



International Office
Hasanuddin University

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STRENGTHENING INDONESIA-JAPAN ACADEMIC COLLABORATION: UNHAS DELEGATION AT OKAYAMA UNIVERSITY'S STRATEGIC MEETING



From 2024 to 2029, Indonesia has been designated as a priority by Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT) for increasing the enrollment of international students from ASEAN. This initiative is supported through government scholarships, non-government funding, and university-specific programs, with Okayama University (OU) playing a key role in this effort.

As part of this initiative, the ASEAN Regional Office visited Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) in February to conduct a study-in-Japan outreach program, which attracted hundreds of UNHAS students. Based on the evaluation of this event, the ASEAN Regional Office recognized UNHAS as a strategic partner with significant potential for future impact.

UNHAS and OU have maintained a long-standing partnership, particularly in health sciences faculties. In light of this collaboration, the ASEAN Regional Office extended an invitation to UNHAS to participate in the *Strategic Collaboration Meeting of the Global Network Project to Promote Study in Japan*, held at OU from 17 to 19 March 2025. The event was fully funded by the ASEAN Regional Office, the project's coordinating body for ASEAN.

The UNHAS delegation included Vice Rector for Academic and Student Affairs, Prof. Ruslin; Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Prof. Haerani; Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry, Dr. Irfan Sugianto; Dean of the Faculty of Public Health, Prof. Sukri; and Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, Prof. Ariyanti Saleh. During the visit, the UNHAS delegation met with OU President, Prof. Yasutomo Nasu, and Vice President for International Affairs and Alumni, Prof. Takayoshi Suzuki. The discussions, facilitated by Indonesia Area Coordinator of the ASEAN Regional Office, Kaori Yajima, focused on expanding collaboration, particularly through the *Exchange Program Okayama (EPOK)* and opportunities for UNHAS staff to pursue further studies at OU.



INTERNATIONAL OFFICE PREPARES FOR "HOST FAMILY: EXPERIENCING RAMADHAN LIKE HOME" PROGRAM



The International Office (IO) of Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) has successfully launched the Host Family Program: Experiencing Ramadhan Like Home, providing international students with an immersive cultural experience during the holy month of Ramadhan. Held from 21 - 23 March 2025, the program allowed participants to stay with local families in Bantimurung and Tompobulu, Maros Regency, offering them a firsthand experience of Ramadhan traditions in South Sulawesi.

To ensure a well-organized and enriching experience, IO held a preparatory meeting via Zoom on 18 March 2025, led by Andi Masyitha Irwan, Ph.D. (Head of IO), and attended by Muhammad Ridwan, M.A. (IO Secretary), Saaduddin, M.Sc. (Task Force & Project Manager), and IO staff members. The meeting covered key logistical aspects, including transportation arrangements utilizing UNHAS services and pairing international students with local student volunteers from IO UNHAS.

The selection of Bantimurung and Tompobulu as host locations followed an official audience with the Regent of Maros, Dr. H. Andi Syafril Chaidir Syam, S.IP, M.H., on 10 March 2025. The Regent welcomed the initiative, recognizing its potential to foster cultural exchange and promote Maros as a destination for international engagement.

The program followed a structured timeline, beginning with participant registration from 10 to 17 March, followed by the selection process on 18 March. The official announcement was made through IO UNHAS Instagram on 19 March, and a pre-departure briefing took place on 20 March to introduce students to local customs and their host families. On 21 March, the participants departed for Maros, where they spent three days immersing themselves in the local culture before returning to UNHAS on 23 March with valuable experiences and insights.

This inaugural Host Family program featured four international students: Kumar Apurvakant Gautam from India (Faculty of Public Health), Muhammad Furqan from Pakistan (Faculty of Dentistry), Tashfeen Amir from Pakistan (Faculty of Medicine), and Said Sadallah Said from Tanzania (Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences). They were paired with local IO student volunteers, Muh. Naufal Fahri Salim and Muh. Adam Rezky, who helped them adapt to their new surroundings and facilitated cultural exchanges.



The participants shared memorable experiences and reflections on the program. Said Sadallah Said expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to learn about palm sugar production and explore the natural beauty of Bonto Somba village. He emphasized that the hospitality of his host family and the warmth of the local community made his stay truly special.

Muhammad Furqan suggested that future programs include more cultural workshops, such as traditional cooking, weaving, or palm sugar making, to enhance participants' engagement with the local community.



