



International Office
Hasanuddin University

WEEKLY NEWS

14 - 19 JULY, 2025 ISSUE #133



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UNHAS HOSTS STRATEGIC MEETING WITH TSUDA UNIVERSITY AHEAD OF JWG ANNUAL EVENT



As part of the Japan Working Group (JWG) Annual Meeting held at Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) from Thursday to Saturday, 10–12 July 2025, the International Office (IO) successfully hosted a bilateral meeting with Tsuda University (TU), Japan. The JWG 2025, which took place at UNHAS Hotel and Convention Center, welcomed around 30 university presidents from Japan. The bilateral meeting with TU—a university renowned for its focus on building the capacity and competency of Japanese women—was held prior to the JWG opening ceremony, located in the Inspiring Room of the hotel on 10 July 2025.

The meeting was led by the Secretary of UNHAS, Prof. Sumbangan Baja, Ph.D., and moderated by Dr. Andi Masyitha Irwan, Head of IO. The session was also attended by members of the IO Team. During the meeting, several key topics were discussed, starting with a presentation from the President of Tsuda University, Dr. Yuko Takahashi, who introduced the university profile. One highlight of her presentation was a slide showing a newly printed Japanese currency sheet featuring the image of TU's founder—an iconic figure in Japanese education history. The meeting was also attended by Junko Nii, International Exchange Support Coordinator of Tsuda University, who provided additional insights into TU's international collaboration initiatives.

In response, UNHAS presented its international engagement efforts by showcasing a video of the 2024 International Cultural Program (ICP), as part of its promotion of student exchange opportunities. The Head of IO explained that the 2024 ICP was joined by 66 students from 33 countries, while the 2025 program welcomed 55 students representing 25 countries. The video and data emphasized UNHAS's commitment to strengthening its global outreach and cultural exchange initiatives.

The meeting concluded with an exchange of tokens and a group photo session. Both institutions expressed their enthusiasm for further collaboration, aiming to foster stronger academic and cultural ties between UNHAS and Tsuda University, as well as between Indonesia and Japan more broadly.





RECONNECTING WITH ROOTS: KANAZAWA UNIVERSITY VISITS UNHAS



Following the bilateral meeting with Tsuda University on Thursday, 10 July 2025, the International Office (IO) of Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) continued their engagement series by hosting Kanazawa University (KU), Japan, on Saturday, 12 July 2025. The meeting was held in Room A, 4th Floor of the Rectorate Building at UNHAS Hotel and Convention. This session was considered particularly special due to the long-standing emotional ties between KU and UNHAS, notably through Andi Masyitha Irwan, Ph.D., the current Head of IO and a KU alumna.

This meeting also marked a reciprocal gesture, following the IO team's visit to KU in February 2025. The KU delegation comprised four representatives, including the Vice President of Kanazawa University, Professor Noriko Hasebe, along with her companions, Professor Fumiyuki Ishii, Assistant Professor Pratiwi Kadarisman Hana and Mr. Hideki Yamamoto expressed appreciation for the warm welcome and conveyed enthusiasm for fostering more collaborative projects between the two institutions. From UNHAS, several alumni of KU who now serve as faculty members also attended, including Saldy Yusuf, Ph.D. (Faculty of Nursing), Yenny Yusuf, Ph.D., and Siti Arifah, Ph.D. (Faculty of Medicine), as well as Ira Taskirawati, Ph.D. (Faculty of Forestry).

During the meeting, Andi Masyitha Irwan, Ph.D. expressed her heartfelt gratitude and reaffirmed UNHAS's strong commitment to further collaboration. She also shared updates on the upcoming **UNHAS-KU Summer Program**, where eight KU students are scheduled to participate from the end of August to early September 2025. The KU Vice President expressed appreciation for the warm welcome and conveyed enthusiasm for fostering more collaborative projects between the two institutions.

