

12th Melaka International Youth Dialogue

“Health, It’s My Right!”

Closing Ceremony Introduction Speech by

Ms. Ediola Pashollari

YAB Datuk Seri Mohd Ali bin Mohd Rustam, Chief Minister of Melaka

Datuk Datuk, Dati Datin,

Hon. Datuk Wira Ir. Idris Haron, President of WAY,

Representatives of WAY member organizations,

Honorable Chief Guests,

Special Guests, Head of Missions, Dignitaries,

Distinguished Participants from home and abroad,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today we have come to the close of the wonderful 12th Melaka International Youth Dialogue we have had these past 3 days. This has been an exhilarating experience and has proved that indeed the MIYD was more improved and mature as compared to the previous year with regards to organizing, performance, management and participation.

I would like to begin by celebrating the endurance, enthusiasm and spirit of all the participants. Again and again I enjoyed working with all of you; it is your heart that made this event worthwhile for me. I certainly benefitted from every level of the dialogue and hope that all the participants share in the same glory and spirit of MIYD and enjoyed the extra activities the organizers provided. You have maintained dignity and principles and still worked hard and right up until the end, even in the midst of adversity. You are truly an inspiration to us all and deserve to be commended.

As we come to an end together, it is a time for reflection on lessons learnt. We have knowledge of how health is important to us through the plenary sessions, workshops

and field trips. It is in that context that the centers chosen for visitation have opened our eyes to see what was beyond us, adding on a wealth of knowledge and experience to all of us. I can also testify that we have learnt some valuable lessons from the youth when they collectively discussed on ways to develop and revitalize our systems.

Ladies and gentlemen, these youth here have certainly made a difference in history especially this year through the **12th MIYD Declaration**. They have suggested viable ideas that need immediate attention to be effected into policies, improving and developing the world we so desire to survive in. WAY has collated all the ideal recommendations – Declaration, to the pleasure of implementing them. This declaration shall be shared amongst member countries through National Youth Councils and organizations and furthermore suggested to the governments and policymakers to harness the valuable insight ideas of young people and embrace into their health policies.

To ignore the cry of the youth would be to nullify the creative ability and power of this declaration, that is why WAY has made it a top priority to fulfill the obligations it has made to the youth about the dispensation of this declaration to relevant authorities and bodies. I therefore would like to urge the youth to involve with their local National Youth Councils and organizations, governments and private sectors to fulfill their own recommendations.

The honest truth is that change has to start with us all, if we want to see 100% results and change in every sector we must be the leaders of this change. We all need to deal away with procrastination by impacting change. In fact we have already begun this health system revolution through the MIYD, what we need is to continue the work in our own nations. Let us all be internationally coordinated to make this world a healthy and sustainable place to live especially for the generations coming after us.

I believe we can and are going to make it happen. Thank you for your kind participation, your journey to Melaka has been effectual. I also appreciate all the delegates and dignitaries, who have been with us from the opening and close of this event, your presence has motivated and encouraged us. If it wasn't for the organizing team of this

dialogue we wouldn't have had this extraordinary dialogue. I salute you for your time, patience and passion for the young people. At last, I express my gratitude for the sponsors, WAY secretariat and volunteers for making MIYD memorable.

I wish you all an enjoyable journey back home and hope to see you again next year as we tackle another giant of a topic.

Thank you.