Annual Report 2021

The American Institute for Indonesian Studies
www.aifis.org

2021
AIFIS Offices

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MESSAGE FROM THE AIFIS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

AIFIS AND INDONESIAN STUDIES IN A NEW AGE: A WELCOME!

As this Annual Report for 2021 makes so abundantly clear, 2021 was a year of great challenge and transition but also impressive achievement for AIFIS and the broader Indonesian studies community it represents. The major challenge was the continuing Covid pandemic, which obliged AIFIS to scale back the activity long at the heart of our institutional mission: funding, coordinating, and publicizing exchange between scholars and researchers in Indonesia and the United States. With the generous support of the Henry Luce foundation, however, we hope in late 2022 to relaunch the exchange program, bigger and better than ever.

The year 2021 was also one of transition, consolidation, and expansion. In mid-year our Executive Director, Netta Anggia, stepped down to move onto another executive position. We thank her for her always kind and skilled service while at AIFIS. A tireless leader, treasurer, and visionary for AIFIS from its beginning some 10 years ago, Martin Fellows Hatch also stepped down from the Executive Board in 2021, although Marty has generously agreed to provide advice and a sense of legacy and mission for years to come. Last but by no means least, Siddharth Chandra completed his terms as President (but still serves on the Executive Board as Past President), but not before guiding AIFIS through its most remarkable conference event in AIFIS year history: the first Annual International Conference of Indonesian studies, co-hosted by the Center for Asian Studies at Michigan State University on June 23-26, 2021. Exceeding all expectations, the conference hosted some 500 participants and 300 paper-presenters from 20 countries – almost half of whom came from Indonesia. This was the most striking example of AIFIS contributing to what we regard as a new age in Indonesian studies. It is an age marked by the continuing internationalization of the field, as well as its movement to a more sustained and equal partnership between Indonesia- and U.S.-based scholars.

With these transitions AIFIS also saw the arrival of a new group of core coordinators. Having finished her Ph.D. in Indonesian Studies at the University of California-Berkeley in August 2021, Megan Hewitt became AIFIS’s new executive director. She brings to the Directorship a rare combination of academic sophistication and managerial skill. AIFIS also welcomed several faces to its Executive Board. G.G. Weix and Christopher Duncan were elected to the positions of AIFIS co-vice presidents, and I was elected president. In Indonesia, Yosef Djakababa and Annas Bentari continued their fine work as Country Representative and Program Manager respectively, their labors made all the more urgent by the pandemic emergency.
Even as the pandemic slowed the pace of in-person scholarly exchange, AIFIS consolidated and expanded other programs. As the Annual Report makes clear, these include the Virtual Workshop on Academic Writing for International Publication, co-sponsored by the Social Science Research Foundation and masterfully hosted by Paul Kratoska, Paul Nerney, Susan Lopez-Nerney, Linda Grove, and Siddharth Chandra. AIFIS sponsored an online course series on Environment, Development, and Governance in Indonesia, and a Webinar Series on Religious studies in Indonesia, held in conjunction with the Center for Religious and Cross-cultural Studies (CRCS) at Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta. AIFIS also sponsored an artistic event of rare importance: virtual wayang performances with English translation by Dr. Kathryn Emerson.

In 2022, AIFIS plans to build on and expand these programs – and to reach out to new partners in Indonesia. The latter will include new collaborations with Indonesian scholars in eastern Indonesia and Papua, as well as a host of new Indonesian partners in Kalimantan and Sumatra. We also plan to continue our conversations and collaborations with Alan Feinstein at AMINEF in Jakarta, as well as First Secretary Harun Syaifullah Syafa at the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Washington D.C. One key ambition is for AIFIS to extend its reach beyond the academic disciplines conventionally associated with Indonesian studies so as to strengthen Indonesian studies in fields like medicine, environmental science, and law.

In short, although the pandemic has cast a momentary shadow over a few AIFIS activities, the 2021 Annual Report demonstrates that Indonesian studies and scholarly exchange between Indonesia and the U.S. are both bright and booming. We look forward to even greater collaboration between Indonesian and American scholars in years to come.

