Working in the Consulting Engineering Industry does not only mean to think in projects and their deadlines, clients, costs, but also to take into consideration the global market, the different involved cultural backgrounds as well as the individual human beings. After having been working together with young professionals from one half of the globe for a bit more than half a year, I was curious to get to know both them and the other half of the FIDIC YPMTP 2017 during the conference in Jakarta.

I did not quite know what to expect from the last lectures in the framework of the YPMTP – would it just be the last lessons to finish the course or more of a cultural programme? No and no, it was definitely far more than that. A group of 34 young professionals from all over the world discussed their professional points of view in very controversial and interesting conversations, exchanged their experiences in their respective fields of work and presented how different the same profession can be in other countries. Looking back, I would not only call it fruitful group work: I personally learned a lot about our industry, about commitment, about how professional and intelligent young co-workers can be and about how many opportunities professional work in a well-functioning international network can be. This is what our industry needs and what should be pursued, especially by us young professionals as the future leaders in the consulting engineering industry. Learning from each other, working closely together and hence shaping the future of everyone.

Finally, we should not forget the human aspect: I enjoyed working together with so many different individuals from various countries with entirely different cultural backgrounds, religions and point of views. I found out new things about the industry, about the people, about myself and my personal relationship to my profession. This 2 weeks in Jakarta were a great summary of the entire YPMTP 2017 and will definitely remain one of the richest professional experiences in my life.