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Batch 2020
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Discovering IISMA is something that **I will forever be grateful about**. As an IUP student it was never my intention to look for an external program. Growing up as the youngest daughter of the household made me realize that I have never repay my parents for raising me up until now. IISMA quickly turned into **the starting point** of the long journey I will do for the rest of my life.

With huge motivation, I began to catch up on my friends who have been preparing for IISMA before me. In less than a month I worked on my application starting from the IELTS test in which I studied in just a span of 2 weeks before the test. The result turned out to be better than I expected, however it still is a shame that due to **my lack of preparation I can't reach my maximum potential**. By gaining help from previous awardee as my mentor, countless revision, & sleepless nights I successfully constructed an essay that then became the most powerful tool that made IISMA possible for me.

When the announcement was released, I couldn't believe my eyes as **I was quite pessimistic after comparing myself to other applicants**. With this onwards, proceed the desire to seek for future opportunities in South Korea. In my perspective, IISMA is the right platform for me to explore myself, boost my skills, knowledge as well as cherish valuable moments & implement the outcomes in this unforeseen odyssey.



Nothing could describe my excitement towards the day of the departure. Researching daily on activities, student clubs, community, entertainment, & culture available in South Korea. Well, I might say that the excitement doesn't linger too long as it developed into **a hectic procedure** on applying for visa, getting a medical check up, stressing over courses that were failed to be applied for due to the FRS war, & other obstacles that came alongside it.

Moving along 50 awardees, the highest number of IISMA awardees in a host university has its own ups and downs. While others are able to use agent for visa, a large number of people doesn't seem to be a positive matter. I ended up doing the process on my own, spending almost 10 days in Jakarta to get my files done, applied, & getting approval, **it was much more tiring than predicted**.

During these days, even though it was tough it was unforgettable as it was my first time being responsible for myself. **I learned how to be independent**, the technicalities if one wants to go abroad, strict rules one must obey, & becoming witty in every situation in order to get an efficient and effective outcome.

Walking with 49 Beautiful Souls

The first 2 weeks, a roller coaster ride of emotion, overwhelming with social anxiety thinking I will be a loner because I wasn't able to make friends, ironic because I identify as an extrovert. The challenges didn't stop there, as an engineering student a discussion based learning wasn't an option. I was confident with my public speaking, however being surrounded by people who major in international studies, law, & won several debate competitions wasn't an ideal condition. **I realized how far below I was in terms of ability & knowledge**, especially because I took contradictory courses from my major that required me to pick up faster in class & adjust to unfamiliar circumstances.

Breaking through my shell, I approached fellow awardees & international friends starting from being active in class, joining student communities, & interacting closely with my lecturers allowed me to **grow into a person with a whole new persona** in a short amount of time. After finding my own pace I was able to disclose my field of interest, what I enjoy, exploring cultures, exchanging perspectives & increasing insights on social issues that I never thought I would favor.

With the help of 49 beautiful souls that became my pillars in a foreign country, **day by day it gets easier & more pleasant to live on**. Interacting with locals, as simple as ahjussi/ahjumma I met during lunch, or bartender unnie/oppa I encountered at a cafe while I was doing my task, everything creates an eventful remembrance.

Unlock, Take a Step, Set Free

Wrapping up IISMA encourages me to unlock my potential in a medium far from my current major. Attaining business & management intelligence helped me ensure what I want to do next. Switching my career from engineering to marketing or sales is a goal I must accomplish. Experiences from student organization, challenging business competition, & taking a risk to put my shoes on the odyssey.

IISMA is my stepping stone on applying for related internships, as of now I focus on settling out my plans for my career path. Living in a digital era made me recognize the power of digital marketing. Pursuing this pathway advanced my creativity on innovation to boost the development of Indonesia. My hope of being able to contribute to promote Indonesia further in the future driven my ambition to be an expert in this lane of work.

Setting free my ability & capability, **I wish to collaborate with young Indonesian to create an unbeatable new generation**. It is time for us to change the title of "developing country" into "developed country". What we need is not validation from other countries, it is acknowledgment that **Indonesia has tons to offer to the world**.

