

Interview by Jemma Purdey and Ahmad Suaedy with Yusuf Akhyar Sutaryono, Mataram, 5 August 2014

PhD, Agriculture, Monash University, 1988-1992



[00:00:06]	Current position is Dean of Faculty of Animal Sciences at University of Mataram (Unram). Was born 25 October 1961 in Selong, East Lombok, about 60km from Mataram. Finished his schooling in Selong and went to university in Mataram in 1980 to do a Bachelor of Animal Science. Graduated in 1984 and became a junior lecturer at Unram in 1985. Pak Akyar's parents were teachers. His father became a public servant in the Ministry of Education and later a member of the provincial parliament. He died in 1983.	Background; Childhood; Family; Early education
[00:03:54]	His mother was a schoolteacher until she retired around 1999. There were nine children in the family, two girls and seven boys. Pak Akyar is the fourth. They all went to university except his younger sister who died when she was 17. Four brothers went to Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB), three went to Unram and one to Gaja Mada University (UGM). Some on scholarships, others supported by their parents.	Family background
[00:07:58]	Mother was a teacher at Pak Akyar's primary school from when he was in Grade 4, after a few years she was transferred to another school and was principal there until she retired. Father taught until about 1963 then worked for the Ministry until 1971 when he was elected to the provincial parliament.	Family background; Political network

[00:11:19]	He was a member of the PPP, not Golkar. There were lots of meetings and political activity at the house. Pak Akyar was streamed into science while at school. Older siblings went to ITB and Pak Akyar had planned to go there too but failed the entrance exam and ended up in animal science at Unram. This was fine, he found it interesting and easy.	Family background; Political network; Undergraduate education
[00:16:32]	No farming experience but was comfortable with animals and got good marks. During second year was offered a scholarship that bonded him to work for the government (ikatan dinas) and when he finished he was invited to work as an animal science lecturer at Unram. Wanted to do postgraduate studies, was inspired to study in Australia from listening to Radio Australia as a child.	Undergraduate education; Early career; Pre-scholarship connections with Australia
[00:19:47]	The whole family listened to Radio Australia for the Indonesian program and the English lessons. When Pak Akyar was in high school he learnt English through Radio Australia. Later studied English as part of a program at ITB, the basic science bridging program funded by the IDP (International Development Program of the Australian Universities and Colleges). The course was for applied science lecturers to learn basic science. Others from Unram included Made Sudarman (now Dean of Faculty of Science) and Sridana (a mathematician).	Pre-scholarship connection with Australia; Radio Australia; Pre-scholarship connections with Australia; Research network
[00:24:39]	A scholarship to study in Australia was part of this program. Pak Akyar did the course from November 1986 to February 1988. After the second semester IDP gave them application forms and Pak Akyar chose James Cook and Sydney universities, because he thought he'd have a better chance of getting in there, but when he passed the course he was placed at Monash University to do a MA.	Scholarship opportunity
[00:28:44]	Brian Roberts, from Monash, had been a guest lecturer during the ITB course. Also, Jim Warren, Head of Department of Biology at Monash and on the PhD committee, was a member of the IDP committee.	Pre-scholarship connections with Australia
[00:31:42]	Went directly from Bandung to Melbourne, with only two weeks to go home and pack. Had to be at	Pre-departure

	Monash by 26 February 1988. The Ministry of Education organised the passports, then the IDP organised the visas, a few days before leaving. The English classes in Bandung included aspects of Australian culture. Of the twenty participants, five went into MA courses and thirteen into graduate diplomas.	preparations
[00:35:31]	Brian Roberts met them at Melbourne airport and took them to Mannix College in Clayton. It was 7.00 or 8.00 pm on a Friday evening, dinner had finished but they were given a piece of bread, a banana and an orange drink for dinner. Breakfast was provided but they had to find their own lunch and dinner. They'd been given \$100.	Arriving in Melbourne; Accommodation in Melbourne
[00:40:49]	After three days, moved to Normanby House for two weeks while looking for accommodation. Ran into some other Indonesians, also newly arrived, and found a flat together. Learned how to catch the bus to the market and Asian grocers. Brian Roberts and Jim Warren met them and introduced them to their supervisors.	Indonesian community in Melbourne; Living in Melbourne; Mentors
[00:44:00]	Started a MA by thesis but transferred to a PhD after the second year, and the scholarship was extended accordingly. Thesis topic was desiccation tolerance in grasses.	Studying in Australia
[00:49:17]	The scholarship scheme was IDP then became ADAB and then AIDAB. Didn't have time to do paid work. Socialised with friends from the Australia—Indonesia Association (AIA). Also involved in Indonesian students associations, the PPIA and HPPIA. The Monash University Indonesian Islamic Society (MUIIS) was formed in that time.	Scholarship opportunity; Indonesian community networks
[00:53:57]	[Discussion about mosques in Melbourne and prayer spaces at Monash uni.]	Living in Australia
[00:56:45]	Met Herb Feith, he supervised Sobari, a good friend. Pak Akyar and Sobari were flatmates. Got married while living in Bandung. Wife was pregnant when Pak Akyar left for Melbourne, she joined him after a year with their four-month-old son and they lived in a flat together. Their second son was born in Melbourne in 1992, four months before they went home.	Networks in Australia; Living in Australia, family

[01:01:07]	Older son went to kindergarten in Melbourne and spoke English more than bahasa Indonesia. Wife didn't work. The older son applied for an Australia Awards scholarship last year but didn't get one. He did oceanography in Bandung and wants to do International Studies at Monash. Went on a youth exchange (AIYEP) to Australia in 2012. He wants to apply again for an Australian Awards scholarship. The younger son is doing electrical engineering in Surabaya.	Family; Ongoing connections with Australia; Networks
[01:04:19]	Collaborative livestock research with Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and University of Queensland (UQ), started with funding from Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) in 1999. It started when a delegation from CSIRO came to Unram interested in collaboration. CSIRO and Unram developed the project together and got funding from ACIAR, then the research was carried out in Lombok and Sumbawa. The first project ran until 2004, then the second phase ran from 2004 to 2007. In 2007 the results from two different projects were combined and skilling up of the project happened, in collaboration with CSIRO, until 2010.	Research networks; Ongoing connections with Australia
[01:07:50]	Another project, with UQ, also funded by ACIAR, is still happening now. And in 2010, another delegation from CSIRO came and a new project, funded by AusAID started to help people in West Nusa Tenggara province to adapt to climate change. The project is going well and was extended to 2014. Other collaborative projects are in the pipeline.	Research networks; Ongoing connections with Australia
[01:10:26]	Unram and CSIRO jointly develop the program, CSIRO gives guidelines, Unram collects the data, CSIRO comes to Lombok and they analyse the data together and publish the findings jointly. There have been opportunities for Unram researchers to do training at CSIRO. No collaborative projects with Monash but Pak Akyar stays in touch with friends and through the alumni program.	Research collaboration; Research networks; Ongoing connections with Australia
[01:13:12]	Photos	
[01:13:50]	END	

