



Interview with Endang Turmudi

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Interview by David Lowe, Jemma Purdey and Ahmad Suaedy with Endang Turmudi, Jakarta, 24 April 2014

MA, Sociology, Flinders University, 1980 cohort

PhD, ANU, 1990 cohort



[00:01:00]	Two scholarships from Australian government: 1988 Flinders University, Masters in Sociology, returned home for a year, 1992 PhD scholarship to ANU. Finished in four years.	Scholarships received
[00:04:30]	Heard about scholarships from an Indonesian colleague. Then, the centre wasn't as supportive and selection was based on hierarchy, now Tarmudi is the head and encourages all to apply.	Awareness of scholarships program
[00:06:14]	Wrote thesis about NU. Jim Fox was supervisor of PhD at ANU. Spent one year doing field research in Indonesia and two years in Canberra. In 1988 left wife and two children (second son seven days old) and they came too after six months. In 1992 older son went to primary school and the family made friends through the school.	Study experience in Australia; family
[00:10:27]	PPIA. Adelaide and Canberra both very quiet but in Canberra they lived on campus ('kampung melayu'). During the holidays went to Sydney, stayed in a caravan, and the Snowy Mountains.	Indonesian community in Canberra; travel

[00:13:23]	They decided not to have more children while in Australia, wife was involved in Indonesian community, especially during Ramadan. Older son, 26, still remembers English, did his undergraduate studies at Hyderabad in India, now works at Jakarta Post and applying for scholarships to Australia.	Family in Australia; son now applying
[00:16:41]	In 1988 self-directed preparation, went to English classes, talked to colleagues. English is the language of science so wanted to study in an English-speaking country, only considered Australia.	Preparation for scholarship
[00:18:42]	Arrived in Sydney, walked through King's Cross and saw two men kissing on the street! In Adelaide lived in a rented house with friends. In Sydney first lived in college, missed Indonesian food so then shared with other Indonesian students. Pressure because had to pass English course in Sydney or would be sent back home.	First impressions; arrival
[00:23:49]	Canberra was easier than Adelaide. Made Australian friends in Canberra, in Adelaide did coursework and many of the other students were very young and single so didn't make close friends.	Family life in Australia; friendships
[00:26:16]	There were tutors in Australia but not in Indonesia at that time. AIDAB people were also helpful. Knew Anton Lucas and Jim Schiller. Not many cultural activities.	Academic culture; AIDAB support
[00:30:48]	Not very interested in sport, watched <i>Sale of the Century</i> , on weekends watched <i>Rage</i> . Caught the tram to the beach and went to Victor Harbour. Went to a big lagoon (Blue Lake in Mt Gambier?).	Australian popular culture
[00:34:55]	Invited three times, many ANU alumni became ministers. Friendships form between	Post-scholarship Alumni reunions; friendships; networks

	Indonesians who have studied overseas.	
[00:37:28]	Came back to work at the centre (LIPI), only a few colleagues with PhDs so was asked to be head of the centre. NU asked him to be Secretary General, voluntary position. Believes in disseminating information. Worked at the centre during the day and did NU work in the evenings.	Return to Indonesia; Community work
[00:42:03]	Research funded by Swedish university, presented a paper in Copenhagen, small research project in Kyoto, also Thailand, presented a paper in Taiwan. Hasn't been back to Australia yet. Gave the keynote speech at an Arab-speaking conference. Associate Professor Greg Fealy visits when in Indonesia. Close friend from ANU days in Korea.	Overseas travel; networks; connections with Australia
[00:47:24]	Sundanese from Karawang in the western part of Java, religious upbringing. First saw a white person at age six. Two sisters, parents were farmers. Did primary school, one year of SMP then skipped a year and went to SMR. Good at maths in SMP but missed out when skipped a level. Studied Islam during high school then went to study history and Islamic culture in Jogja. Worked for a publisher in Bandung as an editor then went to LIPI.	Background; childhood; early education
[00:53:22]	Would you take on another leadership role with NU or similar organisation? Unlikely. Not very active but still a member of a think tank. Keeps in touch with Australian issues. Sometimes asked to comment during Paul Keating's time. Doesn't get involved now but still interested.	Community work; Ongoing interest in Australia

[00:57:53]	Encourages staff to apply for study in Australia or another country like India.	Scholarships mentoring
[00:59:29]	Not difficult being Muslim in Australia. ANU, and Flinders, had a place for prayer but not really suitable, small room and no heating. Mixed with Muslims from other countries at Friday prayers but not daily prayers. No problem with food because it was easy to get Asian food and ingredients and cook.	Religion in Australia
[01:04:29]	Melbourne: visited three times, last time in 2009, went with 30 lecturers sent by Ministry of Religion to broaden their horizons.	Return visit to Australia
[01:07:31]	Good memories of time in Australia, had close friends made through school and preschool. No difficulty when came back to Indonesia. First son could maintain English language but second son was too young to start school in Australia. Discussion about scholarship applications now and reasons why son didn't get one last year (didn't have clear plan for the future).	Family transition back to Indonesia; ongoing connections with Australia
[01:11:14]	Difference between scholarships then and now: research plan rather than future plan was important. Selectors were so impressed by PhD research plan they wanted Tarmudi to go immediately but he negotiated to go later, after his second son was born.	Scholarships application process
[01:14:32]	Embassy events: only to alumni events at Australian Embassy in Jakarta but went often to Indonesian Embassy in Canberra, especially during Ramadan.	Post-scholarship alumni activities
[01:16:05]	END	

