

Feedback for the NICMCR (the Consortium) trip to Indonesia in June 2023

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Participating in the program provided me with valuable insights into several topics including but not limited to the ones discussed in conferences. It allowed me to connect with people from the Consortium and other institutions, including the Dutch Embassy, Duta Wacana Christian University, UIN Sunan Kalijaga, Kerk in Actie, AGPAII, Interfidei and others. I am delighted to have had the opportunity to have contact with numerous institutions and individuals in such a brief period of time. The program inspired me to become more involved in the themes it presented, particularly the idea of bilateral relations based on religious cooperation.

Moreover, my experience in Indonesia brought me closer to the country's challenges, its relationship with the Netherlands, and the diverse opportunities it presents. With its vast land and population, Indonesia has both potential and complexities. While it is more common to hear about the problems of the country, this trip showed me its potential to contribute solving complex modern problems beyond countries national problems. I have visited Indonesia for vacation purposes before. However, this trip opened my eyes to the fact that the country has much more to offer than just tourism. It has a rich cultural heritage, a diverse population, and a unique set of opportunities and issues that I am eager to explore further and engage with.

I found Consortium's theme-based approach realistic and beneficial in today's highly globalized world. People in the modern era are interconnected in numerous ways, and finding solutions to complex problems requires careful consideration from all sides. In certain cases, such as environmental issues, cooperation needs to go beyond mere interdependency. I think the Consortium contributes to this cause. The bilateral nature of the Consortium presents a realistic framework that acknowledges the importance of religious aspects that is cherished by many people in both countries. I found this approach inspiring, as it combines practicality with a focus on meaningful values.

The organization of the Consortium provides opportunities to engage in interreligious dialogue and address environmental issues, both of which I am eager to engage with. Interreligious dialogue aligns well with my academic studies, making it possible for me to contribute to publications or other related programs within the consortium. Additionally, although environmental issues are not my primary academic focus, I still engage with the subject whenever possible, both academically and outside of academia.

As a student, I believe the Consortium could benefit from creating a dedicated platform for student engagement. Allowing and supporting student organization would foster greater involvement from the younger generation. By having a student organ, students could initiate and develop their own projects and initiatives, both on a student level and beyond. This would create a more inclusive and vibrant environment within the Consortium, allowing students to actively contribute to its goals and mission.

Overall, the program has been rewarding, inspiring me with its focus on religious and international cooperation, connecting me with diverse institutions and people. I am eager to engage in interreligious dialogue and address environmental issues within the Consortium's projects. My visit to Indonesia revealed its rich potential to me. I am excited to contribute to the Consortium's initiatives and explore more of Indonesia and learn from it. Seeing the effort to include young people was particularly commendable and worth appreciating.