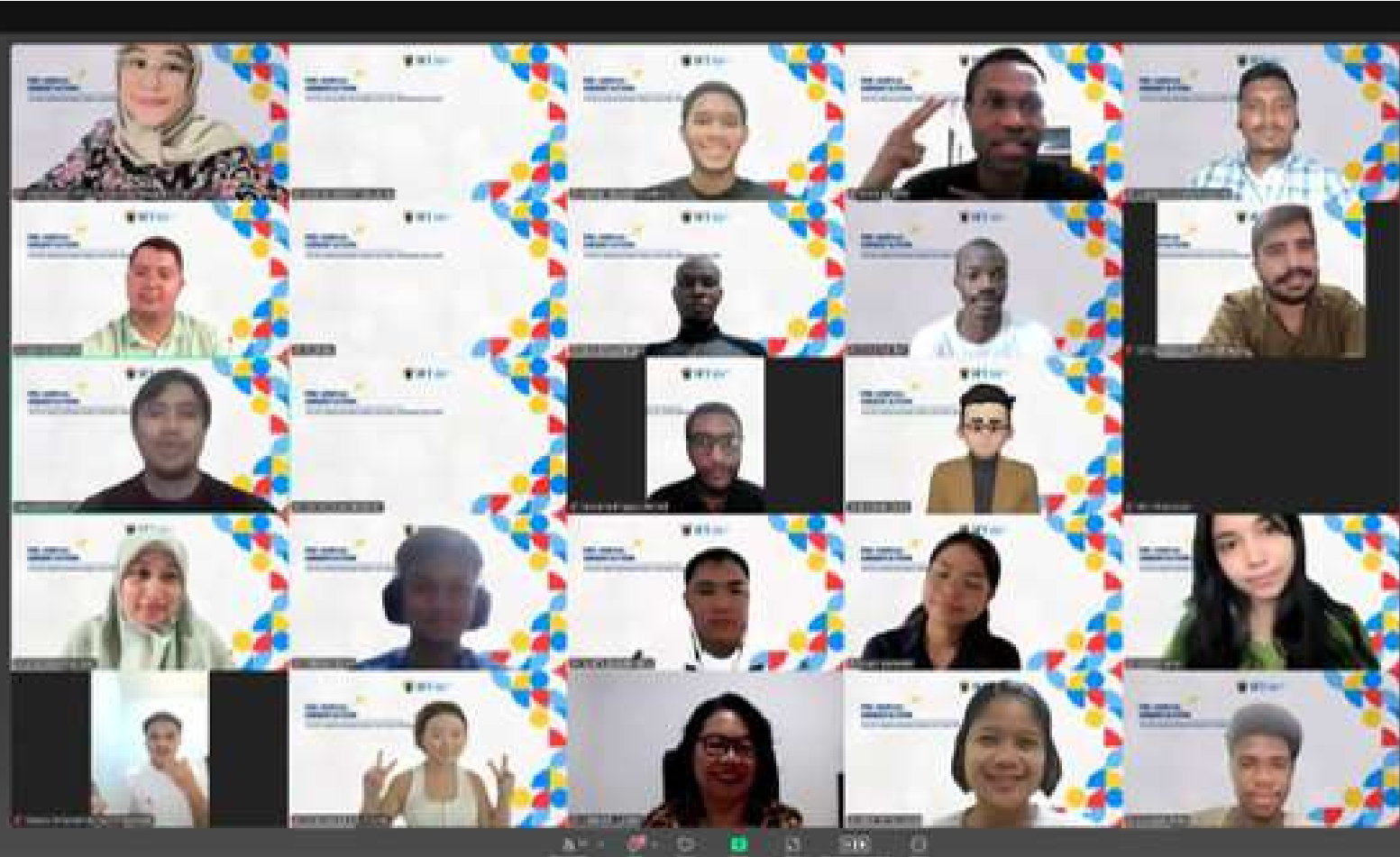
The session provided a valuable platform for KU alumni to share both the challenges and opportunities they experienced after graduating. Most highlighted their continued engagement with former KU professors, particularly in joint research activities. Their stories underscored the deep academic and personal bonds that continue to connect both universities.

The meeting concluded with a symbolic photo session and an exchange of tokens between the two institutions, reinforcing the spirit of mutual respect and long-term cooperation.





