

INDONESIA UPDATES

What's Next for President Joko Widodo's Second Term?

INDONESIA THAT I KNOW

Pancasila and Islam Nusantara: the Instruments to Religious Harmony in Indonesia

SPECIAL REPORTS

Rumah Budaya Indonesia: A Sustainable Way of Falling in Love (with Indonesia!)

indobuzz

Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Brussels

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70 Years of Good Friendship: Indonesia and Belgium Go Further Together

● BEACH! AND BEYOND Surfing Bucket List!

70TH
anniversary
INDONESIA-BELGIUM
Go Further Together!



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AMBASSADOR'S NOTES

Dear Friends of Indonesia,

2019 was a very busy year for the Embassy as we celebrated the 70th anniversary of Indonesia and Belgium diplomatic relation. Various events and programs were organized by the Embassy to commemorate the close ties between the two countries. To name a few, the Embassy organized successfully the Indonesian Festival at Pairi Daiza, the launching of the Indonesian Cultural House (RBI), the Photo Exhibition at the Federal Parliament of Belgium, the Diplomatic Reception at the Museum of Arts and History, sending 11 participants for the Indonesian Interfaith Scholarship (IIS), held visit to elderly house, etcetera. All is summarized in this Bulletin. Therefore, the theme of this Bulletin is "70 Years of Good Friendship: Indonesia and Belgium Go Further Together".

Belgium recognized Indonesia's independence in 1949 and was among the first states in Europe to recognize Indonesia's independence. I am very pleased that over the years, Indonesia and Belgium's bilateral relations have been very solid and strong. The two countries are bound by many common ideals and shared values such as promoting multilateralism, harmony among civilizations, a rules-based multilateral trading system, and the importance to work closer on the promotion of peaceful settlement of disputes as well as climate change. In 2019 – 2020, Indonesia and Belgium sit together as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council. With this great mandate, both countries have a strategic role in contributing to world peace, including through encouraging more civilians in peacekeeping operations.

Our bilateral economic relations remain strong with a total trade value of USD 1.86 billion in 2018. As a large market rich in natural resources, Indonesia remains highly committed to improving conducive conditions for foreign investment, including from Belgium. Strategic industry collaboration between the two countries has also progressed. I am particularly happy with a closer people-to-people link through culture and tourism. More and more Belgian tourists come to Indonesia. In 2018, around 50.050 Belgian tourists visited Indonesia, an increase of 4 % from the previous year. The Indonesia Cultural House that we launched in September 2019 is therefore established to channel more people to people contacts between our two countries.

Like the European Union and Belgium, Indonesia has just held free and fair political elections last April and President Joko Widodo has been re-elected. Some new programs and also his cabinet ministers are also highlighted in this Bulletin. There are also interesting articles about Pancasila, Islam Nusantara and Interfaith Dialogue written by our IIS 2019 participants, Xavier Everaert and Camille Larenne; I am sure you will find them interesting to read. If you like surfing, do not miss the extraordinary surfing places in Indonesia that you need to visit.

It would be my hope that this Bulletin will be a joyful and informative reading. I wish you a happy and amazing New Year of 2020.



Yuri O. Thamrin
Ambassador

70TH
Anniversary
INDONESIA--BELGIUM
"Go Further Together"

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What's Next for President Joko
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What's Next for President Joko Widodo's Second Term?

Nefertiti Hindratmo

2019 is an important year for Indonesia as Indonesians celebrate their biggest celebration of Democracy: the Presidential General Election. Although the campaign was full of hoaxes, fake news, and slanders against each candidate by the supporters of the other candidates, the General Election itself was held in a peaceful manner. It was considered a successful General Election by the international community, putting into account Indonesia's vast territory and its more than 250 million citizens.

On May 2019, the incumbent President Joko Widodo is trusted to continue his mandate by the people with a share of votes of more than 55%. His victory not only garnered national celebration for the 'furniture man' turned politician, but also congratulatory words from world leaders seeing him as the man that has successfully led Indonesia's return as Asia's leader.

But what about his second term? What would make this term significantly different from his first one?

One thing for sure is the fact that the President has decided to move the Capital from the heavily populated Island of Java to the less dense Borneo. The move is expected not only to lessen the burden of Jakarta but also to further develop the eastern part of Indonesia. The President underlined that the development gap was partly due to the fact that development was centred in Java. There was of course criticism on this policy but with the growing pressure faced by Jakarta as both centre of business and the capital city, this move is inevitable. The President has decided that this move would not hamper the existing budget but will put forward the public-private partnership and invites investors to support the project. This is in line with the Government's aim to boost investment and continue the infrastructure expansion.

Following the high increase of investment during his first five-year tenure, Joko Widodo has set a higher goal to achieve 5,3%-5,6% of growth for 2020 alone. In the midst of the bullish global economy, many worry that his aim is too high. Yet he remained confident. Mid 2019, Indonesia investment rank has climbed to BBB in the view of all rating institutions including Fitch, Moody's and S&P. The World Bank has also risen Indonesia's ease



Photo Credit: Setkab.go.id

of doing business to 73: the best Indonesia has achieved so far. This has built enough national confidence that the President will be able to lead Indonesia to achieve this target.

In his Inauguration Speech, last October, President Joko Widodo has narrated his long-term vision that Indonesia will be part of the five biggest world economies by 2045, exactly 100 years after its independence. By that time, poverty will be closer to 0% with US\$ 22,000 per capita income. He highlights that to achieve this target he has set as priorities for his tenure the following five national agenda points.

First would be human resources development. The government is set out to prepare the younger generation for the changing industry. An industrial world that has been putting investment in technology. They need to be more dynamic and agile in the face of global competition. Acknowledging the never-ending scientific and technological advancement as a part of the solution, Indonesia also looks forward to inviting international talents to support Indonesia's education program.

He stressed again the importance of infrastructure development as his second priority.

Infrastructure is important to bridge production zone and distribution area. Infrastructure is also crucial to accelerate tourism, specially to bring more international tourists. This infrastructure development will in turn provide the economy with added value. The government will further invite and encourage the involvement of the private sector to play a bigger role in infrastructure development.

To speed up this development process, He has promised to streamline regulations: this is his third priority. It is regarded as an integral part in his reform efforts. Within this context he aims to reinforce job creation and to support the development of small and medium size enterprises. On the side-line the Government will strengthen its bureaucracy by cutting the red tape even further and by simplifying the organisation. In return this continued restructuring will make it possible to value better its public servants by their respective competence.

His next priority is economic transformation. With the current global challenge, he underscored the need to veer from development based on natural resources towards manufacture and modern services. Those have higher added value and it is believed that the Indonesian people will benefit more from these. He highlighted that Indonesia needs breakthrough projects to boost economic growth.

These priorities were laid out once again as he introduced the new cabinet members. While retaining some members from the previous cabinet, the President appointed new faces citing their ability and capacity, suitable to overcome the current challenges and to attain the targets that his Government has laid out. Recently voted as Asian of the Year by the Straight Times, President Jokowi seems to have gained trust from the International Community and most importantly support from the Indonesian people. In his second term, people look forward to a more flourishing and resilient economy for the people's welfare. (NF)



Photo Credit: Setkab.go.id



Photo Credit: Setkab.go.id

President Joko Widodo's Cabinet 2019-2024

Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs:
Mahfud MD

Coordinating Minister for the Economy:
Airlangga Hartarto

Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Culture:
Muhadjir Effendy

Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs and Investment:
Luhut B Pandjaitan

Minister of Defense:
Prabowo Subianto

Minister of State Secretary:
Pratikno

Minister of Home Affairs:
General Tito Karnavian

Minister of Foreign Affairs:
Retno L.P. Marsudi

Minister of Religious Affairs:
General (Ret) Fachrul Razi

Minister of Law and Human Rights:
Yasonna H. Laoly

Minister of Finance:
Sri Mulyani Indrawati

Minister of Education and Culture:
Nadiem Makarim

Minister of Health:
dr. Terawan Agusputranto

Minister of Social Affairs:
Juliari Batubara

Minister of Manpower:
Ida Fauziah

Minister of Industry:
Agus Gumiwang Kartasasmita

Minister of Trade:
Agus Suparmanto

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources:
Arifin Tasrif

Minister of Public Works and Public Housing:
Basuki Hadimuljono

Minister of Transportation:
Budi Karya Sumadi

Minister of Communication and Informatics:
Johnny G Plate

Minister of Agriculture:
Syahrul Yasin Limpo

Minister of Environment and Forestry:
Siti Nurbaya Bakar

Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries:
Edhy Prabowo

Minister of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration:
Abdul Halim Iskandar

Minister of Agrarian and Spatial Planning/Head of National Land Agency:
Sofyan Djalil

Minister of National Development Planning/Head of National Development Planning Agency:
Suharso Monoarfa

Minister of State Apparatus Empowerment and Bureaucratic Reforms:
Tjahjo Kumolo

Minister of State-Owned Enterprises:
Erick Thohir

Minister of Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises:
Teten Masduki

Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy:
Wishnutama Kusubandio

Minister of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection:
Gusti Ayu Bintang Darmawati

Minister of Research and Technology:
Bambang Brodjonegoro

Minister of Youth and Sports:
Zainudin Amali

Presidential Chief of Staff:
Moeldoko

Cabinet Secretary:
Pramono Anung Wibowo

Chairman of Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM):
Bahlil Lahadalia

Attorney General:
ST Burhanuddin

Source: <https://setkab.go.id/en/president-jokowi-unveils-new-cabinet-line-up/>



What Hits: Ecobricks among Indonesian Youth

Elisabeth Ida



Plastic: The Problem Is Its Solution

Ever heard of the negative effects of plastic debris? You surely have. A research from 2017 shows that it has been estimated to cause yearly more than US\$13 billion in economic damage to marine ecosystems. Each week average people ingest 5 grams microplastics, which is the weight of a bank card or a pen. Scientists estimate there are more microplastic particles in the sea than stars in the Milky Way. To fight this, some countries propose a ban on single-use plastics. The EU Parliament sealed ban on throwaway plastics by 2021. Cities like Bali and Brussels already put this into practice in public space in 2019.

Next to carrying out governmental policies, can we take our personal responsibility for our plastic waste and be inspired by Ghandi's words, to be the change that we want to see in the world? Yes, definitely. Taking the dictum of Bill Watson, founder of permaculture: "The problem is always the solution", plastic waste can also be good! Wait, good where exactly? In a plastic bottle! How? Make them ecobricks! Ecobricking is gaining popularity worldwide and in Indonesia it has become one of the cool things right now.

Ecobricking is not just a technology, it's a movement. Hundreds of thousands of regular people around the world are now not just solving plastic for themselves, but for their neighborhood, community, and cities. In Indonesia, "ecobrickers" are fast on their way to solving plastic waste problems for the country.

An Ecobrick is a plastic bottle packed to a set density with used, clean and dry plastic to achieve a building block that can be used over and over again. These ecobricks can also be packed with other non-biological un-recyclables that are toxic to the environment when they are uncontained (i.e. styrofoam, wires, small batteries, etc.). The ecobricks are then used to make modular furniture, garden spaces, walls and even full-scale buildings.

Indonesia: Ecobrick Pioneer, World Inspiration

Started in 2015, the ecobrick movement in Indonesia has been growing fast with estimated 2 million ecobrickers in the country. Today it inspires over 140 countries in the world for tackling the plastic waste problems. The Canadian Russell Maier, residing in Gianyar, Bali, founded Global Ecobricks Alliance, a not-for-profit earth enterprise that assists the spread of ecobricking through the maintenance and development of resources, innovations and technology. Together with his Indonesian partner, Ani Himawati, they started to give workshops not only in schools but also for local communities. It began in Yogyakarta, where 2,000 schools participated in only two years time, and they collaborate with "Bank Sampah" (Waste Bank) as well as with community groups that are well connected. Then local governments started to be involved too. This has made Yogyakarta the heart of the ecobrick movement. From there, the program training for trainers started too. Nowadays this program is also held on-line, with participants from all over the world including from the UK since 2018. This country is inspired greatly by the Indonesian ecobrick movement and is now copying Indonesia in their

ecobrick practices, following the standards that are used in Indonesia, including the ideas and practices, techniques and applications.

Maier invented the Dieleman Module concept, life-size lego blocks that can be used to assemble -and disassemble- structures in minutes. Dieleman modules are named after one of the early pioneering patrons of the ecobrick movement, Andrew Dieleman, and can be arranged and interlocked horizontally, then be built vertically. Another type of lego-style use of ecobricks is the Milstein modules, which are for horizontal surfaces like tables, beds, benches and more.

Explaining the misconception about ecobricks, which believes that it is about big construction, Maier and Himawati mentioned that this movement actually focuses on small applications. This is the reason for its success in Indonesia. Communities do ecobricking according to their own projects and needs, with their own story and dynamics. More than the result of the use of ecobricks itself (i.e. furniture such as table and seats, park bench, building walls), what is more inspiring is the togetherness, collaborations and sharing during the process.

Taking Individual Responsibility

Both founders of the Indonesian ecobrick movement believe that other countries in Europe and elsewhere, following the UK example, should join Indonesia in ecobricking. Especially after China stopped importing plastic waste in 2018, the developed countries have to find a new recycling market. The enormous amount of waste is then sent to “dumping places” in South East Asian countries including Indonesia. However, since July 2019 Indonesia returned 547 containers of non-conformed waste (badly sorted or dangerous waste) to their origin countries including Australia, the U.S., New Zealand but also to some European countries (Germany, France and Belgium). This fact makes the individual responsibility to handle the plastic waste in each country gaining an even greater significance. Individually, each person is responsible for their own waste and must endeavor to throw away as little trash as possible. Ecobricking is a way to do this, which is not only a meditative act for each person, but it can also bring communities back to life, where everyone can participate and get benefits from.

More information: www.ecobricks.org



Indonesia Moves Forward: Relocating the Capital City

Nefertiti Hindratno

Photo Credit : Facebook President Joko Widodo

Jakarta, Indonesia's capital city, has faced many challenges. From its overgrowing population, concerns over the air pollution and traffic congestion that contributes towards it. On top of that, many scientists have stated that Jakarta is sinking at an alarming rate.

Jakarta has been Indonesia's capital since its independence. As the metropolitan grows, it has established itself as the centre for business and economy, worth more than US\$ 400 billion in 2016 alone. With its citizens' high mobility, the fast moving business and the load of central bureaucracy, Jakarta carries a heavy burden.

For decades, Java Island where Jakarta is located, has been the political and economic centre of Indonesia. Despite the fact that Kalimantan Island is almost four times bigger than Java island, about 60 per cent of the economy is on Java Island. About 58 per cent of the country's gross domestic product is produced on Java Island and this is because of Java-centric development.

With the current problems faced by Jakarta and the need to further equality development outside of Java, the Government of Indonesia has explored possible locations for a new capital. These efforts came into fruition under President Joko Widodo. After a frontal research and development planning, He announced that the capital city will be relocated to East Kalimantan. All encompassing government functions will be moved to the new location.

The planned move will start next year with the relocation process conducted gradually. The government expects that officials can start relocating as early as 2024, although a full completion of the new capital city is expected in 10–20 years. Building a green city that is environmentally friendly seems to be a daunting task, but the President is fully convinced that Indonesia is capable of building a brand new urban zone without disrupting the lush forest in the surrounding area. The President has asserted that the new capital would be a smart green metropolis. The then Minister of National Development Planning Bambang Brodjonegoro mentioned that at least 50% of the capital will consist of green space. This concept is called "forest city".

In his press conference on 26 August 2019, President Joko Widodo highlighted five facts as the main reasons for his decision. First is that the designated area is considered to be safe from disaster. Indonesia, known to be in the middle of the Ring of Fire, is prone to volcano eruption, earth quake and tsunami. Meanwhile, East Kalimantan is viewed to have lesser disaster risk.

Secondly, the province is strategically located in the center of Indonesia. So it will take less travel time to the more remote eastern part of the country. Consequently, the new capital city will open opportunities for growth and development of the economy in Kalimantan Island. It will likewise address inequality between west and east and ease income disparity across the archipelago. It intends to kick-start the economy of all eastern parts of the country.

Furthermore the future capital will be situated near already developed urban zones such as Balikpapan and Samarinda. The area also has adequate and necessary infrastructure in place, although further development is needed to prepare itself as the new capital. Last but not least, President Widodo proclaimed that the government of Indonesia already owned 180,000 ha of land in the area, three times the size of Jakarta, the current capital.

