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IN THIS ISSUE:

- * Fun With Language
- * Written Articles
- * APB Rembau Activities
(March to October 2024)

Global Outreach Programme 7.0 (UiTM-UM) in Malang, Indonesia: An Unforgettable Experience

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Global Outreach Programme 7.0 (UiTM-UM) (GOP 7.0 (UiTM-UM)) in Malang, Indonesia was one of the best experiences we had during our degree program at UiTM. This event was organized by the School of Chemistry and Environment, Kuala Pilah Campus and Department of Chemistry, Universitas Negeri Malang (UM). On the 25th of August, we departed from KLIA, Malaysia, and after a smooth 2-hour 40-minute flight, we landed at Juanda International Airport in Indonesia. Upon arrival, we were warmly welcomed by lecturers from UM, before embarking on a 2-hour bus ride to the university. As we set foot on the campus, we were immediately captivated by the beauty and grandeur of the buildings. We were accommodated at the university's Asrama Edelweiss International.

During our stay, we participated in various activities that not only helped us improve our self-development but also fostered teamwork and social skills. One of the highlights was the lab track and faculty insight sessions gave us a unique opportunity to explore their modern facilities. Their labs were equipped with up-to-date instruments. Exploring these

advanced facilities was both exciting and inspiring, and it made the entire experience even more unforgettable.



Picture 1: We took a picture in front of the FMIPA building, Universitas Negeri Malang.

The following day, we attended three workshops: "An Effective and Efficient Manuscript Writing in 30 Days," "In-Depth Analysis," and "From Zero to Graph Hero: Easy Steps for Manuscript Replots with Origin." The speakers for this workshop were Dr. Kavirajaa Pandian A/L Sambasevam and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nur Nadia Dzulkifli from UiTM, along with Dr. Ubed Sonai Fahrudin Arrozi from UM. We learned how to write high-quality manuscripts efficiently and use software like *OriginLab* and *ASiQwin*, which will be incredibly useful for our future research. The workshops sparked our interest in these areas, and we left feeling motivated to apply this new knowledge. The sessions were enjoyable, as they included students from both UiTM and UM, making it a

collaborative and interactive learning experience. Another unforgettable experience was participating in the 3-Minute Idea Pitching Competition. We had to present a speech about how Artificial Intelligence (AI) impacts our daily lives. Although we didn't win, the competition was an enriching experience. We improved our public speaking and communication skills, gained confidence, and learned a lot about AI, which was the theme of the event. It was also a chance to present in front of Indonesian students and lecturers, which was both nerve-wracking and exciting. We felt grateful for the opportunity to represent UiTM in an international competition, which was truly engaging and educational.

One of the most memorable parts of our trip was the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program held at SMA Laboratorium UM. During the event, we introduced chemistry concepts to the students and allowed them to showcase their problem-solving skills through activities like crystal structure demonstrations and soap-making. One of the highlights was a marketing activity where the students designed and promoted their products via TikTok. It was fascinating to see how creative they could be with their ideas. At the end of the program, we were treated to cultural performances by students from SMA Laboratorium UM, UM, and UiTM. It was a fun-filled day that strengthened the bond between the two universities.



Picture 2: Photo was taken together with Prof. Dr. Hadi Suwono, Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (FMIPA) Universitas Negeri Malang

Apart from the academic and cultural activities, we also had time to explore some historical and interesting places in Malang. We had the opportunity to walk around town with our friends from UM, which made the experience even more enjoyable. This helped us build closer friendships, and I will never forget the warmth and hospitality we received. One thing that stood out about Malang was the variety of affordable food stalls and cafés. We loved exploring the different food options, and the fact that the prices were so reasonable made it even better. On the last day, we took a trip to Batu, which turned out to be the most enjoyable part of our journey. Although we were exhausted, it was the kind of tiredness that comes from having so much fun. Batu was a beautiful place, and we didn't miss the chance to buy souvenirs for our family and friends. The people we met there were incredibly kind and welcoming, adding to the warmth we felt throughout our stay.



Picture 3: Took a group photo with the lecturers during our visit to Kajoetangan Heritage Village, Malang.

Overall, this program was an experience we will never forget. We gained invaluable knowledge, built lasting friendships, and learned about a new culture. From the advanced chemistry labs to the fun city tours, every moment was filled with learning and joy. Programs like this should be held more frequently. Not only do they give students the chance to gain new academic insights, but they also foster cultural exchange, personal growth, and global awareness. By participating in these international programs, students can broaden their horizons, build cross-border friendships, and bring back valuable experiences that they can apply in their studies and future careers. For us, this program was more than just a trip. It was a journey of discovery, learning, and connection. We hope that such

opportunities continue to be made available for future students, as they provide an unmatched platform for growth and development.

Note: Qasdina Amira Abd Rashid and Diyana Fatimah Badrulissham are students of Bachelor of Science (Hons.) Chemistry with Management from the School of Chemistry and Environment at UiTM Kuala Pilah Campus. They are among the 15 participants from UiTM who joined GOP 7.0 (UiTM-UM), held from August 26 to 30, 2024, at Universitas Negeri Malang, Indonesia. GOP 7.0 (UiTM-UM) is a program aimed at promoting knowledge sharing in education and research between UiTM and UM, while also strengthening the relationship between the two universities.