

Thank you – SoL

In the last couple of days I have learnt [a] few things that I'm sure I'm going to cherish for the rest of my life. These things are the soft cores of our lives that make a rough road softer. There are acts of **sharing, caring, giving, kindness, respect, and hope.**

May I thank all of those who were so generous in their thoughts, by giving us their views and sharing with us their life experiences. Blessed are those who give without remembering and take without forgetting.

Like good gardeners, they realised that many types of flowers would go to seed and die if blossoms are not picked regularly. If flowers are picked before they begin to fade and dry up, more flowers will bloom and plants will keep blooming throughout the summer, providing bouquets for friends and neighbours. The same thing is true with all that we value in life.

If we keep them to ourselves they will dry up and die. If we share them with others, they will multiply.

One of the most important values that I learnt from [the] conference was how each delegate was treated. Young or old, locals or foreigners, were given the same treatment, highly **respected** and with a lot of **kindness.**

Kindness is a language that the deaf can hear and the blind can see. It is a constant reminder that one cannot do a kindness too soon, because you never know – how soon it will be too late.

In the last few days there were many people of different races, colours, and beliefs working together under one tent.

However we have all learnt to live and celebrate our differences with **respect.** It is my honest belief that there would be no harmony in our lives, unless we learn not only to tolerate, but to respect each other's values as our own.

As members of the global community despite our national identities we cannot afford to live in isolation confined to people who only understand our culture or speak our language.

We need to be proactive in our approach and reach out to other cultures understand their values and speak their language. Only then might we succeed in this global village.

A world in which it is easier to meet strangers must also become a world in which it is easier to see strangers as no different from ourselves. We should not see strangers, foreign values as walls of separation but we should seize them as an opportunity to celebrate our differences.

By listening to the many speakers that we were fortunate to have, has given me **hope**. I came to realise that there are a lot of good people there who can make our lives better by giving us hope.

There is no medicine like hope, no incentive so great and no tonic so powerful – as the expectation of something better – tomorrow. Of all the forces that make for a better world, none is so indispensable, none so powerful as hope.

Without hope – people are only half alive. With hope we dream, think and work. We all have our darkest hours in life, but with hope the darkest hour becomes only 60 minutes.

Ladies and Gentleman, on behalf of my Omani colleagues may [I] wish you:

Enough happiness to keep you sweet

Enough trials to keep you strong

Enough sorry to keep you human

Enough hope to keep you happy

Enough failure to keep you humble

Enough success to keep you eager

Enough friends to comfort

Enough faith and courage in you to banish depression

Enough wealth to meet your needs

Enough determination to make each day a better day than yesterday

I hope you had a pleasant stay in our country and wish you a safe journey home.

God Bless you!

Salem Ben Nasser Al Ismaily

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