

**Interview by Jemma Purdey and Ahmad Suaedy with Sugeng Prasetyo, Mataram, 4 August 2014**  
**MA, Agriculture, University of Melbourne, 1980s (Colombo Plan)**

[00:00:07]	Came to Lombok to teach 30 years ago, aged 36, and lived there ever since. Born on 6 June 1948, father died before he was born. Has an older sister and a half-brother and two half-sisters. Mother remarried when he was in elementary school. Stepfather died in 1983, while Pak Sugeng was in Australia doing his MA at Melbourne University's School of Agriculture and Forestry.	Background; Family; Childhood; education
[00:03:36]	Pak Sugeng's mother was on her own after his father died. His sister is two or three years older, married when she was 19. He started elementary school in Semarang then his stepfather retired, when Pak Sugeng was in third grade, and the family moved to Jogja.	Childhood; early education
[00:07:09]	Did swimming, judo and martial arts while at school and continued with judo as an adult until he was about 40. Was a trainer and did exhibitions for the association but is not involved now.	Youth; sports
[00:10:09]	At the time he finished school it 'was hopeless to go to university' so he applied to join the military academy but didn't succeed. He studied animal production at Gaja Mada University (UGM) and graduated in 1973. Did a PhD in animal production at Bogor Agricultural University (IPB). Chose animal production as	Family background; tertiary education; opportunities for overseas study

	<p>an undergraduate because there were opportunities to study overseas. First applied to the UK and was accepted but the Thatcher government cut the funding for the program before he could go.</p>	
[00:14:53]	<p>Applied for a Colombo Plan scholarship and went to University of Melbourne in 1981. The application process was difficult because he was a pioneer for University of Mataram (Unram), had to find sponsors. Went to Jakarta to do an English course with the British Council, paid for by the Colombo Plan. Also spent two months in Sydney studying English. Lived in student housing for a few weeks then rented a room with a friend.</p>	<p>Scholarship application for Australia; Colombo Plan; pre-departure process; Arrival in Australia</p>
[00:20:10]	<p>This was his first trip overseas. The Australian people were friendly and helpful. Has subsequently been to America and noticed that in Australia if you're not introduced to someone you don't talk to them whereas in the US, like in Indonesia, you can talk to anyone without introduction. Learnt better English from one year in the US than two years, two months in Australia.</p>	<p>Living in Australia</p>
[00:22:40]	<p>In Melbourne did a MA in animal science by coursework. Would have preferred to do research. Had to study twice as hard as Australian students because of the language difference. Shared a house with Indonesian friends, nice but</p>	<p>Studying in Australia; challenges; Indonesian community in Melbourne; friends in Australia</p>

	<p>didn't practise English. Had an Australian friend, a senior student called Bob, who took him out on weekends to the Yarra river, to Ballarat, gold mining. Did a bit of tai chi while in Australia and America.</p>	
[00:28:01]	<p>Had to fend for himself in the share-house but it wasn't hard, he'd done it before. Doesn't remember many leisure activities but went to Indonesian parties. Was married with two children before coming to Australia. It was hard because they stayed in Indonesia. His step-father was ill and his wife stayed to look after him. Pak Sugeng visited Indonesia after one year. No email then and telephone was expensive so they relied on letters to keep in touch.</p>	<p>Living in Australia; leisure activities; family in Indonesia</p>
[00:32:39]	<p>Studied hard, went to uni early and left late. Did field work at the university's research station at Derrimut. Studied the effect of hot weather on reproduction of feral goats. Dr Holmes was supervisor.</p>	<p>Studying in Australia; fieldwork</p>
[00:35:09]	<p>There were not many Indonesian students at Melbourne Uni then: Pak Sugeng in animal husbandry, one in soil science, one in veterinary science, one in social science and one in nutrition. Pak Wargono, from economics, also from Unram, went to the Australian National University. Since then, many have gone from Mataram to Melbourne, Monash, La Trobe and</p>	<p>Indonesian community in Melbourne; networks; Other opportunities for overseas study; mobility</p>

	<p>Victoria University.</p> <p>Went to America in 1987, on a USAID scholarship to Michigan, to do a doctorate but at the end of the first year Pak Sugeng's mother died and his wife got meningitis. She was due to join him but couldn't. It was difficult deciding what to do but decided to go back home to the family.</p>	
[00:39:56]	<p>After his wife recovered she encouraged him to finish his doctorate, he didn't want to study overseas again because of his parents' deaths so he went to IPB on an Australian government scholarship. Pak Sugeng's son studied at Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB), and his daughter at Pakuan University, in Bogor, and his wife got a job, in Jakarta. Finished the PhD in 1999.</p>	<p>Further study; Australian scholarship for study in Indonesia; Family</p>
[00:44:14]	<p>Hasn't been on other trips overseas, not even back to Australia, prefers to stay in Indonesia with his family. Both children work in Jakarta now, neither have studied overseas. Had an opportunity to participate in a comparative study into cattle in Australia but stayed in Indonesia to look after his chickens. No Australians have come to Indonesia to work with Pak Sugeng. Many of his students and colleagues have studied in Australia and asked his advice about it.</p>	<p>Family; mentoring</p>
[00:52:22]	<p>END</p>	

