

ISM 2026

TRAVEL JOURNAL

SURABAYA INDONESIA

International Staff Mobility Program
October 5 - October 9, 2026
at Institut Teknologi Sepuluh
Nopember (ITS)
Surabaya, Indonesia

BY : MiSS NARUEMOL KANPO

International Staff Mobility Program 2026

at Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS)

INSTITUT TEKNOLOGI SEPULUH NOPEMBER (ITS)

Day 1 : Warm Welcome and First Impressions

I was warmly welcomed by the staff of the ITS Global Engagement Office, who clearly gave guidance and support to all participants. They took us on a campus tour, and the opening ceremony included a cultural exchange among participants from many countries.





Day 2 : Exploring Indonesian Language and Batik Art

We started at the Global Language Center (Unit Pusat Bahasa Global), where we learned Bahasa Indonesia. I learned basic greetings and many everyday expressions, such as “Nama saya Lek” (My name is Lek) and “Saya dari Thailand” (I am from Thailand). We practiced short conversations in teams with our international friends and took part in traditional activities, such as making Indonesian toys and dancing. This brought us closer to our local counterparts and helped us understand Indonesian culture better.

In the afternoon, we visited a local batik shop, where I learned about traditional Indonesian art and craftsmanship. The patterns on the cloth tell stories of nature, community, and identity. This reminded me that creativity and culture cannot be separated.











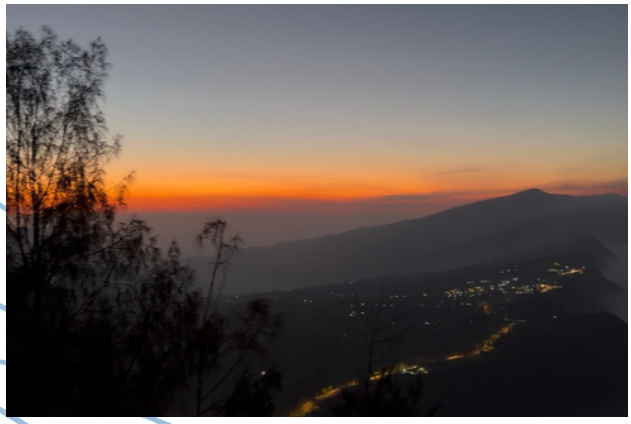
Day 3 : Strategic Insights and Global Collaboration

Today was a day of exchanging knowledge about the work of units within Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS).

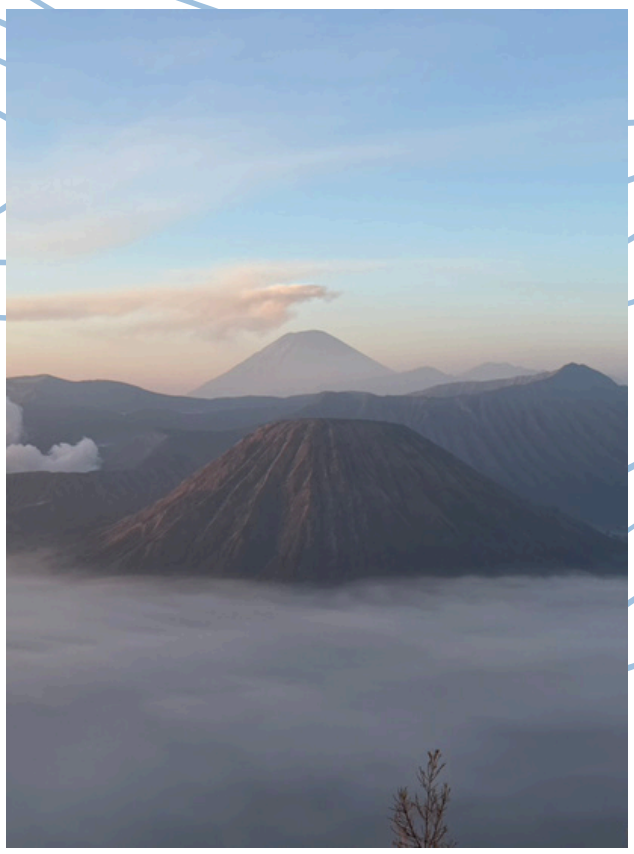
In the morning, I visited the Directorate of Planning & Strategic Office, which is responsible for ITS's strategic planning and administration. The unit focuses on general administration, strategic planning for the university, and office work. Besides the staff explaining how the university operates, participants also shared their own perspectives on their work, which was both valuable and enjoyable.

In the afternoon, I visited the Directorate of Academic Development & Learning Innovations / Directorate of Education. This unit is similar to SUT's CIA (international affairs office). It handles partnerships, admits international students, and manages programs for them. The staff clearly explained their work processes and how they support students. We also discussed how to establish MOUs. This was a new experience for me, and it will be very useful for supporting international students in the future.

BROMO TRIP



The trip to Mount Bromo was one of the most memorable parts of the program. We left the hotel at about 11:00 p.m. and reached the Bromo area at dawn. There, we switched to jeeps, a classic and distinctive vehicle for getting up the mountain. Before we started hiking, our guide prepared hot chocolate and fried bananas for breakfast, which were delicious and helped us warm up.





The highlight of the visit was watching the sunrise, so we began climbing before 6:00 a.m. Standing at the viewpoint and watching the first light of the day spread across the volcanic landscape was a wonderful experience. The golden and red light over the crater was so beautiful it took my breath away. Even though we were sleep-deprived and it was bitterly cold, everyone agreed the effort was absolutely worth it. For this trip, I also brought Thai inhalers to share with my friends to ease their fatigue during the journey, and everyone was very happy.



Day 5 : Sharing SUT Spirit and Cultural Pride

On this day, our SUT delegation ran a booth to introduce our programs to international faculty and students. To make the booth lively and attractive,
I wore a Thai traditional dress and prepared small souvenirs from SUT to give to visitors, which drew a lot of interest.
From the booth, we found that quite a few students were interested in coming to study in Thailand, especially for short-term programs, camps, and sightseeing, because they love Thailand and its culture. Some greeted us in Thai or recited lines from Thai dramas, which was adorable.



Reflections and Future Directions

Beyond the knowledge gained from the exchange, I also gained friendships with international friends and learned about many different cultures. I enjoyed every day. The program gave me meaningful professional and cultural experiences, which broadened my perspective and sparked new ideas for my work.
I would also like to sincerely thank the ITS Global Engagement Office and all ITS staff for their warm welcome, excellent support, and smooth coordination throughout the program.

