



International Office  
Hasanuddin University

# WEEKLY NEWS

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## STRATEGIC MEETING AT UNHAS HIGHLIGHTS PROGRESS ON KEY INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES



On Friday, 25 May 2025, the Secretary of Hasanuddin University (UNHAS), Prof. Sumbangan Baja, M.Phil., PhD. held a strategic coordination meeting with all members of the International Office (IO) at his office. The primary agenda focused on evaluating the progress of three major international programs. They are the 8th International Cultural Program (ICP), the International Academic Consortium for Sustainable Cities (IACSC), and the upcoming UNHAS-Kanazawa University (UNHAS-KU) Summer Program.

The meeting began with a detailed presentation on the 8th ICP by Saaduddin, Ph.D., the program's project manager. He shared updates regarding the number of registered applicants and their countries of origin, along with a day-by-day rundown of the planned activities. The ICP continues to attract global attention and participation, serving as a key event in promoting UNHAS's cultural and academic visibility internationally.



Led by Andi Masyitha Irwan, Ph.D., the discussion moved to the UNHAS-KU Summer Program, a newly designed initiative to accommodate the interest of Kanazawa University (KU) in engaging with UNHAS activities. Modeled after the ICP format, the summer program is expected to evolve into a credit-earning opportunity for KU students and to strengthen academic ties between the two institutions.

The final agenda focused on the IACSC conference preparations, presented by Khaeruddin, Ph.D., the IACSC project manager. He shared the conference rundown and confirmed participation from consortium members, including Yokohama City University (Japan), Vietnam National University (Vietnam), University of the Philippines (Philippines), Universiti Sains Malaysia (Malaysia), and Temasek University (Thailand). Concluding the session, Prof. Sumbangan offered constructive suggestions, including the integration of all three programs into a single comprehensive proposal to be submitted to the Rector for financial support and endorsement.









## **SHARPENING SCHOLARSHIP SKILLS: UNHAS IO'S ESSAY WRITING WORKSHOP**



The International Office (IO) of Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) successfully held a Workshop on Essay Writing for Scholarship Applicants on Monday, 19 May 2025, at Hall B of the Institute of Quality Assurance and Educational Development (*Lembaga Penjaminan Mutu dan Pengkajian Pendidikan – LPMPP*). The event aimed to help the prospective scholarship applicants develop strong, compelling essays to support their applications. Due to the workshop's highly focused and interactive nature, participation was limited to 10 selected individuals attending on-site.

The workshop was led by Khaeruddin, Ph.D., a member of the IO Task Force. Representing the IO, Muhammad Ridwan, M.A., who serves as IO Secretary, welcomed the participants and emphasized the vital role of the IO in preparing the UNHAS academic community for outbound mobility, especially through scholarship opportunities for further study abroad. He encouraged the participants to take full advantage of the sessions and to engage actively throughout the program.

The first session was delivered by Mr. Ridwan, who introduced participants to the various types of scholarship essays and their unique characteristics. To deepen understanding, participants reviewed a sample essay and identified its type. Following this, Khaeruddin, Ph.D., or Heru as he is popularly known, expanded the discussion by offering deeper insight into effective essay structure and content development.

The workshop also featured Rezki Ramadhani, M.App.Ling. who personalized an in-depth feedback on participants' draft essays submitted prior to the event. Each participant received constructive critiques and clear guidance on how to enhance their writing. The workshop concluded with a group photo and a commitment from participants to submit their finalized essays for further review by the speakers, ensuring continued support beyond the workshop session.





## **FROM MAKASSAR TO SYDNEY: A NEW ERA OF INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC EXCHANGE**



A significant step in international academic and scientific collaboration was taken this month as Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) and the University of Sydney (Usyd) deepened their existing partnership. The engagement, highlighted by a research presentation and specialized training, promises to enhance research capabilities and foster innovation in agricultural sciences.

The Department of Plant Pests and Diseases from UNHAS's Faculty of Agriculture was invited to the prestigious Food & Agriculture Seminar Series hosted by Usyd's School of Life and Environmental Sciences (SoLES) starting 5 May 2025. This visit also facilitated advanced training in NGS-Nanopore Sequencing and genomic analysis for an UNHAS staff member.