GETTING READY: UNHAS GUIDES ICP PARTICIPANTS AHEAD OF ARRIVAL



As the 8th International Cultural Program (ICP) draws near, the International Office (IO) of Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) conducted a Pre-Arrival Orientation (PAO) session for selected participants. The orientation took place on Friday, 11 July 2025, at 2:00 PM Makassar time via Zoom. The session aimed to ensure that all participants were fully prepared for the program, particularly in terms of their travel documents, personal items, and health-related necessities.

The meeting was led by Saaduddin, Ph.D., commonly known as Mr. Saad, who serves as the ICP Project Coordinator. He outlined several key points of the orientation, focusing on preparation before departure, including passports, visas, medication, and other personal needs to support a smooth arrival and participation in the program.

Dr. Saad also shared details about the accommodations during the ICP. Participants will be staying at UNHAS Hotel and Convention during their campus activities, while the field trip segment will take place at the Center for Environmental Education in Puntondo, Takalar Regency. In Puntondo, students will experience a camping-style setup, providing opportunities to explore maritime life and local coastal culture firsthand.

The session concluded with an engaging Q&A, followed by a virtual group photo session. The orientation marks an important milestone in welcoming international participants to a meaningful cultural and educational experience in South Sulawesi.



EVIDENCE-BASED COASTAL MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTED IN SEAGRASS WORKSHOP HOSTED BY UNHAS



Hasanuddin University (UNHAS), in collaboration with Project Seagrass and the Seagrass Restoration & Ecosystem Services Research Group, and supported by Synchronicity Earth, held a workshop aimed at strengthening the conservation of seagrass ecosystems across Southeast Asia.

Prof. Rohani Ambo Rappe, representing UNHAS in a statement delivered in Makassar on Friday, 18 July 2025 presented the development of seagrass research in Indonesia, including the focus on seagrass rehabilitation studies and contributions to scientific publications since the 1970s. She emphasized the importance of evidence-based research in supporting sustainable coastal management policies. "Seagrass ecosystems face complex pressures and require strategic approaches grounded in collaboration, scientific knowledge, and local wisdom,"

Seagrass, known in Indonesian as *lamun*, is a flowering marine plant that thrives in shallow coastal waters. Unlike seaweed, to which it is often mistakenly compared, seagrass has distinct biological characteristics. Seagrass plays several critical ecological roles—it serves as a food source for various marine organisms, stabilizes seabeds, and provides habitats and breeding grounds for numerous marine species.

In addition, seagrass is also known in many communities as a valuable commodity used in the production of various goods. Prof. Rohani explained that the workshop participants discussed major threats to seagrass, as well as the conservation challenges from ecological, institutional, social, and economic dimensions. They also highlighted the importance of understanding land-sea interactions and governance fragmentation.

The discussions further focused on identifying specific scientific needs tailored to local contexts, aligning knowledge gaps with global initiatives such as the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science, and enhancing co-production of knowledge to generate relevant and applicable science. According to her, Project Seagrass also contributes to several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to marine ecosystem protection and the well-being of coastal communities.

Furthermore, this workshop marks the inaugural forum of the **Seagrass Global Challenge Fund** program, which aims to provide funding and capacity-building support for organizations actively engaged in seagrass conservation. The event also served as a platform for sharing knowledge, experiences, and cross-country strategies to reinforce science-based and community-driven conservation actions. Several organizations and institutions participated as partners in this initiative, including Project Seagrass, Foundation for Community Empowerment and Nature Conservation Education (YPEKA), Forum Kahedupa Toudani (FORKANI), Community Centered Conservation (C3A Philippines), The Seagrass Restoration and Ecosystem Services Research Group (SESREG-UNHAS), and Cardiff University.



SCOTLAND-INDONESIA RESEARCH COLLABORATION TARGETS DIABETIC EYE DISEASE



The Faculty of Medicine (FK) at Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) continues to expand its international collaboration network by partnering with The University Court of The University of St Andrews, Scotland. This partnership focuses on eye disease research, particularly the assessment of diabetic retinopathy in low- and middle-income countries.

