



NEWSLETTER

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Foreword



Dear readers,

It is a great pleasure for me to present to you the new edition of our DAAD Jakarta Newsletter. The DAAD Jakarta team is happy to inform you about good examples of the thriving academic cooperation between Germany and Indonesia and between Europe and South-East Asia.

In our crisis-ridden times, international academic cooperation is more important than ever. “We are currently experiencing rapid changes in the political and regulatory environment for global academic exchange. Dramatic geopolitical upheavals are having an impact on academia, especially the war in Ukraine. At the same time, the challenges faced by all of humanity, such as climate change and its drastic consequences, increasing shortages of raw materials and the issue of global food security have not gone away and remain urgent,” said DAAD President Prof. Dr. Joybrato Mukherjee earlier this year. Academic cooperation between democratic countries like Germany and Indonesia is direly needed to address the global environmental and political challenges of today.

In June, the Federal German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier visited Indonesia for an exchange with Joko Widodo, the President of Indonesia. On this occasion, Federal President Steinmeier, accompanied by DAAD President Prof. Dr. Joybrato Mukherjee, also visited Universitas Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta for a discussion on food security and to get information on Indonesian-German cooperation projects. This shows the great importance that academic exchange has from the Federal German President’s point of view.

Almost 3.400 young Indonesians study German in 15 universities throughout Indonesia. The majority of them are trained to be German language teachers. But how can the German study programmes become more relevant for other careers? How can curricula become more practice-oriented and open up more professional paths? And what opportunities does the Indonesian Ministry of Education’s ‘Merdeka Belajar – Kampus Merdeka’ policy open up for this? These exciting questions were discussed by lecturers of academic German study programmes in Indonesia on a conference in Jakarta that we report on in this newsletter.

One of the highlights of the DAAD activities and a really thrilling event is the yearly Falling Walls Lab (FWL). Young academics present their innovative scientific ideas in three minutes (this is fun!), the winner of the competition receives a trip to Berlin to present her/ his idea in the global final. This year, the FWL was conducted at the Universitas Pembangunan Jaya, with participants from all over Indonesia. Learn about the event and meet the winner in this newsletter!

Moreover, we report about the first offline alumni gathering after the pandemic in July in Yogyakarta and about interesting activities of the EU-SHARE project.

Please also note our current calls for applications for the DAAD scholarship programmes on subject-specific Master’s courses in Germany and South-East Asia.

Since 2019, this newsletter has been coordinated and edited by our dear colleague Olivia Deskarina (Karina). End of October, Karina will leave DAAD to try out something new and pursue her career in other contexts. I would like to thank Karina very much for her wonderful work for DAAD, we will miss her competence and her enthusiasm dearly. I wish her all the best!

I wish you all an enjoyable read

Best regards

Dr. Guido Schnieders.
Director of DAAD Regional Office Jakarta

Curricula 4.0? German Studies in Indonesia by Christian Rabl (DAAD-Lektor, Universitas Indonesia)



While outcome-based teaching is not new to Indonesian higher education, the “Merdeka Belajar – Kampus Merdeka” policy (Freedom to Learn – Independent Campus, henceforth MBKM), which was introduced in 2020 by the Indonesian Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology, has changed student pathways in unprecedented ways. In other words, it seeks to make undergraduate studies more flexible and practice-oriented. For example, students may spend up to three semesters on the so-called “campus of life” – participating in internships, going on a semester abroad, engaging in research projects, or enrolling in courses at other faculties and universities. Students will still receive credit points for every one of these activities.

What does this mean for German Studies in Indonesia? What are the implications and benefits for the nearly 3,200 undergraduate students currently studying German as a Foreign Language or German Language and Literature? What competencies and skills will these students acquire? How important are German language skills and cultural knowledge on the job market? And how has the MBKM policy been implemented so far at the 14 Indonesian universities that offer German Studies Programmes? To answer these questions and discuss other related issues, the DAAD Office Jakarta has invited around 50 heads of German departments, lecturers, students, representatives of German organisations, the industry, and

Germany Alumni associations to a conference held in Jakarta on 19 and 20 May 2022. Under the title “Curricula 4.0? German Studies in Indonesia – Chances for Universities and the Industry”, the conference provided a forum for exchange about matters of curriculum development, student exchange, and industry partnerships.

