

Interview by Jemma Purdey with Wan Juli, Surabaya, 30 May 2014

MBA, UQ, 2000 cohort



[00:00:03]	Studied an MBA in Australia for 18 months 2003 to 2004 at University of Queensland in the BEL Faculty (Business, Economics and Law).	Scholarship background
[00:00:47]	Born in Sampit in Kalimantan but spent most of his childhood in Surabaya. Visited his cousin when he was eight and decided to stay with his uncle's family because facilities were better in the city. Focused on his education, his uncle said if he failed he would be sent back to Sampit. Sampit is like a suburb, but when he lived there it had no water and limited electricity at night only so they had to collect water from the pump and used gas and kerosene. They had a television but couldn't often watch it.	Childhood
[00:04:07]	Skipped a year of school when came to Surabaya so had to go to a more distant school, at first his older brother, who went to Surabaya before him, took him to school and later he caught public transport. Is the youngest of nine, the three youngest came to Surabaya to pursue study, two boys and a girl.	Early education
[00:07:29]	Father was a timber merchant but the business was prohibited in the late 1970s and Wan's mother	Family background

	<p>took over financial responsibility by running a bakery from home with the help of the older children. Father started another business but it wasn't very successful. Uncle was a salesman for an underwear company, then built up a car tyre business of his own.</p>	
[00:10:33]	<p>Got interested in studying when he was at uni, before that wasn't that into it. In 1993, when he was in fourth semester, Wan's mother died and he realised he needed to become independent so he decided to focus on study. Was studying accounting at Airlangga University, Surabaya, from 1991 to 1995, and his lecturers, who were mostly graduates from US universities, strongly encouraged him to do a master's overseas. Got a job at the university after finishing his degree.</p>	Undergraduate studies
[00:13:33]	<p>At first applied for scholarships in the US, was accepted at Oklahoma State University but without a scholarship so applied for ADS and succeeded on the fourth try. Found out about ADS from a friend and the website. ADS is well known because people from the private sector are also eligible, it covers a wide range of fields and it is less competitive than some other schemes. Didn't apply for European scholarships because of the language. Started learning English at junior high school but didn't really get confident in the language until the pre-departure training in Bali in 2002. IELTS score went</p>	Scholarships application process; alumni network; mentoring

	from 6 to 7.	
[00:17:18]	<p>Pre-departure program had an introduction to Australian life as well as language classes but Wan didn't really retain any of it. Hadn't been overseas or to Bali before. Drove to Bali with a friend from Airlangga who went to Melbourne uni about a year later. Decided to do an MBA, the choice was between business and accounting but accounting regulations in Australia seemed too different from Indonesian regulations. Would have liked to go to the University of Melbourne but heard that UQ was more responsive. And his wife is also a UQ graduate, they went together, she was also an ADS scholar and they met in Bali.</p>	Pre-departure
[00:20:29]	<p>The scholarship was granted then ADS instructed him to confirm his choice of course or choose another one. He had approached Melbourne university but there had been no response, so decided to go for UQ. It was about three months after finishing in Bali before going to Australia, continued to work as a lecturer and tax consultant. After returning in 2004 set up his own tax consulting practice.</p>	Course and university selection; post-scholarship career
[00:23:01]	<p>Wife was born in Malang, did her bachelor at ITB in Bandung in environmental engineering. Her master's was in environmental management. Arrived in Brisbane knowing very little about it. Stayed in a university college for the first few days while finding</p>	Family; spouse's background; Arrival in Australia; Living arrangements

	<p>a flat with his friend, no help from the university or AusAID. It was hard to get help because there were so many students there then. Thought Brisbane was a nice city. Arrived in January and it was colder than Indonesia, despite it being summer, so had to wear his jacket. Liked having a student concession card that could be used on public transport and the movies. Didn't need a car, bought a bicycle but Brisbane is too hilly.</p>	
[00:28:23]	<p>Stayed in the same flat with his friend the whole time. Wan's wife had a room near the university not far from his place. Socialised with other Indonesian students. Went sightseeing in Brisbane, had heard Brisbane was an entertainment city. Also went to the Gold Coast. Found the people of Brisbane very friendly, visited Melbourne and Sydney for a week or two and found people there less friendly. Had friends there, met in Bali. There were about 100 people doing pre-departure training in Bali and some kept in touch with each other. Joined the Indonesian students association but just for social activities.</p>	<p>Living in Australia; friendships; Indonesian community; Travel in Australia; Student Association</p>
[00:31:45]	<p>Did a lot of group work during the MBA so worked with a mixture of nationalities. Found the stereotypes to be true e.g. the Australians are very precise and efficient, meetings are over quickly compared to meetings with Asians. Australians get</p>	<p>Studying in Australia</p>

