



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE



ENGAGING WITH  
**INDONESIA**

2020–2024



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Professor Sally Smart, Vice-Chancellors Fellow, is one of Australia's leading contemporary artists. Her project *The Choreography of Cutting* re-imagines and encapsulates a dynamic discourse between the historical and contemporary avant-garde, mapping multiple ideas, temporalities and space. With a deep affinity for Indonesia and its culture, Professor Smart has exhibited in Yogyakarta, Jakarta and Bali.

*The front cover is from Smart's 2017 exhibition in Yogyakarta. The Choreography of Cutting, Prima Visione #4 was shown at the Office For Contemporary Art (OFCA) International.*

# FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

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Our partners are our anchor in Indonesia, providing a channel for research and educational exchange and the conduit through which we engage with the broader Indonesian university community.

**Indonesia is the world's fourth most populous nation. It is a nation whose borders encompass diverse traditions – and is the largest Muslim-majority country in the world. It is the biggest economy in Southeast Asia, the sixteenth largest in the world, and has a leading role in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).**

Over the 70 years since proclaiming its independence, Indonesia has become an increasingly prosperous and confident democracy. It has seen significant improvements in the lives of its citizens: in the last 20 years infant mortality has halved, and the percentage of adult Indonesians with at least a lower secondary education has more than doubled. Indonesia is predicted to be the seventh largest economy in the world by 2030, and the fourth largest by 2050.

The 2017 Australian *Foreign Affairs White Paper* articulated the importance of the relationship between Australia and Indonesia. Relations between our two nations have deepened in recent years through collaboration on the shared challenges and opportunities of the increasingly inter-connected Indo-Pacific region. In March 2019, this was cemented through the signing of the Indonesia-Australian Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IA-CEPA).

Nevertheless, the full potential of this partnership has yet to be realised. Educational and academic exchange is a powerful force in deepening ties, and an opportunity for mutually beneficial trade. The Indonesian and Australian governments identified this as a priority area for future collaboration in August 2018. From the *Joint Declaration on a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Australia and the Republic of Indonesia*: “We commit to strengthen education and academic cooperation between our two countries, particularly through the expansion and deepening of Indonesian and Australian studies as well as academic exchanges and joint research to promote innovation and find solutions to shared challenges.”

The University of Melbourne aspires to lead the expansion of educational and academic cooperation between Australia and Indonesia, where possible using our bilateral ties as a foundation for broader collaboration across the Indo-Pacific region. In doing so, we build on a long history of collaboration.

Indonesian students have been studying at the University of Melbourne for over 60 years. Starting from just a handful of students in the 1950s, students from Indonesia are our third largest cohort of international students and are a deeply valued part of our community. The diverse perspectives they bring to the University help connect our institution and student community to our global and regional peers, enriching the educational and research environment on campus. This impact continues after graduation: many of our alumni participate actively in the Indonesian or Australian communities, whether in government, business, or academia.

The University also enjoys partnerships with the leading universities of Indonesia. Our partners are our anchor in Indonesia, providing a channel for research and educational exchange and the conduit through which we engage with the broader Indonesian university community. Our academics are working with Indonesian scholars on research with an impact on the priorities and needs of Indonesian development, and on the regional challenges that Indonesians and Australians share. Our students have the privilege of studying Indonesia at first hand through co-taught intensive subjects. As we seek to continue to deepen our connections in Indonesia our students, alumni and university partners will continue to be our anchor.

# FOUNDATIONS OF A RESILIENT PARTNERSHIP

Our partnerships in Indonesia are grounded in the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and ideas, and in the shared effort of translating knowledge into actions. The University of Melbourne benefits greatly from collaborations with Indonesia and is committed to making a positive contribution in return through research, education, and capacity building.

Our engagement in Indonesia reflects the broader ideals of the University of Melbourne. We contribute to the capacity and wellbeing of international communities and institutions through collaborative research and teaching. In turn, international collaborations build the University's capacity to produce research that speaks meaningfully to the problems of our community and region.

A commitment to the production and sharing of knowledge informs our work with policy makers, civil society actors and university leaders in both Indonesia and Australia.

## OUR PARTNERSHIP ASPIRATIONS

- Work with Indonesian researchers to produce high quality research with an impact on the most difficult problems facing Indonesia and the world.
- Contribute to developing a world-class higher education system in Indonesia through capacity building and exchange.
- To be one of the top destinations for the best Indonesian students.
- To be a pre-eminent source of Indonesia expertise, with an impact on policy design and public debate.
- Produce graduates who understand Indonesia and Australia, and work to promote mutual understanding.

## AT THE END OF FIVE YEARS WE WILL EXPECT TO SEE

- Increased numbers of University of Melbourne undergraduate students studying Indonesia or undertaking mobility experiences in Indonesia.
- An increase in joint research projects and publications with Indonesian partner universities.
- Expanded reach of Indonesia-focused public engagement channels, with more Indonesian voices.
- More Indonesian students choosing the University of Melbourne for study and research
- More joint projects in Indonesia with the Australian Government and with partners from other sectors.