This initiative builds upon an established research collaboration involving Usyd, PT. Mars, and UNHAS. Their joint project, "Fast-track breeding target for resistance genes to VSD and other serious diseases," is spearheaded by Prof. David Guest, Head of Horticultural Research at the Sydney Institute of Agriculture, and commenced on 28 March

Representing UNHAS, Dr. Muhammad Junaid, S.P., M.P., Ph.D., Head of the Phytophthora Research Group, delivered a compelling presentation on May 9 titled, "Beyond the symptoms: A metagenomic perspective on fungal diversity in Vascular Streak Dieback (VSD) disease of Sulawesi Cocoa." The seminar, held in the Carslaw Building, drew 35 attendees, including SoLES professors, and was lauded by moderator Dr. Peri Tobias for its significant insights. In a notable recognition of his contributions, the University of Sydney granted Dr. Junaid a Research Affiliation Appointment, effective until 31 December 2025.



Running concurrently from 5 - 19 May, Ms. Eirene Brugman, SP., MSi, a lecturer from the UNHAS Department of Plant Pests and Diseases, underwent intensive training in NGS-Nanopore sequencing and genomic analysis. The program, conducted at the Life, Earth, and Environmental Sciences (LEES) Building, was led by SoLES research fellows Dr. Peri Tobias and Dr. Jacob Dawn.

Beyond the formal presentations and training, Dr. Junaid engaged in strategic discussions to broaden research partnerships. Meetings with Prof. Greg Fox, Head of the Southeast Asia Centre, and coordinated with Prof. Nasum Massi, Head of UNHAS's Institute for Research and Community Service (LPPM), explored potential collaborations in digital farming, soil mapping, renewable energy and other potential areas.

The overarching goal of the visit was to solidify strategic research and academic alliances. Key discussions involved collaborative projects with the University of New Castle, Australia, represented by Dr. Teuku Geumpana, and continued work with Prof. Budiman Minasny of Usyd, particularly focusing on soil mapping. Opportunities for Ph.D. studies at the Usyd and joint publications were also key agenda items.





Existing cooperation between the institutions already includes guest lectures, joint research publications, and staff exchanges. The potential Ph.D. candidature for Ms. Eirene Brugman at Usyd further underscores commitment to academic development.

Leaders from all involved institutions, including Prof. David Guest, Prof. Budiman Minasny, and Prof. Greg Fox from the University of Sydney, and Dr. Teuku Geumpana from the University of Newcastle, have expressed strong support for these initiatives. Further online discussions with Prof. David Guest and an in-office meeting between Dr. Junaid and Prof. Budiman Minasny at the Sydney Institute of Agriculture reaffirmed the commitment to advancing agricultural technology, innovation, and addressing land issues in Sulawesi.

This strengthened collaboration is poised to make significant contributions to scientific advancement, particularly in the burgeoning fields of digital farming and renewable energy, promising a global impact on agricultural innovation and technological development.





## **DISCOVERING PAKISTAN: UNHAS GEOGRAPHY SERIES SHOWCASES THE HEART OF SOUTH ASIA**



On Thursday, 22 May 2025, the International Office (IO) of Universitas Hasanuddin (UNHAS) proudly hosted another enriching session of its celebrated Geography Series, this time shining the spotlight on the culturally rich and geographically diverse country of Pakistan. Held at the FMIPA (Faculty of Natural Science) Hall, the session featured Mr. Jalal Rahman, a dedicated student from the Faculty of Law and a recipient of the prestigious *Kemitraan Negara Berkembang* (KNB) or Partnership of Developing Countries Scholarship. With the event officially opened by the ever-energetic Mr. Khaeruddin.Ph.D, the atmosphere was filled with curiosity, excitement, and cultural pride as attendees embarked on a virtual journey across Pakistan.

The presentation began with a warm Pakistani greeting and an engaging slideshow showcasing the awe-inspiring beauty of the nation, from the towering snow-capped peaks of the Karakoram Range to the vibrant energy of cities like Lahore and Karachi. Mr. Rahman led the audience through Pakistan's four provinces Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa—explaining how each region contributes to the nation's identity. He emphasized the significance of the Indus River, which has served as both a cradle of civilization and a lifeline for agriculture and industry throughout centuries.



