

WAY

World Assembly of Youth
Asamblea Mundial de la Juventud
Assemblée Mondiale de la Jeunesse



Youth & Armed Conflict:

To Express Without A Fear, To Progress Without A Threat

REPORT

15TH MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE

“YOUTH AND ARMED CONFLICT:
TO EXPRESS WITHOUT A FEAR, TO PROGRESS WITHOUT A THREAT”

22-24 JUNE 2015

KINGS GREEN HOTEL, MELAKA, MALAYSIA

In Collaboration with:



Malaysia's
Ministry of
Youth and Sports



Melaka
State
Government



Asian
Youth
Councils



Malaysian
Youth
Council

REPORT ABSTRACT

This report details the presentations, discussions and conclusions held at the 15th Melaka International Youth Dialogue attended by selected stakeholders consisting of youth and youth leaders from the respective National Youth Councils, Youth Organisations, Ministries of Youth and Sports, Ministries of Defence, Human Rights and Armed Conflict Related Organisations, International Organisations and other institutions.

This report was compiled and published by the World Assembly of Youth.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarises discussions and recommendations from the 15th Melaka International Youth Dialogue themed "Youth and Armed Conflict: To Express without A Fear, To Progress Without A Threat" held from 22nd to 24th June 2015 at Kings Green Hotel in Melaka, Malaysia.

The dialogue was organised by the World Assembly of Youth (WAY), and supported by Melaka State Government, Ministry of Youth and Sports (Malaysia), Malaysian Youth Council, and Asian Youth Council. Among the youth and youth leader participants in attendance were; Hon. Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Minister of Defence, Malaysia who officiated the opening ceremony; Hon. Datuk Seri Ir. Idris Haron, the Chief Minister of Melaka cum President of WAY; Hon. Senator Tan Sri Mohd Ali Mohd Rustam, former WAY President; Hon. Datuk Norpipah Abdul, Deputy State EXCO for Youth Development and Heritage, Melaka, Malaysia; Mr. Mua'amar Ghadafi Jamaludin, President of Malaysian Youth Council; Mr. Preye-Ketebu Brown, Vice President of WAY; Mr. Muesee Kazapua, WAY Executive Committee Member; and Ms. Ediola Pashollari, Secretary General of World Assembly of Youth. Also in attendance were various government and CSOs representatives both national and international.

WAY firmly believes that taking every action necessary to increase youth connectivity and harness the potential of the right to peaceful and inclusive society is key to achieve a sustainable development and stimulate social and economic benefits for the millions of young people around the world. However, the public and private sectors must develop solid mutual understanding and operational partnerships, so that real benefits could be felt by both administrations and the citizens alike. The Melaka International Youth Dialogue is designed to provide an international platform for youth and youth leaders around the world, to increase collaboration between stakeholders and also to improve youth participation in decision making about the issues that directly or indirectly affect them and the world they live.

This report provides details of the presentations and discussions that took place at the dialogue in Melaka, Malaysia. This covered several vital topics, plenary sessions and workshops including:

- Impact of Armed Conflict on Young People
- Opportunities And Challenges Towards Attaining a Conflict Free Generation
- The Significant Influence Of CSOs And NGOs in Combating Armed Conflict
- The role of public and private sector, NGOs, media, society and young people in achieving a sustainable conflict free generation.

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BACKGROUND

The Melaka International Youth Dialogue (MIYD) is an annual programme of the World Assembly of Youth (WAY) which brings together young people and youth leaders from around the world to discuss relevant youth issues. Since 2001, the MIYD has convened on a wide range of youth issues. The MIYD has witnessed an escalating number of youth participants over the years, willing to participate in the decision making process. With the view of building a stronger partnership between the youth and the society, the MIYD produces a declaration which serves as a guideline for youth and national youth councils to address the selected issues.

INTRODUCTION

"Older men declare war. But it is youth that must fight and die".
- Herbert Hoover, 1944

For the past 14 years, MIYD has been focusing on several youth issues which directly or indirectly affect the daily lives of youth. This year the theme for the MIYD was on 'Youth and Armed Conflict: To Express Without A Fear, To Progress Without A Threat'. Armed conflict is defined as a contested incompatibility which concerns government and / or territory where the use of armed force between two parties, of which at least one is the government of a state.

Children and youth represent the majority of the population in most countries affected by armed conflicts and are thus disproportionately affected by war. Their suffering bears many faces - they are recruited as child soldiers, killed and maimed, deprived of education and health care, and separated from their families. Sexual violence is increasingly a characteristic of conflict with detrimental long-term psychological effects on children and youth.

Where wars erupt, suffering and hardship invariably follow. Conflict is the breeding ground for mass violations of human rights including unlawful killings, torture, forced displacement and starvation. The fact that the issue of armed conflict has reached its epic point in recent days is the underlined reason of this year MIYD theme, taking into consideration that young people comprised half of the world population.

THEME

Henceforth, the World Assembly of Youth made it a point to focus on 'Youth and Armed Conflict: To Express Without A Fear, To Progress Without A Threat' as our theme for this year MIYD. This theme has been realized to fulfil the principal opinions and roles of young people towards combating armed conflict and promoting sustainable conflict free environment. This 15th MIYD emphasized on the attainment of the sustainable conflict free generation in which the youth were given opportunity to express themselves without fear and share their unique ideas, and brought forth strategic solutions toward the inevitable misfortunes that affect the world around them.

An interactive dialogue on this topic was of great significance to form, educate, and

increase awareness on the challenges and entitlements of youth in the different levels of society that they represent. Therefore, with the above anticipated theme, all participants such as: the young people, youth leaders, public and private sector officers, media persona and NGO / CSO representatives that were present, gathered to call for action and structure experience on the issue of Youth and Armed Conflict and chart a course towards its solution. The outcome document, the declaration, was disseminated to all stakeholders also to enhance youth contribution towards a better and sustainable future of a conflict free generation.

