

Interview by Jemma Purdey with Mulyoto Pangetsu, Melbourne, 18 August 2014

MA and PhD, Agricultural Science, Monash University, 1990 cohort



[00:00:10]	<p>Born in 1963 in Pekalongan, Central Java, and brought up by his maternal grandparents in Tegal. His parents were in Bandung working in a pharmaceutical company. In 1977 his father died and his mother, brother and sister came back to live in Tegal. Went to state primary and secondary school in Tegal then, in 1982, went to Jenderal Soedirman University (UNSOED) in Purwokerto to study animal husbandry. It was easy to get in and his uncle lectured there. His father had a pharmacy degree and his mother a secondary pharmacy qualification, that's how they could start a pharmaceutical company. His grandparents hadn't been to uni. His father had four siblings, the first didn't go to university, the second went to teachers college, the third did agriculture, the fourth did law and his father did pharmacy. His paternal grandfather was a meat inspector. His maternal grandfather was a public servant, in forestry.</p>	<p>Childhood; Family background; Early education</p>
[00:04:18]	<p>He is the eldest of five. His four siblings went to uni, the first did anthropology, the second did animal husbandry and the third went to National Hotel Institute and the fourth did accounting. At high school, Pak Mulyoto did science, was thinking of going into mining but his uncle persuaded him to stay with him. Thought the course was OK in first year and got more interested in second year. Then his lecturer offered him a job as a lab assistant and that started his interest in teaching. In fourth year he got a scholarship to become a junior lecturer.</p>	<p>Family background; Undergraduate education; Career</p>

[00:07:17]	There was one good lecturer who inspired him to focus on reproductive physiology, reproductive science. At that time, 1985 and 1986, the field was simple, mainly artificial insemination of cattle, sheep and goats. None of the lecturers had been overseas to study and they encouraged him to apply to overseas universities. He got married in 1989, luckily the scholarship was enough to support a family.	Undergraduate education; Early career; Professional network; Family; Scholarship opportunities
[00:10:08]	Got an AIDAB scholarship. A senior colleague had been to Australia and said the scholarship should be enough for a family. It was \$1500 to \$2000 a month. He also got two other scholarships: a French one that he didn't take because it was unclear when and how he would be going, and one from the Indonesian government, BAPPENAS, but AIDAB seemed more secure. Went for the tests in 1991 and to Jakarta for six months of English lessons, then to Australia in January 1993. He had one child then. He applied in 1990 but didn't pass the interview, in 1991 he passed the interview. [Anecdote about his wife's concern that he went to the interview on his friend's motorbike.]	Scholarship opportunities; Alumni network; Predeparture preparations
[00:15:09]	After the interview did the IELTS test (got 5.5) then went to Jakarta for six months and then went to joint selection with a panel. From his previous interview experience he knew his proposal needed to be simple so he proposed a project to improve the reproductive productivity in goats and his proposal was accepted. He investigated different universities and someone from Melbourne uni and someone from Queensland uni met him in Jakarta and explained everything. He was accepted at both but chose Melbourne because it sounded more European, more different to Indonesia. Arrived in January, was expecting someone to meet him, but no-one did so he followed the crowd to Southern Cross then looked at the trams to find the one that went to Melbourne uni. While he was at the Melbourne uni international office the person who had gone to the airport to meet him came in saying that he wasn't there.	Predeparture preparations; Studying in Australia; Arriving in Australia
[00:20:14]	This was his first trip overseas, had to get his passport to go. Planned to study reproductive biology but was told to study agricultural economics. After three months he wrote to AIDAB asking if he could change universities to do subjects that would support his research and, after talking with Melbourne uni, they said he could choose the unit related to his project. The	Arriving in Australia; Studying in Australia; Challenges with course; Professional networks

	<p>university told him to do his research in Indonesia but he wanted to do it in Australia. He had a friend who was doing a master's in reproductive science at Monash, so he contacted the director and told him his transfer had been approved. Then he told AIDAB Monash had accepted his transfer and arranged it all.</p>	
[00:25:34]	<p>He hadn't known about Monash when he applied for the scholarship. Ended up in the Faculty of Medicine at Monash. Only had one year left of the scholarship so got an extension of eight months but he couldn't finish course work and a project in that time. The time at Melbourne wasn't wasted, he made friends and got a Graduate Diploma in Agricultural Science. When his scholarship time ran out he negotiated with the university to pay the tuition fees himself. In October his visa was extended for a fortnight, every two weeks he had to queue at the embassy to have it renewed. After three fortnights he asked AIDAB to arrange for his visa to be extended to the end of the year. There was one AIDAB liaison officer in Victoria and he organised it.</p>	<p>Studying in Australia; Liaison with AIDAB office</p>
[00:30:59]	<p>At Monash his supervisors, Jill Shaw and Ian Lewis, suggested he study cattle. So he learnt about IVF in cattle, all new knowledge for him. In December 1995 he went back to Indonesia and his job at the university. In November 1997 he went to a conference in Bali to present his work and met Professor Anwar, an obstetric gynaecologist from Gaja Mada University (UGM), who was involved in a new IVF program in Jogja. Pak Mulyoto helped him set up the lab, it was the fourth IVF clinic in Indonesia.</p>	<p>Studying in Australia; Supervisors; Returning to Indonesia; Professional networks; Career</p>
[00:36:00]	<p>He was invited to move permanently to Jogja but before it could be organised he was offered another scholarship. He had applied earlier but was rejected because he hadn't been back in Indonesia for two years. But many of the eligible applicants had failed the tests so he was asked to step in at short notice. He used his contacts at universities in Sweden, Japan, the US and Australia to organise acceptance letters. He wanted to go to Sweden but was sent to Australia.</p>	<p>Scholarship opportunity; International professional network</p>
[00:40:24]	<p>What was it like living in Australia the first time? At first he shared a house with a friend near Victoria Market, then when his family arrived they rented a flat in Brunswick. When he</p>	<p>Living in Australia; Family in Australia; Indonesian community</p>

