



Interview by Ahmad Suaedy with Dyna Andriani, via Skype, 27 June 2014

MA, Applied Science, UWS, 2000 cohort

T: Can you tell me your educational background since kindergarten until higher education?

J: From kindergarten until senior high I attended schools in Solo (Central Java). In 1975 I commenced kindergarten in Solo. 1977-1980 State Elementary School in Semanggi Solo, 1983 State Junior High School 5 in Surakarta, 1986 State Senior High School 3 Surakarta. I enrolled at UGM majoring in forestry in 1989, specialising in Forest Product Technology. I graduated in 1994.

T: Were you born in Solo?

J: Yes, I was born in 1971 and grew up in Solo. I have lived outside Solo since finishing high school.

T: Where did you work after graduating?

J: I worked at HPH Jakarta. Then I worked in East Kalimantan for a year. Then I worked as a quality management system consultant in Jakarta, setting up management systems for clients for around 4 years. Then I applied for an AUSAID scholarship. I departed around 1998. Before that, I joined the cross culture program and 3 months language preparation in Jakarta. Then I graduated in the early 2000.

T: What is HPH, mbak?

J: It is Hak Pengusahaan Hutan (Forest Processing Rights)

T: Are you a civil servant?

J: No, it was private.

T: What degree did you take in Australia?

J: Master of Applied Science for Environmental Management, University of Western Sydney.

T: Where did you get the information about this scholarship?

J: At that time, there was a friend telling me the information in the *The Jakarta Post*, there was a week extension for applying the scholarship. There was a friend, an American, who sent a fax to me and say, "grab it fast". But, the time was only a week. But, fortunately I already had TOEFL. My sister also encouraged me to continue my study. I didn't prepare anything but I was registered to go, so I already had TOEFL. So, I used that week to ask for recommendations to include on the forms. Then, it happened that there was a professor from UGM who became the advisor or the commissioner at my workplace. At that time, he was in Jakarta, so I asked for a recommendation from him.

But, it needed some stamps and I needed other recommendations from my supervisor, lecturer. So, my sister took care all of that. I only needed to wait.

At that time I went to Australian Embassy. I downloaded something, a form of some kind, I filled it



then completed it.

T: You said, there was a special preparation before going, right?

J: Yes, because at that time I heard that it depended on the TOEFL level. And, maybe from the interview result. But for sure, each person got a letter for preparation. It was in Bali and Jakarta. I got one in Jakarta, for three months.

There was also ones having 2 week or 1 month preparation then they departed. But, that was for those who had extremely good TOEFL scores. The university sets the minimum TOEFL score it requires, so it depends on the university. My university required 6.5 for IELTS. When I was asked to join the 3-month-preparation, I already achieved that score. The others need to retake the test because the minimum was 7 ... it depends on the major or university.

T: Why were you interested in Australia?

J: Actually, I just wanted to study and I didn't mind from which country of university I got the scholarship. At first, I was interested in Europe. But, if I got Australia, then why not? I hadn't tried for one in Europe, but my relative studied in Germany so I wanted to go there. But, actually, I wanted to go to Sweden, but I didn't think to apply. Then, I got that information [about the Australian scholarships], I tried it, and I got it, then I departed.

T: Before going, had you ever been to Australia?

J: Never. I had never been to Australia. So it was new.

T: When you studied there, did you join a study group?

J: What kind of study group?

T: It's like organization at the university.

J: No. Because the time was limited. I actually got 2 scholarships. But I finished in 1.5 years. I decided I wouldn't get involved in any organizations. But for support, yes. For instance, the foreign students having difficulties in writing the thesis or report. Those writing often lack of confidence, there are supports from the university for those in need. I sometimes went there if I wasn't sure whether mine was correct or not, the citation and reference guide. Such that.

T: But, what did it mean by the organization, supporting organization?

Or is it like the Indonesian Students Association, did you join it?

J: No, I never heard such association in my place. There might be one in Sydney. There are some Indonesian students, but a few. Sydney has it because the community is large. But, where I was studying was like is village, you need to take train to Sydney.

T: What is your research about?

J: I took Master Applied Science by research, not by course. So, there are two compulsory courses, others are optional. Then the last thing to do is to write the minor thesis, it's like a paper but the topic can be anything.

My topic is about forest policy in Indonesia. So, I wrote a reflection related to environmental management from my working experience.

T: Where do you work now?

J: My job is hmm, before working here, I have just finished my PhD in Germany. But, I took a leave for 6 months to nurse my kid, enjoying my role as a mother. Now I work at a German company, but it doesn't fit in my educational background. It's not half of what I have studied. My background when I worked in Jakarta is as a consultant for System Quality Management. And now I'm working in the German company to set-up their management.

T: Is the PhD thesis related to the next job? Or for further study?