# Alumni



Launching their book, 'Jurnal PhD Mama' are Dr Kanti Pertiwi, Honorary Fellow (right) and Dr Hani Yulindrasari (left), PhD candidate in the Faculty of Arts. They are members of a strong alumni community in Indonesia, numbering over 3000.



# PRIORITIES FOR COLLABORATION

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*Melbourne School of Engineering is collaborating with partners from Universitas Indonesia and Universitas Gadjah Mada to shape the future of infrastructure development. It is one of many relationships between our countries, focusing on sustainable growth across the region.*

Indonesia is working on challenging reforms to health, sustainable development and governance. It is also increasingly playing a leadership role on an international stage – notably through its participation in the UN Sustainable Development Goal process, and through leadership in the ASEAN region.

Underpinning these aspirations is the construction of an internationally competitive higher education system, supporting a generation of ‘smart and competitive’ Indonesians to lead an innovative, sustainable and prosperous nation. To support this ambition, the Indonesian Government launched a Master Plan for Research (RIRN). RIRN is focused on strengthening Indonesia’s capacity to meet domestic and regional challenges internally through world-class research that speaks to Indonesia’s future needs, and through effective translation for policy makers.

The University of Melbourne is seeking to deepen our support for capacity building initiatives and research collaboration in the country, building on our existing strengths in working with Indonesian partners on curriculum development, research, research training, and the collaborative design of evidence-based policy. The University has specific expertise in key areas of interest identified in RIRN, but we also take pride in being a world-class comprehensive research university with deep connections in, and knowledge of, Indonesia.

We consider our focus on multi and inter-disciplinary perspectives to be a strength, supporting research and policy collaborations that are grounded in an understanding of the communities for whom they are intended. This includes an emphasis on developing research within and between the sciences and social sciences and the humanities disciplines.



**We will work with Indonesian partners  
to deliver on our shared commitment to...**

### **HEALTHY COMMUNITIES**

- Pivotal role in the **health security partnership** between Indonesia and Australia
- Vision for interdisciplinary **‘One Health’** research that is replicable across Indonesia and the broader Indo-Pacific
- Training options for policy makers to support **health system strengthening**
- Exploring expansion of the successful **Bachelor of Medical Science** program
- Reducing the burden of **non-communicable diseases** on Indonesia’s ‘Golden Generation’.

### **SUSTAINABLE GROWTH**

- New joint research initiatives in **agriculture and food sustainability**
- Generating community benefits from **natural resource wealth**
- Workshops for policy makers managing the challenges of **rapid urbanisation**
- Expanded professional training relating to **infrastructure and project finance**.

### **POLICY DESIGN AND GOVERNANCE**

- Build deeper understandings of law and policy reform processes in Indonesia and increased executive education offerings for **governance, public policy and regulation**
- New coursework and research seminars on **migration, forced migration, mobility and diaspora**
- **University administration and excellence** training on a larger scale.

### **CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING**

- Fostering **understanding of Indonesian society and culture**
- University of Melbourne graduates who are **Indonesia-literate and engaged**
- Support for **creative collaborations and global cultural flows**.

# KEY ENABLERS

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## APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT DVC INTERNATIONAL (INDONESIA)

Professor Vedi Hadiz is Director and Professor of Asian Studies at the Asia Institute. An Indonesian national, Professor Hadiz was previously Professor of Asian Societies and Politics at Murdoch University's Asia Research Centre and Director of its Indonesia Research Programme.

In 2018, Professor Hadiz was appointed as Assistant Deputy Vice-Chancellor International (Indonesia). In this role, Professor Hadiz coordinates priorities from across the University to support deeper collaboration. He travels regularly to Indonesia to represent the University.

## MORE ENGAGEMENT WITH ALUMNI

Many of our graduates return to participate actively in Indonesian society. Our PhD graduates are potential partners for the University's researchers back in Melbourne, creating a foundation for further growth in collaborative research. They can help us communicate with and learn about fast-changing communities in Indonesia. Moreover, many continue to have an interest in the University. We intend to strengthen links with our alumni through:

- Expanded program of academic lectures and visits from senior University staff and officials.
- Post-doctoral workshops for Indonesian PhD graduates who have returned to Indonesia, focusing on continued capacity building as well as the creation of research links.
- Planned postdoctoral programs in the STEM and Arts disciplines.
- Targeted support for alumni who are engaged in Indonesian public life.

## UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE OFFICE IN INDONESIA

The University of Melbourne's Indonesia office is the first point of contact for many Indonesian students – providing prospective students with information about the University and the application process, and facilitating Pre-Departure Briefings for accepted students. The office also provides invaluable advice and support to travelling researchers.

Over the next five years, the University will explore an expansion of the office to support our plans for a growing program of academic engagements, alumni events and executive education.

