

# Students Log Time in the *Real World*

Jakarta has its charms as a capital city, but for a young person working on a good high school education and with lots of ambition, the employment options are extremely limited. Those with exposure to a western orientation, where young people regardless of social class or status often start working at age 16 or even younger, are frustrated here by the lack of opportunities.

At JIS we are aware that our high-powered students want to learn about the world of work and to gain experience in the daily operations of a company. With that in mind, the High School counseling department inaugurated an internship program at the end of the 2006-2007 school year.

The counselors' goal for the internship was to pilot a program with about a dozen students, securing internships at three or four companies in Jakarta. As soon as the counselors began to disseminate information, it became clear that demand was far greater than the dozen or so students that we had envisioned doing internships. At that point, we enlisted the help of our Director of Communications, Beth Owen, who helped us to get more companies on board for the internship. By the time we were ready to meet with students and explain the program, we had over 30 students and 11 companies involved in the project.

(Over 90 students had signed up for the limited number of available positions.)

Students were chosen based on the timeliness of their application, and then given information about expectations of employees and what the internship entailed. We had a "meet and greet" session where representatives from the companies involved came to JIS to meet their interns and explain the duties that the students were to perform. There were also pre-internship meetings and a debriefing and reflection on the experience upon conclusion of the five-day program.

The first internships can only be described as rousing successes. We generally received glowing reports from the companies

about the enthusiasm, skill and maturity of our students. The interns had good things to say about the experience:

"Visiting offices and top-level executives was a highlight as it was always interesting to see how the offices functioned."

"The internship absolutely refreshed my idea of a law firm..... the experience itself motivated me to be a lawyer someday. And I hope that I can get another internship like this one."

"It was a very valuable experience because it broadened my view on service and I learned new skills."

"My internship exceeded my expectations, it was informative and a lot more interesting than I'd thought it would be..... It definitely opened my eyes to new career paths."

"The internship really exceeded my expectations as by the end of the experience I felt that I really understood the processes that are undertaken at the embassy by many different departments."

"It was valuable. The only bad thing is that five days is too little."

Of course, there were a few bored souls, but overall attitudes from both companies and students were overwhelmingly positive. We are hoping for increased participation by companies this year, which will allow us to place more students in the program. If your company is interested, please contact the counselors at the High School. It's a win-win situation for you and our students!

JIS would like to thank the following companies who took part in the 2007 internship program:

- Four Seasons Hotel
- U.S. Embassy
- Hadiputranto, Hadinoto, and Partners Law Office
- The Dharmawangsa Hotel
- Worldwide Movers/P.T. Gelombang Fajar
- Embassy of Australia
- P.T. Hana Aero Nusantara Agent/Hana Tour
- Center for International Forestry
- SOS International
- Nike Indonesia



*Some of last year's interns, with Kevin Callahan, high school counselor: (from left, rear) Anand Narayanan, Michelle Soeryadjaya, Waldo Hartanto, Joo Hyuk Kang (front) Trisha Winata, Brittni Delaney Paskah Zolkowski, Hannah Newell and Bo Min Park.*

- Cheryl Brown - cbrown@jisedu.or.id
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- HS Counselors