Indeed the move will cost a staggering US\$ 32,79 billion and will be the biggest project undertaken by Indonesia. But this will be the first capital city designed and built by Indonesia and not a legacy of the colonial era as most cities in Indonesia are. President Widodo has stressed that only 19% of the required fund will be funded by the national budget system, while the rest will be funded by a public-private undertaking and private investment. With the President's commitment of building a more sustainable and environmentally friendly capital, the capital relocation is indeed a bold move, yet one that will open the door to many opportunities. (NF)

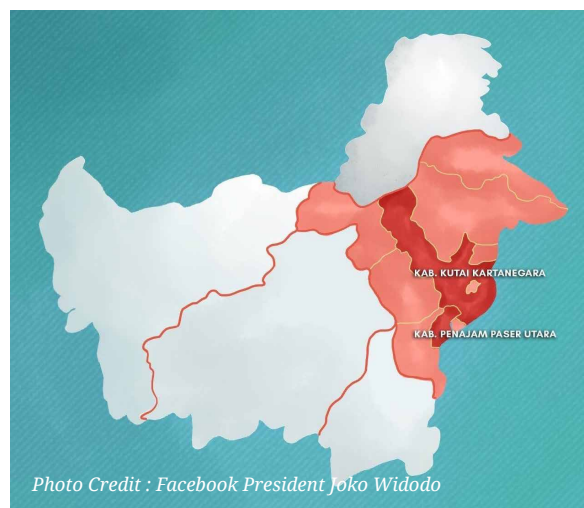


Photo Credit : Facebook President Joko Widodo

70 Years of Good Friendship between
Indonesia and Belgium: an Overview

Diversity is Reality, Harmony is Necessity

Democracy and Inclusivity:
Youth and Inclusive Digital
Democracy

A photograph of two men, Ambassador Yuri O. Thamrin of Indonesia and Secretary General Bruno van der Pluijm of Belgium, standing at a wooden podium during a toast. They are both holding glasses of wine. The podium features the Garuda Pancasila emblem. Behind them are the Indonesian and Belgian flags. The background is a red and white curtain.

70th Anniversary of Indonesia – Belgium Diplomatic Relations

Ambassador Yuri O. Thamrin of Indonesia and Secretary General Bruno van der Pluijm of Belgium proposed a toast during the Indonesian Diplomatic Reception, 2 October 2019

70 Years of Good Friendship between Indonesia and Belgium: an Overview

Dara Yusilawati

Indonesia and Belgium relations had been established long before 1949. In 1929, Indonesia was honoured to host a visit by then Prince Leopold, Duke of Brabant (before becoming King of Leopold III) and his wife, then Princess Astrid of Sweden, for their honeymoon. To honour the visit, a garden and a main street within the Bogor Botanical Garden were named after Princess Astrid. The beautiful Garden and the Avenue still exist until now.

Belgium has always been important to Indonesia. Not only because of the fictitious adventure of Belgian reporter Tintin to Indonesia in the famous comic by George Remi that made Belgium become so popular in Indonesia --and thankfully also made Indonesia more known to the world--, but also for other reasons. There are at least five reasons why Belgium has always been important to Indonesia:

First, in 1947, Belgium played an important role as one of the three members of the United Nations "Good Offices Committee" to mediate the dispute between the Republic of Indonesia and the Netherlands over the "Indonesian question" after the Declaration of Independence of Indonesia in 1945. At that time, Belgium was a non-permanent member of the newly established UN Security Council. Its active role within the Committee has contributed to the successful resolution between Indonesia and the Netherlands. This important task was appreciated by then Foreign Minister Mohammad Hatta to the then Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, Mr. Paul Van Zeeland. Therefore, Indonesia is forever grateful to Belgium for this successful mission.



Astrid Garden at Astrid Avenue in Bogor.
Photo Credit: lipi.go.id



Photo credit : goodnewsfromindonesia.id



President of Indonesia, Suharto and First Lady Tien Suharto on State Visit to Belgium, 11 November 1972.
Photo credit: Keystone Pictures USA

Second, Belgium was among the first European countries that recognized Indonesia's independence. As soon as the resolution between Indonesia and the Netherlands was reached, Belgium formally recognized Indonesia as a sovereign state in 1949. This recognition was very important for Indonesia. It has set a good precedence for other European countries at that time. The recognition by Belgium for Indonesia was then followed by opening diplomatic missions by the two countries in 1950. Foreign Minister Hatta sent a letter of appointment of Anak Agung Gede Agung as Indonesian Representation to Belgium, while Belgium appointed Mr. P. Vanderstichelen as Belgium Legation in Jakarta.

Third, Belgium and Indonesia are two democracies who always support and help one another. They also share similar ideals and values of global order, including but not limited to, on how to settle peace in the Middle East, especially for Palestine and Syria issues, promotion of multilateralism, promotion of a rules-based multilateral trading system, peace keeping operations, and climate change. Belgium and Indonesia support each other for many important roles, including as non-permanent members of United Nations Security Councils, members of United Nations Human Right Council, and members of International Maritime Organization (IMO) councils. As the current non-permanent members of UN Security Council (2019 – 2020), the two countries have in fact worked together, and will continue to do so, in pursuing many important resolutions within the UNSC on issues such as women and children in arms conflict, Palestine, peace keeping operations, and many more. The old saying that *"a friend in need is a friend indeed"* is perfectly reflected in the two countries' cooperation and support for a better world order.

Fourth, Belgium is a trusted partner to Indonesia in many areas of cooperation for 70 years. The two countries have established a solid and strong bilateral cooperation up to now. Frequent exchange visits of high level officials show the importance of the relations. To mention a few visits from Indonesian side: the visit by President Suharto in 1972, the visit of President Joko Widodo in 2016, the visit of Vice President Kalla in 2017; while from Belgium, there were visits by then Prince Albert in 1970, 1978, and 1985 (before becoming King of the Belgians in 1993), His Majesty King Philippe's visit in 2008 (when he was still Crown Prince), and the recent one was the visit by Princess Astrid in 2016 with a large economic mission. There were also so many visits at level of ministers taken place from both side.

Trade and economic cooperation between Indonesia and Belgium have started as early as 1964 with the export of Indonesian agricultural products such as tea, coffee, and copra to Belgium (via Antwerp port). Now trade between Indonesia and Belgium steadily increases every year. In the last four years (2016–2019), the total trade between the two countries increased at around 3.25%, annually. In 2018, total trade between Belgium and Indonesia reached the value of USD 1.86 billion with total export from Indonesia to Belgium valued at USD 1.26 billion and import from Belgium at 603 million.

In fact, in 2016, Belgium was ranked at No. 5 of the biggest investors to Indonesia, and in 2017, it ranked at no 7. In 2018, Belgium investment reached the value of USD 216.3 million, implemented in 140 projects across Indonesia. In the last four years (2016-2019), Belgium's investment in Indonesia has increased at around 35%.

Similar trend is also true for tourism. Thanks to the successful Festival Europalia Indonesia which was organized massively particularly in Belgium in 2017 and 2018, more Belgian tourists now come to Indonesia.

REPUBLIK INDONESIA SARIKAT
KEMENTERIAN LUAR NEGERI
No. 55L/3/B.

Djakarta, January 11th, 1950.

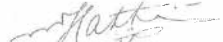
Your Excellency,

I have the honour to convey the feelings of warm appreciation of my Government for the de Jure recognition which has been extended to the Government of the United States of Indonesia by the Government of Belgium.

I may recall here the valuable role of Belgium in the United Nations Commission for Indonesia in particular and in the Forum of the United Nations in general, which has contributed so much to the successful solution of the Netherlands-Indonesian dispute. Moreover, the peoples of Belgium and Indonesia share one thing in common. Both countries have achieved their independence from the same country and fortunately enough both countries are now bound to that same country by ties of friendship and understanding.

It is therefore an honour and pleasure for me, Your Excellency, to convey to the Government of Belgium my Government's proposal and wish to exchange diplomatic missions, in order to preserve and develop the good relations which already happily exist between the peoples of Belgium and the peoples of Indonesia.

I avail myself of this opportunity of conveying to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration


Mohammad Hatta,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

His Excellency,
The Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Brussels,
BELGIUM.

In 2018, around 50 thousand Belgian tourists visited Indonesia. Too, like trade and investment, tourism area also reportedly has increased, at 8% in the last four years (2016 – 2019). The Indonesian Cultural House that was launched by the Embassy in September 2019 is therefore established to promote more 'people to people contacts' between the two countries.

During the visit of President Joko Widodo to Brussels on 21 April 2016, where he met with King Philippe of Belgium, he proposed to establish cooperation between Indonesian and Belgium particularly in the area of counter terrorism. Since then, the Indonesian National Agency for Counter Terrorism (BNPT) and Belgian Coordination Unit for Threat Assessment (CUTA) are working towards establishing an MoU for closer cooperation in countering terrorism. At the Political Consultation between Indonesia and Belgium held in Brussels last June 2019, BNPT and CUTA have exchanged notes and amendments for the Draft of the MoU. It is to hope that the MoU will be finalised soon.



Visit by President Joko Widodo to Belgium on 21-22 April 2016, received by King Philippe of Belgium.

In line with this, interfaith dialogues between the two countries have also been intensified. Since 2012, the Embassy of Indonesia in Brussels, in cooperation with Ministry of Religious Affairs of Indonesia, organized a program to promote a better understanding of religious diversity in Indonesia called the 'Indonesian Interfaith Scholarship' (IIS). This program is open for citizens of Belgium and the European Union to visit Indonesia. At this program, they will observe closely how democracy, moderation, religious harmony are practiced in Indonesia. There are at least 54 alumni of IIS now who become effective channels and links between the people of Indonesia and of Belgium.

Other cooperation such as Sister Province between Jawa Barat and Wallonia Region, Sister City between Bandung and Namur, Business-to-Business (B-to-B) cooperation, defence, education and finances (e.g. Mutual Agreement Procedures), have also been established. Strategic industry collaboration between the two has also progressed, particularly with the development of Indonesia's tank boats with Belgium-made 105mm turrets as well as the financing for purchases of 7 units of Indonesia-built CN 235 planes for the African market. The two countries have strengthened technology transfer cooperation through embryo transfer and artificial insemination. Learning from Belgium, Indonesia is currently developing Belgian Blue breeding program to accelerate self-sufficiency in meat production in Indonesia.

Last but not least, Belgium has an Indonesian theme park in Pairi Daiza located in the city of Brugelette. This is the only park across Europe with an Indonesian theme. Thanks to its owner, Mr. Eric Domb, who's for his



love for Indonesia, has built an Indonesian Mini Garden to be enjoyed by Belgians, people of Europe and also for Indonesians living in Belgium who are longing for their *kampung halaman* (home).

In short, cooperation between Indonesia and Belgium is quite extensive and comprehensive. Maybe unnoticeable, but these are solid basis for stronger and closer cooperation and therefore good friendship between the two countries. This good friendship has lasted for 70 years and is undoubtedly hoped to continue for many years in the future. Certainly, as many would say, there are many areas for improvement; but, with such great potentials and capacities combined, Indonesia and Belgium, **can and will only go further together**, to make the world a better place. (DY)

Trade Indonesia-Belgium 2018



TOTAL
USD 1,86 billion

EXPORT
USD 1,26 billion

IMPORT
USD 603,38 million

SURPLUS
USD 658,43 million

(Ministry of Trade of Indonesia)

Foreign Direct Investment from Belgium to Indonesia 2018

USD 216,37 million
140 Projects

(Investment Board Indonesia)

Belgian Tourist to Indonesia 2018



(Statistics Bureau Indonesia)

Indonesia and Belgium in Comparison

	Land	Population	GDP PPP Per Capita	GDP PPP	Reserve	Foreign Direct Investment	Value of International Trade
 Indonesia	1.910.931 km ²	261.9 million (2017) <small>(Statistics Bureau Indonesia)</small>	USD 13,180 (est. 2018) <small>(World Bank)</small>	USD3.50 trillion (est. 2018) <small>(World Bank)</small>	USD 126,86 billion (2018)	USD 29.21 billion (2018) <small>(Investment Board Indonesia)</small>	USD 368.93 billion (2018) <small>(Statistics Bureau Indonesia)</small>
 Belgium	30.528 km ²	11.3 million (2017) <small>(World Bank)</small>	USD 47,561 (2017) <small>(World Bank)</small>	USD 540.9 billion (2017) <small>(World Bank)</small>	USD 21,66 billion (July 2018) <small>(National Bank of Belgium)</small>	USD 740 million (2017) <small>(World Bank)</small>	USD 924.97 billion (2014) <small>(Belgium National Institute of Statistics)</small>

The Journey of 70 Years of Good Friendship between Indonesia and Belgium

Visit by then Prince Leopold, Duke of Brabant (before becoming King of Leopold III) and his wife, then Princess Astrid of Sweden to Indonesia. To honour the visit, a garden within the Bogor Botanical Garden was named after Princess Astrid. The Garden is still preserved until now.

1929



1949



In 1947, Belgium was one of the three members of the United Nations "Good Offices Committee mediated between the Republic of Indonesia and the Netherlands. After an agreement was reached, Belgium formally recognized Indonesia as a sovereign state in 1949 and was among the first European countries recognized Indonesia's independence.

Indonesia appointed H. E. Anak Agung Gede Agung as Indonesian Representative to Belgium with title Ambassador. Belgium appointed H.E. P. Vanderstichelen as Belgium Legation to Indonesia.

1950



1959



Indonesia appointed H.E. Ambassador Laili Roesad as first Ambassador to Belgium.

Belgium appointed Ambassador Michel van Ussel as Belgium First Ambassador to Indonesia

1966



1972



President of Indonesia Suharto and First Lady Tien Suharto paid a State Visit to Belgium, received by King Baudouin and Queen Fabiola on 11 November 1972 in Brussels.

2008 and 2009

Indonesia had the honour to dress one of Brussels City's mascots, the Mannequin Pis, with traditional costume from Lampung on 18 - 19 August 2008 and 18 - 19 August 2009.



2016



Visit by Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid to Indonesia on 12 - 19 March 2016, with economic mission of at least 301 delegates (of 127 companies) and 4 Ministers. She visited Jakarta, Bogor, Bekasi, Karawang and Bandung resulting to 24 contracts and MoU's signed.

Visit by Vice President Yusuf Kalla on the occasion of Festival Europalia Indonesia. Inaugurating the Festival, Vice President Kalla was accompanied by King Philippe of Belgium.

2017



2016



Visit by President Joko Widodo to Brussels on 21- 22 April 2016. President Joko Widodo was received by King Philippe of Belgium. President Widodo proposed a closer cooperation with Belgium to counter terrorism and promotion of tolerance and moderation (by interfaith dialogue among youth and religious leaders).

2019 - 2020

Indonesia and Belgium were elected as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for the period of 2019 - 2020.



2019



Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi of Indonesia met with the Foreign Minister of Belgium Didier Reynders in Geneva on February 2019 to discuss bilateral cooperation as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council 2019 - 2020 including on the issue of peace keepers.

Photo credit (1966) : Embassy of Belgium, Jakarta
Photo credit (2107): setkab.go.id

List of Indonesian Ambassadors to Belgium



ANAK AGUNG GEDE AGUNG

(1950-1953)



MOHAMMAD RAZIF

(1954-1956)



RADEN WIWOHO PURBOHADIWIDJOJO

(1956-1959)



LAILI ROESAD

(1959-1964)



CH Aidir ANWAR SANI

(1970-1972)



R.B.I.N DJAJANINGRAT

(1968-1970)



ABOEPRAJITNO

(1966-1968)



TOJIB HADIWIDJAYA

(1964-1966)



J.B.P MARAMIS

(1972-1973)



FRANCISCUS S. SEDA

(1973-1976)



ATMONO SURYO

(1976-1978)



KAHONO MARTOHADINEGORO

(1978-1982)



DR. H. SABANA KARTASASMITA

(1994-1997)



TEUKU MOHAMMAD ZAHIRSJAH S.H

(1990-1994)



ATMONO SURYO

(1986-1990)



GUSTI RUSLI NOOR

(1983-1986)



DRS. I.G.N.K SUMANTERA

(1997-2000)



SULAIMAN ABDULMANAN

(2001-2004)



ABDURRACHMAN MATTALITTI S.H

(2004-2006)



NADJIB RIPHAT KESOEMA

(2006-2010)



YURI OCTAVIAN THAMRIN

(2016 - NOW)



ARIF HAVAS EGGROSENO

(2010-2015)

Speech of the Guest of Honor, H.E. Amb. Mr. Bruno van der Pluijm, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium at the Diplomatic Reception of the Republic of Indonesia's 74th Independence Day

Brussels, the Royal Museum of Arts and History, 2 October 2019

*Dear Ambassador Thamrin,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends of Indonesia,*

Thank you for this warm welcome. I am honored to be here, and happy I can take part in the celebration of the Indonesian National Day this year, when Belgium and Indonesia celebrate 70 years of bilateral relations.