OBJECTIVES

Throughout the dialogue all participants gathered to call for action based on the following objectives:

- To raise an informative generation on the current situation of youth and armed conflicts with anticipated behaviour adaptation and consequently admission to decision making amongst youth;
- To foster youth action towards implementation of ideas brought forward by the young people for the benefit of the societies;
- To address the determinants and impact of armed conflicts amongst youth;
- To promote equality of opportunities and facilities between young men and women;
- To formulate the environmental, political, economic and cultural factors that are associated with peace building and disarmaments in ensuring young people's right to live in harmony;
- To ascertain the obligations of society to respect, protect and fulfil the right of young people to live, express and improve themselves without fear and threat;
- To classify the role and the contribution of the national youth councils and other stakeholders towards improving and sustaining resourceful policies in combating armed conflict and promoting sustainable conflict free environment;
- To form and advance the national, regional and international policies governing youth and their right to live in peace for the present and future;
- To integrate networking, collaboration and cooperation between public and private sectors, civil societies and other stakeholders to address the issue of youth and armed conflict;

PRE-EVENT STRUCTURE

Mindful of the importance of ensuring an orderly transition towards the MIYD and the efficient operation of the Dialogue, the already established preparatory committee, comprising of various institutions, organisations and departments was chaired by the Hon. Datuk Seri Ir. Idris Haron, President of the World Assembly of Youth. The committee members, in their capacity, met on three separate preparatory meetings to discuss the tasks and duties which led to requests for assistance thereby making all its decisions based on consensus. The Secretariat subsequently made follow ups before convening into the final meeting.

The WAY Secretariat, headed by the Secretary General, Ms. Ediola Pashollari, performed the following necessary functions to ensure the efficient preparation of the dialogue including the functions set out below:

a. *Administrative, budgetary and financial matters:*

- Preparation of proposals from the Secretariat on the relevant documentations for accommodation, equipment, transportation, protocol requirements, that was provided to all organising committee, participants, volunteers and the Secretariat;
- Preparation of the estimated budget for the operation of the MIYD;
- Introduction and provision of rules, training, tasks and duties was given to the selected Youth Volunteers that joined the Organising Committee;
- Steering the involvement and participation of partners towards the success of the event.

b. *Institutional, procedural and legal matters:*

- Assessment of proposals and approbation of the papers submitted by interested experts to be in accordance with the theme and satisfying “The Millennium Plan of Action(MPAC-4) 2015 to2018”;
- Preparation of recommendations to the Preparatory Committee concerning the appropriate arrangements with respect to relations with other organisations participating and/or organising;
- Preparation and submission of a report on its activities to the institutions, organisations and government bodies involved in the MIYD;

c. *Matters related to the activities of the MIYD within its scope and functions:*

- Convocation and preparation towards the implementation of a successful Dialogue;
- Initiation of the work programme arising from discussions at the WAY Executive Committee meetings and also undertaking the work resulting from decisions of the Preparatory Committee meetings;
- Discussions on the suggestions for the inclusion of additional items on the agenda of the MIYD's work programme; and
- Preparation of proposals concerning the composition of a Draft Declaration Committee in accordance with the criteria set out in the MIYD Documents and Agenda.

DIALOGUE PROGRAM

The Dialogue agenda included plenary sessions, workshops, networking dinners, declaration drafting, adoption of declaration, and tours to Melaka historical sites.

Plenary sessions composed of introductory speeches and paper presentations from national, regional and international views of today on specific topics, and also personal experience sharing from youth with relevance to the theme.

Workshops were brainstorming sessions for participants, where the participants were divided into groups to deliberate on armed conflicts and the role of stakeholders, and later presented their outcome as a group. In these sessions emphases were made that there should be no debate, no criticism, and no cross talk. Instead moderators called for suggestions and noted them, all of them, and later prioritised the list of suggestions to come up with a supporting document that assisted the committee while drafting the declaration. The "brainstorming" was very structured and focused and the participants were asked to learn and practice the ground rules.

The draft committee for the declaration was made up of leaders for each group during the workshops, speakers, volunteers, participants, and WAY staff.

OPENING CEREMONY:

To commence the 15th Melaka International Youth Dialogue in attendance were; Hon. Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Minister of Defence, Malaysia who officiated the opening ceremony; Hon. Datuk Seri Ir. Idris Haron, the Chief Minister of Melaka cum President of WAY; Hon. Datuk Norpipah Binti Abdul, Deputy State EXCO for Youth Development and Heritage, Melaka, Malaysia; Mr. Mua'amar Ghadafi Jamaludin, President of Malaysian Youth Council; Mr. Preye-Ketebu Brown, Vice President of WAY; Mr. Muesee Kazapua, WAY Executive Committee member; and Ms. Ediola Pashollari, Secretary General of World Assembly of Youth. Also in attendance were various government representatives both national and international.

The welcoming remarks were delivered by the Secretary General of the World Assembly of Youth, Ms. Ediola Pashollari, who explored the theme behind MIYD "Youth and Armed Conflict: To Express Without A Fear, To Progress Without A Threat" and recapped the journey of the dialogue. On behalf of WAY, Ms. Ediola extended gratitude to all the youth organizations, government bodies, sponsors, speakers, delegates and dignitaries for having taken their time to be part of the dialogue. Following the opening remarks was a video presentation on the Journey of MIYD, and followed up address by Mr. Mua'amar Ghadafi Jamaludin, President of Malaysian Youth Council, who stated that this event has brought together great minds and innovative thinkers to reflect and bring forth new ideas, visions and purpose to indeed educate and increase awareness on the challenges and entitlements of youth in the different levels of society that they represent.

A performance by Port-Harcourt Male Ensemble, Nigeria, the Commonwealth 2014/15 Award winning Song "Peace For All Nations", brought about an ecstatic atmosphere in the opening ceremony which received a standing ovation from all present. Shortly after the performance was a message from Mr. Ahmah Alhendawi, the United Nations Secretary – General's Envoy on Youth, read by one of the volunteers. In his message, he said that "young people are commonly perceived either as perpetrators or victims of conflict". Mr. Ahmah stated strongly that the world "need to collectively challenge this negative narrative and avoid generalizations that label young people as a threat to security or as passive bystanders of it."

President of WAY, Hon. Datuk Seri Ir. Idris Haron, who was present during the opening ceremony, gave his speech on the changing nature of conflict directly impacting children as war tactics. Furthermore, he spoke on the counter-terrorism strategies that result in collateral damage, including youth casualties. He encouraged the delegates to actively take part in the event as well as enjoy their stay in Melaka and Malaysia. In addition, Hon. Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Bin Tun Hussein also presented a profound speech, in his words he said major war impacts are the high rate of mortality which is caused by the war itself or even by the collateral effects of warfare such as famine, disease or lack of medical care due to destruction of health services. He emphasized on human understanding which in-turn will lead to a win-win situation for all the parties involved. Instead of resolving conflict with violence, dialogue provides a better alternative. Dato' pointed out that there is a choice to be made between moderation and extremism, and the key to a proud and well established society is moderation.

The opening ceremony was brought to conclusion with the presentation of souvenirs to the guests of honour and dignitaries present, followed by photo sessions with representatives from different countries and guests of honour.

1. PLENARY SESSIONS:

A. SESSION I: IMPACT OF ARMED CONFLICT ON YOUNG PEOPLE

Speaker Topic: **“The Impact Of Armed Conflicts On Doctors”**



By **Mr. Aimen K.M. Fahil El Boom**, Junior Doctor, Zawia Teaching Hospital, Libya.