Salam Hormat,

Robert (Bob) Hefner
AIFIS President
Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts

Written on behalf of the AIFIS Executive Committee:

Robert Hefner
President, AIFIS

Christoper Duncan
Vice President, AIFIS

G.G. Weix
Vice President, AIFIS

Siddharth Chandra
Past President, AIFIS
CONTINUITIES AND CHANGES AT AIFIS:

Greetings everyone! It is truly an honor to join such a vibrant community of scholars working to advance the study of Indonesia in the US and globally. Since my start as Executive Director in August 2021, I have had the opportunity to witness first hand the incredible breadth of work represented by our extended network. At our core, we are a consortium of scholars from a variety of humanities, social science, and STEM disciplines, but our network extends far beyond the 35 member institutions currently represented by our board of directors. AIFIS is an organization with a mission to facilitate connections, expand access to research funding, broaden public knowledge on Indonesia, as well as serve as a bridge to connect junior and senior scholars from Indonesia, America, and elsewhere. It is my privilege to work to facilitate these goals.

Our shared field of Area Studies is one in which the boundaries which delineate geographic and intellectual space are regularly and intentionally traversed, transgressed, and remade as we participate in the multiplicities of the Indonesian archipelago. It is the combined fluidity and rigor of Area Studies which most enlivens our research, decentralizes the production of knowledge, and serves to connect communities of scholars, practitioners, artists, and everyday folk. The advancement of Indonesian Studies is a mission which extends beyond perceived boundaries of nation or discipline. It is one which necessitates interdisciplinary work across transnational contexts. AIFIS is a growing community committed to facilitating the kinds of continuities and changes which underscore our shared field.

This year has been a moment of great change at AIFIS, as articulated by Bob in his welcome message. Moments of transition invite reflection on where we have been and where we are headed. We are a lean organization with a breadth of impact that is largely contingent on our ability to collaborate with institutional, organizational, and individual partners. It is a central goal of ours to continue to sustain our existing programs at AIFIS, reflected in our fellowship programs, workshops, symposia and conferences. As we approach our 10th anniversary in 2022, we also look forward to cultivating new programmatic directions in line with our core mission. We welcome feedback and collaboration on how these trajectories will support the needs of the Indonesian Studies community, broadly defined, as we work together to build capacity over the next 10 years at AIFIS. Ayo, AIFIS siap berkolaborasi.

Tabik!

Megan Hewitt
Executive Director,
American Institute for Indonesian Studies
MESSAGE FROM AIFIS COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE

GREETING FROM AIFIS JAKARTA OFFICE:

With the Covid-19 pandemic still affecting us globally, AIFIS Indonesia continues to work with our partners in Indonesia for a variety of co-sponsored programming. Not only have we managed to sustain the network of our established partners, but we also continue to expand our reach into Eastern Indonesia. The development of information technology along with the situation of the global pandemic has contributed positively in a unique way to much of our programming. The highlights of our online based programming are the series of Academic Writing Workshop for International Publication and the inaugural annual AIFIS-MSU Indonesian Studies Conference. The pandemic despite its global devastating and disruptive effect has taught us to be more resilient, more open to new ideas and continue to explore new possibilities. All of that leads into activities that translate into continued engagement with a variety of important issues in Indonesian studies, especially that can help foster more collaboration between Indonesian based and U.S. based scholars.

AIFIS also closely follows the Indonesian government restructuring program of its research institutions with the establishment of BRIN(Badan Riset dan Inovasi Nasional) or The National Research and Innovation Agency. The new government agency aims to increase Indonesian scientists and scholars research capacities through restructuring of the organization, reinvigorating clearer research vision, establishing goals and setting up priorities that would serve both Indonesian national interest and for the advancement of various fields of studies. AIFIS is excited and ready to work together with BRIN in continuing our productive engagement on many important issues in Indonesian studies and cultivate more research collaboration between Indonesian and U.S. scholars in this new arrangement.

In the year 2022, AIFIS will celebrate its ten years of work in Indonesia and we are looking forward to more years to come!

Salam Sejahtera,

Yosef Djakababa
Indonesia Country Representative,
American Institute for Indonesian Studies
The American Institute for Indonesian Studies (AIFIS) is a non-profit (501c3) educational organization incorporated in the United States. It was established with the generous financial support of the U.S. Department of Education, The Henry Luce Foundation, and the Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs in the United State through the Council of American Overseas Research Centers. It is also a consortium of American universities and colleges that have expressed keen interests in furthering Indonesian studies in the United States and globally.

Mission

- Promote the studies of Indonesia in the U.S., including traditional and non-traditional disciplines.
- Foster scholarly exchange between Indonesian and U.S. scholars.
- Promote educational and research efforts by U.S. scholars in Indonesia.
- Facilitate visits by American scholars to Indonesia, and by Indonesian scholars to the United States.

