

Penyampai : DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH BINTI HAJI MOHD. ALI
Tajuk : MAJLIS AMAL PENGANUGERAHAN YAYASAN PENYELIDIKAN ROTARY
Lokasi : HOTEL EQUATORIAL, KUALA LUMPUR
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Saya berasa bangga kerana dapat bersama-sama dengan ahli-ahli Rotary, tuan-tuan dan puan-puan sekalian pada Majlis Amal Yayasan Penyelidikan Rotary malam ini untuk menyaksikan upacara penyampaian Pingat Emas dan Fellowship Yayasan Penyelidikan Rotary.

2. I am reminded that like today, every Wednesday I had to find my own way home from school because my father, Allahyarham Haji Mohd Ali, was a member of the Rotary Club of Kuala Lumpur and he faithfully attended the regular Rotary meetings every Wednesday at 12.30 p.m.

3. I think he would be very proud that one of his sons is a past President of the Rotary Club of Kuala Lumpur and that I am an Honorary Paul Harris Fellow. My late father was a God-fearing and religious man and he used to impress on us children the teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad S.A.W.

Amongst them: "Tuntutlah ilmu walaupun ke Negeri China" or "Seek knowledge, go forth to China if you must". This fatherly bidding has stood us children in very good stead in later life.

4. Indeed, it is the moral duty of all parents to inculcate and nurture the habit of seeking knowledge. The search for truth and the pursuit of excellence must be ingrained in all of us, especially the younger generation, so that it becomes a natural part of the Malaysian culture.

5. If we are to realise Vision 2020, it is important that these positive attributes be continuously enhanced.

6. Vision 2020 is not merely a forward and progressive vision to develop Malaysia into a developed and technically advanced nation, it is also a balanced 2020 Vision for both the left eye and the right eye. In other words, development must be balanced, comprehensive, and multi-faceted so that it includes the cultural, social, spiritual, aesthetic and physical development.

7. It is for this reason, that I am glad to note that the Rotary Research Foundation has not only provided the much-needed encouragement, sponsorship and recognition of original research in Malaysia in the fields of science and technology but has also extended awards to the disciplines in law, anthropology, environment and others.

8. This initiative and sustained endeavour by Rotary as a non- Government Organisation and if I may add, a voluntary service organisation, is truly commendable. In this context, I would urge the private sector, particularly the national and international corporations in Malaysia which stand to gain in the long term from investments in the fruits of original research, to come forward to assist the Rotary Research Foundation in any way it can.

9. As you are aware, I am also the President of BAKTI. As leader of a Women's Organisation, I cannot help but notice that the number of female winners of the Rotary Gold Medal for Research as well as the Rotary Fellowship Awards compared to male winners is very low. This must not remain unchallenged. If we take into account that the sex ratio, based on the 1991 population census, is 102 men per 100 women and the fact that generally the girls have attained higher academic grades compared to the boys in the secondary schools, there should be no reason why Malaysian girls/ladies should not excel in research.

10. As we set our targets for Vision 2020, I feel that it is also incumbent on BAKTI to make a special effort to encourage Malaysian girls and ladies to embark on original research.

11. I wish to congratulate the winners of the Rotary Research Gold Medals for blazing the trails of original research in their respective disciplines in Malaysia and for their outstanding achievements.

12. To the Rotary Research Fellowship Awardees, I sincerely hope that they will realise their goals with

greater distinction.

13. Sekali lagi, saya bagi pihak Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir dan saya sendiri mengucapkan ribuan terima kasih di atas penghormatan yang diberikan kepada kami berdua. Saya berdoa semoga jasa baik dan amal bakti tuan-tuan dan puan-puan akan diberkati Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala.
