

**OPENING SPEECH BY DATUK WIRA DR HJ BAHARI BIN
DATUK HJ ABU MANSOR, DEPUTY NATIONAL
CHAIRMAN OF MALAYSIAN RED CRESCENT AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE
15TH SOUTHEAST ASIA RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT
LEADERSHIP MEETING OF 2018**

Bismillahirrahmannirrahim ASM WBT & a very good morning to all present here today.

YAB Datuk Seri Utama Ir Ts Hj Idris bin Haron, the Honourable Chief Minister of Melaka,
YB Datuk Wira Roslan bin Ibrahim, Melaka State Secretary

Mr. Xavier Castellanos, Regional Director, Asia Pacific Region, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC),

Ms. Isabelle Barras, Head of Regional Delegation, International Committee of the Red Cross & Red Crescent (ICRC),

Mr. Marwan Jilani, Head of Country Cluster Support Team, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Bangkok

YM Raja Dato Nazrin bin Raja Tan Sri Aznam, Deputy Organising Chairman,

YBhg Dato Sayed Abdul Rahman b Sayed Mohd, Secretary General Malaysian Red Crescent Society

**Heads and representatives from the various
government departments of the state of Melaka,
HOD & fellow delegates from RCRC in South-east Asia
Your Excellencies
Datuk2 & Datin2
Members of the National Executive Board, State
Representatives & members of the Malaysian Red
Crescent Society**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

**Assalamualaikum Warahmatulahi Wabarakatuh and a
very good morning to all,**

**Before delivering my “Welcoming speech” allow me
to relay a message from our National Chairman YM
Tunku Tan Sri Shahrizan bin Tunku Sulaiman who
conveyed his regret for not being able to be present
today due to health reasons.**

**Allow me to start this morning session by welcoming all
those who are from outside Melaka to my beloved
state of Melaka. It is my honour as the Deputy National
Chairman and the Chairman of the Organising
Committee for the 15th Annual Meeting of the Red
Cross and Red Crescent National Societies Leadership
meeting of 2018 to welcome all of you to the opening
ceremony of this important meeting.**

I would also like to start by thanking Yang Amat Berhormat, Datuk Seri Utama Ir Ts Haji Idris bin Haron, the Honourable Chief Minister of Melaka and also YB Datuk Wira Roslan bin Ibrahim the Melaka State Secretary, for giving us their blessings and also all round support for this important meeting which is being held in this historic city of Melaka for the first time.

This may be the first time a RCRC SEA Leadership meeting is being held in Melaka but way back in 2007, by taking advantage of being elected to the Chairmanship of the Asian RCRC Hiv-aids Network (ART) the 19th ART meeting was held in Melaka at that time. With this past experience we feel more confident organising this Leaders meeting this time around.

YAB, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This annual meeting is indeed an important meeting. The Red Cross and Red Crescent movement is a voluntary humanitarian organization whose strength is based on the volunteers that exist throughout all corners of the world. It is the largest humanitarian organization in the world consisting of around 14 million volunteers throughout the world from 191

National Societies representing 191 countries world-wide.

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society, as one of the 191 National Societies world-wide, is a statutory body created by an act of Parliament i.e the Malaysian Red Crescent (Incorporation) Act of 1965 is rightly an auxiliary to the government and guided by the seven fundamental principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement which is Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary, Unity & Universality. Even so, the MRC has been wrongly labelled as the biggest NGO in Malaysia.

These fundamental principles is an expression of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's value and practices in responding to the sufferings and needs of people around the world. They also serves to guide our action and is part of our aspiration too.

The annual RCRC Leaders meeting is considered important because this is a golden opportunity for the leaders of the National Societies within the region of Southeast Asia namely Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao, Myanmar, Thailand, Timur Leste, Vietnam and host Malaysia to discuss humanitarian issues that are of importance within this region and how we can work together as a team and also with the Asean Secretariat.

To indicate how effective it is working as a team, in Antalya, Turkey 2017, Malaysia was given the honour to represent ASEAN NSs during the the General Assembly. Many issues were addressed, discussed, debated before implementation among the 191 NSs representing 191 countries around the world.

For this year's Leaders meeting, among the many important topics to be addressed is the Asean Strategy especially the proposed MoU between ASEAN and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) which will allow both sides to work closer and in a more coordinated way.

The proposed MoU between ASEAN and the IFRC will include reference to the IFRC's 'One Billion Coalition for Resilience' initiative which reflects and supports ASEAN Vision 2025, the One ASEAN one Response theme, the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) work programme 2016 – 2020 and the commitment to building a Culture of Prevention,

YAB, Ladies and Gentleman,

One of the purpose of this meeting is to strengthen the intra-relationship among members in the ASEAN region.

During last year's Leaders meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam a Cooperation Agreement was signed between Cambodia, Lao and Vietnam Red Cross.

This year, the Malaysian Red Crescent and the Singapore Red Cross which has always enjoyed a very good relationship and have always worked well together will sign a Memorandum of Understanding.

One of the new areas is a cross border initiative whereby the two national societies will work together in transporting patients between the border of Singapore and the state of Johor, Malaysia.

We are also planning for joint youth, community services and disaster risk management programmes.

We hope that together with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), these objectives of ours will be achieved.

**Before I end this speech I would like to say a big Thank
You once again to:**

**YAB the Chief Minister of Melaka for officiating this
important meeting**

**To YB Datuk Wira State Secretary & the related
government agencies for helping out with part of the
busy itinerary**

**To the IFRC & ICRC for having the confidence in us to
be this year's host**

**To all HOD & foreign delegates for making it a point to
attend this year's meeting & go back with sweet
memories of you short stay in beautiful Melaka**

**To all those who support our Souvenir programme
especially Majlis Datuk2 Negeri Melaka for being the
first to do so**

**To the secretariat of the Organising Committee
coordinated by Encik James Kon & making sure
everything is tip-top**

**To all guests for your kind attendance & making it a
day to remember!**

**Being someone from Melaka, a speech is considered
not complete without a Pantun**

**Kalau ada jarum yang patah
Jangan disimpan di dalam peti
Kalau ada silap dan salah
Jangan disimpan di dalam hati**

**(Literally it means, for our foreign delegates),
If you have a broken sewing needle
Do not keep it in a box
If there is anything that is not right
Please do not keep it in your heart!**

Thank you: wasslam