Mr. Aimen started his presentation with a brief introduction to Libya's age structure, helping us to understand the age bracket of the young people whom are victims of armed conflicts. Displaying some horrific pictures of the devastation caused by violence as a result of conflicts, Mr. Aimen said that doctors, especially intern practitioners whom are trying to find their feet on their profession, are the most affected to flee the area, leaving hundreds of wounded victims of conflict unattended.

Armed conflicts, according Mr. Aimen, started in Libya back in 2011 where both pro and anti Gaddafi militias recruited young fighters, majority of the victims between the ages of 14 and 38. These youth, alas, receive no prolific influence from positive figures. Young people, however, have engaged in military acts such as spying, and torturing prisoners. On the other hand, armed robberies, hijacking and kidnapping have profusely escalated.

Mr. Aimen continued to narrate how infrastructures were destroyed and many foreign medical personnel fleeing the country as a result of conflict. Death threats on doctors, consultants and specialists stopped going to the partly destroyed hospitals, and experienced doctors finding their way to escape to other countries. Standing in the frontline is a question of who is next to be hit by gun shots, said Mr. Aimen. Although some doctors choose to do their best in this moment of crisis, he described the situation as a potentially dangerous journey.

Speaker Topic: **“A Multi-Faceted Analysis Of The Development of Children and Youth Affected by Armed Conflict”**



By **Ms. Marie Luise Schwarzenberg**, Coordinator of the Youth Working Group, United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth, Switzerland.

Ms. Marie, as the Coordinator of the Youth Working Group, brought to stage a detailed analysis of how armed conflicts affect the development of children and youth, where she said that over 1 billion of the said categories live in countries affected by conflict, and one out of ten children lives in an area affected by conflict.

She went on to highlight the basic needs of children and youth, stating that the under-provision of basic needs, or its

lack, to most of these categories have made them victims to refugees. The deficiency of these basic needs is also as a result of conflict, causing over 13 million children to flee their home country. Over 28 million children were out of primary school in conflict-afflicted areas in 2013, and less than 1 percent of youth, who are refugees as a result of conflicts, get access to tertiary education. Opportunities available to these children and youth in countries affected by violence and conflicts are basically disrupted, said Ms. Marie.

Ms. Marie also talked about how the health of the said categories are affected, and the lack of economic opportunities. Also in her convincing presentation was the normalization of violence and death, stating that it has been so common for young people to get involved in conflicts, to fight and die. An escalated traumatizing experience and post traumatic stress disorder are just part of the dangers youth and children face each day.

Speaker Topic: **“The Role Of Youth And NGOs In Peace Resolution: Case Study Of Aceh”**



By **Mr. Fachrul Razi**, Senator of Aceh Province, Regional Representative Council, Indonesia.

Mr. Fachrul Razi who is a senator of Aceh Province, Indonesia shared his valuable experience pertaining to involvement and progress of young people in armed conflict occurred in Aceh Province, Indonesia.

In beginning of his presentation, he explained on how conflict was started in Aceh back in 1970 when economic of Aceh was so alarming with high unemployment rate and poverty level.

He also added the fact that the centralised governmental system caused Aceh to be left behind in term of development and economic growth. Due to that, the Acehnese young leaders in that era protested against the central government; this youth group declared the GAM.

In 1998, the fall of new order regime has drowned situation in Aceh to the deeper level leading to establishment of numerous organisations in social movements. The condition was getting worse after the natural disaster hit Aceh impacting the dead and injuries of hundreds of thousands people in Aceh.

However, due to the great influence from various foreign countries and youth civil society in Aceh, the GAM and the Indonesia government accelerated the peace process in Aceh democratically on August 15, 2005 with the signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Helsinki, Finland.

During the post-peace period, youth were involved in two important phases which are decommissioning, demobilisation and reintegration (2005-2009); as well as political transition (2009 to 2014) in which high number of young people involved in practical politics. Mr. Fachrul concluded that all of these happenings taught a new inspiration to the Acehnese youth that their roles are crucial to the process of peace-building, reintegration, development and peace of their country.

Speaker Topic: **“Impact Of Armed Conflict on Young People”**



By **Mr. Hector David Carvajal**, Executive Director International Foundation of Young Volunteers, Venezuela; represented by **Mr Rifdi Akmal bin Ramlee** - WAY Volunteer.

Mr. Hector David Carvajal was not able to be present during 15th Melaka International Youth Dialogue (15th MIYD). However, it did not restrict his effort to share his experience on the impact of armed conflict in Latin America, particularly those in Education perspective. His presentation paper was read and presented by Mr Rifdi Akmal bin Ramlee who was one of volunteers of 15th MIYD.

In the presentation paper of Mr. Hector, it was clearly stated that armed conflicts is a major obstacle for countries involved in achieving Education For All (EFA). Besides the impact of armed conflict is not only on the economy and overall growth of the country's development, it is also on the wellbeing of children and civilians as well as the smooth operation of the schools which, in overall, jeopardize the educational improvement of the country.

Besides, displacement and its deprived amenities especially the poor access to education were two of major impacts of post-armed conflict situation. In addition, Mr. Hector also related how education can be significant two-sided influence in both encouraging as well as discouraging the occurrence of armed conflict. Acknowledging of that potential, the government of Colombia has taken initiatives to address violence in schools which have had some positive results.

SESSION II: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES TOWARDS ATTAINING A CONFLICT FREE GENERATION.

Speaker Topic: **“Switching The Mainstream”**



By **Mr. Haris Devodic**, Board Member, European Youth Press, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Based on his 6 years experience in the field of work which requires close interaction and communication with young people, in his presentation, Mr. Haris briefed more about the opportunities to attain a conflict free generation, in which it was called as 'path' which is referred to a course of changing a general public discourse and an educational philosophy.

He also shared his knowledge on the crisis encountered by young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina since war-period of 1992 to 1995 when young people were often being excluded and their needs were being ignored. This crisis has developed to numerous various issues happening until today such as high unemployment rate, low working standard, low education quality and high crime rate amongst young people.

In his presentation, Mr. Haris encouraged young people to change the mainstream and make decision based on their own judgment instead of listening to the elders who as well make mistakes and probably are lack of rational intuition.

Speaker Topic: **“Cultivating Leaders To Confront The Governance Challenges In Africa And Build Sustainable Peace”**



By **Ms. Lucy Abigail Dunderdale**, Fullbright Clinton Fellow, Department of Political Affairs – African Union, Ethiopia.

