



AIYA ANNUAL 2024

ENGLISH VERSION



Foreword

"The Australia-Indonesia Institute is proud to continue its engagement and support for AIYA and NAILA, and its cultural, professional and educational programs that bring young people in Australia and Indonesia together as a source of friendship and understanding."





AIYA ANNUAL 2024



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EDITORIAL FOREWORD

The year 2024 marks a significant milestone in the Australia-Indonesia relationship: 75 years of diplomatic ties, shared achievements, and growing collaboration. In this spirit, AIYA is proud to present the AIYA Annual 2024 – a meaningful reflection on the journeys, accomplishments, and unwavering enthusiasm of our community throughout the year.

This report is more than a record of activities. It is a celebration of the resilience and dedication shown by AIYA members in building bridges across generations, cultures, and borders through youth-led initiatives. In the face of challenges, 2024 has demonstrated how creativity, teamwork, and a strong sense of purpose can lead to tangible impact and renewed inspiration.

Within these pages, you will discover stories from across our chapters, including revitalised initiatives, cross-regional collaborations, and new efforts to promote language, cultural exchange, and professional networks. Each of these stories reflects AIYA's ongoing commitment to strengthening mutual understanding and supporting young people as key players in the Australia-Indonesia relationship.



2024 has also shown how AIYA continues to grow as an inclusive and collaborative platform, not only for our members but also for partners, contributors, and the wider community. The diverse range of voices and ideas featured in this report is a testament to the shared belief in AIYA's mission — to connect, inform, and inspire.

We hope that AIYA Annual 2024 will serve not only as a year in review, but also as a reminder that every step taken by young people in fostering bilateral ties can contribute to a more enduring and meaningful relationship between our two nations. We extend our sincere thanks to all who have contributed their time, ideas, and energy throughout the year.



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Australia-Indonesia Youth Association (AIYA) Annual for 2024

This year has been monumental, not only for AIYA but for the broader Australia-Indonesia relationship. In 2024, we celebrated 75 years of diplomatic ties between our two nations, a milestone marked by a Gala Dinner in Jakarta attended by Australia's Governor-General, Indonesian dignitaries, and emerging young leaders, including AIYA. The warmth and depth of the Australia-Indonesia bilateral relationship has never been more evident.

Across the bilateral space, youth engagement continues to grow. According to the Australian Department of Education, over 24,000 Indonesians studied in Australia in 2024, while thousands of Australian students, through initiatives like the New Colombo Plan, have chosen Indonesia for study, internships, and research. Yet, language learning remains a critical area for growth with fewer high school students studying Indonesian in Australia, underscoring the importance of AIYA's ongoing mission to bridge the linguistic and cultural gap.

This year, AIYA proudly expanded its contribution to regional dialogue and leadership. At the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit in Melbourne, AIYA volunteers served as Pastoral Support Officers for the Emerging Leaders Track, supporting young delegates from across Southeast Asia and strengthening Australia's engagement with its regional partners. This was a special opportunity to showcase the unique talents and intercultural expertise of AIYA members on an international stage.

2024 also saw the successful delivery of not one, but two AIYA Kongres events. Starting in Melbourne welcoming all our Australian-based volunteers including Chapter Presidents and Board of Directors, and secondly in Jakarta, for our Indonesia-based volunteers, for leadership training, cultural exchange, and strategic planning to further align our vision and activities with the evolving bilateral landscape.

Through professional development programs, language initiatives, policy dialogues, and cross-cultural exchanges, AIYA remains deeply committed to empowering young people to lead the future of Australia-Indonesia relations. We also welcomed a reinvigorated Western Australia Chapter with the new team of ambitious volunteers. Our network, now spanning 11 Chapters across both countries, represents a living bridge between our two vibrant societies.



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

As we look ahead, I am filled with optimism. The foundations we have laid in 2024, against the backdrop of a historic 75-year partnership, will inspire the next generation of leaders to take the Australia-Indonesia relationship to even greater heights.

Terima kasih banyak and thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,



Claudia Wijaya
National President Australia-Indonesia
Youth Association (AIYA)

