Dear readers,

We are glad to present our October newsletter to you, as always, with fresh and hopefully useful information on study and research topics from Indonesia and Germany. Maybe some of you are preparing themselves for studies or a Ph.D. position abroad? Maybe, you are asking yourself which could be the challenges you will face on your way? How to prepare in matters of language and culture? In this edition, students and young researchers who have successfully applied for DAAD scholarships and are at present studying or researching in Germany will share their experience with you and let you know about their motivation to go to Germany and how they prepared for their stay there.

In September, another "Falling Walls Lab" organized by our DAAD office Jakarta took place at Universitas Indonesia. In this unique event, students and young researchers present innovative ideas from different fields of science – in an easily understandable language and within three minutes! The winner of the competition participates in the worldwide Lab Finale, which takes place in Berlin in November 2019. Are you interested in participating in next year’s competition? Please read the interviews with our Falling Walls Lab participants and the winner.

This newsletter is the first edition that has been managed by our dear colleague and new media manager, Ms. Olivia Deskarina (Karina). You will find a personal letter from her on the next pages. Karina will be happy to stay in contact with you and discuss any new ideas, be it via our social media, webinars, newsletter, or by other ways of communication.

Last but not least, please have a look at the events we organized or participated in during the last weeks and months. Maybe we will meet you during our next events, e.g., at EHEF (European Higher Education Fair) in Jakarta, Surabaya, or Bandung?

As always, I wish you a pleasant reading of our newsletter in the name of our whole DAAD team! Please feel free to contact us anytime in case you would like to get more information or just address questions and suggestions to us. Information on many topics, e.g., programs and consultation hours, can also be found on our webpage, www.daad.id.

Thomas Zettler
Director of DAAD Regional Office Jakarta
Interview with DAAD Awardees

"Dieser Weg wird kein leichter sein, dieser Weg wird steinig und schwer. Nicht mit vielen wirst du dir einig sein, doch dieses Leben bietet so viel mehr"  
(Dieser Weg – Xavier Naidoo)

"This path will not be an easy one, and this path is rocky and tough. Many people will not agree with you, but this life offers so much more."  
(Dieser Weg – Xavier Naidoo)

Part of the song from Xavier could perfectly describe one’s experience of continuing their study in Germany (either with scholarship or self-funded). Continuing your studies in Germany is not always a smooth ride; there are a lot of processes and challenges that you have to go through. These include collecting information about universities in Germany; finding the most suitable program for you; looking for a Professor who is willing to be your supervisor; completing all the required documents; making your motivation letter; and applying for a German visa.

Some say the hardest part of continuing your study in Germany is during the application stage, while others say that the real challenge begins when you are already registered as a student. Which one is true? Therefore, in this edition of the newsletter, we asked several awardees who are still pursuing their master’s/doctorate degree about their experiences. We hope their experience will motivate you further and help you in preparing your application.

Interview with Mardhatila Amalia

Why did you choose to continue your studies in Germany?
Germany is a country which has a strong economy, especially in terms of exports. Furthermore, Germany’s SMEs are very strong. The government and the society can cooperate to create a supportive ecosystem to maintain the SMEs’ growth and help them to expand to the next level. These reasons encouraged me to continue my studies in Germany.

Could you tell us a bit about your research project or major that you are taking?
My major is about Small Medium Enterprises Promotion and Training (SEPT). This program grants the students an introduction to Leipzig Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Academics and company visits dominate the content of the course. I have found that the program is exciting.

When did you receive your DAAD Scholarship, and which scholarship from DAAD did you receive?
I received the scholarship from 2018 until 2020 in the Aceh Excellence Scholarship program.

How long did it take you to prepare your application for the University/ prepare your research proposal/ approach the Professor and apply for the DAAD Scholarship?
I prepared the application from December 2017 to January 2018. After the result was announced all participants had to take part in a German Language course.

What did you consider the most significant challenge during the application stage?
During the application stage, we had to prepare some documents such as a health letter, a good behaviour confirmation letter from the police, etc. These processes required quite a lot of effort and time. But, thank God, everything went well.

What has been the biggest challenge that you have faced so far? Or, what is the most memorable moment that you have faced?
Honestly, I have found this process to be a great blessing to me. Studying in Germany has granted me not only knowledge, but also self-development opportunities; I have gained skills in discipline, planning, punctuality, etc. These traits are very valuable to help us grow as individuals.

Some memorable experiences I’ve had here have included the chance to teach a German family about English as a foreign language. I loved this experience as it helped me to practice my German and contribute to society. I also joined a German course here to improve it. In the course, I met people from other countries and they helped me to enhance my mindset. I also joined an Arabic course and other training events to improve my soft skills. Overall, I have been delighted with my experience since it has been full of new experiences.
From your observations, what are the differences between the education process in Indonesia and Germany?

German education allows the students to choose what competences they need to develop themselves in to equip themselves for the future job market. In Indonesia, everything is set up quite rigidly. This system does not give a lot of room for the students to be flexible in choosing what they think is needed to be studied.

Of course, there are cultural differences between Indonesia and Germany. How do you cope with it? Do you feel homesick sometimes?

There are a lot of cultural differences between Germany and Indonesia. I found some of these very good such as punctuality, management, certainty, structure, honesty, and direct communication. I do not feel homesick because I have learnt a lot here.

Do you have any tips/suggestions/messages for those who are currently preparing to study in Germany?

Pick the right major. It is crucial to be successful in the future and will help you cope with the new academic system.

Finally, were the DAAD officers helpful during the application process?

Yes, very helpful. They gave very fast responses, had good management, and were very welcoming.
Interview with Anastasia Asri Widyasari

Of course, there are cultural differences between Indonesia and Germany. How do you cope with it? Do you feel homesick sometimes?