J: Part of it. My dissertation, my PhD in Germany is related to management systems. So, I apply 50% of my study. But, now I am in management resource. But, now I live in Malaysia, I follow my husband, it means that I don't go anywhere, because the priority is my family. So, for instance, before I am free and can choose anything based on my study. But because I have a family now, I don't want to be selfish.

T: Did you publish your work in Indonesian journal or a foreign one?

J: I am not an author actually. I just wrote my dissertation. I graduated last year, in fact. But, for the publication, I will come back to Germany later, I'll publish it later. Because I am here now. But I graduated from PhD last year. Now, I am working here. Then I go back and publish my book.

T: Congratulations for the book, Mbak.

J: Yeah, I wrote it as long as I enjoy and have time.

T: Will you travel to Germany alone?

J: Along with my family. Every summer holiday, we go back because it is the longest holiday. So, later we will spend a month there. Each year, I go there, my hometown is now Germany because my husband and children are Germans.

T: Your husband is a German, mbak?

J: Yes, he is.

T: How does your scholarship relate to work and networking now?

J: Truthfully, I enjoy Australia a lot. Though I often came to Europe. I enjoy the nature and human relationships there. The nature of Australians is very different. And the visual experience is so pleasing. About relationships with friends there, the main experience is that there are mixed students, there are many different nationalities. Also, the Australians are mixed, such as Chinese Australian, Asian Australian, it is common. So, it is so different from Europe.

T: Do you still keep in touch with your friends in Australia?

J: Yes, especially with those studying then getting married there, haha

T: Do you use social media to keep in touch?

J: Seldom in the virtual world. But I called them several times.

T: How about with the professor?

J: No. After graduation, we lost contact. At that time, there were many activities in Europe, Sweden. I got two other scholarships, some trainings. So, losing the contact with the professor in Australia.

T: What kind of training is that?

J: I received it twice, from SIDA. International Training Program, the first is Forestification held one month in Sweden, around three weeks in South Africa. Then the second is Local Environmental Management. It was in Sweden as well around 1 month, then the other is in Bali. Around 3 weeks in Bali and East Java. But the scholarship is from SIDA.

T: What is SIDA?

J: Swedish International for Development Agency.

T: Did you experience culture shock when you first came to Australia?

J: No, because my own family is already mixed. Half of my family gets married to Europeans. What surprised me is the young in Australia. It's not shock, but I was observing. For instance, the party hadn't been begun but they were already taken to hospital. haha

T: Hangover? haha

J: Yes, I think the way they party isn't that fun. It is different from Europe. They have their own character. Maybe we are from Indonesia, I think, "So this is like this." I often saw ambulance coming at 8, but the party started at 9. They already got drunk at 5. I think, it is too wild. The wildness isn't suitable.

T: Do you bring family when you are in Australia?

J: I hadn't got married, still single.

T: Is there a friend from Indonesia who got the same scholarship?

J: Yes. She is the niece of Habibie, Hasanah Habibie. She is older than me, she took PhD. I took Master. We are the grantees. We took one townhouse, one house with four people.

T: When you departed to Australia, did you go along with friends from ADS?

J: No, we got different tickets. It is a funny experience of mine. There was a friend coming last but arriving the earliest. I took 18 hours from Jakarta to Sydney. Because I got it, I couldn't refuse, I had to take it. From Jakarta, I went to Singapore, from Singapore to Darwin, Darwin to Brisbane, then to Sydney, 18 hours. My other friend departed after me got a direct flight, 7 hours.

T: You lived inside the campus, so you walked to the campus?

J: Yes, in campus, walking, it's village. Haha

T: Was it comfortable?

J: Very comfortable. Behind my room, there were migrating birds that stayed for a while in the house.

Very beautiful. Comfortable.

T: Did you live in a single room alone or share?

J: Alone, I remembered 85 dollars per week.

T: During your stay, have you often visited other cities beside Sydney?

J: Yes, during vacation, my friends created events. My close friends from USA, France, and Norway, we used to drive a car together. We camped, moved around 2-3 weeks. There was a camping program namely Earth Four. It is in the border of New South Wales and Victoria. The one planned it was Tracy, the American. I asked, what would we do there? She said, 'Just go there'. So, I just came along. Five of us rented a car. We entered a forest, the forest withered, not tropical. Then we entered and it was so scary. There was in fact a Techno Party inside the forest. They camped, then there were three Techno areas. People all around the world, DJ from everywhere. At that time, drugs had just been popular. Haha

T: Oh my, Haha. Weren't you afraid of being arrested?

J: I didn't know about that. Haha. There were many people who were like chickens. Haha. But there is a positive side, meeting many people, not only Australian. There were many from Lebanon, many people from different countries. Then, there was Training Ketipung, the Liberian way. There were courses from the Gypsy people who live freely, without bond. It's like being thrown back in 1970s. Freedom. Maybe people looking for freedom are like that.

T: Many people there?

