



**Interview by Ahmad Suaedy with Dewi Fortuna Anwar, Jakarta, 22 August 2014
PhD, Political Science, Monash University (Monash University International Scholarship),
1985-1989.**

[00:00:13]	Born in Bandung but her family is from West Sumatra. Her parents both studied, then lectured, at Institute of Teacher Education and Educational Sciences (IKIP) Bandung so she, and her two younger sisters, were born there. As the eldest daughter of a matrilineal family she was sent to the village, in Payakumbuh, to live with her mother's uncle and his wife who taught her about her Minangkabau heritage, the ancestral property that she would inherit, and public speaking. She was there for primary and junior high school.	Childhood; Family background; Early education
[00:04:03]	[Anecdote about wanting to go to a religious school but her great uncle sent her to a normal school, to be educated on a par with her parents and sisters, and taught her religion himself as well as public speaking.] In 1973, after she finished junior high school, she went to London with her parents because her father got a lecturing position and started his PhD at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London. Before that both her parents had studied overseas, her mother in America and her father in Edinburgh.	Early education; Childhood; International mobility
[00:07:55]	Her parents were both from West Sumatra, her mother from Payakumbuh and her father from Tanah Datar, Lintau, but they met in Bandung. Dewi was born in 1958, in Bandung. [Story about how she became interested in the village and went to live there for nine years.]	Family background; Childhood
[00:11:39]	Her father went to London at the end of 1973 and Dewi and her mother joined him in April 1974. Her sister, Danti, was sent to the village to take her place and her younger sister, Desi, stayed in Bandung to finish primary school before joining them in London. Danti came to London for a while but finished school and went to university in Bandung.	Childhood; Living overseas
[00:14:28]	Dewi was in London for nine years, finished school in 1978, then did a BA (1981) and an MA (1982) at SOAS. [Comments about her courses, MA was on area studies Southeast Asia majoring in politics, mixed Southeast Asian studies with Islamic studies which was an unusual combination.] Has never studied in Indonesia.	Living overseas; Undergraduate education; Studying in UK



[00:18:32]	London is very cosmopolitan and SOAS is the most cosmopolitan university in the UK, she had friends from all over Asia and Africa. She decided to do a PhD and wanted to do it at Monash because Merle Ricklefs, who had taught her at SOAS, had moved there and Herb Feith was there too. She wanted them to be her	Living in UK; Professional network; Mentors; Motive to study in Australia
[00:21:44]	After finishing her MA she went back to Indonesia, on her mother's advice, to work and get married. Her parents were going back to Indonesia, her father to be chair of the Faculty of Letters at Andalas University in Padang and her mother as a professional librarian. Dewi got a job at Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), in Jakarta. It was the end of 1982 and she was 24. She got married in April 1983 and got a scholarship offer from Monash. Her daughter was born in April 1984 so she postponed her PhD and started in mid-1985.	Early career; Returning to Indonesia; Family; Scholarship opportunity
[00:25:15]	Her research was a combination of history and politics with Merle and Herb as supervisors. Her thesis was <i>ASEAN as an aspect of Indonesian foreign policy</i> . [Discussion about why she chose that topic, her BA thesis was about the Vietnam war and her MA thesis about Indonesian politics, she would have liked to write about the PRRI and regional rebellions but was persuaded by her colleagues to do something less politically sensitive.]	Studying in Australia
[00:28:46]	[Anecdote about an abridged version of her thesis being published in Prisma and the controversy caused when, after the Tanjung Priok Affair, Fatwa quoted parts of it for his defence in court, and how Prisma and LIPI protected her but the controversy affected her choice of PhD topic.] In retrospect she's very happy she wrote about Indonesian foreign policy and ASEAN.	Studying in Australia
[00:32:59]	[Anecdotes about a certain notoriety resulting from that controversy e.g. President Habibie commenting on intelligence files about her.]	Studying in Australia
[00:36:21]	Got two scholarships, one from the Australian government and one from Monash. Chose the Monash scholarship because it was more flexible, even though the stipend was less. Also the Monash scholarship paid the same amount for fieldwork in Indonesia while the government scholarship paid local rates for fieldwork. The scholarship was for three years. She went to Australia alone, her daughter and husband were	Scholarship opportunities; Living in Australia; Fieldwork in Indonesia; Family; Professional network

