

**Closing Speech by YB Dato' Abdul Halim Hussain Penang State
EXCO for International & Domestic Trade, Consumer Affairs and
Entrepreneur Development on the occasion of "Women in Economy:
Rethinking Entrepreneurship for Today's Women" Conference
dated 24 September 2018**

[Salutations]

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you very much for inviting me to give the closing speech for this very invigorating and stimulating conference. I trust all of you had a wonderful two days here and on behalf of the Penang State Government, I would like to congratulate the organisers, strategic partners, collaborators, speakers, facilitators, and of course, you the delegates for the success of this conference.

Women entrepreneurs are very hardworking and diligent. Women are very competent in planning, budgeting, and saving for the future. She divides her time and juggle between managing her home and her career. She is really an all-in-one super-duper woman. That is why, as the

Penang State Executive Councillor for Entrepreneur Development, I pledge to give my fullest support to all Penang women who want to explore avenues to start or expand their businesses.

The amazing thing is that, while working, women still have to cook, take care of the children and elderly, do the laundry and clean the house. On this point, I strongly urge men to lean in and share these household and care work. If we expect women to earn income for family, then men should step in and take the share of housework. Then that is equality. “Berat sama dipikul, ringan sama dijinjing”

Ladies and Gentlemen,

What does it takes to make a difference in people's lives? This conference with the theme “Rethinking Entrepreneurship for Today’s Women”, serves not only as a road map for women entrepreneurs to gain additional income but should also be a mean to help other women. If there are women looking for flexi-hour jobs, try to support them; if there are women who need to work from home, try to accommodate them; if there are women who need to bring their children to work sometimes, do be flexible with them. Women and men, helping other women, can help to

create a network of support for all women. We should not limit our support to help others whom will eventually contribute back to the society. The defining factor is not resources but rather resourcefulness.

In the past when the women didn't have money to start a business, they did not let that stop them. They say, if there is a will, there is a way. They were determined enough to find that emotional fitness and physiological strength to propel themselves to self-learn and grow.

Today, you will leave here with many more new contacts and new friends. Collaborate with them, keep in touch and use whatever you have learned here to expand your network and business influence. Fully utilise digital tools and the social media platform to reach out to your potential customers and clients.

You now have the tools to share key information and practical ways to grow a strong partnership with different organisations and people. The resources and knowledge transfer will empower the women to achieve their dreams. Last but not least, never give up! Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You have participated actively and I am sure you are all looking forward to experiment with what you have learned. I am pleased to inform that the organizer, PWDC had committed to make available this conference proceeding on the website. The full version will be up in 6 months. But I can tell you, with PWDC you can expect it to be available earlier. The purpose is for you to refer to the notes if and when required, as you journey in the world of entrepreneurship. I wish you success and fulfilment in your endeavour.

On behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to thank each and everyone of you for your valuable contributions in this conference and have a fruitful business networking after this. With that, I call the conference to a close.

Thank you.