Being an active youth herself and a Fullbright Clinton Fellow in Department of Political Affairs - African Union, Ethiopia, Miss Lucy Dunderdale has seen the damage caused by conflict, and how youth can perpetuate conflict, but can also be true agents of peace through policy making.

In her presentation, she focused on how to cultivate the leadership skills and abilities of young people so that they can be prolifically involved in the policy realm in combating conflict and bringing sustainable peace.

She also elaborated on the four aspects that are necessary for young people to become an effective policymaker. The four aspects are developing a character of leadership; cultivating a strong community; understand their own role and place in the world; and identifying the cause that can bring peace to the community of the world. However, she also emphasized that it is the leadership skill that is matter the most; without having it, young people are unable to influence, bring significant contribution and cultivate a strong society in their nearest community.

Speaker Topic: **“The Role of Youth In Shaping A Better World”**



By **Prof. Dr. Murali Rahman**, Dean and Professor in Faculty of Management, Multimedia University, Malaysia.

Prof. Dr. Murali Raman, a Dean as well as Professor in Faculty of Management of Multimedia University-Cyberjaya Campus, started his fascinating presentation with the brief elaboration of some major challenges and issues encountered by young people in current days, including erosion of national pride, poverty, shifting economy, disparities in education, materialism, obesity, growing up too fast, violence in school and alcohol/drug abuse.

He, then, continued in explaining young people's role in creating a better world through practicing Value Based living, the 5D Principle, which are Duty, Discipline, Determination, Discriminative Faculty and Devotion. Based on his presentation, by practising these 5D Principles, young people will have value based living enable them to contribute in creating a better world for all.

At the last part of his presentation, Dr. Murali gave some of real examples of young people's contribution through numerous activities in various countries such as Guatemala, Sri Lanka, Bolivia and Uganda.

SESSION III: THE SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE OF CSOs AND NGOs IN COMBATING ARMED CONFLICT

Speaker Topic: **“The Role of Civil Society In Peace Building And Conflict Resolution”**



By **General Tan Sri Panglima Mohd. Azumi Mohamed**, Member of Board of Trustee, Perdana Global Peace Foundation, Malaysia.

Actively involved in many peace building activities and conflict resolution, General Tan Sri Panglima Mohd. Azumi Mohamed, a member of Broad of Trustee in Perdana Global Peace Foundation in Malaysia, gave pivotal presentation on the role of civil society in 15th Melaka International Youth Dialogue. He explained that today civil society is vigorously engaged in international development policies, humanitarian assistance, humanitarian rights protection and advocacy, peace works at local, regional and international levels.

General Tans Sri Panglima Azumi also gave various examples of activities organised by the civil society in peace building and conflict resolution ranging from provision of early warning; preventive diplomacy through third party intervention; facilitating dialogue and mediation; negotiation and networking; to initiatives for multi cultural and relationship building.

In the period of conflicts, he added that civil society could improve the situation by fostering actions across different groups or parties involved through informal exchanges or dialogues. In post-conflict stage, he suggested to opt for mending the situation including establishing alternative media and war reporting; democratization process; youth work and women empowerment; promotion of peace cultures through arts; disarmament and demobilisation process; human rights monitoring; as well as initiatives for reconciliation and relationship building.

He emphasized that the civil society, in fact, is the effective vehicle for integration. It has a great potential in voicing out the needs of marginalised groups whose interests are often disregarded and bridging young people with the authority parties.

Speaker Topic: **“Great Causes And Principles Do Not Necessarily Give Rise To Meaningful Sustainable Development”**



By **Mr. Joseph Otiiti Opiyo**, Youth Advocate, Straight Talk Foundation, Uganda.

Mr. Joseph Otiiti focused on the causal principle of the armed conflict which is originated from the failure of the State to respect the Social Contract Agreement which was signed between the Sovereign (Policy-Makers) and the citizens men in order to secure their conditions of Order, Peace, and Law.

Besides, he went in explaining the consequences of armed

conflict and the root-causes took place during pre, during and post armed conflicts which restrain the attainment of sustainable peace including actions such as strengthening military and security systems and imposing excessive force.

At the end of his presentation, he also illustrated the mechanism of armed conflicts by comparing it with a tree in which the leaves represented the effects of armed conflicts, stem as the armed conflict entrepreneurs, and the root as the root causes of armed conflict. He then concluded that for prevalence of sustainable peace and stable security to youth, it is crucial to destroy the root causes of armed conflict itself.

Speaker Topic: **“Resolution: Inclusive Societies at Stake”**



By **Council of Members – European Youth Forum**; represented by **Miss Martina Julian Dina** – WAY Volunteer.

In the resolution, there is detail description on what are the crises happening in current days, including extremist violence, racism, xenophobic and religious discrimination, which are resulted from mostly social and economic exclusion, inequality and lack of functional, transparent as well as accountable institutions which leads to citizens' distrust. These complex and interrelated factors, in fact, cause young people to care less about politics and restrict their participation in democratic life in their country.

To overturn the situation, the resolution recommends embracing the value of diverse and inclusive societies which is nurturable through education and policies enforcement aimed at promoting equal opportunities, intercultural understanding and social inclusion for everyone, especially for young people.

Besides, the resolution states on how educational programmes organised by non-formal educational organisations including youth organisations and non-formal civic organisations could play significant role in developing both analytical and critical thinking which are necessary for democracy. In fact, youth organisations could provide the right platform for young people to learn and experience diversity, mutual respect, responsibility and democratic values.

In addition, the resolution also provides numerous resonance recommendations which aspire to achieve full recognition of human rights, equal opportunities and realisation of democracy in all levels of society. *Refer to the Appendices for the full Resolution*

Speaker Topic: **“The Role Of Youth Organisations In Preventing Armed Conflict”**



By **Mr. Jufitri Joha**, Vice President, Malaysian Youth Council, Malaysia.

Mr. Jufitri, the Vice President of Malaysian Youth Council, shared valuable information on past experiences of youth organisation in Malaysia in preventing armed conflict. He started with touching lightly on the updates about the Global State of Peace in the year 2015, including those happened in Rwanda and Yemen.

He, then, proceeded with the detail briefing on the pyramid function of Youth Organisation consisting of the 3 functions, Charity, Activities and Advocacy Function in which the Advocacy Function has the largest influence in preventing armed conflict. He also explained that Advocacy Function involves a political process and/or activities, including media campaigns, public speaking, commissioning and publishing research, by an individual or group which aims to influence decisions within political, economic and social systems and institutions.

Lastly, he gave some examples on how youth organisations prevented armed conflict worldwide through practicing Advocacy function. Some of the examples given include Interfaith Declaration in Support of an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in year 2011/2012 and the forming of the Malaysia Life Line for Syria (MLLFS).

