



Interview by Jemma Purdey with Roman Cahaya, Yogyakarta, 28 May 2014

MA (ADS), Curtin University (2005-2006); PhD (Endeavour), Curtin University, Commerce, (2008-2012).



[00:00:10]	Born in Jogjakarta and grew up there, went to school and then did a bachelor at Islamic University of Indonesia (UII). His father wanted him to become a lecturer because that seemed the best way to get a scholarship to do a master's and PhD. His uncle had done further study in the US and advised him to go to Australia rather than the US to do a master's because it would be by research rather than course work and minor thesis. Roman's father has a master's in public health, he is a retired civil servant. Roman has two older sisters, the elder sometimes teaches and her husband is Roman's senior colleague at the university, also in the accounting department. His other sister works in a bank and hasn't done a master's yet, even though their father wants her to. His mother is a manager in a public transport company.	Childhood; Early education; Family background
[00:04:25]	When he was in high school he was interested in accounting with the view to taking on managerial roles. At the moment his focus is on research. He got an AusAID scholarship to do his master's in Australia. He applied for a number of scholarships to do his PhD and got two: a Fulbright and an Endeavour. He chose Australia for the reasons already mentioned and because he could work with his master's supervisors again. They were wonderful. He got the Endeavour scholarship on his second application. He chose to study as Curtin because he liked Perth when he went there in 2002 to visit his brother-in-law, who was doing a master's there.	Early education; Scholarship opportunities; Connections with Australia



[00:08:45]	He had some friends who helped him settle in when he arrived. Quite a few UI lecturers go to Curtin to study. His master's supervisors were Stacey Porter, Alistair Brown and they supervised his PhD with Greg Tower. His thesis was about social reporting, corporate social responsibility (CSR) in 100 Indonesian companies for his master's and about 220 for his PhD. He was inspired to research this after studying Accounting decisions and society. He hadn't heard of CSR before coming to Australia.	Arriving in Australia; Existing connections with Australia; Studying in Australia
[00:12:27]	When he went back to Indonesia he contacted potential supervisors and got the scholarship so went back to Curtin. He got married a couple of months before going to Curtin so took his wife. The ADS had a family allowance then but not when he did his PhD. His daughter was born in Perth in December 2005. He was there from 2005 to 2006 for the master's and 2008 to 2012 for the PhD. She grew up there and went to school until Year 1. She misses Perth very much. Last year they went for a holiday. They are expecting their second child in July.	Scholarships opportunities; Family; Living in Australia; Birth of child in Australia
[00:15:18]	He wanted to start a PhD as soon as possible so applied as soon as he got back. He had to get a permission letter from AusAID, saying he could fulfill the extra year in Indonesia after he finished the PhD, to be able to apply so soon. The application process for the PhD scholarship was a lot easier because he had more in his CV, co-authored papers with his supervisors. Also the Endeavour application was online and Australian alumni with an unconditional letter of offer from an Australian university didn't have to pass any English tests. The Endeavour stipend was bigger than ADS but Endeavour students had to pay tuition fees whereas AusAID paid that for ADS students. After the first year he spoke to his supervisors and they arranged for the university to pay his tuition fees.	Scholarship opportunities; Application processes

[00:19:48]	He worked as a cleaner in a high school, from 2.30 to 5.30 on weekdays, and as a research assistant for his supervisor. They lived in a unit. There were other students living nearby but they avoided too much contact with Indonesians so they could experience an Australian life. His brother-in-law and his family were there too on an Indonesian government scholarship. Roman's parents came to visit twice. His wife looked after their daughter, she had terrible eczema so needed a lot of supervision. [Discussion about Roman's daughter's eczema and nut and seafood allergies and the decision not to have another baby in Australia.]	Work experience in Australia; Living in Australia; Socialising; Indonesian community in Perth; Family
[00:25:13]	It was easy to get his daughter into school. Most of the students were Australian. His wife made friends with other parents. His daughter remembers friends from there and they have pictures of their time in Perth in their house. They spoke English to her in Perth, she could understand Indonesian because her parents spoke bahasa to each other but there were some Indonesian words she didn't know. The academic year is different in Indonesia so she could spend a couple of months in Indonesian Prep before starting Year 1 and that helped her adjust. She speaks English sometimes, especially with her cousins who lived in Australia. And she has many English books. They plan to go to Perth for holidays and Roman hopes to do post-doctoral studies there.	Family; Living in Australia; Friendships; Returning to Indonesia
[00:29:00]	He expanded his master's to be a PhD and looked deeper into some issues, e.g. with the ASEAN plan to make an economic community and free labour movement there are research opportunities. While doing the PhD, he went to accounting conferences in New Zealand, England and Italy, paid for by Curtin. His wife and daughter went to England and Italy with him, there was two weeks between the English and Italian conference so they could have a holiday.	Studying in Australia; International mobility; Professional networks

