



ISM2025

TRAVEL

JOURNAL

International Staff Mobility Program
September 28 – October 4, 2025
at Institut Teknologi Sepuluh
Nopember (ITS)
Surabaya, Indonesia

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explore



My Journey in the International Staff Mobility 2025 (ISM2025) Program at ITS, Surabaya, Indonesia, on September 28 – October 4, 2025

When I first received the opportunity to join the International Staff Mobility 2025 Program at Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS), Surabaya, I knew it would be more than a professional visit, it would be a journey of learning, connection, and personal growth. Representing Suranaree University of Technology (SUT) and the Institute of Agricultural Technology, I was eager to exchange ideas on information systems management and explore new ways to strengthen academic and administrative collaboration between our institutions.

Since there is no direct flight from Thailand to Surabaya, I chose to travel via Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on September 28, making a brief transit before continuing my journey to Indonesia. It was my first time visiting Surabaya, and I was immediately impressed by the city's atmosphere. Upon arrival, I was warmly welcomed by the staff from ITS Global Engagement Office, who provided clear guidance and assistance for all participants. Their hospitality helped ease the fatigue from travel and made me feel confident and comfortable from the very first day.



Day 1 – 29 September 2025: Warm Welcome and First Impressions

The morning began with an ice-breaking session, where laughter filled the room as we played games and introduced ourselves. Participants from various countries shared their backgrounds, creating an atmosphere of openness and curiosity. In the afternoon, the Opening Ceremony was presided over by Dr. Imam Baihaqi, Vice Rector for Human Resources, Organization, and Information System Technology. The orientation session provided an overview of the ISM2025 Program: its goals, expectations, and cultural highlights, including a briefing about the upcoming Bromo trip. I was very excited because Bromo is the one place in my bucket list.



After finish of the open ceremony, we had walking tour around ITS that followed revealed the magnitude of ITS’s infrastructure and innovation. We had ITS students who volunteered to be our guides. The modern facilities, research centers, and sustainability initiatives reflected a strong commitment to academic excellence and technology-driven progress. Walking through the campus, I felt inspired by the harmony between traditional Indonesian hospitality and forward-thinking innovation.



Day 2 – 30 September 2025: Cultural Language and the Soul of Surabaya

Selamat Pagi! The morning began at Unit Pusat Bahasa Global, where we were introduced to Bahasa Indonesia. I have learned many basic greetings and everyday expressions such as *"Nama saya Toon"* (My name is Toon). *"Saya dari Thailand"* (I come from Thailand). And a few verbs such as *"makan"* (eat), *"minum"* (drink). It was not only linguistic training but also a bridge to connect with local colleagues and understand Indonesian culture more deeply.

After the session, the ITS and Unit Pusat Bahasa Global team welcomed us with traditional Indonesian desserts and herbal drinks. I tried tamarind and ginger for the first time, both refreshing and slightly tangy. The staff said it helps with digestion. They also served fruit with sweet chili paste. It is delightfully familiar, just like Nam Pla Wan in Thailand. I love this menu very much. It is very delicious! That moment, enjoying local flavors while chatting with new friends, felt like the perfect blend of learning and cultural exchange.



In the afternoon, we explored Surabaya's Heroes Monument, a landmark that symbolizes courage and resilience. It is the main symbol of the city, dedicated to the people who died during the Battle of Surabaya. We also went to the museum which is located underground of the monument. There is an exhibition about the historical event

and its significance to Indonesia's independence. Standing there, I could feel the city's spirit of independence. Later, we visited a local Batik shop, where I learned about Indonesia's traditional art form and craftsmanship. The patterns told stories of nature, community, and identity. It reminds me how creativity and culture are inseparable.

I really liked the T-shirt we wore today. ITS provided to all participants. It carried the phrase "Think Globally, Act Locally" a message that reflects the purpose of the International Staff Mobility Program itself. It reminded me that while our work and learning should embrace a global perspective, the real impact begins within our local communities. The slogan perfectly captures the balance between gaining international knowledge and applying it in meaningful, practical ways back at our home institutions.



Day 3 – 1 October 2025: Professional Exploration and Digital Transformation

This was the most significant day for my professional learning. In the morning, I visited Directorate of Technology Development & Information Systems (DPTSI), the IT Department of ITS. DPTSI is like a combining of SUT’s Computer Center and SUT’s MIS. Since I was the only participant working specifically in the field of information systems, I had the special opportunity to visit DPTSI privately, it was a truly VIP experience.

