

Education and Information Transparency: IT DEL Students' Industrial Visit to TPL

Parmaksian, Toba – Toba Pulp Lestari (TPL) welcomed an industrial visit from the Faculty of Biotechnology, Institut Teknologi (IT) DEL. The group, consisting of 30 people, including lecturers and students, was warmly received by TPL's Corporate Communication Management Officers, Ricky Hutapea and Fransiska Purba, on Friday, September 6, 2024.

The visit began with a company profile presentation at Graha TPL. The participants were then taken on a tour of the Mini Exhibition, Central Nursery, Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), and Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP).

At the Mini Exhibition, participants received in-depth explanations about the Supply Chain Management implemented by TPL. The tour continued at the Central Nursery, where they visited the Mother Plant, Production House, and Open Growing Area, learning about the eucalyptus seedling process.

The visit proceeded to the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), where participants were informed about TPL's domestic waste management system. A similar detailed explanation was provided at the Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP), where the group learned about the management of TPL's operational waste. On this occasion, the TPL team clarified the company's geographical position, which is lower than Lake Toba, to refute concerns that TPL's waste pollutes the lake.

Ricky Hutapea, representing TPL, expressed his hope that this visit would contribute to the Merdeka Belajar (Freedom to Learn) program and support information transparency, which is crucial for enhancing understanding of the pulp industry's operations.

“We hope this visit provides students with a better understanding of the pulp industry’s processes and our efforts to protect the environment. We are also open to constructive feedback to continually improve our operations,” he said.

Lecturers and students shared positive impressions of the visit, appreciating the transparency and clarity of the information provided by TPL. “This visit was very beneficial for us, offering direct insights into sustainable industrial practices. We also gained a better understanding of several processes within TPL and a different perspective on some issues circulating in the community,” said one of the lecturers, Juli Damanik.

Elisa Tambunan, representing the students, also appreciated the visit and expressed her hope that similar visits would continue to enrich their practical knowledge.

“We truly appreciate TPL’s openness in explaining their industrial processes. This experience makes me proud to be part of the biotechnology faculty. The lessons we’ve learned are clearly being applied in real-world industry. I am very happy and now have a deeper understanding of how the industry operates,” she said.

This industrial visit not only provided students with practical insights but also strengthened the relationship between academia and the industry, particularly in biotechnology and environmental management.

The visit concluded with a shared lunch and the completion of feedback forms by lecturers and students regarding their experience during the visit.