A highlight of the event was Mr. Rahman's exploration of Pakistan's deep cultural heritage. Attendees were captivated by his stories about the lyrical beauty of Urdu poetry, the spiritual rhythms of Qawwali music, and the festive charm of cultural events like Basant and Eid. He also introduced the audience to Pakistan's renowned culinary delights—including biryani, nihari, and chapli kebab—which sparked enthusiastic discussion and cultural exchange during the Q&A session. Through engaging storytelling, Mr. Rahman painted a vivid picture of a country that harmoniously blends tradition with modern progress.

The event concluded with a short documentary showcasing Pakistan's iconic heritage sites such as Mohenjo-Daro, Badshahi Mosque, and the stunning Hunza Valley—leaving the audience informed, inspired, and appreciative of Pakistan's global significance. The IO expressed heartfelt thanks to Mr. Jalal Rahman for his outstanding presentation and to Mr. Khaeruddin for his enthusiastic opening. With Pakistan now joining the list of countries explored in the Geography Series, this session once again succeeded in fostering intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding, and a celebration of global diversity within the UNHAS academic community.







## **INBOUND EXCHANGE STUDENT FROM JAPAN GAINS FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE IN TROPICAL MEDICINE AT UNHAS**



As part of an ongoing collaboration between the Faculty of Medicine (FK), Hasanuddin University (UNHAS), and the Faculty of Medicine, Kanazawa University, a student exchange (Inbound) program is currently underway. Shingo Yoshitake, a fifth-year medical student from Kanazawa University, began his month-long placement at FK and its affiliated hospitals and health centers on 11 May 2025.

The program focuses on the study of infectious and tropical diseases, with Shingo participating in academic and clinical activities within the Departments of Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Dermatovenereology. He also observed health examinations and treatment processes at local community health centers (puskesmas), gaining practical exposure to Indonesia's primary healthcare system.



In addition to his academic and clinical rotations, Shingo took part in two medical social services. On 11 May 2025, he joined an outreach event organized by M2F (Muslim Medical Family) in Maros Regency, South Sulawesi. Later, on 25 May 2025, he participated in another outreach event conducted by IMM, which included general health check-ups and circumcision procedures.

Prof. Dr. dr. Rina Masadah, M.Phil., SpPA(K), DFM, Vice Dean for Publication, Community Service, and International Collaboration, emphasized that this exchange program has been running for several years. She noted that it plays an important role in promoting FK UNHAS international recognition and supports UNHAS's efforts to enhance its global reputation.





## **“EPILEPSY IN FOCUS” INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR SPOTLIGHTS INNOVATIONS IN DRUG-RESISTANT EPILEPSY**



As part of their 69th anniversary celebration, the Faculty of Pharmacy at Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) successfully hosted the international seminar “Epilepsy in Focus: Bridging Mechanisms, Clinical Practice & Targeted Delivery” on Saturday, 17 May 2025. Held at the Prof. Dr. dr. Idrus A. Paturusi Auditorium, UNHAS Teaching Hospital, the seminar was officially opened by the Rector of UNHAS, Prof. Dr. Ir. Jamaluddin Jompa, M.Sc.

The seminar brought together an esteemed group of experts from Indonesia and abroad, including neurologists, pharmacologists, clinical pharmacists, and pharmaceutical scientists. With the rising challenge of drug-resistant epilepsy (DRE), the event aimed to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and international collaboration to advance patient-centered care and innovative drug delivery strategies. Supported by the British Council and Indonesia Endowment Fund for Education (LPDP) the seminar formed part of an ongoing collaborative international research initiative.



The scientific program unfolded over four thematic sessions, each exploring a critical aspect of epilepsy research and care.

The first session, “Exploring the Neurobiological Roots of Epilepsy and Drug-Resistant Epilepsy,” examined the fundamental mechanisms underlying epilepsy and drug resistance. Apt. Sukanto S. Mamada, Ph.D. of UNHAS discussed the therapeutic potential of omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids in targeting ABC transporters at the blood-brain barrier. Meanwhile, Dr. Felix Chan from the University of Birmingham explored the genetic causes and mechanisms behind drug-resistant epilepsy. The session was moderated by apt. Rina Agustina, Ph.D.

The second session, “From Diagnosis to Daily Care – Clinical Strategies in Epilepsy and DRE,” focused on real-world clinical practice. Dr. dr. Susi Aulina, Sp.S(K), a neurologist and epilepsy consultant from UNHAS, presented an overview of drug-resistant epilepsy. This was followed by dr. Marson Rubianto Eka Putra, Ph.D., a neurology resident at the University of Minnesota, who shared insights from basic translational neuroscience and clinical practice. Dr. Gita Vita Soraya, Sp.S., Ph.D., served as moderator for this session.