T: Thousands. It is a forest. So wide. We made vast camping area. There was technomusic. It's played all the time for 7 days. I thought three days had made me stuffed. It happened that my friends are antidrug, freedom but not drug, it suits me. They don't even smoke. But after three days, we rethink. Although we have paid for a week, we already got bored. It's better for us to leave. We were offered drug too. Just for the experience, because we didn't get it every day. Then we took off, then we got arrested, breaking the speed limit. But we knew nothing. We got arrested twice. I didn't feel anxious, we knew we didn't have drug with us, so just feel calm. Haha

T: How about food, is it still fine?

J: I don't mind the food. I eat all.

T: Do you cook or?

J: So, it was like this, because we were in the village. So, there was no restaurants, so we cooked, we only needed to walk, a bit far around 1 hour. So we brought our own basket home when we shopped, it was taken home, there would be someone taking the basket. So, we pushed the push carriage for 1 km.

T: Walking?

J: Yes. There is a shuttle bus, free mini shuttle bus from campus to the mall, that's the only one. It was usually in the late afternoon. If we wanted to cook in the afternoon, so we shopped. I was with my friends because in one house were African, Thai. Mbak Hasanah brought the family so she left Town House. Because family couldn't stay in the campus. Then, there were two other came in, two Thais,

me and two Africans. Then because we were all busy, we made cooking schedule, to be eaten by all. Then, one problem arose. She wasn't that clean, she put in the plastic when she cooked. Huahahaha. Because she didn't have time, she said, so everything was put into it along with the plastic bag. Finally, we refused, because it wasn't clean. Finally, some cooked on their own. Sometimes cooking on their own, sometimes together. But, there were many parties, every weekend was a party. Every weekend, we gathered and brought our own food, from late afternoon till morning.

T: It's like potluck?

J: Yes, Potluck. The food isn't a problem for me. We in fact had a program, each country introduced her own food. Each weekend, those having spare time, cooked the food from her own country, then we ate together while telling story about food.

T: After graduated, have you been to Australia again?

J: Because now I live in Malaysia. I like camping, renting employee. Because we move to Malaysia, it's close, so in the last two years, we went there twice. One week or ten days. It's twice. The first from Sydney, we came to Twelve Apostle. From Melbourne, we got back to Kuala Lumpur. The last time, from Sydney to the North, to where it was, it wasn't Brisbane. Then came back to Sydney then to Kuala Lumpur.

T: While you were in Australia, did you make contact with an institution outside the university?

J: Institution, but it wasn't direct, just by phone. Because the assignment at that time was looking for alternative airport for King Smith Airport. We learned history, we were sent to some locations. But they didn't decide other areas. Why didn't the parliament cut the airport for KSA. We learned that. So, we called some institutions, asking some questions. It was related to government institution. Then, it was related to company because one of the papers is about mushroom industry. I chose mushroom agriculture. Button mushroom, or something. The quantity is too much. We heard and saw what the pollution or the waste.

T: Has your research been used as a recommendation for government policy? Research or skill.

J: I didn't have access with the government. Because my research is my own will. In Australia, they are mini papers, so they didn't have effect. It's like the assignment for the lecturers. But, my PhD is related to my own experience. Then I wrote the dissertation, it might affect the policy. But I haven't published it. At least, the most important for me, I understand the real problem. So, it develops myself.

T: What is your research about?

J: It is related to the ecosystem approach in the field of forestry. It is related to Conservation and Environmental Protection.

T: So, it is the one made into book?

J: Yes, my research.

T: At that time, how was the political condition between Indonesia and Australia?

J: As far as I remember, there was no problem when I departed. But then it was conflicted with Timor Timur. Because I remember when I watched Habibie, the niece was beside me. I got angry with her,

“How was your uncle. Releasing Timor Timur. Stupid! Haha”

Then the other friend, the American, she supported Timor Timur to be independent. I remember that she was upset with Indonesian. Then I explained. Then she became uncomfortable. Even though she is a good friend of mine. Sometimes she slept over at my place. But because of Timor Timur, she became sensitive. It was okay.

T: In your batch, there were more men or women?

J: Women, I think. It is from Indonesians portion or what?

T: Indonesians who got ADS scholarship.

J: Oh, balance.

T: What is the one having more women before?

J: More women in terms of Indonesian surroundings. The Indonesians who studied in my campus. But, it wasn't always ADS, so the private students. They all were almost women. But, in the 3-month-preparation-class, in my class, if I looked at the whole, I guessed it was balance.

T: How did the scholarship affect the leadership?

J: Leadership for myself? It has to contribute something because I get knowledge. But, in terms of leadership, I think it is inherited. Haha. Because, from my grandfather, mother, all are politicians. My grandfather was Marhaeni. My mother was PNI.

T: But, all are Indonesians? Are you mixed blood?

J: All are Javanese.

T: Thank you Mbak Dyna for the interview. It is so helpful.

J: Yeah, I hope so.

[END] [Recording length: 00.44.03]