

Interview by Jemma Purdey with Defri Yona, Busan, Korea (via Skype), 15 July 2014

MA, Marine Science, Newcastle University, 2010 cohort



Session One [00:00:09]	Parents from West Sumatra. Born in W Sumatra. Aged 5 years moved to East Java. Aged 10 moved to Denpasar, Bali. Parents own Padang restaurants in East Java and Bali. Older sister and younger brother. Attended public school.	Childhood
[00:02:16]	Attended Bogor Agricultural Institute (IPB) to study Marine Science. No great connection yet with the ocean but developing interest in natural sciences. Offer from IPB to apply directly.	Undergraduate education
[00:05:18]	Small village in West Sumatra. Mother finished junior school and father maybe junior high school. Family in business and farming, very few in higher education. Local language used by parents but children only Indonesian.	Family background
[00:08:17]	Experiences of building and rebuilding friendships and the family business during childhood. Moved from small town in Java to Denpasar - more middle class in Bali compared to her family initially. Family transitioning to middle class by Defri's university years. Defri and her	Childhood; Family

	siblings worked in the restaurant.	
[00:11:10]	Parents encouraged higher education. Siblings are both in business.	Family
[00:13:28]	Experience studying Marine Science at IPB, almost 5 years (completed 2002); difficult but successful. Living away from home for the first time; homesickness.	Undergraduate study; Living away from home
[00:16:18]	Plans after graduating. Return to family business and job seeking in Bali for a range of jobs unrelated to the degree. Study fatigue. Enrolled in short courses. After Bali bombing in 2002 the restaurant business suffered and father's health not good. Business closed. Family moved back to East Java in early 2003 where parent's owned a small shop. Defri helped with establishing the business.	Work experiences
[00:20:22]	Job application to Brawijaya University, Malang. New major in Marine Science established. Started job 2005. Dosen muda (junior lecturer) program at Brawijaya to study S2/S3 degrees overseas only for those 35 years and younger.	Work experience
[00:22:37]	Many attempts to find international scholarships. Stressful time. Failed once for ADS, successful in second batch of APS in 2007. Application process for APS. Eastern Indonesia priority/ marine science priority. Attended information sessions from Australia Awards office. Preparation in Bali.	Scholarships applications
[00:27:53]	Fellow lecturers who had already returned provided advice. First time overseas. English was a struggle so when	Existing connections with Australia; Arrival; Living in Australia

	she was in Australia she did not have confidence to speak with Australian friends, although with international students.	
[00:29:57]	University of Newcastle provided good response. Master of Scientific Studies. Aurimba campus small suburb with few international students compared to in Newcastle. Lived in the dormitory. Communal cooking facilities for 7 people, mostly international students on her floor. Students stayed in their rooms and Australian students lived together on other floors.	Selection of course in Australia; Living in Australia
[00:33:25]	Coursework with minor research thesis. Classes were mostly with undergraduates and she was the only international student. Spoke little in class and found it hard to make friends. Heavier workload than in Indonesia. Staff was approachable.	Studying in Australia
[00:35:50]	Socialised with Indonesian friends in Sydney on weekends. A friend from Brawijaya studied there. Travelled to Brisbane and Gold Coast and Melbourne and visited Indonesian friends. Difficulty making friends. Takes a long time. Same in Korea. Joined Indonesian student association and social gatherings with Indonesians living on NSW Central Coast. Likes to cook and often shared with fellow Indonesians.	Social network in Australia; Indonesian community in Australia
[00:40:08]	In Australia for 18 months. Minor thesis research project on fish community in sandy beaches along the central coast.	Fieldwork experience
Session Two [00:00:09]	Description of relationship with adviser for her research project.	Relationship with supervisor

[00:00:40]	Support staff from AusAid office (in Newcastle campus), but on Aurimba campus the international office assists and organises activities. Many Malaysians due to agreement between Newcastle Uni and a Malaysian University.	Relationships with university staff; Friendships
[00:02:27]	Watching TV and listening to music. Likes reality TV. Likes western music and follows Today FM still now from Korea. So now knows a lot of Australian music - Guy Sebastian.	Australian culture
[00:06:03]	Only 3 Australian friends on Facebook. Hasn't returned to Australia yet.	Ongoing connections
[00:06:49]	Returned to Brawijaya end 2008. Stayed in Malang only 6 months before getting her scholarship to study in Korea. Friends shared the scholarship application process. Had studied some Korean language in the past. 'Accidental' success. Attitude was 'nothing to lose'.	Further post-graduate study
[00:10:27]	Pre-departure for Korea was very short. One year language country in Korea. Family was unsure about letting her go again. Lecturer must have PhD. Five years in Korea. Returns home for Ramadan every year.	Further post-graduate study; international mobility
[00:12:43]	Indonesian community in Busan is large. 20 Indonesians at her university. Defri is only international student in her course. Korean language lectures but textbooks and her presentations are in English. PhD in Chemical Oceanography.	Indonesian community in Korea; Studying in Korea

[00:15:44]	Expectations of returning to Brawijaya. Since 2009, student numbers have grown greatly and classes and campus are overcrowded. Concerns about finding time and funding for research.	Returning to Indonesia
[00:19:58]	Collaboration with supervisors at Newcastle may not be possible as her study focus has changed since the MA.	Connection with Australia
[00:22:22]	Life in Korea. Communication difficulties.	Living in Korea; challenges
[00:26:54]	Indonesian organisations in Korea. 2014 Presidential election. Postal vote.	Indonesian community in Korea
Session Three [00:00:00]	Communication with family at home. Plans for future. Possibility of post-doctoral study overseas in another country.	Family; Future plans; international mobility
[00:06:00]	END	