

REPORT
13TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF
WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH

“Youth and Governance in the New Millennium”

23-27 January, 2000

Dynasty Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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I. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW.

1. The World Assembly of Youth (WAY) held its 13th. General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the 23rd to 27th January, 2000. The Assembly was attended by delegates from countries with the mission to set the world youth body in its original standing among one of the active and recognized international youth entities.
2. The Assembly was held in conjunction with a Seminar with the theme “Youth and Governance in the New Millennium,” focusing on the challenges of the new millennium while learning from wisdom of the past century and beyond. Issues covered reflect the positive outlook on the contribution and significance of WAY as a global platform for youths and youth organisations in a common pursuit for peace, development and prosperity for all, through the mobilization, interaction and integration of national, regional and international youth related bodies.

Opening Ceremony

3. The General Assembly was officiated by the Honourable Dato’ Hishamuddin bin Tun Hussein, the Minister of Youth and Sports, Malaysia.
4. Mr. Saifuddin Abdullah, the President of Malaysian Youth Council as chairperson.
5. President of WAY, Datuk Wira Mohd Ali bin Mohd Rustam.
6. In attendance during the opening ceremony were Dato’ Fuad Hassan, the President of Asian Youth Council (AYC) and Dato’ Raja Ruslan, Director of Youth Division, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Malaysia.

Magdalene Andrew Munot, Nor Jana Saim, Hashila Hashim and Johanna Sara Shamsul Hidzry were rapporteurs.

SESSION I

Agenda I. Opening Remarks by President of WAY

7. Dato’ Wira Mohd Ali Rustam thanked all delegates attending the 13th General Assembly of WAY and for active participation since the first day of the Assembly. He hoped for meaningful resolutions from the delegates. He explained the situation of WAY and what has transpired at the WAY’s headquarters in Copenhagen, during the last two years, that were forced to close down and later the secretariat to be relocated to Kuala Lumpur.

8. The President remarked that in the past terms WAY very much depended on projects contribution by the United Nations agencies especially from UNFPA, thus we were able to maintain the existence of the secretariat. Programmes concerning population and other field related to youth issues depended on the support of various governmental and non-governmental agencies. Since 1996, the Secretariat has not been proactive in garnering efforts for fund raising through these means. Payments of subscription from members were not very encouraging.
9. Facing financial difficulties, the secretariat decided to dispose an apartment without the WAY's Executive decisions. The assembly noted that Mr. Stig Fog Jensen, former WAY President from Denmark and the Danish Youth Council, tried to reorganize the Secretariat office by volunteering for about 2-3 months, but could not manage to save the Secretariat office from the new landlord. Communicating with the other member countries and circular letter to all committee members and bureau members, 60 percent responded agreeing for an office in Kuala Lumpur. In Denmark, the rental is high whereas in Malaysia it is free, and there is a support from the government and private sectors. It was later decided that all WAY belongings in Copenhagen be sent to Kuala Lumpur.
10. The President briefed the Assembly of World Youth foundation (WYF) objectives and its contributions towards WAY. The Annual Report of the Foundation were distributed to the delegates that showed that funds were allocated to the WAY secretariat and its activities such as the World Youth Leaders Exchange Program, young Entrepreneur, and other national level programmes where small amount of fund were given such as in Kenya, St Vincent and St Kitts. WAY's Prime Minister of Malaysia Youth Award for the member countries is funded by the donations.
11. The President said that he would like to have more seminars and workshops, at regional and international level, but needed the support from the local Youth Councils. The aim is to have many programmes whilst improving co-operation at the international level prior to all UN and its agencies summit. In this regard WAY needs a very capable Secretary General that knows the business and likes to meet people.
12. Some country do not get full membership of WAY, because they are not fully representative at the national level, where they only represent 2 or 3 youth clubs and not representing the whole spectrum of youth in that particular country. Some youth organisations are not fully run by the NGOs and some are fully run by the government. In some organizations everything is fully run but, the office bearers are not selected democratically. If the above criteria is fully met, WAY will definitely grant full membership.
13. The President hopes that WAY will continue and bring better relations among the partners involved. The basic idea is to bring people together to discuss issues and

problems such as New Global Village concept, globalization, new information technologies, poverty, health, education and employment. We need to have this type of forum in generating ideas and experience to action and to help and support each other.

Agenda 2 Amendments to the WAY Charter

14. Amendments to WAY Charter were proposed by the Norwegian Youth Council. Due to the resignation of Norway and in its letter withdrawing the proposal, the Assembly adopted that there were no amendments to the charter.

