



**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**THE MINISTER OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS**

**BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

**PEHIN ORANG KAYA PEKERMA LAILA DIRAJA**

**DATO SERI SETIA AWANG HAJI HAZAIR**

**BIN HAJI ABDULLAH**

**AT**

**THE SEVENTH**

**ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON YOUTH (7<sup>th</sup> AMMY)**

**20<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

**Hanoi, Vietnam**

Bismillah hirRahman nirRahim

Assalamualaikum Warahmatuaallahi Wabarakatuh and a very good morning,

Mr Chairman,

Excellencies Ministers and Heads of Delegation of ASEAN Member Countries,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me, at the outset, congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your assumption as Chair of the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY).

I would also wish to put on record our thanks and appreciation to the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Tan Dun, for his keynote address delivered during the opening ceremony of our meeting. His remarks on investing in youth human resource development would certainly guide us in our deliberation.

I would also like, on behalf of my Delegation, to convey my thanks and appreciation to the Government and people of Vietnam for the warm hospitality that have been extended to us since our arrival in this beautiful city of Hanoi.

Mr Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

ASEAN Leaders have agreed to both the ASEAN Charter as well as the Road Map for an ASEAN Community by 2015. As in the ASEAN Charter, the people-centered approach is a very important priority in achieving the goal. In this regard, the focus on youth is crucial as they represent the future.

Furthermore, the future success and the cohesiveness of ASEAN as a Community very much hinges on the preparation of our young people as leaders of tomorrow.

The theme of our meeting “*Youth and Human Resource Development – Investing in the future of ASEAN Community*” is, therefore, most timely and relevant. We hope that the programmes and projects under our cooperation would harness the full potentials of our youth in preparing them for the challenges of globalization and the greater competition it brings.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At home in Brunei Darussalam, we continue to put utmost attention on the development of our youth. In line with our National Vision 2035 to produce highly educated and skilled people, we have established the *Human Resource Development Fund* to implement schemes such as *Training and Employment Scheme*; *Resource Capacity Development in the Private Sector Scheme*; and *Local Scholarship for Technical and Vocational Education at Private Academic Institution Scheme*.

With these funding, we hope to strengthen our Research and Development capability in order to maximize the potentials of our youth in the areas of creativity and innovation.

In the efforts to encourage the involvement of our youth in the *creative industry*, recently, in conjunction with the National Youth Day Celebration held last September 2011, we organized a *Youth Entrepreneurs Expo on Creative Industry*. It provides a platform for our young people to showcase their creative and innovative products and services.

Our HRD policy in Brunei Darussalam is also to be all inclusive for our youths. For those unable to continue their education in the formal academic stream, we have the *Youth Development Centre* to train them on skills the market would demand. Our approach is to ensure that these youth are not only

trained on skills, they are also mentored to be resilient and self-reliant. We are continuing to invest to improve our capacity to ensure that our youths, as much as possible, will not be left out and marginalized in society.

For the long term, we will also be launching a pilot programme on *National Youth Service* this coming December which emphasizes on building self discipline and resilience, patriotism, entrepreneurship and community service. We believe preparing our youth for the future is more than giving them the education and skills for the job market; they must also be equipped with the strength of character and resilience. We hope to see high-spirited youths that are tough and that could stand up to enormous challenges and adversity. At the end of the day, we hope to have youths that are valuable assets, not a burden to society.

Mr Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Looking at the ASEAN work on youth, we are pleased with progress thus far. Our young people have participated in almost all of the recently completed projects and we are pleased with the outcome.

For the continuity and success of the ASEAN Youth Programme, we need to resolve the funding issue. In this regard, we hope that the Senior Officials with the help of the ASEAN Secretariat will soon finalize the Terms of Reference for the *ASEAN Youth Programme Fund*. The least that it should achieve is to provide the credible amount to enable ASEAN as a group to leverage it to seek additional funding from the other sources including our dialogue partners.

In preparing the programme for the youth development, we need to engage the youths themselves and get their inputs to ensure the effectiveness, relevance and success of the programme. In this regard, we support the idea to engage our youth representatives in our work. Their involvement in ASEAN Forum would certainly help them to understand better what ASEAN is, and

what ASEAN really means to them. In turn, I hope they would help to realise the vision of the ASEAN Community.

We also believe that the involvement of our youth in volunteerism work should go beyond their national borders. Thus, we welcome the Malaysian proposal to establish an *ASEAN Volunteers Programme*. We believe if our youth especially the young professionals are exposed and be given the opportunities to participate in charitable work within or beyond ASEAN, it would not only strengthen their sense of belonging towards ASEAN, but also it would be good for their own self-development. I hope that Senior Officials would finalize the concept paper and operationalize such an arrangement by their next meeting.

To conclude, Mr Chairman, I wish to stress the importance of our meeting. Let us work together in earnest, to accord it high importance and continue to invest in the future of ASEAN Community.

Thank you.