You have chosen a magnificent location, and rightfully so, because we are not only celebrating the Indonesian National Day, for which I want to congratulate you and the many Indonesian friends gathered here. We are also celebrating the excellent ties between our two countries. The Republic of Indonesia and the Kingdom of Belgium are closer than ever, and the 70th anniversary of our bilateral relations gives us ample opportunity to highlight our achievements and our commonalities of view in so many fields. Ever since Belgium recognized the independence of Indonesia in 1949, our relations have been growing and we have exchanged an impressive number of high level visits. Let me recall the State Visit of our late King Baudouin in 1973 and of his niece Princess Astrid in 2016, with a business delegation. Vice-President Kalla paid also a visit to King Filip just two years ago, in the margins of Europolia Indonesia.

This year, the Indonesian Embassy here is marking our 70 years' celebration with some wonderful events, such as the Festival of Indonesia in Pairi Daiza last summer, or the opening of the Indonesian Cultural House just two weeks ago. In a few weeks you will hold a photo exhibition at the federal House of Representatives. I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Ambassador, and your embassy's staff, for these events, and for many more to come, I heard.

On our side, the Belgian embassy in Jakarta is also organizing events, but you are setting a high standard... Among the activities, I would like to specially mention the beach cleanup day in Jakarta two weeks ago. Our staff received the support of hundreds of Indonesian volunteers, among whom the Europe Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs !

This activity shows how committed Belgium is to supporting sustainable development and implementing the SDGs.

This year also marks our shared presence as non-permanent members in the UN Security Council, where we share similar commitments and priorities. The Republic of Indonesia and the Kingdom of Belgium share the same philosophy on the world stage, in promoting effective multilateralism and consensus building as keys to resolving disputes around the world. It is no coincidence that Brussels and Jakarta are hosts to the most successful regional organizations of our time - the European Union and ASEAN, which are instrumental in upholding a rules-based international order in what is now increasingly becoming a rather unpredictable world. Given our shared philosophy, Belgium can only welcome Indonesia's increasing influence on the world stage.

Trade relations between Belgium and Indonesia are strong and steadily expanding. Belgium, which is the 11th biggest exporter in the world and one of the most open economies, is looking at Indonesia and its impressive economic development for further trade and investment opportunities. The trade mission of the Walloon Region travelling next week to Indonesia bears testimony of our interest in your country. Belgium also hopes a new boost to bilateral trade will follow the successful negotiations Indonesia and the EU are conducting towards a Free Trade Agreement. Elimination of trade barriers also eliminates obstacles between people of our countries. So let's remain ambitious.

It is clear we both value our good ties, and that they also materialize on a local level. Just two weeks ago we welcomed the visit of the city government and Mayor of Bandung to its "sister-city", the City of Namur. We are also glad to have seen the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding between West-Java and the Walloon Region, a solid basis to deepen regional contacts.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. Ambassador, Your Excellencies, let's turn the words into practice and enjoy networking here in this magnificent building. Thank you once again for having me here, thank you for this wonderful reception, and congratulations to you and the Indonesian people on this National Day.

Terima kasih!

When Indonesia and Belgium 'Say No to Drugs'

Yuri Alwis

According to UNODC World Drug Report 2017, drug abusers' numbers has been increasing worldwide: in 2013 there were around 246 million people, 247 million in 2014 and in 2016 the number had reached 275 million people or around 5.6% of the adult population in the world.

The same report in 2015 mentioned that the market and supply of ATS narcotics (ecstasy, amphetamine and methamphetamine) continued to increase with an estimation of 33.9 million people using this type of narcotics and that this market and supply were expanding in the Southeast Asian Region. The need for a strategic policy to anticipate the strength of the Transnational Criminal Group, a narcotics syndicate network structure, has been expressed also by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and UNODC Executive Director Yuri Fedotov at the Security Council Meeting on 18 December 2013.

In many years, Indonesia has been a transit country but these days it has developed as a destination country for narcotics distribution. Belgium as well, being located in the middle of the mainland of Western Europe, has been a confluence of trade routes from various continents of the World, and also an entry point for illicit trafficking of drugs throughout the continent, such as cocaine from South America, and a transit or export point of synthetic drugs and cannabis. As transnational and organized crime, this crime would be more effective to be handled together with many countries.

In this commemorative year of Indonesia-Belgium 70 years of diplomatic relation, the two countries took initiative to organize on 5-6 September 2019 in Brussels, 'the Indonesia-Belgium Expert Meeting on Drugs Trafficking'. The convening of experts from both countries to discuss and exchange information is expected to improve measures to tackle drugs crimes domestically and also globally.

Indonesian officials from the National Narcotics Board, Customs and Excise from the Ministry of Finance and also from the Police came to Brussels and convened in a meeting with their Belgian counterparts from the Police and Customs office.



As conveyed by the Indonesian Ambassador in Brussels, Yuri O. Thamrin: 'This year Indonesia and Belgium commemorate the 70th anniversary of the RI-Belgium bilateral relations and it is timely to encourage cooperation in many areas between the two countries. We hope that this effort can result in concrete forms of cooperation overcoming not only drugs trafficking challenges but also challenges in other law enforcement fields'.

Peter De Buysscher, Director International Police Cooperation of the Belgian Police, has also expressed support to this initiative for a better understanding in matters of dealing with drug crimes in both countries and for encouraging optimization of bilateral cooperation through exchanging experiences and information.

In Indonesia, matters related to drugs have been amongst the critical issues of concern of the Indonesian President Joko Widodo. Since the starting of his previous tenure as President (2014-2019), President Joko Widodo has declared the country in a state of drugs emergency, explained the Head of Indonesian Narcotics Board, Heru Winarko. Thus, this drugs issue has been made a top handling priority under the administration of President Joko Widodo, also now continued in his second tenure.

The Indonesian archipelago is geographically located between two continents and two oceans, while having borders amongst others with Australia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore and Timor Leste. This naturally opens many routes and entry points to Indonesia from various regions. According to our data, 80% of drugs trafficking coming into Indonesia is being shipped by sea.

On various occasions, President Joko Widodo revealed data and facts related to drugs that occurred in Indonesia, where an average of 50 people die every day due to drug abuse. Calculated, there are 18,000 people who die each year. This number has yet counted the 4.2 million people who are being rehabilitated and 1.2 million who cannot be rehabilitated. In 2017, the number of drug abuses in Indonesia has reached around 6 million people and 60% of prisoners and detainees throughout Indonesia are related to narcotics crime.



Strategic steps to suppress drug trafficking as well as eradicate its syndicated syndicates have been made by strengthening the capacity of its National Narcotics Board or *Badan Nasional Narkotika* (BNN) through the signing of the Presidential Regulation No. 47 of 2019 on 4 July 2019. This regulation enables BNN to execute more effectively its duties in preventing and combating drug trafficking in the form of prevention, cooperation, law enforcement, rehabilitation, community empowerment and research. BNN has also been actively increasing bilateral cooperation with a number of countries, such as the Philippines, Colombia, Singapore, France, Australia, China and Iran.

Indonesia has also what we called an International Anti-Narcotics Center of Excellence (*INARCELL*) which was built to enhance international cooperation in drug handling and conducting capacity building programs. This center conducted a number of anti-drug campaigns in schools and public spaces, and social media was also a target that needed to be reached.

Similar to Indonesia, the Belgian side also faces the rising crimes in drug trafficking. In tackling this, the Belgian Government established an integrated policy in the field of drugs with the National Security Plan 2016-2019, by giving the highest priority to the handling of cannabis, cocaine and synthetic drugs problems. They also have set out program priorities in the 'Integral Security Act', while at the regional or local authorities' level, they have established a 'local security plan'.

Today's trend drug trafficking crime challenge is the online drug sales and distributions where payment via darkweb and bitcoin have spread in many parts of the World, making it difficult to be tracked. In the drug handling effort, the Belgian Federal Police cooperates with Customs, Post Office and courier service companies, in the form of information exchange and joint operations. In the future, Indonesia will invite in return its Belgian counterpart to participate in various BNN activities in Indonesia.

Diversity is Reality, Harmony is Necessity

Elisabeth Ida

As a nation of abundant varieties, harmony is a keyword for Indonesia. The diversity of cultures with 700 living languages from 300 ethnic groups on 17.000 islands is enriched by six official religions and other traditional beliefs. It is nothing less than suitable that Indonesia's national motto is 'Bhinneka Tunggal Ika', Old Javanese translated as 'unity in diversity'. There are six legally recognized monotheistic religions in Indonesia: Islam, Protestant Christianity, Roman Catholic Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism and Confucianism, with shares in the population of respectively 87,2%, 6,9%, 2,9%, 1,7%, 0,7% and 0,05%.

'Religious Diversity in Indonesia': The Documentary Photography Project

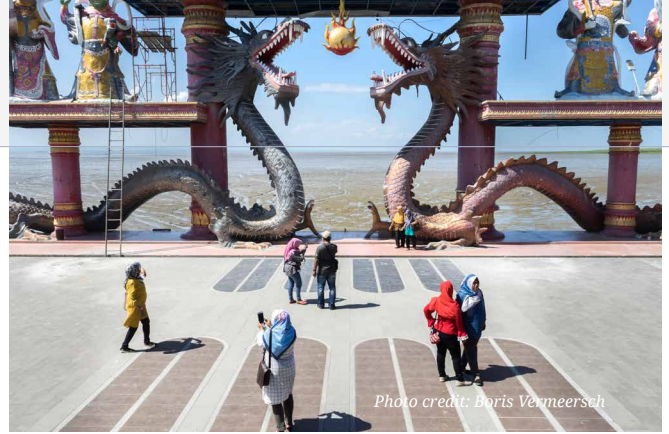
The Indonesian Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Indonesian Embassy in Brussels invited two young Belgian photographers to capture the religious diversity in Indonesia. Considering the largeness of Indonesia's land, this project specifically handles Java and Bali. Through a selection process, Nick Somers and Boris Vermeersch were appointed to conduct this project. They had the opportunity to visit each different place in Java (Jakarta, Semarang, Magelang, Muntian, Yogyakarta, Solo, Malang and Surabaya) and Bali.

The visit was a short one-week trip, but it was nevertheless a valuable journey. It was a first trip to Indonesia for both photographers, so they could see Indonesian (religious) landscape and life scenes with a fresh look. Originating from Belgium with its own dynamic and problematic concerning religions, both emerging photographers are aware that religion is a topic that needs to be handled 'with great care' (Vermeersch), hence the strategy of the visual imagery was 'to follow first impressions, seeing where religion stands in daily life and how different religions co-exist' (Somers). Starting from these points, the selection of the images took place and the whole exhibition is built in the spirit of understanding and experiencing religious diversity and interfaith harmony.

As a photography series in documentary style, the images *show things* rather than they *tell things*. Events are not recorded as in a reportage or press photo. In this discourse of photography style, images are working together like bricks of a building, rather than being a stand-alone picture. Only by examining the images as a whole series would the viewer come to a comprehensive reading. Some stories are included in this book to embody the experience of both photographers on certain subjects.

Religions in Different Life Spaces

Religions do not only take place but also make place in the society. In the spatial order, Indonesian urban landscapes are mostly adorned with a few towers of religious houses. In the public sphere, religious sites do not only fulfill the religious function, but also become a social space, even a touristic hotspot. Kids wearing *sarong* play paper plane just next to the entrance of Kotagede Grand Mosque in Yogyakarta, young women wearing *hijab* at the front row of the St. Mary of the Assumption Cathedral in Jakarta, domestic and foreign tourists -regardless their beliefs or disbelief- visit Confucian, Buddhist or



Hindu temples as a part of their holiday. More than it is experienced in Belgium, religion in Indonesia is an integral part of daily life of people individually. Not only in religious houses where the religion followers pray together, the prayers are also conducted alone in private spaces with a true loyalty and solemnity – see the lady praying *Sholat* in a temporary DIY setting using a refrigerator cardboard to delineate its 'holy boundary'. Even in the company or government buildings, just like in shopping malls, in each public place in Indonesia you would find a *musholla* (small mosque).

Interfaith Harmony

Indonesians' way of life and national identity is strongly based on multiculturalism with Pancasila as the country's ideology. It consists of 5 principles: 1) One and Only God, 2) a just and civilized humanity, 3) the unity of Indonesia, 4) democracy, and 5) social justice. The religions and nation's ideology are intertwined and find a solid ground in the nation's political philosophy. A grand sculpture of Garuda Pancasila takes a distinctive place just at a corner outside the Jakarta's Cathedral, surrounded by plants and flowers, just like statues of Jesus and Mary are decorated.

Tolerance and harmony are not merely words for Indonesian religious believers. The Santa Maria Ganjuran orphanage in Bantul, south of Yogyakarta, is taking care of dozens of children of all religions. Islamic students regularly pay visit to and stay a couple of days in a school for Catholic priests in Mertoyudan, Central Java, in order to enrich their understanding of both religions. In these places, the inhabitants take their responsibility not only personally but also collectively, like cleaning the premises together. This is another core tenet of Indonesian philosophy: '*gotong royong*' (literally 'to carry together', or comprehended as mutual cooperation for a shared goal).

The importance of maintaining tolerance and harmony in Indonesia is reflected in the presence of PKUB (*Pusat Kerukunan Umat Beragama*, the Center for Religious Harmony), within the Indonesian Ministry of Religious Affairs. Various programs are carried out in order to build a more harmonious religious life all over Indonesia, as well as to promote Indonesia's religious tolerance in the world at large. Yearly, The Indonesian Embassy in Brussels and PKUB organize an IIS Program (Indonesian Interfaith Scholarship) inviting professionals from Europe to personally encounter the religious diversity and interfaith harmony in several cities in Indonesia. Nathan Ishar was one of the IIS 2019 participants. His photographic documentation of the 2019 IIS Program is also included in this exhibition.

Throughout history, the religions in Indonesia have been acculturated and have thence become embedded solidly in the daily life. The PKUB slogan 'Diversity is Reality, Harmony is Necessity' represents the nation's both success and on-going challenges in maintaining a harmonious life for all Indonesian citizens. The government therefore continuously endeavors towards more harmony, among other through internal, interfaith, and international dialogues.

* The title is the slogan of PKUB (*Pusat Kerukunan Umat Beragama*, The Center for Religious Harmony, the Ministry of Religious Affairs).



Democracy and Inclusivity: Youth and Inclusive Digital Democracy

Morgane Benjamine Virginie De Clercq

Over the last couple of years, the importance of digital democracy has tremendously increased. These days, almost all people, people in urban areas and people in remote areas have the opportunity to gain access to the internet. Yet, it is of utmost normality that state actors such as governments use this tool to their advantage to spread and promote democracy. The possibility of combining both democracy and digitalization has several advantages for both the government and citizens.

This essay will attempt to outline some advantages that include our generation, the youth and will use democracy in Belgium and Indonesia as a starting point.

To begin, one must emphasize that the definition of democracy used in this essay is the definition outlined by the Oxford dictionary and states that a democracy is “A system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.”

Firstly, one will look at the case of Belgium, which scores high (8 out of 10) on the democracy index. Citizens elect the politicians they would like to be represented by in the government which make the citizens included to some extent. Furthermore, in my opinion, Belgians have the possibility to engage and contribute to the further development of democracy to the extent desired. A lot of important and day-to-day decisions are published and accessible online and are displayed through different media. Moreover, youth are exposed to decisions made by different parties since a young age as they are exposed to the same media as their elder counterparts.

As a deep understanding of democracy and democracy promotion is crucial for its further establishment, more emphasis should be placed on democracy promotion through social media. These days, social media has an extensive reach and is widely used by youth, which in turn could be potentially used to create a wider network to encourage the youth to be more involved and included in politics. A great example that shows that youth have a strong will to establish a safer and more livable world is the youth being heavily involved in the climate debate. This clearly demonstrates that the youth care about their future and the future of their descendants.

Secondly, one will scrutinize the case of democracy in Indonesia. Indonesia scores even higher on the democracy index with a 9 out of 10. There are some prospects for further advancements related to democracy with the re-election of Joko Widodo in mid-April. In my opinion a great potential improvement for democracy in Indonesia would be to include *all* citizens, also the ones in more remote areas. A possible separation of religion and State could plausible also facilitate decision-making in the long term.