Agenda 4 Adoption of Agenda

15. The Agenda was adopted with proposal by the delegates from Surinam, and seconded by delegates from Brunei and Iraq.

Agenda 5 Adoption of Rules and Procedures and By- laws.

16. The Rules of Procedures and By-laws were adopted and the Assembly forward it to be further discussed and elaborated by the Election and Credential Committee.

Agenda 6 Election of Credential Committee.

17. The Credential Committee determined the status of each member countries and the Term of Reference was prepared. The Assembly elected the Credential Committee where members are from each region namely:

Asia	Brunei
Europe	Macedonia
Africa	Namibia
Latin America	Peru
Caribbean	Suriname

Agenda 7 Formation of Commissions

18. The Assembly formally agreed on the formation of Commission to discuss and deliberate on the various issues pertaining to WAY and its member countries. The Assembly elected the following:

Development Commission	Co-Chaired by Pakistan and Angola
Political Commission	Co-Chaired by Ghana and Iraq
Administrative Commission	Co-Chaired by Zimbabwe and India.

Agenda 8 Adoption of WAY Report.

19. The report listed WAY's activities since year 1993-1999.

Agenda 9

Adoption of WAY Financial Report

20. The Assembly was informed that WAY secretariat have not received the audited financial report from the Copenhagen auditors, thus the secretariat decided to prepare the report for the current and future status of World Assembly of Youth. The document "Report on Current and Future Status of World Assembly of Youth (WAY)" was tabled.
21. Botswana raised the points where WAY could not accept liability for other people responsibilities in paying income tax and asked whether the Denmark government requested WAY or the individuals to pay up. Dato' Ali Rustam told the assembly that WAY owed the government for WAY General Secretary income tax and also at the same time some amount to the Secretary General. The Assembly recommended that WAY secretariat to request the government of Denmark to waive the amount on compassionate grounds. Delegates from Malaysia suggested that the new committee examines whether Denmark's law stipulates that the employer has to pay for the income tax on the employee's departure from his employment.
22. Macedonian delegates questioned the amount showed for donations from the world to be zero and why the projected was also zero? The President replied that because of the number of nominal staff, they cannot market the organizations internationally for donations.
23. The Report was adopted as proposed by India and seconded by Korea.

Agenda 10

Announcement of Nomination for new Office Bearers

24. The assembly were briefed by the President that all details and eligibility on the nominations and management of the election to be discussed in the Credential Committee and the Election Committee. It was accepted and announced that election of a President (one post), Vice President (5 posts), and Executive Members (7 posts) to be held on the 26th January 2000 at 2.30 pm. The Assembly agreed on the appointment of members to the Election Committee i.e. from Namibia, Korea and the Philippines, whom were not vying for any post.

II. THE COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS.

25. The Assembly organization was based on the work of the Commissions, formed to discuss relevant issues and resolutions while suggesting special actions programmes before being proposed, discussed and considered by the Assembly. The following recommendations of the Commissions and Committee appear as they were adopted by the 13th General Assembly.

1.Development Commission

26. The Commission, chaired by Pakistan and Angola, recommended the following:

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Having examined the WAY's policy and progress report from 1993-1999, the Development Commission recommends the following resolutions to the 13th WAY General Assembly :

YOUTH IN THE SERVICE OF CHILDREN

- i. Encourage all national youth organizations to have children's sections within their organizational framework, and collaborate with national agencies that are working with children.
- ii. Calls upon all governments to enact legislation or other necessary means to help increase awareness in the elimination of exploitation from irresponsible employers.
- iii. Mandates the Secretariat to compile a data base on child labour and conduct universal activities on child labour with a view to determine how WAY can help to minimize the exploitation of children.

HUMAN RIGHTS

- i. Recognizes that the abuses of human rights are continually increasing in various forms worldwide.
- ii. Urges that the deprived sections of society be taken into special consideration.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND PARTICIPATION

- i. Mandates the WAY Secretariat to organize activities on national, regional and international levels to assist youth to properly run and develop voluntary youth organisations and to especially develop their potentials in working for the development of the society.
- ii. Calls upon national governments to promote independent, voluntary national youth councils which may be a constructive training ground for youth

empowerment and participation, and will assist to channel youth energies towards national development.

- iii. Mandates the Secretariat to solicit support of governments in establishing and maintaining independent youth councils.
- iv. Encourages that youth organisations' relationships with the different sectors of society be based on partnership for youth development.
- v. Recommends that member of youth organisations take special consideration to include young persons in their delegation to the General Assembly and mandates the WAY Secretariat to emphasize this resolution upon sending out correspondence regarding the General Assembly.
- vi. Recommends that all countries formulate and implement a national youth development policy with the opportunity of participation and decision making by the youth of the respective countries through dialogues and recommendations to the government.
- vii. Encourage governments that are hosting international meetings to host a parallel international youth meeting.

