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Indonesian Embassy, London: Indonesia's art and cultural diversity has now received a recognition at the 9th annual festival 'Red Sky at Night' organized by the Cayman National Cultural Foundation which was held in Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands.

At the event which took place on Saturday (27/2/2021), Indonesia won third place as "the Best International Showcase".

The diversity of art and culture in the archipelago has made Indonesia's participation fronted by the diaspora living in the Cayman Islands to add new element into the event.

The festival lasted for 9 hours from 14.00-23.00 local time and was attended by no less than 1000 visitors. The festival was held in compliance with COVID-19 health and safety protocols, both organizers and visitors paid close attention to such protocols.

"This is the very first time for Indonesian contingency to ever participate in the 'Red Sky at Night' festival. We managed to put together pieces of arts from home to decorate our designated booth. Safe to say, it was jaw dropping for some of the visitors and fellow participants," said Ivan Ronaldo Tedjanegara, the coordinator of the Indonesian contingency who has been living in the Cayman Islands since 2013, in an official statement to RRI.CO.ID, Wednesday (3 / 3/2021).

In a segment titled 'The International Square', said Ivan, several countries showcased their arts and culture, in the medium of traditional clothing, traditional household goods, accessories, and more.

"Countries participated were the Cayman Islands, Jamaica, the Philippines, Guyana and Indonesia. Apart from exhibiting their cultural diversity, each country was also given the opportunity to perform performances, such as dances, folk songs, and regional fashion exhibitions," he explained.

The Indonesian Ambassador in London, Desra Percaya said that this achievement shows the persistence of Indonesian citizens, who continue to love and promote Indonesia, even though they have lived far from their homeland for dozens or even decades. "Promoting Indonesia is one of the priorities for the nation's diplomacy and the role of the diaspora living abroad is very important. What our citizens in the Cayman Islands are doing is a good example of the contribution of the diaspora," said Desra Percaya.



Retno Ayu Purbasanti, who works as a manager at the Westin Hotel Grand Cayman, expressed her pride, "Looking at the other participants, it was pretty overwhelming! Their booths were amazing and beautifully done! We truly are a beginner and hoping that we will be able to participate in the next year's round.

"We only rehearsed for a few hours prior to the event and we promptly decorated the booth, and we managed to grab the 3rd place trophy as 'the best international showcase'. What a proud achievement!" said Retno.

Indonesian contingency presented a 'mini fashion show' by showing regional clothing such as the Betawi pangsi shirt, Makassar bodo dress, Javanese and Balinese kebaya. "Balinese leak masks attracted quite a lot of attention, from group of children to adult visitors. The fashion show was closed with the song Tanah Airku (Our homeland) sung by the Indonesian contingent," explained Retno, who had once won the top employee award at the Westin Hotel Grand Cayman.

In this year's 'Red Sky at Night' Festival, the host Cayman Islands won first place and the Philippines came second.

The Cayman Islands is one of British Overseas Territories in the Caribbean Sea, neighbouring Jamaica and Cuba. It consists of 3 islands, namely Grand Cayman (where the capital of George Town lies), Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

There are about 20 Indonesian citizens living in the Cayman Islands from various backgrounds, such as chiropractor, teacher, accountant, barista, chef, and some others at the hospitality industry. Ivan described life in the Cayman Islands as very comfortable and very convenient. There are some direct flights to the Cayman Islands of about 10 hours from London. (Photo: Indonesian Embassy in London).