	transferred to Monash they lived first in Barker St, behind Mannix College, then to a friend's house in Clayton Rd. His son was two when they came to Australia and started school before they left. He spoke English with a Greek accent because a Greek family ran his childcare centre. They made friends from within and without the Indonesian community. His wife is in a wheelchair now but then she was OK. She applied to study and got a lot of support, e.g. a mobility allowance of \$50 a week. She went to Box Hill TAFE and did Certs 1, 2, 3 and 4.	in Melbourne
[00:45:24]	Most of his friends were Indonesians, he was involved in MIIS, Monash Indonesian Islamic Society, but had some Australian friends too. MIIS activities included Friday prayers and weekend gatherings. He's still in contact with some of those MIIS people. Also has good connections with people from many Melbourne universities. Not really linked with Monash Medical Centre's clinical activities but has links for training. Since 2006, UGM, Deponegoro and Udayana universities send specialists, about ten a year, for training.	Socialising in Australia; Indonesian community; community organisations; Research collaboration between Indonesia and Australia
[00:49:59]	Did his PhD at Monash, with the same supervisors, after two and a half years in Indonesia. Had a few changes of topic but settled on sperm drying. The director approved it but without funding so his supervisor asked for a portion of his tuition fee (\$18000 a year) but it was refused. So they went ahead without funding and had some success, then the director got funding for sperm preservation research from the National Institute of Health (NIH) and gave them the money they wanted.	Studying in Australia; Professional networks
[00:55:06]	In 2000 got a Young Inventor Award from the Far Eastern Economic Review for his work. His supervisor nominated him. They planned to patent the invention, Monash applied, but they couldn't because it was funded by NIH (America), so NIH owned it. NIH took all the recipes and everything, and promised to involve Monash on the second round but they didn't. They asked Pak Mulyoto to go and work for them but he didn't [elaborates on reasons]. Applied for permanent residence around this time.	Leadership; International professional networks; Ongoing connections with Australia
[01:02:44]	In 2003 had his first trip back to Indonesia to do field work in Bogor. The first time the whole family went was in 2005. His son went to Minaret College, the Muslim school in	Fieldwork in Indonesia; Family in Australia

	Springvale, because it cost less than sending him to an Australian state school. The ADB scholarship was less money and because it wasn't an Australian government scholarship he had to pay fees at an Australian state school. Also had to pay Medibank premiums, one year was rolled over from his previous stay.	
[01:07:21]	His son liked his time at Minaret College, he was six when he started and he started in Year 1 but progressed to Year 3 by the end of the first year so he wouldn't be behind when he went back to Indonesia. After Year 12, he started science at Melbourne Uni, he wanted to be a vet or doctor, but he changed to marketing and now he works as an academic administrator at the Melbourne College of Natural Medicine.	Family in Australia; Settling in Australia
[01:11:05]	Pak's Mulyoto's son has been to Indonesia four times with his father. He has some Indonesian friends from Minaret College and the children of other Indonesian students but not a strong connection with Indonesian culture. He's become an Australian citizen but his parents still have their Indonesian passports. Just moved out of home. He had separate housewarming events for his Indonesian friends and his Australian friends.	Family; Settling in Australia
[01:15:02]	Pak Mulyoto met his wife at university and they got married. They thought she had Duchenne muscular dystrophy but in Melbourne she was diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy and Prof Edmund arranged things so she would be covered by their health insurance. Before they went home in 1996 their doctor offered to sponsor them for permanent residence on medical grounds but Pak Mulyoto wanted to go home and work for Indonesia. When they came back Prof Edmund recommended she get an electric wheelchair and they got a customised car to fit the wheelchair.	Family; Returning to Indonesia; Disability
[01:21:31]	Bob Rice had a house, in Clayton road, that he rented to Indonesian students. Pak Mulyoto rented a room with his family and Bob appointed them caretakers of the house. They lived there from 2001 to 2005, then bought a house in Noble Park. His wife had refused to use the wheelchair inside the house until she fell over, then the doctor insisted she use the wheelchair. If they had stayed in Indonesia his wife's life would have been very different, she probably would have just stayed at home, probably not doing anything. It's rare to see	Living in Australia; Friendships; Living with disability