The third session, "Optimizing Treatment Outcomes through Patient-Centered Pharmacotherapy," highlighted individualized care strategies and the evolving role of pharmacists in epilepsy management. Prof. apt. Yulia Yusrini Djabir, Ph.D. from UNHAS examined the mechanisms of antiepileptic drugs to support therapy optimization. Apt. Hasdiana Sudar, M.Sc., a clinical pharmacist at Lasinrang Hospital in Pinrang, discussed pharmacist-led interventions that improve treatment outcomes. Apt. Ratna Sari Dewi, M.Farm.Klin., moderated the session.

The final session, "Crossing Blood-Brain Barriers – Innovations in Targeted Brain Drug Delivery," explored state-of-the-art drug delivery methods. Dr. Mandeep Kaur Marwah of Aston University introduced liposomal technologies as smart delivery systems to overcome the blood-brain barrier. Prof. apt. Andi Dian Permana, Ph.D., a professor in transdermal and dermal delivery systems at UNHAS, discussed trigeminal pathway-driven brain delivery using advanced microneedles and nanocarriers. The session was moderated by apt. Ranga Meidianto Asri, M.Pharm.Sc.

By integrating neuroscience, pharmacology, and clinical practice, "Epilepsy in Focus" provided a rich platform for knowledge exchange and international academic cooperation. The seminar marked a meaningful step in strengthening global partnerships and advancing innovative solutions to improve the lives of people living with epilepsy. The event concluded with a powerful call to action under the collective spirit of "Eradicate Epilepsy."







## **COMMEMORATING 77 YEARS OF NAKBA: REMEMBERING, REFLECTING, AND RESISTING**



Makassar, 23 May 2025, The Center for Peace, Conflict, and Democracy (CPCD) of Hasanuddin University (UNHAS), in collaboration with the Peace Alliance a network of peace-focused NGOs in Makassar, held a commemoration of the 77th anniversary of Nakba on Friday (23 May) at The Institute for Research and Community Services (LPPM) Auditorium, Hasanuddin University (UNHAS). Themed "Remembering Nakba: A Journey Against Forgetting," the event aimed to raise awareness of the enduring Palestinian struggle and to foster solidarity among local communities.

The event began with the screening of a short film on the Nakba tragedy, followed by a discussion session featuring three speakers from diverse backgrounds. Moderated by Nurjannah Abdullah, S.IP., M.Si., a lecturer in International Relations and researcher at CPCD UNHAS, the panel included Tameem Najeem, an international student from Palestine studying at UNHAS; Agussalim Burhanuddin, S.IP., MIRAP, a lecturer and researcher at CPCD; and Therry Al-Ghifari, an activist from the Peace Alliance and KITA Bhinneka.



Tameem Najeem shared a moving personal testimony about his family's history of displacement since 1948. He recounted how his grandfather was expelled from his home during the early stages of the Israeli occupation, and how his family has since lived as refugees in Gaza. "After enduring years of violence and evictions," he explained, "some of my family members were forced to leave Gaza for safety." Grateful for the opportunity to pursue higher education at UNHAS, he expressed hope for a brighter future, saying, "I'm honored to receive a scholarship to study at UNHAS and hope to one day help rebuild Palestine." He also extended heartfelt appreciation to Indonesians, stating, "I sincerely thank the Indonesian people for their unwavering support for Palestine." Tameem concluded his remarks by strongly condemning the ongoing genocide and urging the international community to take concrete action.

Therry Al-Ghifari provided insight into the local solidarity movement in Makassar, describing various initiatives such as symbolic candlelight vigils at the Mandala Monument and storytelling sessions in elementary schools that highlight the Nakba. He emphasized the importance of tangible forms of resistance, stating, "Boycotting Israeli-affiliated products is a peaceful yet powerful form of civil resistance." He further urged, "We also call on the Indonesian government to adopt a firmer and more concrete stance to help stop the genocide occurring in Palestine."

