

32nd ASEACCU CONFERENCE 2026 in Jogjakarta, Indonesia

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The 32nd ASEACCU Conference was held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, under the theme “Education, Hope, and Human Flourishing: Fostering Intercultural Encounter and Dialogue.” Students from many countries discussed how education can help us build a more hopeful society. Before attending, “human flourishing” felt like a difficult and abstract idea to me. However, the discussions and activities helped me understand it in a more personal way.

One discussion was about traditional wisdom. We talked about the knowledge and customs passed down in our countries and asked who created them, whether we still need them, and why they have survived. I realized that tradition is not simply something old that we must protect without thinking. Much traditional wisdom was created by ordinary people who were trying to solve problems in their communities and daily lives. Some customs may need to change, while others still teach us about living with nature, helping one another, and keeping our cultural identity. Although our traditions were different, many of them reflected the same desire to live well together.

We also discussed what motivates us and what helps us relax. Our answers varied, but I learned that both motivation and rest are necessary for a fulfilling life. This became clearer when all the students experienced traditional dances. Most of us did not know the movements, but once we started dancing, smiles naturally appeared. Music and movement connected us across our different languages and cultures.

At one point, we were asked to stop moving. This short pause made me think about the value of doing nothing. In daily life, we often think about several things at once and worry about what we have to do next. It can therefore be difficult to feel that we are truly living in the present. When I stopped during the dance, I felt as though my mind had been reset. I focused on that moment and the people around me. Doing nothing for a short time felt peaceful, fulfilling, and even luxurious. I understood that a good life is not only about moving forward and achieving goals. We also need time to stop, breathe, and notice the present.

Talking with students from other countries also made me consider the meaning of studying at a Catholic university. Education is not only about learning facts or finding one correct answer. Through dialogue and shared experiences, we meet people with different ways of living and learn how religion and faith influence their values, relationships, and choices. We do not need to share the same beliefs to learn from one another. Listening with respect can help us understand others and reconsider our own values.

By the end of the Conference, “human flourishing” no longer felt like a distant academic phrase. For me, it means having space in our hearts, connecting with people from different backgrounds, and living with purpose and fulfillment. I learned that education can create hope by giving people opportunities to meet, listen, and grow together. I hope to use this experience in my future studies and become someone who connects people across cultures and countries.