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UNHAS CORNER INTRODUCING AUSSIE BANGET CORNER

Aussie *Banget* Corner at Hasanuddin University is the first Australian Information Center in South Sulawesi, inaugurated by the Australian Consul General in Makassar, Richard Mathews, officially on July 15, 2017. It was selected based on a request from the Australian Consulate-General in Makassar and housed at the Language Service, formerly known as the Language Center of Hasanuddin University or Pusat Layanan Bahasa Universitas Hasanuddin (PB UNHAS). At that time, Dr. Hera, the current coordinator of Aussie *Banget* Corner, was the secretary of PB UNHAS.

The Australian government is very concerned about the development of education. The quality of education determines the future of a nation. UNHAS and universities in Australia and the Australian government have a strong relationship. The presence of this Aussie *Banget* Corner is a manifestation of the relationship and cooperation that has been well established.

Since its establishment, the Aussie *Banget* Corner has functioned as a source of Australia-related information, including scholarships and studies. In addition, the corner also provides a reading room and a collection of fiction and non-fiction books related to Australia provided by the Australian Consul General. Many students, especially English Literature students, visit and borrow books as references for their assignments. Many also use novels by Australian authors as research objects in their literary studies.

For regular programs, Aussie Banget Corner usually facilitates the Consulate General to carry out its annual agenda. For example, the annual film festival held by the Consulate General is not only in commercial cinemas; they usually provide temporary cinemas on campus for watching together with students for free. Many more agendas of the Austrian Consul General's activities in Makassar involve Aussie Banget Corner.

It is hoped that Aussie Banget Corner will get more book collections in the future. In addition, strong coordination between UNHAS internal institutions is also expected to maximize the functions and tasks of this corner. The corner's coordinator has also compiled several programs that were postponed during the pandemic, so that in 2023 Aussie Banget Corner will carry out these programs.





**GET ACQUAINTED WITH
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT :
MOHAMMED HUSSEIN BA NAGA**

Mohammed Hussein Ba Naga, known as Hussein, was born in Yemen on June 16, 2000. He is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Ocean Engineering at the Faculty of Engineering (FT) of Hasanuddin University (UNHAS). With a curriculum comprising 144 credit hours, he has completed 66 credit hours over three semesters. In addition, he has consistently performed at a high academic level, reflected in his cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.66. His coursework emphasizes the design, construction, and operation of marine structures and systems and the study of ocean and coastal processes.

The International Office (IO) had a chance to interview this young Yemeni with three questions: his reasons for choosing UNHAS, his involvement in academic and non-academic activities, and his recommendation for UNHAS to be a better university shortly. Let's find out more about his responses below.

Reasons to choose UNHAS

He flew far from Yemen to Makassar to continue his study at UNHAS. He has several reasons why he chose this university. First, when searching for a university, he found that UNHAS offers a study program that other universities rarely do. Ocean Engineering attracted him so much that he registered his name in this study program. The second reason was the international collaboration that UNHAS, especially the FT, has already established. He found in his search that the university ranking is optional, but collaborative research with international universities or organizations is more urgent than others. The last reason was discovering culture. Studying outside Yemen, like in Makassar, Indonesia, exposes him to cultural diversity. He can observe multiculturalism during his study in Makassar.

Academic and Non-academic Involvement

Not only observing cultural diversity here but also participating in many academic and non-academic activities. Firstly, he presented his paper at the 9th Program of International Platform on Ocean Energy for Young Researchers 2022, showcasing "The North-Western Equatorial Currents in the Indian Ocean and assessing the efficiency of ocean currents energy capacity in the Arabian Sea (winter and summer Monsoon currents)" This presentation took place at Saga University during November 2022.

Secondly, he participated in a highly competitive Summer Academic Program (A Multidisciplinary Geoscience Approach to Cultural, Climate Change and Sustainable Development); he received accolades for producing the outstanding Final Project and was recognized as **the top performer and presenter**. This presentation was at Padjadjaran University, Indonesia, August 1-9, 2022.





Thirdly, he participated in the 6th Eastern Part of Indonesia (EPI) International Conference on Science and Engineering (ICSE) 2022, Hasanuddin University. As a result, he gained insights and networked with industry professionals in "Strengthening Innovation, Unification and Government (IUG) Based Research and Digital Innovations for Supporting the Sustainability and Development Goals." by the Faculty of Engineering (FT) on October 25, 2022.

The last one was his presentation at National Seminar on Ocean Science and Technology (SENSISTEK 2022), FT UNHAS, on the topic of "Review Analysis Of Port Structural Strengthening and Ship-hull Interaction According to Fluid Drag Forces (Using CFD Method) Over Expected Port's Lifetime." He shared insights and engaged with attendees in discussions about "The Role Of Ocean Engineering in the Development & Conservation Maritime Potential Towards Indonesia Vision 2045." The seminar was on November 3, 2022. Hussein expressed his appreciation to his department administration for allowing him to present his papers at international and national conferences. Participating in these conferences also increased his critical thinking skills as needed in his future professional career.

Another activity that he emphasized was the 5th International Cultural Program (ICP) in June 2022, which UNHAS International Office carried out. As he stated earlier, ICP was one of the activities that allowed him to have cultural diversity exposure. Moreover, the ICP was considered related to his field of study, where the issues of maritime culture in South Sulawesi were exposed.

