



Virtual Research Visits of Indonesian Senior Faculty Members hosted by European universities

Université de Limoges, Università Degli Studi Roma Tre, Bangor University and Technical University Crete hosted the virtual research visits of seven senior faculty members in July 2021. They organized four sessions to collaborate virtually with senior scholars from six Indonesian universities in the field of banking and finance. The senior faculty members participated in internal research laboratory discussions and presentations. They also discuss several aspects of individual research career management and Ph.D. programs.

The aim of their visits was to improve the research capabilities of senior faculty members from Indonesian universities especially at the international level by building a wider network and getting more valuable inputs related to producing high quality research that is on par with international standards.

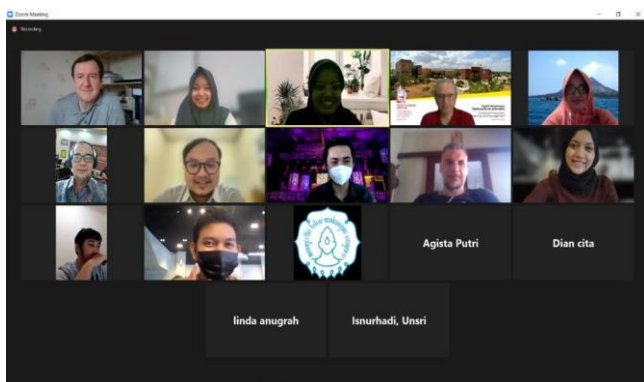
The seven senior faculty members who conducted virtual research visits in 2021 were:

Hosted by Bangor University, United Kingdom

- **Putra Pamungkas** (Universitas Sebelas Maret)
- **Elok Heniwati** (Universitas Tanjungpura)

Hosted by Université de Limoges, France

- **Isnuhardi** (Universitas Sriwijaya (UNSRI))
- **Subiakto Sukarno** (Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB))



Hosted by Università Degli Studi Roma Tre, Italy

- **Juanda** (Universitas Syiah Kuala (UNSYIAH))
- **Barli Suryanta** (Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB))

Hosted by Technical University Crete, Greece

- **Riris Aishah Prasetyowati** (Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta (UIN))

OPTBANK Seminar on Exchange of Best Practices held online

The OPTBANK Seminar on Exchange of Best Practices, hosted by Università degli Studi Roma Tre, was held online from July 7-9, 2021. The aim of the seminar was to improve and strengthen governance of research activities and PhD programs in Economics and Business by exchanging best practices between Indonesian and European universities.

During the three-day seminar, eight research management staff from Indonesia met their European counterparts and shared knowledge on the development of international linkages and double-degree programs, funding opportunities into research planning and research evaluation and strategic planning.

The topics addressed include : Research Excellence in Banking & Finance, The Doctoral School at Roma Tre University, International Linkages and Double-Degree Programs, Managing Research Groups Spanning Across Different Universities, International Linkages and Diversity in Large Public Universities, Incorporating Grants and Other Funding Opportunities into Research Planning, Research Evaluation and Strategic Planning, University Linkages with China, and Granting Equal Opportunities for Students.

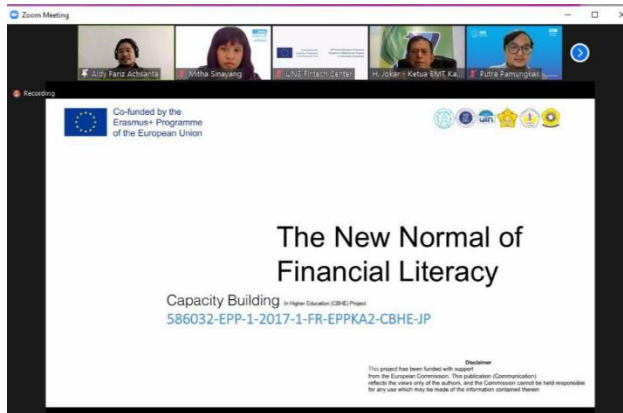
The Exchange of Best Practices 2021 participants were:

- **Taufiq Arifin** from Universitas Sebelas Maret (UNS)
- **Subiakto Sukarno** and **Ahmad Dhanu Prasetyo** from Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB)
- **Syamsurijal Abdul Kadir** and **Taufiq Marwa** from Universitas Sriwijaya (UNSRI)
- **Euis Amalia** from Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta (UIN)
- **Marwan** from Universitas Syiah Kuala (UNSYIAH)
- **Juanda Astarani** from Universitas Tanjungpura (UNTAN).



Research dissemination to banking industry representatives held online

The research dissemination to bankers was held online on September 4, 2021. The activity was attended by around 100 representatives from various banks and rural banks in Indonesia. The Chairman of BMT Kahuripan, an Islamic cooperative also joint the webinar.