Moreover, after spending three months in Jakarta and after numerous encounters with the youth, I realized how engaged they are and how much they care about creating a better future. In the case of Indonesia, I personally think it makes a lot of sense to focus on transferring messages through social media as one can reach way more people on *all* different islands. It has the capability to expand the knowledge of youth further and will make them feel more included and more involved in what is happening in their country.

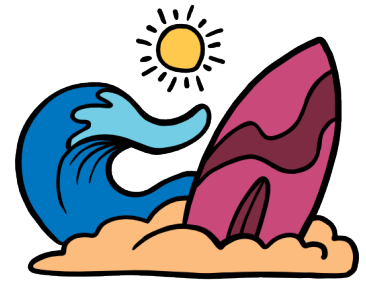
The ultimate advantage of promoting democracy through social media is to create awareness of its importance across youth and in turn create more involvement. Social media is such a handy tool to spread messages and make people critically think about several issues and can easily be applied by every government to facilitate democracy promotion. Further, accessing a large target group is crucial to achieve inclusivity. To conclude, one can say that there is a lot of potential for further positive development in the field of digital democracy which should include youth as we are the future of this world!

BDSC III was a wonderful experience to get to know students from all corners of the world and their respective views on how to include all people in society. The student panels gave us the chance to actively listen and reflect on several issues arising from the spread of democratic norms, ranging from the increase of fake news to voicing our stances on social media. It was very interesting to see how perspectives from students from different socio-cultural backgrounds can differ.

Moreover, we got the opportunity to engage with ministers and listen to their informative debates on democracy in all its aspects. The main goal of the conference to reach an outcome on what needs to change in the future concerning spreading democratic norms and consequently, how and making new long life friends has definitely been reached.

Morgane Benjamine Virginie De Clercq is a participant of the 3rd Bali Democracy Students Conference (BDSC) in Bali, 5 – 6 December 2019 from Belgium. She is currently studying Advanced M.Sc International Relations and Diplomacy at Leiden University, the Netherlands.

SURFING BUCKET LIST!



There is no place quite like Indonesia on our Planet Earth: the world's greatest watermen, whether sailors, divers or surfers have known this fact for a long time. Indonesia has sea-lanes, channels and exotic isles that make it a veritable paradise for serious seafarers. From a surfer's point of view, Indonesia has more coastline than any other country in the world. Indonesia's 17.508 islands (about 6.000 are inhabited) offer some 80.000 kilometers of coastlines, or twice of the Earth's circumference. This paradise straddles the equator between latitudes of 11 degrees South and 6 degrees North. The fierce storms in Antarctica in the Southern hemisphere generate swells that present you a potential for surfing unmatched anywhere. One tip: a careful web planning will help to schedule surfing trips to find the good waves.



Photo credit: Marvin Meyer, unsplash.com

● **MENTAWAI, Disneyland of Waves**

The Mentawai Islands off West Sumatra provide waves for all levels, from a first year beginner, a seasoned veteran or a World Tour Pro. For surfers the Mentawai Island chain is a deluxe Disneyland of waves, where the C-grade waves are better than most waves found in the Californian coast and the A-grade breaks are easily the most perfect surf spots in the world. Get a trusty powerboat and knowledgeable Captain to find big name breaks like Macaronis, Lance's Right or Telescopes.

● **NUSA TENGGARA, In Search of "Desert Point"**

Only a short jump away from the famous 'island of gods', Bali, Nusa Tenggara is another world of its own. This islands chain east of Bali going through the Lesser Sunda Islands offers not only top-level waves but also ancient cultural richness and precious natural resources. Don't forget to visit the world's largest living lizard species Komodo Dragons from the Jurassic era. Next to riding waves on the wonderful beaches of Nusa Tenggara, you can also surf the cultural path and enjoy its raw island vibe.

On every Southern island that you encounter in Nusa Tenggara area, you would find world-class surfing breaks. Particularly the islands Lombok, Sumbawa, Sumba and Rote are unmissable for surfers. Many advanced and pro surfers go to Lombok in search of a special lefthand reef break known as "Desert Point". Catching this wave will make you addicted forever, but this wave is dangerous due to the high chance of hitting reef if you fall.

On Sumbawa island you would find well-known spots like Scar Reef, Yoyos and Lakey Peak with lots of accommodation, large crowds, also professional Indonesian surfers who have made career riding waves.



Photo credit: Bagus Ghufron, unsplash.com



Photo credit: Irawan Dani

● **"THE BONO", A Mysterious Natural Wonder**

Deep in the Sumatran rainforest in the Kampar Regency you can find The Bono, one of the world's most obscure natural wonders. It is a rare Indonesian tidal bore, an extremely fast pushing river tide wave activated by the moon's gravitational pull. The Bono has a ship-sinking strength, which makes the locals highly wary of it. Such particular tidal bores have been surfed on rivers in the Amazon, in China and England, but deep in Indonesia this natural phenomenon forms the perfect surfing wave. The most difficult to plan is the location so tucked away into the Sumatran jungle, far from beaches and lakes where proper watercraft are commonly found. Yet with careful planning, preparation and adequate know-hows, your search of what had only been whispers of a mythical wave that existed in fresh water would definitely pay off. (EI)

Source: "Surfing Indonesia", Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy of the Republic of Indonesia, Lueras, L. (editor), Adiwijaya, B. (co-editor)



Photo credit: Alex Victor, unsplash.com

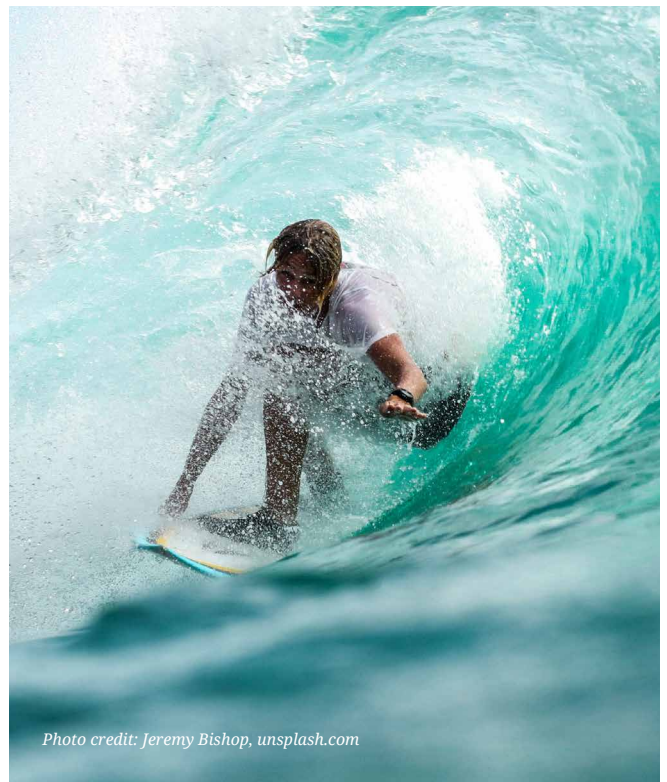


Photo credit: Jeremy Bishop, unsplash.com





Rumah Budaya Indonesia: A Sustainable Way of Falling in Love (with Indonesia!)

BJ Habibie in the Eyes of Indonesian Diaspora

Strengthening Customs and Financial Cooperation

Special Reports





For those who already visited Indonesia and fell in love with it - with its culture or the friendliness of its people - but did not have enough time to appreciate this during their short visit to Indonesia: RBI is the perfect place to stay closely connected with Indonesia and to experience Indonesia.

Rumah Budaya Indonesia: A Sustainable Way of Falling in Love (with Indonesia!)

Dara Yusilawati

The 70th anniversary of the close relations between Indonesia and Belgium this year was also celebrated by the opening of the Indonesian Cultural House (ICH) or *Rumah Budaya Indonesia* (RBI), last September (11/9). Located at the Embassy of Indonesia in Avenue de Tervuren 294, Brussels, *Rumah Budaya Indonesia* serves not only as a 'center' where you can find anything Indonesian, but also as a 'home' for Belgian, Luxembourgian and other Citizens of the European Union who are thirsty for Indonesian arts, culture and language.

At *Rumah Budaya Indonesia*, they can explore Indonesia further: learn Bahasa Indonesia, try out some traditional dances and instruments, enjoy Indonesia's arts or watch Indonesian movies. If a visit to RBI is not possible, then the RBI Team can visit you through its reach-out-programs namely 'RBI Goes to School' and 'RBI's Adoption Program'. RBI's talented teachers can come and visit schools to share the fun of learning Indonesian instruments, performing Indonesian dances or doing Indonesian crafts like batik.

Inspired by the success of Europalia Indonesia

The idea of establishing an Indonesian Culture House was initially proposed during the organization of Europalia Indonesia Festival, which run from October 2017 until January 2018 showcasing Indonesian culture, arts, movies and literature in various cities in Belgium. The 'unpredicted' high interests and enthusiasm of more than 600 000 people who attended the festival have motivated the establishment of a cultural house in Belgium.

Sustainable way of promoting Indonesia

While the Embassy of Indonesia has been very active and ambitious in promoting Indonesia and Indonesian culture in Belgium and Luxembourg all these years, the establishment of the RBI will hopefully help transforming those efforts into sustainable endeavors. As we all know, promoting culture is a long process. It does not end when people decide to visit the country for tourism: there is much more than that.

With more regular and structured programs, Indonesian culture is now more accessible to the public in Belgium and not just with an event-based program. With the presence of RBI, the promotion of Indonesia is now more focused and tailor-made for the interests of the public, crafted carefully in a curriculum of the RBI.

The RBI is therefore wished to serve as an engine for a more sustainable Indonesian cultural diplomacy as well as an effective medium to establish closer contacts among the people of Indonesia, Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union.

As the RBI is already here in Brussels now, let us explore and experience Indonesia! (DY)

Habibie in the Eyes of the Indonesian Diaspora

One word to describe President Habibie:

Irene Puspitasari: Intelligent.

Syawaluddin: the “Minister of Science and Technology”.

Nita Pralaksmi: Smart leader. Modest. Have strong principles in everything. Close to his people by heart.

Ludovicus Mardiyono: Aircraft.

Rifa Reizayadi: Intelligent Person.

Bella Yuningsih: Keep inspire everyone to continue believing in their “Dream”.

Citraresmi Prabuningsih: Genius.

Maria N Pangemanan Bondesen: Mr. Crack, Indonesian President, Emeritus.

Rita Wenge: 3rd President of Indonesia.

If you could say something to Mr. B.J Habibie, what would you say?

Irene Puspitasari: I am proud of the sons of Indonesian nation like him, who studied far away in other countries but returned to serve in the country.

Syawaluddin: Thank you for elevating our national pride to the world.

Nita Pralaksmi: Thank you for all the knowledge and thoughts that mean very much for the Indonesian people.

Ludovicus Mardiyono: His own teaching in: Teaching young people to discover the potential you have found in yourself, be great in it!

Rifa Reizayadi: Really outstanding service from the late Habibie for the Indonesian people.

Bella Yuningsih: Thank you very much sir for all your work and outstanding service to your nation, Indonesia.

Citraresmi Prabuningsih: You are my role model for Indonesia.

Maria N Pangemanan Bondesen: Thank you very much for your great contribution for this nation, Indonesia.

Rita Wenge: Thank you for your great example maintaining the unity of Indonesia within its diversity. You are a kind, loving, loyal till the end-husband, and a great example of being a father for many family. You are a real hero.

Resource persons:

Irene Puspitasari, Gavere

Syawaluddin, Antwerpen

Nita Pralaksmi, Mol

Ludovicus Mardiyono, Brussels

Rifa Reizayadi, Brussels

Bella Yuningsih, Aalst

Citraresmi Prabuningsih, Amel

Maria N Pangemanan Bondesen, Brussels

Rita Wenge, Brussels

Favourite quote/character from him that you apply in your daily life

Irene Puspitasari: When someone insults you, it really means a compliment because they spend a lot of time thinking about you, even when you don't think about them.

Syawaluddin: His friendliness and his humility.

Nita Pralaksmi: Loving partner, sharing soul and care for other people.

Ludovicus Mardiyono: You don't need someone who is perfect just find someone who always makes you happy and makes you mean more than anyone.

Rifa Reizayadi: If I can choose 1 in between 2 sciences of the science of religion or the science of making airplanes, then I will choose the science of religion, rather than the science of making airplanes.

Bella Yuningsih: Thank you very much for inspiring many Indonesian youth, wherever we are.

Citraresmi Prabuningsih: Thank you for being an Indonesian citizen who inspired the name of Indonesia in the field of science.

Maria N Pangemanan Bondesen: Mr. B.J Habibie is a great inspiration for Indonesia's young generation.

Rita Wenge: Your great devotion to this nation is not for nothing. We are super proud of you. (DY/TP)



Photo credit: Setkab



Meeting with Secretary General of World Customs Organization,
H.E. Kunio Mikuriya

Strengthening Customs and Financial Cooperation

Ardiyanto

The Minister of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia, Sri Mulyani Indrawati paid a working visit to Belgium and Luxembourg on 10 - 12 July 2019 accompanied by the Director General of Customs and Excise, Mr. Heru Pambudi, and the Indonesian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the European Union and the World Customs Organization (WCO), H. E. Yuri Octavian Thamrin.

During her meeting with the Secretary General of WCO, Dr. Kunio Mikuriya at the WCO Headquarters in Brussels, Minister Mulyani expressed her hopes for the WCO's increasing role in the issue of trade facilitation and border enforcement, especially in the fight against drug trafficking, money laundering and bulk cash smuggling. Minister Mulyani also expressed her appreciation for the appointment of Indonesia to be the host for the WCO Technology Conference and Exhibition in year 2020, reestablishment of Indonesia as vice chair of the WCO Integrity Sub Committee, and the reappointment of Indonesia as a member of the WCO Audit Committee.

In exchange, Secretary General Mikuriya took the opportunity to express his appreciation to the Minister of Finance for the success of Customs Reform in Indonesia. He further explained that in terms of cooperation in the field of drug trafficking, money laundering and bulk cash smuggling, the WCO will enhance the role of Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILO), especially by exchanging intelligence data between members as well as in the form of joint operations.

At the meeting with Secretary General Mikuriya, Ambassador Thamrin conveyed a wish to increase cooperation and support of the WCO related to the implementation of the FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) system for Indonesian timber exports. Secretary General Mikuriya expressed his support for optimal implementation of the FLEGT and suggested this to be discussed at the WCO Enforcement Committee meetings to obtain formal support from members, especially to discourage the use of illegal wood and play a better role in combating illegal logging.

Minister Mulyani also attended the annual Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) meeting, in Luxembourg on 11 July 2019. She held a bilateral meeting with the AIIB President, Jin Liqun, on the sidelines of the President's Reception Welcoming Dinner. Minister Mulyani expressed her appreciation for AIIB's performance over the past 3.5 years, especially for AIIB's investment in priority infrastructure projects in Indonesia, one of which was a stand-alone financing in the development of the Mandalika tourism area, Lombok. Further, Minister Mulyani also encouraged the improvement of AIIB's financing performance

through the issuance of local currency financing, increased cooperation with the private sector and provision of financing with cost of borrowing that was more competitive compared to other similar development banks. She conveyed the need for a local presence to strengthen cooperation and coordination with stakeholders in Indonesia. To intensify Indonesia's collaboration with the AIIB, she views the need to assign an Indonesian professional to be posted in the AIIB. Minister Mulyani also expressed her appreciation to the AIIB for the preparation of the Country Programming Memo as the basis for the AIIB pipeline project in Indonesia and reiterated the importance of AIIB investments to be in line with Indonesian national priority programs.

While in Luxembourg, Minister Mulyani also held a meeting with the Minister of Finance of Luxembourg, Pierre Gramegna at the Office of the Ministry of Finance of Luxembourg. The meeting discussed the opportunity to increase cooperation between Indonesia and Luxembourg in various fields, such as sustainable finance, private financing for infrastructure projects, digital economy, double taxation agreement, and the follow up of the visit of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce to Luxembourg in September 2018.

Regarding sustainable financing, Minister Gramegna conveyed the position of Luxembourg which has become the second largest country in the world in terms of fund management after the United States, with management funds reaching \$ 5 trillion. Luxembourg is also a leader in sustainable financing and digital financing. Minister Mulyani hoped that Luxembourg's excellence in sustainable financing can encourage the development of renewable energy infrastructure such as geothermal and can encourage financing for the emergence of new companies (start-up) in the digital economy in Indonesia. The two Ministers also agreed to restart tax treaty negotiations which had been stalled since 2012 based on international agreements in the area of taxation.

