

*Welcoming Speech
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A Very Good Morning

YAB DATUK SERI MOHD ALI BIN RUSTAM
CHIEF MINISTER OF MELAKA & CHAIRMAN OF YOUTH
FOUNDATION

YB DATUK GAN TIAN LOO
PENGERUSI JAWATANKUASA NEGERI
PELAJARAN BELIA & SUKAN

YB DATUK R. PERUMAL
PENGERUSI JAWATANKUASA NEGERI
PEMBANGUNAN DESA & PERTANIAN

**Dignitaries
Speakers,
Guests
Donors
Members of the Press
Participants**

A very warm Welcome and Selamat Datang

The World Youth Foundation (WYF) " an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations" is an international non-governmental organization, whose aims are to promote research, development and documentation of youth programmes beneficial to youths worldwide. The Foundation seeks to support the work of the UN and the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond as well as the Millennium Development Goals.

Through it's programmes the Foundation seeks to engage and empower young people on a range of issues, besides giving young people the opportunity to share best practices, networking and learning through people – to-people exchange.

Since 2002 we at the Foundation have been playing an important role in bringing to the forefront issues concerning our environment by participating in the World Conference on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa, the ASEM Youth Dialogue on Sustainable Development, Vietnam, 2004, the Asia Europe Youth Explore held in 2006, in China, Annual Ministerial Review 2009 and 2010, UNEP COP 15 and 16 and several others.

For the past couple of centuries, and particularly the last 60 years – we, the people, have been squandering the planet's vast treasury of ancient sunlight.

At the launch of the World Commission on Environment and Development monumental Report, Our Common Future, at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London on 27 April 1987, Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland, Chairperson of the Commission spoke this words

“ Securing our common future will require new energy and openness, fresh insights, and an ability to look beyond the narrow bounds of national frontiers and separate scientific discipline. The young are better at such vision than we, who are too often constrained by the traditions of a former, more fragmented world.

Environmental issues present some of the most profound and complex challenges requiring attention today and in the coming decades. Hence it is important that a strong foundation be build to enhance local, regional and national capacities to respond to those challenges by increasing environmental awareness. Here the role of youth is central, for it is in the rising generations, that, heightened awareness can most easily be achieved.

Governments and organizations realize the importance of the role young people can play and have spurred systematic efforts to harness this large and valuable resource.

Therefore, young people should also start assuming their roles in making the change they wish to see in their own lives and society by empowering themselves with the necessary tools.

I wish to place on record my sincere thanks and appreciation to all donor agencies for the generous contribution, my colleagues, volunteers, all support staffs of WYF for their dedication and passion towards organizing this workshop, the Protocol and the Royal Malaysia Police Department for their cooperation, the print and electronic media for their continued support, UN agencies for highlighting this event in their listserves, family and friends for all their valuable advise, and all participants for being here today.

Thank You.

30th April 2011