WORKSHOPS:

Based on the introductory perspective and case studies from the invited speakers, who led structured discussions of the relevant issues pertaining to the theme, the practical involvement of the youth in decision making process was born in the workshops which were considered interactive and brainstorming sessions.

In the workshops the participants were divided into groups and asked to discuss on the challenges and roles played by the public and private sectors, as well as the Non-Governmental Organizations, Media, Society, and young people in achieving a sustainable conflict free generation. This later led into the creation of the Draft Declaration which, afterward, was presented to the participants for its adoption. *Refer to the pictures in the Appendices*

2. DECLARATION:

The declaration is a document bearing recommendations agreed by the participants that they feel ought to be implemented by the public and private sectors as well as NGOs, Media, as well as related youth Organizations. The participants through their thorough discussions, debates, thoughts, and experiences during the plenary sessions and workshops, guided by the dialogue objectives agreed to the final draft declaration in unity as they were brought together for the dialogue.

The adopted declaration was then distributed to all participants present and later on published and forwarded to all WAY members, CSOs, Ministries of Youth, UN Agencies, and other related institutions. *Refer to the Appendices*

3. TOUR:

The field trip was organised as an informative visit based on the theme for the Dialogue in which the visit was scheduled on the afternoon of the 24th June, 2015. For this tour, the participants were transported to visit Melaka Historical sites like the Maritime Museum and A'Famosa. The night before was a tour ride through the Melaka River Cruise, and a visit to the Taming Sari Tower. The tour was very extensive as it played a very significant role, adding a remarkable feather to the entire dialogue. *Refer to Pictures in the Appendix*

4. CLOSING CEREMONY:

The closing ceremony of the 15th Melaka International Youth Dialogue commenced with the reading of the adopted declaration.

Secretary General of WAY Ms. Ediola Pashollari, in her remarks, expressed her gratitude for the development of the declaration and the level of commitment demonstrated by everyone present during the entire dialogue. She also acknowledged the input of all dignitaries, and organisers and she hoped for a continuous relation and cooperation among the youth, WAY, National Youth Councils, Youth Organisations and Government Youth Representative Bodies.

The remarks by Ms. Ediola Pashollari were followed by video presentation of the theme of dialogue - Youth and Armed Conflicts: To Express Without A Fear, To Progress Without A Threat. The guest of honour for the night, former President of WAY, Hon. Senator Tan Sri Mohd Ali Mohd Rustam, took the stage to present his closing speech, and emphasised on the importance of the dialogue as a platform to deliberate on peace and combating armed conflict.

He also stated that "We live in a time where we have to abide by international laws, so let us take that into consideration and express our ideas without fear, let us treat those that are not our own without a threat. We are our each other's keeper no matter the race, nationality or background we are all one family. By embracing these principles we are bound to reach a positive consensus."

The closing ceremony was concluded with a dinner, followed by souvenir and certificate awards presentations to sponsors, volunteers and delegates. The night was ended with different performances by the delegates as they continued to entertain themselves to draw the curtain to a spectacular event.

DELEGATES:

This year's MIYD 'Youth and Armed Conflict: To Express Without A Fear, To Progress Without A Threat' was graced by more than 200 youth and youth leaders from every region as expected by the organisers. The participants were able to tap into the invaluable insights of the forerunners in the armed conflict and defence field and those champions elucidating on recent developments and challenges while exploring better conflict resolution policies in the world.

The National Youth Councils of many countries showed why they are the beacon of light for the youth in their respective countries with their prolific contributions to this dialogue, making their voices heard about the impact of the unattended issue of armed conflicts on the young people around the world. The participants recognised the dialogue as a potential driver for development growth and indulged in efforts to exploit the benefits that could be reaped from others present.

This intensified the atmosphere of self-motivation, and great networking groups formed as was the initial intention of the Melaka International Youth Dialogue to bring together young people and youth leaders to discuss this imminent issue and also formulate a guideline that encompasses the suggestions brought forward during the workshop sessions.

With the outcome document, the declaration, WAY Secretariat trusts that the delegates will play their role in disseminating the gained information to all their relevant institutions in their respective countries; form partnership with all relevant stakeholders; and also reach to the grass root levels and the community as a whole, with the aim to promote young people's right to peaceful and inclusive society.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

A complete financial report is available upon request from the secretariat.

APPENDICES:



15TH MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE
“YOUTH AND ARMED CONFLICT:
TO EXPRESS WITHOUT A FEAR, TO PROGRESS WITHOUT A THREAT”
22-24 JUNE 2015
KINGS GREEN HOTEL, MELAKA, MALAYSIA

DECLARATION

1 PREAMBLE

- 1.1 We, the 210 young people from 43 countries around the world, attending the 15th Melaka International Youth Dialogue (MIYD), convened in Melaka from 22nd – 24th June, 2015 for an annual program organized by the World Assembly of Youth (WAY):
- 1.2 **Noting** that children and youth represent the majority of the population in most countries affected by armed conflicts and are thus disproportionately affected by war. More than 1.5 billion people, 40 percent of them being youth, live in countries where levels of criminal violence are on the increase.
- 1.3 **Acknowledging** that suffering of young people bears many faces - they are recruited as child soldiers, are killed and maimed, deprived of education and health care, and separated from their families.
- 1.4 **Recognizing** that conflict is the breeding ground for mass violations of human rights including unlawful killings, torture, forced displacement and starvation.
- 1.5 **Understanding** the world is home to the largest generation of young people in history.
- 1.6 For the past 14 years, MIYD has been focusing on several youth issues which directly or indirectly affect the daily lives of youth. In 2015, the theme for the 15th MIYD was 'Youth and Armed Conflict: To Express Without A Fear, To Progress Without A Threat'.

The guiding principles for this declaration were based on the following objectives:

- To raise an informative generation on the current situation of youth and armed conflicts with anticipated behaviour adaptation and consequently admission to decision making amongst youth;
- To foster youth action towards implementation of ideas brought forward by the young people for the benefit of the societies;
- To address the determinants and impact of armed conflicts amongst youth;
- To promote equality of opportunities and facilities between young men and women;
- To formulate the environmental, political, economic and cultural factors that are associated with peace building and disarmaments in ensuring young people's right to live in harmony;
- To ascertain the obligations of society to respect, protect and fulfil the right of young people to live, express and improve themselves without fear and threat.
- To classify the role and the contribution of the national youth councils and other stakeholders towards improving and sustaining resourceful policies in combating armed conflict and promoting sustainable conflict free environment;
- To form and advance the national, regional and international policies governing youth and their right to live in peace for the present and future;
- To integrate networking, collaboration and cooperation between public and private sectors, civil societies and other stakeholders to address the issue of youth and armed conflict;

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Participants identified key recommendations for adoption by the public sector, private sector, NGOs, media and youth. In addition, participants established commitments and outcomes in the pursuit of peace among nations and a conflict free generation.