Tashfeen Amir recalled his favorite moment of the program, which was attending a Musabaqah Tilawatil Quran (MTQ) event. He was unexpectedly invited on stage to speak in front of 300 people, making it an unforgettable experience. He also enjoyed watching a kids' fashion show and Quran recitation competitions.

Kumar Apurvakant Gautam discussed the challenges of adjusting to the Ramadhan routine, particularly waking up early for Suhoor. However, sharing these moments with his friends and host family made it much easier and more enjoyable. He also highlighted how simple Bahasa Indonesia and non-verbal communication helped him overcome language barriers.



The Host Family Program successfully fostered cross-cultural understanding and provided international students with an authentic Ramadhan experience. With overwhelmingly positive feedback from both participants and host families, IO UNHAS hopes to continue and expand this initiative in the future, strengthening the university's commitment to internationalization and cultural exchange.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SHINE AT UNHAS QUR'ANIC RECITATION COMPETITION



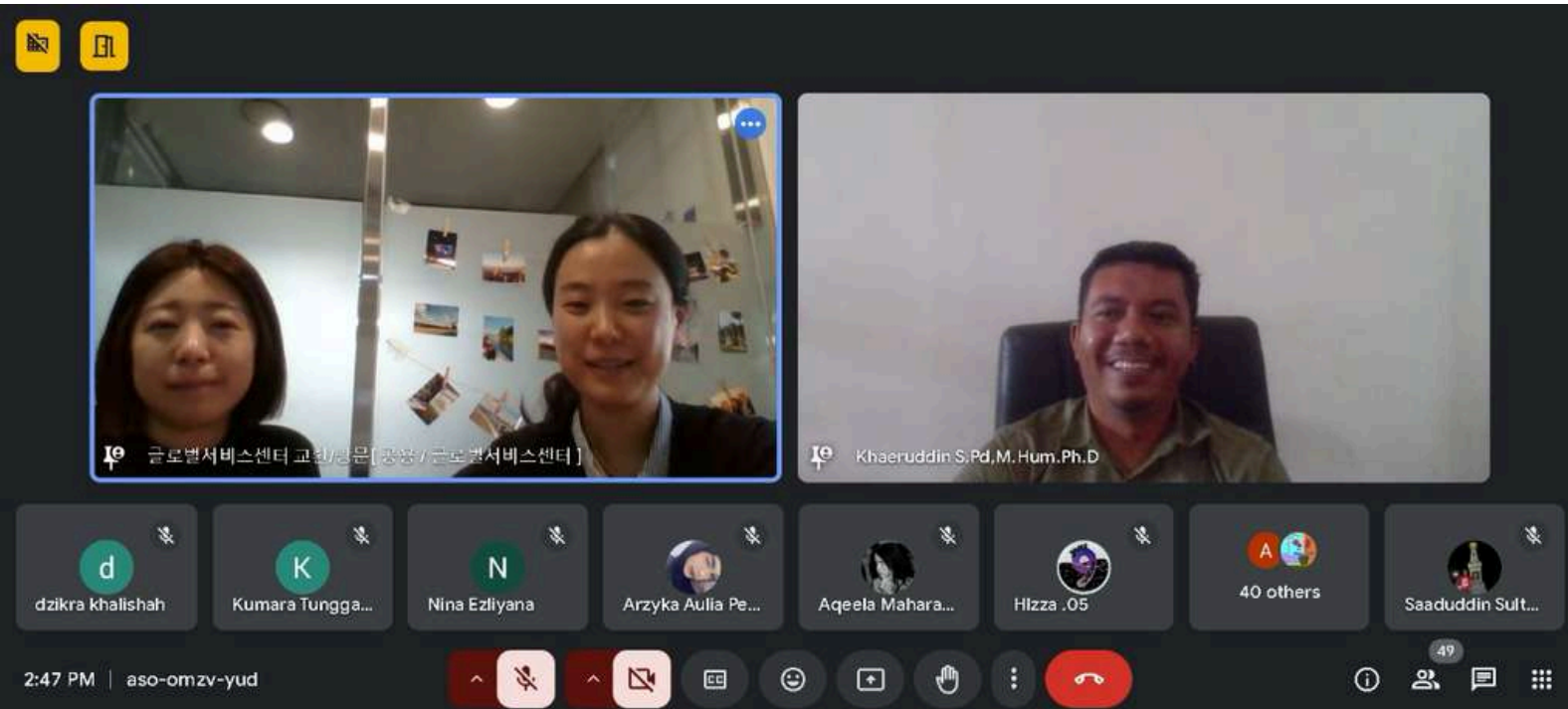
The Directorate of Student Affairs at Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) recently organized the *Musabaqah Tilawatil Qur'an* (MTQ), a Qur'anic Recitation Competition, to celebrate the spirit of Ramadan. The event commenced on Wednesday–Friday, 13-14 March 2025, at the UNHAS Tamalanrea Campus. The competition featured major categories such as *Tilawah* (Recitation), *Tartil* (Slow and melodious recitation with proper pronunciation and articulation), *Tahfidz* (Memorization), and *Khattil Qur'an*, showcasing students' skills in reciting, memorizing, and calligraphy of the Qur'an.

