

**INTER-CIVILIZATIONAL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM
2008 (IYEP2)**



**“GREEN VS. GREED:
YOUTHS REFLECT ON THE
ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE”**

De Palma Hotel, Kuala Selangor, Malaysia

16-20 November 2008

REPORT

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1 BACKGROUND

1.1 YLP The Inter-Civilizational Youth Engagement Program (IYEP) evolved from the Young Leaders' Program (YLP) which began in 2002 "to develop a deeper understanding of global challenges and how youths can contribute toward the creation of a just world" and "to foster a closer relationship among Malaysian youths from different religious and cultural backgrounds." The YLP was one of the International Movement for a Just World's (JUST) principal activities. Following the tremendous success of the previous YLP programs, it was decided that the project be brought to the global level in 2007. The program was renamed Inter-civilizational Youth Engagement Program (IYEP) .

1.2 IYEP The first IYEP held in Kajang, Malaysia was held in June 2007 under the theme "Building a Universal Civilization of Peace." It was co-organized by the US based Inter-Religious Engagement Project 21 (IEP21), the World Council of Muslims for Inter-Faith Relations (WCMIR), the Muslim Youth Movement of Malaysia (ABIM) and The World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY), headquartered in Saudi Arabia.

2. IYEP2

2.1 Theme: The theme of the second IYEP was "Green versus Greed: Youths Reflect on the Environmental Challenge". It was held in the De Palma Hotel, Kuala Selangor, Malaysia from 16 to 20 November 2008. Through this program an attempt was made to engage youths in one of the greatest challenges facing humanity today.

2.2 Venue:: We chose De Palma Hotel in Kuala Selangor mainly because of the theme since the district is outside the city and offers insights into environmental issues.

3 CO-ORGANISERS

This time JUST's co-partners were, the Muslim Youth Movement of Malaysia (ABIM), Australia based Pax Christi, Austria based International Progress Organisation (IPO), India based Indian Council of Gandhian Studies, and Thailand based International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB).

4 PRE EVENT ACTIVITIES

The Pre-event activities began in May 2008 with the appointment of Dr Mohd Yunus bin Mohd Yasin as program director and the preparation of the concept paper. The daily programme was designed to cover the 4 elements of life plus the spiritual aspect. Following the finalisation of the concept, on 31 May facilitators were briefed on their roles and responsibilities and started their preparation for the event.

4.1 The Concept

We put forward the following concept

We are told that God created the universes and the only living planet known to us, the Earth. On this living planet, He created soil, air, fire and water, all of which are lifeless. He then created life and all kinds of life forms; from those which live in water to those which live on land; from those which are small to those which are large; from those

which live in solitude to those which live in communities; from those which are fast to those which are slow. He then created a precarious human entity, and made him the custodian to His creation on this living planet. So what does this custodian of the creation on Earth, past, present and possibly future do?

The custodian diminishes the earth's ability to continue to produce food in the future, the world loses about 10 million hectares of arable land per year to soil degradation. The world's fisheries are more than 70% fully fished or over fished, being depleted where they spawn, where they grow, and where they decompose and become food for other beings in the sea.

The custodian pollutes land and water by intensive livestock production to feed his every need. Feeding to continuously consume, eating more than his body can handle until he become obese. This activity then creates problems of manure disposal and water pollution via river run-off, spreading sickness to many areas.

The custodian's greed and need to continue to consume is causing a global water shortage. Excessive irrigation accounts for 70% of the water drawn from freshwater systems and has created an unprecedented situation in human history.

The custodian needs to produce food and products faster and cheaper. This justifies the use of poison to kill what his logic calls a 'pest'. In the process he also kills everything in the soil, water and air. These poisons then come back to haunt him. Recent studies have linked pesticides with childhood leukaemia, kidney tumours, brain tumours, and learning and memory problems.