The meeting between the two institutions took place at the Faculty of Medicine UNHAS and was attended by leaders and researchers from both parties. Representing FK UNHAS were Prof. Dr. dr. Rina Masadah, M.Phil, DFM, Sp.PA(K), Vice Dean for Publication and Community Engagement; Dr. dr. Andi Alfian Zainuddin, M.KM, MCE, Vice Dean for Partnership, Research, Innovation, and Alumni; dr. Muhammad Abrar Ismail, M.Kes, SpM(K), Head of the Department of Ophthalmology; and Prof. Dr. dr. Habibah S. Muhiddin, SpM(K). From the University of St Andrews, attending were Dr. Obaid Kousha and Dr. Oliver James Kemp, who are currently conducting research at UNHAS.

The ongoing research project is titled *“Methods of Assessment of Diabetic Retinopathy in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Scoping Review”* and will run for six months. The project is being carried out at UNHAS Teaching Hospital as well as several affiliated hospitals of FK UNHAS.

Beyond research collaboration, the partnership will also include community service activities, student exchange programs, and academic supervision for residents enrolled in the Specialist Medical Education Program (PPDS) in Ophthalmology.

In her remarks, Prof. Rina Masadah emphasized that this collaboration is a strategic step for FK UNHAS in enhancing its national and international visibility and reputation. “This partnership is very important for the Faculty of Medicine to elevate both the faculty’s and UNHAS’s overall reputation,” she stated.

Through this collaboration, it is hoped that innovations and significant contributions in addressing eye diseases, especially in resource-limited settings, will emerge—further strengthening FK UNHAS’ position as a leading and globally competitive medical education institution.



UPM AND UNHAS STRENGTHEN HEALTH COLLABORATION THROUGH INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR



SELANGOR - Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) through the Institute for Social Science Studies (IPSAS) together with the Faculty of Public Health (FKM) Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) successfully held an International Joint Seminar. This international seminar entitled "Strengthening Health Systems: A Comparative Policy Study in Malaysia and Indonesia - Challenges and Solutions".

This activity took place at the Youth Arena, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Selangor, 8 July 2025. This activity became a strategic platform for the exchange of knowledge and experience between two leading institutions in the field of public health. The event was opened at 9am by the Director of IPSAS UPM, Prof. Haslinda who delivered a warm welcome and expressed her hope for continued collaboration between the two countries.

In her brief remarks, Prof. Haslinda hoped that this seminar would be an important momentum to build a common understanding in strengthening the health systems of both countries. As the first keynote speaker, Prof. Dr. Haslinda Abdullah from Universiti Putra Malaysia presented "The Overview of Mental Health Issues Among Malaysian Youth," which was welcomed enthusiastically by the seminar participants.

The next session was filled by Dr. Muhammad Yusran Amir, SKM, MPH from UNHAS who explained the challenges of health policy in Indonesia, as well as Assoc. Prof. Dr. Haliza Abdul Rahman from Universiti Putra Malaysia who highlighted health policy in Malaysia. All sessions were complemented by interactive discussions that opened space for collaboration across countries, disciplines, and generations.

The event was closed with a group photo session and the hope that the results of this seminar can become the initial foundation for collaborative research and policy formulation with real impact in the future. "This activity is an important milestone in strengthening academic networks and developing evidence-based health policy solutions and local experiences of each country," said Prof. Haslinda.



FKG UNHAS AND RSGMP HOST SIDCER-FERCAP TEAM FOR HEALTH RESEARCH ETHICS ACCREDITATION



The *Komite Etika Penelitian Kesehatan* (KEPK) or Health Research Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Dentistry (FKG) and the Dental and Oral Hospital for Education (RSGMP) at Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) welcomed an international surveyor team from the Strategic Initiative for Developing Capacity in Ethical Review - Forum for Ethical Review Committees in Asia and the Western Pacific (SIDCER-FERCAP), as part of the international recognition process for health research ethics based on global standards.

The opening session of the accreditation process took place on Wednesday, 16 July 2025, at 9:00 AM Makassar time in the Molar Room of FKG UNHAS. The session was attended by university and faculty leaders, KEPK administrators, and members of the academic community.

The SIDCER-FERCAP surveyor team included Prof. Cristina E. Torres, Ph.D. (FERCAP Coordinator, Philippines), Prof. Edlyn B. Jimenes (University of the Philippines), Prof. drg. Tri Wibawa, Ph.D., Sp.MK(K) (KEPK FK-KMK, Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia), and Harnawan Rizky, S.Si., MOHRE (Poltekkes Jakarta II, Indonesia).

