



International Office  
Hasanuddin University



# WEEKLY NEWS

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## **THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE, HASANUDDIN UNIVERSITY IMPLEMENTS STAFF EXCHANGE PROGRAM AT UNIVERSITI MALAYA, MALAYSIA**



The International Office Hasanuddin University (IO UNHAS) held a staff mobility program to develop staff capacity at the Universiti Malaya (UM), Malaysia on February 6-7 2024. This program aimed at learning the internationalization management program to be implemented at UNHAS. All IO's staff participated in this program. They are Andi Masyitha Irwan, Ph.D (Head of IO), Muhammad Ridwan, M.A. (Secretary), Saaduddin, M.Sc. (Task Force), Khaeruddin, Ph.D (Task Force), Haniek Khoirunnissa Baja, M.Sc (Task Force), Nasrah, M.Hum (Staff), Kumara Tungga Dewa, S.S., (Staff), Andi Afifah Fayahdah, S.Ikom (Staff) and Erizal Zhafran M. Edison, S.Ikom (Staff).

This visit began with a meeting in the International Relations Center (IRC) room at UM. The IO UNHAS delegation was warmly received by Sheena Kaur, Ph.D (Head of Strategic Global Alliances Division) accompanied by Nina Norizan (Partnership Manager). In this meeting, IO's staff were exposed to the management of the IRC dividing its partnership managerial into four divisions. Furthermore, IO UNHAS delegates were taken to campus tours. The first tour was to UM's on-campus forest preservation named *Rimba Ilmu* (Jungle of Knowledge). This forest resembles UNHAS forest education that is managed by the Faculty of Forestry (FAHUT). The only difference is the location. UNHAS forest education is located out of Makassar while *Rimba Ilmu* is located inside UM campus. This forest is virtually accessible by the internal UM academic community and outside the campus. The tour was guided by Ahmad Hilmie Ya'kub (Student Activity Coordinator) and Dayang Siti Khadijah Awang Bujang (Administrative Assistant).

Prior to lunch time, IO UNHAS delegates were taken to the UM's museum. Inside the museum, on the second floor particularly, the visitors could observe porcelain, ceramics and various kinds of jugs from time to time. According to the staff at this museum, these artifacts came from the past when UM separated from its affiliated campus in Singapore. The leaders at that time chose the best artifacts to be brought to Malaya. Even when there were visits from Singapore, they said that everything in this museum was better than their collection in Singapore. After this, the IO UNHAS delegates were exposed to the Canseleri Building and warmly welcomed by Nuzul Fatihin Izatil Azman (preferably called Izzatil) accompanied by other UM staff. The presentation by Izatil lasted at 4pm Kuala Lumpur time and also closed the visit in day #1.





Beginning the visit on day #2, the IO UNHAS delegates visited the Kong Zi Institute. Prof. Dr. Noor Zalina (Director) accompanied by Erraine Ruszeqkha Binti Abu Bakar (Assistant Registrar) and other staff welcomed the delegates in such an informal setting. This institute resembles the one existing at UNHAS, Mandarin Corner showing the culture of Chinese. The visit ended with a photo session and a tour around the building.

The next visit of UNHAS delegates was to the Marketing and Recruitment Division. The delegates were welcomed by Vighneshree King (preferably called King). She is the Head of Enrichment and Mobility (GEM). In this division, the UNHAS joined the discussion on international mobility and collaboration programs. Muhammad Ridzwan bin Mohd Rashid (inbound Mobility Program Coordinator) presented outbound and inbound activities done by the office. One of the slides that might have been inspiring was a homestay program for inbound students. This homestay may be implemented in UNHAS as Makassar is rich with cultural diversity.

After the discussion of the mobility program, the delegates were exposed to the marketing and recruitment division presented by Adi Yusran bin Mohamad Radzi (Assistant Registrar). He delivered such a wonderful presentation regarding putting the UM in the market.





He emphasized three different categories in doing the marketing such as mature, developed and new market. Mr. Adi also said that doing marketing did need lots of effort and energy as well as financial. We could expect that once we do marketing in one region to attract new students, it would come true immediately. It takes a long process from planting, watering and harvesting your dreams. The presentation was also attended by Tuty Haryati Kassim (Head of Marketing and recruitment Division).

