

Statement of Purpose

I'm Bunga Manggiasih, 26, a journalist. In 2007 I graduated with honors from Communication Department, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Gadjah Mada University with a 3.48/4.00 GPA, and granted a Bachelor of Politics degree.

Indonesia has passed 12 years since the reformation, when the corrupt regime was brought down. There are improvements, but enough is never enough. The corruption perceptions index launched by Transparency International shows Indonesia only went up in decimals, from 2.0 (out of 10) in 1998 to 2.8 in 2010. I believe it is every Indonesian's obligation to fix the country. I want to do what I can to serve the purpose.

I decided to work as a journalist in Tempo Media Group, a group with a strong anti-graft spirit. For a year I was stationed at the law desk of national compartment, giving me the chance to take a closer look into the sad state of corruption.

Last May, I was one of six young journalists chosen to cover and participate in the Global Youth Anti-Corruption Forum in Brussels. Later on November I flew to Bangkok, being one of eight journalists from Asia selected to cover the 14th International Anticorruption Conference.

I was delighted to know that compared to other developing countries, Indonesia performed better in the fight against corruption. Beside the strong anti-corruption agency, since 2008, Indonesia also has the Right to Information Act, which pushes for greater transparency and accountability. The law is very useful for watchdogs such as non-governmental organizations and journalists.

However, it is still a very young law, and the implementation has only begun in May 2010. There is no comprehensive technical regulations yet, leaving the act weaker than it's supposed to be.

Indonesians have a lot to learn from other countries and entities. I would really like to know and compare how the European Union, The Netherlands, and Hungary carry out their Public Information Acts, how they implement it, best practices, and lessons learned from the process. I think the Erasmus Mundus Master Program in Public Policy will help me to do it. Not only by sitting in the classes or writing a thesis, but also by learning from other international students.

I prefer to have the first year in the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, where I can get the concepts of governance and democracy in globalization. The second year will be in Central European University in Budapest. What interests me the most is the Media, Information and Communications Policy stream, which seems to fit my profession as a journalist. But I'm also interested in some of the courses offered by the International Public Policy and European Public Policy streams.

The result will be useful not only for me, but hopefully also to my colleagues in the Indonesian mass media and NGOs, as well as friends from both the developing and developed countries. I will be more than glad to share the priceless knowledge gained from the Erasmus Mundus MAPP.