At this meeting with Minister Gramegna, Minister Mulyani also explained Indonesia's serious commitment to address environmental impacts through palm oil certification, replanting in increasing production without land expansion and a moratorium on forest clearance. In addition, Ambassador Thamrin of Indonesia also conveyed various efforts that have been carried out to provide better understanding about Indonesia's palm oil to related parties/stakeholders in Europe resulting to a growing awareness in accepting palm oil products in Europe. Minister Gramegna took note Indonesia's explanation and supported Indonesia's promotion of palm oil in Europe. Minister Gramegna plans to visit Indonesia in the near future as part of a working visit to Southeast Asia.

Diaspora





Fall in Love with Indonesia

Eric Domb, CEO Pairi Daiza

There is nothing easier than falling in love with Indonesia and I did it already several times!

It happens on each of my numerous trips to this fabulous archipelago and I remember the first time of my visit, it was in 1978, I was 18 years and had just arrived in Bali.

How can one resist to the charm of the "Island of the Gods"? The sheer beauty of its rice-terraces and volcanoes, the silhouettes of temples made from lava-stone, the elegant nature of its population, the religious fervor of the numerous ceremonies, which steer the daily life of each Balinese.

But apart from this cliché that could remind of a nostalgic photograph from the 1920-ies, Bali was and is - more and more- a soil of full of never-resting energy and remarkable vitality, witnessing Indonesia in general.

In fact, each island of Indonesia is an "Island of the Gods"!

I fell in love with the jungles of Sumatra and Kalimantan, its "red man of the forest" but also with the Minangkabau palaces and the Dayak longhouses.

Same happened in the Toraja villages and their splendid Tongkonan houses, ornated with the typical buffalo-horns. Here the gods are omnipresent, even in the trees which serve as coffins for deceased babies as well as in its caves and waterfalls. Here, the ancestors are ambassadors.

Falling in love with Java, the prodigious island, around which the life of a whole archipelago is turning like on the hub of a huge wheel with its spokes reinforcing the unity of the country; a land of incredible diversity with all its components, let them be cultural, linguistic, ethnic, geographic or economic. Impossible not to fall in love with the terrible volcanoes of Java, the smiling Buddhas of Borobudur, the little village-mosques to which, after the call for prayer, the followers, crossing the rice paddies, are silently converging.

Falling in love with Nusa Tenggara, just on the other side of the Wallace-line, where Indonesia has a bit less of Asia in common. The names of these islands make dream, all in a row just like pearls on a necklace: Lombok, Sumbawa, Komodo and Rinca, Flores, Sumba, Timor. Impossible not to love the tightly woven Ikat-garments, with their unique geometric patterns. Perhaps less "loved" - but equally astonishing - are the giant varnas, crawling through the bushes!

I will have to stop with my enumeration. There are too many images still left in my head which evoke the diverse beauty of extraordinary country and many more still to be discovered.

However, as all of us are eager to preserve images of somebody or something beloved, I dedicated, within our gardens of the world, Pairi Daiza, a "taman mini" of Indonesia: "Kerajaan Ganesha", the kingdom of the elephant-headed God-- so popular in Bali--, symbolizing the patron of education and protector of travelers, which is quite a job in such a young country like Indonesia, dispersed over a constellation of archipelagoes.

When walking in the driveways of this kingdom, one will realize my admiration for your country and its people. Same as for its fauna

because Pairi Daiza is also a zoological garden.

We are home to orang-utans of Sumatra, crested macaques of Celebes, Komodo-dragons, Javan leopards and, recently, elephants from Borneo.

Besides a rice-granary from Sulawesi, tiny Timor-houses made from sculpted grey wood, a stone model of Borobudur and numerous objects brought from Indonesia, one can find above the rice-terraces that cling on to the steep profile, an authentic Balinese temple which is a sacred place, not alone carved by local craftsmen in the lava-stones of Merapi and Agung but also erected according to the rules and supervised by the Balinese religious authorities.

Here, one can witness on a regular base, authentic ceremonies with prayers wearing their sarongs and carrying offerings in the shape of fruit-pyramids, surrounded by the smell of incense and the rhythm of the gamelan.

Each year, in collaboration with the Indonesian Embassy at Brussels, we celebrate in our gardens a festival dedicated to your country that fills us with joy and pride.

All this, just on the outskirts of Brussels.

Does one need more prove that I am in love with Indonesia?

In fact, each island of Indonesia is an "Island of the Gods"!

Discovering Stars: Indonesian Diaspora in Belgium

Emma Asmunie

Global team Leader Pfizer

I've lived in Belgium over 12 years. The national languages of Belgium being not in English in the beginning was challenging for me and family particularly for schools, registrations and other activities. Although this did not impact my work as it is still in English. Despite that, we've embraced all the adversities, challenges, opportunities and great things that come to us. Also, with our believes we've strived to have a happy and loving family no matter where we are in the world i.e., Indonesia, New York or Brussels.

Successful to me is when you and people surround you are happy, motivated, inspired, grateful and supported each other. I'm now at the stage where I'm very proud to be an Indonesian leading a global team of colleagues located in Europe and APAC (Australia, Japan, Philippines, India & expanding to China). Not only we've gained trust from our colleagues, peers and leaders around the world by successfully supporting the global organization remotely but also, we've created a solid, diverse and close-knit team where our colleagues feel valued, motivated, inspired and happy in their workplace.

It was not easy in the beginning when you are a young junior colleague working in a headquarter of #1 Pharmaceutical Company in New York. Over the years as you've matured, gained experience/expertise, expanded your networks and became a leader, it gets easier. The key is to always be true to your principle of who you are, where you are from, speak-up, do not tolerate discrimination and always be respectful and kind to others.

Work hard, be truthful, have patient, be honest, respectful and kind to others as well as have a great support system at home with your families and friends.(DY/TP)



Emilia Aisjah Fahmi

Quality Assurance P&G



I moved from Barcelona to Belgium in 2011, with the acquisition of the brand by Procter and Gamble. I continued the role I had as Global R&D for Car Freshener, until 2012, then moved to various Quality Assurance (QA) role until now. I found language and paper work requirement to live in Belgium was very challenging for me. We moved in to Belgium in January, so I found the weather and shop closing time (at 19:00 vs Barcelona at 22:00) was also a challenge for me and my family. My family has always been my priority in life, my children are my motivation, to give them the best education and experience living abroad.

As an Indonesian working abroad, first of all, we must not stereotype ourselves, Be a proud and confident Indonesian. I'm blessed to work in a multinational company with multicultural team, who value Diversity and Inclusion. Success and happy moment to me is when I see products that we've innovated, on shelf in market. so I can tell my family and friends, that I was part of the success.

You'll find challenging moment in your life, career, see those as opportunity to grow. Be positive, confident, passionate with what you do and keep having fun. Surround your self with good, trusted friends, value and care for them. They are the closest you have as family when leaving abroad. (DY/TP)



Ida Komang Oka Mayura

Owner Frangipani Bali



Photo credit: Ida Komang

I arrived in Belgium on October 31st, 2014. It's been almost 5 years that I have been living and working in Belgium. My first job in Belgium was as a Massage Therapist. I started to give the Balinese massage and then opened the Private Spa and now also a Bed & Breakfast.

The biggest challenge was the language, which is Dutch. Even though most of the people can speak English, but they speak Dutch on their daily conversation. During the first year in Belgium, I also went to school to study Dutch every day. It's a very difficult language but I keep on practising. It's nice that I can now communicate in Dutch with the local people. The people will appreciate more if we know their language. It's another way of being integrated in their country.

I have been very lucky that I could start a business in Belgium. I did not have any problem working together with other western people. We come from different culture, different habit, different way of thinking but we try to understand each other. Communication is also very important. People think that Asians are very shy, they are afraid to express what they think. I had also this problem before. But the more I am working with

the local people, the less shy I become. And as Indonesian who lives in other country, I must follow the rules here. Most of Belgian people know that Asians are very nice friendly people. When we keep smiling to them, there will be no big problem :o)

I started to build a business in Belgium from zero. At the beginning, I worked day and night, every day, 7 days a week. All those hard works paid off when I can see people are very happy after going out from Frangipani Bali (the name of my business) and they want to return to come for another treatments. Their big smile on their faces make me also very happy and proud of myself. When you can always give the best service to your clients, they will talk about it and mouth to mouth is the cheapest advertisement!

Willing to work hard, keep learning and be happy in what I am doing are some of the factors that have helped me to be successful. I did so many different jobs before. I accepted any challenges, learnt from the mistakes I made. The more experiences I make, the more lessons I get. (DY/TP)



Trianan Fitriastuti

PHD Researcher -LPDP
Universiteit Gent

I have been living in Belgium since September 2017 and will stay here for my study until 2021. Beside loneliness to part from my family, one of the biggest challenge to live in Belgium as a moslem woman wearing hijab I experienced some acts of racism towards me. Some people yelled at me : "go back to your country!".

I do not speak French or Dutch so I think it would be so useful to have multiple language skills like people in Europe in general. For me, strong communication skill and language skill is the key. So, prepare for yourself for different cultures even for possible culture shocks. Think carefully how you would do everything on your own, prepare yourself mentally. (DY/TP)



Photo credit: Ida Komang

Appointment for Consular Services for Indonesian Citizens



Bagi Warga Negara Indonesia yang memerlukan pelayanan kekonsuleran di KBRI Brussel, mulai Oktober 2019, sudah diterapkan sistem antrian online. Jadi, lebih pasti dan tidak menunggu lama. Sebagai informasi pembuatan paspor saat ini telah menerapkan Sistem SIMKIM yang memerlukan waktu lebih lama untuk input data. Jadi, jangan lupa untuk membuat janji dulu ya sebelum ke KBRI agar tidak menunggu lama dan lebih pasti.

Caranya mudah. Ikuti petunjuk di bawah ini:

Membuat Appointment

Cara membuat appointment:

- 1 Buka Website Appointment KBRI Brussel: <http://appointment.kbribrussel.id/>.
- 2 Pilih "Individual Appointment".
- 3 Pilih tanggal dan jam yang diinginkan.
- 4 Isi informasi yang diperlukan secara lengkap (nama depan, nama belakang, No HP/Telepon, email dan jenis layanan kekonsuleran yang diperlukan), Semua data ini wajib diisi.

Catatan : appointment untuk anak dapat menggunakan email orang tua/wali. Email yang sama dapat digunakan untuk appointment yang berbeda.
- 5 Klik "Confirm".
- 6 Jika data sudah sesuai, klik "Submit". Pembuatan janji selesai, dan email appointment akan terkirim ke email yang terdaftar. Jika ada data yang belum sesuai, bisa klik "back" untuk memperbaiki data atau tanggal dan jam yang diinginkan.

Pembatalan Appointment

Cara pembatalan appointment:

- 1 Buka email yang digunakan untuk membuat appointment. Kata kunci : kbribrussel.id
- 2 Klik "Cancel".
- 3 Cek kembali email, akan ada email baru dari kbribrussel.id dengan subyek "Cancellation of Your Appointment".
- 4 Buka email tersebut dan klik "Cancel this Appointment". Pembatalan appointment harus dilakukan 2 tahap untuk memastikan pembatalan.

Lupa Appointment

- 1 Buka Website Appointment <http://appointment.kbribrussel.id/>.
- 2 Klik tombol "Forgot Appointment".
- 3 Masukkan alamat email yang digunakan untuk membuat appointment.
- 4 Email konfirmasi baru akan dikirimkan.
- 5 Buka email tersebut.

Pertanyaan mengenai pelayanan kekonsuleran:
Protocol.consular@embassyofindonesia.eu

#yukkekbriaja



Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia
Brussels

Avenue de Tervuren 294, 1150 Brussels

West Java: Opportunity at the
Heart of Java

The Cocoa Tree and the Oil Palm: Lessons
Learnt and Challenges to Face

The Rise of Indonesian
Specialty Tea

Invest in Indonesia



West Java: Opportunity at the Heart of Java

West Java, a vast province located just outside the capital city, is one of the regions with a high economic growth. The province hosts more than 60% of the manufacturing industry in Indonesia. From January to October 2019 alone, West Java contributed more than USD 25 billion in export value. USD 3,97 billion are from vehicles and spare parts, while USD 3,28 billion are from machinery and electrical equipment. The availability of 5 airports and 9 seaports supports the industry and provides easy access towards the international market. Currently the Government is planning and building more toll road and railways to further enhance connectivity in the region.

The development in West Java is reinforced by the high investment realization rate, reaching USD 1 billion, the highest number in Indonesia. To further develop the region, West Java invites partners to invest and build partnerships in various sectors such as infrastructure, tourism, digital technology and many more.

Investment opportunities in West Java

In pursuing investment opportunities, West Java organised the West Java Investment Summit on 18 – 19 October 2019. Ridwan Kamil, the Governor of West Java stated that the Summit garnered USD 3,8 billion of investment commitment in the manufacturing industry, regional development projects and public-private partnerships in infrastructure projects. He stressed that this achievement is an indicator for West Java's position as the top investment destination. A few of the notable projects include development of the Business and Creative Technology Centre, drinking water treatment as well as the development of the Pangandaran Special Economic Zone.

With these positive results, West Java aims to accelerate growth by facilitating investment and partnerships in various sectors, namely:



1. Infrastructure projects

The government has planned to extend toll roads up to 519.6 km that connect various airports, seaports and fishing ports with centres of industries. Moreover, a development of more than 500 km railway was also planned. Building airports and seaports is also planned in the future, as well as the construction of energy plants and water treatment.

2. Public – Private Partnership projects

Within the PPP framework, West Java opens opportunities for cooperation in many projects amongst other Greater Bandung Light Rapid Transit Development, Jatigede Regional Water Treatment Plant, Legoknangka Regional Solid Waste Treatment Plant and Greater Cirebon Regional Solid Waste Treatment Plant. The five projects are worth more than USD 800 million.

3. New Industrial Zones and Cities Development

As a province fully experienced in hosting foreign investment, West Java invites more initiatives in expanding the Rebana Golden Triangle and seven Special Economic Zones. The Rebana Golden Triangle is a new industrial area and town development in Northern West Java, directly facing the Java Sea. In the vast area are two seaports and one airport. Existing industries in the area include food processing agro industry, aerospace, digital and creative industry, oil and gas industry, mining industry, aerospace industry, resin and plastic industry, automotive industry, fish processing, furniture, chemical and petrochemical. Meanwhile the Special Economic Zones are Walini, Lido, Sukabumi, Subang, Kertajati, Jatigede and Pangandaran. The Special Economic

Zones boost interesting incentives for investors with varied sectors to invest in.

4. Trading Commodities

As a region, West Java's fertile land has also contributed in multiple agro products such as tea, clove, sugar palm, cocoa, coffee, coconut, rubber, sugar cane and tobacco. The province also generates many tropical fruits: for instance mango, mangosteen, banana, salak, papaya and pineapple.

5. Tourism Investment

West Java is prepared to develop their tourism potentials, man-made or natural. 18 future tourism sites have been offered and the regional government encourages investors to invest in enabling access to these sites. Opportunities in constructing hotels, resorts, MICE venues and other potentials are also launched.

6. West Java Digital Inclusive Province

This program is aimed to empower the community by implementing internet and technology in their daily lives to improve their livelihood and well-being. Some of the projects are smart catfish village, digital learning system, art and design village to support art centres and virtual administration. The investments are needed in hardware and network infrastructure, software development training and co-working spaces.

These programs are expected to produce high economic growth in the region. West Java proposes various opportunities for collaboration and stands ready to welcome investors to their province. For further information contact investasi@jabarprov.go.id or check their website on <http://investasi.jabarprov.go.id>. (NF, from various sources).

The Cocoa Tree and the Oil Palm: Lessons Learnt and Challenges to Face

Mathieu Bourc

Photo credit: Ramlan bin Abdul Jalil/Shutterstock.com

Indonesia, the third largest cocoa producer, is also the world's leading producer of oil palm products. Both cultures face similar challenges in societal issues, responsible natural resources management and economic development.

We will examine the challenges posed by the growth of cocoa production and attempt to analyze cocoa production by learning from the history of palm oil production.

How not to repeat the mistakes of the past? What lessons can oil palm cultivation give to that of cocoa? Will Indonesia learn from its history and avoid replicating the same patterns in its cocoa expansion, giving the Indonesian cocoa a long-term place in both domestic and international markets?

Sulawesi

In Sulawesi, we had the opportunity to meet with three communities. The first was in the South of the island, in Gantaran Keke village (Baentaeng province, South Sulawesi). It is a community working closely with Hasanuddin University of Makassar. The other two work in partnership with the Belgian NGO Rikolto (formerly VEKO-Îles de Paix).