Before completing this mobility program, UNHAS delegates were allowed to present about UNHAS in brief and self reflection regarding the two day visit. The first presentation was carried out by Andi Masyitha Irwan, Ph.D. She began with the philosophy behind the university names then continued with UNHAS performances and achievement. She also described how beneficial this mobility is in increasing IO UNHAS capacity and capability for doing internationalization programs. The second presentation was done by Muhammad Ridwan, M.A.. In his presentation, he emphasized the lesson learned from the two day visit. It ranged from international staff hired by UM, inbound and outbound activities, etc. In short, UNHAS delegates learned that it was not about the modern buildings that the university should have but with a well-built system it would determine that the university could become a global university like UM as the top 65 university world rank.

6 The visit finally came to an end. The photo session colored the visit and the UM team was very kind in providing souvenirs in various forms ranging from notebooks, flash disks, batik cloth, etc. UNHAS delegates had to leave the UM but in their hearts, abundant benefits were obtained during the visit. Thank you UM for the hospitality.



## THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE, HASANUDDIN UNIVERSITY HOLDS INDONESIAN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOBILITY AWARDS (IISMA) CAMP; PART #1



The Indonesian International Student Mobility Awards (IISMA), the flagship program designed by the Ministry of Education and Culture, Research and Higher Education, is on the air now. IO UNHAS has been in charge of disseminating the IISMA in UNHAS by holding a camp for applicants. The first day of IISMA Camp was held on Sunday, February 11, 2024 at the Grand Ballroom, UNHAS Hotel and Convention.

The camp began with an introduction by Khaeruddin, Ph.D (IO Task Force for Student Mobility). He delivered the aim of the first day camp; essay coaching. The IISMA applicants must have submitted their essay a day prior to the camp. This early submission was important to enable the respective reviewers to evaluate the essay properly and at an adequate time. This coaching focused on students' essay grammar and diction integrated in the applicants' essay. This coaching session was attended by about 100 participants and it lasted for 3 hours. Each participant spent 10 minutes face to face consultation.

Furthermore, choosing the right host university abroad was considered the most crucial. The IISMA camp committees provide a special consultation session on it. The applicants were divided into six big groups and each group was facilitated by the IO staff. There was a fundamental issue discussed during the session, the applicants' English Proficiency Test score. It determines the choice of host university they were dreaming for. In the IISMA program, applicants are allowed to choose 3 universities abroad.



This first choice is the participants' dream university. However, the second and third options must be synergized between their wishes and UNHAS. In this case UNHAS was represented by the IO. Here, the facilitator reminded the applicants that the English Proficiency Test score is an important consideration as well as the statistics of the applicants each year. For example, if an applicant has a Duolingo English Test (DET) score of 125 and enrolled at a university that requires a 125 minimum score. Then choosing this university is considered not the best option because it is very likely that other applicants might have a higher score (above 125). Finally, the facilitator suggested the applicants to be realistic with their choices. Their university choices should be based on their English language skill.

The last session on the first day was Best Practices in Essay by the IISMA Alumni. Prior to this camp, the applicants were divided into several groups facilitated by the alumni. A few of them conducted IISMA mentoring through online meetings. They met each other and discussed the IISMA related issues. In this camp, many of them met their facilitator for the first time. The alumni shared their best practices in writing essays for IISMA. They all sat together in numbers of round table discussions. The best practices of alumni might have a good reference for the applicants to present their best essay in IISMA. The first day of IISMA ended and all the facilitators and applicants went home with a big hope of winning the award this year. Good luck.





## THE DEPARTMENT OF ARABIC LANGUAGE HOLDS A ZOOM MEETING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF MALAYSIA SEEKING A POTENTIAL COLLABORATION



To increase the cooperation and collaboration with foreign universities, the Department of Arabic Language, Faculty of Cultural Sciences (FIB), Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) held a zoom meeting with Jabatan Bahasa dan Kesusasteraan Arab (Department of Arabic Language and Literature), International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM), Prof. Dr. Asem Shehadeh (Head) and Dr. Anwar Ahmad (Academic Staff). From FIB UNHAS, those present were Haeruddin, M.A. (Head of the Arabic Literature Study Program), Ilham Ramadhan, M.A. (Academic Staff who is also an alumni of IIUM), and Muhammad Ridwan, M.A. (Academic Staff and Secretary of UNHAS International Office). The meeting was on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 Malaysia Time.

