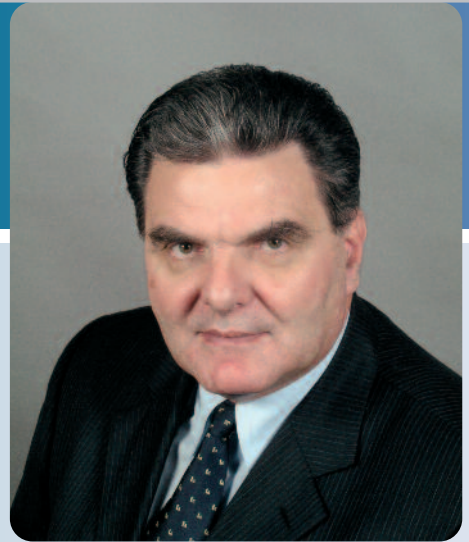


Editorial



August. In Europe it is the middle of the summer, it is a tourist season and time for long journeys to many parts of the world. You can certainly combine it with a visit in a industrial plant or the University, but it is worthwhile visiting a new country. This time, as the cover suggests, it will be Indonesia, a country of thousands of islands, tea, rice and volcanoes. Is it only of those?

Indonesia consists of 17,508 islands, about 6,000 of which are inhabited. These are scattered over both sides of the equator. Lying along the equator, Indonesia has a tropical climate, with two distinct monsoonal wet and dry seasons. Indonesia shares land borders with Malaysia on the islands of Borneo and Sebatik, Papua New Guinea on the island of New Guinea, and East Timor on the island of Timor. Indonesia also shares borders with Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines to the north and Australia to the south across narrow straits of water. The main islands of Indonesia are Sumatra, Kalimantan (the Indonesian part of Borneo), New Guinea (shared with Papua New Guinea), and Sulawesi. Java is the fifth largest island in Indonesia and the 13th largest island in the world. It lies between Sumatra to the west and Bali to the east. Borneo lies to the north and Christmas Island to the south. Java now plays a dominant role in the economic and political life of Indonesia. It is the most populous island in the world and a population was 130 million in 2006. It was the centre of powerful Hindu kingdoms, Islamic sultanates, and the core of the colonial Dutch East Indies. Java is formed mostly as the result of volcanic events. A chain of volcanic mountains forms an east-west spine along the island. Java contains no fewer than thirty-eight mountains forming an east-west spine which have at one time or another been active volcanoes. The highest volcano in Java is Mount Semeru (3,676 m). The most active volcano in Java and also in Indonesia is Mount Merapi (2,968 m). The mount and crater of Tangkuban Parahu is located in Bandung, West Java. Indonesia has at least 150 active volcanoes, including Krakatoa and Tambora, both famous for their devastating eruptions in the 19th century. The chain of volcanic mountains and associated highlands running the length of Java kept its interior regions and peoples separate and relatively isolated. Across its many islands, Indonesia consists of distinct ethnic, linguistic, and religious groups. Indonesia is a republic with a presidential system. As a unitary state, power is concentrated in the central government. The Indonesian archipelago has been an important trade region since at least the seventh century, when the Srivijaya Kingdom traded with China and India. Agriculture has been the country's largest employer for centuries. Agriculture employs more people than other sectors, accounting for 44.3% of the 95 million-strong workforce. Major agricultural products include palm oil, rice, tea, coffee, spices, and rubber. This is followed by the services sector (36.9%) and industry (18.8%). Major industries include petroleum and natural gas, textiles, apparel, and mining. The services sector is the economy's largest and accounts for 45.3% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (2005) and this is followed by industry (40.7%) and agriculture (14.0%). Indonesia's national motto, "Bhinneka tunggal ika" ("Unity in Diversity" literally, "many, yet one"), articulates the diversity that shapes the country. The country is richly endowed with natural resources, including crude oil, natural gas, tin, copper, and gold. Indonesia's major imports include machinery and equipment, chemicals, fuels, and foodstuffs. However, the poverty is a defining feature of contemporary Indonesia. Indonesia's high population and rapid industrialisation present serious environmental issues, which are often given a lower priority due to high poverty levels and weak, under-resourced governance.