## MORE POLICY COLLABORATION

The University will continue to develop avenues for thought leadership and capacity building in both Indonesia and Australia, including:

- Roundtable series with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
- Bespoke short courses for Indonesian policy makers on Indonesian Government priorities.
- Closer communication with Indonesian media.
- Inclusion of Indonesian voices in all our engagement channels, including the 'Ear to Asia' podcast.
- Active planning across engagement channels to amplify the impact of University research.





***Indonesia at  
Melbourne blog***

The *Indonesia at Melbourne* blog was launched in July 2015 to present analysis, research and commentary on contemporary Indonesia from academics and postgraduate students affiliated with the University of Melbourne.

***Ear to Asia podcast  
(Asia Institute)***

*Ear to Asia* talks with researchers who focus on Asia – in all its diversity of peoples, societies and histories. It regularly features in-depth analysis on Indonesia.

***Talking Indonesia  
podcast***

Extended fortnightly interviews with experts on Indonesian politics, foreign policy, culture, language and more.

***Asialink***

Asialink is Australia's leading centre for promotion of public understanding of the countries of Asia and of Australia's role in the region. Its strong existing links in Indonesia offer an opportunity for broadening University research engagement channels.





“Studying at Melbourne has opened the possibility of me pursuing research before going into medicine.”

**Vina Quinnarva**

Second-year Bachelor of Biomedicine  
student from Jakarta, Indonesia

# HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

## Why?

Indonesia's investment in the health of its people has steadily increased over the last twenty years. In 2014, the Indonesian government established a universal social health insurance scheme. This scheme is already the world's largest in population terms and is intended to massively expand access to healthcare among the Indonesian population.

This expanded investment and a young population offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to address the dual challenges of noncommunicable disease and infectious disease in Indonesia, and calls for world-leading research in both Indonesia and worldwide.

**“The median age of the Indonesian population is 29; over half of the population is less than 30 years old. How this generation of children and young people are supported to be healthy and engaged in learning, will determine Indonesia's future population health and economic wealth.”**

**Professor Susan Sawyer**  
Chair of Adolescent Health  
Department of Paediatrics

## What?

### Advancing health security

Infectious diseases present major global challenges and require international collaboration to solve. Both Australia and Indonesia are seeking to play productive roles in building regional preparedness and responsiveness to health security and related challenges. This includes a growing global leadership role for Indonesia, which hosted the most recent Global Health Security Agenda (GHS) High Level Ministerial Meeting in November 2018.

**NOW:** The University of Melbourne is a world leader in research on several infectious diseases that impact on both the Australian and Indonesian populations. The Doherty Institute, a collaboration between the University and the Royal Melbourne Hospital, supports a Dengue Fever research project underpinned by close collaborative links with colleagues in Indonesia, Vietnam, and Thailand.

In addition, the Murdoch Children's Research Institute work in child and adolescent tuberculosis and the rotavirus vaccine are underpinned by collaborative engagements with colleagues across the region. The RV3 Rotavirus Vaccine Program at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute aims to develop a low-cost neonatal vaccine to prevent rotavirus disease from birth: a trial of the immunogenicity and efficacy of the vaccine is currently underway in Indonesia, in collaboration with colleagues at Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM).

**NEXT:** The forthcoming Australia Indonesia Health Security Partnership demonstrates the deepening commitment to collaboration between the Indonesian and Australian governments to tackle the shared problem of infectious disease. The Partnership aims to “strengthen Indonesia's capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks to increase national, regional, and global health security.” Given the co-existence at the University of Melbourne of world-leading expertise in infectious disease and in Health System Strengthening, we see a great opportunity to play a pivotal role in this partnership.



# HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (CONTINUED)

## One Health

The 'One Health' (or Planetary Health) approach to research is based on a recognition of the interconnectedness of the health and wellbeing of humans, animals, and the environment.

**NOW:** The Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Science (FVAS) uses a One Health approach to undertake innovative agricultural and veterinary research. In a recent example, the FVAS' Asia Pacific Centre for Animal Health was awarded funding for a collaborative research project on significant poultry disease outbreaks in Indonesia. Working with poultry experts at University of Gadjah Mada (UGM), FVAS researchers developed diagnostic technologies suitable for use in UGM labs.

**NEXT:** The University of Melbourne's Doherty Institute, the Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Science, the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Services, and the Nossal Institute are collaborating on development of a multi-disciplinary vision to guide One Health research across the University. This will enhance the quality of our partnerships with Indonesia in this area.

## Health system strengthening

The University of Melbourne's Nossal Institute for Global Health Research, established in 2006, is dedicated to advocacy for public health in vulnerable communities, through long-term projects in Asia and the Pacific.

**NOW:** The Nossal Institute has been engaged by UNICEF to develop and deliver a learning program to improve UNICEF's capacity in Health Systems Strengthening (HSS). The program emphasises HSS knowledge and practical skills and aims to provide a solid foundation for improvements to health systems in countries where UNICEF work.

**NEXT:** The Nossal Institute is developing a specialised Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) in HSS for development partners, government colleagues and general public. There is an opportunity for further growth in this area that could translate into innovative activities in Indonesia.