However, as producers of bulk, mostly unfermented and nondifferentiated cocoa, they are affected by the day-by-day price fluctuations as a result of movements in the New York and London Stock Exchanges.

Counting for most of the national production of the third largest cocoa producer in the world, Sulawesi cocoa is mainly unfermented, rarely derived from identified genetic material except for a few lines of universal clones, and primarily sold in the commodities market.

Roughly 80% of the farmers in rural communities grow cocoa on their family farms and the vast majority of them sell to local traders, trackers or large international buyers. Income diversification is therefore vital for producers in Sulawesi, subject to international stock prices.

Bali

In Brubana, we were able to visit the Kalimajari postharvest plant, an NGO promoting the production of fermented cocoa in a preserved environment in Bali. One of the successes of Kalimajari is the social organization created, modeled on ancestral systems. Subak is indeed a unique structure in the world, recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

The (sometimes denounced) Brundtland report defined sustainable

development as a "development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs". In 1992, the Rio Earth Summit clarified this definition by adding three pillars (economy / ecology / social): economically efficient, socially equitable and ecologically sustainable development.

The subak, in which each member has the same decisional weight and the same status, and where the economic concept of externality is systematically thwarted, is a system prone to sustainable development.

Java

Central Java is a relatively important region for cocoa farming. Gadjah Mada University is responsible for research in agricultural technology. There are several university development projects in the area around the city. We were able to visit Klanggeran Farms in Gunung Kidul. Such projects supported by the province to promote tourism and hospitality (eco-tourism and agrotourism) also seek to revitalize various villages in the region.

In East Java we find the only region where the famous light-break cocoa grows: Kendeng Lembu. This very special cocoa has a naturally smokey flavor, even though said cocoa undergoes an exemplary post-harvest treatment with controlled fermentation and solar drying. The state-owned plantation has a quasi-exclusivity on it. Unfortunately, the government-owned farm is the only one entitled to selling seedlings and propagating beans from these lines officially.

The challenge here is that, as long as growers in other producing regions will not be able to produce, ferment, dry and export Java light-breaking beans, the added value of cocoa will remain in the hands of a small number of players. Any producer offering a cocoa other than this one suffers from limited market access. On the one hand, they cannot grow this cocoa for international niche market. On the other hand, the only buyers present on the local market and willing to buy their cocoa are the international buyers seeking massive volumes aimed at the processing industry in order to produce by-products and finished products.

There is therefore no incentive for producers to improve the quality of their post-harvest processing of their current cocoa.

Lessons to learn?

Oil palm cultivation has, in less than a century of intensive farming, changed the country. The flip side of the coin, of course, is the many negative externalities caused by some poor agricultural practices, mostly linked with industrial farming. In some infamous cases, ecological

damage has reached unprecedented levels, leading to international concerns. Today, palm oil has become linked to some extent with deforestation, the displacement of animal and human populations, and the impoverishment of communities over time. Although there are good ecologically-sound agricultural practices available and implemented in many areas, it is important to stress the urgent need to replicate these in the large-scale industrial farms. Whether the sustainable farming of oil palm will be the solution, only time will tell. In the meantime, the challenges faced in the palm oil industry are part of the lessons learnt for the cacao sector: what do we want cacao farming to look like in the next 50 years?

The history of palm oil in Indonesia, however, allows us to draw some useful conclusions when trying to address the themes and questions raised in cocoa cultivation.

Sustainable certification and natural resource management

Because of the attractiveness of the allocation of primary forests and the wood resources they represent, it is easy for a business to acquire them. Few countries recognize the customary rights of ownership and/or use by indigenous communities. Whereas negotiating with several small farmers, supported by noisy NGOs, may seem daunting, it is easier for a large-scale corporation to negotiate with the state the right on uncultivated land. Deforestation then takes place regardless of the species that is planted: soy, oil palm, sugarcane, cotton or cocoa.

Oil palm does not require intensive monoculture to be profitable. The species adapts relatively well to agroforestry schemes (possibly even together with cocoa trees), an integrated farming system, or a landscape-scale adjustment where cultivated plots are mixed with buffer zones and preserved areas.

There are also certification systems specific to palm oil production, not unlike those for other crops: BonSucro (cane sugar) and Responsible Soybean (soybean). The most famous one is CSPO (Certified Sustainable Palm Oil). The institution responsible for promoting the sustainability of palm oil production is the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), which certifies the different plantations, farms, farms and their respective productions.

Unfortunately, several certification criteria remain unclear: they are very broad, rather conceptual than pragmatic. Their translation into contextualized imperatives is difficult and left to everyone's appreciation. In addition, the

certification offers several traceability channels for certified products: Book & Claim, Mass Balance, Segregated, Identity Preserved. Only the latter certifies to the consumer that the entire volume of CSPO contained in the finished product is not only certified but also traceable until processing.

The difficulty of maintaining a true traceability system for oil palm products should warn us against similar attempts for cocoa products. There are many lessons to be learnt: clear labeling of finished products and better information on agricultural practices, contextualization of certification criteria, etc.

The stability of the social structure and uncontrolled transmigration

During the development of oil palm cultivation, a great deal of public-private partnerships were developed. The government conceded the land rights of a plantation to an agricultural enterprise which, in return, had to develop a system of small family farms with an equivalent total surface area. The industrial plantation was therefore a 'nucleus' around which a 'plasma' was built. This is the NES model (Nucleus Estate and Smallholders). This plasma consisted mainly of small pre-existing landowners and transmigrants who had no land to claim and thus accepted very precarious labour conditions.

As transmigration plans were continuous, the influx of new transmigrants combined with the expansion of the industrial exploitation increased land pressure on. Land prices, the cost of exploiting oil palms, the social pressure to sell or not to sell one's plot to the industrial exploitation are some of the issues encountered by local communities in the last 40 years.

The influx of new transmigrants into areas without land to cultivate makes competition for labor high, and deteriorates both community spirit and working conditions in the plantations.

Is there not a lesson to be learnt when the action plan for cocoa development announced by the Ministry of Economic Affairs proposes to use the NES model for the same purposes (increased production and from the country to the international)?

Challenges ahead

The bad press of palm oil is mainly due to structural decisions independent of the cultivated species and could apply equally to most agricultural commodities such as cotton, latex and cocoa.

Some of these decisions are the maintenance of an unsuitable agrarian system and the societal system built around it, the dubious interests of some multinationals, the maintenance of an artificially low cost of food in Western markets, the possibility for foreign shareholders to demand ever increasing returns on investment, etc.

The oil palm, as a cultivated species, has nothing to do with it. Nor is cocoa, as a cultivated species, responsible for child exploitation in other countries of the world.

A major challenge for Indonesia as a producing country will be to promote education and training in agricultural practices, transparency of labeling and traceability of value chains. Consumers will also need to continue to learn and train in order to have a critical mind independent of environmental lobbies and calls for boycotts.

It will also be interesting to analyze how to export the Balinese subak systems to communities of different ethnic groups, bringing into their new environment equally diverse traditions.

Finally, the main challenge facing cocoa farming in Indonesia will be to translate the altogether too conceptual definition of sustainable development into concrete and pragmatic action.

An 'economically efficient' development will not be possible without diversification of incomes, without new opportunities for development of the local economy and without more democratic access to the varietal lines.

A 'socially fair' development will require raising awareness of the need to include smallholders in decision-making processes, translating legislation, standards and certification criteria into a contextualized and understandable language for all stakeholders.

An 'ecologically sustainable' development will make abundantly clear that the situation is urgent and needs to be tackled. It will provide the necessary means for the preservation and restoration of natural resources.

The "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs," will be in Indonesia the one that will evenly address the need for balance, the desire for growth and the will to achieve it.

The Rise of Indonesian Specialty Tea

Iriana Ekasari

Indonesian tea was very well known in Europe. Java Tea has been in the cups of most Europeans for more than a century. Some gardens in Sumatra and Java, such as Bah Butong, Kayu Aro and Malabar, are legendary in the industry.

Lately the industry has been experiencing its toughest challenge. The production area has declined from 2006 till 2017 with around 20.000 Ha: about twice the size of Paris city. Export also dropped significantly from 95.338 tons in 2006 to 51.319 in 2016, especially towards the traditional export destinations i.e. Europe and Russia. The change of consumer preference, competition from Kenyan tea and tighter health regulation applied by EU authorities have been major drivers of the declining trend. Export to Europe plummeted from US\$ 38,6 Million in 2012 to only US\$ 15,9 Million in 2017, according to the record of Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia.

Indonesia imports tea from other countries as well. The biggest import is from our neighbouring country Vietnam with a volume of 16,387 tons or US\$ 14.5 Million in value; with an average price of US\$ 08.9/kg. The import volume from Vietnam alone fulfilled about 14,3% of domestic consumption and the entire import's volume of 22.095 tons fulfilled about 19% of domestic demand.

The local consumptions from 2012 to 2016 only grew by 3% in volume (from 99.880 to 114.793 tons) and 0% in value (from IDR 66.063/kg to 66.050/kg – equal to US\$ 4/kg), which means that the volume growth was contributed by cheap tea and that value was driven by premium price imported and branded tea.

The picture looks gloomy to the local growers with export market decline and the flat con-



Photo credit: Bastian AS/Shutterstock.com



sumption in domestic market, and the imports of cheaper tea make it even a harder challenge to balance with the constant increase of local wages and fertilizer prices. The garden conversion to better price crops is unavoidable and one could predict that one day a tea garden in Indonesia might be just a history.

“Every cloud has a silver lining”

The stunning growth of specialty coffee and the rapid emergence of café lifestyle amongst urban Indonesian millennials provide also a pathway to the tea industry.

In the European market where the tea drinking culture has been established, we see the trend that specialty teas take shares from the traditional black tea. Research company Allegra reports that there is a significant growth in fruit, herbal and green tea compared to traditional black tea, with 58% of café operators adding more specialty teas to their menus in the last three years: health focused products, such as matcha, kombucha and a burgeoning functional tea.

The same trend is happening in most big cities in Indonesia. A study amongst the millennials says that they spend 2 – 4 hours in the café doing many activities like meeting friends, family, having a team meeting or simply doing homework. In this consumption point, coffee is preferred by most of them as the first drink, while tea comes as second choice. However, when it comes to the second drink, tea will be the first choice as it is perceived as a healthier drink and provides lighter taste enjoyment. This trend brings a positive outlook to Indonesia tea growers. Converting the process and machine to produce premium high-quality tea has started by some gardens, Harendong for instance has won the International Silver Medal for its organic specialty tea in the Global Tea Championship 2018, Bukitsari Plantation also won the award of Best Organic Tea 2018 from APVA in France. These achievements bring hope to other plantations, farmers and to all players in the industry in Indonesia. More than hope: it strengthens the self-confidence that Indonesian tea has finally found its long-lost place again on the world map of tea. A lot more gardens will very likely take this path as well.



Photo credit : Wira Nurmansyah, from Wonderful Indonesia image.indonesia.travel. for illustration.

Indonesia tea export contributes 3.5% to the entire volume of world export. With that very small supply, it is very obvious that the strategic choice is to fill the small premium market which will enhance the value contribution and clear market segment.

The geographical location of Indonesia in the tropical zone and the wide longitude provides all year long availability of herbs and fruits as the key ingredients to the infused teas.

Exporting premium tea will make the logistic cost more efficient, as cost percentage to revenue will decrease.

This opportunity has been taken onboard by several growers and individuals of tea champions by forming an association of specialty tea, namely AISTEA (Association of Indonesia Specialty Tea).

The Association is led by a young millennial: Mr. Galung Atri whose family has a beautiful garden in Sukabumi West Java Province. Galung says the association is formed to be the house for all the players (growers, packers, blenders, brand owners, café operators) of specialty tea with the purpose of growing the specialty tea industry both in the local Indonesia market as well in the export market. The founding fathers of AISTEA are eight plantation companies and three distinguished tea activist ladies.

The Association had its official launch to the industry in November, riding on the momentum of the SIAL-Interfood exhibition in Jakarta. AISTEA performed its first debut in the SIAL-Interfood Jakarta events, dated 21st – 24th November by conducting a talk show with the topic: “Disruptive Innovation in Tea Business” and a Tea Brewing Competition.

The birth of Indonesian specialty tea certainly raises a sense of happiness in the heart of all Indonesian tea lovers and activists as well as of the Government. If Indonesian tea price on average today is US\$ 2.2/ Kg; the specialty tea value ranges from 5x to 10x of the broken black tea value. This will significantly increase the country’s export value from tea. Farmers will be happy and take care of their gardens properly with more jobs for people in the mountains – preventing them from migrating to the cities while at the same time guarding the natural resources and ecosystem up in the mountains.

The Indonesian Embassies to the EU, Germany and France have given great support to this newly born baby with some activities enabling the tea industry players to take part in the important exhibitions on the Continent.

The Ministry of Trade put special effort in sending delegates to EU Authorities to defend Indonesian interests against some legislation of the EU, bringing some players to the international trade mission as well as conducting international exhibitions such as TEI (Trade Expo Indonesia) which provide opportunity for introducing the specialty tea to the domestic and international buyers and end consumers. The Ministry of Agriculture strategically chose West Java as the host of the Indonesian Plantation Day celebration to mark West Java Province as the champion of Indonesian tea revitalization as 67% of the tea gardens are located in this province. The Ministry of Industry had started an initiative to make tea the focus of attention, program (and budget) in the year 2019. The Ministry of State Own Enterprise and PTPN Group presented Indonesian specialty tea to the international delegates participating in the IMF-World Bank Annual Meeting of 2018 in Bali. The Gastronomy Association of Indonesia conducted in October 2018 a seminar about the use of tea in diplomacy and in the Indonesian indigenous culture.

Lastly the greatest support comes from our President Himself as showed in the Trade Expo Indonesia and elevating the sense of confidence amongst all tea players in the industry that the Government will make Indonesian Specialty Tea an export priority. If President Jokowi supports this, the rest will follow. God Bless Indonesia.

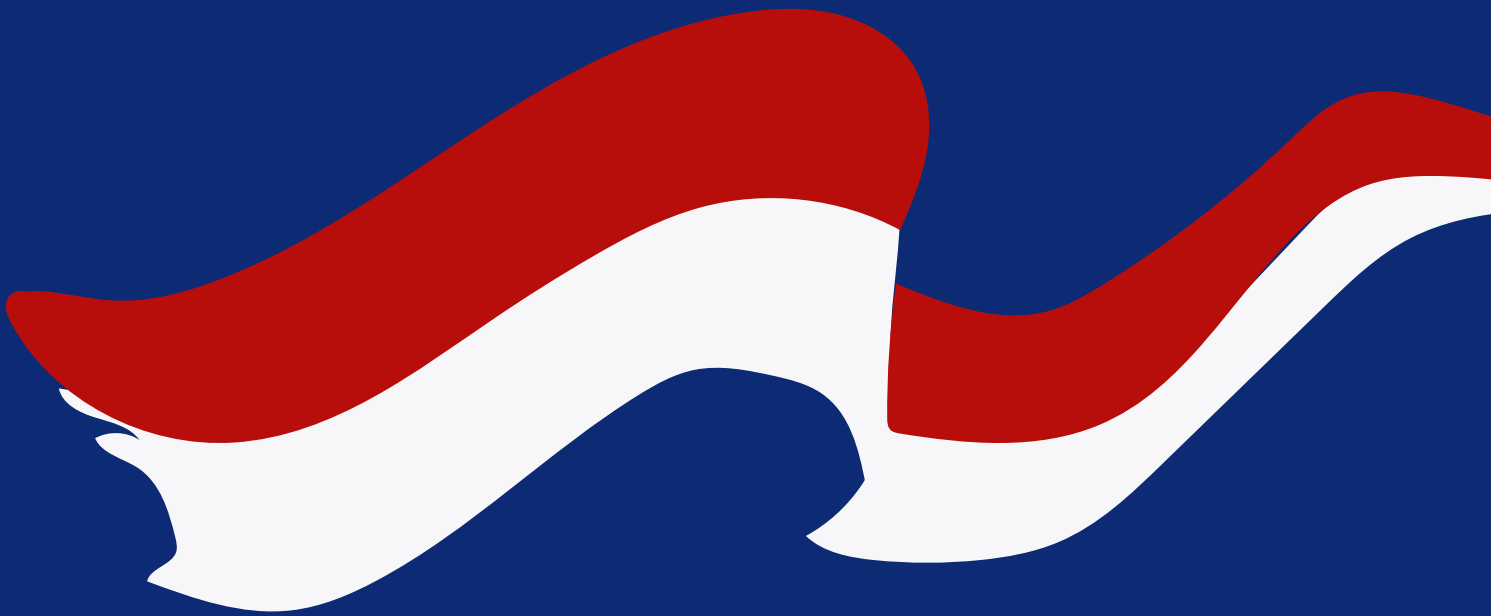
Iriana Ekasari is the head of Indonesian Tea Board – Domestic & Overseas Cooperation, founder of Association of Indonesian Specialty Tea

Indonesian Interfaith
Scholarship 2019

Indonesia's Expertise on Interfaith
Dialogue and Tolerance as Potential
Sources of Inspiration for the World

Pancasila and Islam Nusantara:
the Instruments to Religious
Harmony in Indonesia

Indonesia that I Know



Indonesian Interfaith Scholarship 2019



Photo credit: Nathan Ishar

This year, the Embassy of Indonesia in Brussels, in cooperation with the Centre for Religious Harmony, Ministry of Religious Affairs, re-organized the Indonesian Interfaith Scholarship (IIS 2019). First launched in 2012, the program aims to provide a better understanding on how communities with different religious and ethnic backgrounds can live side by side in Indonesia. This program serves as an opportunity for future leaders, officials, particularly from Belgium and the European Union to watch and to observe closely how democracy, moderation, religious harmony are practiced in Indonesia.

