



**Interview by Jemma Purdey with Made Andi Arsana, Yogyakarta, 28 May 2014  
MA, UNSW, 2004; PhD, University of Wollongong, 2008**



[00:00:03]	<p>Born in Tegal Jadi, Tabanan, Bali and lived there until he was eighteen. His parents didn't go to school beyond primary school but valued education and supported Andi to do geodetic engineering at Gaja Mada University (UGM). His [older] sister and [younger] brother also went to university, she did English literature and is now a teacher and he did French literature and is now in the property business. His parents were both miners at the local quarry. [Story about his mother carrying him there, when he was a small boy, and sitting him nearby while she worked.]</p>	<p>Family background; Childhood; Early education</p>
[00:04:47]	<p>Went to local schools then, because he got good marks, he was given a place at senior high school in Denpasar and moved there to live. Was involved in student organisations while at junior and senior high school. He liked science and chose geodetic engineering after hearing a talk about it at school, was drawn to doing something a bit unusual. He was accepted into medicine at University of Indonesia (UI) but it was expensive and being a doctor didn't appeal, Udayana University didn't have geodetics and he wanted to explore other places so he chose UGM.</p>	<p>Early education; Undergraduate study</p>



[00:09:12]	His sister studied in Bali and married the boy next door. Andi's had several scholarships that helped him study, none of them covered everything so his parents also supported him. His parents had started a business supplying building materials so the family financial situation had improved, and his costs as a student were low. He was student activist during the fall of Suharto. He was president of the Hindu student organisation and involved in producing publications for the geodetic student association.	Family; Leadership; Community activities
[00:12:56]	[Reminiscing about anti-Suharto activities when he was a student, how it affected classes, the celebrations when Suharto stood down, comparisons with events in Solo, the role of the Sultan.] Felt lucky to be part of such a defining moment.	Community activities
[00:17:27]	In 1999 became very good friends with, Agus Hariadi, one of the student activists from UI, when they were both invited to North Korea on a student exchange, his first trip overseas. [Comments about Indonesia's relationship with North Korea, descriptions of the trip and his impressions of North Korea.] There were students from other communist countries, even Norway. He was one of three Indonesians, selected through a writing competition. [Description of the selection process.]	Opportunities for overseas study
[00:23:14]	Andi finished his degree in 2001. Started in 1996 and it was a five-year program. Then he worked for Unilever, based in Malang, as part of their graduate program. His title was Territory Sales Supervisor. Within six months he moved to Jakarta to do IT programming for Astra.	Undergraduate study; Early career and work experience
[00:27:13]	At the end of the first year at Astra he applied for a job lecturing at the university. It was a difficult decision, to leave that good job and salary to work at the university. [Story about his father's profound and moving comments about the decision, and Andi's, commitment to education.]	Early career experience
[00:34:09]	His wife, Asti, was supportive of the decision too, she was a medical intern in Jogja at the time. That was a pull factor. He was the first Balinese to work at the university, the first Hindu in his department. [Comments about the acceptance of his colleagues.] Spent the first year studying in the master's program, not teaching, and then went to Australia in January 2004, after eight weeks pre-departure training in Jakarta.	Family; Leadership; Scholarship opportunity

[00:38:52]	Applied for any scholarships he heard about. He was dreaming of going to Europe, and his father-in-law had studied in Holland, but the ADS scholarship came through first. He chose University of New South Wales (UNSW) because it had geodetics. In 2003, as part of the team mapping the land borders between Indonesia and Timor Leste, he became interested in border issues and maritime	Scholarship application; Existing connections with Australia; Collaboration; Mentors
[00:45:49]	It was a new field for him, he had to learn about law of the sea etc. (Nine years later UNSW asked him to teach that class.) [Anecdote about writing an article in Jakarta Post about the Indonesia–Malaysia border dispute over Ambalat in 2005, how exciting it was to be able to apply what he was learning.]	Career
[00:49:23]	His master's research was about Timor borders but it was the Ambalat case that started him writing. He started writing more, articles and blog posts, to make it accessible to lay people. [Comments about responses to his writing, and how being in Australia gave him the distance that enabled his writing and helped shape his expertise and views.] He wrote for some Australian magazines, not newspapers, and was interviewed by the ABC about border issues.	Studying in Australia; Living in Australia
[00:51:56]	When he was doing his PhD he wrote for Jakarta Post and was regularly interviewed by the ABC and SBS about the South China Sea, but his focus was on academic writing. [Discussion about academics writing for newspapers and anecdote about being invited to speak at a conference in Singapore because of his articles in Jakarta Post.]	Living in Australia; Other work experience
[00:57:00]	He also writes in public media because, since his research is funded by people, he wants to make his findings available to people. [Comments about academics and scientists writing for the public and writing good content for social media to reach young people.] Has been blogging consistently for ten years, is always happy to write and speak.	Career
[01:00:13]	He was invited to upgrade his master's to a PhD but AusAID didn't allow it so he finished the master's in 2006 and came back to Indonesia. He got a fellowship, funded by the Nippon Foundation and the United Nations, to learn about ocean affairs and law of the sea in top institutions. He spent six months doing independent research at Wollongong, because	Scholarship opportunity; International mobility; collaboration