Dr. Putra Pamungkas welcomed participants to the

research dissemination activity of the Erasmus+ CBHE OPTBANK program as representative of the management committee at the Faculty of Economics and Business at Universitas Sebelas Maret (UNS). Dr. Aldy Fariz Achsanta also presented his research and provided policy recommendations to the rural bankers.

The participants were very enthusiastic about the discussions on how current banking and finance issues impact the financial sector in Indonesia, especially the plausible impact of digitalization and increased competition from the fintech sector on small banks. Issues on the importance of financial and digital literacy were also discussed during the webinar.

Webinar on Peer-to-Peer Lending and Future Challenges held in collaboration with regulatory authority and business association

A webinar on “Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Lending and the Future Challenges” was organized by Universitas Sebelas Maret (UNS) in collaboration with Indonesia Financial Services Authority (OJK) and Indonesia Entrepreneurs Association (APINDO) in August 20, 2021. This event is one of three community service programs organized by Indonesian universities.



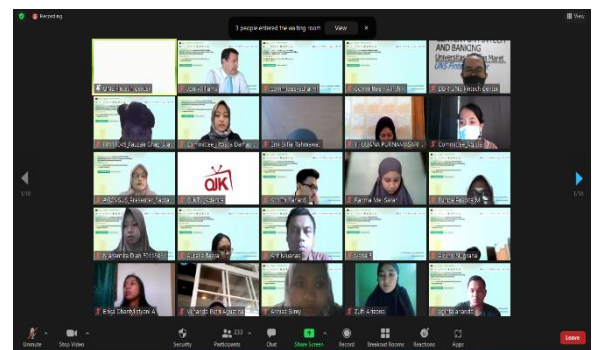
87 entrepreneurs joined the webinar that was also attended by students and faculty members from the Faculty of Economics and Business (FEB) in UNS. Three speakers discussed the opportunities and challenges presented by P2P lending platforms, with some insights on fintech regulation.

The speakers were Anto Prabowo (Deputy Commissioner for Public Relations and Logistics, OJK), Irwan Trinugroho (Director of Partnership, Development, and Internationalization, UNS), and Nurdin Setiawan (General Manager, HRM.PT.Pan Brothers.Tbk). The webinar was moderated by Dr. Soeprayitno, director of APINDO.

OPTBANK Final Conference and Final Evaluation Meeting held online, attended by over 2000 participants

The OPTBANK Final Conference and Final Evaluation Meeting was held online from September 7-9, 2021 hosted by the Universitas Sebelas Maret (UNS). The two external experts of the project delivered their keynote speeches. Aside from the representatives from partner European and Indonesian universities, associated partners also participated in the event, which include regulators and policymakers such as the Indonesia Financial Services Authority (OJK), Bank Indonesia (BI) and the Indonesia Deposit Insurance Corporation (LPS).

On the first day, Prof. Amine Tarazi, OPTBANK project coordinator, along with the UNS Rector welcomed participants to the conference. After, the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners delivered a keynote speech emphasizing on the important challenge of digital transformation and sustainable finance. Several OPTBANK sessions were organized.



These include 3 OPTBANK Young Researchers Sessions where 12 junior faculty members who participated in the LAPE OPTBANK Research Training Program and Junior Research Visits presented their ongoing research. Banking scholars from partner European universities chaired the sessions.

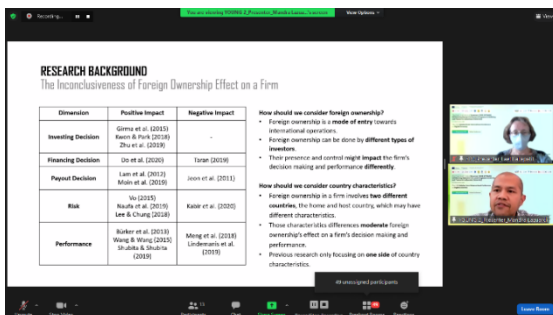
At the end of Day 1, a session (OPTBANK “Future Challenges for the Banking Industry”) gathering international banking and finance scholars and financial regulators led by the two OPTBANK experts, was organized to tackle important banking and finance issues. Day 1 was attended by 1798 participants.

The final conference was jointly organized with the 2021 Sebelas Maret International Conference on Digital Economy (SMICDE). A short video presentation displaying the activities and achievements of the OPTBANK project was shown to the public (Click [here](#) to watch the video).

