

## Week 4: Inspiring Ocean Careers | Bali, Indonesia



### **WHAT WENT WELL?**

This week I accompanied Amanda, a scholarship recipient from my partner NGO, to a local high school where she shared her story and experiences in ocean conservation. The presentation centered on encouraging students—especially young women—to consider careers in marine science and ocean protection. The response from the students was amazing; they were leaning in, asking questions, and excited to learn about Diverseas! It was such a joy to witness how much Amanda's journey resonated with them.

What stood out to me was the energy in the room. The students weren't just politely listening—they were genuinely inspired. Many of them said afterward that they hadn't considered ocean careers before, but Amanda's story opened up the possibility. Seeing their eyes light up made me realize the power of representation and storytelling in driving change.

### **WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN DONE DIFFERENTLY?**

While Amanda's words were powerful, I noticed how quickly students lit up when she showed photos on her phone or tried the VR device displaying footage of coral sites. Next time, I would love to help structure a more interactive session with more multimedia, or even short activities that connect them to the ocean personally.

### **WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT MYSELF WHEN WORKING WITH OTHERS?**

Supporting Amanda reminded me how much I enjoy amplifying others' voices. I didn't need to be the one at the front of the room for the experience to feel deeply fulfilling. In fact, I found myself happiest when helping make sure Amanda had what she needed and watching her succeed. It showed me that I value collaboration not only for my own growth but also for creating platforms where others can shine.

### **WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT LEADERSHIP?**

This week taught me that leadership can be about representation as much as direction. Amanda embodied leadership simply by standing in front of those students as a woman in a field where women are underrepresented. Her bravery alone challenged stereotypes, and her story turned that representation into possibility. Leadership here wasn't about authority; it was about inspiration!

### **WHAT DO I WANT TO DEVELOP OR FOCUS ON NEXT?**

I want to build stronger skills in communicating complex ideas to younger audiences. Watching the students react made me realize how important it is to make conservation feel relatable and exciting. Going forward, I'd like to practice breaking down big concepts into accessible stories, visuals, or interactive elements that stick with people beyond the presentation.