



International Office  
Hasanuddin University

# WEEKLY NEWS

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## NOBEL LAUREATE PROF. MORTEN P. MELDAL INSPIRES NEARLY 2,000 PARTICIPANTS AT UNHAS PUBLIC LECTURE



Nobel Prize Laureate in Chemistry 2022, Prof. Morten P. Meldal, delivered a prestigious public lecture at Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) through the event “Nobel Laureate Lecture at Hasanuddin University.” The program was organized by UNHAS in collaboration with The International Peace Foundation (IPF) and supported by the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia through the Directorate of Science and Technology Talent Development. The lecture took place at Baruga A.P. Pettarani, UNHAS Tamalanrea Campus, Makassar, on Thursday (29 January 2026), and was attended by nearly 2,000 participants from higher and secondary education institutions across Indonesia.

Also present at the event was the Minister of Higher Education, Science, and Technology, Prof. Brian Yulianto, who emphasized that the presence of a world-class scientist at an Indonesian university represents strategic momentum to strengthen the global research ecosystem. He stated that public lectures of this scale serve not only as platforms for knowledge sharing but also as avenues for building sustainable international research collaboration. According to him, direct exposure to Nobel Laureates can transform the mindset of researchers and students, encouraging interdisciplinary, critical, and innovative approaches to addressing scientific challenges. He further highlighted that Indonesia has strong research potential in strategic fields such as environment, sustainable energy, and climate change, which can be advanced through international collaboration based on local strengths.

In the context of human resource development, the lecture was seen as an important source of inspiration for Indonesia's young researchers, fostering scientific spirit, academic integrity, and long-term research orientation. Prof. Brian expressed hope that the event would lead to concrete and sustainable research partnerships, stressing that synergy between global scientists and Indonesian researchers is a vital investment for the future of science, technology, and national sustainable development. On the same occasion, UNHAS Rector Prof. Dr. Ir. Jamaluddin Jompa, M.Sc. stated that bringing world-class scientists to campus is part of UNHAS' strategy to strengthen its international reputation and expand impactful research collaboration. He also conveyed appreciation for the Minister's support, noting that such lectures are expected to become a regular agenda at UNHAS.



## IO UNHAS PREPARES STRATEGIC INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND STUDENT MANAGEMENT FOR 2026



The International Office (IO) of Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) recently held a series of meetings as part of their preparations to welcome the year 2026. These meetings focused on the implementation of key international programs, including the 9th International Cultural Program (ICP), the Home Stay with Local Families initiative, and the development of the International Students Management System.

The first meeting addressed the implementation of the 9th International Cultural Program (ICP) and was held on Wednesday, 21 January 2026. The meeting was officially opened by Andi Masyitha Irwan, Ph.D., (Head of IO), and continued with a detailed presentation by Saaduddin, Ph.D., as the ICP Project Manager. During the session, he explained the proposed concept and direction of the upcoming ICP.

One of the main points discussed was the possibility of holding the 9th ICP in Selayar Island Regency. Previously, the program had been consecutively conducted in Puntondo, Takalar Regency. The proposed change of venue aims to prevent participant fatigue and to provide new experiences by exploring different aspects of South Sulawesi's rich maritime culture.

Another important agenda was the implementation of the Home Stay with Local Families program for international students during the month of Ramadan. Unlike previous years, when the program was held in Maros Regency, the upcoming home stay is planned to take place in Barru Regency. Both the ICP and Home Stay programs will be followed up by the issuance of official letters for courtesy calls with the respective local governments.

On the following day, Thursday, 22 January 2026, another meeting was held to discuss the International Students Management System. This meeting aimed to address various issues involving international students, both within student dormitories and outside the UNHAS campus. Toward the end of 2025, several incidents involving international students had occurred. As an outcome, the meeting produced a draft of technical guidelines outlining the roles of all relevant stakeholders in managing international students. This draft will be further discussed in an inter-stakeholder meeting facilitated by the UNHAS Secretary.



