



My Love at First Sight with Lampung

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It has been just a few days since I landed in this beautiful country and since the minute I stepped foot here, every moment has provided me with a plethora of insight into the social structure of the Indonesian society. When I wished goodbye to my country, India and stepped on the flight to Jakarta, I geared myself to a month of adventure, experiments with food, lot of conversations with the local community and the opportunity to share my thoughts on my homeland. The day I got to know about my selection for the Internship Program at International Office, IBI Darmajaya, I was radiating quanta of excitement, expectations and a lot of questions.

Indonesia is a country of diversity. Diversity in language, culture, weather, food, etc., much like what it is in India. Both the countries have hundreds of different languages and as one goes from one region to another, he/she notices a significant shift in the daily lifestyle of the local community. But unlike India, Indonesia has been able to regulate Bahasa Indonesia as a national language all across the borders, so if one is comfortable with Bahasa Indonesia, he/she won't find much trouble in getting around any region in Indonesia. So in my opinion, Indonesia has been quite successful in terms of uniting diverse people under one single identity.

The first thing that any foreigner notices here is that the citizens are extraordinarily polite and humble. Since day one, I have witnessed exceptional hospitality and amazing welcoming. Also I have observed that people





here get along together quite well and enjoy each other's company. I also loved the good taste in music that the people share here. From Jakarta to Lampung, I could hear good music playing in taxis, shops and residences. There is a reason why Indonesia is frequented by popular international music groups. For example the overwhelming success of the recent concert by Bon Jovi at Jakarta is a testimony to the love that people here have for music.

To my utmost fortune, I had the opportunity to visit the annual Lampung fair. The fair was greater in every aspect than what I had expected. Its grandeur was unquestionably mesmerizing. The fair had several huge palace like structures, constructed for every region in the Lampung province, which had traditional products and artifacts on display. The fair was like a one stop destination to witness everything that Lampung has to offer, which if made into a list will surely be endless. There were an infinite number of food

stalls offering several different delicious savories which reflected the local variety in taste of the region that it belonged to. The Lampung fair is definitely an amazing initiative to bring together and display the diversities of this province under one banner. It is a great opportunity for foreigners and locals alike to experience the whole province in one relatively small area.

In less than a week, I had the opportunity to learn a lot about the people of this country, and Lampung in particular. In my opinion, Lampung is like a small country inside a huge country, because the diversity that Lampung holds within its small boundary is comparable to what an average sized nation holds. It is just the beginning and yet I feel terribly sad when I come across the thoughts of leaving this beautiful land one day. I console myself with the thoughts that the memories will never die and will stay with me forever. ■

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