Several issues were discussed during the zoom meeting. Both parties opened hands to welcome everyone in the meeting. One of the issues talked about was a future collaboration between both parties. However, since this one was the very first encounter between UNHAS and IIUM, the meeting agreed with the site visit. The delegates from UNHAS would visit the IIUM campus and it was expected that the delegates of IIUM would do the same. It was hoped that the collaboration of both parties would come true. The meeting ended and Prof. Asem looked forward to meeting the UNHAS delegates on Wednesday, February 28, 2024.



MEET OUR STUVO:  
**AGUNG SUTIONO PONTOH**  
STUDENT FROM FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

After successfully managing the first batch of student volunteers, the IO UNHAS oversaw the second group. Each batch would serve as a volunteer for a year. In this second batch, we would get to know one of the volunteers named Agung Sutiono Pontoh closely. He prefers to be called Agung. He is in his 8th semester at the biostatistics population health under the Public Health Study Program at the Faculty of Public Health (FKM). In his free time during Indonesian International Students Mobility Awards (IISMA) Camp 2024, the IO managed to interview him with several questions such as role and responsibility as a Stuvo, challenges faced, effects, envision his performance in the future and his sharing to other Students of UNHAS.

Agung has already been a volunteer at the IO since August 2023. He went through a recruitment process among hundreds of prospective candidates. When he was officially recruited, he went through a probation period for three months. Based on the IO assessment, Agung could continue his service until August of 2024. He is one of the twelve volunteers assisting the operation of IO on a daily basis. He said that his study program at FKM is considered unique and being involved in the volunteerism at the IO might increase his insight and build his network with other volunteers.

When asked about his roles and responsibility as a volunteer, Agung said that he has been working with the international students administration. He is in charge of dealing with several administration matters. He also said that he was involved in a variety of different activities such as the first International Student Festival (ISF) in 2023. This was his first involvement in IO's big event. Providing 16 booths, the ISF enabled UNHAS international students to introduce their country and culture. He was amazed with this event as he could interact with more international students. Meanwhile, the Geography Series (GS) is another big event aiming to introduce international students' countries of origin that is different from ISF. The GS is more like a seminar where the students present their country through a powerpoint presentation and the local students can propose questions and feedback. Agung is also happy to be involved in this event. When the interview was conducted, Agung and other volunteers were involved in the IISMA Camp 2024 held at the Grand Ballroom, UNHAS Hotel and Convention. Involving in these events would certainly improve his capacity especially in writing essays and many universities matters for continuing study.



In addition, Agung also felt his confidence has improved. Prior to his involvement in the IO, he rarely spoke English in his surroundings. As he was accepted at the IO, he has been able to speak the language with other volunteers generally and with foreign guests coming to UNHAS particularly. When assigned as a liaison officer, where he had to escort the foreign guests enabled him to communicate with them. In turn, his speaking skills improve and affect his confidence. However, being a volunteer brought him also to face several challenges

The challenges he encountered so far were about time management. Being a student in the fourth year certainly requires focus to finish on time. However, in certain situations, as a volunteer, the performance is required to be able to carry out programs at IO effectively and efficiently. This is where the challenge lies in how to divide his time so that these two opportunities can run well. He was very thankful that other volunteers are very helpful and supportive. He hopes that he can serve this support will continue to be provided until the end of his service as a volunteer.

Seeing his service as a volunteer that will end in six months or so from now, Agung assures himself that he will be able to gain as many experiences as possible that will help his competency and capacity himself. Moreover, support and direction from the IO are indeed needed, thus the volunteers are able to develop their contribution and participation as well as capacity in preparing them to reach their dream in the future, especially his wish to continue his study abroad.

Before ending the interview, Agung left a great message to other UNHAS students that the students should try volunteering particularly in the IO as there would be abundant chances and opportunities to develop our confidence. He closed his statement by expressing his feelings in three words; amazing, excellent and challenging. The IO wishes him the best in his study and future professional career.





## INTERNATIONAL OFFICE SUPER TEAM

SUMBANGAN BAJA  
MUHAMMAD RIDWAN  
RAFIKA NURUL HAMDANI RAMLI  
NASRAH  
KUMARA TUNGGU DEWA  
HANIEK KHOIRUNNISSA BAJA

ANDI MASYITHA IRWAN  
ABIGAIL MARY MOORE  
ANDI AFIFAH FAYYADHAH  
ERIZAL ZHAFRAN M EDISON  
SAADUDDIN  
KHAERUDDIN