“We aim to optimise diagnosis of diseases compromising the health, welfare and productivity of poultry in Indonesia which can (in turn) affect human health and nutrition.”

**Dr Nadeeka Wawegama**

Research Fellow and Project Leader, One Health

## Bachelor of Medical Science (BMedSci) program

The BMedSci program is a tailored one-year research training initiative for undergraduate medical students. The University of Melbourne BMedSci is unique and combines coursework with a three-month clinical placement whereby students are placed with a senior clinician in a clinical speciality of their interest at one of our teaching hospitals. Students also have the option of completing a biomedical research project stream in a research laboratory.

**NOW:** BMedSci and Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Indonesia (FKUI) have partnered since 2002 to deliver this research training to over 350 Indonesian medical students. University of Melbourne is the founding partner for this program and nearly 20 students a year participate in the BMedSci program.

**NEXT:** The University believes there is an opportunity to connect with BMedSci alumni, including building an engaged alumni network and hosting regular events in Indonesia. There is also the prospect of expanding the delivery of the BMedSci program with other universities in Indonesia and the region.

## Reducing the burden of non-communicable disease

The University of Melbourne's researchers have deep expertise in preventative interventions and strengthening for public health, primary care, mental health and adolescent health.

**NOW:** Our depth of expertise in key aspects of non-communicable disease prevention and management provides an opportunity to engage on research questions likely to determine Indonesia's future health and resilience. One area of particular interest is adolescent health. University researchers led the Health Cluster in the first phase of the Australia Indonesia Centre's (AIC) activities, working in Indonesia to build capability in preventing non-communicable diseases among Indonesia's 'Golden Generation'. The project was jointly delivered with colleagues in Australia and Indonesia. Although AIC is no longer involved in this project, the University of Melbourne recognises the substantial importance of the work and is providing direct support for its final phase.

The Nossal Institute can play an important facilitatory role in linking expertise within the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences with Indonesian and international stakeholders through joint projects and the development of professional training opportunities. The Institute, alongside the University's School of Population and Global Health are leading an ARC-funded cross-disciplinary research team which aims to understand Indonesian women's experience of cervical cancer, and the role of the Indonesian health system in contributing to prevention and care. The Nossal Institute also supports professional development programs of potential interest to Indonesia stakeholders, such as the recent short course on 'Non-Communicable Disease and Global Health'.

**NEXT:** The University sees an opportunity to expand collaborations through more joint projects, exploring pathways for talented students in Indonesia to study and receive research training. These students will be empowered to tackle the issues surrounding non-communicable diseases in both countries.







# SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

## Why?

Indonesia is home to striking natural wealth, with forest covering more than half its land mass. As the nation's strong economic growth drives rapid urbanisation and increased demand for energy, the Indonesian Government has sought to pursue a 'green growth pathway'. The immediate challenges are threefold:

- Indonesia expects to have 63 per cent of its population living in cities by 2025 and is seeking to ensure that rapidly expanding urban environments are sustainable and inclusive for new residents.
- Recognising that Indonesia's agricultural and mineral wealth will continue to be important to economy, the Indonesian Government has committed to supporting sustainable growth in these industries, which supports a gradual movement further up the global value chain. Supporting greater self-sufficiency in food and energy is a priority, as is linking remote resource-rich regions to global markets in a way that ensures the benefits of Indonesia's resources are funnelled back into its poorest communities.
- The world's largest archipelago needs some of the world's most innovative infrastructure policy solutions. In addition to the complexity of Indonesia's geography and its high incidence of natural disasters, policy makers face significant challenges in identifying funding for needed infrastructure in a highly constrained fiscal environment.

**“One of the greatest challenges of the twenty-first century is the endeavour to secure global prosperity without placing excessive demand on the Earth's natural resources and without jeopardising the climate system.”**

**Research at Melbourne:**  
Ensuring excellence and impact to 2025

## What?

### Agriculture and food sustainability

The University of Melbourne has expertise in agriculture and food sustainability spread across multiple faculties including the faculties of Science, Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences, Engineering and Arts.

**NOW:** The Faculties of Science and Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences are internationally recognised for research excellence and strong links to industry. They aim to make a difference on global issues such as food security for a rapidly growing population. Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences researchers have collaborated in Indonesia on a number of projects related to crop productivity and other agricultural issues, while the Faculty of Science is host to projects of high relevance to Indonesia, including the development of iron-enriched rice to combat human malnutrition.

**NEXT:** The forthcoming establishment of a new cross-disciplinary institute focused on Plant and Soil Science, led by the Faculties of Science and Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences, represents a novel opportunity to deepen existing research collaborations with Indonesia and explore new initiatives. The Institute will engage with international partners, and several complementary bodies of knowledge in Indonesia have been identified as targets for future collaboration.

# SUSTAINABLE GROWTH (CONTINUED)

## Generating community benefits from natural resource wealth

The University of Melbourne has strong cross-faculty expertise in energy, water, minerals, and forestry (the University is a core partner in the [Energy Transition Hub](#)), with scholars within the Faculty of Science and Melbourne School of Engineering already at work on some of the most pressing questions for Indonesia.