I enjoy living here. Of course, I have problems because of language barriers here, but my German friends are usually very helpful. Yes, sometimes, I feel homesick. But communication technology, like WhatsApp, helps me in coping with the problem.

Do you have any tips/suggestions/messages for those who are currently preparing to study in Germany?

Take a good preparation course in English and German.

Finally, were the DAAD officers helpful during the application process?

Yes, they were, very much so. They were very professional.

Interview with Sasmithaningtyas Prihasti Laraswari

Why did you choose to continue your studies in Germany?

In terms of the quality of the university, Germany is known worldwide as a great place to study. The country is also familiar with scholars. Germany has more than 1,000 international programs conducted in English. Additionally, the interdisciplinary approach that German universities put into practice is another reason why I wanted to continue my studies here. I believe it will help me to get better theoretical and methodological knowledge. Furthermore, because Germany is in Europe and part of the EU, I can easily visit other EU countries and gain more experience.

Could you tell us a bit about your research project or major that you are taking?

Currently, I am enrolled as a master’s student in the Democratic Governance and Civil Society major at Osnabrück University. This program is one of the English-taught courses that Germany has and is essential for me to comprehend the nature of the relationship between the state and society in political decision-making.

Moreover, Osnabrück University has a syllabus that suits me, which facilitates me in understanding about policy-making and problem solving that involves all kinds of civil society and state actors. It is a great opportunity for me to be able to enrich my knowledge and competence for future academic research and professional work during my studies here.

When did you receive your DAAD Scholarship, and which scholarships from DAAD did you receive?

I got my scholarship in December 2017 for enrolment in October 2018 as a master’s student in Democratic Governance and Civil Society at Osnabrück University. I got the Public Policy and Good Governance (PPGG) also known as the Helmut Schmidt Programme Scholarship. As part of the scholarship, before starting university, I needed to take a language course for six months in Germany (from April-September 2018).

How long did it take you to prepare your application for the University/ prepare your research proposal/ approach the Professor and apply for the DAAD Scholarship?

It took almost 1 year for me to prepare the application for the scholarship. PPGG is a scholarship from DAAD that obliges you to apply directly to the university (not to DAAD) – If you get accepted by the university, it means you get the scholarship. All the applicants are allowed to submit to a maximum of two universities that are on the list. To be able to choose two from eight choices of universities that the scholarship program has, I did a little research regarding the courses each university offers. After I had decided on the universities that suited me, I prepared my motivation letter. It is always better when you make a tailor-made motivation letter, dedicated to a specific university. Hence, it is an important point that you have excellent knowledge about the university that you are applying to. The next step was proposing two of the professors that knew my track record very well to give me recommendations. After that, you only need to follow the requirements that each university has and the instructions given in the scholarship announcement.
Interview with Sasmithaningtyas Prihasti Laraswari

From your observations, what are the differences between the education process in Indonesia and Germany?

Here in Germany, students are expected to be independent and dependable. As a student, we are not obliged to attend the class at every scheduled meeting. Attendance in class is not important here, while in my previous university, it holds 30% of the total assessment. The way of conducting the course is different than in Indonesia. Here, we always have a mandatory text to read for the next meeting. Then in the class, we discuss the text that we have read, i.e., you will not understand if you did not read. By the end of the semester, we will need to choose 4 ECTS or 6 ECTS (the courses with 6 ECTS are the ones that will be graded and impact your whole transcript). We only have the final exam, and it will be either an oral examination or writing paper. The grading system is also different here. In Germany, 1.0 is the best grade, and 5.0 is the worst. They do not use the A-F grading system as in my previous university.

Of course, there are cultural differences between Indonesia and Germany. How do you cope with it? Do you feel homesick sometimes?

Homesick; indeed, I feel it sometimes, mostly about the food. But here, there are several Asian Shops that sell Indonesian spices and Indomie. There are Indonesian restaurants as well in bigger cities; such as Bremen and Berlin.

As might be expected, it took me months to finally be able to cope with the cultural differences here in Germany. For example, Germans are straight forward people – while I grew up in a Javanese family and have always found it hard to say something bluntly. It was inevitable that at first, I felt a bit irritated by the way they talk.

Also, in two cities that I have lived in, all stores are closed on Sunday. While in Jakarta, my Sundays are the days when I spend time with my mom by going out; either to eat or just have quality time together. It took me one month to finally get used to a “peaceful Sunday.”

Do you have any tips/suggestions/messages for those who are currently preparing to study in Germany?

If you want to get a scholarship, it is not only a matter of preparing the requirements a year ahead. As a person who aims to get a scholarship in the future, he/she needs to prepare way ahead. Maintaining good grades from the beginning is another important point to get a scholarship. But other than that, as I said before, there are slight differences in how the higher educational institutions conduct their studies in Germany compared to Indonesia. So, being open-minded and adaptable are the traits that someone needs to have.

Finally, were the DAAD officers helpful during the application process?

After the announcement of the result, I had a small problem regarding my visa. I needed an acceptance letter as one of the requirements to get the visa, but I did not get any from the university, nevertheless, I had to make the visa as soon as possible. I contacted the person in charge of DAAD, and it only took 3 working days from when I reached her until I got my acceptance letter from the university. Of course, she helped me during that moment.
Interview with Sibran Malisi Iskandar Putra

Why did you choose to continue your studies in Germany?
Warum nicht? Germany is one of the best countries for engineers to pursue higher education. And I have an engineering background. It was a dream for me to pursue higher education in Germany. The German education system has an excellent reputation and is located in the heart of Europe. The majors offered by Universities are diverse and focus on certain topics—a perfect place for those who want to continue their education to a more specific major.