From an academic perspective, Agussalim Burhanuddin discussed the critical role of Nakba commemorations in shaping global narratives of resistance to Israeli occupation. He also voiced concerns over Indonesia's policy of accepting Palestinian refugees, arguing that "this policy may weaken the legitimacy of the Palestinian government and ultimately benefit Israel and its allies, as it complicates the right of return for those who have been displaced from Palestinian land."

The event concluded with a symbolic gesture in which all participants and speakers wore peace bracelets. This act represented a collective commitment to nonviolent peacebuilding and reaffirmed their support for the Palestinian people's ongoing struggle. This commemoration served as a powerful reminder that Nakba is not merely a historical event, but an ongoing reality that demands global awareness, critical reflection, and meaningful action especially from academic institutions and communities across Indonesia.





## **STANFORD POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR VISITS HYDROMETEOROLOGY LAB AT UNIVERSITAS HASANUDDIN**



Makassar, 21 May 2025, the Hydrometeorology Laboratory at the Department of Geophysics, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science, Hasanuddin University (UNHAS), recently welcomed Dr. Whitney Weber, a postdoctoral scholar from Stanford University. She is a virologist whose research focuses on how environmental factors such as climate change influence the spread of infectious diseases, particularly arboviruses. Currently involved in a collaborative study with UNHAS and the public health department, Dr. Weber is supporting a mother-child cohort research project in Makassar.

During her visit to the Hydrometeorology Lab, Dr. Weber was welcomed by Prof. Halmar Halide, a professor of hydro-meteorology and head of the lab. Prof. Halmar introduced the lab's facilities, such as automatic weather stations, and several students' research projects covering both climate-related topics and environmental monitoring technologies. Among the climate-focused studies, topics were an analysis of how climate and weather patterns affect upwelling along the southern coast of Java, a climate-based predictive model for Zika virus outbreaks in Brazil, and Climate-driven modeling of dengue cases in Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, and Bangkok. Furthermore, students also demonstrated practical applications of low-cost instruments for environmental monitoring, including Soil moisture tracking using in-soil humidity sensors, an IoT-based Telegram bot for automatic parking space detection, and the usage of ESP32 microcontrollers for temperature and humidity monitoring. Prof. Halmar underlined the broader mission of the lab, which is not only to advance academic research but also to create accessible technologies that support climate resilience and public health in local communities.



Dr. Weber expressed her appreciation for the relevance and creativity of the students' work. She noted that while her primary collaborations at Stanford do not typically focus on environmental monitoring, the methods and approaches used at UNHAS provided a valuable new perspective, particularly regarding the role of microclimate variables in disease risk modeling. She also emphasized the importance of this type of research in advancing global health, particularly in understanding environmental drivers of infectious disease and informing interventions for disease prevention.

Dr. Weber's visit reflects a growing interest in interdisciplinary and international partnerships, especially those that bridge climate science and health research, areas increasingly critical in an era of global environmental change.





## **EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES: UNIVERSIDADE DA PAZ REPRESENTATIVES VISIT IO UNHAS**



The International Office (IO) of Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) warmly welcomed representatives from Universidade da Paz, Timor Leste on Friday, 23 May 2025. The delegation included Mr. Luis Pereira Cardoso, Dip.Cs., Lic.CSH., MA., MCS. (Vice Rector for Home and Foreign Partnership), and Dr. Leonito Ribeiro (Dean of the Faculty of Law). They were accompanied by Dr. Birkah Latif and Dr. Kadaruddin from the Faculty of Law (FH), UNHAS. The delegation was received by Muhammad Ridwan, M.A., Secretary of the IO. Prior to their visit to the IO, the guests participated in the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) at the Faculty of Law.

During the meeting, Mr. Ridwan introduced the functions of the IO, highlighting its role in preparing the UNHAS academic community for international engagement and facilitating inbound mobility for students and lecturers from partner institutions. He also presented the flagship 8th International Cultural Program (ICP), which last year brought together participants from 33 countries. Mr. Ridwan expressed hope that students from Universidade da Paz would join the program this year to enrich its cultural diversity.



Following the discussion, the guests were invited for a brief tour of the IO. As they walked through the back office, Mr. Ridwan explained various program highlights featured in the display photos, including the ICP, Geography Series, International Student Orientation, and International Student Festival. The visit concluded with the presentation of IO merchandise to Mr. Luis and a group photo to commemorate the occasion.



#### INTERNATIONAL OFFICE SUPER TEAM

SUMBANGAN BAJA  
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NASRAH  
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