**NOW:** The University has developed expertise on sustainable energy generation and resource exploitation in Indonesia, including energy access for remote communities and responsible stewardship of forests to support production of sustainable and high-quality forest products.

- The Sustainable and Renewable Forest Products Group aims to create knowledge and build capacity in innovative uses of sustainable timber products. The group is involved in multiple research projects in Australia and Southeast Asia and participates actively in international aid projects through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, including in Indonesia, where a recent project focused on value adding in plantation timber. SEFS forest ecosystem management researchers are also collaborating with Indonesia's Ministry of Environment and Forestry to build capacity in forest research and specifically in the measurement and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from land use change. SEFS also recently completed a research collaboration with Bogor Agricultural University to identify biomass energy options to assist communities remote from Indonesia's electricity grid.

- University of Melbourne researchers from the Melbourne School of Engineering and Faculty of Science worked with the East Java Environmental Protection Authority to develop a new method for evaluating the toxicity of discharges into the rivers of East Java and the safety of drinking water. As the East Java EPA's analytical capacity was limited, researchers worked to develop a new higher order regulatory framework that reduced the need for expensive analytics and allowed officials to cheaply and efficiently assess the toxicity of river water.
- In the Melbourne School of Engineering, researchers are using recent advances in renewable energy and energy storage technologies in collaboration with Universitas Gadjah Mada to deliver promising and reliable energy management solutions to operate in remote communities under near off-grid conditions. For energy engineering, university researchers worked with Institut Pertanian Bogor and Indonesia's Agency for Assessment and Application of Technology (BPPT) to successfully harvest energy from waste and forest biomass.
- Both the Faculty of Arts and the School of Geography in the Faculty of Science have several scholars undertaking research in Indonesia on natural resource management use, and governance. A current project within the School of Geography explores the impact of climate change on governance of natural resources, with a particular focus on conflicts over access to water.

**NEXT:** The University sees an opportunity for expanded collaboration in both executive education and collaborative research. Successful recent coursework provides a model for further expansion. In 2017, SEFS researchers collaborated with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and Global Forest Observations Initiative on delivery of a two-week REDD+ course on Forestry Measurement and Reporting for 31 Indonesian participants.

## Design for rapid urbanisation

Researchers at the University of Melbourne are highly engaged in the unique challenges of rapid urbanisation in the Indonesian archipelago. The Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning (ABP) has several scholars interested in Southeast Asian architecture, planning, social geography and urbanism. These researchers are complemented by scholars in the Melbourne School of Engineering (MSE) working on transportation and governance challenges associated with new and growing cities.

**NOW:** Melbourne School of Design (MSD) is continuing to develop its strong offering of research and teaching and learning opportunities in Indonesia, building especially on expertise in urban form and informal urbanism. In late 2019, MSD will reconvene its Travelling Studio in Indonesia in collaboration with Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB) and the University of Stuttgart.

At the same time, MSE colleagues have continued their own collaboration with Smart City research counterparts in ITB, with whom MSE presented a joint workshop 'Australia-Indonesia Joint Workshop on Smart Cities' in Bandung, Indonesia. The workshop identified major challenges in transportation, healthcare and governance and MSE is continuing to pursue further collaborative research in these areas.

**NEXT:** Due to strong demand from academic and industry collaborators, both MSE and ABP are exploring options to expand offerings of professional and executive training. For example, ABP is exploring expanded post-professional development opportunities in heritage conservation for the professional industry, building on existing workshop program offered by MSD's Australian Centre for Architectural History, Urban and Cultural Heritage. Continuing to bring scholars and civil servants to the University of Melbourne for graduate study is also a priority, and we are exploring options to secure funding for more PhD places in key areas of interest to university and agency partners.

## Resilient infrastructure and project finance

Melbourne School of Engineering (MSE) has long-standing and impactful collaborations with leading Indonesian universities, with a strong focus on infrastructure development and its proximate challenges including financing, project management, and natural disaster resilience. MSE has also forged strong relationships within the Indonesian Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas) especially in the training and development of key personnel involved in development of policies and strategies for financing and developing projects.

**NOW:** Recent projects include studies into policy and finance of infrastructure, transport, disaster management and infrastructure asset health monitoring.

Researchers at MSE undertook significant study in Indonesia on the influence of ports on the cities they typically adjoin. It was conducted in collaboration with leading Indonesian universities, and involved partnership with Indonesian and Australian government agencies, Indonesian and international companies and investment houses, and port terminal operators in Sulawesi, Surabaya, and Jakarta. Through the program, MSE offered PhD student exchanges, and research work involving 15 students from Australia and more than 10 from Indonesia. The collaborative relationships developed through the project continue today.

MSE researchers have also been working with Indonesian partners on disaster management and structural health monitoring for civil infrastructure, working closely with the Ministry of Land Administration, Public Works, consulting firms, university partners, and local cement and concrete suppliers.