2.2 Based on the dialogue, and building on the progress in the implementation of The World Programme of Action for Youth, we call upon the following stakeholders to:

2.1 PUBLIC SECTOR

2.1.1 *Train* public officers with the right knowledge and skills in order to execute and sustain policies that would prevent armed conflict and meet the needs of community.

- 2.1.2 *Develop* policies that would address and prevent armed conflict within the country and region.
- 2.1.3 *Establish* a platform that would ensure and serve the bureaucratic interest of the community in a transparent manner.
- 2.1.4 *Maintain* neutrality in conflict resolution for the betterment of society.
- 2.1.5 *Inculcate* in school curriculum the basic values of life on inter-faith, inter-generation, and inter-ethnicity, to avoid conflict.
- 2.1.6 *Invite* all stakeholders to promote entrepreneurship among young people as a tool to prevent youth restiveness and extremism.
- 2.1.7 *Ensure* equity in distribution of information and resources throughout the community.
- 2.1.8 *Create* a new paradigm for just, sustainable and rights based development.
- 2.1.9 *Create* policies that would address fundamental inequalities between young people and inequalities between countries, while promoting rights based approach and putting young people at its centre.
- 2.1.10 *Emphasize* commitment to the wellbeing of young people and the planet.
- 2.1.11 *Include* youth in decision making processes, policy implementation, monitoring and evaluation, in youth related issues.
- 2.1.12 *Ensure* young people's involvement in creating, developing and sustaining of resources that would lead to the betterment of standards of living, in order to avoid any form of conflict.
- 2.1.13 *Ensure* adequate youth activities in development and creation of enabling environments for jobs to promote peace and unity.
- 2.1.14 *Create* robust, transparent, multi-sectorial accountability mechanism at the national level that includes meaningful participation of youth and civil society organizations.

2.2 PRIVATE SECTOR

- 2.2.1 *Invest* and sponsor social activities that would promote peace, unity and progress, at national, regional and global level.
- 2.2.2 *Ensure* that youth are introduced and engaged to the employment opportunities and capacity building activities for the betterment of community.
- 2.2.3 *Partner* up in peace building efforts and positively influence negotiations whenever conflicts arise.

2.2.4 *Encourage* partnership with all stakeholders towards youth empowerment and development programmes, including CSR initiatives.

2.2.5 *Create* connection between economic and social development for the betterment of youth.

2.3 NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

2.3.1 *Sustain* advocacy for transparency and guarantee freedom of speech by government and relevant stakeholders.

2.3.2 *Create* platforms to evolve monitoring mechanisms of activities carried out by all stakeholders, in order to avoid conflict.

2.3.3 *Initiate* and develop programmes and activities for youth in areas engulfed in armed conflict.

2.3.4 *Create* rehabilitative youth activities in post-conflict regions towards sustainable development.

2.3.5 *Develop* programmes that would promote commitment to the achievement of human rights and inclusiveness of young people in the process.

2.3.6 *Insist* on transparent democratic processes in order to avoid conflict in society.

2.3.7 *Encourage* partnership among all stakeholders and promote peace and sustainability.

2.3.8 *Appoint* youth ambassadors that would propagate peace in conflict and post-conflict areas.

2.3.9 *Enhance* communication and cooperation amongst themselves in order to reinforce their effectiveness as participants in the implementation of sustainable development.

2.4 MEDIA

2.4.1 *Positive* use of social media; such as promotion of campaigns, creating awareness and information dissemination.

2.4.2 *Sharing* important and relevant news in public and private social media accounts, in order to inform the broader public of development concerning issues of Governance, Social-Economic, Security, etc.

2.4.3 *Address* the issues of Governance by policy analysis, and ensure that it is accessible to all.

2.4.4 *Insist* on objective reporting on youth related issues.

- 2.4.5 *Use Non-Mainstream media and social media to disseminate rightful information to the society.*
- 2.4.6 *Use media to get across information at all levels, especially the rural areas.*
- 2.4.7 *Gather information and ideas from society with regards to youth issues.*
- 2.4.8 *Establish media platforms that would create and share high-quality education and information, accessible to all.*
- 2.4.9 *Promote transparency and accountability in the government by reminding them to fulfil electoral promises.*
- 2.4.10 *Influence all stakeholders to develop and implement crucial policies that are inclusive for the marginalized, indigenous, disadvantaged and disabled groups.*
- 2.4.11 *Set realistic measures of proper information management to avoid cyber crime among youth.*

2.5 YOUTH

- 2.5.1 *Encourage friendly approaches to overcome misunderstandings of social-economic issues.*
- 2.5.2 *Engage in meaningful activities and promote sustainable development for all.*
- 2.5.3 *Discover and nurture talents and potential in order to desist from social violence.*
- 2.5.4 *Establish platforms that would strengthen the role of youth in the decision making process at all levels.*
- 2.5.5 *Represent the positive values and interest of the community in order to avoid violence in their daily life.*
- 2.5.6 *Initiate and engage in peaceful dialogue in the midst of conflict.*
- 2.5.7 *Partake in grassroots development initiatives and promote peace in partnership with all stakeholders.*

3 CONCLUSION

We, the participants of the 15th Melaka International Youth Dialogue, acknowledge the importance of a society where the youth should be given the opportunity to express and progress themselves free from fear and threat. Where wars erupt, suffering and hardship invariably follow. We seek to generate youth dialogues and advocate for legislations, policies and programmes at all levels of society in order to achieve peace among all nations, a conflict free generation and inclusion in the consultations of the Sustainable Development Goals and Post-2015 Development Agenda.

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

Albania	Mongolia
Australia	Namibia
Azerbaijan Bangladesh	Nepal
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Nigeria
Botswana	Pakistan
China	Papua New Guinea
Colombia	Philippines
Czech Republic	Romania
Djibouti	Saudi Arabia
Egypt	Singapore
Ethiopia	Somalia
Fiji	Sudan
Finland	Switzerland
Gabon	Syria
Germany	Tanzania
Ghana	Togo
Indonesia	Uganda
Iran	United Kingdom
Jordan	United States of America
Libya	Yemen
Malaysia	Zimbabwe



RESOLUTION INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES AT STAKE

COUNCIL OF MEMBERS
/EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM. 17-18 APRIL 2015

The European Youth Forum believes in the values represented in the European Convention on Human Rights: peace, non-violence, respect, inclusion, diversity and equality. After the attacks in France and Denmark and the massive killing of citizens in Nigeria and students in Kenya during 2015 and the ensuing backlash, we witnessed that these values were not respected all around the world. These hate crimes are a wake-up call for all of us.