This year's MTQ introduced an exciting addition to its lineup of competitions by including a cooking competition, blending Arab and Indonesian archipelago cuisine. The event aimed to foster cultural appreciation and creativity among participants. Given UNHAS's diverse student community, the International Office (IO) invited international students to take part, further enhancing the spirit of inclusivity and global engagement.

The IO proudly congratulates their international student participants for their outstanding achievements. Mustafa Naeem Mustafa Alaswad (student at the Faculty of Medicine from Jordan) secured second place in the 10-chapter Quranic memorization category, while Zarah Muneer Abdo Othman Munassar (student at the Faculty of Dentistry from Yaman) won the first place in the cooking competition. Their success highlights the university's commitment to fostering academic, cultural, and spiritual excellence among students from diverse backgrounds.



FRIDAY OUTBOUND CLINIC: INSIGHTS INTO KOREA UNIVERSITY'S SCHOLARSHIPS AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE



The Friday Outbound Clinic on 21 March 2025 offered an enriching session titled *Learn from Korea University: Scholarships, Student Life, and Outbound Opportunities*. The event featured two representatives from Korea University (KU). They are Ms. Gawoon Yoon and Ms. Heeyeon Jo, both KU Global service centre staff. They shared valuable insights into the academic landscape, scholarship opportunities, and the dynamic student experience at one of South Korea's top institutions. More than 50 participants, including students and faculty members, joined the session, eager to explore international study pathways.

The session was led by Khaeruddin, Ph.D., a key member of the International Office task force, alongside other International Office staff. Their presence ensured a well-organized and engaging discussion. The speakers provided detailed explanations of available scholarships, application processes, and campus life at KU, offering participants a comprehensive understanding of what to expect when studying abroad.

Beyond the presentation, the event fostered an interactive environment through a lively Q&A session, where attendees eagerly asked about admission criteria, cultural adaptation, and networking opportunities in South Korea. The discussion was both insightful and inspiring, encouraging participants to consider KU as a potential destination for their academic and professional growth. The session successfully provided valuable information and motivation, reinforcing the Friday Outbound Clinic's role as a platform for international exposure and learning.




STRENGTHENING GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT: UNHAS PREPARES FOR ICP 2025




Hasanuddin University's International Office (IO) held a coordination meeting on Wednesday, 19 March 2025, to discuss preparations for the 8th International Cultural Program (ICP), scheduled for late July to early August 2025. The meeting focused on key aspects, including the event timeline, participating countries, and the field trip to Puntondo.

A significant highlight of the discussion was the integration of ICP with the 2025 International Academic Consortium for Sustainable Cities (IACSC), which UNHAS will host. As part of this integration, certain topics from IACSC will be incorporated into the ICP program. The meeting was led by Andi Masyitha Irwan, Ph.D. (Head of IO) and facilitated by Saaduddin, M.Sc. (ICP Project Manager). In his presentation, Mr. Saad elaborated on crucial implementation details, covering the timeline, participants, participating countries, and logistical concerns.


Several key IO staff members attended the meeting, including Dra. Harniati (Head of Foreign Affairs), Muhammad Ridwan, M.A. (IO Secretary), Khaeruddin, Ph.D., and Haniek Khoirunnissa, M.Sc. (both serving as IO Task Forces). Also present were Nasrah, M.Hum., Kumara Tungga Dewa, S.S., Cahya Ramadhani, S.I.Kom., and Erizal Zhafran Muyazzar Edison, S.I.Kom. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to ensuring a well-organized ICP 2025, with plans for follow-up coordination meetings in the coming months.

A man with short dark hair, wearing a dark shirt, is shown in a video call frame. He is looking slightly to the side and has his hand near his face.

Heru_UNHAS

A woman with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a white shirt, is shown in a video call frame. She is looking directly at the camera.

