

**Interview by Jemma Purdey with Sarjan, Dean of Faculty of Agriculture, UNRAM, Mataram, 6 August 2014**

**Phd, Agriculture, University of Adelaide, 1990s cohort**



[00:00:22]	Born in East Lombok on 6 April 1962. Went to school in a city close to the capital city of the district. Started at the University of Mataram (Unram) in 1981 in the Faculty of Agriculture and graduated in 1986. Applied to be a lecturer and started in 1987. Wanted to continue with further study so began applying to do a master's overseas: to the US in 1988, to France in 1989 to Denmark in 1990. In 1988 and '89 got an interview but not the scholarship and in 1990 got the scholarship but couldn't go because the Danish institution wasn't ready to accept him.	Background; childhood; undergraduate education
[00:04:52]	So he was invited to choose another country and he chose Australia because he knew other Australian alumni. Went to Bali in 1991 for preparatory training and started his master's degree in 1992, finished it in 1994. The World Bank funded the scholarship but it was	Scholarship opportunities; World Bank scholarship

	<p>managed by (? ADD/IDD). The scholarship was for two years but Pak Sarjan finished it in eighteen months so after returning to Indonesia he was invited to go back to Adelaide as a post-master for six months.</p>	
[00:08:39]	<p>Was in the department of crop protection, he was an entomologist. In 1994 he went back to Indonesia but planned to do a PhD in the US or Europe after travelling a bit. In 1995 was involved in a national project for integrative pest management, run by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and travelled around Indonesia. He was invited to be an FAO consultant for the project in Rome for three months.</p>	<p>Field of study; Further studies; work experience; consulting; international mobility; networks</p>
[00:11:18]	<p>There was some resistance from the university but they let him go. In 1996 was involved in the Eastern Indonesia Universities Development Project (EIUDP) [a Canadian international development initiative] and went to visit universities and research centres in Canada and the US. In 1998 applied to do a PhD in Adelaide (felt his visits to the US and Europe were enough, wanted to study again in Australia). Did six months training in Bali again and started the PhD in 1999 on an AusAID scholarship.</p>	<p>Research collaboration; international networks; Further study in Australia; pre-departure training</p>
[00:15:26]	<p>The scholarship was for four years but he finished early again. Got in touch with former supervisor and applied directly to AusAID. The project was studying the</p>	<p>Studying in Australia; Topic of research; Returning to Indonesia; leadership</p>

	<p>molecular mechanisms of resistance of insects to biological agents. The results couldn't be applied in Lombok because the labs lacked the high-tech equipment but he adapted his post-doctoral research for Lombok circumstances. Has had projects every year since 2003 until 2008 when he became a professor.</p>	
[00:20:28]	<p>When in Adelaide did field trips in his car. Learnt how to spray weeds, crop dusting. Pak Sarjan got married in Indonesia during the second semester of his master's. His wife and two children went to Australia with him when he went to do his PhD. The children went to childcare, kindergarten and primary school. Pak Sarjan's wife was a public servant in Indonesia and luckily got her job back again when they went home. In Australia she did casual work making cakes. The children were very happy at school. The older daughter died when she was thirteen, in Indonesia. When she was younger, while in Australia, she won an award for reading.</p>	<p>Living in Australia; travel; fieldwork; family</p>
[00:25:10]	<p>The children didn't speak Indonesian when they went back, they said they were Australian. Had a good experience as a parent, felt the children were cared for well at school and they enjoyed extra-curricular activities like swimming and piano lessons. He took parenting very seriously. Despite working in the lab from 9.00am to 9.00 or 10.00pm he didn't want to</p>	<p>Returning to Indonesia; family; travel and leisure time in Australia</p>

	miss out on the children growing up so took them on family trips every weekend, e.g. to the Barossa Valley, the Botanic Gardens.	
[00:28:55]	Pak Sarjan was head of the Adelaide Uni branch of the PPIA (Indonesian Students Association of Australia) so went to Melbourne for meetings with other students and took the family. Also went to the beach, the river and exploring other places. Wanted to travel from when he was young because his father was a teacher and some relatives had been overseas. As a child he heard stories about these trips. His uncle was a vice rector at Yogyakarta University and had been a lecturer at McGill University in Canada and a visiting scientist in Egypt.	Indonesian community in Adelaide; leadership; family and leisure; Family background; international networks
[00:33:22]	Pak Sarjan started his career as head of laboratory, then head of department and recently as dean of the faculty. Still keeps in touch with colleagues in Adelaide and has published his results. Was happy living in Adelaide, found people tolerant, and liked living in a smaller city, a student city like Malang or Jogja.	Post-scholarship career; leadership; connections with Australia
[00:36:31]	Became close friends with an Australian from a dairy farm in Mt Gambier, Gordon [? Tentersal]. Pak Sarjan spent a couple of days at the farm doing farm work and was amazed by the size of the farm and the machinery there. He and Gordon met through a mutual friend and now Gordon has an Indonesian wife, a dentist from Medan	Friendships with Australians; ongoing connections

	doing a PhD in Adelaide, and has visited Pak Sarjan in Lombok three times.	
[00:42:25]	Most Indonesian alumni of Australian universities have collaborative projects with Australia. The university encourages joint research and publication and student exchange. It's much easier to do this when there's a personal connection. More than 50 percent of the 124 lecturers in the Faculty of Agriculture have PhDs and half of them are alumni of overseas universities, mostly in Australia. Others went to universities in Europe, the USA and Japan.	Research collaboration with Australia; international networks; mobility
[00:46:07]	Most of Pak Sarjan's six siblings went to university. Pak Sarjan still travels for work, to Singapore, Malaysia and all over Indonesia. He is also involved in the Indonesian Biological Society, was head of the West Nusa Tenggara branch of the Indonesian Association of Entomologists and is head of Society of Indonesian Organic Farming.	Family background; international mobility; leadership; professional networks
[00:50:57]	Pak Sarjan's son is eighteen and at UGM studying geophysics.	Family
[00:51:51]	END	