University and student representatives, as well as those from the German-Indonesian Chamber of Industry and Commerce (EKONID) and PT Siemens Indonesia, convened for a panel discussion on “The German Language as a Career Gateway” to discuss potential collaborations.

As several German departments had previously mentioned, finding internship opportunities where students could employ their German language abilities remained a challenge for students. Therefore, we invited companies and institutions, both German and Indonesian, to a career fair where they could inform about internship opportunities and get in touch with students and teachers directly.

The German Alumni Associations in Indonesia also showed that they have the potential to become valuable partners for the German departments, since many of their alumni work in the private sector, notably in companies engaged in business with Germany.

Curricula 4.0? German Studies in Indonesia by Christian Rabl (DAAD-Lektor, Universitas Indonesia)



Photo: DAAD Jakarta

Dr. Tutun Nugraha, the rector of the International University Liaison Indonesia, gave a presentation on how institutions can develop networks for student exchange and internships.

Mixed student-teachers working groups then discussed ways to improve the connection between students, internship providers, and university administrations, and shared their experiences working with professional experts as guest teachers.

On the second day, the conference was rounded up by five inspiring presentations about successful projects conducted by German departments in collaboration with professional experts and partner universities.

The conference was initially scheduled to take place in March 2020 but had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, a series of online meetings were held throughout 2021, where the participants discussed the current state of curriculum development in their respective departments and reviewed case studies from Germany and Vietnam.



Photo: DAAD Jakarta



Photo: DAAD Jakarta

Curricula 4.0? German Studies in Indonesia

by Christian Rabl (DAAD-Lektor, Universitas Indonesia)



We also interviewed three conference participants and asked them about the key takeaways from the event. The interviewees were:

- **Dr. Maria Regina Widhiasti, S.Hum., M.Hum.,** Head of the German Studies Programme at the Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Indonesia
- **Rount Maulero,** student in the German Studies Programme at Universitas Negeri Malang
- **Mr. Arpani Harun,** Lecturer at Universitas Negeri Jakarta.

In your opinion, what opportunities does the “Merdeka Belajar – Kampus Merdeka” policy hold for German Studies Programmes in Indonesia?

Regina: The MBKM policy allows the German Studies Programme to offer courses on German culture in a broader scope, for example, by organizing elective courses for students who are not enrolled in the German Studies Programme. These courses do not require students to be fluent in German. Therefore, the German Studies Programme has the opportunity to build more interest in German culture, which, in turn, also opens up opportunities for greater research possibilities relating to German culture. The German Studies Programme at Universitas Indonesia offers, for example, “Multiculturalism in the German Cinema” as an elective course. In this course, students from various backgrounds learn to analyze German films to know more about multiculturalism in Germany. To take this course, students can watch German movies with subtitles, so they don’t need to learn German first. After completing this course and learning about German culture and society through this lecture, the students may be more interested in exploring German culture or integrating what they have learned with their respective fields of study.

The MBKM policy also encourages the German Studies programmes to cooperate with other higher education institutions and the industrial sector. In the context of MBKM, this collaboration is needed to ensure that students take elective courses in other study programmes, faculties, or universities and participate in internships in various companies as part of MBKM activities. These collaborations can be used to achieve long-term improvement in academic performance. Additionally, the German Studies Programme benefits from networking with these groups while evaluating the curriculum, for instance, to measure the outcome.

Arpani: The MBKM policy gives a lot of opportunities for curriculum development. The departments can select the eight MBKM activities that are most appropriate for their students, including student exchange, internships, teaching assistantships, independent projects, and community service in rural regions. The most well-liked extracurricular activities among our students are community service, teaching assistantships, internships, and exchange programs. These not only provide opportunities for different studying experiences, but they also help students learn about tolerance.

