

The Chronicle Of Yogyakarta: UKM International Relations Students Inspiring The Future At Borobudur

By: Nazuha binti Yusof, Programme of Strategy and International Relations, School of History, Politics and Strategy of Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSK).

Jaringan Siswazah Nusantara 2.0/2014 (JSN 2.0/2014) is a collaboration introduced in 2012 by the Programme of Strategy and International Relations, School of History, Politics and Strategy of Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSK), National University of Malaysia (UKM). It is part of the requirement under SKSS 6033: Globalization and International Security Issues subject. This program is aimed to introduce the postgraduate students to global practical learning by developing their soft skills such as communication and to polish their analytical skills in recognizing contemporary issues in the region. Through this programme, students will be exposed to the academic writing which was already implemented in the previous JSN 1.0 in 2012.

For JSN 2.0/2014, the 4-day trip from 5th-8th May 2014 was led by Shahrulnizam B Sabda @ Abdullah with the support of Associates Professor Dr. Zarina Bt Othman, Head of the Programme of International Relations and Strategic Studies, as the head of delegation of 28 graduate students.

This year, the faculty tries to bring a new approach by organizing comprehensive Round Table Discussion with the Military Academy Magelang (AKMIL) and Indonesia Air Force Academy (IAFA). For this year's trip, we put forth the 'Peace Education, Training and Capacity Building in Southeast Asia' as the theme for our research paper presentation in both UGM and UPN. However, this selected theme does not apply for the research paper presentations in AKMIL and IAFA. Apart from exchanging ideas and knowledge, we aimed at establishing ties between UKM and several prominent knowledge institutions in Indonesia such as UGM, UPN, AKMIL and IAFA.

Our journey for JSN 2.0/2014 began with a visit to Department of International Relations, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, UGM one of the most respected university in international relations studies, on 6th May 2014. As we reached UGM, we were welcomed with an opening remarks by the UGM's representative Dr. Poppy S. Winanti, Head of Department of International Relations for Postgraduate Studies, UGM followed by a very creative speech by Associates Prof. Madya Dr. Zarina bt Othman, our head of delegation. In order to promote our newly developed programme, Masters of Social Science in East Asia Studies, we had a corporate video viewing segment from both universities, UKM and UGM.

This session was later followed by the first presentation which entitled Bilateral Sanction Policy by US towards Myanmar: An Early View by UKM's PhD student, Aini Fatimah binti Mohd Roslam. The main focus of her presentation was on US bilateral sanction policy such as economic policy that will result in an implication towards human right issues in Myanmar.

Our theme for the second presentation primarily discussed on Child Labor : Impact to The Southeast Asian Security, presented by our fellow master student, Afifi bin Nordin and Mohd Ikhran bin Mohd Ridzuan. The paperwork concentrated on how the Human Security Theory as a link between the child labor issues in the region. These presentations were received by a very overwhelming response from the audience that resulted with several interesting questions and knowledge sharing during the round table discussion.

Afterwards, a presentation from two students of UGM stirred the mood for another discussion on current issues of international relations field. Firstly, the speaker discussed the entry of Myanmar into ASEAN in ASEAN 1997. He greatly emphasized that ASEAN could bring pressure on Myanmar by the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) to sit together in the negotiations between the junta and the democracy movement and the ethnic Rohingya minority. He came forward with the suggestion that if Myanmar became Chairman of ASEAN in the future, ASEAN should play a vital role in achieving peace in Myanmar and to encourage the implementation of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration of 2012.

As for the second speaker, the emphasis was on the role of the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) in the conflict in Syria. Problems such as non-interference by the OIC member countries seems to be a proof the organization is failing in carrying out its functions. OIC is also deemed unable to bring the issue to the table for discussions and this would cause such conflicts to continue much longer. Many of the audiences pointed out that leadership issues had caused great concern for the implementation for peace and conflict resolution in Syria.

Next, we travelled up North to Magelang for a visit to the Military Academy (AKMIL). We received a warm welcome by the AKMIL and were also given such the great opportunity tour inside the academy. Our delegation then headed to the Seminar Hall of AKMIL for the research paper presentation by our PhD student. The research paper Uprising of China as a Maritime Power: An Analysis was presented by Noraini binti Zulkifli, who emphasized that China has no intention to be one of a global or regional power. Despite spending massive budget to strengthen up their national defense, their motivation is primarily to control their national interest. The topic managed to grab the whole audience attention and also the AKMIL higher officer who posed a lot of questions and also triggered another perspective towards the presentation such as new security dilemma, US pivot policy towards Asia, the anarchy state in the international system and also touched on relation between China, Korea and Japan having their own national interest.

On the second day, 7th May 2014, we started our fieldtrip with a round table discussion at the University of National Development Veteran (UPN) with the

topic Implications of the Rise of Military Power China Towards US-Japan Security Pact Post Cold War, a paper presented by Hisham Kamal bin Othman. The discussion was related to the rising power of China in the development of their military strength which is regarded by the U.S. as a threat and a challenge the U.S. position in East Asia, and as the presenter had put forth, the US-Japan security alliance has been strengthened to deal with this threat. According to him, this alliance has succeeded in maintaining security, peace and stability in the region since the end of World War II, but the rise of China's military power would present new the implications on this pact.

Another interesting paper was presented by the representative of the UPN, Dr. Sri Muryantini, lecturer at the Department of International Relations Knowledge, UPN, entitled Relationship between Jakarta and Aceh Post-Tsunami, the Role of International Community Active. Round table discussion was held regarding the transitional changes in post-tsunami Aceh focusing on the role of the international community. According to the presenter, the Helsinki agreement signed in 2005 is a significant change in status to Aceh from the district military command to autonomy.

In the afternoon, a visit to the Indonesia Air Force Academy (IAFA) saw roundtable discussions revolving around the North Korea Nuclear Issue and Northeast Asian Security. The paper was presented by Mohd Syazwan bin Mohd Nasir and Mohd Hazwan bin Mohd Hassan. They discussed about the development of nuclear weapons North Korea is doing as a defence strategy against threats that would harmed her sovereignty. However, according to them, countries like Japan and South Korea are continuously threatened with nuclear proliferation and missile tests conducted by North Korea. They concluded that Japan and South Korea have increased their military capabilities and defense with the cooperation of the United States as a measure to prevent the war in Northeast Asia.

In the nutshell, this trip has given us a very meaningful experience and invaluable knowledge insights between UKM and UGM, UPN, AKMIL also with IAFA. We hope this journey does not end here but will continue in the years to come with the support of management, particularly from the Graduate Management Centre.