

Memorandum of Understanding
between
Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar
and
Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation (CECF)

The intent of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to initiate a long-term relationship between the entities, Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation (CECF) and UIN Alauddin Makassar.

The purpose of the MoU is to develop and make available high quality, affordable cultural and English language exchange programs, which are tailored to the needs and interests of the students and members of the Pesantren. CECF has developed specialized programs based on over two decades of research, international experience, and a passion for foreign cultures, languages, and education.

Because UIN Alauddin Makassar recognizes the vital importance of empowering its students with cross-cultural understanding, English language, and international exchange programs with the US, CECF is delighted to engage UIN Alauddin Makassar in a collaborative joint venture to hold its ***Better Understanding for a Better World "BUBW" International*** conferences in Indonesia.

CECF's mission meets the desired needs of UIN Alauddin Makassar students by helping to:

**"To foster cooperation rather than confrontation among
people of different religions and cultures."**

The BUBW conferences focus on addressing the factors that led to the rise and fall of previous civilizations, and it helps the youth of this millennium benefit from those lessons, in a world that is literally changing into a global village". CECF strives to create value-based, culturally sensitive educational programs for the youth of our world.

The MoU between UIN Alauddin Makassar & CECF will include the following:

I. Cultural Competency and Diversity Programs, Workshops and Activities

UIN Alauddin Makassar and CECF will promote activities and programs that involve creating more culturally competent students of Qur'anic and Islamic Studies, who become global citizens. These opportunities will include, but are not limited, to:

1. Short-Term Study Abroad Programs

- a) UIN Alauddin Makassar and CECF will partner to offer opportunities to participate in short-term study abroad programs in the U.S., Europe, and Southeast Asia that are tailored to the academic and religious needs of UIN Alauddin Makassar students.
- b) The Short-Term Study Abroad Programs will include introductions to local cultures, people, and religious practices. It will also focus on understanding the importance of building social bridges that facilitate:
 - i. the role of youth leadership in addressing global issues;
 - ii. managing the local potential to face a global crisis due to misinterpretation of Islam, radicalism, and extremism;
 - iii. students, teachers, lecturers from UIN Alauddin Makassar to visit the US to collaborate with and share their Indonesian experiences and teaching methods with US academic & religious institutions; and
 - iv. US professors to visit UIN Alauddin Makassar to learn more about Indonesian academic institutions, as well as share US best practices for teaching.

2. Imams Training Program

- a) UIN Alauddin Makassar to sponsor a group of Imams and preachers from Indonesia to visit the US, and to observe the practice of various religions in America and the religious & cultural diversity that exists therein.
- b) These programs and courses are to be taught by CECF and conducted in Indonesia, in partnership with UIN Alauddin Makassar.

These programs, when given, can serve the mutual interest of Indonesia and America, by imparting the true teachings and correct understanding of the Qur'anic message of Islam, which is a mercy for mankind - (Rahmatan Lil Alameen).

II. Internship Opportunities

CECF encourages UIN Alauddin Makassar students to volunteer and intern for the ***Better Understanding for a Better World (BUBW)*** Conferences in the U.S. and in countries around the world.

BUBW Conferences in the U.S. are for International exchange students studying in the US and are held in person and/or virtually in 3 U.S. cities, Baltimore - Maryland, Orlando – Florida, and San Diego – California. These conferences take place annually between February and April. At the BUBW conferences, UIN Alauddin Makassar students will be introduced to and interact with many exchange students from up to 75 countries, and they will experience the various cultural and religious practices of those students.

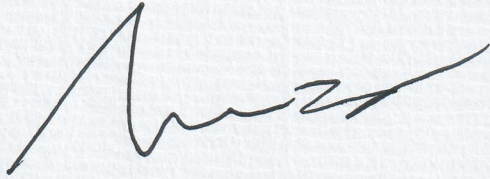
III. Better Understanding for a Better World (BUBW) in Indonesia

NU will host the CECF BUBW International Conference on Inter-Cultural Diversity, Cross Communication, & Conflict Transformation on its various campus'. UIN Alauddin Makassar will aid in the success of the conference by:

- a) Assisting CECF in promoting the conference to UIN Alauddin Makassar students and other Pesantrens in Indonesia. CECF will share the news internationally through the CECF's Alumni Network from previous BUBWS with participants from more than 76 countries.
- b) Assisting CECF to facilitate mutual understanding, discussions, and appreciation between participants from diverse regional, economic, social, religious, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds.
- c) Assisting CECF to discuss stereotypes about the "Other" and the negative impact of those stereotypes.
- d) Assisting CECF in its teachings and discussions about the practice of religion and faith in a pluralistic society with the objective of promoting tolerance, mutual respect, and awareness of common global values to participants.

- e) Assisting CECF to introduce various aspects of leadership, including those involving business and entrepreneurship to participants.
- f) Assisting CECF to have participants forge ties between diverse members of the global society.

Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar



Prof. H. Hamdan, M.A., Ph.D.

Rector

Date: November 11, 2022

Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation (CECF)



Imam Mohamad Bashar Arafat

President

Date: November 11, 2022