The implementation of MBKM, however, requires cooperation between the university and its partners. For example, student exchange requires discussion among the involved study programmes regarding subjects and credit transfer. As MBKM allows for guest lecturers, co-teaching opportunities, and opens up possibilities for collaborative research, lecturers must work together in both academic matters and research.

MBKM also permits students to learn subjects from other fields relevant to their future careers; for example, students from our German Studies Programme may take courses in management.

Rount: I believe both students and lecturers from the German Studies programmes have benefited from the new Merdeka Belajar – Kampus Merdeka (MBKM) curriculum. For example, the internship activities prepare students for the professional world. During their internships, students can put into practice what they have learned at university. I also think that the new curriculum offers more opportunities for networking with other universities, institutions, and organisations; and by expanding their networks, the German Studies programmes can develop further. In the future, these opportunities will enable students and lecturers to work together to create curricula according to the MBKM policy.

Curricula 4.0? German Studies in Indonesia

by Christian Rabl (DAAD-Lektor, Universitas Indonesia)

In your opinion, what skills/knowledge should be added to the curriculum of German Studies to prepare the students for the current job market?

Regina: In addition to developing German language and culture knowledge, students also need to master various soft skills, such as teamwork, critical thinking, and problem-solving. Digital literacy and competency, as well as the ability to do research independently, are essential skills that students need to have.

Arpani: In view of the job market, it is important for our students to have solid media skills. The German Studies Programme needs to integrate the skills of the 21st century, which are:

1. learning skills (such as critical thinking, creative thinking, collaborating, and communicating),
2. literary skills (information literacy, media literacy, as well as technology literacy), and
3. life skills (including soft skills such as flexibility, initiative, social skills, productivity skills, and leadership).

Another important skill is the skill to understand other cultures.

Rount: In my opinion, the current curriculum under which I study is already very good. However, we need to see the MBKM curriculum as a chance for students of German Studies programmes to gain even more skills. I think public speaking and networking with other German institutions are important elements to be added to the MBKM curriculum.

Based on my experience, the German language training offered by the German Studies programmes is already sufficient, but we still lack room for practice. Therefore, developing public speaking skills will help us implement what we have learned in the classroom. This requires strong networking with institutions both in Germany and Indonesia. The more networks the study programmes are part of, the more chances there are for the students to apply their knowledge. I think it is unfortunate that students of German Studies can only utilize their expertise in a few schools or institutions in Indonesia. I hope that extensive networking can help German Studies students to work in the professional fields they are most interested in.

What was your most important takeaway from the DAAD Regional Office Jakarta's conference?

Regina: The conference not only strengthened networking among German Studies programs in Indonesia, but it also provided a clearer picture of what stakeholders require. This network benefits the German Studies programmes' evaluation process and curriculum development. In my opinion, the conference was also an opportunity to benchmark and learn from each other's best practices.

Arpani:

- All German Studies programmes in Indonesia need to follow up on the discussions had at the conference and intensify their teaching collaboration.
- The MBKM curriculum provides many chances for both professors and students, although there are still some implementation issues; for example, the university's academic system is not yet equipped to accommodate the program (credit transfers, etc.).
- When recruiting students for internships, several university partners (including German firms and organisations) still regard German language proficiency as a skill that is "nice to have."

Rount: Participating in this conference allowed me to broaden my network. I met people from the industry, organisations, lecturers from various universities in Indonesia, and fellow students. This made me realise that the German language can be used for networking. Information and networking are two important things in the education process. By taking part in this conference, I was able to share experiences and information with other students at my university. I hope to see another conference in the future that brings together practitioners, students, lecturers, and decision-makers.

Alumni Meeting in Yogyakarta by Christian Rabl & Olivia Deskarina



After more than two years of mostly virtual meetings and long-distance learning, a DAAD alumni meeting held in Yogyakarta on the 24th of July 2022 was a welcome opportunity for lecturers, researchers, professionals, and other DAAD alumni to reconnect.

