



CLOSING REMARKS

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DEPUTY MINISTER OF WOMEN, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT MALAYSIA**

**ASEAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON PREVENTING INTIMATE
PARTNER TRANSMISSION OF HIV IN CONCENTRATED EPIDEMI
INTEGRATE KEY STRATEGIES AND GOOD PRACTICES INTO
NATIONAL GENDER EQUALITY FRAMEWORKS AND POLICIE**

**HOTEL ISTANA, KUALA LUMPUR
31TH MARCH 2016 (THURSDAY)
4.15 PM**

SALUTATION]

ssalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh
ood afternoon and Salam 1Malaysia

istinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start first by congratulating the team for the excel
arrangement of this workshop especially to the Ministry
Women, Family and Community Development and the ASE

UN WOMEN, UNAIDS through the Government of Canada their generosity in funding this event.

Congratulations to all the relevant parties involved for all their tireless effort in putting this event together. In addition, I would also like to record my appreciation to all speakers and participants of the ASEAN Regional Workshop on Preventing Intimate Partner Transmission (IPT) of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in Concentrated Epidemics.

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adies and Gentlemen,

We recognise the ever changing dynamics and fluidity of issues in this region and agree to take steps to prevent intimate partner transmission of HIV. Based on the report of the Global AIDS Progress Response for 2015, Malaysia is estimated to have 91,848 people living with HIV in 2014. During the same period, the national surveillance system reported a cumulative of 105,189 HIV cases, 21,384 for AIDS cases

Surveillance data shows that a significant number of women have become infected as a result of their intimate relationships with men who are, or once were, engaged in high-risk behavior. Therefore, I am glad that we organised this workshop to further deliberate our strategies to address these issues. This shows our seriousness in mitigating and curbing the increasing rate of HIV infections especially among women and children.

I was made to understand that this workshop is organised as a result from the Consultative Meeting to Reduce Intimate Partner Transmission of HIV among Key Affected Women and Children

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within ASEAN which was held in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR in 2012. The meeting concluded that in order to achieve ASEAN with Zero HIV infections, Zero Discrimination and Zero AIDS Related Death, we need to foster greater cooperation between ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), ASEAN Task Force on AIDS (ATFOA), policy makers of ASEAN Member States and the related Civil Society Organizations (CSO).

adies and Gentlemen,

As the member of ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development (MWFCD), Malaysia maintains its efforts and support for ACW's main function which is to coordinate and monitor key regional priorities and cooperation in women's issue and concerns.

Therefore, MWFCD of Malaysia would like to pledge for greater government support in addressing the needs and rights of the women and girls infected and affected with HIV.

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Since 2011, MWFCD has contributed a total of RM6,270,654 to Malaysian AIDS Council (MAC) for prevention programs as well as to help fund for the operational cost of shelter homes for people living with HIV/AIDS. In 2015, the funds have been distributed to 6 homes via Malaysian AIDS Council.

adies and Gentlemen,

participants. I believe the knowledge and sharing we had with gathering of more than 70 people in the past three days will help us in designing better prevention programs for ASEAN in our respective countries since we have speakers and moderators from ASEAN Member States, UNAIDS, UN Women and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries who are very experienced in their own field.

2. We began this workshop by discussing issues on intimate partner transmission of HIV focussing on health and gender equality issues for ASEAN Member States and further

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deliberated on how to address the issues in ASEAN context. Participants were also brought for site visits within Kuala Lumpur to reach out to the People Living With HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) in effort to understand their issues better.

1. We also had a sharing session by individuals who are currently living with HIV as well as the experience shared by the care partners PLWHA. It is agonizing to find out that they are among the women who were perceived as low risk in contracting

contracted the virus via their intimate partner because their intimate partner was the one with the high risk behaviour.

2. There were also a lot of value-adding success stories shown by the speakers that provide avenues for all of you to network and discuss future undertakings in the HIV prevention especially among women and girls. I see this workshop as an opportunity for ASEAN Member States to reach the goals and targets set out in the ASEAN Declaration of Commitment: Getting to Zero New HIV Infections, Zero Discrimination, Zero AIDS-Related Deaths as was agreed upon in 2011.

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3. In order to materialise this dream, we must be open to the ideas and suggestions discussed within this three-day workshop and roll out the implementation in your respective countries.

adies and Gentlemen,

4. I am pleased to know that the senior officials and representatives of the civil society organisations as well as

Agreement has been made on the next steps to be taken with ASEAN Member States will propose follow-up programmes under the next ACW and ATFOA framework.

5. As Malaysia's Deputy Minister of The Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, I took note of all the evidence, approaches and strategies to reduce levels of intimate partner transmission (IPT) of HIV especially among women and young girls. Hence, I am pleased to inform that our Ministry will integrate the key strategies and recommendations to prevent

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IPT into our existing national social policies, frameworks and programmes related to gender equality and HIV.

6. I would like to emphasise that we will continue to cooperate with our civil society organisation in order to reach out to our target groups especially women who are perceived to be as 'low risk group' as well as those people living with HIV (PLHIV).

adies and Gentlemen,

7. Our experience tells us that we cannot hope to succeed in efforts unless we work together. I hope our collaboration will stop here in Kuala Lumpur. As ASEAN member states, I hope we shall keep on reaffirming our determination to work together to overcome this epidemic.

8. On that note, I now conclude the ASEAN Regional Workshop Preventing Intimate Partner Transmission of HIV Concentrated Epidemics: Integrate Key Strategies and Good Practices into National Gender Equality Frameworks

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Policies. May our efforts today bring success in the future and I wish you all a comfortable and safe journey back home.

9. Thank you.