
Dates and events

Approx. one million years ago Evidence of human activity in central Java.

c.425 Buddhism reaches Sumatra.

c.770 The Salendra king Vishnu begins building Borobudur.

1292 Majapahit kingdom defeats Kublai Khan's Mongol invasion.

1300 Islam begins to spread across the archipelago.

1478 Majapahit falls into chaos.

1511 The Portuguese establish a base in Malacca and begin to build forts across eastern Indonesia.

1602 Dutch East India Company founded.

1877 Netherlands Indies Government operates at a loss from this point.

1920s Nationalist movement begins to grow.

1942 Japan invades and occupies Indonesia.

1945 Japan surrenders, Allied forces land. Sukarno declares Republic of Indonesia independent.

1949 The Netherlands recognises Indonesian sovereignty. Federated States of Indonesia created.

1950 Full independence is achieved.

1965 General Suharto takes power from Sukarno after an apparent attempted coup.

1965/6 Anti-communist purges. An estimated 500,000 people lose their lives.

1969 West Papua (former Dutch colony) becomes part of Indonesia, following the outcome of the Act of Free Choice.

1975 Portugal grants East Timor independence. Indonesia invades East Timor.

1998 The economic crisis hits with full force. Food riots and widespread unrest sweep the country. Suharto resigns. B J Habibie becomes President.

1999 East Timorese vote for independence. Violence breaks out in Maluku. Indonesia holds first democratic elections since 1955: Abdurrahman Wahid becomes President.

2001 Abdurrahman Wahid impeached by Parliament. Megawati Sukarnoputri becomes President.



Facts and figures

Land area

1.9 million km²

Population

203 million (preliminary analysis of 2000 census)

Annual population growth rate

1.4 per cent (1996–2000 average)

Urban population as proportion of total

40 per cent

Under-five mortality per 1000 live births

52 (1999)

Life expectancy

Female 67.7 years; male 63.9 years (1999)

Adult literacy rate

Female 81 per cent; male 91.5 per cent

Primary-school enrolment

95 per cent (1999)

Secondary-school enrolment

55 per cent (1999)

Government expenditure on health care

0.7 per cent of GDP (1999)
16 doctors per 100,000 people

Currency

Rupiah (Rp)

Exchange rate (2000 average):

Rp8422 = US\$1

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

US\$ 153 billion (2000)

GDP per capita

US\$ 3040 (2000)

Annual GDP growth rate

4.8 per cent (2000)

Human Development Index ranking

110 of 173 in 2002 – calculated in terms of life expectancy, educational attainment, and real income

Major exports (2000)

Manufactures (67 per cent of total);
oil and gas products (23%);
minerals (4.9%);
unprocessed agricultural products (4.4%)

(Sources: UNDP Human Development Report 2002; *The Economist Intelligence Unit*)



◀ A mural on a café wall in Bali is a reminder of the importance of tourism to the Indonesian economy

Further reading



Books

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- Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing (1993) *In the Realm of the Diamond Queen: Marginality in an Out-of-the-Way Place*, Princeton: Princeton University Press

Magazines and newspapers

Inside Indonesia: Quarterly magazine published in Australia. Covers a range of social, artistic, and political issues
www.insideindonesia.org

The Jakarta Post: Respected English-language daily newspaper
www.thejakartapost.com

Latitudes: Monthly English-language magazine published in Bali, with lively coverage of Indonesian culture and social issues.
<http://www.latitudesmagazine.com>

Tempo: Weekly news magazine, published in Indonesian and English.
www.tempointeraktif.com

Websites

Down to Earth: UK-based organisation devoted to ecological justice in Indonesia, with a useful newsletter.
<http://dte.gn.apc.org/>

www.indonesianheritage.com
On-line encyclopaedia of Indonesian history and culture, with brief articles written by a range of experts.

Acknowledgements

Many people have contributed time, advice, and expertise to this book, but it would not have been possible at all without the generosity and trust of the people whom we met throughout our travels. Thanks are due to all the Oxfam GB staff in Yogya, especially Yanty Lacsana and Ferny Hapsari; Oxfam GB partners in Java, Madura, Buton, Maluku, and Sumba, especially Lina at Baileo; and Catherine Robinson and Ines Smyth in Oxford. I am indebted also to Leonard Lueras, Rizal Malik, Degung Santikarma and the Latitudes team, Gerry van Klinken, and of course Sam, Anita, and Adinda. Finally, special thanks to Tanyo Bangun, whose contribution to this book extends far beyond the photographs.

