

ACSians in Action ; Yogyakarta, Indonesia

'I am happy to have gone for the AIA, learning more about myself whilst contributing to the global community'

Spencer Loh, Assistant Team Leader of Movement AIA



Our team of 21 students volunteered at Panti Asuhan Bina Putra, an orphanage in Yogyakarta, Indonesia from 26 November to 1 December 2018. Bina Putra is a self-funded orphanage, established in 2007 after the Yogyakarta earthquake in 2006. We were inspired by their mission to empower the children to lead independent and meaningful lives.

We aimed to bless the children with positive experiences that would benefit them in future, beyond the duration of our visit, through games and sports, conducting an English Education Programme, and raising funds to purchase cattle (arguably the highlight of the trip for many of us). The cows are a source of income for the locals who buy the cows (skinny as in the photo) and fatten them before selling them for a higher price. The children take turns to feed and care for the cows, thereby developing a sense of responsibility.



Our programme was well received by our friends at Bina Putra.

Despite the spatial distance, we are not very different from our Indonesian friends and rather than beneficiaries, they were partners in a cultural exchange. Our time spent together benefitted both us and with new friends made.

Jason Pan, Team Leader of Movement AIA, article published in ACSPress January/February 2019 Issue