Suria, 23 February 2004, 9pm
Detik Special on Remaja Bergolak (Detik Special on Youth in Transition)
Program Transcript (Translated from Malay):

Blurbs:
1. Nur Diana Zakaria*, RGS Student: My ambition is to be a researcher. (*She participated in our IBN-RGS Work Experience Program in December 2003)
2. Emril Mohd Ali, IBN Lab Officer: My short-term goal is to do good research work and complete my PhD course.

Introduction:
Narrator: In an era that places a lot of emphasis on knowledge, a degree is seen as the key to success. Tertiary education is encouraged and is generally viewed as the height of excellence. But is it true that a degree is the only yardstick of measurement for success? Let us explore the meaning of success for youths today in this episode of ‘Youth in Transition’.

Indeed, this century can be called an era of globalization and fragmentation. Today’s world, without boundaries, means that we are exposed to many challenges, trends and influences. But this new world brings with it many new opportunities. For our youth, they are at the forefront of all these new developments. And many among them channel these (developments) into their own interests. But are our youth able to overcome the challenges of this new era just by honing their talents and interests? Let us meet some young people who have the spirit and drive to make a name for themselves in their chosen fields, and who have contributed to the good name of the Malay-Muslim community in Singapore.

Section on Emril Mohd Ali:
Narrator: Emril Mohd Ali is among one of the youngest scientists at IBN – Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, one of the recently established research institutes. This 26-year-old youth feels very fortunate to be able to pursue his interest as his career.

Emril: I work as a researcher in the Medical Devices team at IBN. The objective of our team is to develop platform technologies to create new and sophisticated medical devices. I feel very happy and honored to be given the opportunity to be part of the team at IBN, which is led by Professor Jackie Ying, a renowned scientist from MIT. I never thought of becoming a researcher. All this while, I aspired to become a doctor but at the same time, I was also interested in technology and engineering. Through my university courses, and more importantly, through my experience during my industry attachment overseas, I discovered that I could marry my two interests through biomedical research.

Narrator: What motivates this young man to pursue his dream job?
Emril: For me, my family, especially my mother, is my source of inspiration. For five years, my mother managed her time well to complete her Degree in Architecture while looking after my brother and I. If I am not at work, I like to spend time with my family and friends, playing soccer during my free time. I feel very honored and grateful to be given the chance by A*STAR to pursue my studies as an A*STAR Graduate Scholar. Eventually, I hope to get a good placement overseas to do my post-doctorate degree.

Section on Nur Diana Zakaria:
Narrator: At the same age (13 years old - referring to previous interviewee), Nur Diana Zakaria was among the top students in Singapore, after getting a high aggregate score in the PSLE examinations in 2000. Now, this RGS student still shows a lot of promise and potential to be an excellent student such that she was invited by IBN to participate in its Youth Research Program.

Nur Diana: I am interested in Chemistry and Biology as I aim to become a researcher. Therefore, I am interested in studying Chemistry, bacteria, and such. I was there (at IBN) for three weeks. I felt apprehensive as I was not sure how I would fit in but after a few days I was able to learn from the staff and researchers there. I was able to appreciate how they perform their tasks. In my opinion, students should be given the opportunity to do their own research based on what they have studied, as this would help nurture their interest and enhance their creativity so they can apply what they have learnt from books to something more practical. (In school) we are encouraged to do research on the Internet and are sometimes given the opportunity to use laboratory equipment to do practical work.

Narrator: Diana knows what is required from her in order to secure a bright future. Who provides this girl with her source of inspiration and motivation?

Nur Diana: It can’t be denied that my parents give me a lot of support and motivate me. My elder brother too. He often motivates me to continue studying in order to achieve good results.

Close:
Narrator: Indeed, all the youths featured (in this program) seem to be the hope of the community and even the country. In essence, one can achieve success based on one’s talent and interest, as long as one has the desire and determination to succeed. It is also clear that the journey to excellence knows no limits. The important thing is the desire and ability to try and keep trying.

Emril: I believe that Malays, just like other communities, are able to achieve success in whatever field they choose, as long as they are determined and work hard.
Nur Diana: I would like to tell other youths to keep on dreaming and keep on working hard, and don't give up even if you fail.

This program also featured the following youths:

1. Muhd Sufian Hamri, 23 years old, Fine Arts student from La Salle College of Fine Arts.
3. Mohd Salleh Abu Bakar, 22 years old, Computer Engineering and Electronics student from Ngee Ann Polytechnic.
4. Nurhaida Rahim, 22 years old, Sociology and Theater student from NUS and Executive Director, World Student Network