## ANTICIPATING THE CLIMATE CRISIS, RESEARCH COLLABORATION BETWEEN UNHAS, THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE, UNAIR, AND UNTAD STRENGTHENS COASTAL HEALTH SYSTEM RESILIENCE



A strategic research consortium led by Hasanuddin University (UNHAS), in collaboration with The University of Melbourne, Universitas Airlangga (UNAIR), and Universitas Tadulako (UNTAD), has officially launched a major initiative to mitigate the impacts of climate change on the health sector. Under the Partnership for Australia-Indonesia Research (PAIR) framework, the four universities conducted an intensive training program for field research teams as part of the project titled “Exploring Climate-Resilient Health Systems in Coastal Areas.”

The three-day training, held from 7 to 9 January 2026 in Makassar, aimed to prepare researchers to assess the readiness of health facilities in six coastal districts across Central Sulawesi and Southeast Sulawesi in facing climate-related threats. In his opening remarks, the Principal Investigator of PAIR CH 3.2, Ansariadi, S.K.M., M.Sc.PH., Ph.D. from UNHAS, emphasized the urgency of the study by noting that Indonesia has the second-longest coastline in the world with a high concentration of coastal populations, raising a critical question of whether community health centers, hospitals, and the broader health system are resilient enough to withstand heatwaves, tidal flooding, and climate-induced disease outbreaks.

The involvement of UNTAD plays a key role in providing local contextual understanding in Central Sulawesi, while UNAIR and The University of Melbourne contribute strong expertise in health systems management and reinforce the project's research methodology through international collaboration.

The training program began with an in-depth session delivered by Dr. drg. Setya Haksama, M.Kes. from UNAIR, who explained that future health system transformation must move in two directions simultaneously, namely building resilience to climate-related disasters while also reducing carbon emissions through low-carbon health system operations. This conceptual discussion was strengthened by presentations from the Central Sulawesi Provincial Health Office, which highlighted real challenges in the field, including the rising risk of vector-borne diseases and heat-related illnesses in coastal communities, as well as the importance of integrating the Climate-Healthy Village Program (DESI) with primary healthcare services at the puskesmas level.

To ensure the collection of valid and in-depth field data, Prof. Dr. Suriah, SKM., M.Kes., Professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences at UNHAS, provided focused training on qualitative research methods. She underlined that coastal communities face unique vulnerabilities and that researchers need not only quantitative data, but also a human-centered and ethical approach to capture the lived experiences of communities affected by climate change. This session was followed by a research instrument validation process involving heads of community health centers and health workers, ensuring that the research questions were aligned with real operational conditions in coastal health facilities.



As the final component of the training, Dr. Ariane Utomo, Co-Lead Researcher from The University of Melbourne, introduced an innovative visual research approach using a photo diary method, explaining that photography can serve as a powerful research evidence tool to visually document how the physical infrastructure of community health centers either withstands or remains vulnerable to climate change impacts in coastal areas, offering perspectives that are often overlooked in written reports.

The findings from this collaborative research are expected to produce policy briefs to be submitted to both local and national governments, as well as to support the development of training modules aimed at strengthening climate resilience within Indonesia's national health system. The project is implemented under the PAIR, a bilateral initiative supported by the Governments of Indonesia and Australia to address key policy challenges through collaborative, evidence-based research, with PAIR Sulawesi jointly funded by the Government of Indonesia through the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Technology and *Lembaga Pengelola Dana Pendidikan (LPDP)* or Indonesian Education Endowment Fund), and by the Government of Australia through Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).



## **FACULTY OF NURSING, UNHAS, PARTICIPATED IN THE SAKURA SCIENCE PROGRAM AT YOKOHAMA CITY UNIVERSITY, JAPAN**



A total of 10 students from the Faculty of Nursing, Hasanuddin University (UNHAS), accompanied by one faculty member, participated in the Sakura Science Program hosted by Yokohama City University (YCU), Japan, from 13 to 19 January 2026. This international program was designed to enhance students' global competencies and to strengthen institutional collaboration in nursing education and research between UNHAS and Yokohama City University.

The lecture was integrated into the International Nursing II class at YCU, creating a vibrant international classroom environment with approximately 100 Japanese nursing students, the UNHAS delegation, and several YCU faculty members in attendance. This session served as a strategic platform for direct academic exchange and partnership strengthening.

