

INTERVENTION NOTES

YB DR. MASZLEE BIN MALIK

MINISTER OF EDUCATION MALAYSIA

MINISTERIAL MEETING ON

INCLUSION AND MOBILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

**PANEL 2: SPEARHEADING THE GLOBAL CAMPUS THROUGH STUDENT AND
FACULTY MOBILITY, INNOVATIVE STUDY PROGRAMMES AND DELIVERY
MODALITIES**

ROOM II, UNESCO PARIS

WEDNESDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER 2019

(3 minutes)

Thank you, Mr. Moderator,
Honorable Ministers and Heads of Delegations,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Mobility is a pillar of education and education is the bedrock of mobility. The celebrated French philosopher, Rene Descartes, once remarked that “Traveling is almost like talking with those of other centuries.” Descartes was a living embodiment of centuries of scholars and students who travelled in search of education and wisdoms of all kinds. To be a French intellectual in his day was to know the world and to be charmed by all of its wonders.

At its height, the Muslim civilization too was a hub of seekers of knowledge. The *crème de la crème* among modern French historians, Fernand Braudel, once described it as a civilization of knowledge. Great universities were established. Students and scholars, Muslims and non-Muslims from all backgrounds travelled to Central Asia to as far as the edges of modern-day Spain, to exchange scholarly ideas in all sciences. This, as we

all know, paved the way for the European Enlightenment, with Descartes being one among many of its *les partisans* (proponents).

Fellow ministers and delegates.

Malaysia strives to embody this spirit of mobility in education which has defined human civilization. We have grown to become an international knowledge center, in tune with the vicissitudes of globalization. Malaysia seeks to enhance mobility in education through three key strategies:

First, as the Chair of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation, I aim to establish stronger partnerships within and among ASEAN countries, and with other nations such as Japan, Korea, Africa, North and South Americas, and Europe. The focus here is on creating platforms for the growth of educational capital, talent and research resources.

In addressing obstacles to student mobility, Malaysia too has made investments in predictive data analytics involving student mobility and employability through the use of AI, drawn from various government and industry databases and applications.

Second, Malaysia aims to be the “Paris of Intellectualism” or the “Andalusia of Scholarly Life,” where scholars and students converge in the country. To ensure cross fertilization of ideas and expertise, there is a conscious effort to remove various obstacles to mobility, one of which involves reviewing rules and regulations for international scholars and students to study and conduct research in Malaysian universities and institutions.

The Global Convention on Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education by UNESCO is our impetus for this. It is in line with the Malaysian Qualifications Framework (MQF), which will further smoothen the process of entry into

universities within and outside Malaysia. Students and scholars' mobilities are our primary commitment.

Above all, we advocate diversity in opinions and opportunities for all. We believe that mobility will become seamless if human beings acknowledge each other's differences and appreciate diversity. We are working towards ensuring that education will not only augment mobility across borders but also mobility within a given domain, in our respective countries. For us, education is a leveller that can bring about social mobility. For this purpose, the values that form the nucleus of education must be love, happiness and mutual respect.

Respected ministers and delegates.

I would like to conclude with a quote from Jean-Paul Satre which elucidates the underlying logic of mobility :

“Everyone must be educated to confront the world and prepare to construct their meaning and values....Everyone must learn to make decisions and take actions that develop responsibility for the self and for relations with others in the world”

With that, *merci*.