

## MY FIRST WALK WITH CRESWALK

By Antoni Tsaputra

Again my life experiences in Australia have been enriched. It was a worthy opportunity to befriend and mingle with the Australian community as well as to strengthen *silahurrahim* with Muslim brothers and sisters in Queensland Australia. It will go down as one of the unforgettable moments to share with friends and relatives back in Indonesia when I return home upon the completion of my study as an AusAID scholar. Today I had my first walk (race) all my life in one of the most celebrated local community events in Brisbane, CresWalk2010.

Equipped with a pair of 'new legs' donated by Muslim Charitable Foundation and specially modified by The Freedom Healthcare, I was zipping to the finish line. My endless thanks to both of you and those who made it possible for me to feel this hardly described excitement and sense of freedom. I did not win the race but I enjoyed this event very much.

Along the 5 km route, I made some acquaintances. A lady said, 'nice to see you here, you are the Indonesian boy who made news recently.' I felt that I was really welcome. I feel like I am already part of the big family of Brisbane Muslim community. Kindhearted and sincere smiles were thrown to me every time I met with other participants and said *salam* to each other. It really was a happy day for everyone. We shared happiness with each other regardless of different ethnics and cultures. Everyone is the same in front of Allah SWT. What differentiates human beings is only their *taqwa* and *ibadah*.

This event has also enabled me to see the face of Islam in the West (Australia) as this is my first time overseas. I could see that Muslims of all races are united here. It was astounding to see such a big number of Muslims in Queensland. This might indicate that Muslim people are not the minority here.

This event has strengthened the bond of *silahurrahim* amongst Muslims and has shown that Muslim people are able to contribute a lot to social activities in Australia. It is a great pride and honor for me to participate in this annual event. *Insha Allah* I will join it again next year.