

“RE/MIXED” MALAYSIA AT BIENNALE ARCHITETTURA 2010

An Exhibition Organised by Jabatan Muzium Malaysia and Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia

At Muzium Negara, Kuala Lumpur, 30 June to 17 July 2011

Speech by Ar Boon Che Wee, President, PAM

Distinguished guests, friends of the press, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

On behalf of PAM, the creative team and the participants of our REMIXED exhibition, I must express our honour and gratitude for the gracious offer by YBHG Dato Ibrahim Ismail and his team at Muzium Negara to host and jointly organise this very meaningful exhibition for PAM, and the profession of architect in Malaysia.

The “Biennale Architettura” that is also known as the “Venice International Architecture Exhibition”, or more popularly called simply as “Venice Architecture Biennale” is one part of the world renown Venice Biennale’s series of exhibitions that alternate with the “Venice Arts Biennale” in alternate years, is on its own over 30 years in history.

It is undisputedly the most prestigious by-invitation only exhibition for architecture, and PAM’s Malaysian exhibition consists of 37 exhibits by all categories of PAM members, from students to PAM Gold Medalists.

Throughout the 10 weeks’ exhibition between August and November last year, the Malaysian Pavilion by PAM that was housed in the historic Arsenale building next to the Venice waterfront received 44, 656 visitors from all over the world.

Our long anticipated debut in this exhibition is particularly pertinent in our drive for a new design economy for Malaysia, as it presents Malaysian architects at various stages of their careers with the ideal opportunity to propel their efforts onto the global stage.

This appearance also stand as a clear indicator of Malaysia's potential as a burgeoning creative powerhouse capable of holding its own within an international context, and inspires and evokes the imagination of new audiences previously unfamiliar with the state of progressive Malaysian architecture in transformation.

We were greatly overwhelmed, encouraged and gratified by the response that we have received on the exhibition, and had received numerous requests to tour this exhibition to other parts of the world, including South America, Europe and Middle East, which we are still hopeful to realise with more funding support. We are also aware that a number of participants of the exhibition had received individual invitation to participate in other international exhibitions and competitions.

We are deeply grateful to MATRADE which has supported us in the original exhibition and again will be supporting us when this exhibition travel to Tokyo in September this year, in conjunction with the World Congress of Architecture, in collaboration with the Meiji University of Tokyo.

Before we do that, we are again grateful to Muzium Negara for this excellent opportunity to showcase the creative output of our Malaysian architects to the public and the visitors to our ever popular Muzium Negara.

This exhibition here in itself is also very historic as this represents our first collaboration with Muzium Negara and we look forward to many more such opportunities.

Thank you, Dato' and we thank all distinguished guests who have taken time to join us here to mark this historic occasion.

Thank you.