

International Student Conference (ISC) 2025

Experience Report from Thi Trang Nguyen

General Information

- Duration of stay: 6 days (20.01.2025 - 25.01.2025)
- Country, City: Bandung and Jakarta City, Indonesia
- Institution: Parahyangan Catholic University
- Type of stay: Conference participating
- Study program: The conference with the theme of "Innovating, Shaping, and Pioneering the Future of Learning: Empowering Youth Voices".

Preparation

I learned about the International Student Conference 2025 (ISC 2025) through an online program called "Global Citizenship and Sustainable Futures: Learning for Change." To get more information, I visited the Osnabrueck University International Office website. After completing my application, I sent it to the International Office email along with a form to request sponsorship from the university. Once I was accepted, I joined a WhatsApp group to connect with other participants from my university. I paid the conference fee and booked my flight. I stayed active in the WhatsApp group to get updates about the conference and informed the Conference Committee about my travel plans.

Accommodation

I stayed at the Grand Ajuna Hotel in Bandung for 3 days and the Luminor Hotel Pecenongan in Jakarta for 3 days, as arranged by the Conference Committee.

Everyday Life and Leisure (Daily routine, activities)

The conference allows participants to have free evenings, except on Friday. I can explore Bandung and Jakarta, visiting churches, mosques, tourist attractions, and enjoying street food. I can also use GrabFood to order some of Indonesia's most popular dishes.

4 main activities of the conference:

1. Attending lectures on inclusivity, innovative education, and sustainable practices.
2. Joining workshops on topics such as societal challenges, educational inclusivity, community engagement, and healthy living, sustainability.
3. Participating in cultural activities, including batik workshops.
4. Visiting the AIPA office and taking part in final project presentations that simulate the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly.

Reflection and discussions on cross-cultural understanding.

I discovered that Indonesia has many similarities with Vietnam, especially in sweet foods and transportation, as both countries use a lot of motorbikes and have traffic jams. The people in Indonesia are friendly and helpful to foreigners. The culture is diverse, with a mix of different religions and ethnic groups. I was impressed by batik fabric, which is made with detailed handwork.

(Insider) Tips for Future Students

- The weather in Jakarta is hot, while Bandung is hot and humid, so it's a good idea to bring tea and medicine to avoid getting sick.
- The food is delicious but can be a bit oily, so consider bringing some stomach medicine or probiotics to help your digestion.

Conclusion (General experiences, best and worst experience)

Overall, this has been an exciting experience for me to explore different parts of the conference theme and Indonesian culture. I learned more about personal identity, how AI can change education, and what sustainability really means in a developing country. I also got to see how batik fabric is made and how to create bio-fertilizer from food waste, which were both impressive.

The best part was meeting different people, especially Dr. Kristofor Wiley, with whom I had the opportunity to discuss existential crises and the meaning of life.

The worst part was that I got sick for 1 day during the conference, so I couldn't enjoy it fully.