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My name is Nurul Amelia Shafira but most people call me Amel. I am a typical young Indonesian women. I was born in Bandung but grew up in Bogor. My dad owns a small mechanic workshop and my mom is a civil servant. I am the second of four kids. Currently, I am a third semester student studying fisheries at University of Padjadjaran for which I am receiving through the test track (also known as SBMPTN). When I first entered Unpad, I chose to study fisheries as my concentration because I knew there would be potential to help improve Indonesia through its fishery systems. Additionally, I want to have a college experience that teaches me independence and how to adapt to new environments.

I have always dreamed of doing a study abroad. I take the time to appreciate and enjoy life. One thing I realized by reaching for my dream of study abroad, I have to bring out the optimistic and hard working person inside of me. I want to study abroad because I have always wondered what the world is like out there. I want to see how the world, outside of Indonesia, is like and grow as a person from my experience. So, When I heard my college started the exchange program for students, I was so excited that I hurried to the information office to get more details about the program. My biggest motivation for doing this exchange program is to make Indonesia a better country by learning from other countries. For this exchange program to Japan, I wanted to learn about how Japanese successfully push for people to buy local products, how the relations between Japanese and Indonesia work, the importance of being eco-friendly and for personal growth as a woman

From researching about Japan, I learned that there is a push for Japanese people to buy and use local products. In Japan, by buying local products, Japanese people are able to push their country forward into the future. From this observation, I want to have Indonesians follow a similar path so that Indonesia as a country can move forward, creating a culture of creativity and improvement which can find unique solutions for future problems. From this knowledge, I want to inform the Indonesian people why it is important to buy and use local products so they can appreciate and love it.

Currently, there is a lot of investment from Japan into Indonesian corporations. Much of this investment has been positive for Indonesia as a country. By studying in Japanese, I want to learn how to improve growing relations between Japanese and Indonesian corporations and continue the positive impact that Japan has on the development with Indonesia. Also, by improving relations between Japan and Indonesia, it can allow Indonesians opportunities to work and study abroad in Japan and other countries so that Indonesian people can learn about other cultures and how to improve themselves in this modern, globalization-heavy world.

In my research, Japan is a country that is leading a push for being eco-friendly. I want to learn how Japanese can change their mindset to become eco-friendly so I can teach Indonesian people the importance and why they should care about the environment. From my research, I know Indonesia is a country where many companies participate in illegal fishing and there is little done about dumping trash in the surrounding environment which effects the ecosystem within the country. These are a couple examples on how there is a lot of pollution coming from human behavior. While in Japan, they have better management of land, its water sources and other natural surroundings so by experiencing how Japanese are able to implement that, I want to bring that information back to Indonesia so we can improve the system here. The new system could help decrease pollution and change people’s behavior for a better future.

Overall, through this exchange program, I want to become a better and confident person with the ability to adapt to a different country and get out of my comfort zone. Not only do I want to gain knowledge in fisheries and other topics in marine sciences, I, also, want to gain skills in order to help me practice speaking English and learn how to speak Japanese. With this exchange program, I want to be able to grow as a woman and understand and respect other cultures. With this exchange program to Japan, I will be able to understand their push for people to buy local products, to learn about Japanese-Indonesian relations, being eco-friendly, and to grow myself as a woman. I am a quick learner and by choosing me, I will do everything I can to represent Indonesia in the best way. I will make University of Padjadjaran proud and do my best to come back with the tools and skills needed to make Indonesia a better country.