The Creator in His wisdom crafted many varieties of living entities in perfect harmony but His custodian, often in his greed, uses every method predisposed to him to decrease this biodiversity. About 30% of the world's potential area of temperate, subtropical and tropical forests has been converted for agriculture, and land conversion to agriculture continues at a rate of approximately 13 million hectares per year. Each year tropical forest the size of Ireland is removed. The Lord of the Universes creates life, His custodian brings death. The custodian establishes conditions which result in cheap food for the rich, and expensive food for the poor. In developed countries such as the US, they spend 14% of their income on food. In developing countries the poor spend as much as 75% of their total income on food.

This custodian has evolved an economy, which diminishes the return of the farmers, those who work directly with living entities. Farmers today are earning less of the money people spend on food. In 1900 farmers received 70% of every dollar spent on food; by 1990 farmers received an estimated 3 to 4% of every food dollar spent. About 80% of the world's hungry live in rural areas and depend on agriculture to make their living and yet most wealth is concentrated in cities, in the hands of a small elite.

What is the role of this custodian on Earth?

We then gave each of the following four elements a day for discussions

The four elements:

Element 1: Water

Water is a chemical substance that is essential for the survival of all known forms of life. The human body is made up of anywhere between 55% to 78% water depending on the body size. To function properly, the body requires between one and seven litres of water per day to avoid dehydration. Water is vital both as a solvent in which many of the body's solutes dissolve and as an essential part of many metabolic processes within the body. Water is also an essential for the photosynthesis process. However, the water ways in the world are not being managed well for example in the developing world, 90% of all wastewater still goes untreated into local rivers and streams. Some 50 countries, with roughly a third of the world's population, suffer from medium or high water stress, and of these most extract more water annually than is recharged through their natural water cycles. The strain not only affects surface freshwater bodies like rivers and lakes, but it also degrades groundwater resources. Water pollution together with the excessive use of water for other uses such as industry, cleaning, recreation etc has resulted in an impending water crisis throughout the world.

Element 2: Air

The Earth's atmosphere is made of a layer of gases surrounding the planet and retained by its gravity. It contains about 78% nitrogen, 20% oxygen, 1% argon, 0.038% carbon dioxide, trace amounts of other gases, and a variable amount of water vapour. This mixture of gases is commonly known as air and protects life on Earth by absorbing ultraviolet solar radiation and reducing temperature extremes between day and night. Air is needed for living beings respiratory systems and processes such as photosynthesis. However, air pollution is one of the biggest problems facing the planet today. Worldwide air pollution is responsible for large numbers of deaths and cases of respiratory disease. Global warming is the increase in the average temperature of the Earth's near-surface air and oceans since the mid-twentieth century and it is projected to continue. Human activity since the industrial revolution has increased the concentration of various greenhouse gases, leading to increased radiative forcing from CO₂, methane, tropospheric ozone, CFCs and nitrous oxide resulting in a change in climate on the earth's surface.

Element 3: Soil

Soil is the naturally occurring, unconsolidated or loose covering of broken rock particles and decaying organic matter (humus) on the surface of the Earth. Soil functions are general capabilities of soils that are important for various agricultural, environmental, nature protection, landscape architecture and urban applications. However not all soil can be used for agriculture or to produce food which is called arable land. Of the earth's 57 million square miles of land, approximately 12 million square miles are arable. However, arable land is currently being lost at the rate of over 38,610 square miles per year. A major element of arable land loss comes from deforestation primarily in tropical countries by commercial over-exploitation of tropical forest. At times, deforestation can be so extreme that it leads to desertification. Millions more of the world's most vulnerable people are facing starvation as food shortages loom and crop prices spiral ever upwards. Furthermore, the global drive for a new green fuel to power cars, lorries and planes is worsening world food shortages and threatening to make billions go hungry. Last year a quarter of the US maize crop was turned into ethanol to fuel vehicles - and the US supplies more than 60% of the world's maize exports. All these factors have brought to the fore the question of how the little arable land available should be used.