Could you tell us a bit about your research project or major that you are taking?
As I mentioned before, the courses offered by German universities are very specific. I am currently taking a Master of Business Law program majoring in European and International Energy Law at Technische Universität Berlin (TU Berlin), a multidisciplinary course that combines engineering, law, business, and is purposed to a practitioners who have professional background/working experience in the energy field. This program provides very specific Energy Law studies in the Electricity and Gas sector. The Lecturers are mostly practitioners/experts in the related fields.

When did you receive your DAAD Scholarship, and which scholarships from DAAD did you receive?
I received the DAAD-ACEH Scholarship of Excellence Master program in 2018, a co-operation between DAAD and the Aceh Government.

How long did it take you to prepare your application for the University/ prepare your research proposal/approach the Professor and apply for the DAAD Scholarship?
I already had a dream to pursue my studies in Germany and started to find out about the DAAD Scholarship program since I was in college about 9 years ago. And I started to seriously prepare myself to apply for the DAAD Scholarship in 2016. Why in 2016? Because I was currently working and the company rules require at least 3 years of working to grant the study-leave permits.

In 2016, I applied for the DAAD EPOS program. I was accepted in the Energy and Environmental Management program at Flensburg Universität, but I had to let it go because there were other rules by the company to study only in the top 500 world ranked universities.

In 2017, I decided to re-apply for the DAAD scholarship. This time I applied to the DAAD-ACEH Excellence program and prepared not only to fulfil the scholarship and University requirements but also the company’s requirements.

What did you consider the most significant challenge during the application stage?
Every stage of the process was the biggest challenge. The DAAD Scholarship is a very prestigious program, and who doesn’t want to study in Germany? For sure, we will face many challenges and compete with other Indonesian talent under time limits and feel stressed by a lot of preparation at the same time (learning Deutsch, applying for University, and improving English skills).

What we need to do is to be well-prepared. Prepare everything well, manage everything well, because sometimes a talented person will lose out to a well-prepared person. Enjoy the process!

Now you are studying in Germany, what are the biggest challenges that you have faced so far? Or what are the memorable moments that you have faced?
This is my first time studying with colleagues from all over the world. There are 28 students in our class representing 19 countries. The class is very international. I am grateful to have the opportunity to learn and experience variety of cultures and mindsets. And I have to get used to their different accents, which are sometimes difficult to understand.

From your observations, what are the differences between the education process in Indonesia and Germany?
The education process in Germany is very different from Indonesia. In Germany, students are required to be more proactive. For example, students may not attend the class at all because only the Final Exam result counts. Here in Germany, those who enrol in university do so because they choose to; therefore, they are more proactive in the education process.

Lack of focus and self-motivation are the biggest obstacles in finishing studies in Germany. After you get a Scholarship and are accepted by the University, the toughest struggle has just begun. You are struggling against yourself to keep focused and motivated.

Of course, there are cultural differences between Indonesia and Germany. How do you cope with it? Do you feel homesick sometimes?
Of course, there are many cultural differences between Indonesia and Germany. Moreover, I live in Berlin, a very diverse and very international city. At the beginning of my stay in Germany, I tried to be observant. Then I tried to get used to it and started to get along. Of course, while keeping maintaining values and self-principles. Sometimes I feel homesick a lot! I miss my family and Indonesian Food.

Do you have any tips/suggestions/messages for those who are currently preparing to study in Germany?
Always be well-prepared. Keep focused and motivated.

Finally, were the DAAD officers helpful during the application process?
The DAAD officers were very helpful. They were very kind and friendly. My biggest thanks are to Mrs. Muji Rahayu (DAAD Jakarta) and Ms. Henrike Schmitz (DAAD Bonn), they were very helpful not only during the application process but also during the preparation and adaptation process in Germany. They serve with their hearts.
Why did you choose to continue your studies in Germany?
Because it is only possible for me to conduct my research in Germany, my research topic is particular and requires some studies with animal models. These animal models are only available in the laboratory where I am working here in Germany.

Could you tell us a bit about your research project or major that you are taking?
I am currently researching the Biomedical Science in University Hospital Essen, which is a part of University Duisburg-Essen. I am studying the relationship between autoimmune hyperthyroidism in Graves’ disease patients with the pathogenesis of Graves’ Orbitopathy.

When did you receive your DAAD Scholarship, and which scholarships from DAAD did you receive?
I received the DAAD Research Grant – Doctoral Programmes in Germany Scholarship in 2017.

How long did it take you to prepare your application for the University/ prepare your research proposal/ approach the Professor and apply for the DAAD Scholarship?
I had prepared my research proposal long before I decided to do my Ph.D. in Germany. However, the process of my application preparation took around 1.5 years.

What did you consider the most significant challenge during the application stage?
The biggest challenge was getting the acceptance letter from the university. They asked me to provide all of the documentation from my previous studies (bachelor and master's degree). During that time, I thought there was a lack of communication between my Professor and the university. Therefore, there were some delays in the process. It took me almost one year until I received the acceptance letter.

What has been the biggest challenge that you have faced so far? Or, what is the most memorable moment that you have faced?
The biggest challenge for me so far was integrating myself in the life of German people. In my opinion, most German people have a clear line between their work and personal lives. I find it challenging to mingle with them outside work.

From your observations, what are the differences between the education process in Indonesia and Germany?
The German education system is more flexible compared to the Indonesian education system. Furthermore, German students are also more independent and more confident in terms of expressing their opinions. What I like the most about their system is that they do not force students to attend every lecture and even allow students to just sit the examinations without attending the lectures. Therefore, I think the students learn to be responsible for themselves while having freedom.

