

Interview by Jemma Purdey and Ahmad Suaedy with Suhudby, Mataram, 4 August 2014

PhD, Agriculture, UQ, 1990s



[00:00:08]	Born in Sumbawa, Nusa Tenggara Barat, on 14 September 1960. Came from a farming family. Finished high school in 1980 and went to Mataram to study animal science until 1984. In 1985 he starting teaching at the university.	Background; family and early education
[00:02:30]	After high school his father sent him to teachers college but Pak Suhudby decided to go to university because the career prospects were better. After graduating wanted to work on a project with international funding but the university wanted him to stay as a lecturer. He did work in Jakarta for a month but didn't like city life so returned to Sumbawa.	Undergraduate studies; early career
[00:06:16]	Was offered a job there, and a house, at a centre run by the Department of Agriculture but felt it was too remote so went back to Mataram university. This was in 1985; he was made permanent in 1986.	Early career
[00:11:02]	Pak Suhudby was responsible for his two younger brothers so wanted a secure job. Was accepted to do a MA in Bogor but University policy was that junior lecturers had to study overseas. After Professor Egan	Family obligations; University requirement for overseas postgraduate degree; Connection with Australia

	from Melbourne University came as a guest lecturer, Pak Suhudby decided to apply for overseas study.	
[00:15:52]	The university's overseas training office coordinated scholarship applications, mostly to the US. An English score of 550 was required but Pak Suhudby got 225. Even though the University of Nebraska accepted his independent application the training office would not let him go. Got married in 1991.	Application for scholarships; English language requirement hurdle; Family
[00:18:42]	Applied for many overseas scholarships and went to the Netherlands for 17 months. Was offered an AIDAB scholarship to study a MA leading to PhD at the University of Queensland (UQ). On June 27 1994, flew to Melbourne first. Did six months introduction then started his MA by research and after six months was asked to change to the PhD program.	Overseas experience; Scholarship awarded; AIDAB
[00:22:34]	Being an independent student was challenging, had to learn a lot. Proposed a number of projects but they weren't passed by the ethics committee, eventually studied swallowing and chewing patterns in sheep. (Description of how this project was inspired and carried out.) His supervisor told Channel 9 and a crew came and recorded Pak Suhudby's research.	Studying in Australia; challenges; Research topic
[00:31:34]	Pak Suhudby's daughter was born in Australia. Two of three examiners accepted his PhD thesis, a third asked for a control experiment. Pak Suhudby couldn't do it but eventually someone else did and his PhD was accepted.	Family; Child born in Australia; Studying in Australia
[00:36:22]	In 2002 his thesis was resubmitted and he graduated in September, came to the graduation ceremony.	Completion of Phd

[00:37:50]	Felt he didn't get proper guidance with his PhD. Had published a book before starting the PhD so writing was not a problem, neither was scientific English.	Studying in Australia; supervision
[00:40:17]	Grew up on his parents buffalo farm. They had about 100. His childhood helped his PhD. [Shows Jemma a copy of his dissertation. Supervisor Bruce Young School of Veterinary Science and Animal Production.]	Childhood background in Sumbawa
[00:44:09]	Compared to Australia, scientific research in Indonesia is on the surface, not deep into the science. [Discussion about Pak Suhudby's research into ingestive events in sheep. Comments about difference between Australia and Indonesia in terms of student independence and critical thinking.]	Research and learning environment in Australia compared to Indonesia
[00:47:25]	Pak Suhudby's son has graduated from University of Indonesia (UI) and now is studying financial mathematics and financial engineering at North Carolina State University. His daughter is studying accounting at UI. His son was three when they went to Australia and his daughter was born in Australia in 1996 and returned to Indonesia when she was three. Both speak English well. [Comments about importance of getting the qualification before returning to Indonesia because it is difficult to complete it there. Comparison with PhD research in the USA.]	Family; English language attainment of children in Australia
[00:53:48]	Feels the Australian PhD assessment process can take too long. In the US they are examined internally, on the spot, and issued with a temporary certificate.	Research and learning environment in Australia

[00:55:39]	Problems being published in international journals because of Indonesian custom of using a single name rather than a given and family name, now uses his parents name – Suhudby Assim.	Research environment in Indonesia; Challenges for publishing
[00:57:40]	On returning from Australia established a research centre from his own office but it's difficult because of lack of resources (old equipment and few subjects). The government provides funding for 300 research projects but 13 million applications are submitted for this funding.	Returning to Indonesia; Post-scholarship experiences; Research collaboration
[1:01:48]	Is involved in a project about the roadmap of Indonesian milk, as a consultant, helping to develop the dairy industry. John Moran is a mutual friend. Pak Suhudby sits on the committee of the International Buffalo Federation, presents at international forums but must fund the travel himself.	Ongoing connections with Australia; Research collaboration with Australian researcher; International networks; International mobility
[1:05:40]	Suhudby is involved in the conflict resolution group of the Alumni Reference Group.	Connections with Australia
[1:09:00]	Went to the US, worked for three departments at the University of Utah: Wildlife, Agriculture, and Animal Science. Professor Dale Sober came for three months to Pak Suhudby's centre and saw how under-resourced it is, no internet etc. In 2005 he sent 150kg of journals but customs won't release them. A French professor offered to donate some equipment but the university can't afford to have it shipped.	International networks; international mobility
[1:15:14]	Some colleagues make negative comments about the centre. Has a photo at home so he can pretend he's back at university (in Australia?), to recharge his brain. (Some photos taken.)	Research and learning environment in Indonesia

[1:16:59]	Shows Jemma his workroom, many books, and Introduces his daughter. (More photos taken.)	Family
[1:20:37]	END	