Element 4: Fire

Fire is the heat and light energy released during a chemical reaction, in particular a combustion reaction. Fire has been an important part of many cultures and religions and was vital to the development of civilization. It was commonly associated with the qualities of energy, assertiveness, passion and cleansing. The ability to control fire is one of humankind's greatest achievements. Fire was the beginning of the energy revolution, making humans able to generate heat and light which made it possible for people to migrate to colder climates and enabled people to cook food. It was estimated by the Energy Information Administration that in 2005, 86% of primary energy production in the world came from burning fossil fuels, with the remaining non-fossil sources being hydroelectric 6.3%, nuclear 6.0%, and other (geothermal, solar, wind, and wood and waste) 0.9%. The use of coal as a fuel predates recorded history. The principle of supply and demand suggests that as hydrocarbon supplies diminish, prices will rise. The North Sea and Alaska are slowly running out of oil and producers there are struggling to keep production from falling. This has resulted in an impending energy crisis since energy generation is the cornerstone of modern civilisation. The main question that arises is whether the Earth is able to meet our growing energy demands.

The fifth day focussed on the 'Fifth Element' – Spirituality - and was inclusive of all the crises

Life is a condition that distinguishes organisms from non-living objects being manifested by growth through metabolism and reproduction. Properties common to these organisms—plants, animals, fungi, protists, archaea and bacteria - are a carbon- and water-based cellular form with complex organization and heritable genetic information. This is the element that connects the other elements. Living beings drink the water, nourished by the soil, breathe the air and produce energy which sustains them.

What is the role of this connector and the connector at the helm of the food chain, humans, the only living being who is capable of self awareness, i.e. ability to know itself and its surroundings?

4.2 FACILITATOR TRAINING

The facilitator training was to introduce them to the concept of world café and how to be effective facilitators.

4.2.1 World Café Training

The World Café as a conversational process is based on principles that can be used to explore our deeper living process in order to develop our collective future. The World Café is about someone hosting conversations about questions of mutual interest in an often informal and friendly way. In a typical world café, a few conversations are conducted in parallel in different café tables. The café tables are often hosted by a table steward who acts as a facilitator to initiate the conversations. These conversations link and build on each other as people move between groups, cross-pollinate ideas, and discover new insights into the questions or issues that are most important in their life, work, or community. Thus the World Café helps to build the collective intelligence of a group, which can enable people to develop effective and mutually agreed actions in pursuit of common aims. The world café concept was chosen for this event to help the young build their common perspectives and aims in regard to the subject matter. Also the concept is very informal and gives the power of conversation to the participants, in line with the main title of the program ,namely, “youths reflect on the environment ...”.

4.3 Preparation of Reading materials

Considering the broad nature of the subject, and the involvement of the different stakeholders, reading materials were prepared for the participants before the event. The reading materials were prepared by the facilitators under the supervision of Dr. Mohd Yunus. The facilitators producing the reading materials also had an added advantage. The facilitators would later become the table stewards who would have to initiate the conversation at their respective tables. By preparing the reading materials, the facilitators were able to learn more about their subject matter, which allowed them to be better table stewards. Most of the reading materials were also well referenced so that participants would be able to access the source if they wanted to learn more about a particular subject.

5 THE PARTICIPANTS

Application forms were sent out to various organisations and educational institutions both within Malaysia and around the world.

5.1 Criteria

The almost 50 participants and facilitators were chosen from the returned forms based on the following criteria:

- a. Age** As it was for the youth of the world we kept the participants age limit to between 20 -25
- b. Religion** All inclusive as we wanted to get as wide a mix as possible.
- c. Gender** Here again we tried to keep the gender mix as balanced as possible
- d. Language** The participants had to write a short essay in English. This was used to judge their command of the English language as the event was conducted entirely in English as well as to get a peek at their views on the subject.

5.2 Breakdown

The breakdown of the successful applicants (inclusive of facilitators) is as follows:

- Gender:** Female 22 Male 27
- Religion:** Muslim, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu and Ba`hai, apart from those who are not attached to any specific religion.
- Nationalities:** Albanian, Australian, Bosnian, Egyptian, Indian, Indonesian, Iranian, Kashmiri, Kosovan, Malaysian, Nepalese, Nigerian, Singaporean, Sri Lankan, Turkish, Yemeni.

6. SPEAKERS

Before each world café conversation began, the participants were given a short briefing on the background of the particular crisis related to the element to be discussed on the day. The purpose of the talk was to provide some background information before the world café. Participants were told to keep the conversation as broadly as they liked. They did not have to discuss all the issues raised by the respective speakers if they did not want to.