The meeting, which was attended by approximately 55 alumni from Yogyakarta and surroundings, was opened by Ms Annisa Fitria, Science Counsellor at the German Embassy Jakarta, and Prof Bernd Markert from RWTH Technical University Aachen, among others. Dr. Guido Schnieders, Director of the DAAD Regional Office Jakarta, and Ms. Lidya Natalie, Programme Officer at DAAD Jakarta, also gave presentations about DAAD activities and alumni programmes in Indonesia.

The meeting was organised in close coordination with RWTH Aachen's Faculty of Georesources and Materials, which has been working with Gadjah Mada University (UGM) on GetInCICERO, a joint research project sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, since 2017. During his talk, Prof. Dr. Thomas Rude, who supervises the project on the RWTH side, stressed the important role alumni networks play in successful research collaborations.

For Dr. Guido Schnieders it was the first alumni event in Indonesia in his new capacity as the Director of the DAAD Regional Office Jakarta. Some attendees were even able to reunite with old colleagues at the event. Between 2004 and 2010, during his previous position in Indonesia, Dr. Schnieders conducted the pre-departure courses for DAAD awardees. Some of them, from the 2004 batch, were present at the alumni meeting 18 years later.

The cheerful occasion was closed with a networking dinner, where the participants were entertained by a musical poetry performance by students of German Studies from Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta.

Seeing the general joy and intensity of exchange, We hope that many such alumni events will be possible in the future.

If you wish to receive information and invitations to DAAD alumni activities, please help us to stay in touch with you and help you keep your contact and personal information up to date by sending an email to media@daadjkt.org. Our team will be happy to assist you.

SHARE Activities

By: SHARE—DAAD Team

Our DAAD SHARE team has been involved in a variety of activities over the last three months, such as on-site and hybrid international events. Here's an overview of the latest SHARE events:

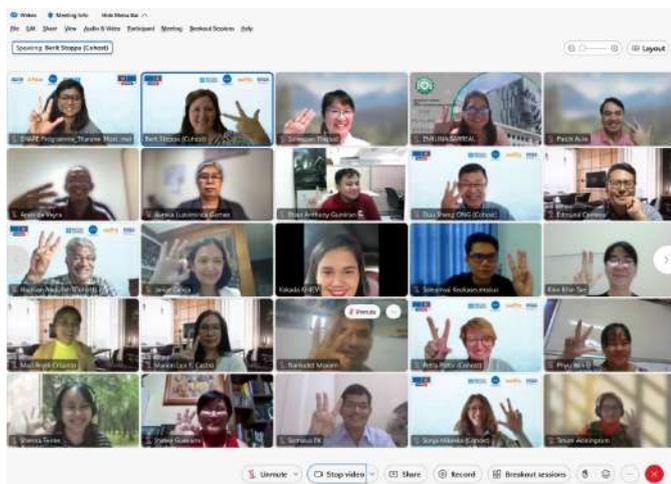


Photo: SHARE Programme

Training on Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) for SHARE Partner Universities - Online, 8-15 June 2022

The Training on Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) for SHARE partner universities was held online as a series over six training days. There were 31 participants from 16 SHARE partner universities in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. Led by Ms. Petra Pistor and Dr. Sonja Mikeska from Münster University of Applied Sciences, Germany, the participants engaged in highly interactive group work activities to delve deeper into various topics related to IQA, such as study programme development, evaluation, external quality assurance, quality culture, change management, as well as comparative case studies of IQA systems in different countries. The participants were also prepared to implement their intended post-training IQA activity in their respective institutions.



Photo: SHARE Programme

SHARE Peer Multiplier Training - Jakarta (Indonesia), 20-23 June 2022

The SHARE Peer Multiplier Training (PMT) was a hybrid training event attended by 29 people from Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Vietnam. They were selected for participation based on their submitted dissemination projects in the fields of Higher Education (HE) management, Outcomes-Based Education (OBE), and internationalisation, among others. The training provided participants with theoretical and practical knowledge on project management, risk management, adult learning, and various methods of engaging each participant's project beneficiaries in interactive forms, including opportunities for peer counselling and evaluation, and was facilitated by 11 experts in the fields of Quality Assurance, Internationalisation, HE Management, and OBE from ASEAN and Europe.