Of course, there are cultural differences between Indonesia and Germany. How do you cope with it? Do you feel homesick sometimes?
I try to accept those cultural differences, taking the positive side of German culture, and just being who I am. Thankfully I have never felt homesick. Nowadays, technology allows us to live in this well-connected world. Therefore, I do not have difficulties in communicating with my family in Indonesia.

Do you have any tips/suggestions/messages for those who are currently preparing to study in Germany?
Try to fulfill all the requirements from the university and the scholarship provider. Then, just be confident in yourself. And last but not least, do not forget to pray.

Finally, were the DAAD officers helpful during the application process?
They are really helpful, not only during the application process but up until now.

***
University Summer Courses offered in Germany for Foreign Students and Graduates (HSK)

This programme aims to help students and graduates improve their knowledge of German (general language, special language) and their cultural knowledge of the country.

Who can apply?
- Applications are open to students in Bachelor’s and Master’s degree programmes in any subject area.
- Bachelor students must have completed at least two academic years at the start of the scholarship period.

What can be funded?
- The programme funds attendance of language and area studies courses as well as special language / terminology courses that are offered by state or state-recognised German universities and by affiliated language schools.
- You can find out about course providers and programmes on the DAAD website under: www.daad.de/hsk-kursliste.
- The courses are taught exclusively in German.

Duration of the funding
- The courses run for at least 18 teaching days (max. 5 days/week, excluding days of arrival and departure) with a minimum of 25 hours of teaching a week.
- The grants are non-renewable.
- The courses usually take place in the period from June to November.

Application Deadline: 1 December 2019

More info about the program can be found at DAAD Indonesia website, www.daad.id.

Interview with HSK alumna, Kartika Stela

When did you receive the DAAD scholarship for University Summer Courses offered in Germany for Foreign Students and Graduates?
I received the scholarship in 2019; during that time, I chose the Summer Course that was offered by Friedrich Schiller Universität in Jena.

Why did you choose the German Language Course Program in Friedrich Schiller Universität?
As a German studies student at Universitas Indonesia, I was looking for a summer course that focused on German Language Teaching and Speaking skills. For this reason, I chose the program from Friedrich Schiller Universität in Jena. Besides, the university also has an excellent reputation for its DaF study program.

How long did it take you to prepare your application for the University/ prepare your research proposal/ approach the Professor and apply for the DAAD Scholarship?
Maybe around 2 months.

What did you consider the most significant challenge during the application stage?
For me, it was writing the motivation letter, and waiting for the result.

What was the biggest challenge that you had during your time in Germany? Or what was your most memorable moment during your time in Germany?
The biggest challenge might be the cultural shock. In Germany, almost all shops are closed every Sunday, and the streets are almost empty every Sunday. I might say it is different from Indonesia.

The experience was memorable for me. It was my first time visiting Germany. I could get to know many people from many countries, to see the German language from a different perspective, and learn the cultural differences.

Do you have any tips/suggestions/messages for those who want to apply for the program?
Do your research well. Do some research about the university and the city. Find the purpose and the focus of the course, is it focused on grammar or speaking? Find out how the course is built up, which themes it contains, and which kind of activities you can choose. Make sure you choose the most suitable course for you. Finally, do not forget to make sure that your application document is complete.
On Thursday, 12th September 2019, Falling Walls Lab Jakarta was held for the fourth time. The competition took place at the Faculty of Economics and Business (FEB) of Universitas Indonesia this year. Overall it was a successful event.

20 finalists were chosen from a total of 69 applicants this year. Their innovative ideas covered various topics from the internet of things, civil engineering, stem cell research, and even social problems such as hate speech. During the event, the finalists had to present their ideas in only 3 minutes and convince 8 judges who have different expertise.

Based on the score given by the judges, Mr. James Zulfan from the Research Centre for Water Resources under the Ministry of Public Works and Housing (MPWH) was chosen as the winner of Falling Walls Lab Jakarta 2019. His presentation titled Breaking the Wall of Dam Construction proposed a modular dam construction as a solution for effective and efficient dam construction. As the winner of Falling Walls Lab Jakarta this year, Mr. James Zulfan will represent Indonesia in Falling Walls Lab 2019, which will be held in Berlin on 8th November 2019.

Dr. Zuraidah Nasution was named as the second winner of Falling Walls Jakarta. Her idea is about Breaking the Wall of Underutilized Mature Coconut Water. With the idea, she wants to boost the sensory quality of mature coconut water by using a more natural process rather than adding more substance to the coconut water. Dr. Retno Wahyu Nurhayati was chosen as the third winner of Falling Walls Lab Jakarta 2019 with her presentation titled Breaking the Wall of Blood Stem Cell Transplantation.

To ask for further information about their innovative ideas as well as their experience in Falling Wall Lab Jakarta 2019, we interviewed Mr. James Zulfan, Dr. Zuraidah Nasution, and Dr. Retno Wahyu Nurhayati.
Mr. James, thank you for your time and congratulations on winning the Falling Walls Lab Jakarta 2019. First of all, could you tell us a bit about your background?

Currently, I am working as a public servant specifically as a researcher in the field of Water Resources at the Research Centre for Water Resources under the Ministry of Public Works and Housing (MPWH).

I got my bachelor’s degree in the field of Civil Engineering from Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB). Then I continued my master’s degree in the field of Civil Engineering but more specifically about Hydraulic Engineering at IHE Delft Institute for Water Education in the Netherlands.

As a researcher, I’m conducting research and development on water resources that aims to gain innovation on construction technology which are faster, easier and cheaper compared to conventional ones. Therefore, the innovation could improve water resource infrastructure development in Indonesia, for instance with weir or dam construction.