	<p>in Aceh for her husband's work with Mobil Oil. After a year on campus she went to Indonesia for fieldwork and stayed on for another year, suspending her scholarship, and wrote the first draft of her thesis in Lhokseumawe with her family. Professor Bill Liddle was a visiting professor at Syiah Kuala University (Unsyiah) in Banda Aceh at the time and she visited him to get help.</p>	
[00:39:51]	<p>[Comments about communication difficulties, sending drafts by Fedex and waiting for comments.] In 1987 she went back to Australia for her final year, submitted her thesis in 1988 and joined her husband in Batam (Mobil Oil had moved him there). Spent 1989 sending revisions back and forth and got her PhD in 1990.</p>	<p>Studying in Australia; Supervisor-student relationship</p>
[00:43:29]	<p>Enjoyed Monash, lived in a dormitory. The difficult thing was leaving her family behind but it helped her focus and finish as quickly as possible. Had an active social life, didn't join the kampung Melayu community, but occasionally went to pengajian and other events. Went to an expo in Brisbane because friends organised for her to give a talk at Griffith University so her fare was paid. Her husband visited.</p>	<p>Living in Australia; Socialising in Australia; Travel in Australia; Family</p>
[00:47:13]	<p>Melbourne is the most English city in Australia, so it was familiar but different. Living in Clayton made it difficult to go to cultural events in the city, sometimes went to galleries and museum on weekends. Ate in the canteen, wasn't allowed to cook in the dorm, was used to western food and didn't miss rice or sambal. Lots of Asian activities at Monash with good food – main courses prepared by Asians and dessert prepared by Australians.</p>	<p>Living in Melbourne; Leisure activities</p>
[00:50:32]	<p>Her supervisors used to take turns taking the students to lunch once a week. Merle would take them to the faculty dining room and Herb would take them to the student vegetarian canteen. Had many friends from different countries and got on well with lecturers from different faculties. Was active in the PPIA (Indonesian Students Association of Australia) and gave talks and seminars for the association of lecturers and researchers from Indonesia. In 1989, after returning to Indonesia, spent a month or two as a fellow at the Institute for South Asian Studies (ISAS) in Singapore, got access to the library. Spent the weeks there and weekends with the family in Batam. Later ISAS published her thesis</p>	<p>Studying in Australia; Supervisor-student relationship; Friendships; Indonesian community in Melbourne; Leadership; Professional network; International mobility; Family</p>

	as a book. Her son was born in Batam.	
[00:54:11]	1989 and 1990 she was in Batam, then got an offer to be a congressional fellow in Washington from September 1990 to August 1991. During this time her husband moved back to Aceh. She had been on leave from LIPI but after coming back from the US had to go back there so her husband left Mobil Oil and in 1992 the whole family moved to Jakarta and she became a researcher at LIPI.	Returning to Indonesia; Professional network; International mobility; Post-scholarship career
[00:57:07]	[Anecdote about how Dewi came to work at LIPI through her lecturers' networks.] Was Deputy Chair of Social Sciences and Humanities for nine years. Before that, in 1992 was invited to be a research executive with Center for Information and Development Studies (CIDES). CIDES was a think tank of Indonesian Association of Muslim Intellectuals (ICMI) and they were very involved in preparing reformasi, it was very exciting. Was still full time at LIPI.	Post-scholarship career; Leadership; Professional network
[01:01:48]	[Anecdote about getting a call, in 1998, inviting her to join then vice president Habibie's office as Assistant to the Vice-President for Global Affairs, and becoming Assistant Minister/State Secretary for Foreign Affairs when Habibie became president.] She resigned when Gus Dur became president and returned to LIPI as an ordinary researcher. She was still active at CIDES. Then, in November, 1999 the Habibie Centre was launched and she became more active with that than CIDES. In 2001 the new chairman of LIPI appointed her as Deputy Chair of Social Sciences and Humanities and she did that until 2010 when she was invited to come here [Vice President Boediono's office where she is senior foreign affairs advisor].	Career; Professional network; Leadership
[01:06:58]	In 2007 she was getting tired of administration so from February to August she went to the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University in Washington and taught the course on Southeast Asia. After returning to LIPI she went to Kyoto University from February to August 2010 to write papers and give seminars. The vice president's office rang her while she was there but she couldn't take up that position until she had finished in Kyoto.	Professional network; International mobility; Career
[01:09:55]	END	