

RGE-NTU SusTex Hosts "Young Women in Science: A Grow Beyond Yourself Initiative" driven by Evonik and INSPIRASI

RGE-NTU SusTex was delighted to host the “**Young Women in Science: A Grow Beyond Yourself Initiative**,” a collaborative program driven by **Evonik** and the Indonesia–NTU Singapore Institute of Research for Sustainability and Innovation (**INSPIRASI**).

The visit brought together a dynamic group of young female scientists from Indonesia and students from **Nanyang Technological University (NTU)**, alongside industry experts from **Evonik** and the **Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB)**.

Bridging Research and Leadership

At SusTex, we believe that impactful research must go hand-in-hand with mentorship. Sharing our progress with the next generation of scientists is key to ensuring that the momentum of sustainable innovation continues with future leaders.

Dr. Poernomo Gunawan, SusTex Research Lead and Senior Lecturer at the **NTU School of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering & Biotechnology (CCEB)**, led the tour, delivering an educational sharing session in the SusTex Gallery. The exchange focused on several key pillars of our current work:

- **Textile Circularity:** Addressing the technical and logistical hurdles of recycling complex, mixed-fibre fabrics.
- **Advanced Research Applications:** Deep dives into chemical recycling processes, bioremediation, and specialised water treatment solutions.
- **Valorisation:** Strategies for transforming textile waste into high-value materials for use in industries beyond fashion.



Dr. Poernomo Gunawan showcasing the valorised samples and applications beyond textiles.



Dr. Poernomo Gunawan leading the tour in the SusTex gallery.

Championing Diversity in STEM

The "Grow Beyond Yourself" initiative highlights the importance of fostering diversity within the scientific community. By sharing our work and industry expertise with young women, we aim to highlight the possibilities of a career in STEM and encourage the next generation of scientific leaders.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Evonik and INSPIRASI for organising this study trip and for their ongoing commitment to empowering women in science across Southeast Asia.



Students from the INSPIRASI program, industry experts from Evonik and academic leaders from Institut Teknologi Bandung pictured with Dr. Poernomo Gunawan (RGE-NTU SusTex Research Lead).

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