[00:32:00]	Roman had been to Singapore and Malaysia with his father before he went to Australia. He went to Brisbane, Gold Coast, Melbourne and Adelaide while living in Perth. Was impressed by the infrastructure of Australia's cities, easy to walk around and free CBD public transport. Interactions with Australians? Made friends and had good collaboration with work colleagues. Tells his students about things that could be emulated e.g. students (honours and master's?) in Australia take their studies seriously, are ready to start ten minutes before the class and do pre-reading. The relationship between students and lecturers is more informal in Australia and he uses that style now with his students. And Australian students ask questions. Roman didn't at first until he felt confident in English.	International mobility; Travel in Australia; Living in Australia; Friendships; Collaboration; Supervisor-student relationship; Studying in Australia
[00:36:30]	Had good relationships with his supervisors and still collaborates with them, writing papers and asking their advice. Emulates his supervisors' style in his work in Indonesia, motivating and respecting his staff and students, listening to them. The resources at Curtin were good, online library. It's limited in Indonesia so, when he needs to, he asks a friend who has access to the online material. Curtin has access for alumni but he hasn't organised it yet. Is on the mailing list of the Alumni Reference Group.	Ongoing connections with Australia; Research collaboration; Returning to Indonesia; Alumni network
[00:39:38]	Plans to send a paper to Portugal, if he can get it done in time. Funds for travel come from his department and an accounting postgraduate program. Not many people are using these funds because only overseas graduates can write in English. Quite a lot of his thesis has been published and it earns him points in Indonesia. [Comments about the promotion process in Indonesia.]	International mobility; Opportunities for international travel; Career
[00:42:00]	When he got back to Indonesia he was appointed as the head of information data-base and a year later as director of finance and budget, for the whole university. And lecturing in undergraduate and master's programs as well. It doesn't leave much time for research. He was happy to be offered those positions. He uses his research papers for teaching and shared his findings with colleagues. He teaches International Accounting which includes CSR material. He works as a trainer for a CSR NGO in Jakarta that trains company staff in CSR reporting, loves doing that.	Returning to Indonesia; Post-scholarship career; Professional networks; Leadership

[00:46:51]	The government made regulations about CSR but didn't detail what aspects companies must perform and report. One of the local governments made regulations for local businesses to report to the local community. [Discussion about sensitive industries: high profile (e.g. mining) and low profile (e.g. service industries) and another alumni looking at a similar area.]	Career
[00:50:03]	Sport and leisure? On the weekend they did outdoor activities around the Swan River, bought a canoe and went canoeing, had barbecues and rode bikes. [Discussion about post-doctoral studies.] UI encourages staff to do PhDs because it affects the university's accreditation. There are lots of Australian alumni and alumni of DIKTI and UI scholarships.	Living in Australia; Leisure activities; Alumni network; International education
[00:53:19]	There were three AusAID liaison officers at Curtin and they were very helpful with finding accommodation and sorting out family or academic issues. [Takes a phone call.] Everything went smoothly. DIKTI scholarships have a three-month delay with money coming through. When Alia was born, Medicare covered everything and it was good. [Discussion about babys' names and Alia's connection to Perth.]	Studying in Australia; Scholarship experience; Family; Living in Australia
[00:58:44]	[Signing the form.]	
[00:59:12]	END	