HARNIATI_UNHAS

A man with short dark hair, wearing a black t-shirt with a red logo, is shown in a video call frame. He is looking directly at the camera.

KUI UNHAS_MuhRidwan

A man with short dark hair, wearing a black shirt, is shown in a video call frame. He is looking directly at the camera.

Uga



PREDICTING MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASES THROUGH CLIMATE PATTERNS: A GUEST LECTURE BY PROF. NOBORU MINAKAWA



Makassar, 18 March 2025 – The Department of Parasitology and the Doctoral Program of the Faculty of Medicine, in collaboration with the Master's Program in Biomedical Sciences at the Graduate School, organized a guest lecture featuring Prof. Noboru Minakawa from the Department of Vector Ecology and Environment, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Nagasaki University, Japan. The lecture was titled *"Predicting Mosquito-Borne Diseases Based on Climate."*

The session was moderated by Dr. Isra Wahid, Ph.D., and was attended by distinguished professors, including Prof. Dr. Syafruddin, Ph.D., and Prof. Dr. Irfan Idris, M.Kes, as well as master's students from the Graduate School's Biomedical Sciences Program and doctoral students from the Faculty of Medicine at Hasanuddin University (UNHAS).

During his lecture, Prof. Minakawa elaborated on mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue fever, malaria, and the Zika virus, which remain a growing global health threat. He emphasized the crucial role of environmental factors, particularly climate change, in influencing the transmission patterns of these diseases. Temperature, humidity, and rainfall directly affect mosquito populations and the life cycles of the pathogens they carry.

Prof. Minakawa, who has conducted extensive research on mosquito-borne diseases in various countries, including Africa, explained how environmental factors and climate change impact mosquito populations and disease transmission patterns. Through data-driven analysis and scientific approaches, he demonstrated that climate variations can serve as indicators for predicting vector-borne disease outbreaks.

The lecture provided in-depth insights into how climate-based predictions can enhance disease prevention and control strategies. It is hoped that this session has enriched participants' understanding of vector ecology, climate change, and mitigation efforts in addressing global public health challenges.



STRENGTHENING ACADEMIC COLLABORATION: A VISIT TO FKM UNHAS



A delegation consisting of Mr. Xie Xuan, Mr. Niu Haiqiang, Mr. Chen Zhonghe, Mr. Huang Zitao, and Ms. Vika Melisa Lubis was warmly welcomed in the dean's room by Prof. Anwar Mallongi, SKM., MSc., Ph.D. (Vice Dean for Partnership, Research, and Innovation) and Prof. Dr. Atjo Wahyu, SKM., M.Kes. (Vice Dean for Planning, Resources, and Alumni). Several lecturers from the Faculty of Public Health (FKM) at Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) also participated in the welcoming session.

During their visit, the delegation had the opportunity to explore various state-of-the-art facilities at FKM Unhas, including research laboratories, biophysical chemistry laboratories, audiovisual aids (AVA) laboratories, and culinary laboratories. These facilities play a crucial role in supporting research, teaching, and practical learning experiences for students.

This visit was expected to strengthen cooperative relations between the institutions and foster potential collaborations in education and research. By engaging in such academic exchanges, both parties can explore new opportunities for joint research projects, faculty exchanges, and knowledge-sharing initiatives that contribute to mutual academic growth.



SEIREI CHRISTOPHER UNIVERSITY AND UNHAS FOSTER ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS IN HEALTHCARE



From 18 to 20 March 2025, the Faculty of Nursing (FKep) at Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) had the honor of welcoming a distinguished delegation from Seirei Christopher University (SCU). The visit, led by Professor Kazuhiro Kimpura and Professor Hiroki Yabe RPT, Ph.D., aimed to discuss and further develop future collaborative programs between the two institutions.

The visit began with a welcoming event for the delegation, which was officially opened by the Vice Dean for Academics and Students Affairs, Syahrul Said, S.Kep., Ns., M.Kes., Ph.D. The event then continued with the discussions, held on 18 March 2025, focused on three key initiatives designed to enhance academic and cultural exchange. The first initiative was an inbound student exchange program, where students from SCU will have the opportunity to visit UNHAS to gain hands-on experience in the Physiotherapy Study Program and attend relevant classes. This program aims to provide SCU students with valuable practical experience and broaden their understanding of international healthcare practices. Secondly, in October 2025, UNHAS will host two visiting lecturers from SCU. These lectures will deliver general lectures for students in the Physiotherapy Study Program at UNHAS. The third program discussed was an event organized as part of the 20th anniversary celebration of SCU. UNHAS faculty members will participate in the event, delivering topics around nursing education and partnership.

