

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

As the world progresses, universities continue to have a crucial impact on shaping individuals and have transformed into institutions that foster the creation of knowledge and development of skills. University students are anticipated to make a valuable contribution to society by applying the knowledge they acquire and cultivate during their studies. The university student, presumably belonging to the younger generation, is highly valued as a harbinger of the future. Consequently, the students are required to anticipate future events and strategize their response to present and forthcoming challenges.

In order to equip individuals with the necessary skills to meet societal expectations, it is essential to provide them with an introduction to the professional field. There are various methods available to train and familiarize students with the demands of professional work-life. One method is by participating in an internship program. The internship program is designed to provide students or recent graduates with the opportunity to gain practical work experience in the institutions that offer the program. The internship program will encompass the training process and provide guidance on job responsibilities and the overall work environment. The internship opportunity is available to students, fresh graduates, and the general public, with the specific requirements for the program being determined by the institution or company offering the internship. Subsequently, the process of selecting an applicant would follow, ultimately unveiling the chosen candidate to serve as an intern.

In order to be accepted as an intern, the applicant must meet the specific institution's or company's criteria and demonstrate their qualifications and capabilities. The student is required to engage in an internship program that corresponds to their field of study or major at the University. Consider, for instance, a student who is pursuing a major in International Relations. An example of an institution that aligns with the field of study is the Indonesian Consulate General, which is an international institution that establishes relationships with foreign countries and deals with international affairs. The Indonesian Consulate General frequently offers internship

opportunities to students. The Consulate General serves as the location where diplomats and their respective departments or functions are situated to facilitate the maintenance of bilateral relations between two countries. Each department has a distinct objective and operates on a global scale. Given the intern's extensive knowledge in their major field and theoretical understanding acquired over six semesters, they are eager to gain practical experience in the specific job performed by the Consulate General.

During the internship program, the intern expressed a keen interest in engaging in a discussion on the subject of economic affairs, specifically focusing on economic diplomacy. This topic holds significant importance in the field of international relations and warrants thorough examination. This analysis focuses on the bilateral relationship between Indonesia and Vietnam, which facilitates Indonesian business actors' entry into Vietnam. The comprehensive economic partnership and trade between the two countries also play a significant role in supporting the expansion of Indonesian business actors in the Vietnamese market.

A diplomat is responsible for representing Indonesia in the execution of diplomatic activities. Diplomatic activities are conducted with the aim of attaining national interests. Indonesia's economic interests lie in preserving national economic resilience. The Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia houses an economic function responsible for conducting various economic activities. The economic function has made multiple endeavors to implement economic diplomacy. Hence, the author embarked on an internship at the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Ho Chi Minh City to gain insights into the operational mechanisms, particularly pertaining to the economic area. In this report, the intern will discuss the actions taken by the Consulate General of Indonesia in Ho Chi Minh City to implement Indonesian economic diplomacy in 2023.

1.2 Objectives

1. Main Objectives

- a. To enhance knowledge, expertise, and professionalism in the realm of employment, one should refine the knowledge acquired from lectures on subjects such as communication, public speaking, teamwork, diplomacy, and negotiation, while also acquiring new skills.
- b. To gain knowledge and understanding of the responsibilities of the representatives of the Republic of Indonesia at the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in HCMC, as well as the execution of Indonesian diplomacy, particularly in the field of economic diplomacy.
- c. To increase the network with staff at the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in HCMC
- d. To gain deeper knowledge about diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Vietnam
- e. To witness directly people-to-people, business-to-business, and government-to-government interactions
- f. To enhance the relationship between the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Ho Chi Minh City and the Muhammadiyah University of Yogyakarta, as well as its International Relations Study Program.

2. Special Objectives

- a. In order to equip the author with the necessary skills and knowledge to enter the professional world, in alignment with the vision, objectives, and goals of the Department of International Relations at Yogyakarta Muhammadiyah University.
- b. The purpose is to conduct research on the execution of economic diplomacy for the purpose of producing a final internship report.

1.3 Internship Benefits

1. For Student

An internship offers the advantage of gaining practical work experience that is not typically available on campus, allowing you to apply the methods and lessons learned during college. In addition, internships can enhance skills by

providing opportunities to acquire domain-specific knowledge or new insights into the professional realm. Moreover, one can establish connections in the professional sphere and acquaint oneself with individuals who possess expertise in their respective domains, thereby utilizing these relationships as valuable assets. Engaging in an internship fosters the development of self-confidence through the cultivation of interpersonal communication skills, a quality that inherently relies on a strong sense of self-assurance.

2. For Institution

This internship activity offers advantages to the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Ho Chi Minh City by providing interns with the opportunity to contribute novel ideas, enabling the agency to generate innovative solutions. In addition, the agency has the opportunity to enhance its reputation as interns who are impressed with their internship experience are likely to share their positive impressions with their acquaintances, family members, and educators. Consequently, the agency's positive image can be disseminated through oral communication. In addition, agencies can enhance productivity by utilizing interns as assistants to accomplish minor tasks. Moreover, it can strengthen its affiliation with the International Relations Program at Muhammadiyah University of Yogyakarta.

3. For Home University

Universities benefit from holding internships by fostering strong collaboration between universities and internship partners. In addition, it serves as a platform for internship partners to gain insight into the capabilities of universities and study programs. Furthermore, it is important to ensure that the knowledge gained from lectures in class is directly applicable to the specific requirements of the internship partner. Therefore, this can contribute to enhancing cooperation among academic programs and universities with internship affiliates.