

VISITING ITB ENGAGING WITH FELLOW STUDENTS

The delegation enhanced their cross-cultural experience with Indonesian students. The program which was organized by Andika Pratama, International Office Director, was optimal to share knowledge on differences in Switzerland and Indonesia in regards to education, customs as well as food.

In the initial session of the program our famous Swiss modesty has been quickly outshined by the Indonesian openness. From differences in traditions of marriage to the simplicity of obtaining a driving licenses, a vivid discussion arose between the Indonesian and the Swiss students. We were able to present the findings of this valuable exchange to each other and could profit from new cross-cultural insights.

Especially the strong sense of belonging in Indonesian families was astonishing for the delegates and proofed the disparities between the individualistic and collectivistic context of the Swiss and Indonesian culture. Whereas in Switzerland it is cherished to be unique and stand out from the crowd, the Indonesian base important life decision in harmony with their social environment.

Quoting Qinthara Nataadiningrat, an ITB student:

“It can be clearly seen that the Swiss are very on time, well organized, and follow the regulation of the country, while in Indonesia this is completely different.”

We have also learnt that within the Indonesian education system it is common to pursue the bachelor degree right after high school. “Most students are around 18 years old when they start university. Also, most of us do not work while pursuing our degree”, Kintan Salsabilla pointed out. “We just focus on our education.” All in all, the experience of this day represented perfectly our vision - building bridges for young talents. JT



exploreASEAN delegate, Irem Aylakdurmaz, with ITB students Qinthara Nataadiningrat and Muhammad Alfajri Photo: JT



Exchanging cultural experiences with ITB students Photo: ITB student



Andika Pratama, International Office Director at ITB. Photo: JT



Alexandra Yankam-Feller

Exploring 3 countries in the ASEAN region during our 17-day visit was an inspiring experience. The program was thoughtfully put together: a great mixture of company visits, exchanges with universities and students, cultural events and sightseeing activities. I believe the most valuable experiences, however, lay in the intercultural challenges, in our developing as a group of dynamic individuals, and in getting to “taste” all our differences and similarities outside of our comfort zones called home. A big thank you to the organizing team and all participants for a truly unique and unforgettable journey!

Portrait. Photo: JT