**NEXT:** Due to strong demand from its partners, MSE is continuing to develop its support for capacity building and professional training in parallel with continued research on infrastructure development. Notable examples of work in progress include capacity building in land administration and public-private partnerships for infrastructure finance. On the learning and teaching front, the School of Computer and Information Services has signed an articulation agreement with Universitas Indonesia to collaborate on Master's level teaching in IT.





The Faculty of Arts has been engaged in developing research and workshops with policy makers across Indonesia, with a focus on strengthening capacity for policy development. It's just one example of the growing partnerships between the University of Melbourne and our colleagues across Indonesia.



# POLICY DESIGN AND GOVERNANCE

## Why?

The Australian Foreign Policy White Paper, released in 2017, recognises Australia's partnership with Indonesia as of 'first order importance'. Noting Indonesia's leadership role in Southeast Asia, the Australian Government committed to working with Indonesia to shape the regional order and solve shared problems – both international and domestic.

Within Indonesia, the priorities identified by the National Long-Term Plan include improved standards of economic and social governance, as well as raising the quality of human capital through development of a quality higher education system.

**“We remain committed to consulting closely on key issues and working together on regional challenges. We will be stronger if we tackle challenges together.”**

**Joint Declaration on a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Australia and the Republic of Indonesia**

## What?

### Governance, public policy and regulation

The Indonesian Government aspires to support 'social and developmental equality among all people and all areas in the country' by 2025. Expanded access to law, justice, and economic opportunity, especially for women, is an important plank of Indonesia's aspirations.

**NOW:** The University of Melbourne has significant research capacity in areas of Indonesian development, social protection, corporate social responsibility, resource conflict, foreign policy and politics. The Melbourne Law School's Centre for Indonesian Law, Islam and Society is the only centre outside Indonesia dedicated to research on the Indonesian legal system. Its academics also often work with Australian and Indonesian Government stakeholders on research projects.

Examples include:

- In November 2018, the Faculty of Arts hosted a conference, focusing on 'Indonesia's inequalities', bringing together key researchers and policy makers in Indonesia, Australia and the region. Areas of discussion included growing economic inequality, significant sub-national variations in development and social outcomes, inequalities in access to services such as health care, disability and education, and the politics of inequality.
- The Faculty of Business and Economics is undertaking research in corporate governance and development economics with a focus on Indonesia and the wider Southeast Asian region.
- The School of Computer and Information Systems (CIS) has undertaken work in Indonesia, focused on IT platforms and enabling sustainable digital infrastructures with projects on Information Systems Enabled Capabilities Development in Sustainable Supply Chain Management. They also completed an Indonesian healthcare project on the Digital Transformation of Human-Centered Service Ecosystems.
- A current project on Women's Collective Action and Village Law has received funding from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and will be conducted in collaboration with Universitas Gadjah Mada.

**NEXT:** The Faculty of Arts has been actively engaged in developing research and short-course workshops with policy makers and NGOs in Indonesia, with a focus on evidence-based public policy and strengthening capacity for policy development. Recent examples include a collaboration with the Melbourne School of Professional and Continuing Education (MSPACE) for delivery of 'Executive Education in Policy Analysis and Strategic Planning for Community Level Poverty Alleviation', supported by the Australian Government. Arts has also worked with the Knowledge Sector Initiative through the Nossal Institute for Global Health. These programs offer a promising model that can be expanded to leverage a broader range of experts in areas such as social protection, quality of education, infrastructure financing and development, and inclusive growth policies.

# POLICY DESIGN AND GOVERNANCE

## (CONTINUED)

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### Migration, forced migration, mobility and diaspora

The management of displaced populations is one of the most complex and vexing policy issue facing the Australia-Indonesia relationship. Indonesia's exposure to global refugee flows is closely tied to Australia's, and the two countries co-chair the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime.

**NOW:** Growing bodies of expertise on migration and statelessness provide a significant opportunity for the University to expand its engagement on these urgent issues, especially through public engagement and high quality educational offerings for policy makers. In addition, the Faculty of Arts has a complementary depth of expertise in migration and diaspora in the Asia-Pacific. Our researchers are currently engaged in a collaborative research project on state frontiers and conflict, drawing on comparative research from Indonesia and Myanmar. Research partners in Indonesia include Universitas Gadjah Mada.

**NEXT:** The recent establishment within the Melbourne Law School of the [Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness](#) reflects the depth of the University's expertise in statelessness, migration and refugees. The Centre is leading a project on statelessness and international refugee law and delivered the inaugural Statelessness Intensive in February 2019, using case studies from the Asia Pacific region, including Indonesia, to provide participants with the skills and practical tools to understand and address the problem of statelessness.

### University administration and excellence

The Indonesian Government aims to develop a world-class higher education system by 2025. The University of Melbourne is contributing to this process through capacity-building activities with our Indonesian partner universities.