Day 1, The Environmental Crisis: Mohd Yunus and the Facilitators

The event began with an introduction of the environmental crisis and its challenges. A brief introduction of the 5 stakeholders was also made during this presentation.

Day 1, Water: Charles Santiago

Charles spoke about the importance of water to our lives and how it would be the most important resource in the survival of the planet, more so than oil. He then outlined how freshwater is a fast diminishing resource and how governments and industries have seized on the opportunity to make water a commodity to be traded. He believes that this has a detrimental effect on access to water, particularly for the poor. He also elaborated on the problems of water privatization in the world, using Malaysia as a case study.

Day 2, Air: Rosli Omar

Dr Rosli began by giving a brief overview of climate change and its cause, particularly green house gases. He then mentioned some of the scenarios of climate change such as sea level rises, floods and droughts, etc. He also gave the various opinions on the safe levels of green house gases in the atmosphere and concluded that we need to reduce our emissions drastically if we are to maintain the Earth's current climate. He ended by giving examples of past civilisations that had collapsed due to the over exploitation of their resources.

Day 3, Soil: Fatimah Arshad

Dr Fatimah spoke about the global food crisis. She began by outlining the magnitude of the crisis focussing upon some food commodity prices. She also highlighted some of the contributing factors such as the rise in oil prices. She briefly outlined Malaysia's food situation and its dependence upon imports. She emphasised that the rise in food prices is not only a supply and demand issue but is also due to factors such as climate change, disease, speculation and so on.

Day 4, Fire: Choo Peng Yin

Dr Choo began by giving the history on how he got into the issue of the global energy crisis. Choo believes that the Earth has hit the "Peak-Oil" mark which means that we have already reached our maximum oil production capacity. This would mean the global oil production will begin to reduce in the near future. However, the demand for oil is still on the rise which would place severe restrictions on oil as the largest source of energy on the planet. He then elaborated on some scenarios that could happen with the advent of reduction of oil in the global market. He generally called for a state of emergency to deal with this problem since the world economy is very much dependent on oil.

Day 5 – the 5th Element, Chandra Muzaffar

Dr Chandra highlighted how the multitude of crises that confronts humankind today tells us that something is seriously wrong with the way we live and how we conceive of life and its purpose. Selfishness and greed have been institutionalised and sanctified in contemporary civilisation as never before. He stressed that this is why we have to once again mainstream universal spiritual and moral values such as justice and compassion anchored in a Transcendent Reality or God. As God's vicegerent on earth, the human being is entrusted with the protection of the environment and the elevation of the dignity of her fellow human beings. The human being is thus the sacred fifth element in creation without whom the other elements would be rendered meaningless. He ended by reiterating that the challenge of fulfilling that role as vicegerent falls upon the youth of the world.

7 AGENDA / PROGRAMME

7.1 5 Day Workshop

The event was organised as a world café discussion workshop. Each workshop focused on one of the elements outlined above followed by a final workshop to discuss the final element of life on the only living planet known to us. However, to focus the discussion further we looked at 4 major crises that the world is facing which are related to the 4 individual elements.

