

## **Essay RISTEK Sisters in Tech**

My name is Fitria Zusni Farida. I was born in Nganjuk on December 6th, 2002. I have been living in this small district for more than 19 years. Currently I am a university student in Southern University of Science and Technology, China. In my opinion, education is the biggest privilege for everyone, especially for me knowing that my parents didn't go to college in the past and also I live in a countryside which has a low understanding of education especially for women. Thus, throughout my education I would like to achieve the career I dream of and improve my quality of life, my parents, and people around me.

The reason why I participate in "RISTEK Sisters in Tech" is because this mentorship is the embodiment of education to invest myself toward my future career. My future plan is to seek an internship after 3-5 semesters of university and/or after graduation. Moreover, I have a dream to get a software engineering job in an Indonesian and overseas company. However, I am not familiar enough with the admission process and how to be a qualified candidate. Thus, joining this program early is the best way to prepare for the admission. Apart from internship and job mentorship, I also want to get knowledge related to computer science, such as what project I should work on, what program I can participate in, and what company provides job and internship opportunities to which I can apply. Moreover, it will be fun and useful to have mates and mentors to talk and discuss with.

There are several challenges I am dealing with while being a computer science student or seeking a job in tech fields. First of all, challenges from my own self. Seeking a career in tech fields is sometimes overwhelming, especially as a woman knowing that women/girls are a minority (For example in my programming class only 10-25% of female students). I often feel that I am left behind and I need to catch up. It also makes me feel anxious and afraid that I won't get accepted to any job opportunities because I am less qualified compared with others. Secondly, I do not have many connections in this field since I

have not much experience yet. This also happens in my university life as my class still goes online because of COVID-19 pandemic. I have always wanted to participate in computer science related programs but I don't know how to participate.

I am certain enough that this program will bring benefits for me. I never learnt HTML, CSS, and Javascript before, but through the technical task given I learnt it just now. If not because of this program I would not learn those skills and I did it in less than a day by watching tutorial videos on YouTube. Therefore, after participating in this mentorship program, I will study smarter in the classes, apply for internships and job admission.