Photo: SHARE Programme

SHARE Activities

By: SHARE—DAAD Team

"Micro-credentials in Thai Higher Education: Opportunities, Challenges, and Outlooks from ASEAN and Europe", Bangkok, 20-21 July 2022

The hybrid event "Micro-credentials in Thai Higher Education: Opportunities, Challenges, and Outlooks from ASEAN and Europe" was held in collaboration with King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT) and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research, and Innovation (MHESI). The seminar, which featured a mix of speakers and participants from academic and business/industry communities, discussed the relevance of the "micro-credentials" trending topic in Higher Education for the academic community and industry stakeholders, particularly in addressing skill gaps and supporting lifelong learning. In addition to the Thai context, the seminar provided a platform for Higher Education experts from ASEAN and Europe to share their experiences in micro-credential initiatives in their respective countries, as well as identify potential solutions to obstacles in implementing micro-credentials. The seminar was attended by approximately 320 participants both on-site and online.



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Falling Walls Lab Indonesia 2022



On 1st September 2022, the DAAD Regional Office Jakarta conducted the seventh edition of Falling Walls Lab (FWL) Indonesia in collaboration with Universitas Pembangunan Jaya (UPJ). This year Falling Walls Lab Indonesia was special for us; after two years of online labs, we could finally conduct the competition offline again due to the better condition.

Various topics ranging from social, agriculture, health, and renewable energy were becoming the concerns of this year's FWL Indonesia finalists. During the final event, the 16 finalists successfully presented their innovative ideas to help overcome these challenges.

It was certainly not easy for the eight judges of FWL Indonesia 2022 to determine the winner of FWL Indonesia 2022. However, Difa Ayatullah Muthmainnah, with her idea of Breaking the Wall of Pad Waste, was able to convince the judges and was chosen as the first winner of FWL Indonesia 2022. As the winner of FWL Indonesia 2022, she will represent Indonesia at the Falling Walls Lab Finale event in Berlin on 7th November 2022.

Meanwhile, Amaliyah Rohsari Indah Utami, with her idea Breaking the Wall of Inefficient Waste Pretreatment and Luhur Budi, with his idea Breaking Wall Of Earthquake Resilient building, was selected as the second and third winners in the Falling Walls Lab Indonesia 2022 competition.

Considering that Falling Walls Lab Indonesia is an annual competition, we are happy to invite you who have innovative ideas to join the Falling Walls Lab Indonesia competition next year. An idea will only be an idea if we don't dare to express and develop it. The courage to speak our ideas will open up various opportunities to realise them. So, we are looking forward to seeing your innovative ideas at the 8th Falling Walls Lab Indonesia next year.

To convince you to join Falling Walls Lab Indonesia next year, we conducted a short interview with the winner of FWL Indonesia 2022, Difa Ayatullah Muthmainnah. Here is our interview with her.

Falling Walls Lab Indonesia 2022



Photo: Ranan Samanya for Universitas Pembangunan Jaya

Thank you for your time, and congratulations on winning Falling Walls Lab Indonesia 2022. First of all, could you tell us a bit about your background?

I am Difa Ayatullah Muthmainnah, an undergraduate student in the field of Physics at the Institut Teknologi Bandung. My research interest is mainly in the field of material physics.

What was your motivation for joining Falling Walls Lab Indonesia 2022?

My team and I were trying to develop our ideas into business. We saw Falling Walls Lab Indonesia as a good chance to introduce our ideas and build a network with other scientists and investors. I also feel that Falling Walls Lab is a good opportunity to introduce our ideas nationally and internationally.

Your presentation is about "Breaking the Wall of Pad Waste". Could you share with us the inspiration behind your idea?