Why are you interested in the field of hydraulic engineering and water resources?

My interest in the field of water resources started to grow when I was doing my bachelor’s degree when I was helping one of my lecturers as an assistant.

Before being a researcher at MPWH, I once worked in the private sector which was related to the field of water resources. I think it is my passion, and we also use water daily, it is related to our daily life.

Besides, we can say that water is always an important issue. We need to be able to control it, if we have too much water, it can lead to floods, and when there is too little, it can lead to drought. Therefore, water management is essential, and one way to manage the water is through constructions such as weirs and dams.

The theme of your presentation was about Breaking the Wall of Dam Construction. Why did you choose this topic?

Dam and weir construction has become one of the issues that is currently trending in Indonesia. The government plans to build more dams. Besides, looking at the geographical location of our country, we have a lot of water resources; sadly, we have not been able to manage it to the fullest. Therefore, we need dams or weirs. Building a dam is not easy, it is expensive, takes a lot of time, and requires a complicated process.

Therefore, I would like to solve those three problems by developing modular technology. The idea itself comes from Lego, or Tetris, which I think we always played a lot during our childhood. I use the concept to build a weir and even a dam using a modular system. So, it is as simple as matching the module pieces.

Currently, it is still a prototype of a weir and small dam in a small river. Later we are planning to apply it in a big river with a larger structure. Also, it has not been fabricated yet, but once we can fabricate it, it will be cheaper and take less time.

In terms of its durability in the water stream, how durable is the modular system?

It is not just an idea that we can realize instantly in only one night. We did our research and tried it for more than five years in laboratories and tried different shapes of modules. After several trials, we found that the modules and prototypes that I brought during the falling walls lab were the most suitable ones at the moment.

After it was tested in our laboratories, and after getting feedback from experts in the field, we are confident to implement it in a small river. The latest full-scale weir structure that applies the modular system has been built in Morotai, North Maluku Province.

When building a dam, one of the challenges that you mentioned is its complexity. Can you explain more about it?

When you build a dam using a conventional method, there are steps that you have to follow in series and order. For example, in the casting process, you have to start from the bottom, and work your way up layer by layer, pouring concrete and waiting until it is dry, and then you can go on to the next step.

With the modular system, it can cut the time of the process. For example, while we are preparing the area, we can start fabricating the modules simultaneously. Once it is ready, then we can transport the module to the site and start assembling it all together. Besides, this technology is also suitable for construction in remote areas where heavy equipment could not access. Because of the size and weight of the module, it is possible to carry the modules using manual labour.

In terms of efficiency, the volume of the material needed to build a dam with a modular system is less than using the conventional method. It also takes less time, so it is faster and saves on labour costs as well.

I would also like to add one thing regarding the modular dam, our team holds the patent of the method, therefore the patent belongs to Indonesia. We should be proud of it.
Interview with Mr. James Zulfan

What was your motivation in joining Falling Walls Lab Jakarta 2019?

As a researcher and public servant, I got funding from the state. I wanted to inform society about the innovation we developed. Therefore, I often share what we have done in different cities in Indonesia, so they are aware that we have a new innovation regarding water resources.

My motivation for joining Falling Walls Lab Jakarta is only to share the innovation we have developed and also to hear about innovations from other contestants. I also thought the concept of Falling Walls Lab is unique because the participants come from different fields of expertise. Thus, when I joined the competition, I had to convince juries who came from various fields of science and not only from the field of civil engineering. During the preparation, it took several days for me to find the right word to explain the modular dam technology to the jury and other people.

When you met the other finalists, what was your impression?

To be honest, I was shocked. Some of them were still young, even still pursuing their bachelor’s degrees. I was impressed because they were brave enough to express their ideas. I don’t think I was that brave when I was a student.

Besides, the finalists come from different areas of expertise. It helped me to broaden my knowledge and it was a good opportunity to build networks.

When you were mentioned as the winner of Falling Walls Lab Jakarta 2019, were you shocked?

Of course! That day, I also had another event to attend besides Falling Walls Lab Jakarta, therefore I was in a hurry and never thought that I was going to win the competition. Since the committee told me the event would not be that long, I decided to wait until the end of the event.

When my name was mentioned, I was shocked. But later, when I reflected on it, I thought that maybe it was because the idea that I proposed was unique.

You will also get a chance to visit a research institute in Europe. Is there any specific research institute that you would like to visit?

I will use the opportunity to visit several research institutes that specialize in water construction, and I am excited to visit them!

The first research institute that I plan to visit is ETH Zurich in Switzerland. The other research institutes that I will visit are the laboratories of Technical University Dresden in Germany and TU Delft in the Netherlands.

Last but not least, do you have any words for those who would like to join Falling Walls Lab next year?

For those who would like to join, Falling Walls Lab is a great event because it is open to different fields of knowledge. Any idea, as long as unique and innovative, it is worth sharing. Just keep on exploring your ideas and join the falling walls lab.

It does not matter if you win the competition or not because the event helps you to broaden your knowledge, and it is also a good chance to network.

As a winner of Falling Walls Lab Jakarta, you will fly to Berlin and present your idea. Do you have any hopes or expectations about introducing the idea on the international stage?

Getting the chance to present my idea in Berlin is already such a blessing for me. It is a new challenge for me because I will get the opportunity to present my idea to a bigger stage and front of larger audiences and experts.

I have no target or expectation in Berlin, but I will do my best to represent Indonesia. So, I will prepare well for my presentation.