Fellowship Engagement

- AIFIS provides fellowship grants to U.S. and Indonesian researchers designed to promote and encourage research collaboration between Indonesian and American scholars.
- AIFIS organizes academic writing workshops to build the capacity of Indonesian scholars to publish their work in internationally recognized academic journals and other English language publications.
- AIFIS works with community colleges in the United States to establish curriculum-development workshops on the teaching of Indonesia to faculty and teachers.
- AIFIS partners with Indonesia-based universities and research centers in organizing workshops, seminars, and symposium, allowing U.S. scholars the avenues to present key findings and results of their research work in Indonesia.
- AIFIS partners with U.S. universities and community colleges in implementing activities to promote the studies of Indonesia in the U.S. These include but are not limited to academic seminars, conferences, workshops on curriculum development, Indonesian art exhibitions and academic symposium.
AIFIS’ office in Ithaca, New York, oversees the operations of AIFIS and its overseas research center in Indonesia. The US office meets regularly with the AIFIS Executive Committee and annually with AIFIS board members, as well as liaises directly with our donors and government partners. AIFIS Executive Director, Megan Hewitt, Ph.D. (alumna of University of California, Berkeley), maintains the U.S. office remotely from Oakland, California. AIFIS Country Representative, Yosef Djakababa, Ph.D. (alumni of the University of Wisconsin-Madison) and Program Manager, Annas Bentari, maintain the AIFIS office in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The AIFIS Executive Committee members are:

- **President**: Robert Hefner, Ph.D. (Boston University)
- **Co-Vice President**: G.G. Weix, Ph.D. (University of Montana)
- **Co-Vice President**: Christopher Duncan, Ph.D. (Rutgers University)
- **Past President**: Siddharth Chandra, Ph.D. (Michigan State University)
- **Ex-Officio Member**: Yosef Djakababa, Ph.D. (Universitas Pelita Harapan)

As an American Overseas Research Center, AIFIS in Indonesia works with U.S. scholars to:

- Provide logistical support, advice, and serves as a hub for American scholars seeking information on research in Indonesia.
- Provide comprehensive “on-the-ground” logistical support for American scholars conducting research in Indonesia.
- Share results of research conducted by AIFIS-funded and non-AIFIS funded, American scholars through lecturers, seminars, and workshops in partnership with academic institutions and university partners, as well as art institutes in Indonesia.
- Expand in-country network and develop partnerships with Indonesian universities, academic and art institutions, and research centers.
In-Country Administrative and Office Support

AIFIS Indonesia welcomes faculty, graduate students, scholars to come and work in our Jakarta office. The centrally located office has access to both offline and online library systems. Our Jakarta center has also become a hub for research seminars and symposia for both visiting American researchers and Indonesian academics.

Our team in Indonesia has excellent knowledge of the research climate in Indonesia, and established relationship with Indonesian research counterparts, universities, and relevant government representatives. AIFIS Indonesia Country Representative, Yosef Djakababa, Ph.D., himself is alumnus of the University of Wisconsin and AIFIS Program Manager, Annas Bentari, has a wealth of experience in working with international scholars.

AIFIS has been a long-standing partner with the U.S. Embassy office in Jakarta, the Jakarta office of the U.S. Library of Congress and with AMINEF and its Fulbright program for Indonesia and we aim to continue our program collaborations.

Hosting/Assistance for researchers: AIFIS Indonesia has providing a space for our visiting fellows to work. The Jakarta staff has also assisted international scholars on matters from finding information on research permits to making connections with Indonesian research collaborators. Our staff helps with the organization of academic events such as workshops, data collections, field trips, lectures, symposia.

While the AIFIS offices are currently closed to visitors during the pandemic, scholars can still reach out to the AIFIS Indonesia office by email to annas.bentari@aifis.org and yosef.djakababa@aifis.org.

Megan Hewitt, our Executive Director, can be reached at meganhewitt@aifis.org.
Since 2012, AIFIS has organized events and supported the work of U.S. scholars in Indonesia in more than 23 cities in 16 provinces, including among others, Jakarta, Yogyakarta, Solo, Salatiga, Semarang, Malang, Surabaya, Depok, Bandung, Bogor, Bekasi, Pandeglang, Bali, Lampung, Palembang, Padang, Pekanbaru, Palangkaraya, Ambon, Palu, Manado, Makassar, and Manokwari. AIFIS will continue to expand its collaborations with partners across the United States and Indonesia.