	someone in a wheelchair in Asia. It's better for her in Australia.	
[01:26:09]	She goes to Indonesia with Pak Mulyoto and gets a lot of questions about the wheelchair wherever she goes. Indonesia is not set up for disabled people. She was interviewed on RCTI when they were there in 2014 and they followed her around.	Visiting Indonesia; Disability in Indonesia
[01:28:24]	Pak Mulyoto goes to Indonesia regularly and lectures at UNSOED and UGM. Collaborates on research with UGM, the biggest project was funded by ARC, and looked at infertile couples seeking medical technology in Indonesia. [Description of how that happened.] At first his involvement with fertility was just technical but after hearing about infertility in India from his students he became interested in the social and psychological aspects. The research found that people will spend a lot on fertility treatment. IVF is expensive in Indonesia.	Research collaboration between Indonesia and Australia; Leadership
[01:34:51]	Are women delaying having children in Indonesia? Yes, in some communities. It is probably a growing market. [Anecdote about a presentation he gave 'Inul impact on IVF in Indonesia'.] There were 600 patients in 2007 and nearly 4000 in 2014. It costs between \$8000 to \$12000. People also go to Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand, and a few to Australia.	Fertility in Indonesia
[01:39:40]	In IVF committees Pak Mulyoto is the only one who isn't a medical doctor, the only one from animal science. But he isn't afraid to challenge the doctors, wants things to be right, and that shocks some of his colleagues in Indonesia.	Professional network; Career
[01:42:16]	Was involved indirectly and informally with negotiating with the ban of live exports to Indonesia. Supervises students and researches making bakso from frozen meat. Bakso is usually made from fresh meat but he wants to convince people that frozen meat imported from Australia can still make good bakso and ensure a better chain of supply. He, his friend and a small industry group are funding the research done by Pak Mulyoto's UNSOED students. His dream is to make meat more affordable in Indonesia.	Leadership; Australia-Indonesia relations; Live cattle export ban; Professional networks
[01:47:51]	Also working on improving embryo freezing and sperm selection. Collaborates with researchers in UGM, the facilities are good and he has a good relationship with the personnel. Makes in-kind donations to Indonesian	Career; Research collaboration between Indonesia and Australia

	universities when collaborating with them.	
[01:50:39]	Overseas networks? Mostly hired by pharmaceutical companies from Australia and Switzerland to give workshops. [Comments about dodgy practices in the pharmaceutical industry in Indonesia, and his exposure of and attempts to change it.] [Discussion about regulation in Australia and differences between Australia and Indonesia.]	International professional networks
[01:58:59]	Involved in the Indonesian Muslim community, in charge of funerals because he did it for Zainu'ddin and no-one else wants that job. He acts as an informal funeral director. [Explanation of what this entails with anecdotes.]	Indonesian community in Melbourne; Religious organisation
[02:06:16]	The Westall Mosque in Clayton South is an Indonesian mosque, bought in 1999. Before that there was a place near Monash for Friday prayer. Westall was bought with community funds, they chose the property because it was near public transport and accessible to students, even though they could have bought a bigger, less accessible property, but now most students have their own cars. They bought a house and converted it to a community centre; they didn't have a permit for a mosque. It can hold 200 people, gets full during ramadan. [Comments and anecdotes about neighbours and parking issues.]	Indonesian community in Melbourne; Religious organisations; Community involvement
[02:11:39]	Westall is open to any Muslims but the sermons are in Indonesian. Sunday school is in Indonesian too to encourage young Indonesians growing up in Australia to understand bahasa.	Religious organisations
[02:12:32]	The impact of the Bali bombings? It was bad for him, as an Indonesian. He was working as a shopkeeper in St Kilda and customers made comments. Also, in 2003, he couldn't get permission from Monash to go to Indonesia. There were also some questions when he wanted to go to India. It's been OK since then. When he's in Indonesia people ask about what it's like in Australia, he explains his experience has been better than what's described in the news.	Living in Australia
[02:17:46]	Travel in Australia? Not much except when going to farms or factories to collect samples, goes to Shepparton and Kyabram. [Mutual acquaintance, John Moran.] Likes going there, the smells of dairy cattle, feels part of the animal science world.	Travel in Australia; Professional networks; Research collaboration

[02:20:49]	[Comparing notes about people at Unram.]	Professional networks
[02:24:46]	[Comments about Unram, Brawijaya, UNSOED, Udayana and Jember universities that were part of a special AIDAB project, Indonesian Australian Provincial Universities Development (IAPUD), for basic science, and the Australian alumni there.]	Professional networks
[02:27:13]	Pak Mulyoto isn't doing as much research as he thought he would be, decided to focus on and education. [Comments about the difficulties involved in research.] No shortage of students, the uni wants them to take more than they have space and staff for, so they have to compromise the quality of training.	Career
[02:32:23]	[Anecdote about pressure applied after he failed two students in 2004.]	
[02:35:31]	He has one lab assistant who also does student admin.	
[02:36:18]	END	