**NOW:** Faculties currently conduct a broad suite of activities including curriculum design, research training, and PhD places. Current examples include:

- The Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning has identified the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) as a key strategic partner. It is supporting this commitment through funding with doctoral training for ITB academic staff, joint research projects, and extended visits by academic staff.
- The Faculty of Arts has developed tailored professional development workshops focused on academic writing at the request of colleagues in the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences at Universitas Gadjah Mada. These workshops ran successfully from 2018–2019 and have been extended through to 2020.

**NEXT:** There is growing interest in Indonesia in university governance reform. A recent executive education workshop on university governance and reform in 2018 for staff from the Faculty of Administrative Science at Universitas Indonesia may provide a model for delivery of capacity building on a larger scale than has been possible to date.



Students from Melbourne School of Design are working with colleagues from Bandung Institute of Technology to develop new approaches for balancing urban dreams with complex socio-spatial reality.





# CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

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## Why?

The peoples of Australia and Indonesia have a long and rich history of exchange, dating to the trading connections between the people of South-West Sulawesi and the Indigenous communities of Northern Australia in the 17th century. Building on this history through cultural exchange and greater mutual understanding will be essential to the ongoing efforts of the two nations toward a resilient and respectful partnership. The University can play a substantial role in this process. Support for the exchange of knowledge, culture and ideas is fundamental to the University's mission.


## What?

### **Fostering understanding of Indonesian culture and society**

The University of Melbourne has one of the largest concentrations of Indonesian scholars in Australia and is a national leader in research on many aspects of Indonesia's culture and society. There is an urgent need for greater insights into the challenges and complexities of modern-day Indonesia. Indonesia is not only the world's third largest democracy, but also one of the world's newest. Its trajectory over the coming decade is likely to have a lasting impact on our regional and global community.



*Professor Jimly Asshiddiqie presents Melbourne Law School's Distinguished Asian Lecture 2015, hosted by the University's Centre for Indonesian Law, Islam and Society (CILIS). Through research, teaching and public engagement, CILIS is devoted to the study of Indonesian law and Islamic legal studies.*




**NOW:** The University of Melbourne's Indonesia experts are actively engaged in research on some of the most pressing issues facing the Indonesian polity. In addition, the University supports specific fora to convene researchers and students with an interest in Indonesia, alongside facilitating visits from a broad range of Indonesian and Indonesia-engaged stakeholders.

Our experts are frequently called on to provide insights to the Australian, Indonesia and international media and via public engagements. The University has actively supported public channels to ensure that this evidence-based scholarship is part of the public conversation in Australia, Indonesia, and around the world, including:

- In-depth briefings for Australian Government stakeholders
- Workshops and briefings on request for leading Indonesian newspapers
- Public fora (including podcasts and blogs) offering in-depth analysis of Indonesia society, culture, and current events. These channels draw on University experts and those from other institutions.

**NEXT:** In 2019, the University launched the Indonesia Democracy Research Initiative, building on the University's substantial existing expertise on Indonesia by catalysing new interdisciplinary partnerships on key areas of politics, rights, and Islam and democracy. The Initiative is expected to deliver deeper insights into the trajectory of Indonesia's political system, the interplay between the criminal justice system and political and civil rights, and the question of 'political Islam'. It will bring leading Indonesian public and scholarly figures to the University.

To support this significant new initiative, the University will strengthen our public engagement channels in order to broaden their impact. This is likely to include building on the successful workshop series with the Australian Government and Indonesian media to fully reflect the range of expertise available in the University. In addition, increased representation of Indonesian voices in all channels is a priority.



**“We in Melbourne are isolated so much from the world that we are doubly glad to welcome you as representatives of other cultures who can do so much to enrich our own.”**

**Vice Chancellor G W Patton  
welcoming Indonesian students to the University of Melbourne in 1954**





# CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING (CONTINUED)

## University graduates ready to engage in and with Indonesia

The world will need solutions to global challenges that are sensitive to Indonesia's specific needs. It will also need to produce a strong cohort of graduates who are familiar with Indonesia, are aware of its cultures, and can speak its language. This type of awareness is not only required within the domain of classical 'Indonesian Studies' – though this discipline is vital – but needs to be available and encouraged in every academic discipline.

**NOW:** The University of Melbourne's Indonesian Studies program was founded in 1958, following an invitation from the Australian Government, and is now one of the flagship programs of the University's Asia Institute and a world-leading centre of Indonesian studies. Students can pursue Indonesian language studies from beginners' level to advanced, in addition to a comprehensive range of subjects providing exposure to Indonesia, both inside and outside the Asia Institute.

- There are two dedicated University of Melbourne Overseas Subjects (UMOS) for undergraduates delivered at the campus of Udayana University in Bali ('Cultural Tourism in South-East Asia' and 'Analysing Indonesia: Concepts and Issues').
- The Faculty of Arts has developed five Masters-level subjects for University of Melbourne students which are co-designed and jointly taught with Indonesian partners. University of Melbourne students, usually about 15 per subject, are brought to Indonesia to work with Indonesian Masters' students enrolled in an equivalent subject in their home university.

