
Conference Closing

At 11.00 am on Friday, 16th June, participants gathered in the Dewan Kampo for the closing of the Conference. They were particularly pleased to welcome to the Chair Mr Mohd. Ali Abu Bakar, Director General of Youth for the Government of Malaysia. Ali, a member of the planning group had unfortunately been ill throughout the event. He had been sadly missed by all who had worked with him.

Format and Content

Ms Cecily Stead and Mr Joseph Bwembya made speeches of thanks on behalf of the participants.

They stressed that the conference had succeeded in being practical and relevant in its orientation, the tremendous conference spirit that had been developed, the freedom of debate and discussion and the way in which all participants had been challenged. Everyone, they stressed must be returning home with new ideas and a new resolve to be creative and purposeful in their work on drugs issues.

For all of this, they thanked the planning group, the Malaysian Government staff, CYP and Commonwealth Secretariat personnel, the staff of the International Youth Centre and all of 'us participants'.

These speeches were endorsed by all participants.

Mr Raja Gomez, Director of CYP thanked all of the participants for attending and participating in the event in such a spirited and dedicated manner. The success of the event, he commented, was primarily due to their efforts and initiative. He also thanked the Planning Group, for their conceptualisation of the programme and their support throughout the conference; the CYP staff, for their hard work and commitment throughout the event; the staff of the IYC, for their hospitality and co-operation and, most importantly, the dedicated and enthusiastic support of the staff of the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Mr Mohd Ali Abu Bakar closed the conference. He had been sad to have missed it but, under Doctor's orders, had no option but to remain in hospital and at home. He was greatly encouraged by all of the comments he had heard about how successful the conference had been and was very proud of the way in which all his staff had performed. He thanked the CYP staff for their invitation to the Conference, choice of Malaysia as host and the close and warm co-operation with his own staff. Lastly he thanked the participants expressing his hope that the conference had helped to formulate their views and opinions on effective strategies to tackle this important issue.

Ali then moved around each participant, presenting them with a gift from the Government of Malaysia and a Certificate recording their attendance at the conference.

As a finale, all participants sang the conference song, written by two participants and sung to the tune of 'Chariots of Fire'.

Conference song

*Stronger! Stronger!
Stronger! Stronger!*

*It's clear that we're stronger
For we've come as one
United we'll conquer the drugs in our lands
The Youths—they are drifting away hopelessly
And if we don't help them
They'll never be free.
So let's share our thoughts with each other
Let's look at the problems
For we're gathered here just to deal in solutions
We know we're a force to reckon with
And here we must take a stand
And rally our forces to fight drug pollution*

*Stronger! Stronger!
Stronger! Stronger!*

*Together we're stronger
The swords in our hands
To fight all drug pushers and drug addictions
The emblem of vict'ry
The strength to frighten
Are locked in our motto
'A drug free nation'
This whole world will be a better place
If all drugs are never misused
And no one will walk our streets no more
Destroying our youths
And if we will plan accordingly
To give youths alternatives
Then surely they'll find a worthwhile
Cause for which to live*

*Stronger! Stronger!
Stronger! Stronger!*

*We're sure we are stronger
For we've sung this song
Which binds our spirits
Together as one
We sure we are stronger
Indeed we are free
To make our Nations
The type they should be
Together we'll walk hands in hands
And deal in solutions
Malaysia we're glad that we can be
Here in your land*

*Stronger! Stronger!
Stronger! Stronger!*