AIFIS marked the end of 2021 with the completion of a total of 52 in-country and collaborative program activities. The in-country programs involved participation by a total of 5,380 scholars from the U.S. and Indonesia.
AIFIS' Indonesia office has assisted queries and requests from more than 250 U.S. scholars, primarily in the areas of finding in-country research partners, research permit processes, and with the organization of scholars’ presentations, a requirement for AIFIS scholars to fully completed their research work in Indonesia.
The global pandemic has created a challenging situation for scholars with regards to international travels, and has prompted a halt in the in-country research plans of many of our fellows. Both of our fellowship granting institutions, CAORC and Luce, have generously allowed the extension of use on our grant funds in order to accommodate these delays. We are eager to help facilitate our fellows' return to complete their research in Indonesia once travel resumes safely and research permitting becomes available again through the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN).

Currently there are seven **AIFIS-CAORC fellowship recipients** who have yet to complete their research travels due to travel restrictions. As of December 2021, BRIN is not processing or issuing any research permits or visas for foreign scholars.

In regards to our **AIFIS-Luce fellowship recipients**, three American scholars and two Indonesian scholars plan to complete their fellowship terms as soon as possible. AIFIS was thrilled be able to facilitate two Indonesian scholars travel to the US in 2021 to collaborate their research with scholars at U.S. institutions. The remaining two Indonesian fellows plan to travel to the US in 2022.
AIFIS-MSU Inaugural Conference on Indonesian Studies

The American Institute for Indonesian Studies (AIFIS), in collaboration with Michigan State University (MSU) Asian Studies Center, held an inaugural Conference on Indonesian Studies. The Conference welcomed scholars with backgrounds and expertise in history, culture, language, and arts, and those advancing understandings of the ways that historical, sociocultural, economic, and political contexts shape contemporary and historical issues in Indonesia. Held virtually, the conference featured 10 parallel sessions (with 7 panels per session and 4 presenters each panel, including roundtable panels). More than 300 papers were presented by scholars from over 20 countries. The event also involved over 500 participants with near equal representation by junior and senior scholars from the U.S. and Indonesia.
Academic Writing for International Publication: Virtual Workshop

This is the 5th year AIFIS has organized workshops to enhance the capacity of Indonesian scholars in the fields of social sciences, arts and humanities, and applied sciences to publish their research in international academic journals and academic presses. The workshop provides Indonesian scholars with information about publishing in highly ranked English-language academic journals. The goal of the workshop is to help researchers prepare manuscripts that will clear an initial editorial screening.

In 2021 we were able to provide two separate workshops. The May series was presented in collaboration with The National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), and in our December workshop we worked in partnership with the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) with generous support from the Henry Luce Foundation.

Since the start of this workshop AIFIS has seen 36 publications by 85 workshop participants (42%) in international journals.

To see a running list of AIFIS community publications, please visit our website at: www.aifis.org/publications
Online Course Series on Environment, Development, and Governance in Indonesia

Environment and development issues in Indonesia are complex and shaped by processes that take place at different governing scales. This series of courses explored foundational theories from political ecology to frame long standing issues and emerging trends that reshape our understanding of landscapes, watersheds, oceans, and corresponding policy and livelihoods. Issues examined included deforestation, plantations, mineral resources, and conservation, as well as emerging challenges from fires, floods, and resource conflicts. The series of 12 talks was attended by 973 participants via Zoom. The workshop’s main outcomes included 12 translated articles which aimed to bring critical scholarship on Environment, Development and Governance in Indonesia to Indonesian readerships. Translated articles can be downloaded at https://www.aifis.org/library
Webinar Series on Religious Studies in Indonesia

The Center for Religious and Cross-Cultural Studies (CRCS) and AIFIS hosts a weekly Wednesday forum to discuss a variety of topics on religion from people inside and outside academia.

The forum hosts speakers ranging from graduate students, activists, to prominent scholars on Indonesia and religious studies. They are presented in English and open to the public. AIFIS Fellows who took part in this forum in 2021 include Claire-Marie Hefner from the Dept. of Religion, Florida State University and Erica M. Larson, Postdoctoral fellow at the Asia Research Institute of National University of Singapore.

We have plans for a number of upcoming events in 2022.

For an archive of past events, please visit: https://crcs.ugm.ac.id/wednesday-forum/
Two distinct projects were produced from AIFIS sponsorship of Wayang in Translation. The first is a **Wayang Knowledge Series** which consists of 15 to 30-minute segments in which Ki Purbo Asmoro explains concepts relating to the visual arts aspect of the wayang figures themselves. The second is a series of **All-Night Wayang Performances** with English translation. All of these videos and more are available streaming on the Purbo Asmoro Official youtube channel.
In Spring 2022, we will announce a new cohort of AIFIS-CAORC Research Fellowship recipients. In Fall 2022, we also plan to offer another round of applications for the AIFIS-CAORC Fellowship. It remains one of AIFIS’s primary missions to continue to facilitate American scholars conducting research in Indonesia once travel restrictions are lifted and permitting becomes available.

