



PRESS RELEASE

The Swedish Embassy in Indonesia and Wikimedia Indonesia brings WikiGap to Padang

Padang, 16 September 2018

The Swedish Embassy in Indonesia, together with Wikimedia Indonesia, are co-hosting the WikiGap event at Amaris Hotel on 16 September in Padang. The WikiGap Padang is targeting female participants in Padang to be Wikipedia contributors to increase the number of female articles on the internet in Indonesian and Minangkabau language (Baso Minang), the regional language in Padang. The Embassy's Head of Trade and Promotion Linda Backteman will be opening the event, and 30 female participants from Padang will participate and contribute their writings to Wikipedia.

The world's largest online and user-generated encyclopaedia, Wikipedia, has a grand total close to 50 million articles. However, female contributors are far outnumbered by male contributors, and there are four times more articles about men than there are about women.

Indonesia has over 700 local languages, but there only nine of them are used in Wikipedia, one of which is Baso Minang. Furthermore, considering that Padang is also known for its matrilineal society, it is expected that the community in the region would be a pioneer in closing the gap, and able to influence others to be more aware of the gender gap existed on the internet. Currently there are over 200 000 articles in Baso Minang, and the WikiGap Padang aimed to encourage more female contributors to be more active in writing articles especially about women in both Indonesian and Baso Minang.

Linda says WikiGap Padang is a follow up to WikiGap Yogyakarta, "We had WikiGap Yogyakarta earlier this year, and the result was that the articles about women increased by at least over 30 articles. We want to achieve more. We see the dynamic ambience in our friends from Wikipedia Baso Minang, the Wikimedia community in Padang, and we believe that this cooperation with Wikimedia Indonesia can help us to achieve our goal in reducing the gap in gender equality, especially in Indonesia."

"Gender equality has always been one of Sweden's top priorities, but women are still under-represented in influential positions in all areas of our societies. We can start to overcome this issue even with something small." She added.

Sweden became the first country in the world to launch a feminist foreign policy in October 2014. And later this August 2018, Sweden published a handbook for feminist foreign policy, containing a selection of methods and experiences that can provide examples and inspiration for the future work of the Swedish Foreign Service, other parts of the civil service and society

as a whole. The WikiGap initiative is part of Sweden's feminist foreign policy, which is based on the ambition to strengthen women's and girl's rights, representation and resources. Through the writing of new, and expanding on existing, articles on Wikipedia, WikiGap is helping to improve women's representation on the internet.

As of today, more than 50 countries have taken part in WikiGap. More than 1 600 participants have added or updated some 4 000 Wikipedia articles on prominent women in more than 30 different languages.

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