Indonesia has around 300 ethnic groups, each with cultural differences developed over centuries, and influenced by Indian, Arabic, Chinese, Malay, and European sources. There are around 742 different languages and dialects in Indonesia. The largest is the Javanese, who comprise 42% of the population, and are politically and culturally dominant. The Sundanese, ethnic Malays, and Madurese are the largest non-Javanese groups. The culture of the Indonesian ethnic groups is very reach. Many of Indonesia's peoples have strongly rooted oral traditions, which help to define and preserve their cultural identities. Indonesian traditional music includes gamelan and keroncong. Dangdut is a popular contemporary genre of pop music that draws influence from Arabic, Indian, and Malay folk music. Traditional Javanese and Balinese dances, for example, contain aspects of Hindu culture and mythology, as do wayang kulit (shadow puppet) performances. The oldest evidence of writing in Indonesia is a series of Sanskrit inscriptions dated to the 5th century CE. Textiles such as batik, ikat and songket are created across Indonesia in styles that vary by region. The most dominant influences

on Indonesian architecture have traditionally been Indian; however, Chinese, Arab, and European architectural influences have been significant. A selection of Indonesian food includes Soto Ayam (chicken soup), sate kerang (shellfish kebabs), telur pindang (preserved eggs), perkedel (fritter), and es teh manis (sweet iced tea). Indonesian cuisine varies by region and is based on Chinese, European, Middle Eastern, and Indian precedents. Rice is the main staple food and is served with side dishes of meat and vegetables. Spices (notably chili), coconut milk, fish and chicken are fundamental ingredients.

The capital of Indonesia, Jakarta, is situated on Java and is the nation's largest city, followed by Surabaya, Bandung, Medan, and Semarang. Jakarta also has a greater population than any other city in Southeast Asia. It was formerly known as Sunda Kelapa (397–1527), Jayakarta (1527–1619), Batavia (1619–1942), and Djakarta (1942–1972). It is located on the northwest coast of Java. Jakarta is the twelfth-largest city in the world; the metropolitan area, called Jabodetabek, is the sixth-largest in the world. First established in the fourth century, the city became an important trading port for the Kingdom of Sunda. As Batavia, it grew greatly as the capital of the colonial Dutch East Indies. Renamed Jakarta in 1942 during Japan's occupation of the Java, it was made the capital city of Indonesia when the country became independent after World War II. Jakarta is located on the northwestern coast of Java, at the mouth of the Ciliwung River on Jakarta Bay, which is an inlet of the Java Sea. The northern part of Jakarta is constituted on a plain land, approximately eight metres above the sea level. This contributes to the frequent flooding. The southern parts of the city are hilly.

There are about thirteen rivers flowing through Jakarta, mostly flowing from the hilly southern parts of the city northwards towards the Java Sea. The most important river is the Ciliwung River, which divides the city into the western and eastern principalities. Jakarta is the home of many universities, the oldest of which are state-run University of Indonesia (UI) and the privately-owned Universitas Nasional (UNAS). There are also many other private universities in Jakarta, such as Universitas Trisakti and Universitas Tarumanagara, which are two of the few largest private universities in Jakarta. As the largest city and the capital, Jakarta houses a large number of students from various parts of Indonesia, many of whom reside in dormitories or home-stay residences. Similar to other large cities in developing Asian countries, there are many professional schools. For basic education, there are a variety of primary and secondary schools, tagged with public (national), private (national and bi-lingual national plus) and international schools. Despite the tourist character of the present Editorial, corresponding to the time of the year, the present issue of JAMME Journal contains, as always, several interesting papers. I kindly invite you to read them and I am sure that their high scientific level justifies interests in them. As usual encourage P.T. Authors to send papers to be published in the next issues of the Journal. I also wish nice holidays to all of those, who have planned to sacrifice August for it.



Gliwice, in 2009

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