

**DRAFT SPEECH**

**11TH MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE**

**“SHAPPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENTREPRENEURS”**

**27-29 JUNE 2011**

**EVERLY RESORT MALACCA, MELAKA, MALAYSIA**

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning ladies and gentleman. I am so glad to be here for the opening of this important initiative that will provide a forum not only for improving the well being of World Assembly of Youth members, but also articulating and addressing the challenges facing the youth in the areas of improving their economy. It is a privilege to be among the future entrepreneurs of the world.

I am optimistic that the 11th Melaka International Youth Dialogue with the theme “Shaping the Next Generation of Entrepreneurs” will indeed, challenge the youth and that they will benefit from the many empowerment activities to be held this week. I know that you my dear young people who are vibrant with life and full of enthusiasm will excel in the area of entrepreneurship with the right guidance and skills provided.

We are here today to support that zest and invest in shaping you to be successful entrepreneurs of the future. I believe in education and the development of our future leaders and thus make this event in Melaka very pertinent and significant.

I am a strong proponent in advancing child education and development nurturing program. The Permata Program now running effectively here in Malaysia is a model of education for gifted students which involves the integration of middle high school with some parts of higher education and balancing it with the curriculum for international – level education.

It is important that we should empower our youth to reach a higher plateau at every level they are involved in. Educating and training them with the proper skills required for the tasks before them.

There is also the Perkasa Remaja Youth Program or Center for Youth Empowerment that totally focuses on the youth, their development in different aspects. We want to prepare them to face the future gregariously and boldly, standing firm against the tides of life and winning the battle. In order to accomplish that, we at Permata strive hard in our vision and planning to equip the young people, for they are the future entrepreneurs, leaders, teachers, trainers, activists for our nation.

PERKASA's mission is to be an international centre of excellence that explore issues of youth through various empowerment strategies including the process of research, intervention, and generating a database that helps in the integrated planning for a competitive, dynamic, confident and courageous young generation.

PERKASA's role is to conduct research and interventions for the empowerment of young people in order to build a confident, dynamic and have a strong identity. Under this program we also have Kem Perkasa or Perkasa Camp. The objectives of this camp are to develop emotional, spiritual and intellectual youth in an integrated holistic approach.

We empowered the participants by improving their self-esteem, resilience, assertive behavior and the alignment of competency and leadership. We enhance excellent human capital and reduce their involvement in illegal racing activities. We encourage their involvement in the community through voluntary participation.

All of these are vital as we need to show them that we care not only in words but also in action. Every step and measure we take that affects even one young person makes an impact among their peers. We must not only set the examples but we must also walk alongside them, be their guide and their mentor.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very encouraged with the work of World Assembly of Youth among the young people around the world. They have demonstrated their practical readiness to address not only the concerns of the youth, but also the challenges to improve their economic status.

I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to youth organizations, youth leaders and community leaders and NGO's and others to extend their support to work of reaching, equipping, educating, empowering and the training of business skills of our youth who are our future leaders globally.

The youth constitute the largest segment of most societies globally and I believe that it is hard to have a meaningful national development without the involvement or participation of the youth. It is imperative that we all join hands in the effort to address the challenges constraining the development of the full potential of our young people.

The creation of adequate employment opportunities represents to most critical challenge. What an awesome advantage we have here this week to totally center our attention and focus in equipping our youth in the areas of entrepreneurship. It has always been my many aspirations to advance development in the lives of young people that will affect their economic lifestyles.

I urge you, the young people that are present this week for the Dialogue to immerse yourself in the discussion and workshops; do take full advantage of what is being offered to you. The speakers for the next few days have been chosen specifically to help prepare you to be great entrepreneurs of the future. They have walked where you are now learning to experience.

Glean from their journey as they share their experiences, the ups and down and the joy of success. Learn to network with others and discover ways on how you can start your own enterprises. Let us all facilitate the appropriate framework in shaping the next generation of entrepreneurs. We need new and young entrepreneurs who are willing to be risk takers and uphold high standards of integrity, discipline and commitment in their business endeavors.

Our future entrepreneurs need to work hard and be aware and shun lifestyles that will expose them to the dangers of modern day society. Entrepreneurship and small business creations are the growth of any economy.

I would like to encourage the young people to be excited about entrepreneurship and make efforts to expand the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to be successful entrepreneurs.

I would like to see the young people take their position in the society and seek the business leadership positions with confidence, as the country you are from is very much yours as it is for those who lead you today. Help each other with the challenges of modern-day living, for it is in helping one another and working together that you not only become strong but also acquire your objectives as young entrepreneurs.

Given the opportunity to develop their own businesses, young people will gain real life skills that can only be gained by doing. These LIFE skills include business management, finances, leadership service, public speaking, problem solving and so much more.

With these remarks, it is now my pleasure to formally launch/open the 11th Melaka International Youth Dialogue and to wish you success in all your endeavors.

Thank You and have a great and successful dialogue.