

Great Experience in Hannover

Since early 2014, I work at Indonesian Geospatial Information Agency (or in Indonesian, it can be shortened to BIG/ *Badan Informasi Geospasial*). My background as Geodetic Engineering bachelor means that I work in the field that I am interested in. I chose researcher as my position, because it can accommodate my writing hobby, and becomes it is the right choice to learn more about what I've studied in college.

The first three years, I was placed in the Center of Topographic Mapping and Toponym, before being transferred to a Research Division in early 2017. The main duty of Center of Topographic Mapping and Toponym is to create Indonesia Topographic Maps, which is one component of Basic Geospatial Information which became the main work of BIG. In this division, I was directly involved in topographic map production at the scale of 1:25,000 and 1:50,000 whose primary data is SAR and optical satellite image. While learning directly how to produce topographic maps, I also took the time to do the research about various problems that exist in my job and write it up in some papers to published at national conferences or in journals.

Learning many topics in the Center of Topographic Map and Toponym enables me to write many papers about the related fields, such as remote sensing, Geographic Information System (GIS), or cartography. In the last three years, I have dozens of times written and made presentations at national and international conferences in Indonesia, but actually International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) has been my dream since I first joined BIG. It is because the scope of ISPRS focuses on photogrammetry and remote sensing which is very relevant to what I've been doing in the last three years. Being able to write and attend ISPRS meetings certainly became very good value for a geospatial researcher like me.

For the past three years, I have tried to learn many things from the best practitioners, academics, and researcher in Indonesia. Working in an agency that is the only base map organizer in Indonesia makes me has given me a chance to meet the best geospatial experts in my country. While at the conference, I can see the research on a national scale, both from universities and other research institutions in Indonesia. But I think it is not enough. I need a comparison to see other perspectives in reviewing mapping issues in Indonesia. Moreover, I also need to learn from countries that were better able to organize mapping than in my country. This certainly can me a *better* perception on the various mapping problems in Indonesia, especially in BIG. For that reason, being able to write and attend ISPRS events has been my dream for a long time, besides of course I also have a dream to continue my study in a country that can be an example in organizing geospatial information.

And finally, the dream was realized in 2017, when I received the travel grant from The ISPRS Foundation to attend ISPRS Workshop in Hannover, Germany. This is a great experience which enabled me to learn many new topics on what I have described above. This event also opened new perspectives, because the trends about what is done by researchers abroad is not always same as what is done by researchers in my country, so even though I have attended many conferences in Indonesia, ISPRS has provided new information to me. Moreover, this event is an international event, of course, the papers in it are world-class that can be a role model for researchers in Indonesia, including me.



Thank you ISPRS has given this great opportunity to me. Hopefully, at the next opportunity it can also provide other young geospatial researchers in Indonesia with travel grants.

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