1. **The World Water Crisis:** The Water Crisis refers to the status of the world's water resources in relation to human demand. The major aspects of the water crisis are overall scarcity of usable (and drinkable) water and water pollution. There are 1.1 billion people without adequate drinking water, and the United Nations acknowledges 2.6 billion people are without adequate water for sanitation. Most scientists now agree that the Earth is beyond its carrying capacity (i.e. ability to meet the demands of life) with respect to available fresh water. Technology has advanced the ability of the Earth to meet the demand but the cost is prohibitive and many poor countries will not be able to afford it. Can technology provide the solution and what are its limits?
2. **Climate Change Crisis or Global Warming:** This is the increase in the average temperature of the Earth's near-surface air and oceans in modern times and it is projected to continue mostly due to human influence via industrialisation. Most of this is caused by the greenhouse effect which is a process by which absorption and emission of infrared radiation by atmospheric gases warm a planet's lower atmosphere and surface, mainly caused by greenhouse gases due to atmospheric pollution. The change in climate causes irregular climate behaviour such as cyclones and melting of the polar ice caps which in turn can cause a change in oceans' current flow patterns as well as a rise in sea levels. How long can the Earth sustain the current equilibrium of life on the planet?
3. **Land use and the Food Crisis:** The World Bank estimates that 100 million people are falling deeper into poverty as prices for basic staples that feed the world - wheat, rice, and corn - have risen by a staggering 83%. More than 73 million people in 78 countries that depend on food handouts from the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) are facing reduced rations this year even though most of these countries are agriculture economies. Arable land, an agricultural term, meaning *land that can be used for growing crops* is decreasing due to many reasons, one being soil pollution. Of the little arable land left, most are used for industry, housing and cash crops (e.g. cotton to produce latest fashions for the rich). Are we using our limited arable land wisely? And can the Earth feed our ever growing greed and insatiable desire forever?
4. **Energy Crisis:** The energy crisis is the rise in the cost of energy that feeds the economy. Energy is the resource that is used to exploit all other resources and when the energy markets fail, the roll-on effect upon the economy is tremendous. It was estimated that in 2005, 86% of primary energy production in the world came from burning fossil fuels. However, the ever increasing demand for energy cannot be met by fossil fuel as they require millions of years to generate. Is the current demand and wastage of energy sustainable in the world? Is our current lifestyle that demands such high usage of energy justifiable from a planetary perspective?

7.2 World Café Format

The participants were each allocated a colour which automatically divided them into five groups of 10 for daily discussions. Each group headed by a facilitator focussed on a specific stakeholder in relation to the element being discussed. A total of 5 stakeholders were chosen, with each stakeholder represented by a table and a table steward. They were; Spiritual, Education, Business, Government and Lifestyle.

As mentioned, to help introduce the participant to the environmental crisis facing the planet, the elemental approach was chosen. One element was discussed each day, for 4 days during the event. In each analysis for each day, a stakeholder approach was used to help focus the discussion during the world café. The stakeholder discussions were from the abstract to the practical, with the “Spiritual-Table” being the most abstract, and the “Lifestyle-Table” being the most practical. Each table was made up of 9 participants and 1 table-steward or facilitator. The tables were covered with white paper so that all the discussions/ notes/diagrams/pictures were written and drawn on the table for all to see.

The participants were asked to discuss the ‘element’ of the day from the stakeholder perspective which the table represented. The first discussion took about 1 hour, then, participants were asked to move to next table (called the ‘table-swop’) in a counter-clockwise manner to discuss the same issue/element from a different stakeholder perspective. During the first table swop, the participants remained in the same group as before. This second discussion lasted for about 30minutes, after which the participants were asked to do another table swop. This time it was a ‘free for all’ session in which the participants were asked to move to a table of their choice. As the number of chairs at a table was limited, this move to a table was on a first come first seat basis. However, the organiser was not very strict in enforcing this rule, if some participants felt strongly about joining a table which was already full.

The Stakeholders

As stated before, the stakeholders were, Government, Business, Education, Lifestyle and Spirituality all represented by a facilitator.

7.3 Activities

Within the program, on day 3, participants in each group were required to split into two smaller groups. One half prepared a solar cooker and the other a poster depicting what was happening to the earth from the Water, Air, Earth, Fire and Spirituality point of view.

7.3.1 The panel solar cookers

The panel solar cookers were made from a design that is being used by women in many African countries called the ‘Cook-it’ designed and promoted by Solar Cookers International to combat the lack of the supply of carbon-based energy resources due to war, poverty, drought and development. They are simple and relatively inexpensive to buy or produce and are the most widely used combination cooker. This activity was included to see whether solar energy use in its basic affordable form is a viable option world wide .

The making of the ‘Cook-it’ was very successful. Each group then had to cook a small pot of rice. This is where the elements took over and the weather took a turn for the worse. Heavy rain and cloud cover put an end to any chance of cooking the rice. The outcome of this activity was however not looked on as a failure, as the weather is a

reality that determines whether or not solar energy can be used both efficiently and effectively. The participants however were very disappointed they failed to cook the rice.

