

Research & Development Roll Out A Long Welcome Mat

Approximately 10,000 miles separate the two groups, but that did not stop faculty from Sam Ratulangi University (SRU) in Indonesia from visiting with INDOT staff. Three SRU faculty members traveled to West Lafayette in late October to personally witness one of INDOT's best working relationships—the Research & Development (R&D) team and Purdue University's School of Civil Engineering, which together oversee the [Joint Transportation Research Program](#) (JTRP).



SRU Vice Dean on Development, Monitoring, Performance Evaluation and Information Technology Tisano T. Arsjad, INDOT Research & Development Manager for Pavement, Materials, and Construction Research Tommy Nantung, Purdue University Professor of Civil Engineering and Director of the Joint Transportation Research Program Darcy Bullock, SRU Vice Dean on Student and Alumni Affairs Audie L.E. Rumayar, and SRU Vice Dean on Administration Affairs Elizabeth Lintong.

“The purpose of the visit was to experience research cooperation between a governmental agency and university,” said R&D Planning and Production Manager Tommy Nantung, who was born and raised in Indonesia. “They wanted to see firsthand the facilities and laboratories that they had heard so much about.”

The visit began with a welcome activity at the JTRP Office and ended at INDOT's R&D facility.

“Our visitors were very impressed by how INDOT works with Purdue in solving transportation issues through research,” Nantung said. “This type of cooperation currently does not exist in Indonesia.”



“They loved our research facility, especially the Accelerated Pavement Testing facility and its capability to solve pavement and material issues.”

The group also toured labs specializing in traffic, pavement and materials, and environmental engineering, which are all currently involved in JTRP research projects. These visits proved invaluable, especially since SRU is beginning to develop programs in those areas.

“The faculty left Indiana with much thanks and praise for the opportunity to learn from INDOT and JTRP about cooperative research,” said Purdue University Professor of Civil Engineering and Director of the JTRP Darcy Bullock. “Their goal is to one day emulate what we have, to improve upon their transportation infrastructure in Indonesia.”