I have a plan to pursue my doctoral degree, thus I hope I can make some networks there. We have developed a modular dam for a small river. Hopefully, by pursuing a doctoral degree, I will get a chance to do more research and develop the module to build a dam for a bigger river.
Interview with Dr. Zuraidah Nasution

Dr. Zuraidah, thank you for your willingness to be interviewed by us despite your busy schedule. First of all, could you tell us a bit about your background, for example, your current activities or your educational background?

I am a lecturer at the Department of Community Nutrition, Faculty of Human Ecology at Institute Pertanian Bogor (IPB). I got my Bachelor’s Degree from Padjajaran University in Bandung in the field of Food Technology. Then I continued on to my master’s degree, still in the area of Food Science and Nutrition, at the University of New South Wales in Australia. Then I pursued my Doctorate Degree in the field of Food Science at Kasetsart University, Thailand.

Looking at your educational background, it seems that you are in the field of Food Science. Could you share with us why you are interested in the field?

During high school, I was into Biology. When it was time for me to choose a major for my bachelor’s degree I was looking for a major which was still related to Biology or Microbiology, but also applicable in the technology industry. Then I choose Food Technology. After I finished my bachelor’s degree I was interested to pursue my career in the academic field, I wanted to learn more profoundly about the field.

Is your interest in this field high because Indonesia is a country with an agricultural sector?

Yes, Agriculture is one of the potentials that our country has. Moreover, food and agriculture are one of the industries that will survive throughout the years.

Besides, considering the population and land for agriculture that Indonesia has, the food industry will always be developing. I also consider one of the challenges in the field to be how to make it more effective and efficient. Although we have a large amount of agricultural land, if we do not cultivate it to the fullest, the results will not be optimal.

During Falling Walls Lab Jakarta 2019, you presented your idea on Breaking the Wall of Underutilized Mature Coconut Water. Could you share with us the inspiration behind the theme?

It was part of my Dissertation for my doctoral degree, but I only took some part of it related to the processing part. I got the idea when I found out that water from mature coconuts is often thrown away. Most people will use a lot of additional substances to suppress the inferior aroma and taste.

Based on the phenomena, together with the team and professor, we would like to boost the sensory quality of mature coconut water by using a more natural process rather than adding more substances to the coconut water.

We hope that the research could be an alternative for the food industry to maximize the usage of different kinds of food ingredients and reduce food waste. The method that we offer is simple, such as heat treatment and adding natural substances such as amino acid (food grade) that can easily be found in the market. Neither complicated nor highly advanced technology is needed.

What were the major problems that you faced when doing your research?

I might say it was the characteristics of coconut water. Coconut water is rich in nutrition, but it has a low acidity level. Hence it goes bad easily. I had to make a really good plan and a timeline once my sample came. From my experience conducting the research, I learnt about the importance of good planning and time management.

Why were you interested in joining Falling Walls Lab Jakarta?

I knew Falling Walls Lab from Euraxess. I attended an event by Euraxess in Bangkok while I was pursuing my Doctorate. From there, I joined the mailing list of Euraxess to get information about activities and scholarships offered by them. One of the events was Falling Walls Lab. I thought the competition was unique and worth a try. Then I made a summary of what I had done. But it was not easy for me since we had to explain our idea in only 3 minutes and 2 slides. I never thought I would be one of the finalists.

What was the most memorable moment from your experience of joining Falling Walls Lab Jakarta 2019?

First of all, it is a unique competition. The idea that the finalists present their ideas may look simple, but actually they have been working on them for the past 3 or 4 years. It is also a multi-discipline competition, so it gives us the chance to know what the current trends in other fields of study are.
Interview with Dr. Zuraidah Nasution

After joining Falling Walls Lab, do you have a specific hope?
Now I have a new perspective on my research. I hope that being scientific; my research can benefit other people. And for the event, I hope in the future Falling Walls Lab Jakarta will be better promoted, so more people will know about Falling Walls Lab. We have a lot of potential ideas from postgraduate students in Indonesia. By joining such an event, the students will be able to present their idea in front of a broader audience who come from different backgrounds.

Last but not least, do you have any words for those who would like to join Falling Walls Lab next year?
For those who are interested in joining Falling Walls Lab next year, they need to express their idea in a way that other people can understand it. Especially when communicating an idea to those who have different expertise to us, it is important to explain your idea in understandable terms.

As experts, we often use specific words/terms, which can only be understood by other people in the same field. I hope in the future all research that is produced can be understood by all people who come from various backgrounds, and not only by those who have subject specific knowledge.

Advertisement by German Universities

Truly international – Study at ESB Business School!
You want to study in a truly international setting in Germany, Europe’s strongest economy? Come to ESB Business School! We offer top-ranked undergraduate, graduate and executive programmes in business management and business engineering (German and/or English), providing a strong network of partner companies and international partner universities.

MBA & International Master’s Programmes
Improve your leadership skills. Gain digital know-how. Study management in English. Become part of an international student body. Benefit from many corporate activities, valuable career consultation and coaching. Take advantage of our welcome service.

Discover Berlin – Germany’s startup hub, low cost of living, culturally rich and colourful.

More info: visit this link
Dr. Retno, thank you for your willingness to be interviewed by us despite your busy schedule. First of all, could you tell us a bit about your background, for example, your current activities or your educational background?

I am a lecturer at the Department of Biochemical and Biomolecular Science in the Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Indonesia, and senior researcher in the stem cell and tissue engineering cluster at the Indonesian Medical Education and Research Institute.

I got my bachelor’s degree in the field of Food Science and Technology from IPB University and did my final research in Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia (LIPI). Afterward, I got the Monbukagakusho Scholarship from the Japanese Government to continue my master’s and doctoral degree at Osaka University in the field of Bio-Chemical Engineering, specifically about stem cell research.