Social and economic exclusion leaves space and opportunities to attract and recruit people for extremist violence. The youth movement, civil society and the public sector have to increase their efforts in combating racism, xenophobic and religious discrimination, as well as movements promoting these agendas.

Numerous austerity measures have contributed to rising inequality, hitting the most vulnerable groups the hardest. Moreover we see a rise in nationalistic and regressive policies regarding media freedom, other forms of expression, and immigration. Xenophobic, racist and other discriminative behaviour as well as language, cultural and religious discrimination is gaining acceptance and leading to closing borders and segregation of groups in society.

Lack of functional, transparent and accountable institutions is increasing citizens' distrust in politicians and institutions¹. This is particularly affecting young people and their participation in democratic life. Young people are, as a result, being characterised more and more as a group not interested in politics. We believe that this incorrect perception is often the result of intolerant politics that actually discourages citizens, including youth, from getting involved.

We believe that diverse and inclusive societies are the basis of Europe, and these values are the soil in which we encourage strong and fair democracies to grow and flourish. The main ways of achieving this is through education and policies aimed at promoting equal opportunities, intercultural understanding and social inclusion for everyone, especially for young people.

Furthermore, youth organisations, non-formal civic and political education are crucial for the development of critical and analytical thinking and, therefore, necessary for democracy. Civil society has had a historically important role in fighting undemocratic movements. Youth organisations provide space for young people, not least the most marginalised groups, to learn, experience, and discover diversity, mutual respect, responsibility and democratic values. Formal education systems have a responsibility in nurturing these values as well by providing civic education to everyone as an integrated part of curricula.

Media is one of the main pillars of democratic societies. Nevertheless, media coverage is not always balanced or free of stereotypes, prejudices, bias, and it can enable an environment which is not supportive of an inclusive society.

We call for:

- A rising investment in programmes ensuring young people's rights to quality education and especially to civic and citizenship education and the development of media literacy, critical thinking, free thought and respect of diversity, with the aim of reaching youth of all geographic and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- A strong investment in civil society, and youth organisations as part of civil society, which not only provide opportunities but also involve young people in democratic and empowering processes.
- Free access to education regardless of social background, country of origin, gender or age, or the level of education.
- Easily accessible support for young people who want to get involved in organisations at regional, national and international level but who cannot afford membership fees or activity costs.
- Social issues to be at the centre of public policy, including at the European level, ensuring access to rights that every human being should have such as access to public services, quality employment and a non-discriminative and inclusive society.
- The prevention of social divides and economic inequality in order to foster an inclusive society, especially to empower vulnerable groups in their access to rights. Targeted integration policies leading to the inclusion of all in society.
- Promotion of intercultural understanding within and among communities and countries.
- Equal access to information for all social groups, especially social minorities.
- Measures for a more inclusive society not to stop at the borders of Europe but instead a strong intercontinental cooperation promoting peace, non-violence, respect, solidarity, inclusion, diversity and equality.
- Strong anti-discrimination legislation implemented across Europe through advocacy for and the adoption of policies such as the EC Directive 2008/0140 on implementing the principle of equal treatment.

- A removal of all national legislation limiting the rights of specific minorities.
- Norm criticism to be promoted as a method to challenge norms that are restricting access to rights and equal opportunities for youth in society.
- Democracy and active citizenship as part of the school curriculum throughout the whole formal education system.
- Functioning, transparent and accountable institutions and democracy.
- Active empowerment of all citizens in political participation processes with specific attention for those groups who are now found to participate less in democratic processes. Specifically, we call upon the European Parliament to lead the drive to fully implement article 11 TEU in order to invigorate participatory democracy in the EU. Organisations and institutions to be representative of the diversity of their societies.
- A diverse society through ensuring political participation of minorities.
- The establishment of a European Day for Victims of Hate Crimes on July 22nd.

OPENING CEREMONY



PRESS CONFERENCE



PLENARY SESSIONS



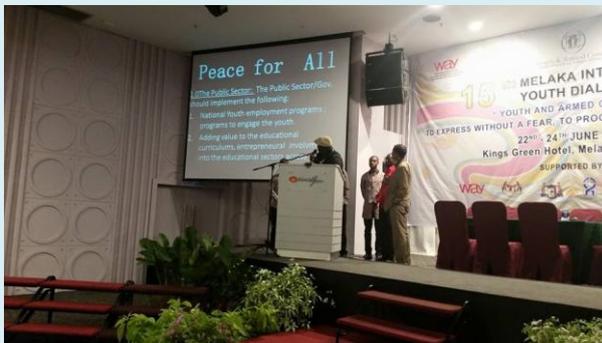
CULTURAL PERFORMANCE



WORKSHOPS



GROUP PRESENTATIONS



TOURS & OUTINGS



NETWORKING SESSIONS



CLOSING CEREMONY



WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH

PRESS RELEASE

DAY 1 - 15TH MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE “YOUTH AND ARMED CONFLICT: TO EXPRESS WITHOUT A FEAR, TO PROGRESS WITHOUT A THREAT”

DATE: 21ST June 2015

Melaka, 21st June 2015 – THIS day marked another outstanding event for the World Assembly of Youth (WAY), as highly passionate and entrusted participants have gathered for the 15th Melaka International Youth Dialogue (MIYD), which is taking place at Kings Green Hotel in Melaka, Malaysia.

The theme for this year is ‘Youth and Armed Conflict; To Express Without A Fear, To Progress Without A Threat’ intended to fulfil the principal opinions and roles of young people towards combating armed conflict and promoting sustainable conflict free environment. From yesterday, the organising committee has welcomed various participants, speakers, WAY Vice President, Mr. Preye Ketebu-Brown as well as WAY Executive Committee Member, Mr. Mueseke Kazapua. It was indeed overwhelming moments.

As a mode of welcoming the delegates, an ice breaking session was held today to serve as a casual way to get participants to intermingle with one another. With the arrival day gone, everybody is looking forward to the plenary sessions, as the participants will get to learn a lot from the invited speakers who will challenge, encourage, inspire and stimulate them and emphasize on the awareness of the sustainable conflict free generation.