My friend and I started this idea; we are part of the same environmental community and often try to make small moves to reduce plastics in our daily life. However, as women, we have realized that we constantly use pads daily, and it is quite hard to quit using them. Unfortunately, the remaining waste of pads is much worse than a single plastic, and several health problems are linked to some chemicals used in conventional disposable pads. Looking at this fact, we came up with the idea of a safe organic pad which also biodegrades.

While researching the perfect materials for this organic pad, we found out potential materials for our organic pads that also be considered one of the underutilized resources in Indonesia.

This has become our solution to reduce pad waste and maximize the country's potential.

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

Presenting or pitching your idea in just 3 minutes was a big challenge for me as I needed to address important things in quite a short time. But I was joining different pitching opportunities before; therefore, I learned from my past experiences to prepare for my performance in Falling Walls Lab Indonesia 2022.

Also, thanks to the tips and advice from my previous mentors it helps to improve my performance and make me confident in pitching my ideas.

Were you shocked when you were mentioned as the winner of Falling Walls Lab Indonesia 2022?

Even though I hoped to win Falling Walls Lab Indonesia 2022, I could not believe I was announced as the competition's winner. It took me a while to realize what was happening during the winner announcement. Simply because I found that all of the finalists were giving their best during the event. Being announced as the winner of Falling Walls Lab Indonesia was also surreal because I had really hoped to visit Germany since I was in high school.

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

Having the chance to present my ideas at the Falling Walls Lab Finale in Berlin, I hope I can use this opportunity to spread awareness of the pad waste problem. I also hope this could be a great chance to do networking with experts from all over the world to help my team and me develop our ideas and later grow it into a business. Lastly, hopefully, I can get the "Breakthrough of the year" award and present a medal for Indonesia.

Lastly, do you have any words for those who want to join Falling Walls Lab Indonesia next year?

Suppose you have innovative ideas, research projects, or even start thinking of a solution to a problem you want to solve. In that case, I recommend you to try and join Falling Walls Lab Indonesia next year. It's not always about winning the competition. Still, by joining the competition, you will get the chance to do networking with the juries and other participants. Even though you are worried about how expert the other finalist can be, don't give up and give it a try. I believe that fear is one of the walls we must break.

Our events in pictures



Photo: DAAD Jakarta

The DAAD Regional Office Jakarta staff and the DAAD President, Prof. Dr Joybrato Mukherjee, during his visit to Singapore & Indonesia in June 2022.



Photo: UPN Veteran

Courtesy Visit at the rectorate of UPN Veteran Jakarta in June 2022



Photo: Univ. Pembangunan Jaya

Courtesy Visit at the rectorate of Universitas Pembangunan Jaya, Banten, in June 2022



Photo: DAAD Jakarta

Alumni meeting in Yogyakarta in July 2022. Around 60 alumni joined the event.



Photo: DAAD Jakarta

Presentation "Study in Germany" by Olivia Sopacua at SMAN 2 Banten, in August 2022



Photo: SHARE Programme

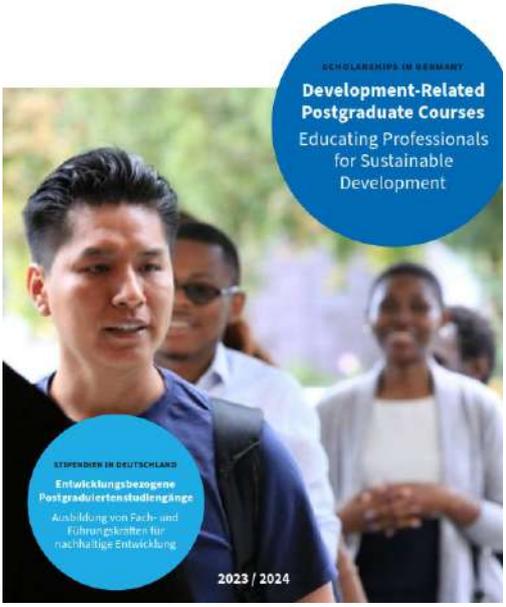
SHARE Peer Multiplier Training - Jakarta (Indonesia), 20-23 June 2022



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