



ITS International Students Alumni **PASSION COMPETITION**

ITS International Students Alumni Passion Competition 2021: Alumni Story Competition

Title: How Studying in ITS is Beneficial for My Career

Essay:

In July 2015, I was offered a Kemitraan Negara Berkembang (KNB) Scholarship to undertake my master's program in Informatics, Faculty of Information and Communication Technology at ITS Surabaya, Indonesia. I landed in Jakarta in September 2015 and was warmly welcomed by staff from ITS International Office, who took me and my colleagues to the Campus the following day. As part of the program, I had to take the Indonesian language course for one year which was indeed required for me to succeed in my studies as well as engaging myself in various local community activities. I was given the opportunity to experience Indonesian culture as well as having trips to various well-known places while taking the Indonesian Language training. I enjoyed my Bali trip, among other places. Thank you to the International Student Buddy Program which is always there for new international students.

Thereafter, I joined the Department of Informatics to start my courses and research. I liked the way the program was structured where each subject is research-based, giving students the opportunity to explore more, become creative, and enhance critical thinking. At that time I had no relevant experience in conducting academic research and publishing scientific work which required me to work very hard to grasp these skills. My research ability improved day by day through taking various courses, collaborating with my classmates and labmates as well as doing intensive readings of scientific work (journal articles, conference papers, and books) in my discipline. Having these skills was not enough as I had to also improve my writing skills which were required for publishing my work. Regular seminars organized by the Department were also knowledgeable and helpful. Special thanks to my professors from the Department of Informatics who taught me various courses and helped me to relate my courses to the career path I needed. They have contributed a lot to my learning development by giving me new ideas, insightful comments on my work, a friendly collaboration atmosphere, rigorous feedback as well as supporting my attendance at various meetings, and demanding a high quality of work in all my endeavors. I got the opportunity to conduct and publish my research in various international conferences and journals under the guidance of my academic supervisor .

Overall, my master's program has equipped me with knowledge and practical skills needed for my workplace as well as contributing to the economic development of my country in addition to relevant research experience which really shaped my career path. I acquired various soft skills including strong presentation, communication, critical thinking , problem-solving, and teamwork. At ITS we learned to become leaders and

problem-solvers in our discipline other than being problem creators. Being self-confident is another skill that I got throughout my studies.

I graduated in March 2018 with a good GPA (Cum Laude) and definitely I had to come back home to apply what I have learned and give a contribution to my country. I arrived the same month and had to wait for some time to get a job. A few months later, I started working as a full-time assistant lecturer in the Department of Information communication at one of the institutes of higher learning in my country and as a part-time consultant at one of the private companies focusing on cyber threat intelligence, IT systems integration, IT equipment supply and IT governance. I got the opportunity to use the acquired skills to train the young generation on the role of Information Technology to create good platforms for people to succeed.

After working for one year and a half, I started investing in my company which was initiated in 2014 before moving to Indonesia. The company focuses on IT consultancy with the main business activities including delivering computer training courses, computer consultancy and computer facilities management activities, computer programming activities, information technology, and computer service activities, photocopying, document preparation, and other specialized office support activities, and retail sale of computers, peripherals units, telecommunications equipment in a specialized store. My company's business was progressing well before Covid-19. However, we started facing financial issues due to the current Covid-19 global pandemic. Most of our customers have closed their businesses, we only have customers but expecting the situation to turn to normal in the next upcoming months.

Being a holder of a master's degree from a well-reputed institute gave me hope that many doors will be open for me in the future. Having this in mind, working and running my own business was not only my plan. I also had a dream to undertake a PhD program to gain more expertise and leadership skills in my discipline. Thus, I was making some applications for a doctoral program at various universities around the world and also hoping to come back to Indonesia anytime I may be given the opportunity. Many of my applications were not successful but I did not give up, I kept applying. Surprisingly, one of my applications was successful in the mid of May 2020, and was finally offered a scholarship to undertake my PhD program in Cybersecurity.

Undertaking my master's program at ITS has been a period of intense learning not only in the scientific arena, but also on a personal level and international cooperation. Besides, working on my final year project (thesis) has had a significant impact on my career development. Hence, Special thanks to the Indonesian Government for offering me a scholarship. Additionally, I would be remiss if I do not thank the ITS International Office staff, who deserve credit for providing much-needed assistance with administrative and immigration issues, which kept my work running smoothly.

My advice to anyone willing to advance his/her educational background in Indonesia especially at ITS: Take time to learn the Indonesian Language as It is very important for your success and local community activity engagement. Time management is very important and will help you a lot. Determine your career path beforehand and work day by day towards your goals. Collaborating with your classmates is another important aspect that should not be ignored as you get the opportunity to solve different problems together. Last but not least, I would recommend international students willing

to study abroad to undertake their studies at ITS as they will experience a vibrant learning and creative environment which will help them shape their career paths.

Bibliography:

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