

Indonesian Tour 2016 Continues in Makassar, Kupang, Mataram and Surabaya

Alfred Forno
November 22, 2016



Makassar, South Sulawesi, 17-18 November 2016

The tenth program of the UPF Indonesia National Tour 2016 was different as it was part of a 2-day seminar organized by the Ministry of Social Affairs on the theme “Resolving Drug Abuse and Pornography.” The Hon. Minister of Social Affairs Khofifah Indraparawansa had asked UPF to present its family-based prevention program during this event. Mrs. Ursula McLackland, Secretary General of UPF Asia, gave her presentation on “Building Harmonious Families: Antidote to Drug Abuse and Pornography” in the first session after the official opening of the seminar. The 200 participants consisted of members of the largest Muslim Women’s Organization Muslimat, educators, trainers, social workers and volunteers involved in drug rehabilitation and other social programs. The presentation was followed by a lively Q&A session.



Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara (NTT), 19 November 2016

The organizing committee of the next program was excited to conduct the very first International Seminar held in their university, the Muhammadiyah University of Kupang. The conference hall could not accommodate all of the 250 participants consisting of faculty, students and local VIPs so many had to sit on the balcony or stand in the back.

The program followed the general format of each International Character Education Conference on the theme “Building Harmonious Families-Our Shared Responsibility”:

- Recitation of the Holy Qur’an
- Report by the Head of the Organizing Committee
- Opening Remarks by the Chairman of the Regional Board of IMM (Muhammadiyah Student Association), East Nusa Tenggara (NTT)
- Special Remarks by Immawan Wilson Sanheinizh, Member of the Central Board of IMM in charge of International Relations
- Panel of honored guest speakers:
 - Hon. Ismail J. Semau, Member of Provincial Parliament, NTT
 - Mr. Alfred Forno, Secretary General, UPF Indonesia
 - Mrs. Ursula McLackland
- Q & A Session
- Pure Love Pledge
- Presentation of Token of Appreciation to IMM
- Presentation of Ambassador for Peace Awards
- Group photo

The photo session is always the exciting conclusion of each event as the students love to take photos with a foreigner, for most of them the first time in their lives. During that time name cards are exchanged and promises made to meet again. The organizing committee in Kupang wanted to make something special and decided to cook dinner for the UPF team by themselves. Sharing their traditional food in the home of one of the IMM members bonded our hearts with each other. We are eager to invite the top students from each province for a youth leadership training program in Jakarta so that they can then work as UPF volunteers in their own province afterwards.

The local newspaper carried a long article about the special International Seminar in their city.



Mataram, West Nusa Tenggara (NTB), 21 November 2016

In West Nusa Tenggara, we held 2 events on the same day following the same format. The morning program was hosted by the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences of the Muhammadiyah University of Mataram. UPF signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the dean of the faculty for further cooperation and appointed him as the UPF Ambassador for Peace.

After lunch, we traveled across the island to Pancor in East Lombok, where we held the second program at Hamzanwadi University in the afternoon. The faculty and students were eagerly awaiting our arrival and paid great attention to all the UPF presentations. As usual participants compete with each other in order to be able to pose their questions to the presenters.



Surabaya, East Java, 22 November 2016

The next program was hosted by the Department of Business English of the University of Surabaya. They were eager to introduce Mr. Alfred Forno as a graduate from their department who achieved great success nationally and internationally. All participants listened attentively to his presentation which was followed by the main content of the seminar presented by Mrs. Ursula McLackland. The students determined to study English well so that they can also become global leaders of good character and bring benefit to their society and nation.