

Report on the Summer 1975 Indonesian Studies Summer Institute

Introduction

The Indonesian Summer Institute was started in 1970 with grant supports from the Johnson Foundation, the Brittingham Foundation, and, through the Language Resource Committee of the Association for Asian Studies, the Ford Foundation. At that time, summer programs in Indonesian Studies and in Southeast Asian Studies in general were floundering, due to the lack of NDFL summer support. Enrollments were high in that first year due to Ford Foundation fellowships and to University of Wisconsin tuition waivers. Several innovations in the summer course program, such as the Indonesia House (residence and social center), Friday Evening Programs on Indonesia, and resident tutors in the Indonesia House, combined with a small instructor-student ratio, helped to make that first summer program a success. The enthusiasm of the Madison faculty, including those who were not directly involved in the teaching program, as expressed by their attendance of the Friday Evening Programs and by their interest in the participants, has helped to establish Wisconsin's reputation as the place to study Indonesian in the summer.

In 1971, the program was again supported by the Brittingham Trust; in 1972, by NDFL program and fellowship support; in 1973, the NDFL program was cancelled at the eleventh hour, and the University of Wisconsin resumed responsibility for the operating costs. During this past summer (1974), the program was financed by the University of Wisconsin Summer School.

The number of qualified applicants was high but enrollments were low due to the lack of fellowship support. Yet the unique character of the Wisconsin program was maintained.

One aspect of the summer program, not often mentioned, is that it has managed not only to provide a national service, but also to recruit general support from other institutions in a field of study that has been notoriously competitive. From its inception, the Indonesian Studies Summer Institute has always been a joint enterprise among several universities. The University of Wisconsin limits itself to offerings in Indonesian Studies; Northern Illinois offers Philippine Studies and Classical Malay; the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor handles Thai Studies. Since 1970, any NDFL request for summer support from the above institutions has always mentioned this division of labor in the field of Southeast Asian Studies. The University of Ohio-Athens has also supported this informal arrangement.

Moreover, Ann Arbor paid for one faculty member in 1972. Ann Arbor has also tentatively agreed to provide \$2,000 towards the salary of one instructor for the 1975 session. Other universities, such as Cornell, Brown, Ohio, Oberlin, have provided fellowships for their students to come to Madison and have provided funds for their faculty members and students to participate in the conferences held in Madison. C.I.C. arrangements have also been used by students to come to study in Madison.

Since 1973, the Indonesian Studies Committee of the Association for Asian Studies has recognized the Wisconsin program as the national Indonesian Studies Summer Institute. Under this arrangement, our program will operate under the co-sponsorship of the A.A.S. for three years (1974-1977). Other

institutions have informally agreed not to offer any summer courses in Indonesian Studies during this three year period. The A.A.S. has financially supported the Conferences on Indonesian Studies and was also co-author and co-sponsor of a proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities, for a summer program in Indonesian Studies. It is due to this co-sponsorship that the Fulbright program provided support for one visiting professor, Dr. Boen Slamet, of the University of Indonesia.

Course Offerings and Enrollments

In the 1974 Summer Session, the following courses were offered:

Elementary Indonesian (2 sections)	16 students
Intermediate Reading and Composition	4 students
Intermediate Conversation	4 students
Indonesian Literature in Translation	7 students
Seminar in Modern Indonesian Literature	5 students
Independent Studies	4 students

Beginning Javanese was dropped.

While only seven students were officially enrolled in the Literature in Translation course, an average of 20 persons were regularly in attendance. This group of 20 consisted mainly of faculty members, and of students enrolled in the first year course who were not allowed to enroll in the literature course since they were already carrying 12 credits. One additional course would not have overly burdened the students, since the language courses stressed in-class learning.

While we had over fifty qualified applicants, enrollments were drastically limited due to the lack of fellowships. We managed, however, to help all the students from the Madison campus with some tuition

assistance. Other participants were supported either by their own institutions or by their employers (foundations, universities). It was rather disappointing that foundation employees were only auditing the courses. Thus, they were allowed to pay 50% of the full tuition rate. While the sum involved was relatively small to the foundations involved, it did constitute the loss of a sizable amount in relation to our budget (approximately \$2,500; our budget was \$19,000).

The Teaching Staff

The teaching staff for the summer institute was drawn mainly from the Madison campus, augmented by one staff member from Cornell University, one staff member from Northern Illinois University, and a Fulbright Professor from the University of Indonesia.

We hope that in future years the staff of the summer program will always include some members recruited from other institutions. This is one way of strengthening inter-institutional cooperation, both among major centers of Southeast Asian Studies in this country, and with Indonesian institutions as well. The presence of Dr. Slamet added life and excitement to the summer program.