This year, 11 participants from various backgrounds, namely the European Parliaments, the European Commission, journalist and student, visited Jakarta, Yogyakarta and Bali on 12 – 18 August 2019 for this program. In Jakarta, they had the chance to meet with officials from the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the EU Delegation in Jakarta. They visited Istiqlal Mosque, the Cathedral Church and Kampung Sawah village in eastern Jakarta. In Yogyakarta, they visited the Islamic Boarding School (Pesantren) in Pandaran, the Mendut and Borobudur (Buddhist) temples, and had a great meeting with Bhikku Jotidhammo Mahathera. In Bali, they had a chance to visit the Puja Mandala, a complex of 5 different places of worship of 5 different religions and witnessed closely how Hindu Religion is practiced in Bali. Well, of course they also took the opportunity to enjoy the Island of Gods while they were in Bali. (DY)



Photo credit: Nathan Ishar



Photo credit: Nathan Ishar

Indonesia's Expertise on Interfaith Dialogue and Tolerance as Potential Sources of Inspiration for The World

Camille Larene

Photo credit: Nathan Ishar

In a world where religious extremism is source of so many conflicts both at local and more global level, the Indonesian expertise and “know how” on interfaith dialogue and tolerance as well as the concept of Pancasila are potential sources of inspiration for the rest of the world. The Indonesian Interfaith Scholarship program 2019 gave me the opportunity to discover and learn about interfaith dialogue and tolerance in Indonesia and about the concept of Indonesian Pancasila. I am grateful to the Indonesian authorities for allowing me to participate to the program and learn so much. It allowed me at the time to gain knowledge on this specific Indonesian expertise on interfaith tolerance, but also to learn about Indonesia in general. I will keep a very positive image of Indonesia, its population's hospitality and openness, its uniqueness in term of interfaith tolerance, relation between the religious majority and minorities as well as mutual respect within the communities and the population.

I have found very interesting to see through the program how interfaith tolerance is key in Indonesia and is promoted at all levels in the Indonesian society: from central government level to religious leaders but also in schools and universities. It was interesting to note that religious leaders try to work together and show tolerance, for example by helping each other on logistical aspects such as sharing parking space when there is a special celebration for one of the recognized religions.

With all the interlocutors with who we discussed, one of the shared idea was that tolerance as well as interfaith mutual respect and understanding cannot be taken as granted. Tolerance, mutual respect and understanding between religions is a never ending process. Building a good communication, mutual respect and understanding between communities to create an environment of tolerance is a continuous work and should be a daily priority for all in a context of growing religious extremism in a more and more globalized world.

Indonesia's expertise and “know how” can be used as a source of inspiration and Indonesia has a role to play in the world and especially in the region to facilitate interfaith dialogue, mutual

respect and understanding between religions and tolerance. Indonesian's extensive experience on promoting a counter-narrative against Islamic radicalization by using theology could be used both at global and regional level. If for the moment, this expertise seems to be mostly used to counter Islamic radicalized narrative, one could also think about extending this expertise and “know how” to Buddhist extremist narrative in the region through religious leaders dialogues.

As the world's third largest democracy, after India and the United States of America, and with its large majority of Muslim believers in its population, Indonesia is an example that Islam and Democracy are compatible in the respect of minorities and human rights. At the same time, tolerance is not and should not be taken for granted. Relatively recent events in the world, but also in Indonesia, have shown that tolerance, universal values of human rights, mutual understanding and peace can be easily put aside by extremist narrative and that tolerance and mutual understanding are everlasting process which need an everyday attention and a proactive effort at all level in the society. Common actions and cooperation between the European Union and Indonesia, including in and with third countries, already exist and could continue to be strengthened. The European Union and Indonesian authorities have regular political and thematic dialogues, including an annual human rights dialogue. These dialogues allow to have constructive exchanges on the situation faced in both places, to share experiences and discuss about challenges and to strengthen cooperation in areas of common interest.

The program gave me at the same time basic understanding of how Pancasila and interfaith tolerance work in Indonesia, food for thoughts for my daily job at the European External Action Service (EEAS) which is the diplomatic service of the European Union, and ideas on how the cooperation between the European Union and Indonesia could be strengthened at regional level to reinforce interfaith dialogue and tolerance. I now have a better understanding of how Indonesia can be a strong partner to promote interfaith tolerance both at concrete level (understanding

and cooperation between religious leaders on concrete aspects) and in promoting moderate religious narrative. On my daily work, I see new opportunities for cooperation on moderate religious narrative for both Islamic and Buddhist faith.

On top of it, I found very interesting, useful and strategic that the Indonesian authorities have chosen to invite a group of participants to the programme with various backgrounds: not only officials from the European Union's institutions, but also researchers, journalists, civil society representatives. It allowed the participants of the programme to continue the discussion within the group and to process what we learned during the day with different point of views which was very interesting and, in my opinion, allowed us to go even more deeply in our understanding. It is essential for policy makers to have a better understanding of how Indonesian's Pancasila works, including with concrete examples at local level, and to be aware of Indonesian “know how” on interfaith dialogue and tolerance.

As a conclusion, I would suggest to also open the programme in the coming years to persons working for various European Union instruments involved in the design of projects related to fight against radicalization and promotion of interfaith dialogue in the region. A larger and a better knowledge of Indonesian expertise and “know how” on interfaith tolerance and Pancasila could promote a more extensive cooperation between the European Union and Indonesia in the region to promote jointly interfaith tolerance. In this context, I would suggest, in addition to the existing very good cooperation with European External Action Service, to develop links with colleagues working for the European Union Foreign Policy Instrument (FPI) and the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO). It could also be interesting to open the programme to persons working on counter radicalization at national level in European Union Member States.

Camille Larene is Indonesian Interfaith Scholarship Participants from the European External Action Service

Pancasila and the Islam Nusantara: the Instruments to Religious Harmony in Indonesia

Xavier Everaert

I attended the Indonesian Interfaith Scholarship 2019 because I wanted to learn more about the concepts of Pancasila and the Islam Nusantara. In Europe, we have been experiencing a lot of problems with our Muslim communities. Their religious beliefs and cultural background, respectively Islam and mostly Arab and North African culture, don't seem to be compatible with the secular and liberal foundations of modern European society. This leads to integration problems, overrepresentation of Muslims in criminal statistics, and increasing income inequality. In turn, this leads to further alienation between Europeans and Muslims, which increases radicalization and further rejection of European values on behalf of the Muslim minorities, and at the same time nurtures racism and exclusion on behalf of the Europeans.

For the past decades, I have been studying these tendencies quite closely. At a certain point, I came across the Islam Nusantara, a distinctive branch of Islam developed in the Indonesian archipelago since the 16th century, and which is mostly known for its core principles of *tawasut* (moderation) and *rahmah* (compassion) towards other monotheistic religions. This uniquely tolerant interpretation of Islam obviously contradicts the evolution of Islamic thinking in the Middle East, which is hegemonically dominant in Europe. I learned that the Islam Nusantara is closely intertwined with Pancasila, the five principles which constitute the official foundational philosophical political theory of the Indonesian state. I wanted to come to Indonesia to further study Pancasila and Islam Nusantara, and to see to which extent the moderation and tolerance of those ideas existed in practice, rather than just on paper. Especially in the context of the recent terrorist attacks in Bali and Surabaya.

I was pleasantly surprised by the openness of the representatives of the ministries, institutions and religions we met. Everything could be discussed freely, and in most cases, we were given straightforward and honest answers. In the Ministry of Religious Affairs, I asked a question about the controversial blasphemy law in Indonesia, which seems to contradict the principle of openness and tolerance towards other religions. How can we have a meaningful discussion about religion with the constant fear of being prosecuted for what we say in all openness? The representative of the Ministry explained that

the blasphemy laws were a tool to preliminarily smother tensions between the religious communities. I learned that religion is very important for the average Indonesian, and rather than discussing theological arguments and debating religious doctrine, interreligious relations manifest themselves as a great respect and understanding for each other's customs and traditions. I noticed this especially when I met Indonesians outside the program: rather than defining their religious identity as an ideological concept, such as tends to be the case with European Muslims, Indonesian religious identity seems to be deeply rooted in the traditions passed on by the family and the community. It seems to be a far more positive, identarian notion of religion, rather than an ideological, exclusionary one.

With these insights in mind, I found a new perspective to assess and enjoy religious harmony in Indonesia. A perspective in which doctrine and politics took a back seat, and culture and tradition and family became more prominent. It allowed me to feel very much at home visiting the Mosques, Churches and temples and their respective communities. It also made me understand better the conceptual distinction between the Indonesian concept of harmony and the Western idea of tolerance. "To tolerate" means that one doesn't like a certain situation or action, but one chose to condone, to undergo it. One has a certain level of tolerance to alcohol, for instance. It inherently refers to a nuisance and is therefore by definition negatively charged. Harmony, on the other hand, is positively charged. It refers to a harmonious chord: a composition of carefully selected differences which form a greater unity than the sum of the individuals. It does not come forth from nuisance of vice, but from the good, the right and the beautiful. In essence, my experience in Indonesia not only gave me insights in the Indonesian concept of interfaith dialogue, but also made me question my own Western preconceptions.

Last, but certainly not least, the closing speech of the scholarship struck me. The speaker opened his speech with stating that "religious harmony does not happen by default". Indeed, we learned that Pancasila is enforced, and counts as an overarching super religion. Yes, *Allahu akbar*, but Pancasila is ultimately greater than God. Harmony needs to be enforced, just like fingers have to press down on the keys of a piano to form a harmonious chord. In the West,

we like to think that respect and tolerance come naturally, by default, because we are supposedly rational people. However, we see every day that this preconception is false. But in the West, we don't have Pancasila. We don't have an officially endorsed and enforced state ideology which has the power, both moral and legal, to unite the people. Europe operates under the moral void of liberalism, which not only lacks, but completely negates any concept of overarching nationalism to unite all people regardless of their religious beliefs. This made me realize that Pancasila couldn't be transplanted to the West without us Westerners rejecting the moral void of liberalism and finding back our historical social fabric, rooted in Christianity and nationalism; this isn't realistic in 2019. Therefore, I believe that Pancasila, although instrumental to religious harmony in Indonesia, does not constitute a useful political theory for Europe.

On the other hand, I am deeply convinced that the Islam Nusantara should replace the Arabic traditions of Islam which are now dominant in Europe. Islam Nusantara is deeply influenced by local traditions and customs and could allow Islam to be engrafted unto European culture, instead of allowing (tolerating) it to grow next to European civilization. Without *tawasut* and *rahmah*, European culture and Islam will not be able to coexist with each other, and one will inevitably be subjugated by the other. Therefore, I strongly believe that Islam Nusantara should be further promoted, even among European Muslims. Islamic scholars from Indonesia should actively influence and even convert Arab Muslims to the Islam Nusantara. Only this way, religious harmony can be achieved in Europe.

In conclusion, the IIS has been very fruitful for me. I learned more about Pancasila and Islam Nusantara and I experienced everyday life for Indonesians within the superstructure of these principles. I have seen from the front row that Indonesia is a country of hard working and smart people with a heart of gold. Indonesia is not only an economic and a strategic ally, but also a teacher which has a lot to teach us about harmony, dialogue and mutual understanding. It is my deep wish that relations between Europe and Indonesia are maintained and increased, and that as our mutual economies grow, Indonesian people and Europeans develop close, friendly relationships. Just as I made friends for life in Indonesia.

Xavier Everaert is participant of Indonesian Interfaith Scholarship 2019



Photo credit: Boris Vermeersch

Festival of Indonesia in
Pairi Daiza

'RBI Goes to School' welcomed at Campus
Sint-Antonius, Ronse

Indonesia – European Union
Continue Negotiation for
Comprehensive Partnership



Diplomacy Etcetera

Political Consultation, Indonesia – Belgium, 20 June 2019

Festival of Indonesia in Pairi Daiza

The Indonesian Embassy in Brussels once again organized the Indonesian Festival (*Festival d'Indonésie*) on 2 – 4 August 2019 in Pairi Daiza. This year's festival attracted thousands of visitors, who came from Belgium and neighbouring European countries.

Lasted for 3 days, the Festival showcased the richness and beautiful colour of Indonesia. Various dances, traditional and contemporary Indonesian music and performances from Payakumbuh West Sumatra, Banyuwangi, West Java and Bali were presented to promote Indonesia, its culture, its people and its beautiful places.

To make sure that all visitors fall in love with Indonesia, culinary specialties of the archipelago such as *rendang*, *satay padang*, *soto padang*, *chicken satay* and Indonesian coffee were also served. These were inevitably irresistible attraction for the visitors of Pairi Daiza.

Located in the heart of Europe in the city of Brugelette, or about 80 kilometres from Brussels, Pairi Daiza is a privately owned zoo and botanical garden. Mr. Eric Domb, the CEO of Pairi Daiza and also Honorary Consul of Indonesia for the Walloon Region, for his love for Indonesia, has built an Indonesian-themed park within the 65 hectare animal theme park Pairi Daiza. 'Kingdom of Ganesha' hosted many Indonesian animals such as Komodo, *Orang utans*, the Bali Mynah Bird and even the Asian Elephants. With the Balinese temple and traditional Sumba cottages, you can call this Park as '*Taman Mini Indonesia*', or Indonesian Mini Garden. (DY)



'RBI Goes to School' Welcomed at Campus Sint-Antonius, Ronse

Their jaws dropped when they learned that Indonesia has 17.000 islands. Their eyes were glistening when a video on beautiful Indonesia was presented. They were fascinated about an archipelago so far away it takes 12 hours of flight time. The event was 'RBI Goes to School', attended by 5th grade students from Campus Sint-Antonius, Sint-Franciscus and Klipje in Ronse.

Rumah Budaya Indonesia (RBI) or the Indonesia Cultural House team went to the school to showcase Indonesia's beauty on 28 November 2019. The RBI team took the students on an adventure on Indonesia. It was an hour filled with curiosity as they learned that there is so much more of Indonesia than tsunami or volcanoes. The team showed wonderful pictures of the Borobudur temple or the *orang utan*, a native creature of Indonesia, followed by "ooooohhh" of amazement from the kids.

The students also have the opportunity to play music and perform a dance. With instruction from the RBI team, the kids played a song using *angklung*, Indonesian traditional musical instrument. A harmonious *angklung* ensemble was made and "twinkle-twinkle little star" was heard through the school halls. They also joined the instructors in learning the *kecak* dance, a Balinese dance. Their chants and feet thumping excitedly following the instructions of the RBI Team, making circles and waving their hands; and they were collectively doing the *kecak* dance.

The session was concluded with a quiz and gifts. With smiles on their faces, it can be said that the "RBI Goes to School" program was a hit and we look forward to do some more.

For information and further inquiries on doing this program, contact the RBI team via email rbi@embassyofindonesia.eu .(NF)





Photo credit: Diego Yanuar

● Biking from Nijmegen to Jakarta with Love: 1 year, 15.000 Kilometers, 23 Countries, 22.000 Euros

For one year from April 2018, the young couple Diego Yanuar (32, IDN) and Marlies Fennema (26, NL) went through sunshine and snow on their bikes. Starting from Nijmegen in The Netherlands, Fennema's hometown, they cycled on a 15.000 kilometers tour from Western Europe, through Eastern Europe to Central Asia, to finally end in Jakarta, Yanuar's hometown in Indonesia. Through crowdfunding they collected 22.000 euros for charity, which was shared to three different organisations: orphanage Lestari Sayang Anak, Jakarta Animal Aid Network and Kebun Kumara, all three in Jakarta.