Nicola Frost



◀ A procession at one of Bali's 20,000 Hindu temples

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◀ A procession at one of Bali's 20,000 Hindu temples

Oxfam in Indonesia

Four members of Oxfam International currently operate programmes in support of poor and vulnerable communities in Indonesia.



From small beginnings in 1972, **Oxfam Great Britain** developed a programme which concentrated on the promotion of organic farming; land reform; and integrated social and economic development for poor farmers, coastal communities, and indigenous people – with a strong emphasis on gender equality which has been used as a model by other development organisations operating in Indonesia. Oxfam GB began to engage in humanitarian relief work in 1998, collaborating with other international NGOs and local partners to assist refugees from East Timor, people displaced by conflict in various areas of Indonesia, and communities affected by forest fires and droughts. From its office in Yogyakarta, Oxfam GB has promoted community-based disaster-preparedness systems, while at the same time continuing its development work to help poor farmers and small producers to gain access to markets and secure their livelihoods. The programme currently concentrates on interventions in four major fields: food and income security to support sustainable livelihoods; helping to improve access to education for girls and boys from poor families; saving lives by delivering humanitarian assistance and facilitating disaster-preparedness programmes and initiatives; and helping to shape government policy in favour of poor people and disadvantaged groups. The Oxfam GB programme covers Java-Madura, Sulawesi, East Nusa Tenggara, Aceh, and Maluku. For further information, contact Oxfam-ids@oxfam.org.id

Oxfam Community Aid Abroad, based in Australia, operates a programme in Eastern Indonesia with three main themes: disaster management, indigenous people's rights and natural resources, and the promotion of health and human rights.

CAA seeks to equip communities with the necessary skills, resources, and organisations to respond to the impact of natural disasters and social conflict. It also supports the long-term economic and social rehabilitation of communities, as well as immediate relief operations during emergencies. CAA helps indigenous people's organisations to develop the capacity to assert their basic rights to be consulted on major development projects which threaten their livelihoods and culture –

schemes such as mining ventures, hydro-electric and irrigation dams, and plantation forestry, which often exclude or exploit local people. Local campaigns are complemented by lobbying and advocacy conducted by regional and national organisations on behalf of the most threatened communities. Thirdly, CAA promotes the rights of women in situations of conflict. Working with local partners in East and West Timor in recent years, it has developed community-based systems for providing counselling and support for women who are victims of violence during times of social and political upheaval, and has advocated the rights of such women in national and international forums. It has also established community health activities, based on local women's groups, in several areas of Eastern Indonesia. For more information, contact enquire@caa.org.au

Oxfam-Hong Kong began substantive engagement in Indonesia in 2000, by funding a disaster-management programme in the east. Currently its activities focus on three inter-related themes: sustainable livelihoods, disaster management, and governance and democratisation. It works with partners to advocate national policy change in favour of poor people; promotes popular education on democratisation and other related issues; supports participatory development planning at the local government level; and promotes community-based disaster management and conflict management/peace-building. These partners are based in Jakarta, Bandung, and West Timor. Oxfam-Hong Kong has a small project fund for the support of small-scale, one-off initiatives related to its three priority themes and specific gender-related concerns. Its Indonesia programme is managed by a programme officer based in Hong Kong. For further information, visit www.oxfam.org.hk

Novib has been funding Indonesian NGOs since the early 1960s. At the national level, its main partners are working on issues of gender, human rights, environment, debt, and political reform. These large national partners implement training and education programmes in Indonesia, but they are also involved in national and international advocacy activities. Novib funds a large NGO network in Maluku (working on emergencies, community reconciliation, and rehabilitation); and partners in Java (support for farmers and credit groups), Kalimantan (indigenous people's land rights), Aceh (credit groups and gender equality), Sumatra (labour issues), and West Papua (environment).

At home in the Netherlands, the historic links between the two countries have led Novib to build structural relations with Indonesian organisations: for example, with a Maluku organisation it is implementing education and information programmes in Holland; and it is working closely with the so-called Indonesia House in Amsterdam.

Novib's Indonesia programme is managed from the Netherlands. An integrated Indonesia Working Group in Novib co-ordinates the activities of partners in Indonesia and in Holland. For more information, contact www.novib.nl

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