Recommendation for a better UNHAS in the future

As an international student, the ability to speak Indonesian is a must. With this ability, it will have a positive impact on international students themselves. Furthermore, Indonesian language preparation, well known as *Bahasa Indonesia untuk Penutur Asing* (BIPA) or Indonesian Language for Non-Native Speakers for him, still requires additional classes such as those given to international students who are recipients of the *Kemitraan Negara Berkembang* (KNB) or Developing Countries Partnership scholarship. As stated by Hussein, they have a significant duration in learning Indonesian.

Furthermore, the provision of material on cross-cultural understanding is also highly recommended. They remember that these international students come with their own culture and will interact with people in Makassar. Under him, several international students needed help understanding the cultural behavior in Makassar, so at the beginning, when they arrived, this material could be given. Regarding his Indonesian language skills, Hussein gives a 30-40% percentage, and he is still trying to practice this language with his classmates. One more thing that Hussein wants is for Indonesian language classes for international students not free of charge because this makes the student concerned unmotivated. However, if this class charges fees to take BIPA class, then international students, from his point of view, will be motivated to study hard. Therefore, Hussein hopes his Indonesian language skills will continue improving for his academic achievements and performance.





IISMA CORNER : URSULA BENEDIKTA

UC CHILE - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS - IISMA 2022 ALUMNI



In this vast world, countless wonders and treasures exist, each waiting to be discovered and savored. With countless probabilities and variables, this world is painted with beauty in myriad strange and unique ways. The year 2022 was a marvel, brimming with surprises, and amongst them, I was bestowed with the honor of being an IISMA awardee at UC Chile. My mother was worried when she learned I was traveling to the southernmost country on Earth, near Antarctica. My kin often questions my desire to journey to South America, despite a plethora of campuses in Asia, Europe, Australia, or North America that are deemed equally as good.

It's disheartening, for none of my acquaintances seem to be familiar with Chile, leaving me apprehensive in an emergency. However, fear has never deterred me from pursuing my aspirations and dreams to learn and immerse myself in foreign cultures. I arrived in Santiago, the capital of Chile, on the first of August, 2022. It was winter, and my fellow awardees and I needed to prepare for the frigid climate. When we found ourselves needing clarification about where to acquire winter attire, Bu Ning, an Indonesian residing in Santiago, lent us her winter gear. Then I felt the warmth and unity of the Indonesian community in Chile.

Since then, we have been frequent visitors to the Indonesian Embassy, practicing gamelan and angklung or washing our clothes on Sundays. "You can wash your clothes at the Indonesian Embassy, so you no longer have to pay for laundry. Laundry is expensive in Santiago," said Bu Wati, one of the many compassionate diplomats who made us feel at home. In addition, we were often invited to indulge in Indonesian cuisine at the homes of Embassy staff and explore the lush, snowy landscapes of southern Chile, hiking on icebergs and braving the chilling Pacific Ocean air on Algarrobo beach.

Being in a family of Indonesians living in Santiago was not something I anticipated would become so memorable when I returned to Indonesia. Life is always full of heartwarming surprises. I never thought I would become so close to the other awardees, who were always there for me, even during the most challenging times. It never occurred to me that I would find a friend amongst the Indonesian missionaries in Chile or still be able to savor traditional Indonesian cakes while in Chile. Five months were never enough to forge memories with the wonderful people I met in Chile, and although it may sound trite, deciding to apply for the IISMA at UC Chile was the best decision I ever made.



MEET OUR STUVO : GURPREET KAUR



HAYHAYY, everyone. Since this maybe the last Student Volunteer (Stuvo) corner for this batch, please bear with me. Okay then, hey yo peeps, my name is Gurpreet Kaur but most known by Sonia. Currently, I'm a 3rd-year student majoring in International Relations. Life as a student volunteer in the International Office (IO) was one of my best decisions. Throughout my journey, I learned many things that benefited me in every aspect possible. Firstly the environment itself is felt as our second house. So the family vibes and support, the best n worst, are always there. With this journey, I learned a valuable lesson and created innumerable memories.

It is also so grateful that we have been provided with a workshop to develop our skills while still being fun and meaningful. Remember, engagement and building networks are numberless. This change has given us.

Many things changed and improved me after entering the Stuvo, starting from self-development, making decisions, public speaking, and remembering leadership skills. Being a liaison officer has become our daily meal in accompanying and comfortable guests from various foreign countries. That way, we can meet many people and expand the connection to be the face of IO itself. Remember, we are allowed to explore creativity and express opinions until a 'language class' is made. This language class held in Ramsis (Student Dormitory) on Friday can bear fruit until we do modules for our international students. So that in the future, they will have guidance and not lose their way in learning the local language with so much learning, morals, and not forgetting for sure comfort. But it's also bittersweet that our term is going to end.

"There will always be a goodbye in every Hey."

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE SUPER TEAM

SUMBANGAN BAJA
MUHAMMAD RIDWAN
RAFIKA NURUL HAMDANI RAMLI
NASRAH
KUMARA TUNGGGA DEWA

ANDI MASYITHA IRWAN
JAMALUDDIN FITRAH ALAM
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ANDI AFIFAH FAYYADHAH
IRFAN ASHAR PRATAMA