The second annual AIFIS-MSU Conference on Indonesian Studies will take place in Summer 2022. Organized jointly between AIFIS and Michigan State University’s Asian Studies Center, the conference will be held in a virtual format. The goal of the conference is to build connections between a global network of scholars of Indonesia from a range of disciplines—within applied sciences, social sciences, and arts and humanities based in Indonesia and the United States, as well as Asia Pacific and other global contexts. This year we are honored to have Tania Murray Li (University of Toronto) and Manneke Budiman (University of Indonesia) participate as our keynote speakers, as well as plenary performances from Moluccan and Sundanese arts groups.

2022 marks the fifth year in which AIFIS has conducted Academic Writing Workshops which target Indonesian scholars seeking to publish their work in international journals. This year we are working in collaboration with the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) to offer two separate workshops. The first took place in December 2021 and provided an introductory level approach to academic writing. Our upcoming March 2022 workshop will continue our previous model of matching Indonesian scholars who submitted a manuscript for review with mentors from the AIFIS consortium of scholars with similar disciplinary and thematic research interests.

Throughout 2022 the Virtual Visiting Scholars Program will continue to provide a platform for AIFIS fellows, consortium members and the broader research community to present their work, collaborate, and network with Indonesian counterparts through AIFIS-supported virtual events. These events are organized in partnership with a variety of academic institutions in Indonesia, including new and expanding collaborations with universities in the Eastern parts of Indonesia with strong Indonesian Studies program, such as the University of Hasanuddin, Halu Uleo University, ISI Denpasar, Udayana University, Tadulako University, Sam Ratulangi University, Universitas Cendrawasih, and Universitas Negeri Papua.
New Programs & Events:

- Building from the success of our Academic Writing Workshops, AIFIS will present a three month public lecture series in collaboration with Sampoerna University and @america, a multimedia platform and meeting space sponsored by the US Embassy in Jakarta. The AIFISx@america Intensive Academic Writing Series will be presented as an eleven-part lecture series in which scholars from AIFIS’ network will give virtual public seminars on various aspects of the academic writing process from their respective disciplines. The events will take place from April - June 2022 and be made available for open access streaming on seven online platforms, including the AIFIS YouTube channel.

- AIFIS plans to develop a Small-Grant Fellowship Program in 2022 to assist institutions, organizations and individuals in the creation of programs that promote educational and scholarly exchange, knowledge sharing, and other creative collaborations between the U.S. and Indonesia. We are particularly eager to support projects that foreground collaboration between U.S. and Indonesian participants as well as that produce open source content for public dissemination and/or curriculum development on topics related to Indonesian studies.

- In order to expand our mission of promoting the global study of Indonesia, AIFIS will apply for New Grants In Collaboration with organizations and institutions interested in partnering to develop new programs in support of research and dissemination about research on Indonesia. We are currently in conversation about programs to support filmmaking, translation, and museum conservation, and welcome new partners seeking to advance public knowledge about Indonesia. The starting point for these initiatives will be to collaborate on applications for new grants that target a diversity of Indonesia related programs.

- At the end of 2022, AIFIS will organize an Anniversary Celebration to mark a decade since the founding of our organization. We plan to bring together the broad network of AIFIS affiliates for a celebration and fundraising event that will help to secure the next decade of AIFIS activities.
Social Media Summary

Pageviews on the AIFIS Website
Jan 1–Dec 31, 2021 • 25,208 Total +26% yr/yr

AIFIS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

www.facebook.com/TheAIFISPage
Total Page Followers: 2507
Dec 31, 2021 +12%

https://www.instagram.com/aifis.official/
Total Instagram Followers: 974
Dec 31, 2021 +47%

www.youtube.com/AIFIS
Total YouTube Followers: 335
Dec 31, 2021 +64%

To subscribe to our newsletter, please sign-up on our website at www.aifis.org or write to aifis@aifis.org and ask to be added.
PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS IN 2021

LIST OF INDONESIAN PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS WHO WORKED WITH AIFIS IN 2021
PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS IN 2021

LIST OF THE U.S PARTNERS & INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATORS WHO WORKED WITH AIFIS IN 2021