Further information on the “Solar Panel Cook-it” at : <http://solarcooking.org/newsletters/suNews/SunewsJan-June08.pdf>

7.3.2 Posters

Each stakeholder group was asked to prepare a poster depicting what was happening to the earth from the Water, Air, Earth, Fire and Spirituality point of view. The posters proved to be very difficult to prepare as the participants really wanted to do their respective topic justice. As few were artistically inclined it took several attempts before their ‘masterpieces’ were created .

We hope to get their ideas made into a proper IYEP2 poster .

8.VISITS

8.1 Kuala Selangor Nature Park

The Kuala Selangor Nature Park visit was planned for at the beginning of the programme to “de-citify” the participants and to give the participants a ‘hands on’ feel of what was happening to the environment and specifically the importance of the mangrove forests

Mangrove forests are one of the Earth’s most rapidly disappearing ecosystems. These coastal forests, with trees adapted to growing in salty soil and water help protect coastlines from erosion and are a natural barrier to strong coastal storms like hurricanes. The tangled root systems are a nursery for shrimp and many species of fish that go on to live their adult lives in the open ocean. The Kuala Selangor mangrove forest is also an important site for coastal migratory water birds and migrant forest birds. It is also a resting place for migratory birds like the Milky Stork. The majority of the participants had never seen mangroves before and perhaps more importantly never knew of their importance in the eco system. The two hour educational tour and talk conducted by a member of the Malaysian Nature Society was an eye opener for all, especially as most of the participants came from cities. Although it rained very heavily that morning, and everyone got soaked, both the Malaysian Nature Society representative and the participants were very pleased that this visit had been included in the program since it helped them feel part of the environment.

8.2 Lighthouse

The optional walk to the lighthouse was included in the programme to allow the participants some time to see the effects of air pollution and development. As the lighthouse was on top of a hill looking out to the sea, the participants had the chance to view the air condition across the Straits of Melaka. One a clear day, the visibility in this area can be all the way across the Malacca straits to Indonesia - when there is no burning of the rice fields. The area around the lighthouse is also home to the silver leaf monkeys whose habitat has shrunk due to the growth of the town. The monkeys themselves, eating food from the rubbish bins and human hands served as a reminder of the effect that humans have on the environment and other life forms that share the planet.

This trip however was not as successful as we had hoped as the participants were given the wrong directions. By the time they reached the lighthouse the sun was setting and they had a very short time to view the surroundings

8.3 *The fireflies*

The 30 minute round trip down the river on sampans (local rowing boats) was an attempt to show how life has changed not only for the fireflies, but also the people in that area.

Most of the sampan rowers have had to adapt their lives and become part of eco- tourism in order to earn enough income to support their families. These rowers were originally either farmers or fishermen and rowed their sampans for necessity rather than tourism.

The main attraction was of course the fireflies and seeing them en mass in the dark was 'awesome' for the participants and brought home the reality of the threat of extinction to these insects due to the rising tides as a result of Global Warming and increasing river pollution as a result of developments upstream.

8.4 *Rice fields*

On the return trip to the city the coach took a one hour detour from the route in order for the participants to see rice fields and see how the local farmer lives. This was a self exploration detour as a reminder to all that although the food crisis may not be affecting them directly, indirectly we are all linked to the food chain.

9.VIDEOS

Over the 5 days we showed 2 full length videos at night and 1 Youtube download during the daily program.

9.1 Video 1 *The Imam and the Pastor*

This was shown on the first night to encourage the participants from different faiths to mix and be at ease with each other.

A film on reconciliation and co-existence

In the 1990s, Pastor James Wuye and Imam Muhammad Ashafa led opposing, armed militias, dedicated to defending their respective communities as violence broke out in Kaduna, northern Nigeria. In pitched battles, Pastor James lost his hand while Imam Ashafa's spiritual mentor and two close relatives were killed.

Now the two men are co-directors of the Muslim-Christian Interfaith Mediation Centre in their city, leading task-forces to resolve conflicts across Nigeria.

The Imam and the Pastor tells how they made this remarkable transition. It is both a moving story of forgiveness and a case-study of a successful grass-roots initiative to rebuild communities torn apart by conflict.