EARLY PARENTHOOD AND ADOLESCENT FERTILITY

- i. Reiterates its concern in the neglect of family life education for young people and lack of access to information regarding their sexuality, reproductive health, birth control and cautions concerning complications of early pregnancies.
- ii. Mandates the WAY Secretariat to promote successful programmes and best practices in the various areas to serve as an example for other countries.

HIV/AIDS

- i. Recognizes that HIV/AIDS is becoming a serious epidemic, especially among young youth and reaffirms its commitment to HIV/AIDS education and prevention.
- ii. Mandates the Secretariat to develop a continuous support system for People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) in terms of their rights, especially in the area of health, employment and emotional needs.

EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT

As all young people have the right to productive role in the society, mandates the WAY Secretariat to widen the scope for more opportunities for youth to be trained in entrepreneurship and to have access to resources essential for self employment. Volunteerism should be encouraged as an avenue to generate employment opportunities.

YOUTH AND ENVIRONMENT ACTION PROGRAMME

- i. Mandates the Secretariat and member organisations to continue working on environmental education programmes with specific reference to the conservation of nature and protection of our national resources, and work closely with the UNEP and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) towards the implementation of the World Conservation Strategy and the World Charter for Nature.
- ii. Encourage local youth organisations to be involved and participate in local and national authorities.

YOUTH AND HEALTH EDUCATION

- i. Encourage and promote health education through workshops, conferences, seminars and research in specific areas of health knowledge and skills in the respective countries.

YOUTH AND POPULATION

- i. Recognizes the gravity of the growing population and its consequences on young people and recommends that youth be provided with assistance to ensure young people are adequately informed regarding population issues.

YOUTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- i. Encourage the culture of volunteerism among youth.
- ii. Encourages national governments and international organisations to continue working for an international economic order that will guarantee an equitable and transparent distribution of resources adequate to the provision of the basic necessities of life for youth.

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN WAY

- i. Recognises again that representation of young women should be encouraged.
- ii. Urges national youth organisations to develop strategies to ensure equal representation of women at the WAY General Assembly and on the WAY Executive Committee.

PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE

- i. Recognizes that the years 2001-2010 has been identified by the United Nations as the Decade of the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence and mandates the Secretariat to organize programmes promoting peace throughout this decade.

YOUTH AND DRUG TRAFFICKING

- i. Encourage the use of information technology for networking and communication between WAY and member organisations.
- ii. Support the provision of information technology or communication facilities for member organisations which may not have the essential resources for such assets.

RECOMMENDATION OF CHANGE TO WAY CHARTER

- i. The Development Commission recommends a change in Article II : “ AIMS” of the WAY Charter, as follows: “ WAY is established to create awareness on the needs and responsibilities of young people and to promote youth participation at all levels of society. As a global platform for youth organisations, WAY is dedicated to influence political decision-making on youth affairs at the international level, to facilitate co-operation and mutual exchange of experiences between its members and to promote the development of a civil society in their respective entities.”

Chairperson: Georgina Nava, Philippines
Secretary: Zage Filiponova, Macedonia

2. Political Commission

27. The Commission was co-chaired by Ghana and Iraq and reported the following:

REPORT OF THE POLITICAL COMMISSION

The political commission recommends the following :-

PREAMBLE The commission recommends that the assembly resolves that:

WAY in all its programmes and activities strives to transcend divisions in the world community on the basis of class, race, sex and any other such form of discrimination.

Establishment of WAY as an International Youth Organization by taking into consideration following crucial concerns facing the world community and adding them to WAY Charter. Economic unbalance in the world resulting in “THIRD WORLD POVERTY”

Human Rights issues particularly the following:-

Gender Issues, Indigenous communities,

Issues relating to youth and children,

Threat of globalisation, War, Evil and miseries,

Continued avocation for non-violence strategies for the resolution of major world crisis.

Promotion of religious and cultural tolerance particularly among youth of the world.

Socio-economic issues :- Assembly notes with pain that majority of the world communities are still living under very difficult socio-economic conditions. With regards the issue of :-

Health, Drug abuse, High rate of crime among youth, Lack of economic opportunities leading to poverty, Racism, Sexual abuse, Militarism.

The General Assembly resolves that every effort should be made with immediate effect to begin to address these issues nationally, regionally and internationally.

