohd Rustam, Chief Minister of Melaka  
and the President of the World Assembly of Youth

Datuk Datuk and Datin Datin

WAY Executive Committee Members,

Representatives of WAY member organisations,

WAY 60<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Celebration participants,

Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is with great pleasure to welcome you to this celebration of the 60 years Anniversary of World Assembly of Youth or WAY.

So, tonight I would like to welcome each and every one of you, especially those that have traveled far and wide to be here today and celebrate this wonderful milestone with us.

As we are all aware that in August 1949, an initiative was undertaken to establish a youth organization to promote global cooperation and understanding amongst the young people of the world. The pioneers of WAY recognized the need for a universal youth organization and youth leaders from national youth councils of countries that were part of the United Nations gathered to established WAY.

As the pioneers they have set a high standard for all of us to follow. We thank those visionaries that gathered in London, 60 years ago for their vision and strength and concerns for our youth and the youth organization around the globe.

WAY is the international coordinating body of national youth councils and organizations from over one hundred twenty countries around the world and its existence for the last 60 years is in itself an achievement. Their dream and vision is still being carried through to this with each President that has led this organization.

WAY was not the only significant event that was born on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1949. Our current leader and President of WAY was also born on that same day. His life is full of achievements just as WAY is. He is also the Chief Minister of this wonderful State of Melaka that we are in right now. We are so honored and grateful to have Datuk Seri Ali Rustam to be our leader and President of WAY for this last number of years.

The proud achievement of the work of WAY with youths and youth organization from around the world these 6 decades has seen many leaders being raised, many pertinent issues being addressed at the different forums and dialogues around the world.

It is an event such as this that we have the opportunity to reflect on the importance of WAY and its astonishing work with youths

Today, as we gathered to celebrate and reflect the impact WAY has had in youth work, we are also celebrating HUMAN RIGHTS DAY. From its very inception WAY not only acknowledge but recognized the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the basis of its action and services.

We are very proud to be part of WAY and its global position, as it allows the promotion of youth and youth organization to educate, train leaders and develop programs to be done.

WAY has also provided many opportunities for youth representatives around the globe to exchange ideas and experiences, helping to coordinate international and regional programs and promote an understanding among them without any prejudices of race, gender, beliefs or socio-political national background.

We also want to thank the different Executive Committee Members, the Secretary Generals and their staffs that have worked with WAY in the last six decades. Their importance and dedication is essential in shaping this organization which strives for excellence and change.

Lastly, but ever so important and essentials are our volunteers that have made WAY a success in their contribution of time and support in standing with the vision that was laid down 60 years ago in London. Thank you, thank you for all your effort and dedication.

The relevancy of WAY will continue into the future. We need to continue realign and reinvent to face the ever changing global youth challenges.

The theme “One Youth – One World, We are the World”. Was carefully selected by the committee, as we see the need to be united in our effort of reaching the present and the future generations of youth.

It is without a doubt that WAY has played a noteworthy role in various capacities and levels in societies around the world throughout its existence the last 60 years.

In planning for the events of this week the 60th Anniversary Committee has had as its goals an emphasis on celebration, on reflection on achievements and mostly **on the renewal of acquaintanceships.**

It is our intent that you enjoy yourself this evening and take the opportunity to share fond memories of WAY as you renew and build new friendships with the many guests. Take back new and refreshing memories of your time here as we continue on the legacy of WAY for another 60 more years and beyond.

On a personal note, I would like to officially thank the organizing committee, the staff of WAY, sponsors and volunteers for all their hard work in making this Anniversary celebration a great success and a memorable event for us all.

It is at this time also I want to take this opportunity to wish my father, Kuitim Pashollari, a Happy Birthday. Today is his birthday and I want to thank him for not only being my father but also my mentor. Thank you Dad, I love you!

Thank you,