This film was very well received by all and many asked where they could purchase the video.

9.2 Video 2 *Baraka*

The title Baraka is a word that means blessing in many different languages. The word Baraka in Arabic means blessing in the form of spiritual gifts or protection transmitted from God. It can also be described as "the greater good" derived from any act. The movie was filmed at 152

locations in 24 countries and contains no dialogue. The film uses themes to present new perspectives and evoke emotion purely through cinema and as such, the movie can be interpreted in many ways depending on the viewers. Generally, the film theme shows the transition from nature, to traditional societies, to modern society. From an environmental point of view, it shows the human transition from being connected to nature to separation from it, through modern living. The film sparked a discussion among the participants on its meaning, mostly around the choices we make in relation to nature and life. The film effectively managed to capture the participants' imagination.

9.3 Youtube Download. “Store Wars”

On day 3, during the session on the food crisis we ‘lightened up’ the day by showing participants a short video on organic food entitled ‘Store Wars’, which is a humorous take on the fight between G.M. and Organic food against the backdrop of the ‘Star Wars’ film.

10. BUDGET / FUNDING

Due to various financial constraints, the original budget for the IYEP2 was reduced from RM 99,820.00 to RM 78,060.00. This was achieved by sourcing the speakers locally instead of flying in speakers from overseas. We also reduced the overall hotel costs by not holding the event in a city hotel.

Even with these cuts the funding for the event was very difficult to achieve. We sent out over 90 individual letters to companies and individuals and only received 2 replies. Both negative. The fund raising committee found it very difficult to raise funds as most businesses who usually donate funds were financially very tight. Although the funds came in very slowly we managed to raise enough in the end to hold the event.

11. DECLARATION

In a declaration at the end of the program the youth expressed their strong commitment to shield the natural environment from any further abuse and save it for the sake of future generations. They also made an earnest appeal to all governments, business and community leaders to make a renewed commitment to respect God’s gifts to humankind and to develop mechanism for protecting the environment.

12. POST EVENT ACTIVITIES

12.1 Appreciation Dinner – An appreciation dinner is being planned for all the volunteers whose help made this event a success.

12.2 Booklet – A booklet is being planned that will outline the main outcome of IYEP2. It is to be prepared with the help of the facilitators. We hope that the booklet can be used by other people for our collective goal of protecting the environment. The content of this booklet was discussed and pre-agreed with the participants of IYEP2.

12.3 Facebook- the IYEP2 facebook set up before the event will continue and be built on for and by the IYEP2 participants so they may continue to take inspiration from each other for future events they may participate in or organise.

12.4 Email group (Cyber Community) – a email group is planned to update the IYEP2 participants on the latest issues related to the environment

12.5 Video Production – the event was filmed and will be turned into a 30-360 minute documentary which can act as a resource pool for other organisations and future IYEPs.

12.6 Youtube version – a shorter Youtube version will seek to raise awareness of the event among the general public.

12.7 Media write-ups – The local media will be sent a write-up on the event as well as the IYEP2 Declaration. The Satellite TV Station ASTRO Awani sent a reporter and film crew . The 10 minute clip was shown in the news bulletin on ASTRO Awani on 22 November.

12.8 In house talk on event

As a follow-up to the IYEP2, JUST is also considering holding an In-house talk on a subject based on the IYEP. All the Malaysian participants will be invited and they will be asked to bring along a friend. This will serve as a continuation of what occurred and encourage more youth to be part of the IYEP. Selected active IYEP2 participants will be invited to be the speakers.

13. SWOT

Strengths -

Venue
Participants
World Café Format
Inter-civilizational aspect
Pre-program Materials
Declaration

Weaknesses -

Punctuality of Participants
Not enough 'Free Time' (due to lack of punctuality)
Speaker delivery too formal / academic
No research done on how to prepare a 'Declaration'

Opportunities-

Pool of facilitators able to conduct future events
Idea to hold bi-monthly in house talks for youth
More youth awareness /interaction/tolerance

Threats -

Funding
Weather
Participant and Facilitator last minute drop out
Manpower / volunteers