Wisma Indonesia (Indonesia House)

A unique aspect of the Wisconsin program was the "total immersion" of the students in Indonesian Studies. Formal instruction ended with class; the informal program began in the Indonesia House, a large fraternity building rented for the duration of the summer program. The Indonesia House served as the residential and social center of the program. The house had one resident

instructor and other tutors take turns helping students with their studies.

The house provided numerous occasions for informal sessions with Indonesians present on the Madison campus. Impromptu slide shows and sing-along sessions contributed to the cohesiveness of the program, in addition to increasing participant knowledge of Indonesia. Communal cooking lowered the cost of living and provided many opportunities for learning to cook the Indonesian way.

An important part of the summer program was the Friday Evening Lecture Series. Each session consisted of an Indonesian meal followed by a movie, a cultural performance, or a lecture on some aspect of Indonesian life, presented by a member of the Madison faculty or by a guest speaker. Each session usually attracted approximately 60-70 people, many of them non-participants.

Without a doubt, the Indonesia House program strengthened our summer program. Without the Indonesia House, the Indonesian Summer Institute would have been like any other summer program.

Conferences on Indonesian Studies¹

As part of the Indonesian Studies Summer Institute, two conferences were organized in cooperation with the Association for Asian Studies and the Midwest Universities Consortium for International Affairs. The first meeting was the Conference on Indonesian Literature, attended by over 50

¹It should be noted that the Indonesian Studies Committee of the Association for Asian Studies was established at the Conference of Indonesian Studies, held in Madison, July 1973.

faculty members, students and interested persons. While this number seemed small, it represented the participation of almost everybody involved in the study of Indonesian Literature in this country.

The second meeting, the Conference on Agricultural Development, was held jointly with MUCIA. It attracted over 150 people, from as far as Boston University and from Hawaii. Present among the participants was the Cultural Attache of the Indonesian Embassy, Washington, D.C.

Evaluation and Prospects

Participants were highly satisfied with the overall program, despite criticism of some aspects of the class routine. The Indonesia House and its programs enlivened the formal language and literature courses. The two conferences gave the participants an opportunity to meet with many experts in Indonesian Studies. The meetings also exposed the participants to the latest research findings.

However, this rich program placed a heavy burden on the staff members. In fact, the success of the program was in part explained by the enthusiastic support of the University community -- of faculty, staff, and students. Yet, perhaps it would have been better to limit the summer program to one large conference or to two or three seminar-type conferences with restricted enrollment of fifteen to twenty people.

It would be helpful if some funds could be allocated to the Indonesia House program. In the future, we will thus be able to draw on outside talents for the Friday Evening Lectures and therefore not have to depend solely on the Madison faculty.

Although interest in Indonesian Studies is steadily rising, funding

remains a problem. We submitted a request to the National Endowment for the Humanities for \$134,550. So far we have received no response. Thus, it seems that the major burden of financing this project will again be met by the University of Wisconsin. Even assuming that the budget for the 1975 session will be included in the summer school budget, we still will be faced with low enrollments due to the lack of fellowships.

Observation of the functioning of the program for the past few years seems to indicate that we would be better off financially if we could charge in-state tuition for all participants in special summer programs. Our enrollments would definitely be higher, while there would be no increase in expenditures, since we are operating under-capacity. With the same size of staff, we could have easily accommodated around 70 students instead of our enrollment of 40 students last summer.

At present, the Indonesian Studies Committee of the Association for Asian Studies is actively canvassing possible support for fellowships. It is still too early to tell what the outcome will be. There is, in addition, a very remote possibility that some NDFL funds might become available for the 1975 summer session. Prudence, however, demands that we assume that there will be no fellowships available other than the traditional ones granted by other institutions for their own students or employees.

At their last meeting in Ann Arbor, the Southeast Asia Regional Council and the Language Resources Committee of the Association for Asian Studies decided that they would support one Institute for Southeast Asian Languages in 1976. Tentative discussions with foundation representatives indicated that the foundations (mainly the Ford Foundation) would be interested in funding such a summer language institute if all Southeast Asian languages were

offered by one institution. Since our program at Madison has been sanctioned as the only national Indonesian Studies Summer Institute for three years (ending in 1977), there is a good chance that we will be asked to host this Institute for Southeast Asian Languages. Of course, everything depends on the funding available and on our own inclinations to host such a large scale institute. Assuming that we will offer the summer program in 1975 and that it will be as successful as in previous years, my inclination would be that we should actively seek to host such an institute, since it would greatly benefit our year-round program.