Centered on the theme “A Learning Exchange Program: Seeing and Experiencing Advanced Nursing Practice and Research Collaboration in Japan’s Tele-ICU,” the week-long agenda featured a comprehensive series of academic activities. Participants engaged in joint lectures and structured discussions comparing nursing practices in Indonesia and Japan. A key component was the academic visit to the Yokohama City University Hospital, where students observed clinical practices in peri-anesthesia and operating room services.

The program also provided an in-depth exposure to Japan's Tele-ICU system and other technological advancements in patient care. Furthermore, collaborative group workshops and presentation sessions with YCU students facilitated direct peer-to-peer academic and cultural exchange, creating a dynamic learning environment.

Through participation in the Sakura Science Program, the Faculty of Nursing, UNHAS, continues to expand its international academic network, directly enriching its educational curriculum and promoting sustainable research collaboration with Yokohama City University.





# Meet Our Stuvo!

My Journey as an IO Student Volunteer:

**Aqilah Putri Nurhayat**  
(Faculty of Economics and Business)

The beauty of language diversity has always fascinated me, awakening a realization that I needed to explore deeper. My first love affair with foreign languages began in elementary school with Mandarin. In middle school, I was introduced to Hangeul and fell head over heels for Korean. By high school, I started my days juggling two languages: Arabic and English. My background isn't from literature or linguistics, but this linguistic diversity has truly made me feel more alive.

How I discovered Internationa Office (IO) was quite unconventional. I saw previous student volunteer batches wearing their official uniforms on social media, and I thought to myself, "Wow, that logo is cool, it looks like a Marvel superhero." That random thought sparked my curiosity about IO and all its activities. I actively followed their Instagram, mesmerized by the impact created by previous volunteers. From that moment on, I was determined to join the next IO student volunteer batch.

I love creating laughter around me, and IO has something I've been longing for. IO always conducts activities that are incredibly useful and full of insights. From my perspective, everything is well-structured and purposeful; every small detail is considered to meet standards that truly go international. From buddy programs for international students to annual conferences and cultural programs, there's depth in every initiative. As a student volunteer, I've developed my event organizing skills, gaining a deeper understanding of the technicalities and how different types of programs require their own unique approaches.



Someone once told me, "We become capable through habit." One thing I'm genuinely proud of as an IO student volunteer is becoming accustomed to interacting with international students, guests, and navigating various international matters. Step by step, I learned how to interact, communicate, and handle things I previously knew nothing about visa procedures, policies, all of it. Teaching language classes turned out to be incredibly enjoyable too. It really is true: we become capable through habit.

