

PRESIDENT UNIVERSITY AMBASSADOR LECTURE: ADVANCING PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION THROUGH EDUCATION

PRINCIPLES 9: A COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION THROUGH EDUCATION

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR HANDA S. ABIDIN,
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ADHI SETYO SANTOSO,
PRESIDENT UNIVERSITY



BACKGROUND OF THE ACTIVITY

In a world increasingly shaped by geopolitical tensions, armed conflict, humanitarian crises, and diplomatic disputes, universities play a critical role in cultivating a deeper understanding of peace, diplomacy, and conflict resolution among young generations. Students of international relations require not only theoretical knowledge but also direct exposure to practitioners who actively navigate conflict dynamics on the global stage.

To respond to this need, President University established the Ambassador Lecture Series as a core experiential learning platform. The program aims to bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world diplomacy by allowing students to interact directly with ambassadors and senior diplomats. Through this initiative, peace is not taught as a static concept, but as a dynamic process involving negotiation, diplomacy, mutual respect, and international cooperation, fully aligned with the UNA commitment to peace and conflict resolution through education



BACKGROUND OF THE ACTIVITY

During 2025, President University successfully conducted at least 18 ambassador lecture sessions as part of the 2024-2025 academic cycle. Key 2025 highlights include:

January – March 2025

- Ukraine (24 Jan 2025): Diplomacy amid war and international solidarity
- Singapore (6 Feb 2025): Regional stability and ASEAN diplomacy
- Timor-Leste (13 Feb 2025): Post-conflict nation building
- Japan (18 Feb 2025): Strategic partnership and regional peace
- Rwanda (27 Feb 2025): Reconciliation after genocide
- Somalia (20 Mar 2025): Fragile states and peacebuilding
- Palestine (25 Mar 2025): Historical conflict and international diplomacy

April – July 2025

- Iran (2 Apr 2025): Historical diplomacy and bilateral relations
- Kazakhstan (22 Apr 2025): Peaceful regional cooperation
- Kenya (25 Apr 2025): Diplomatic cooperation and development
- Romania (7 May 2025): Europe-ASEAN relations
- Ukraine (16 Jul 2025): Ongoing conflict diplomacy
- Hungary (18 Jul 2025): Central Europe and global partnerships
- Syria (22 Jul 2025): Conflict, recovery, and international mediation
- Peru (24 Jul 2025): Latin America-Southeast Asia cooperation

Each lecture included:

- Formal diplomatic presentations
- Interactive Q&A discussions
- Student reflections and academic integration

This continuous sequence of engagements ensured that peace education was embedded throughout the academic year, not delivered as a one-time event



OUTPUT OF THE ACTIVITY

The Ambassador Lecture Program generated the following key outputs:

- Strengthened student understanding of global conflicts and peace processes
- Enhanced ability to analyze bilateral and multilateral conflict dynamics
- Improved diplomatic communication, negotiation awareness, and policy analysis skills
- Direct exposure to real-life peacebuilding, post-conflict reconciliation, and mediation frameworks
- Increased student motivation to pursue careers in diplomacy, international organizations, and peace studies
- Strengthened international academic-diplomatic networks for the university

From an educational perspective, the program successfully transformed peace and conflict resolution from theoretical classroom material into living knowledge grounded in real international practice.



FUTURE ACTIVITIES



To further strengthen the impact of the Ambassador Lecture Program, President University plans to:

- Expand lecture themes to focus more on:
 - Conflict mediation and humanitarian diplomacy
 - Post-conflict recovery and reconciliation
 - Preventive diplomacy and peace negotiation techniques
- Integrate simulation-based conflict resolution workshops following ambassador lectures
- Encourage joint research and student exchanges with diplomatic institutions
- Publish policy briefs and student reflections derived from ambassador lecture discussions
- Strengthen collaboration with embassies, UN agencies, and peace institutes

These future initiatives aim to institutionalize peace education more deeply within the academic ecosystem.