DPTSI provide and manage Information Technology services in the ITS environment. There are four sub directorates: Infrastructure and Information Technology Security, Applications and Digital Platforms, Technology Services and Information Systems and Smart Technology Implementation, and Management of Big Data Technology.

I was impressed to learn that ITS manages over a thousand digital applications to support its academic, research, and administrative missions. Their Digital Platform Innovation Unit particularly inspired me a lot. Its integrated approach to analytics and service design resonated with my ongoing projects at SUT, such as data dashboards and conference management systems.

My visit to DPTSI was a truly valuable learning experience. I gained new perspectives. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Feby Artwodini, Head of the Sub-directorate of IT and Information System Services and Smart Technology Implementation, for the warm welcome and for generously sharing and experiences that have greatly enriched my professional understanding.



In the afternoon, we visited the Bureau of general Affairs, Security and safety, occupational health and environment or BUK4L. BUK4L's staff welcome us with dancing to boost our energy in the afternoon. They are very cute and nice to us. The warm welcome we received was unforgettable. BUK4L oversees official script management, improving the quality of public services, developing direction for digital archive management, and work safety. Observing their digital knowledge management systems sparked several ideas I could adapt for IAT's data archiving and institutional memory.



Day 4 – 2 October 2025: The Spirit of Adventure at Bromo Mountain

The trip to Mount Bromo was one of the most memorable parts of the program. We left the hotel around 11:00 p.m. and reached the Bromo area at dawn. Upon arrival, we switched to Jeep cars, the classic and iconic mode of transport for visiting the mountain. Before starting the hike, we stopped to enjoy hot coffee, cocoa, and fried bananas, a simple but comforting breakfast that helped energize us for the cold morning ahead. Since the highlight of the visit was watching the sunrise, we began our climb before 6:00 a.m. Standing on the viewpoint and watching the first light spread across the volcanic landscape was an extraordinary experience. The view of golden and red hues over the crater was breathtaking. Despite the lack of sleep and the cold temperature, everyone agreed that the effort was completely worthwhile.

The trip represented more than sightseeing; it reflected the idea that growth often begins outside one's comfort zone. Sharing the journey with fellow participants, taking photos, exchanging stories, and enjoying the fresh mountain air, reminded me how easily friendships can form through shared experiences across cultures.



Day 5 – 3 October 2025: Sharing, Networking, and Farewell

The final day was dedicated to the University Promotion Booth, where we showcased our home institutions. ITS prepared the event 'Let's Study Abroad' for us to promote and present our university and our curriculum. The attendances of the event not only ITS students but also staff of International Office from other universities in Indonesia. I proudly presented SUT and Institute of Agricultural Technology, innovative systems, and collaborative spirit. Many ITS students and Staff showed interest in future exchange opportunities and joint research.

To make the experience more engaging, I wore Thai dress and prepared small souvenirs from SUT and brought Ya Dom, a Thai herbal inhaler that quickly became very popular among visitors. It drew a lot of attention and even ran out before the event ended, leaving a lighthearted impression of Thai culture at the booth.



The Closing Ceremony was both joyful and emotional. Certificates were handed out, speeches were made, and promises of future collaboration echoed through the hall. As the event concluded, I realized that what I had gained extended far beyond professional knowledge—it was a new perspective on global cooperation, digital innovation, and cultural understanding.



Reflections and Future Directions

Participating in ISM2025 at ITS has profoundly influenced my approach to my work. I returned to Thailand with new perspectives on digital governance and knowledge management, along with practical ideas gained from visiting DPTSI and BUK4L. These experiences encouraged me to improve system development and data management within my organization. After returning to SUT, I began applying the concepts learned from ITS by developing and refining internal systems such as the Conference Management System, the IAT Data Dashboard, and the Document Tracking and Archive Management tools. These projects aim to enhance data accessibility, transparency, and information flow across departments. The program not only strengthened my technical skills but also motivated me to foster collaboration within my team and promote a culture of innovation and continuous improvement across IAT and SUT.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Center for International Affairs (CIA), Suranaree University of Technology, for giving me this valuable opportunity to participate in the International Staff Mobility 2025 Program at Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS), Surabaya, Indonesia. This program has provided me with meaningful professional and cultural experiences that have broadened my perspectives and inspired new ideas for my work. I am also deeply thankful to the ITS Global Engagement Office and all ITS staff for their warm welcome, kind support, and excellent coordination throughout the program.