

Embassy of India
Jakarta



Press Release

**Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah, Jakarta
Participates in Sahabat India – The Festival of India**

The Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah (UIN) Jakarta, the largest Islamic University in Indonesia today joined hand with Embassy of India, Jakarta, in celebrating “Sahabat India-the Festival of India in Indonesia”. Before the start of the celebration a meeting took place between H.E. Mr. Gurjit Singh, Ambassador of India to Indonesia and Timor Leste and Prof. Dr. Dede Rosyada, Rector of UIN. Both sides discussed on possibilities of cooperation between UIN and Indian Universities about opening a Indian Chair in UIN; and exchange of faculty and students between Indian University and UIN. Later a MOU on cooperation was signed by H.E. Mr. Gurjit Singh, Ambassador of India and the Prof. Dr. Dede Rosyada, Rector to explore the possibility of cooperation in education and cultural fields.

2. Prof. Dr. Dede Rosyada in his speech welcomed the Ambassador and spoke about cooperation of UIN with the Indian universities. He informed that though a Islamic University, it is mandated to teach secular subjects and the university is having faculty in Economics, Management, Accounting, Social Sciences, Science and Technology, Information Technology, Mathematics, Medical Science and Public Health. He said that he would like to exchange teachers and students between India and Indonesia but for that UIN faculty will have to prepare courses suitable for International Students and there will be need to recognize educational degrees/certificates issued by UIN in India. In his brief speech, Mr. H. Benyamin Davnie, Vice Mayor of South Tangerang thanked Ambassador for inviting him to the function. He welcomed the Ambassador to the South Tangerang city and gave brief description of city’s economic development, progress and population growth.

3. While addressing the students of the students, H.E. Mr. Gurjit Singh, Ambassador, said that India and Indonesia are two young countries on whose productive energies the future of their respective countries and the world will depend.

Both countries have similarities in culture, pluralistic ethos, democratic institutions and developing economy. Both sides need to carry forward the historical relations and friendship with new vigour through younger generation. Ambassador also announced that Embassy will provide for 10 scholarships for short term training course and 5 for graduate and post-graduate level.

4. The main attraction was the day were the programs of “Sabahat India – the Festival of India in Indonesia” which were performed by the artists of Charkula Arts Akademi, Mathura (India). The troupe performed “Mayur Nritya” or ‘Peacock Dance’ which was based on the theme of platonic love between Lord Krishna and Radha. The artists danced with huge peacock feather fan on their back which appeared as if peacocks were dancing with their wings spread. The exquisite beauty of peacock feather spread symbolized tender feelings of love and affection that were shared between Lord Krishna and Radha. The analogy was not lost on the awe-struck audience.

5. The artists also performed “Phoolon Ki Holi” (‘Holi of flowers’). The ‘Holi’ is usually played with colours and water. This variant of ‘Holi’ uses flower petals instead of water and colour. The artists danced in rhythm on the live music and folk songs based on the life of Lord Krishna. The flower petals which were frequently used during the play added colour, liveliness and beauty to the act. The audience was thrilled by the colourful drama and came on the stage after the act to dance with the artists.

6. The teachers and students of Jawaharlal Nehru Indian Cultural Centre contributed with their performances. Mr. Ravi Dixit, Yoga instructor and his students demonstrated the various “asanas” of yoga. Acharya Pratishtha performed a classical Kathak Dance which kept the audience engaged. Guru Johar Ali and his students gave musical performance. They sang a Indonesian song which was much liked by the audience. The students of UIN also contributed to the function. They young girls performed traditional “Welcome Dance” in the beginning of the program with lot of grace and poise. There was another dance performance by the students of UIN in which they danced with great energy and style on Bollywood hit songs. Separate workshops were also organized on ‘Yoga’ by Mr. Ravi Dixit, Yoga Instructor and on educational opportunities available in India.

7. The students of UIN performed as scintillating dance on Bollywood numbers, which enthralled the audience. There was a film screening for the students, which was attended by student community. An exhibition on India-Indonesia relations; an Indian food stall and Mehndi art (Indian tattoo) were also organized.

8. The function was successful in starting new chapter of cooperation between the Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah and the Embassy of India, Jakarta. The

University's participation in the "Sahabat India – The Festival of India" complemented Embassy's efforts to reach out to the young people of Indonesia and engage them in today's context. Over 1500 students participated in day long activity.





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