

**SPEECH BY HON. DATUK IR. IDRIS HARON**

**PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH**

**AT THE LUNCHEON TALK OF THE**

**11<sup>TH</sup> MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE**

**“SHAPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENTREPRENEURS”**

**TUESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2011 AT 1200 HRS**

**EVERLY RESORT MALACCA, MELAKA**

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure and a great honor for me to welcome you to our annual event of the World Assembly of Youth. The Melaka International Youth Dialogue reached its 10<sup>th</sup> year landmark last year. MIYD was established under the leadership and watchful eye of Datuk Seri Ali Rustam, as its President for the past 17 years, which brought in international participants from around the world and help to establish many policies in youth issues. I would like to take this opportunity to applaud his contributions and accomplishments for providing this platform for the youth and for their voices to be heard.

I am very excited, as this is my first term as the President of World Assembly of Youth and in this new era the Melaka International Youth Dialogue

enters its 11<sup>th</sup> year dialogue with the theme “***Shaping the Next Generation of Entrepreneurs***”.

It is with great honor and pleasure for me to welcome Her Excellency Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor, the wife of The Prime Minister of Malaysia. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks to Datin Paduka for graciously accepting our invitation and taking time from your demanding schedule to be with us. Your presence and support is indeed a source of inspiration for us all. Thank you Datin Paduka!

Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah is a good example of someone who is committed to the task before her and her beliefs in the young people and their future is greatly appreciated. Apart from being the wife of the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Sri Mohd Najib Tun Hj Abd Razak, She is the President of the Welfare Association of Minister's Wives (BAKTI). She holds the position of Patron for various associations; among others are Children in Hope Foundation, Malaysian Nature Society, and Society of the Orthopedically Handicapped Malaysia, Malaysia Aids Council, National Heart Institute Foundation, Thalassemia Association, National Athletes' Welfare Association and the Foundation for the Development of Underprivileged Children. She is also on the Badminton Association of Malaysia (BAM), as well as the President of the Girl Guides Association.

Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor strongly believes that human capital development begins with children and it is an investment for the nation. To overcome the troublesome social problems that were harassing the youths in this country, Her Excellency Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor, met with a group of

professionals from various backgrounds to converse on finding ways to curb the quandary. From that meeting the PERMATA project was initiated. The first phase began with a nationwide movement on the development of early childhood education and care which focuses on children below 5 years. There are now more than 600 Permata Negara Centers set up throughout the country.

Her Excellency Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor advocate strongly the concept that every child born is akin to a precious gem which will shine and bring light to the nation in time to come. 'Every Child is Precious' and will be given the opportunity to get the best start to life.

Her Excellency is a great proponent in giving the youth a chance and the concept of Entrepreneurship as a viable source of employment and income or the youth is also of her concern. The government of Malaysia considered the development of youths to be its top priority and recognizes their contributions and significant role in helping Malaysia's aspiration to achieve Vision 2020 With that in mind, there is now in existence the 1Malaysia Young Entrepreneurs Franchise Program recently launched to not only provide more opportunities but to strengthen and enable the youth to develop and improve themselves.

Her Excellency encourages the youth to leap into the future and embraced all that comes with it. The youth of this day are technologically savvy and are prepared to take the helm to face challenges and to allow changes to take place. She knows that with the proper education, guidance, coaching, mentoring, opportunities and involvement the youth will grow in great heights in all their endeavors.

Thank you again Datuk Paduka for your input, encouragement, support and concerns for the future of our youth. We can all be blessed when we have inspiring and visionary leaders that are willing to be a role model for us all.

In recognition for her many contribution to the country and its people, Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor has been conferred various awards from the States of Kedah, Melaka, Selangor, Kelantan, Negeri Sembilan, Sabah and Pahang. She was also awarded an honorary Doctorate in Education by University Technology MARA Malaysia.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to all of you here, for being with us, and for believing that we can indeed shape up a new generation of enterprising entrepreneurs as we work together, hand in hand united for a common cause in preparing our youth to become good and responsible business leaders of the future.

I thank you.