After completing my PhD, I was appointed as an Assistant Professor in Osaka University, similar to a Post-Doctoral position, for about 1.5 years before I decided to go back to Indonesia for good.

Could you share with us, why are you interested in the field of stem cells?

At first, I did not have a lot of knowledge and information about stem cells, and it was not popular in Indonesia. When I got my scholarship to pursue my master’s and doctoral degree in Japan, I wanted to research about Bio-Ethanol. At that time, Regenerative Medicine was starting to become popular in Japan after Prof. Yamanaka from Japan received a Nobel Prize in Medicine. Therefore, my supervisor/professor offered me the chance to conduct research in the field of regenerative medicine. I thought, why not, it is still new, and there is still room for more exploration and research.

Then as I mentioned before, I was working as an assistant professor for a while in Japan. After discussions with my family, I decided to go back for good to Indonesia, and become one of the staff at the Faculty of Medicine at Universitas Indonesia. It was beyond my expectation; regenerative medicine is one of the fields that is currently being developed in Indonesia, especially in Universitas Indonesia and Universitas Airlangga in Surabaya. In Indonesia, people are becoming more familiar with regenerative medicine but mostly only for beauty treatment. Thus we have to be careful and make sure it is safe for those who do the treatment.

Looking at the trend and phenomena, I joined the Stem Cell & Tissue Engineering Research Cluster (SCTE-RC) in Universitas Indonesia. The members of the research cluster consist of people from different backgrounds, such as biomedical scientists and clinicians. Together we develop cutting-edge research and post-graduate curricula related to stem cell research in Indonesia. We hope in the future people will have the right knowledge about stem cell treatment and develop stem cell treatments that are safe and beneficial for improving quality of life.

We also want to educate people that stem cells are not only for cosmetic treatment but also for other diseases. At the moment, stem cell treatment in Indonesia is only allowed, by the government, for untreatable or terminal-stage diseases, such as Leukaemia, which is what I am currently working on.

For leukaemia patients, we are familiar with treatments, such as radiotherapy or chemotherapy. However, with this treatment, it does not only break the cancer cell but also the normal cells that the patients have. Blood stem cells are among those cells that are easily damaged by repeated chemotherapy/radiotherapy. Accordingly, blood stem cell transplantation, sometimes referred to as bone marrow transplantation, becomes the last option to save the patient’s life.

During Falling Walls Lab Jakarta 2019, you presented your idea about Breaking the Wall of Blood Stem Cell Transplantation, could you tell us a bit about where you got your idea?

When we talk about blood transfusion, in most cases, we only look at the recipient’s blood type. For interracial blood transfusion, we also take into account the rhesus of the recipients. But blood stem cell transplantation is more complicated. To determine whether a donor is a match or not, we have to look at at least 6 criteria, named human leucocyte antigens.
When it comes to finding the right donor for blood stem cell donors in Indonesia it is more complicated if we compare it to Japan. Indonesia is a multiracial country; thus, it is hard to find the matching stem cell donors. Race is one factor that can affect the structure of cells in our body.

Another problem related to blood stem cell treatment is that we need a high number of cells; otherwise, it does not affect your body. Blood stem cells can be collected from 3 sources: bone marrow, circulating blood or the umbilical cord of newborn baby. Among them, umbilical cord is one of the most abundant blood stem cell sources because it is typically discarded after baby is delivered. Even so, we can only get a maximum of 5 million blood stem cells out of 100 ml of the blood (based on our routine experiments). For regenerative medicine, we need 1 million stem cells for per kg of your body weight. A patient needs 2-3 donors or needs to be taken multiple times.

The reason why we need a high number of cells for regenerative medicine is also related to the characteristics of cells. Cells are like a community of people, to make sure they can accommodate the needs of the people; they are interconnected to each other and have their own divisions. If we only use a small number of cells in regenerative medicine, the cells cannot adapt. Therefore, we need a high number of cells for them to adapt to the body.

Looking at the problems, we are trying to make use of the cells that match less for the recipients and cover them in a small capsule to disguise them from the immune system in our body. It is possible to use the lesser matching cells (for example, if the cells only meet 4 out of 6 criteria, because what is important is the product /the protein of the cells.) However, to make it successful it has to be meticulous; we need to make sure that the cells stay in their capsules and the important protein that the cells generate can be absorbed by the other cells so that they can regenerate. Currently, we have been able to develop double layer capsules to make sure the cells stay in the capsule.

I have joined different international conferences, and a lot of people mention that the idea is unique and a prospect to be developed for the future. Currently, I am also working to patent my idea.

### Why are you interested in joining Falling Walls Lab Jakarta 2019?

Currently I have some networks in Japan, but not in Germany. By joining Falling Walls Lab, I would like to build or expand my network to Germany. Germany is famous for its technology, and I am interested in visiting the research centre in Germany. After a senior, Dr Taufiq Priyambodo, graduate of a Germany University, told me about the opportunity, I registered to join Falling Walls Lab. I was a bit disappointed with my performance in Falling Walls Lab Jakarta because I did not do enough preparation due to my schedule. A day before the presentation, I was the chairman of big event in my university. Due to this, I was too busy to handle the event and at the same time, I was appointed as a trainer for nursing students for the whole week. During the presentation, I was so sleepy, and I forgot some words.

### Was it hard for you to present your idea in only 3 minutes?

I might say it is tough. I have often presented about the same topic, but I presented it in front of those who are experts in the field or have the same background. Presenting my idea in front of those who might not be familiar with the topic was a new challenge for me. While presenting, I often thought about another word or easier terms to make it understandable for the judges and audience. It needs good preparation to be able to explain your idea in front of a more general audience.

