

**Malaysia First Country To Launch YESPeace  
Bernama  
May 24, 2015**

KUALA LUMPUR, May 24 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is the first country to launch the 'Youth for Education, Sustainability and Peace (YESPeace) Malaysian Chapter', an initiative under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said it is the best platform for youths to voice their views and opinions on issues related to peace and sustainable development.

"The YESPeace initiative is spearheaded by the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, which is also under UNESCO," he said when launching YESPeace Malaysian Chapter and the Malaysia UNESCO Day 2015 celebration with the theme 'Togetherness' at Dataran Merdeka in Kuala Lumpur, Sunday.

UNESCO director-general, Irina Bokova was also present. The focus of UNESCO Day 2015 is on youths.

Muhyiddin said increasing global challenges and threats prove that it is critical for the world community to unite under the theme of 'togetherness.'

"This theme supports UNESCO's ongoing efforts to educate and foster the global community to better understand the diversity and live together in peace and harmony," he said.

On education, Muhyiddin, who is also Education Minister, said he had held engagements on education matters including on the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013-2025 at UNESCO headquarters in Paris in 2013.

"I presented to UNESCO director-general Irina Bokova, the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2015-2025 on higher education, during my visit to Paris recently," he said.

The deputy prime minister noted that these engagements and activities underscored a deep relationship between Malaysia and UNESCO.

Since becoming a member in 1958, Malaysia has played an active and committed role in the United Nations (UN) agency.

"I can state that UNESCO's aspiration has always served as a point of reference for our developmental plans and goals," he said.

Meanwhile, Bokova said there was a need to support young people by listening to their ideas and views and to strengthen the education sector.

Noting that UNESCO Day 2015 marked the agency's 70th anniversary, she said it was a

moment to celebrate achievements and renew UNESCO's engagement on education, sustainability and peace in line with the UNESCO tenets.

"I would like to thank the government and people of Malaysia for supporting and cooperating with UNESCO in many fields including education, science, culture, communication and information," she said.

She said the theme of 'togetherness' is about strengthening humanity as a single community, adding this was reflected in Malaysia's Vision 2020 as the country's economy, society and culture progressed in harmony.

Bokova acknowledged that Malaysia had chalked up numerous achievements in sectors such as education and poverty eradication.

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