

**Indonesia Mengajar (Indonesia Teaches): Youth's Initiative Catalyzing Indonesia's
Vision in Education**

“Destiny gives its side to the brave fighter”

That statement is taken from the book titled “Laskar Pelangi” means “Rainbow Troops”. This book is written based on the true story of the author himself. Andrea Hinata, an Indonesian boy lived in Belitong Island, Indonesia. He lived in a rich island fulfills with outstanding natural resources, but in his childhood memoir, he had to struggle so hard to get to school with his others friends. In fact, he had to face few kilometers to get to see his ‘teacher’ and had to sit in the small room of old unfinished building called “classroom” for four years in primary school.

Finally, beyond his effort and outstanding willingness, his friends and he was finally sent to continue their higher education to University of Indonesia. A good ending for him is he was sent to Sorbonne in a scholarship program to continue his master degree and finally wrote the Rainbow Troops and three books else as the tetra logy telling about his childhood memoir and his obstinacy facing lot of limitations through getting an education for his future.

This story, is just one of so many true story about how strong Indonesia's young generation spirit to have a good education. The story about how powerful their desire of getting knowledge and about how rich the real human capital of Indonesia indeed. *They are pearl, but hidden in the mud of life.* They just need access, and they will find their own future identity.

Jakarta, November 2010. This year, Indonesia reaches its 65th year of nation sovereignty. One of nation's vision boarded on the independence's declaration is "educating the nation's life". The founding fathers and the generation want to build a nation with its human capital as one of the main power to build the country itself.

Indonesia, with 17.508 islands geographically sets from Hindia to Pasific ocean, with total population about 250 millions people are the biggest country in South East Asia and 40% of that population are young people. We all know, that young generation is a 'now' and 'future' generation. Now, they can achieve themselves by creating invention from the fresh ideas, contributing into the country's educational or voluntary programs, building their own community, and taking part in making lot of changes for their country development. In the future, they are also a hope. A hope of their country as the next leader who developing the country into the next level of welfare.

Human capital's investment. This phrase is a trouble if it's being faced to Indonesia's governmental committee. Governmental committees are about facing lot of detentions toward this phenomenon. Firstly, the issue is geographical factor. As a developing country under highly constructed, Indonesia has not had an equilibration between the number of public facilities and the population. Many of citizen can't enjoy the worthy public services. Besides, the broad areas of Indonesia itself, are about the virgin nature, difficult to be reached by the local transport available. Jungles, river, and hills are all over the area make a gap between central or capital city and the remote areas. This condition led young people who live in the country's border line cities or rural areas, not getting the education facilities and access properly. Their areas and their live untouched by the access of transportation and technology themselves.

Secondly, the number of the teachers. The statistic in Indonesia, mostly one teacher shall lead about 40 students in one class. This ineffective condition is being added by the teacher quality, also. 1,4 millions of 3,6 millions primary school teachers in Indonesia haven't got their bachelor degree.

Anies Baswedan, the rector of Paramadina University, then answers this challenge. He found Indonesia Mengajar (Indonesia Teaches) in 2009. A youth and NGO program about new order of teaching while also giving a "leadership camp" for Indonesia's world class future leaders.

This program was founded to collect the young people and talented bachelor degree's fresh graduate to take a part in empowering Indonesia's future of human capital by teaching. These fresh graduate young's leaders will be put in Indonesia's remote area to teach the low quality school and spreading the knowledge to the whole area.

The great Indonesia's young people who registered for this program is being selected strongly and tightly. After passing the portfolio's test, they will get three kind of trainings. First, the corporate training, second the teaching's training, and last is adaptability's training. This last training is useful for their daily life, as these young teachers environment will be totally different with their main life's atmosphere.

Then, all the potential 'new' teachers was put in Indonesia's remote areas, city located in country's borderline or province's rural area. They will substitute the lack of high quality teacher in schools located in remote areas by teaching and living there for a year.

They will teach the elementary school student. During their ‘one year one life time opportunity’, their mission is not only for teaching the student, but also influencing the spirit of education, assimilating their lifestyle with the local culture, and bringing the education spirit for supporting the students’ struggling to get a better education for a better future. Also, they have to build a sustainability internal program to keep the good program they brought are kept being run by those students even when they are about leaving in the next year (and the position is being changed by the other young teacher). They should write in a blog regularly in order to reporting their activities for the following up data, they will also share their experience to attract more young generation will take part in this bold idea.

By following this program, the young people is hoped to be a *grass root* world class leadership. Lots of great people were beginning their career and life as a great leader by teaching, such as Indonesia’s founding father, Soekarno. Teaching, is one of ‘outdoor training’ for this country’s leadership program.

Both, this program increasing the quality and quantity of teachers for Indonesia, on the other hand also introducing the Indonesia’s next generation about mapping of Indonesia’s education’s situation. This young teacher is not only about struggling their one year for a dedication, they are also saving a good future for their own life career. These young teachers are offered so many interesting life future, post their dedication. As Indonesia Mengajar is supported by some national and multinational companies, they will get a chance to have their next life path in that company. Or another choice, they will have an opportunity to get scholarship for continuing their study in master degree overseas.

This idea is hopefully being arranged in any others ASEAN countries. In our way to ASEAN COMMUNITY in 2015, the civil society power is one of the biggest power able to encourage the regional's strength. All the young people sitting in their middle class level caused by their higher education, shall get back to the *grass root* society to engage their commitment as nation's next leader generation to grow and taking a part in guaranting the education's investment sustainability.