

Sabah Minor Global Health Program 2024

Collaboration with Erasmus University & UiTM

From October 14 to October 20, 2024, the Internationalisation Unit of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) collaborated with the Medical Faculty of Erasmus University and Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) on the Minor Global Health Program. A total of seven third-year medical students from Erasmus University participated in the Rural Health Section of the program in Kudat for one week.

The success of this initiative can be attributed to the coordination of Dr. Cindy Chin, Head of the Sabah Minor Global Health Program, as well as Dr. Hazwani Hanum and AP Dr Mohd Nazri, for Rural Health Section. Additionally, significant contributions were also made by Dr. Eric Tan and Dr. Juliana from the Kudat District Health Office, as well as the teams at Klinik Kesihatan Matunggong and Klinik Kesihatan Narandang. The students gained firsthand experience of the operations within rural health clinics and were exposed to a wide variety of cases addressed in both clinical settings and home visits. They also learned about the challenges faced by these clinics, which are often under-equipped to manage certain high-risk cases compared to urban facilities. Furthermore, the home visits and patient interviews provided insight into the transport and accessibility issues encountered by residents in the region.

Prior to returning to Kuala Lumpur for the final two weeks of the program at UiTM, the Internationalisation Unit, under the guidance of Dr. Elsonmond Vick, Coordinator of the Internationalisation Unit, organized opportunities for the students to explore the cultural and natural beauty of Sabah, including visits to the Tips of Borneo, Tanjung Aru Beach, Mari-mari Cultural Village, Floating Mosque and Yayasan Sabah.

The Erasmus University students expressed their sincere gratitude to the Internationalisation Unit Team for the meticulous arrangements made for transportation (coordinated by Dr. Azman), meals at RMEC (facilitated by Dr. Faizal), and clinic and home visits (supported by the teams from Klinik Matunggong and Klinik Narandang).

In conclusion, the Internationalisation Unit would like to extend its deepest appreciation for the ongoing support from the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Datuk Dr. Muhd Yusof Hj Ibrahim, and the Advisor of the Sabah Minor Global Health Program, AP Dr. Fairrul bin Masnah @ Kadir. Moving forward, we hope to see an increase in collaborations with international medical institutions interested in partnering with the Internationalisation Unit of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at UMS to enhance the Minor Global Health Program.



Introduction to Faculty of Medicine & Health Science and all the 7 student associations (MEDSTAS, AMSA, PMED, DA VINCI, OSHC & NUSA)



Lecture by Dr Eric Tan (from Kudat District Health Office) at RMEC



Visit to one of the PUPUK family



Vist to Klinik Kesihatan Matunggong



Interview with one of the patients with the help of Dr Mukmin, Senior Medical Officer at Klinik Kesihatan Matunggong



Students are given the opportunity to look at a smear positive Pulmonary Tuberculosis sputum sample under microscope at Klinik Kesihatan Matunggong



Visit to Klinik Kesihatan Narandang



Interview conducted with the patient in one of the home visit



Home visit to one of the patients who is still living in the rare Rungus Long House



Vehicle use to conduct the home visits in Klinik Kesehatan Narandang. Students enjoy the adventurous uphill and downhill experience.



Welcoming ceremony by the friendly and warm communities of Kampung Narandang and Kampung Kebanggaan



Home Visit to the Kampung Sumangkap, Village of Gongmakers with Klinik Kesihatan Matunggong Team.



Sightseeing at Tips of Borneo





Sightseeing at Tanjung Aru Beach



At Floating Mosque



At Yayasan Sabah



At Mari-Mari Cultural Village



Students participating in the cultural dance at Mari-Mari Cultural village.

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