

Activity Report
Indonesian Youth Delegation 2019 – University of Passau
Friendship Visit and Culture Exchange
2-4 July, 2019

It was a pleasure for the Indonesian Youth Delegation (IYD) to be able to carry out the Friendship Visit and Culture Exchange at the University of Passau, Germany. The Indonesian Youth Delegation program was inspired by the United Nation Youth Delegation for youth action at regional, national and global levels.

The aims of the Indonesian Youth Delegation program are:

- To develop character by experiencing a different culture
- The opportunity to learn from the daily lives of German students both in academic and social settings
- Being part of an exchange between German students who study about Southeast Asia and Indonesia in particular and the Indonesian Youth Delegation

The Indonesian Youth Delegation visited the University of Passau from July 2 to 4. The preparation process in Indonesia was supervised by Ria Handayani. The Department of Comparative Development and Cultural Studies - Southeast Asia organized the program at the University of Passau.

Three days of activities

The IYD experienced three days of cultural exchange by taking part at different activities such as attending classes (bachelor, master, language classes), having a student guided city tour and joining a social gathering at the “Mostbauer”, an Austrian outing destination. The different style of teaching and atmosphere in classes, especially the active discussions between students and lecturers changed the perspectives and mindset of the Indonesian guests.

The Development of Comparative and Cultural Studies - Southeast Asia organized a welcoming event on the first morning. Prof. Martina Padmanabhan gave a welcome note and Dr. Friederike Trotier and Kartika Wulung introduced the chair members to the delegation.



Visiting classes

After the welcoming event, the IYD attended the class *Digital Indonesia* with Patrick Keilbart. The students, both German and Indonesian, discussed the differences in Indonesian digital newspapers such as the contents and the journalistic code of ethics as well as digitizing art with the example of the Yogyakarta Biennale Art.



In the Indonesian Language class by Kartika Wulang the delegation interacted with the German students in Indonesian. They exchanged cultural knowledge and stories in a semi-formal setting. At the end of the session, the Indonesians introduced a few examples of current Indonesian youth slang. This was particularly interesting for the German students as they only learn the standard language.



The third class the IYD attended was on *Natural Resource Management* taught by Prof. Martina Padmanabhan and Dimas Laksmana, which widened the horizon of the Indonesian guests concerning natural resources and how they are managed or mismanaged. One of topics that caught the interest of the Indonesian students was the importance of infrastructure to process and transport natural resources in the Himalayan Mountains. The poor access to transportation causes the waste of resources such as apples and milk. So, in spite of the good quality of the resources, the people and the economy cannot profit from it.

The Department organized a movie night for Indonesian and German students on the first evening. The film was *Sexy Killers*, an Indonesian documentary on energy and mining in the country. The following discussion was moderated by Dimas Laksmana and the Indonesian

activist and PhD student Siti Maimunah shared her insights about the topic. The film and the discussion did not only give the participants new understanding but also raised an awareness of the serious situation of energy provision in Indonesia.

Outside classroom activities

Outside the classroom, the IYD mingled with German students and Indonesians studying in Passau. It was exciting for the Indonesian guests to try typical German food and drinks. A highlight was the visit to the Mostbauer. The IYD joined the department's annual outing to the Austrian farm next to the Inn River. Cycling to the Mostbauer was a new and exciting experience considering the differences in setting and way of mobility between countries in Europe compared to Indonesia. The Indonesian students enjoyed the inspiring conversations and the unique and warm atmosphere in the garden of the Mostbauer with typical and home-produced food and drinks.

The main activity on the last day was a Passau City Tour guided by Moritz Fink, a former student of International Cultural and Business Studies. The tour included visiting the Old Town, historical sights and the three river conjunction point.

The program ended with an Indonesian Evening where students and lecturers shared food from Indonesia and Germany, gave and listened to presentations and performed Indonesian and German songs together.

Conclusion

The members of the Youth Delegation are grateful for being invited and to take part in the program at the University of Passau. The combination of academic and social activities helped to gain understanding about differences and similarities of Indonesian and German youth culture. Furthermore, the trip changed the mindset of the participants as they interacted with people in and around university. The delegation wants to thank all the organizers and participants of the different activities during the visit to Passau.

Warm greetings from Indonesia,
Indonesian Youth Delegation 2019

(Editors: Dr. Friederike Trotier, Kartika Wulang)