SIDCER-FERCAP is a partnership program of the World Health Organization (WHO) through the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR). The program aims to enhance the capacity and accountability of ethics committees through recognition based on the quality of ethical review and effectiveness in ensuring research ethics compliance in line with international standards.

The opening ceremony was attended by Prof. Muhammad Ruslin, drg., M.Kes., Ph.D., Sp.B.M.M., Subsp.Ortognat-D(K), who represented the Rector of UNHAS in his capacity as Vice Rector for Academic and Student Affairs. Also present were drg. Irfan Sugianto, M.Med.Ed., Ph.D., Sp.RKG, Dean of FKG Unhas; drg. Andi Tajrin, M.Kes., Sp.B.M.M., Subsp.C.O.M. (K), Director of RSGMP UNHAS; drg. Erni Marlina, Ph.D., Sp.PM., Subsp.Inf(K), Chair of the KEPK FKG-RSGMP UNHAS; and drg. Muhammad Ikbal, Ph.D., Sp.Pros., Subsp. PKIKG (K), Secretary of the KEPK FKG-RSGMP UNHAS.

Also in attendance were the Vice Deans of FKG UNHAS, Vice Director of RSGMP UNHAS, Chair of the Quality Assurance and Reputation Enhancement Task Force, Senate Chair, Heads of Departments and Study Programs, KEPK reviewers and staff, and participants of the International Course on Surveying and Evaluating Ethical Review Practices.

In his opening remarks, the Dean of FKG UNHAS, drg. Irfan Sugianto, emphasized that this activity reflects FKG UNHAS's strong commitment to upholding ethics in health research. He expressed hope that FKG and RSGMP UNHAS will continue to grow into highly credible institutions that support ethical and high-quality research.

The event was officially opened by Prof. Muhammad Ruslin, who stated that FKG UNHAS's participation in the SIDCER-FERCAP recognition program marks a significant step forward in reinforcing accountable and globally standardized research governance. The SIDCER-FERCAP recognition process is scheduled to take place from 16 to 18 July 2025.





FIKP UNHAS SENDS OFF STUDENTS FOR SUMMER COURSE PROGRAM IN HOGA



Makassar, 15 July 2025 — The Faculty of Marine Science and Fisheries (FIKP) at Universitas Hasanuddin held an official send-off ceremony for students selected to participate in the Summer Course Hoga 2025. The event took place in the Senate Room, 2nd Floor of the FIKP building, and was attended by lecturers, program supervisors, and student participants. The session served as a final coordination and preparation ahead of the departure for Hoga Island in Southeast Sulawesi, where the summer course will be held.

The Summer Course Hoga 2025 is scheduled to run for two weeks, from 19 July to 2 August 2025. The program includes a combination of classroom sessions and intensive fieldwork, with a special focus on tropical marine ecology. Participants will also engage in underwater field activities such as diving-based biodiversity assessments and reef health monitoring. This hands-on experience is designed to provide students with a deeper understanding of marine science, conservation methods, and interdisciplinary research in a real-world setting.

The send-off was attended by several academic staff members who are also part of the Task Force Opwall Hoga 2025, including Prof. Dr. Ahmad Faizal, ST., M.Si. (Advisory), Dr. Ir. Shinta Werorilangi, M.Sc. (Team Leader), Dr. Widyastuti, S.Kel. (Secretary), and field supervisors Dr. Ir. Aidah Ambo Ala Husain, M.Sc., Dr. Yuyu Anugrah La Nafie, ST., M.Sc., and Jamaluddin Fitrah Alam, S.Pi., M.Si., Ph.D. The lecturers offered encouragement and reminders for students to uphold academic integrity and safety protocols while representing Universitas Hasanuddin.

The students participating in this year's program include Gracella, James Nicholas Pratama Afandy Palebangan, Kristopel Hutasoit, and Nur Ikhlasul Amal. These students will join peers from other institutions in a collaborative and immersive learning environment. The Summer Course Hoga 2025 represents FIKP Unhas' ongoing commitment to advancing global education, fostering student exchange, and building capacity in marine science research through experiential and cross-cultural learning initiatives.



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