Next to the natural conditions, the challenge they were facing was also bureaucracy, namely in getting the visa to enter the countries they were going to pass through. This has prevented them from entering Pakistan for example. The most challenging natural environment to pedal was China as well as to cross the border from Kyrgyzstan. They encountered a very closed part of China, where people were not very welcoming to tourists so they had a hard time finding places to sleep or eat. The constant thing they experienced was that their plans changed, the journey demanded them to be flexible. Everyday there were surprises.

Although they also experienced being scammed, getting difficulties at the borders, getting food poisoning, the couple mostly witnessed sincere kindness of humans all through their trip, besides the wonder of nature as captured by their cameras and published on their Instagram and book "Everything in Between" (2019). For them personally, this trip has taught them to know themselves better, because it challenged them with the natural conditions and the unpredictability of the journey itself. The message they want to spread to the world is that this earth is not only for humans, but it is also for the animals and trees. This makes every of us responsible for our actions, which can be done through many different things in daily life, like taking trash and being more aware of our environment. (EI)



Photo credit: Diego Yanuar



Photo credit: Diego Yanuar

The Diplomatic Reception of Indonesia's 74th National Independence Day

“Trade relations between Belgium and Indonesia are strong and steadily expanding. The trade mission of the Walloon Region travelling next week to Indonesia bears testimony of our interest in Indonesia”, stated Mr. Bruno van der Pluijm, the Secretary General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium during his remarks as a guest of honour at the Indonesian Diplomatic Reception on 2 October 2019 at the Royal Museum for Arts and History. Expressing his satisfaction for the close and excellent relation with Indonesia, Secretary General Pluijm also hopes that the good bilateral relations with Belgium will be followed by successful negotiations between Indonesia and the EU towards a Free Trade Agreement. He therefore encouraged the two to remain optimistic and ambitious.

Ambassador Yuri O. Thamrin highlighted the common values and ideals shared by both nations, such as promotion of multilateralism, harmony among civilizations, a rules-based multilateral trading system, peaceful settlement of disputes, and also climate change. Indonesia and Belgium's strategic roles as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council (2019 – 2020) are perfect opportunities for closer collaboration in contributing to the world. Going forward, Ambassador Thamrin is very much optimistic that bilateral relations between Indonesia and Belgium will remain strong, as stipulated in the Embassy's 70 years commemoration theme, *“go further together”*. “We need to be creative to create breakthroughs to take our friendship and cooperation to a higher level”, stated Ambassador Thamrin.

The Reception was attended by more than 400 people from diplomatic corps, high ranking officials and representatives of the Government of Belgium, the European Union (the Commission and Parliament) and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, media, business communities, representatives of Indonesian communities, and friends of Indonesia. Closing this special event, the Embassy of Indonesia also presented a fashion show by Indonesia's talented designer, Nurhasim Hamada, showcasing various eco-friendly apparels, made with natural dyes and organic materials, also with the help of local community. (DY)





Indonesia – European Union Continue Negotiation for Comprehensive Partnership

On 2009, the Indonesian and the EU leaders have agreed to elevate their relationship into a strong, rules-based trading system. To achieve this goal, both leaders agreed to build an agreement to enhance the existing economic ties for a better collaboration.

Following these commitments, the first round of negotiation was kicked off in 2016. With 15 areas to cover, the negotiation is expected to unlock doors and open new gateways of opportunity for the business sector in both countries. Currently, EU is the 4th largest trading partner (after Japan, China and Singapore), whilst Indonesia is the 5th ASEAN partner and 30th from the overall trade partners of the EU. The EU is also the second largest investor in the Indonesian economy, with a total investment of USD 13,4 billion in 2016.

Officials from Indonesia and the EU seek to obtain the most mutually beneficial deal for both parties. With the rising global challenges, this is not an easy task. This is the reason why multiple rounds of negotiation are taking place. The delegations from the EU and Indonesia have just concluded the 9th round of negotiations for Indonesia-EU Comprehensive Partnership Agreement from 2-6 December 2019 in Brussels. Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia, Jerry Sambuaga attended the opening of the 9th round of negotiations to show the political support for this important negotiation process. During the opening speech, Jerry Sambuaga expressed his hope that the negotiation of the I-EU CEPA could be concluded next year.

The EU negotiating team was led by Helena König, Deputy Director-General of DG TRADE at the European Commission, while the Indonesian team was led by Iman Pambagyo, Director General for International Trade Negotiations at the Indonesian Ministry of Trade. This round showed continued progress and negotiators from both sides are confident about each other's commitment to attain the best partnership deal. The discussion was held in a positive manner and both sides agreed to hold the next round in March 2020 in Indonesia to engaging further in this advantageous and constructive negotiation. (NF/SH)



Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs with Amb. Thamrin during ASEAN - EU Ministerial Meeting, 21 January 2019



ASEAN - EU Ministerial Meeting, 21 January 2019



Nyepi Celebration, 23 March 2019



IIS, Darmasiswa and BSBI Alumni Gathering, 30 March 2019



Indonesian Women Association provided lunch for the homeless at the Salvation Army Headquarter in Brussels, 30 April 2019





Diplomatic Reception the Celebration of Indonesia's 74th Independence Day,
2 October 2019



Idul Fitri Celebration, 4 June 2019



Idul Adha Celebration, 11 August 2019



RBI Cinema "What's up with Love2",
7 December 2019



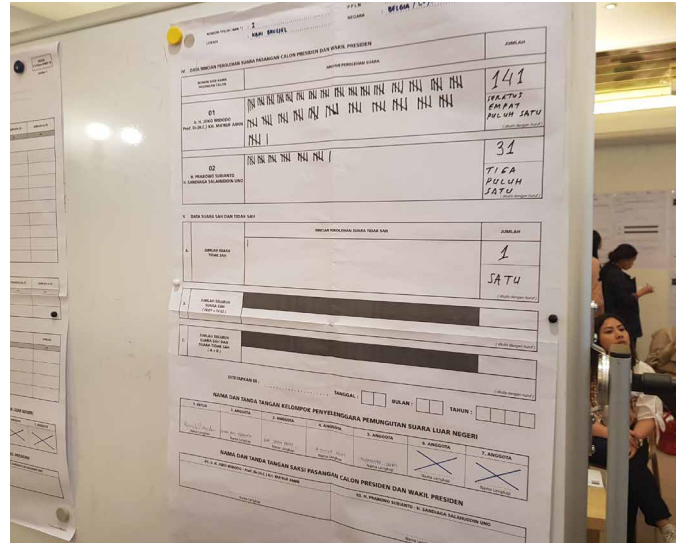
Saman Dance by KTF Radha Sarisha at the Closing of Hello
Schoten, 19 July 2019



Open House for Idul Fitri Celebration at
Ambassador Thamrin's Residence, 4 June 2019



Christmas Celebration with Indonesian Community, 21 December 2019



Indonesian Election, 13 April 2019



Angklung Performance at Food Bazaar and Indonesian Music Festival, 24 August 2019



Sport event for the celebration of Indonesia's 74th Independence Day, 27 July 2019



Food Bazaar and Indonesian Music Festival, 24 August 2019



Flag Raising Ceremony for the celebration of Indonesia's 74th Independence Day, 17 August 2019

Les Flamboyants de Kaliurang

Jean Malingreau

Title
Les Flamboyants de Kaliurang

Author
Jean Malingreau

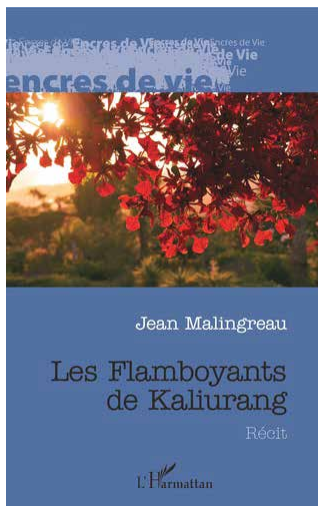
Pages
138

Publisher
L'Harmattan, Belgium,
13 June 2018

Language
French

ISBN
978-2336308593

Dimension
13,5 x 0,9 x 21,5 cm



This book, written in French, is a “récit” or, more or less, a fictional autobiographic story. Stories in there are plausible but not necessarily sticking to reality. Indonesia of the 70-ies and early 80-ies provides the background in which a young white man evolves in search of truth, love, adventures, etc. A disclaimer is placed at the beginning of the book stating that “if characters and situations resemble real ones, it is purely by chance!”. All names have been changed except that of the “narrator” who is called Jean.

The writer attempts to use his numerous interactions with people and events to better understand Indonesia’s Javanese culture and way of life. Stories told in there reflect his strong desire at that time to “blend in”, which, of course, he never fully managed to do.

The first chapter takes place in the Surakarta station where the narrator sees the afternoon train for Surabaya disappear among old barrack. The love of his life is aboard and going away. He then recollects about his arrival in Indonesia, his discovery of an entirely unknown society and landscapes.

Expeditions made in remote corners of Sumatra in the context of transmigration surveys are then described in detail. Again, the author focuses on what those sometimes difficult forays in tropical forests and jungle areas were bringing in terms of learning about people, land use, nature, exploitation etc. The Merapi volcano is very central in the book and, apart from episodes in outer islands, this ominous mountain provides the mystical background against which several episodes unfold.

Settling down in Bogor brought its lots of surprises and funny situations. The strong impact of the sound of the evening *suling sunda* on the slope of Gunung Salak, a now extinct volcano, is underlined.

Discovering Yogya is next; encounter with English and piano teachers. Falling in love was unavoidable (fate!) and several pages are dedicated to what it meant for the narrator. This is all taking place in an atmosphere of strong military repression on campus and a few adventurous situations are built around that. The breaking up is also set in the same context of military repression. All of that to finish back again in the Surakarta train station.

Remaining on Java was now more difficult for the narrator and he then describes how he coped with the loss of his lover. Again, new episodes of military dictatorship are included.

Extended scientific research visits to the rice fields of West Java give the opportunity to observe Javanese agriculture from the inside; the narrator is struck by the beauty of the landscapes and the resilience of the village people.

A few pages are then devoted to a lady called Ann Soetoro (!) who is used here as a proxy for exposing the social and political situation in the country. Her little boy, Barry, is already gone to live with his grandparents in Hawaii!

Then come the volcanoes; expeditions, encounter with a young European volcanologist, crisis situations, emergencies etc. Sharing discoveries of the surroundings slopes of the Merapi and their archeological treasures becomes a favorite activity. The late afternoon atmosphere of the Ratu Boko complex of palaces and temple was already the focus of attention in earlier pages.

The large-scale forest fires of 1982 in Kalimantan provide another opportunity for the narrator to explore growing environmental problems; officials in the region are not welcoming him during his assessment of the situation and they are very reserved about providing useful information. Afterward, in a meeting with no less than three Ministers, he describes the situation and forewarns the government about future fire risks.

A last, holiday on the island of Bali is organized. Critical views on access, tourism and other aspects of the local culture are laid out in one of the last sections.

Finally, necessity forces the narrator to leave his beloved island. He senses that difficult times are coming for Indonesia.

Those pages are based on the author’s life experience in Indonesia in those ‘interesting’ years; for many reasons, which the reader will hopefully be able to sense when reading the book, those years have strongly influenced his life.

English

“ I told you not to do that and you didn't listen to me”

Indonesia

“Kan...”



What is Your Level of Bahasa Indonesia

BEGINNER

Kita makan ayam. _____
We eat chicken.

INTERMEDIATE

Kita akan makan ayam, kan?
We will eat chicken, right?

**SUPER
ADVANCED**

Lho kok, kan kita akan makan ayam, iya nggak sih?!

How come? I thought we will eat chicken, won't we?



Discover

wonderful
Indonesia

presented by
the Embassy of Indonesia in Brussels

Come and discover Indonesia at VAKANZ,
Luxembourg, 17 - 19 January 2020 and
at Brussels Holiday Fair 6 - 9 February 2020.



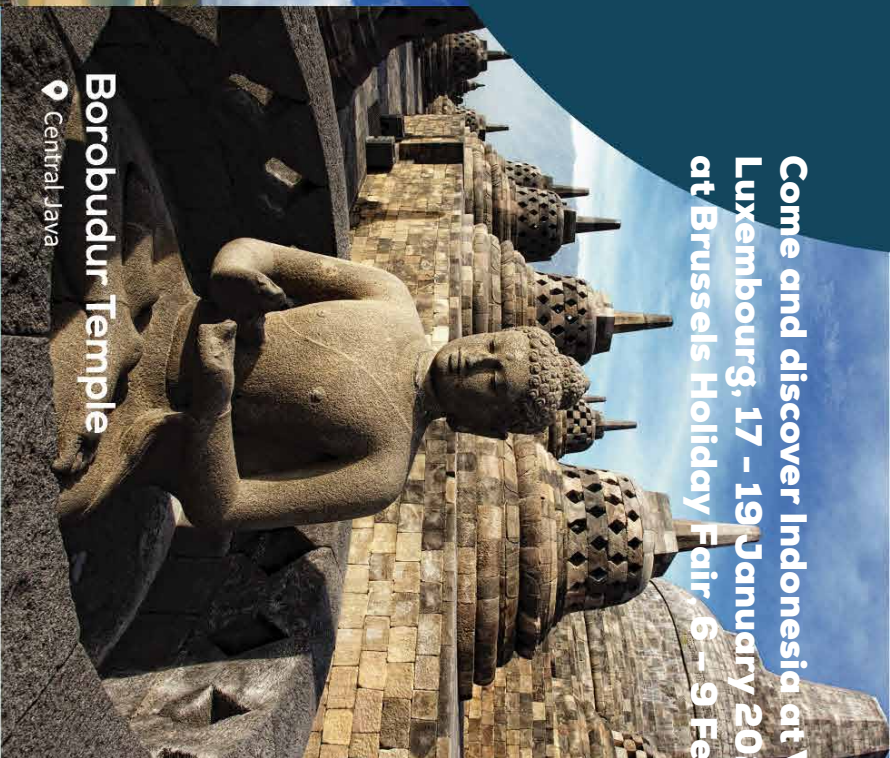
Mandalika

📍 Lombok



Lake Toba

📍 North Sumatra



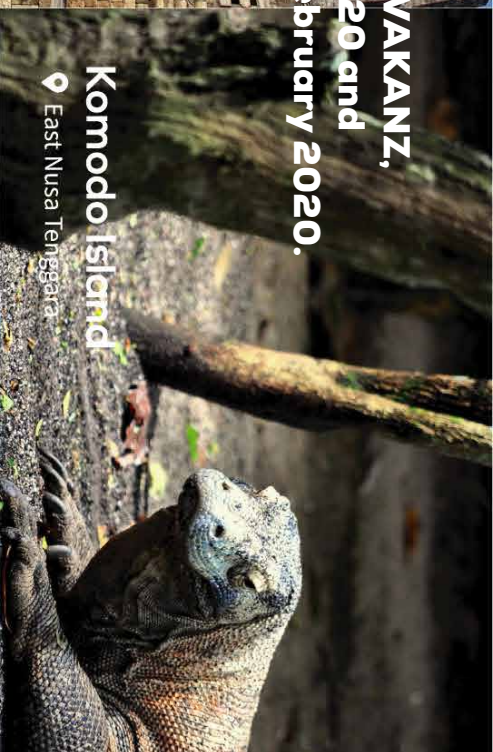
Borobudur Temple

📍 Central Java



Mount Bromo

📍 East Java



Komodo Island

📍 East Nusa Tenggara



Ulun Danu Temple

📍 Bali



Tanjung Kelayang

📍 Belitung



**RUMAH BUDAYA
INDONESIA**
Indonesian Cultural House



PROGRAMS

Bahasa Indonesia

Friday at 16.00 – 18.30

Dance

Wednesday for kids at 16.00 – 17.30

(6 – 13-year-old)

Thursday for adults at 17.00 – 18.30

(14 – 45 year- old)

Music: Gamelan

Tuesday at 17.00 – 18.30

RBI Cinema

Every month

RBI Goes to School

Upon request

RBI's Adoption Program


Upon request

Visit RBI

Upon request

Indonesian Cultural House (ICH)
Rumah Budaya Indonesia (RBI)
Avenue de Tervuren 294, 1150, Brussels

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