



KETUA
DEWAN PERWAKILAN RAKYAT
REPUBLIK INDONESIA

SPEECH OF THE SPEAKER OF DPR-RI

In the Courtesy Visit of the Participants of
The Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program – SSEAYP Year 2010
Jakarta, 25th November 2010

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

(in the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful)

Assalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

- ***Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, Harmonization and Partnership Division,***
- ***Administrators and Staffs of The Ship for Youth Program,***
- ***The head of the Contingent,***
- ***The Participants of The Ship for Youth Program year 2010,***
- ***Distinguished guests,***

It is a great honor for me to have the opportunity to welcome you, the participants of The Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program in this courtesy visit in this Indonesian Parliament building. Therefore, in this lovely opportunity, on behalf of the Leaders and the Members of Indonesian House of Representatives, I **welcome** you all. I hope your presence here will bring advantages, not only to you, the participants, but also to us, the Indonesian House of Representatives.

Distinguished Guests,

As far as I know, Leadership Training in The Ship for Southeast Asian-Japan Youth Program or better known as SSEAYP, is a youth leadership training program among youths in ASEAN and Japan which is done based on mutual agreement among ASEAN heads of government and Japan in 1974.

The Goal of this program is to encourage friendship and mutual understanding among youths in Southeast Asian and Japanese countries, and also to give provision of leadership and to extend the network. I am convinced, after 36 years since this program was initiated, it has given a lot of inspiration and precious experience to the youths in ASEAN and Japan region and has given contribution to the birth of future leaders in various field.

Bearing in mind the benefit of this program, I believe that this program should be continued in order to produce leadership cadre with a good personality and ability to face the challenges in the future times. This kind of program is very important to be continuously expanded because in the future, youths have to have eminence not only based on basic knowledge, but also the ability to speak foreign language, and to be professional. These basic characters have to be fulfilled early, because this fast moving globalization era requires a complete ability for the young generation who will have a role in the progress of the nation in the future.

Distinguished Guests,

In the democracy perspective, youths are a part of civil society strength. Youths, who are gathered in youth organizations, in the Non-Government Organizations, and in the professional sector, are a potential strength in the social order and structure of life as nation, and able to play positive and constructive roles.

The strength of the youths, in the democracy context, lies on their role as a social control tool, in order to create checks and balances mechanism. Youths, together with other civil society elements, significantly are inside and perform constructive transformation of the social institution broadly to promote democracy, including promoting law enforcement, transparency and accountability in every field of life. Therefore, it is the youths' duty to think about public interest in order to keep the institution on track from their true goals.

Related to that, the youths' role, in the youth activities, has always to be optimized, both the quantity and the quality of the outcome achieved. Youth organizations, wherever they are, is a potential medium for the youths to develop their potency inside themselves, based on the independent and critical attitude to get involved in the development of the nation. Such youth empowerment will free the youth and/or youth organization from the vested interest of certain parties which can make the youth are put into some category of

interest, and more than that, potentially have conflicts involving youths in it.

The effort to empower the youths, and/or youth organization, has to pay respect to the independency, critical attitude, and rich in innovation as the spirits of youths. The empowerment spirit has to be in line with the common view about the criteria of youth, the rights and obligations of the youth, and the organization activities of the youth.

Distinguished Guests,

In this opportunity, I would like to explain briefly about the development of democracy in Indonesia which involving parliament in it. It was started in **the early independence era** which showed us that the running of parliament/DPR was very dynamic, marked by the searching process of the right type of democracy which is suitable to our characteristic as nation. There were ups and downs in the process of searching the best type of democracy.

Dating back to the history of democracy, the current form of The Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR-RI) has undergone several processes. It was started from the first general election in the reign of **New Order era in 1971**. At that moment, until **the reform era in the middle of 1998**, DPR as a legislative institution was expected to perform its checks and balances function. However, in practice, it was

just a complimentary constitutional structure intended to strengthen the position of the President.

After the end of the New Order era, the reform was marked with the General Election which was conducted on 7th June 1999, and recognized as the most democratic Election. That election was participated by 48 political parties and had shown that the period was marked with the initiation of multiparty era, as once happened between 1945 up to 1971.

There were many controversies and new history that accompanied the performance of the Indonesian House of Representatives resulted from the 1999 Election, namely **first**, it was for the first time that the dismissal of the president is done by the People's Consultative Assembly upon the request of the Indonesian House of Representatives. **Second**, the Indonesian House of Representatives resulted from the 1999 Election, as the part of People's Consultative Assembly has successfully amended the 1945 Constitution, although the result of the amendment was not ideal yet, however several important changes were made.

This amendment has given a strong position to the Indonesian House of Representative in performing its three main functions, namely legislative function, budgeting function and oversight function. On the basis of the amendment, the legislative function which was formerly held by the president is now in the hands of the Indonesian House of Representatives. As the result of the amendment, the House

of Representatives has also become “a balancing agent” as it maintains the balance of power with executive power by performing its check and balance mechanism.

Distinguished Guests,

The current Indonesian House of Representatives where I am assigned as the speaker is the result of the 1999 Election. The Legislative Election was conducted on 9th April 2009. The system to elect the Members of the Indonesian House of Representatives and the Regional House of representatives was an **open-proportional system**. Principally, the 2009 election system was a more democratic system based on the needs to increase the representation level and Indonesian geo-politic. A candidate of a Member of the Indonesian House of Representatives is elected based on a majority vote; therefore make people’s voice is becoming very important for the election of a person to become people’s representative.

Among the Members who were elected, many of them were young which in my opinion they would give important roles in the effort to increase life’s quality and people’s prosperity. In the parliament, young people can play a role in propelling the existing potentials and resources for the people’s interest and prosperity. Therefore, the preparation of the strategy of the youth’s pioneering role in the development needs to be continued by building their spirit, skill and performance.

Distinguished participants of the Ship program,

A dynamic leadership is required by the people from countries where you come from which are developing, including Indonesia. In the layer of those leaders we are expecting to find the source of dynamism which can develop creativity, produce new ideas, break obstacles, seek for problem-solution, and penetrate conventional way of thinking.

It is the duty of the young leaders to build the spirit, skill, and implementation of playing a role as a pioneer and leadership. Building spirit is building character, therefore it is closely related to the cultural development which stimulates initiative and raises motivation. Building skill is equally important, since pioneering and leadership are not enough to be performed only by words, but they have to be realized.

Professionalism or knowledge on a certain field which is relevant to pioneering and leadership is tremendously needed, especially those which can give inspiration, give direction, and be able to seek for a solution to solve the problems. In this point, I would like to give a high appreciation on this activity which in the end will produce reliable and qualified young leaders who can be role models for their peers.

Distinguished Guests,

This concludes my welcoming address for this precious meeting; I hope this meeting will be beneficial for us. I thank you.

Wallahul Muwaffiq Ila Aqma'with Thariq

Wassalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahiwabarakatuh

Jakarta, 25th November 2010

**SPEAKER
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

DR. H. MARZUKI ALIE.