-END-

**WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH
PRESS RELEASE**

DAY 2 – OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 15TH MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE “YOUTH AND ARMED CONFLICT: TO EXPRESS WITHOUT A FEAR, TO PROGRESS WITHOUT A THREAT”

DATE: 22ND June 2015

Melaka, 22nd June 2015- THE Opening Ceremony of the 15th Melaka International Youth Dialogue (MIYD) was held, today, Kings Green Hotel, Melaka, Malaysia with the honorable presence of Hon. Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, the Minister of Defense who officiated the opening ceremony, Hon. Datuk Seri Ir. Idris Haron, the Chief Minister of Melaka cum WAY President, and our very own WAY Secretary General, Ms. Ediola Pashollari. We also had the presence of WAY Executive Committee members, ambassadors and various other government representatives from both regional and national levels.

The Secretary General of World Assembly of Youth, Ms. Ediola Pashollari, during her welcoming remarks introduced the theme of the MIYD, 'Youth and Armed Conflict : To Express Without Fear, To Progress Without A Threat'. She welcomed the participants to the dialogue and thanked all the youth organizations, government bodies, sponsors, speakers, delegates and dignitaries for contributing their time and making themselves available for the event.

President of WAY, Hon. Datuk Seri Ir. Idris Haron, who was present during the opening ceremony, gave his speech on the changing nature of conflict directly impacting children as war tactics. Furthermore, he spoke on the counter- terrorism strategies that results in collateral damage, including youth casualties. He encouraged the delegates to actively take part in the event as well as enjoy their stay in Melaka and Malaysia. In addition, Hon Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein also presented a speech, in his words he said major war impacts are the high rate of mortality which is caused by the war itself or even by the collateral effects of warfare such as famine, disease or lack of medical care due to destruction of health services. He emphasized on human understanding which in-turn will lead to a win-win situation for all the parties involved. Instead of resolving conflict with violence, dialogue provides a better alternative. Dato' pointed out that there is a choice to be made between moderation and extremism, and the key to a proud and well established society is moderation.

During the plenary sessions, we had motivating speakers from different countries talking about the impact of armed conflict on young people, opportunities and challenges towards attaining a conflict free generation and the significance influence of CSO and NGOs in combating armed conflict. The sessions were informative as speakers shared their knowledge and advised the youth on attaining a conflict free generation.

The day commenced with three plenary sessions and the opening ceremony was held in the afternoon. It was then completed with the awarding of tokens of appreciation to the Guests of Honor and dignitaries present. Photos were also taken with all representatives from different countries. After that, the day was continued with the last plenary session and it was ended with brilliant cultural performances from all participants, volunteers and staff.

Overall, it was a tremendous way to get through another day and we look forward to more luminous days!

-END-

WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH

PRESS RELEASE

DAY 3 - 15TH MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE “YOUTH AND ARMED CONFLICT: TO EXPRESS WITHOUT A FEAR, TO PROGRESS WITHOUT A THREAT”

DATE: 23RD June 2015

Melaka, 23rd June 2015 – TODAY, 23rd June 2015, was a day filled with bright ideas and enthusiasm! All young leaders from all around the world sat together to discuss and work in expressing their opinions and thoughts in form of recommendations which will be adopted for enhancement of armed conflict policies.

Opportunities were also given for all participants to express without a fear and to progress without a threat so as to call for action and structure experience on the issue of Youth and Armed Conflict and chart a course towards its solution. They were divided in groups and asked to suggest solutions, develop ideas, interact with one another and present their discussions.

The workshop was based on the role of public and private sector, NGOs, Media, society and young people in achieving a sustainable conflict free generation. The Agenda was set to allow the participants the opportunity to share their ideas and recommend ways to improve them. Some of the roles that were discussed were youth and armed conflict as the empowerment of the young people so that they could have a conflict free generation.

As the night approached, all participants embarked on a mind blowing river cruise which was filled with joy and happiness. They were singing and dancing in the boats. A short tour was taken at Taming Sari Tower, in which the participants enjoyed the view of Melaka from 150 meters above the ground. As it is a norm, a group picture was taken as soon as people were done enjoying some music.

As the day progressed, the participants had a meeting to draft the declaration of recommendations pertaining to youth and armed conflict. The purpose was for all participants to give their different views and perspectives related to the issue of conflict so as for them to come up with the most suitable and ideal ideas. These different ideas were then discussed upon which the most appropriate solution was derived. Interesting philosophies, knowledge and thoughts were passed around to both speakers and participants creating magnificent discussions upon which some agreed and others agreed to disagree.

It was an incredible way to get through another fruitful day.

-END-

WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH

PRESS RELEASE

DAY 4 - CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 15TH MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE

DATE: 24TH JUNE 2015

Melaka, 24th June 2015 - THE last day of the 15th Melaka International Youth Dialogue was filled with many remarkable events. The day began with the presentation of the 15th MIYD Draft Declaration which was later on adopted for implementation. Everyone present participated well proving that they indeed paid attention to the advices and feedbacks given by various speakers for the past days.

During the day, the participants went on a field trip to some historical places in Melaka including Maritime Museum, A famosa, and many others. It was an overwhelming experience for the participants and volunteers as they got to know many fascinating historical places.

The farewell gala dinner and closing ceremony were held later that night at Kings Green Ballroom where WAY Secretary General, Miss Ediola Pashollari, welcomed all respected guests and participants. She went on to appreciate all the participants for their efforts in making the 15th MIYD a fruitful dialogue. The pulpit was later left for the former president of WAY, Hon. Senator Tan Sri Mohd. Ali Rustam, who gave a touching closing speech about armed conflict in which he emphasized on the importance of dialogue as to conflict.

After the 15th MIYD was officially closed, the sponsors were awarded with token of appreciations. Besides, volunteers were later on thanked and awarded with certificates for their hard work and dedication; without them the 15th MIYD could have not been a great success. The celebration was concluded with a photo session with sponsors, VVIPs and other VIPs. The night was ended with many of tremendous cultural performance, magnificent band show, exciting dancing and joyful laughter.

-END-

WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH

PRESS RELEASE

DAY 5 - 15TH MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE “YOUTH AND ARMED CONFLICT: TO EXPRESS WITHOUT A FEAR, TO PROGRESS WITHOUT A THREAT”

DATE: 25TH June 2015

Melaka, 25thJune 2015 – TODAY is the last day of the 15th Melaka International Youth Dialogues, as everyone was saying their goodbyes to each other. The participants, delegates and speakers were all delighted as they departed. Though it was sad but we, at the World Assembly of Youth (WAY), believe that we should not say ‘farewell’, instead, we should all say ‘see you’ as we are looking forward to the next year’s MIYD, with more laughter and joyful moments.

We also would like to utilize this opportunity to thank all partners, sponsors, organizing committee, volunteers and all parties who were dedicatedly involved in making this dialogue a grand success. We are blissful to have all your support.

-END-



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