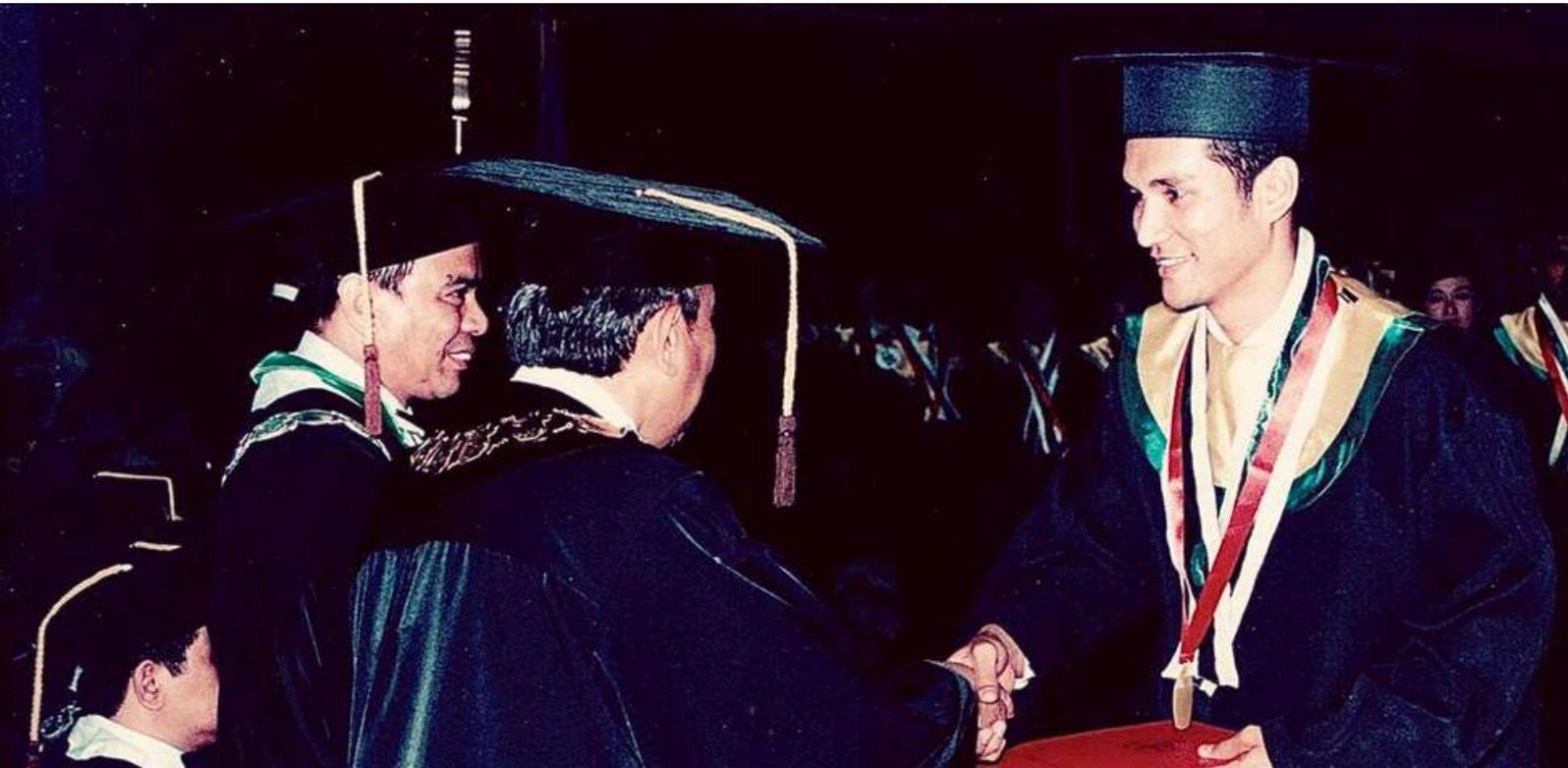
Looking back, joining IO student volunteer is one of the best decisions I've ever made throughout my college journey. We come from diverse faculties with different backgrounds, but that's where the uniqueness lies. Some of us love editing and designing, others enjoy writing, some are passionate about research, and many more talents in between. We learn from and complement each other. Each person represents their faculty and major with their own distinct color, forming a beautiful rainbow within IO.

IO has transformed how I view my future as simply as envisioning myself as a mother with multitalented skills in English, Arabic, and many more foreign languages, opening wider windows to the world for my children and those around me. From admiring, to exploring, and finally enjoying.





## **ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT – SHAPED BY UNHAS AND SERVING THE WORLD: THE SURGICAL JOURNEY OF DR. RAJAIE BIN KAMARUDIN**



Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) takes pride in the achievements of its alumni who continue to make meaningful contributions across the globe. Among them is Dr. Rajaie Bin Kamarudin, a distinguished surgeon whose journey from medical student at UNHAS to Consultant General Surgeon and Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary (HPB) and Transplant Surgeon currently practicing at Prince Court Medical Centre, Kuala Lumpur, reflects dedication, resilience, and lifelong learning. His career in advanced surgical care, particularly in liver transplantation and minimally invasive techniques, highlights not only professional excellence but also the strong foundation shaped during his years at UNHAS. Through his work, he brings hope to patients facing complex and life-threatening conditions, while maintaining a deep connection to his alma mater and a commitment to giving back to the academic community that helped shape his path.

Prior to entering private practice, he served in a government hospital and has dedicated his career to the management of HPB diseases, particularly conditions involving the liver, pancreas, and biliary system. His involvement in liver transplantation began in 2019, marking a significant turning point in his professional journey. Since then, he has continued refining his expertise in laparoscopic and minimally invasive surgery, as well as robotic surgery, which he sees as the future direction of surgical practice.

