

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE ON GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP 2016
Sustainable Rural Development: Moving towards inclusive growth for all

International Student Conference (ISC) on Global Citizenship is an annual event of Universitas Katolik Parahyangan (Unpar). This conference had been initiated by Office for International Affairs and Cooperation in 2013 and had organized 5 conferences (because in 2013 we arranged two parallel conferences). This program implements internationalization at home policy, which provides an event with very intense international exposure for Unpar students. It would make Unpar students having crossed culture experiences. It gave them opportunity to study, to discuss and to write in English, as well as to persuade and to negotiate for technical problems related to the topic. Furthermore, this event is also designed as a media of promotion for Unpar and as a branding strategy at international level. In 2015 and 2016, the conference had been organized under collaboration with International Network of Universities.

As a higher education institution, Unpar is responsible to increase awareness of the students that they are global citizen, since development information technology and transportation system makes all countries are borderless. One of the most problematic global issue is development in rural area, because around 70% in the world are living in rural areas and most of them live in lower condition than people in urban area. It attracts urbanization, which creates many social problems in urban areas. In 2015, the topic of ISC was “Sustainable Urban and Human Settlement: Creating Smart City for All”. In 2016, the topic of ISC was “Sustainable Rural Development: Moving towards Inclusive Growth for All”. These two topics were dedicated to find better solution to decrease gap of development between urban and rural areas. This effort was very important to support the existence of sustainable rural areas, and to increase the capacity of all community members to grow together, to develop together.



In the ISC, Unpar organized **series of lectures** regarding rural development, which were discussed from many different approaches, i.e. economic, legal, environmental, social, spatial and sustainable development. Those lectures had been delivered by a lecturer from Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Argentina and two lecturers from James Madison University - USA, and 3 Unpar lecturers. **2 workshops** had been arranged as the media for participants to actively discuss under facilitation of two lecturers, in order to clarify many concepts related to the topic, for increasing fore knowledge of participants to prepare their final assignment, i.e. to design a project proposal, which will be negotiated by participants in the roleplay.

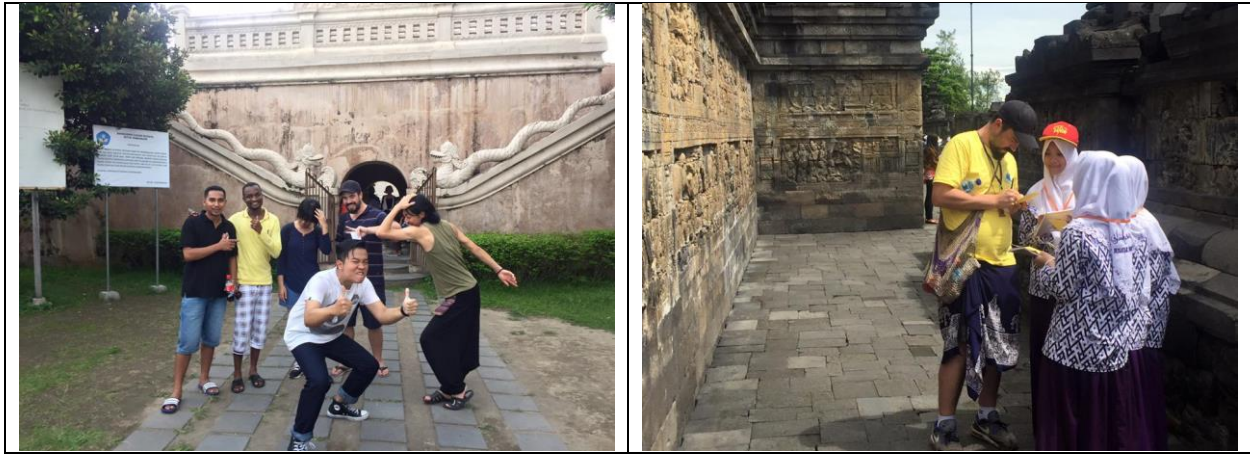


Participants also visited Sarimukti city's dump area to see the how a rural area served urban areas, and get social and environmental problems caused by such the service. Furthermore, to see a success story of community based development in a rural area, participants visited Wayang Village. This village is located at Kepuh Sari, a cultural village that had been developed by initiative of community members. During the visit at Wayang Village, participants observed, discussed and interviewed the people, for discovering what were the needs of the people and what were necessary action plans and programs to answer those needs accordingly.



From these **site visits**, participants had been divided into 12 departments with different roles, such as Department of Education, Department of Economic Creative, etc. Each department must deliver a presentation regarding the standing of that department and also to submit a project proposal, which would elaborate its proposed programs and its budget, for the coming one-year fiscal period. These proposals would be assessed and the best proposal will be improved by Unpar, to be proposed to the head of Wayang Village. These proposals had been negotiated at a **roleplay**, which at the final round had resulted 12 programs for Wayang Village. During the roleplay, three proposals had been determined as the best proposals, i.e. proposal from Department of Women and Children Protection, Department of Agriculture and Department of Cooperative and Small&Medium Enterprises. Those best proposals will be

proposed to the local government and if those proposals were accepted, Unpar will help the village to find financial support to implement the proposed programs.



Besides those academic components, ISC was designed to promote Indonesian culture. Participants had been introduced to Indonesian children traditional games, had watched Indonesian traditional dances performed by Lingkung Seni Traditional (Listra-Unpar) and had played interactive angklung traditional music instrument led by Saung Angklung Udjo. Moreover, they visited Borobudur temple, one of seven wonders in the world. During the free time, they visited a cultural city Yogyakarta, where they visited castle, fortress and Malioboro street. In Wayang Village, participants were also crafting leather puppet, drawing glass painting and playing gamelan instrument. This conference gave an unforgettable event that would remain as a great memory in their life.



This conference was organized by students and was dedicated for students. 83 students from 24 nationalities (18 participants were students of INU members) together with 26 students as the committee worked together in 9 days (17-25 January 2016). Two days before the events was started, there was a bomb blast in Jakarta. It affected the event, since there were some candidate participants cancelled their participation. We were relieved that all programs had been run safely without any problems.

This fifth conference had been done in Bandung, Padalarang, Yogyakarta, Wonogiri dan Magelang. Considering the variation of countries of origin and intensity of communication among participants, this event was not just an academic event, but also a platform of networking for participants, a media to gain

perspective regarding problems in rural areas, an occasion of crossed culture experiences, which increase social empathy and solidarity to marginalized people. Based on the evaluation from participants, most of the participants appreciated this conference very much. Three highest reasons for such appreciation mentioned by participants were: it had been very well organized, it had inspired and changed the attitude and way of thinking of participants, and it had become an unforgettable experience for them. Therefore, all participants recommended to maintain sustainability of this conference.