On 19 March 2025, the delegation from SCU, along with a lecturer from UNHAS, presented a general lecture session for students and faculty. The lecture featured two distinguished speakers: Professor Kazuhiro Kimpara and Dr. Rijal, S.Ft. Physio, M.Kes., M.MSc., Ph.D. Professor Kimpara delivered a lecture titled "Understanding the Basics of Pain and Pathophysiology of Chronic Pain," which offered valuable insights into the complexities of pain management, particularly in the context of chronic pain. Dr. Rijal presented his research on "The Impact of Stabilization on Deep Scapular Muscle Morphologies and Scapular Position in Individuals with Rounded Shoulder Posture," The general lecture sparked stimulating discussions and providing significant insights into physiotherapy and musculoskeletal health.

On 20 March 2025, the delegation from SCU visited a physiotherapy clinic in Makassar, owned by faculty members of the Physiotherapy Study Program at the FKep, Hasanuddin University. The clinics visited were Physio Center Clinic and Physio Sakti Clinic. Prof. Kimpara had the opportunity to observe physiotherapy services firsthand and share knowledge with the physiotherapists at these clinics through a simple practice simulation. Following this, the delegation proceeded to the faculty for the closing event. Prof. Kimpara and Hiroki Yabe, Ph.D., expressed their positive impressions and deep gratitude for their visit to the Physiotherapy Study Program which will be beneficial for the upcoming collaboration between SCU and UNHAS. Before departing, Prof. Kimpara took the time to conduct a manual therapy practice simulation with the physiotherapy faculty members of UNHAS.

The visit marked another important milestone in the ongoing collaboration between SCU and UNHAS, with the hope that both institutions continue to work together to advance healthcare education and research.





FKM UNHAS HOSTS GUEST LECTURE ON ANTIBODY RESEARCH AND GLOBAL HEALTH



The Faculty of Public Health (FKM) at Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) held a guest lecture titled "Antibody Characterization Methods for Investigating Infectious Disease Transmission: A Global Health Perspective" on Thursday (27/2). The event, which took place in the Nur Nasry Noor Room, 2nd Floor, FKM UNHAS, was attended by approximately 40 Master's (S2) and Doctoral (S3) program students.

This lecture featured Dr. Whitney C. Weber, a postdoctoral researcher from the Department of Microbiology, School of Medicine, Stanford University, United States. The session was moderated by Ansariadi, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Epidemiology and Population Health Studies (CEPHS), FKM Unhas. In his remarks, Ansariadi expressed gratitude for the opportunity to host an expert in the field of antibody research. "We are fortunate to have Dr. Whitney with us. Hopefully, this lecture will enhance our understanding of infectious disease management," he said. Dr. Whitney's visit to Makassar is part of a three-week data collection effort for a cohort study led by Ansariadi, Ph.D., in collaboration with Joelle Ivy-Rosser, Ph.D., from Stanford University. This research aims to analyze the impact of behavioral, environmental, and biological factors on maternal and child health in Tallo District, Makassar, over the next three years.

During her presentation, Dr. Whitney highlighted that infectious diseases remain a major global health issue, particularly in low-income countries. She explained that human mobility through global travel and trade, rapid urbanization, and pathogen adaptation to new hosts contribute to the spread of these diseases. "In Indonesia, tuberculosis, caused by bacteria, and malaria, caused by parasites, remain significant public health challenges. However, these diseases can be prevented through vaccination and further research," she stated. Dr. Whitney also introduced the critical role of antibodies in the immune system, specifically those found in B cells in the bone marrow. Additionally, she explained the Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) method, a laboratory technique used to assess the prevalence of pathogens in a population through serum and plasma samples. This research is expected to contribute to reducing infectious disease risks at the population level, fostering communication with local governments, and opening avenues for multidisciplinary collaboration. The guest lecture concluded with an interactive discussion session, where participants engaged in a dynamic exchange of questions and ideas, which Dr. Whitney addressed directly.



INTERNATIONAL OFFICE SUPER TEAM

SUMBANGAN BAJA
MUHAMMAD RIDWAN
NASRAH
KUMARA TUNGGU DEWA
HANIEK KHOIRUNNISSA BAJA

ANDI MASYITHA IRWAN
ABIGAIL MARY MOORE
CAHYA AULIA RAMDHANI A. R
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