- The Faculty of Arts also delivers two joint degrees with university partners in Indonesia: a Master of Social Policy with Universitas Gadjah Mada, and a Master of Public Administration with Universitas Indonesia.
- All students in the Melbourne Business School's Senior Executive MBA Program travel to Jakarta for one week as part of their overseas module. While there, they work on a project sponsored by an Indonesian company and make presentations to the CEO and C-Suite team.
- The University's membership of the Australian Consortium of In-Country Indonesia Studies (ACICIS) supports experiences such as the semester-long Agricultural Practicum run at Bogor Agricultural University.

**NEXT:** The University is working actively with our partner organisations to deepen offerings of joint subjects in Indonesia and will also explore opportunities for joint degrees. These programs will continue to broaden opportunities for students to develop a greater understanding of Indonesia outside the traditional domain of Indonesia studies. For example, the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music is expanding an already-rich offering of Indonesia-focused course offerings – including gamelan ensemble performance and traditional performance techniques – by launching a University of Melbourne Overseas Subject in 2020 which will study traditional Balinese mask-making techniques. In addition, to encourage greater engagement with the high-quality mobility and educational opportunities supported by the University, each Faculty will identify an 'academic champion' for Indonesia.

## Creative collaborations and global cultural flows

The Faculty of Fine Arts and Music (FFAM) is deeply involved in activities which connect students and scholars in Australia and Indonesia, with each other, and with colleagues around the region.

**NOW:** International creative collaborations between staff and students foster cross-cultural exchange and shared engagement with shared history. FFAM regularly supports teaching and research collaborations of this kind, including:

- 'Art – Nature – Culture' (2017) was a collaboration between students from the Faculty of Recorded Media Arts, Indonesian Institute of the Arts (ISI) and FFAM, VCA Visual Art and VCA Film and Television. Exhibitions of photographs and video/animation screenings were presented at both ISI and the University of Melbourne. Students and staff from ISI visited Melbourne for the final exhibit and screening, prompting a lively exchange of ideas.
- Funded by the Australia-Indonesia Centre, the Wilin Centre at FFAM organised an artistic exchange between artists in Makassar and First Peoples communities along the northern coast of Australia, celebrating the trading relationship that flourished between these peoples long before European settlement.

**NEXT:** FFAM is currently exploring opportunities to leverage existing collaborations to reach deeper into the region through establishment of an Asia Pacific Artistic Research Network. This is a new initiative, launched jointly by the Centre of Visual Arts in FFAM's Victorian College of the Arts and the Indonesian Institute of the Arts, Yogyakarta. The purpose of the network is to provide a framework for practical collaboration and a platform for development of greater understanding of local cultural dynamics influencing artistic research across the Asia Pacific.

## Indonesia Forum

Formed in 1991, the Indonesia Forum (IF) is an informal and open network of academics and administrative staff of the University who share a common interest and professional involvement in Indonesia. For the past 10 years, IF has hosted major functions and visits ranging from senior government officials to journalists, musicians, and not-for-profits.

## Centre for Indonesian Law, Islam and Society

The Centre for Indonesian Law, Islam and Society (CILIS) commenced activities in 2013 and is devoted to the study of Indonesian law and Islamic legal studies. Outside Indonesia, it is the world's only scholarly research centre on law in Indonesia.

# CONCLUSION: THE LONG TERM

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## Twenty-year plan

Over the next five years, the University of Melbourne plans to lay the foundations for long-term partnerships. We intend to deepen our relationships and capacity to engage with partners in a way that is not transactional and is grounded in our respective strengths. We hope to build on our research excellence and strengths in capacity building for University administration and public policy. And we hope to help educate the next generation who will continue this partnership and take it to the next level. We hope that they will be better equipped than their predecessors in addressing the challenges of the times we face in common.

In ten to twenty years...

- a new generation of scholars in Indonesian universities will have studied or undertaken training with the University of Melbourne
- more Australians will be Indonesia aware and literate
- joint research with researchers and institutions in Indonesia will be among the University's top five sources for international co-publications.

## Our ambitions

Over the long-term, the University will seek to work with government, higher education institutions and philanthropic partners to support signature initiatives aligned with our strengths and the interests of stakeholders in Indonesia. These initiatives may include the following:

### Indo-Pacific One Health Network

We will work with Indonesian partners to jointly develop a model for a 'One Health' research centre intended for replication across ASEAN.

### Melbourne Professional Education Centre

A venue for University of Melbourne's increasingly popular training offerings in areas ranging from infrastructure project finance to statelessness.

### University of Melbourne Indonesia Post-Doctoral Program

A flagship post-doctoral program offering world-class academic training for aspiring Indonesian scholars.

### Melbourne-Indonesia 'Graduate School'

An expanded offering of joint degrees with Indonesian partners preparing a generation of graduates to move easily between Australia and Indonesia while engaged in key shared issues such as governance, health systems, and poverty alleviation.