Forming alliances:

Realizing that a lot of programmes strategies, declarations and initiative are already in place, the assembly resolves that WAY should do everything in its power to form

alliances and partnerships with national, regional and international youth agencies and stake holders in programmes design, implementation and evaluation.

The Situation in Iraq

The Assembly notes with sorrow the impact of economic sanctions on the civilian population of Iraq particularly as it has impacted on the provisions of basic essential services like food, water, shelter, health facilities etc. The assembly resolves that WAY should seek ways to influence the various powers involved in this conflict to end the economic sanctions. WAY Assembly also notes that there is concern that UN since to be exercising or preaching double standards when dealing with conflicts in certain nations of the world to the extent that there is suspicion as to whether the race factor is not involved.

Refugee situation (as circulated)

Assembly notes that the continued struggle of the people of Republic of Macedonia with international organisations for recognition and use of their constitutional and traditional name in the UN and other world institutions. This matter is referred to the bureau for the urgent attention and action.

Administrative Commission

28. The Administrative Commission was co-chaired by Zimbabwe and India and presented the following.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

The Commission discussed and highlighted pertinent issues related to the administration of WAY.

WAY has not been administered properly in the last 7-8 years. Identify failures and solutions in confronting the challenges of political initiatives taken to weaken WAY, so as to strengthen the administrative role.

Budget and Finance: The budget should have check and balances, such as two signatories for all payment.

Organizational structure: An additional post of Deputy Secretary General is necessary for continuity.

Elections: Any member wishing to run for elections should:- make a 60 day prior announcement be nominated by the national body which should pay a fee for application, be compiled in a newsletter sent to delegates at least 30 days before the assembly.

Meeting: Bureau meetings should be abolished in favour of full Executive Committee meetings.

Duties and Responsibilities: The President, in consultation with the Executive Committee, should give Terms and Reference highlighting duties and responsibilities to each Executive Committee member.

Communications: A regular newsletter should be introduced and maintained.
A WAY Directory should be compiled and distributed.
A WAY Website needs to be developed.
An enhanced information network is necessary.
Proper notice periods should be observed at meetings.

WAY Charter: This should be renovated in line with the new policies being called for.

Credential Committee Report

29. Report from Credential Committee stated each country's membership status. The Assembly noted that one of the Malaysian delegates was not mentioned, while Zimbabwe was not included in the list. Bangladesh applied for full membership during the General Assembly and based on the spirit of the General Assembly, Bangladesh was accepted as full member of WAY.

Election Committee Report.

30. The Assembly was informed that the post of treasurer was withdrawn during the 12th Assembly in 1993, thus so it is not contested during this election.

THE SPECIAL COMMISSION'S COMMITTEE REPORT

31. The special commission was set up by the WAY General Assembly and the secretariat to facilitate the special commission on Political, Administration and Development.
32. This Commission held group discussion and meeting to discuss on the special remarks made in the seminars and induct some new tasks and functions to be considered by the three commissions.
33. The appended reports has been submitted by the respective commission and the special commission approves and forwards their report for adoption by the General Assembly.

Ms. Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan	Chairperson (Pakistan)
Mr. Ricky Rouphine	Anguilla
Mr. Abdul Ghaffor	Iraq
Mr. Ganyaglo K. Francis	Ghana
Drs. Nana Yuliana (Ms.)	Indonesia
Ms. Mehnaz Ansari	India

WAY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

34. The Chairman of the Elections Committee, Mr. Pohamba Shifeta of Namibia announced the election results as follows:

PRESIDENT (elected uncontested)	DATUK ALI RUSTAM MALAYSIA / Malaysian Youth Council
VICE PRESIDENTS (elected)	BOSSOONDYAL-NURDKESWARSING MAURITIUS (Caribbean)
	HOOGHART DESIRE SURINAME (Africa)
	ZAGE FILIPOVSKI MACEDONIA (Europe)
	FELIX GONZALES-POLAR

PERU (Latin America)

DR. FIRDOUS ASHIQ AWAN
PAKISTAN (Asia)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

MS. NANA YULIANA
INDONESIA / Indonesian National Youth
Committee

MR. IMAD A. MUTTAR
IRAQ/ General Federation of Iraqi Youth

MOHAMMAD FAZLUL HAQUE
BANGLADESH/ National Youth Council

BHUBAN PATHAK
NEPAL/ Social Youth Council of Nepal

DONALD CHARUMBIRA
ZIMBABWE/ Zimbabwe Youth Council

35. The Executive were mandated to fill in one executive position by the General
Assembly