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# Islam, Tolerance, and Diversity: The Indonesian Model

MUNK  
SCHOOL  
OF  
GLOBAL  
AFFAIRS

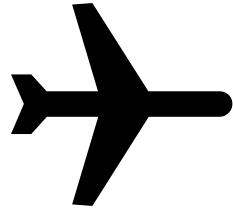


UNIVERSITY OF  
TORONTO

ASIAN INSTITUTE

ICM Bandung 2018  
Led by Prof. Jacques Bertrand, Alex  
Pelletier, and the Asian Institute

# Overview



- Pre-departure Brainstorming
  - What is a *pesantren*?
  - Field Notes
  - Travel Vlog
  - The Indonesian Model & Conclusion
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# CAS400



## Pre-Departure:

- Throughout the course, Professor Dylan Clark effectively taught the class on problematizing the discursive concepts of “citizenship,” “nation,” and “state”.
  - Additionally, Prof. Dylan Clark provided fundamental questions regarding the complexities of Islam in a space called “Indonesia”:
    - What is Market Islam?
    - How is Islam given an anchorage in the period of globalization?
    - What is civil society in Indonesia?
    - To what extent should Muslim majority states be Muslim?
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Reference: <http://www.internationalsilatfederation.com/regions.php#Surabaya>



The ICM team at YYZ on February 15th, 2018, ready for departure!

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**How does civil society in Bandung fill the gaps created by government decentralization in the post-New Order period by providing social services like education, health-care, advocacy, etc.?**

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# Important Terms and Definitions

*Pesantren*: Islamic boarding schools. Many *pesantren* provide students with dormitory housings at low or no cost.

*Kyais*: A group of teachers or religious leaders who lead the *pesantren*.

*Santri*: Students who attend *pesantren*.

*Nahdlatul Ulama (NU)*: The largest Muslim organization in Indonesia, which supports education, cultural engagement, and social-economic development rooted in Islamic principles.

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# Pesantren Anak Jalanan At- Tamur

*Pesantren for the Disadvantaged*





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# Background Information

- **Establishment:** “To provide shelter, study, and consultation for people who are traveling (repentance: struggling to improve themselves) by practicing the teachings of Islam, good faith, worship, and morals” (20).
  - **Management & Funding:** Approx. \$500 CAD a month! “If they have rice they eat, if they don’t have rice they fast.”
  - **Santri Makeup:** “Street children, neglected children, public transportation drivers, assistant drivers, parking assistants, street musicians, ex-drug abusers, ex-convicts, and children from poor families” (18).
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# Social Services

- Religious Education
- Mental Health
  - Stability & Security
- Rehabilitation
  - Former Criminals
  - Former Drug Addicts





# Key Initiatives

- Technology
- Business
- Higher Education
- Music
- Community Involvement





# Pesantren Mahad Universal

Universal Pesantren



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# Background Information

- Opened in 2010, Mahad Universal actively promotes the importance of educational excellence with a focus on Islamic morals and society.
  - Diverse student population who attend Islamic university nearby.
  - Partially self-funded and actively pursuing expansion.
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# Tolerance in Indonesia

- Learn Islam and apply it to society
- Important age to combat radical influence
- Work with anyone with same aim as Mahad Universal



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# Universal perspective

- Perspective of Islam globally
- Active promotion of the English language
- Think beyond their local community
- Partnerships with international organizations







# Manbaul Huda

*Pesantren for Peace*



# Background Information

- Strong commitment to creating social movements  
“*Pesantren for change*”
  - Schools
    - Empowerment of girls and women
      - Creating/publishing books
      - Scientific inventions
    - Cleaning shelters
  - Public spaces
    - E.g. bookshelves at bus stations
- “Protests start from improving yourself”
- No financial support from the government
  - privately-run



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# Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution

- Educational curriculum based on the Qur'an
- Collaboration with different *pesantren*, international groups, and religious groups
- Community engagement