	<p>straight to the point whereas with Asians you have to spend time talking about their lives, going out for dinner etc. So it was harder to get to know the Australians and most of them were working as well as studying part time. Discussion about Chinese students and language versus numbers.</p>	
[00:36:36]	<p>Some lecturers were very inspiring. Australian lecturers value independent learning, unlike in Indonesia, Wan liked this. Good resources in Australia, a friend in Indonesia asked for help finding a reference and got a better response from Australia than the US.</p>	<p>Studying in Australia; Support from university staff</p>
[00:39:05]	<p>Challenges included the differences in the learning paradigm. In Indonesia you'll be fine if you can replicate what the lecturer has said but this will only get you a credit in Australia, you need to demonstrate critical thinking to get a distinction. This took a bit of getting used to but Wan appreciates it now. Favourite subjects were finance and organisational behaviour. The content of the MBA in Australia was similar to the bachelor in Indonesia but the differences in the way it was taught was striking.</p>	<p>Challenges</p>
[00:41:50]	<p>Not an activist, doesn't join organisations usually. Joined the Catholic community soon after starting university but stopped after the third or fourth semester to concentrate on study. In Brisbane attended a church</p>	<p>Social networks in Australia; religious groups</p>

	<p>near the university, didn't feel very different to attending mass in Surabaya except it was shorter and there was no singing. Went alone and didn't get involved in parish activities.</p>	
[00:44:49]	<p>Sometimes in group meetings the Australians would apologize and leave to watch cricket. Wan read Australian news on the internet. Saw that Australians were very interested in Indonesia and the general election in 2004, people would ask him about it after Mass. Didn't go to theatre or concerts, just studied and went shopping and hung out with friends on the weekends.</p>	<p>Living in Australia; Australian culture; friendships; leisure</p>
[00:48:09]	<p>Was going out with his wife but didn't get engaged until later. Finished at the same time, went back to Indonesia in July 2004 and met again in August when they got engaged. Father consulted the Chinese calendar and said that if Wan was going to get married it should be on 19 December 2004, so that's what they did. His wife was living in Malang but not working, she had a lot to organise for the wedding. It wasn't a big wedding but there were a lot of processes to follow. The wedding was in Surabaya with 200 people from Jakarta, Makassar, Surabaya, Malang and some from Kalimantan.</p>	<p>Family; marriage</p>
[00:52:31]	<p>Now Wan lectures part time at Airlangga and runs his practice. Does team teaching so it's easy to organise the two jobs. Lives near the university. His wife, is also Chinese. She was the head</p>	<p>Post-scholarship career; Family; cultural background</p>

	<p>of the Environmental Studies Centre at Ubaya University but stopped working after having their second child in 2007. Wan is a member of a professional group but not involved in the church or Chinese groups. Chinese culture fades after the second or third generation. Wan's older brother and sister can speak Mandarin but he doesn't and isn't really interested in learning it or going to China. Chinese language was prohibited in schools when Wan was at school. Only allowed in 2001 or 2002. Wan's wife doesn't speak Chinese either.</p>	
[00:57:29]	<p>Was it difficult for Chinese in Surabaya in 1998? No. There was a bad rumour but Wan didn't see anything. He was in Jakarta at that time for work and stayed in his room for a few days. Went window shopping with a friend after the incidents and his friends asked him how many lives he had. Saw some of the damage but was lucky, nothing happened to him.</p>	Cultural/ethnic background
[01:00:18]	<p>Discussion about Jemma's PhD thesis and post-doctoral thesis, Herb Feith and Daniel Lev.</p>	
[01:04:42]	<p>Wan heard of Herb Feith from his brother who graduated from the Faculty of Social Sciences at Airlangga University. Discussion about Jemma's book, that the Colombo Plan started at the same time as Herb's first visit to Indonesia, and Herb as an activist, pacifist and symbol of people-to-people</p>	

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[01:10:41]	Wan would like to study overseas again but family is his main consideration.	Future plans; family
[01:11:37]	END	