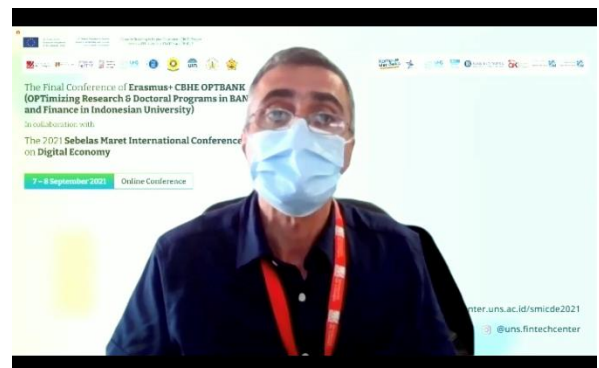
In Day 2 of the Final Conference, four OPTBANK Sessions were conducted chaired by banking researchers from European partner universities.



Eight senior faculty members from partner Indonesian universities who participated in the Senior Research Visits discussed their working papers during the OPTBANK Senior Researchers Sessions. After, the OPTBANK Exchange of Good Practices Session served as an avenue for three research management staff who participated in the Seminar on Exchange of Good Practices to showcase what they learned and how they applied the knowledge gained especially in terms of managing research centers and increasing links to businesses and the industry.



An OPTBANK Dissemination Session “Module Implementation and Thematic Community Service Program on Financial Literacy” was also organized to outline the different activities organized in the framework of the project aimed to revitalize the Ph.D. programs and improve teaching standards in banking and finance in Indonesian universities. During this session, the results of the 3 community service programs and the implementation of courses and modules in two pilot universities were reported.



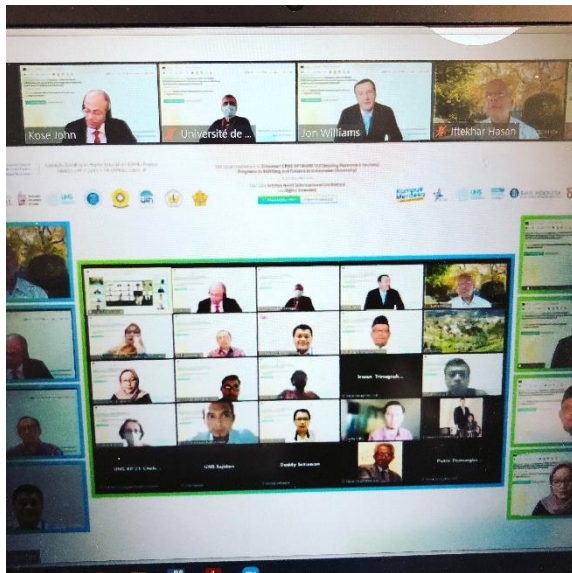
A total of 588 participants attended the Day 2 sessions. Dr. Irwan Trinugroho, Project Steering Committee Member and Prof. Amine Tarazi, project coordinator, provided their closing remarks.

OPTBANK “Future Challenges for the Banking Industry” Session attended by banking experts, academicians, and financial regulators

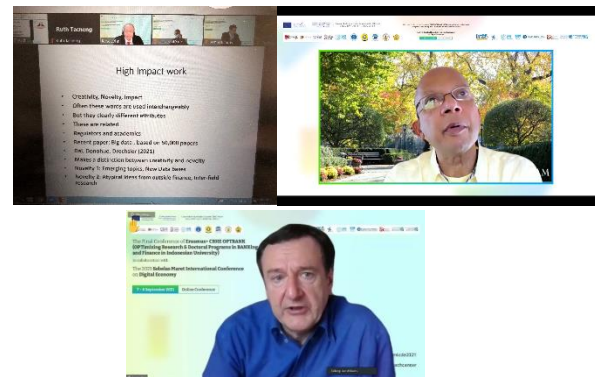
The OPTBANK “Future Challenges for the Banking Industry” session was held online on September 7, 2021.

The two OPTBANK experts, Prof. Iftekhar Hasan from Fordham University, U.S.A. and Prof. Kose John from New York University, U.S.A. delivered their keynote speeches.

Prof. Hasan discussed the impact of fintech development on monetary policy transmission. Meanwhile, Prof. John tackled banking and finance research with emphasis on creativity, novelty and impact.



Following the keynote speeches, a roundtable discussion representing banking and financial authorities and the academia was moderated by Prof. John Williams from Bangor University.



The participants to the roundtable discussion were:

1. Dr. Juda Agung (Bank Indonesia)
2. Dr. Inka Yusgiantoro (Indonesia Financial Services Authority)
3. Dr. Herman Saheruddin (Indonesia Deposit Insurance Corporation)
4. Prof. Hasan Fauzi (Universitas Sebelas Maret)

They tackled issues that include banking policy post-pandemic, digital banking transformation, and the role of the banking industry in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

“This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication [communication] reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.”