I also think the other finalists had great ideas and it made me nervous. In my opinion, their ideas are more applicable than mine. Not saying my idea was inapplicable, but there is still has a long way to go until my idea can be fully implemented.

### What was the most memorable moment for you during Falling Walls Lab Jakarta 2019?

I might say everything about Falling Walls Lab Jakarta 2019 was memorable for me. Although I felt a bit down after my presentation, during the gathering session, it got better. All finalists got the chance to talk to each other, and each of us showed an interest in the ideas that the other finalists had.

Communicating and meeting other people from different backgrounds can give us new perspectives. I was also impressed that the other finalists were not afraid to share their ideas.

### Last but not least, do you have any words for those who are interested in joining Falling Walls Lab Jakarta next year?

When you have an idea, do not be afraid to share it with other people. To improve your idea, you need input from other people and experts. Do not be afraid to ask for suggestions from those who are more senior in the field to perfect your idea. It takes preparation to present your idea in front of an audience which comes from a different field of expertise, so keep on practicing. The more we practice it, the better we can explain it.
Letter from the new Media Manager

There is a saying in Indonesian, “Tak kenal maka tak sayang”, so let me take a moment to introduce myself.

My name is Olivia Deskaria, and in August 2019 I replaced Ivan as the new Media Manager in DAAD Indonesia. The problem is, there are two Olivias in the DAAD Representative Office Jakarta. Therefore, I used Karina as my nickname to prevent confusion.

Just as my other colleague here in DAAD Representative Office Jakarta, I gladly share relevant information for all DAAD alumni as well as DAAD friends. Hopefully, I can also develop DAAD Indonesia webinars, the website and the newsletter as well as social media to be more informative and fun for everyone :)  

Until now, I have not got the chance to meet our dearest alumni in person. Hopefully, I can meet you in the near future. Do not hesitate to contact me to share some news, I am glad to receive articles, photos, or news from every DAAD alumnus and alumna.

When I think about my journey to pursue my master’s degree in Germany, I always remember a song from Xavier Naidoo called Dieser Weg. One part of the song goes:

_Dieser Weg wird kein leichter sein, dieser Weg wird steinig und schwer._

_Nicht mit vielen wirst du dir einig sein, doch dieses Leben bietet so viel mehr._

My journey to get my master’s degree was indeed a stony and not always a smooth road. But from the journey, I did learn a lot and it has opened up a lot of opportunities for me personally and professionally.

For those who are preparing to continue their studies or research in Germany, never give up, always keep your spirits up, and remember that every step you take must bring you closer to fulfil your end goals.

---

Advertisement by German Universities

18 International Graduate & PhD Programs at Technische Universität Kaiserslautern

TUK is a top-ranked German research-oriented university & offers high-quality (post)graduate education & (post) doctoral research training in innovative fields of the HighTechWorld, many of them English-taught.

Application deadline: April 30 & Oct 31
More information: [www.uni-kl.de/en/international](http://www.uni-kl.de/en/international) & info@isgs.uni-kl.de

LL.M. International Finance Program at ILF

Earn an LL.M. International Finance degree at the Institute for Law and Finance (ILF)! Scholarships available! Degree conferred by Goethe University Frankfurt. For graduates from Asia holding a first degree in law, business or economics. One-year program conducted in English. Apply now to LLMint@ilf.uni-frankfurt.de!

More info: [visit this link](http://www.uni-kl.de/en/international)
Our events in the last months in pictures

DAAD Jakarta’s company outing’ in North Jakarta in July 2019
Meeting with the Lecturers of German Studies at Universitas Negeri Makassar in July 2019
Courtesy Visit at the rectorate of Universitas Hasanuddin, Makassar in July 2019.

Alumni meeting in Makassar in July. More than 90 alumni in Makassar joined the event.
SHARE Training at Le Meridien Hotel Jakarta, Indonesia in July 2019
DAAD Indonesia information booth at the 2nd ASEAN-EU Cooperation and Scholarships Day in August 2019

Falling Walls Lab Jakarta 2019 at the Faculty of Economics and Business (FEB) of Universitas Indonesia
Presentation “Study in Germany” by Olivia Sopacua at Kanisius’ Education Fair 2019 in September.
The Director of DAAD Jakarta, Mr. Thomas Zettler accompanied by Ribka Gloria visited Universitas Sumatera Utara

The Director of DAAD Jakarta, Mr. Thomas Zettler accompanied by Ribka Gloria visited Universitas Negeri Medan in September
Alumni meeting in Medan in September. More than 50 alumni in Medan joined the event.
Study in Germany promotion at the 3rd Unpatti Lingua, Culture and Education Expo in September 2019.
Event Information

11th Let’s Study in Europe!
European Higher Education Fair
Pameran Pendidikan Tinggi Eropa

Surabaya
Grand City Ballroom
30 October 2019

Jakarta
Kartika Expo Center
2-3 November 2019

Bandung
Sabuga Center ITB
5 November 2019

Information & Online Registration, visit: https://ehef.id/events

Publisher
DAAD Jakarta Office
Summitmas II 14th Fl.
Jl. Jend. Sudirman Kav. 61-62
Jakarta 12190
Indonesia

Unsubscribe
If you don’t wish to receive any further issues of our newsletter, please send an email to media@daadjk.org with the subject “unsub”

Editor
Olivia Deskarina

Contact
Phone: +62 (21) 520 08 70
+62 (21) 525 28 07
Fax: +62 (21) 525 28 22
Mail: info@daadjk.org

Our consulting hours:
Thursday
13.30 - 16.00 WIB

www.daad.id
DAAD Indonesia
@DAAD_Indonesia
@daad_indonesia