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# *“Messenger of Peace”*



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# Personal Thoughts

- Peace and Islam are intertwined
- Intentional disassociation from the government
- Unforgettable interactions with students and *Kyais*
- Very emotional visit



# Pondok Pesantren al-Ittifaq

Agriculture, Environmental  
Preservation and Islam



# Background information

- Agribusiness and sustainability coinciding within Islamic moral and ethical views
- “To promote self-sufficiency and autonomy for the *santris* after they leave the *pesantren*”
- Philosophy: “Knowledge is about Islam and agri-business that provides the *Santri* with legitimate authority”





# Agricultural initiatives

- Different types of farming: *Plantation, Greenhouse, Hydroponics, Livestock*
- Co-operative agricultural program
- Produce supplier for commercial grocery chains and restaurants in West Java (i.e. Jakarta and Bandung)



# Greenhouse and Hydroponic Farming

- Sustainable local food production
- “Eco-friendly” method of farming
  - innovative approach of seed cultivation adapted from Japanese technology



# Personal Thoughts

- The interchange between Islam, agriculture and environment
  - Market Islam
- The concept of diversity in Islam
- Touring the farm



# Jakatarub

Inter-religious cooperation  
network



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# A Brief History of Jakatarub



- Post-Reformasi inter-religious organization promoting co-operation between religious groups in Jakarta
- The legend of Jaka Tarub: “angels who descend from heaven”
- Founded following workshops by INCRoS and MADIA in 2000 at Pesantren Al-Wasilah
- Connections to NU and the Wahid Institute

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# Focus and Organizational Activities

Four major objectives:

- 1) Theological Discussions
  - 2) Elaboration of Art and Culture
  - 3) Media Campaigns
  - 4) Enrichment of Concepts and Insights into nationality
- Community engagement: inter-religious activism, visits to places of worship, campaigns for women's rights
  - Intra-faith movements to encourage cooperation within Muslim communities
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# Sapa Institute and the Bale Istri

Feminist Civil Society  
Organizations and their  
Influence



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# Background Information

## *Origin Story:*

- Founded by students at the Islamic University of Bandung
- Documenting women living in West Java
  - Victims of violence
  - Human trafficking

The Sapa Institute is a civil society organization (CSO) that empowers local women.

They focus on educating women on their rights and rectifying issues such as:

- Domestic violence
- Child brides
- Illiteracy
- Safe childbirth





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# Goals and Strategies



- Education for all parties involved
    - Restorative justice
    - Education of men
    - Mutually supportive activities
  - Supportive networks for women experiencing domestic violence
    - Mental Health
    - Medical Support
    - Police
  - Establishing local women's councils (one of which we visited!)
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# Bale Istri: Local Women's Council



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# Background

- Established with support from the Sapa Institute
- Membership of local village women
- Families were initially both curious and a bit wary
- Soon expanded to include a large portion of the village
- Members include former human trafficking victims, religious female leader, and a local co-founder (wife of village leader)



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# Goals and Strategies



## *Domestic/Sexual Violence*

- Separation of the perpetrator and victim
  - Provide the victim with the necessary resources (ie: psychological counselling, hospital, courts)
  - Internal investigation
  - Public: Social pressure and monitoring
    - Go to religious courts to get divorce (for domestic violence)
    - OR in extreme cases, pursue legal action against perpetrator (domestic or sexual violence)
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# Results

- Men in village have grown much more supportive
  - Further education on gender and equality is now brought into the home
  - Local women's council acts like the 'neighbourhood watch', keeps everyone accountable
  - Local women's council involved in economic programming benefiting women in the village
  - Local women's council fills in justice and education of rights gaps where previously the central government has failed to step in
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# Pesantren Al- Ma'soem



- An 'add on' to a prestigious private state school
  - 60% of current students are enrolled
  - Elementary to College level education
  - Founded by businessman Haji Al-Ma'soem
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## Outreach, Recruitment or Opportunity?



- Nahdlatul Ulama connection
- Enterprise connection
- Standardized state education as well as informal religious education