	Clive Schofield had moved there, and three months doing an internship in New York at the UN. In 2007, while in Wollongong, he applied for an Australian Leadership Award and was accepted while in New York. He went back to Indonesia for six months and started his PhD in May/June 2008, also at Wollongong.	
[01:05:38]	He and Asti were married before Andi did his master's, Asti had finished her medical degree and went to Sydney too. She did English classes, support for spouses, at UNSW for a couple of months then worked in a blind-making business, specialising in roller blinds. Got the job through the Balinese community. She got to know Greeks, Chinese and Vietnamese people because the business was owned by Greeks and many other migrants worked there. She worked there for nine months until she was pregnant with their daughter, Litha.	Family; Living in Australia; Working in Australia; Balinese community in Sydney
[01:08:53]	AusAID and Medibank covered everything to do with Litha's birth. She was placenta previa so was born by caesarian. It was before the family allowance policy changed. The Indonesian mothers' group was very supportive and the help line for new parents was very helpful. Andi and Asti's parents came for the first week after the Litha was born. Asti got mastitis.	Living in Australia; Family; Birth of child
[01:12:19]	[Discussion about the challenges of being new parents, the helpful midwives on the 'crying line', learning how to swaddle Litha.]	Family in Australia
[01:16:00]	[Discussion about the joys of being a hands-on father, which might not have happened if Litha had been born in Indonesia.]	Family in Australia
[01:20:04]	When Andi went to Wollongong for the fellowship Asti was working in Jakarta, with the UN, so she and Litha stayed there, skype helped a lot. They all went together the next year for Andi to do his PhD. Asti applied for an ADS scholarship but didn't get one. In Wollongong Asti worked picking mushrooms on a farm an hour from Wollongong. She drove with other workers from Malaysia and Vietnam. She enjoyed working there and was the first aid officer. She applied for a research assistant position but didn't get it.	Family; Living in Australia
[01:23:42]	Litha went to childcare, near the campus so it was easy for Andi to take her and pick her up. They came to be friends with the Greek family who ran the centre. Asti had to leave at 6.00am	Family; Living in Australia; Friendships

	and sometimes did overtime. She made friends at work and Andi made friends at uni, many from overseas, it was a supportive group and they often ate together in the evening.	
[01:26:36]	[Anecdotes about the difference between student-supervisor/lecturer relationship in Australia and Indonesia, how nice and helpful his supervisor was, and Andi's desire to emulate that with his students.]	Supervisors
[01:29:27]	Was in Wollongong for more than four years. Had many activities: he was president of the Indonesian student association, general-secretary of the AusAID student club, developed an e-book about Wollongong for Indonesian students (recommended by AusAID and supported by the university), set up a Wollongong website and wrote blogs about being a student there.	Living in Australia; Leadership
[01:33:57]	Also went to more than 20 conferences, often with his supervisor, to present research. His supervisor gave Andi the ticket to go to his graduation. Asti went back to Indonesia and worked as a research assistant at UGM then got a scholarship to do a master's by coursework at UNSW. Andi moved back to Sydney. Litha stayed with her grandparents. They finished together and went back to Indonesia in 2013.	Professional networks; opportunities for international/national travel; Family; Scholarship experience
[01:37:45]	[Comments about helping people to apply for ADS scholarships and feeling disheartened when Asti didn't get one on her first two tries.] Asti did a Master's in Public Health, focussing on infectious disease. [Discussion about the Gates Foundation and the Indonesian vaccination program.]	Scholarship experience; application process
[01:41:56]	[Discussion about Jemma's career, Herb Feith and his biography, Pak Boediono.]	
[01:56:14]	END	