

SPEECH BY MS. EDIOLA PASHOLLARI

SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH

AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE

11TH MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE

“SHAPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENTREPRENEURS”

WEDNESDAY 29TH JUNE 2011 AT 2000 HRS

EVERLY RESORT MALACCA, MELAKA

Datuk Datuk, Datin Datin,

Distinguished guests,

Good Evening Ladies and Gentleman;

Let me begin this evening by expressing our sincere thanks to everyone that has made the 11th Melaka International Youth Dialogue “Shaping the Next Generation of Entrepreneurs” a success. From the very first day of the opening of the 11th Melaka International Youth Dialogue, the different programs with all the different inspiring and educational speeches, discussion groups, and plenary sessions till tonight, have been outstanding!

The declaration has been created and we will be sending it out soon after this to all WAY’s member organization across the globe. I am sure they will be excited, as we are, to read of the achievements we have made this week in shaping up of the next generation of entrepreneurs.

The youth are the bridge between generations and is a critical asset to the world in every aspect of its existence. We have a responsibility to ensure the views, aspirations and real life experiences of the young people move to the heart of the policy making agenda and also a special responsibility to champion the role and worth of high quality youth program for them. We have a crucial role to play in the achievement of building a new and better future for youth work at the heart of our overall vision for young people.

The youth population of the world, those aged 12 to 24, has reached a historical high of 1.5 billion. Youth are the entrepreneurs, workers, leaders, and parents making an impact today, and they will be responsible for the economic and social development of tomorrow. Expanding the entrepreneurial culture and skills of young citizens has the potential to improve international security, economic stability and the overall health of the communities.

We, at WAY will continue to facilitate communication, coordinate and assist any of its member organization that needs us to come alongside them. We will bring together leaders from other organizations, NGOs' and community leaders and specialists from related areas, to exchange ideas and provide a mechanism for learning and the building of life skills in our youths. Let us raise vibrant and visionary new entrepreneurs among our members so that they become exemplary to their communities.

One important thing that we need to reemphasize is that youth entrepreneurship initiatives promote entrepreneurship as a viable career alternative. The youth do offer significant innovation potentials for an economy.

We have all heard great success stories from the different speakers this past week and we recognize that the needs of young entrepreneurs and starts-up, are very similar throughout the globe. Access to finance and to social capital, knowledge and experiences through mentoring and networking is a must. It is necessary that we not only agree verbally to assist or support them but that we also set a standard for them to follow.

What we truly hope would happen after this week is that there will be a continuous link between the young and experienced entrepreneur. Youth focused incubation or gradual development should be involved the experienced entrepreneurs as mentors and the focus on leadership and skills and business modeling. Market exposure of youth focused entrepreneurship and their acceptance among young people is crucial for their sustainability. That is why having the right mentor and coach is a must.

The new upcoming young innovators should focus on business models that overcome market barriers and uncertainties. Fear of failure is not part of their vocabulary! Creative problem solving, exploring new ideas, flexibility and wisdom are their tool to succeed. Opportunities to make a difference for their own lives, their families and communities will become a significant reality as these new entrepreneurs are released.

This year dialogue is an important step in fostering the emerging field of youth microenterprise. What we have started this week in giving the right access points, the right support, the right encouragement, coaching and mentoring, we

are investing in the lives of young people and they will rise to the challenges of entrepreneurship and self employment.

Once again, thank you and have a great adventure in shaping a successful and innovative next generation of Entrepreneurs.

Thank you,