His medical journey began at UNHAS in 2000, where he pursued his undergraduate medical education and graduated in 2006. After returning to Malaysia, he served as a Medical Officer under the Ministry of Health before continuing his surgical specialty training at the National University of Malaysia, which he completed in 2015. His passion for complex hepatopancreatobiliary conditions led him to begin subspecialty training in HPB surgery in 2019, which he completed in 2022. He then undertook further advanced training in Malaysia and Taiwan, including a Living Donor Liver Transplant preceptorship in 2023. Notably, as early as 2019, he had already started performing liver transplant procedures, primarily Deceased Donor Liver Transplants (DDLT), at Selayang Hospital, the national centre for liver transplantation in Malaysia.

Reflecting on his time at UNHAS, he recalls being much like many students—focused on passing examinations, completing clinical rotations (KOAS), and working toward graduation without a clearly defined long-term vision. Over time, however, he came to realize how profoundly those formative years shaped his professional identity. Beyond academic knowledge, UNHAS provided him with a network of mentors and peers who played an essential role in his development. The patient guidance of lecturers, the support of seniors, and the camaraderie among friends formed a strong foundation that continues to influence his daily clinical practice. The hands-on experiences during KOAS were particularly valuable, even though he did not fully appreciate them at the time. Later, as a practicing doctor, he recognized that his confidence in handling clinical situations stemmed from the training, trust, and opportunities provided during those years. UNHAS also instilled in him resilience, discipline, professionalism, and humility—qualities that remain central to his work, especially during demanding and high-pressure periods in surgical practice.

Currently practicing as an HPB surgeon in Kuala Lumpur, he serves in a field where specialists are still limited in number, while cases of liver, pancreatic, and biliary diseases—particularly cancers—continue to rise. He considers it a privilege to contribute to meeting this growing need. His patients come not only from Malaysia but also from abroad, including many from Indonesia, and he views the trust placed in him and his team during some of the most difficult moments of patients' lives as a profound responsibility. Liver transplantation, one of the most complex procedures in modern medicine, requires a highly coordinated multidisciplinary team involving hepatologists, liver anesthetists, HPB surgeons, interventional radiologists, and highly skilled nursing staff. Through such collaborative efforts, patients with conditions once considered untreatable—such as biliary atresia, Wilson disease, decompensated liver failure, and selected cases of hepatocellular carcinoma—are now given renewed hope. Witnessing patients regain the opportunity to live fuller lives remains one of the most humbling and motivating aspects of his profession.



In advising current UNHAS students, he emphasizes that medicine is an ever-evolving field, with new technologies, treatments, and surgical techniques emerging continuously. Minimally invasive approaches have become standard, and the global trend is rapidly moving toward robotic surgery. He encourages students to remain eager for knowledge while recognizing that resilience is equally critical to becoming a future-ready doctor. Many students may not yet know which specialty will ultimately capture their passion, and he reassures them that this uncertainty is normal, as true interests often become clearer through real-world experience with patients. He stresses that all branches of medicine are equally important, and that a specialty in the spotlight is not inherently better than others. Respect for lecturers and colleagues, as well as treating every patient with dignity, compassion, and humanity—as one would wish for their own family—are principles he considers non-negotiable. Though the journey in medicine is challenging, he believes it is deeply meaningful, urging students to keep learning, keep growing, and remain compassionate.

Looking ahead, he hopes to continue advancing in areas such as laparoscopic and robotic surgery, which are increasingly central to modern surgical care. Teaching and mentoring younger surgeons hold special meaning for him, and he aspires to guide them as they discover their own professional paths. He has maintained close ties with UNHAS over the years through ongoing communication with colleagues, sharing knowledge in lectures, and supporting academic initiatives. In the future, he hopes to visit UNHAS more regularly, contribute to teaching, share expertise, and even collaborate in surgical procedures. Giving back to his alma mater is something he deeply values and looks forward to as part of his continuing professional and personal journey.



#### INTERNATIONAL OFFICE SUPER TEAM

SUMBANGAN BAJA  
MUHAMMAD RIDWAN  
NASRAH  
KUMARA TUNGGU DEWA  
HANIEK KHOIRUNNISSA BAJA  
MUH ANUGERAH

ANDI MASYITHA IRWAN  
ABIGAIL MARY MOORE  
CAHYA AULIA RAMDHANI A. R  
KHAERUDDIN  
SAADUDDIN  
ERIZAL ZHAFRAN M EDISON