

**SPEECH BY HON. DATUK IR. IDRIS HARON  
PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH  
AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE  
11<sup>TH</sup> MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE  
“SHAPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENTREPRENEURS”  
TUESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2011 AT 2000 HRS  
EVERLY RESORT MALACCA, MELAKA**

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening Ladies and Gentleman and welcome to the closing dinner of a successful event, the 11<sup>th</sup> Melaka International Youth Dialogue. Let me say how delighted I am to have had all of you here to participate this week in this very important subject of youth and entrepreneurship.

We have heard tremendous speeches and encouragement given to us by various esteemed speakers and plenary discussions related to the theme “Shaping the next generations of entrepreneurs”. One way towards helping the youth towards job creation is entrepreneurship and this week we have address that issue by revealing that entrepreneurship means creating an income earning opportunity for oneself.

My friends this week we have had two hundred (200) participants or delegates from seventy (70) nations among our midst. We have had experts from different parts of the world have shared with us many strategies to help reach our goal in giving young people a real chance to find decent and productive work, and thus become the driving force of social development for every nation.

We have discovered that by engaging in entrepreneurship shifts young people from being “job seekers” to “job creators,” and also from social dependence to self-sufficiency. The focus of this dialogue is to identify effective initiatives such as youth funds and networks and how young people can become successful entrepreneurs. The outcome from this meaningful dialogue is a clear strategy for improving the environment for youth entrepreneurship.

We must welcome participation from the youths in our economic planning and we must empower them in employability, and entrepreneurship. In the areas of empowerment, we need to create a platform where further necessary training can be done, may it be in the area of soft skills for the workplace, vocational training to make them marketable. Every one of us desires to be independent and able to achieve success, however in reality we cannot stand alone, we need each other to make it in all areas of our lives especially in business.

We have also to continue recognizing that entrepreneurship is a real option and our involvement in shaping this next generations in enterprises have to be consistent, with proper planning, global networking and supportive. I truly hope that many of you if not all has captured the true essence of what it means to be in

involved in shaping the next generations of entrepreneurs, a youthful generation that are willing to ride through the storms of life to achieve their goal of success. The beauty of it all is that their achievement is also ours, as it flows through the community with job availability, the economics of the community and nation is sustain and multiply. The list goes on to the beneficial outcome of having the right mind set entrepreneurs running an enterprise.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Melaka International Youth Dialogue have made clear that there is a need to make life skills in business be given to the youth through non-formal education in a more visible, tangible and opportunities. Entrepreneurship not only increases the employment rate and creates prosperity, but is also a very concrete empowerment tool for young people. There should therefore be greater encouragement of more youth entrepreneurship involvement and partnership. Let us keep on looking for alternative ways for young people to gain positive experiences and the skills they need to run an enterprise.

For those seeking to encourage and develop an entrepreneurial viewpoint among young people, partnerships need to be established with companies, organizations and agencies that are supportive. There are many ways we can lend a helping hand, creating and establish a micro credits program to initially help them start their business. The aspect of lifelong learning and having entry points throughout the course of an individual's life is a priority for every individual.

The lifelong learning perspective, foundational skill in the area of creativity and self reliance are valuable to all of us whether we become entrepreneurs or not.

Earlier, we had heard the declaration that was formed proclaimed to us. With a resounding voice the youths had revealed to us their needs and their intention. Now, it is our time to take their declaration to the leadership in our country. Those of you that are part of WAY's membership and those who are WAY's partners led us together work in achieving what was declared. We have an exciting time ahead of us when the declaration are implemented and we see the progress that will be taking place.

As President of World Assembly of Youth I hope to one day come and celebrate with you as you launch new enterprising programs in your nations for your young people.

My friends we can achieve much more in our endeavors in shaping our young people to be the future entrepreneurs. Nothing is impossible to attain when we are united, focus and determined to reach for success. The youth, you are our future, we at World Assembly of Youth will always be there for you in every step of the way to let your voices be heard and help out in solving and finding answers for the concerns that you have. We love our youth and we care for our youth and that is why we are standing here at all times with you.

I am grateful to the many youth organizations, NGOs, government agencies and all the many sponsors for their constant support in the program of World Assembly of Youth. This is my first term as the president of WAY and I am extremely blessed to have a committed Secretariat staff led by the Secretary

General, Ms Ediola Pashollari and the many volunteers behind the scene that contributes in making the Youth Dialogue a great success.

Let us continue to run the race with our youth in shaping them to be a great generation of entrepreneurs and until we meet at the next dialogue next year, let us with the fire of entrepreneurship burning within us encourage others to join.

Thank you and Selamat Malam