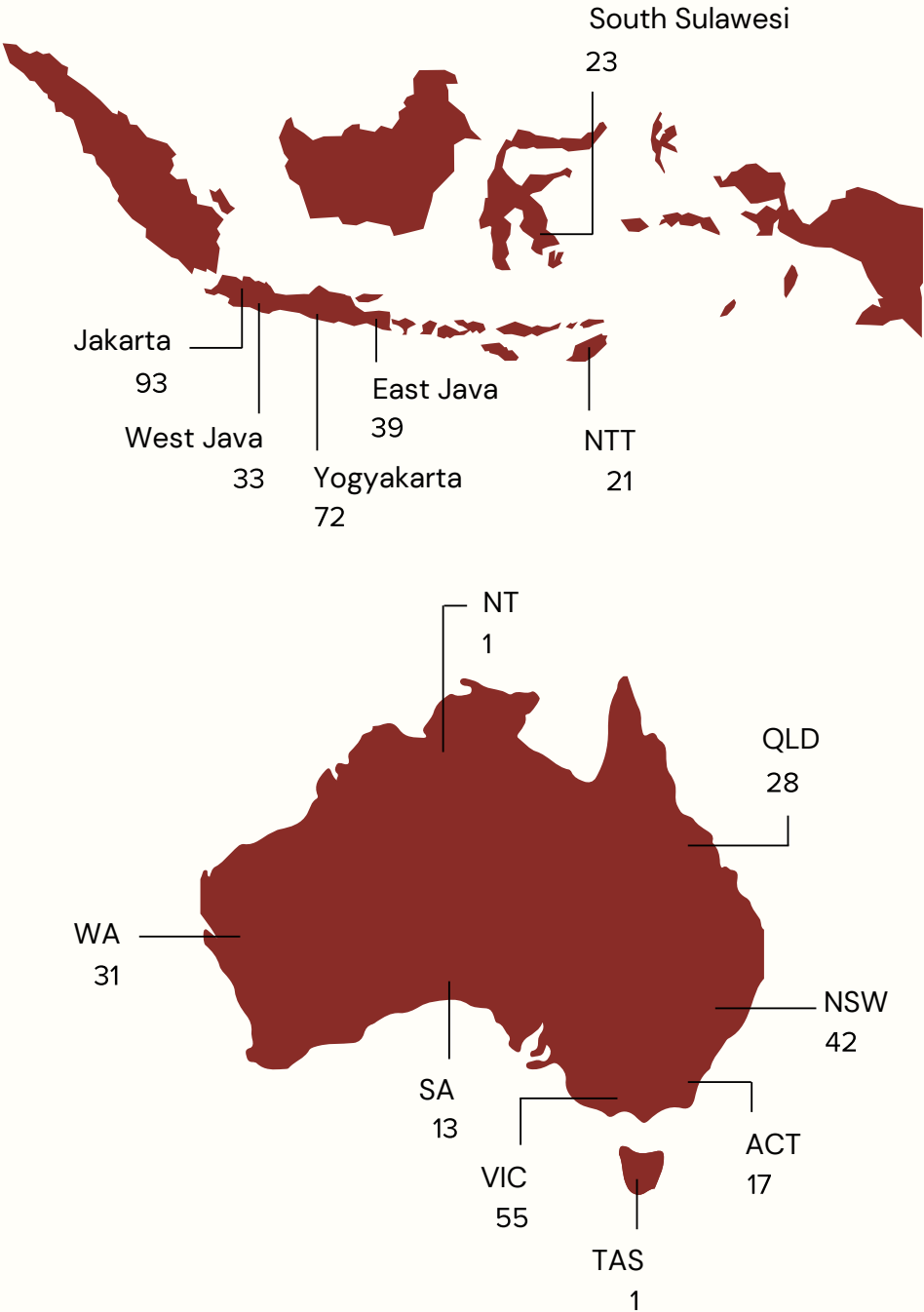


Claudia Wijaya



AIYA AT A GLANCE

Chapter members by State/Territory/Province



5,984

AIYA LinkedIn
Connections

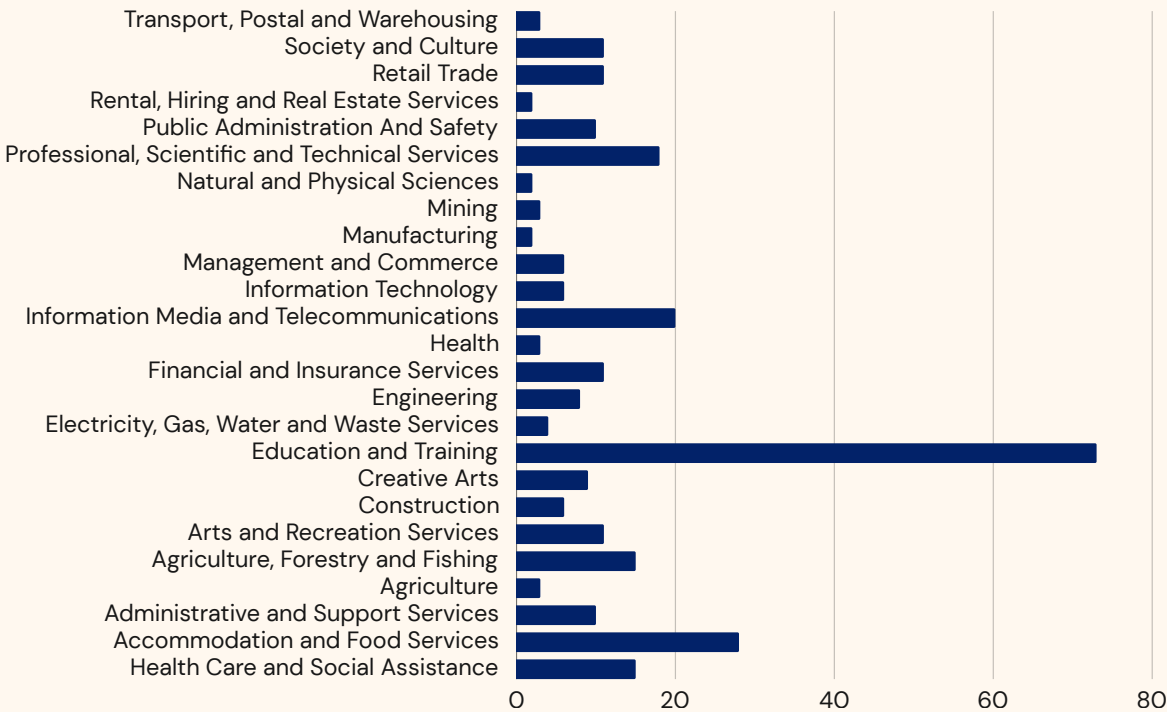
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AIYA
Members

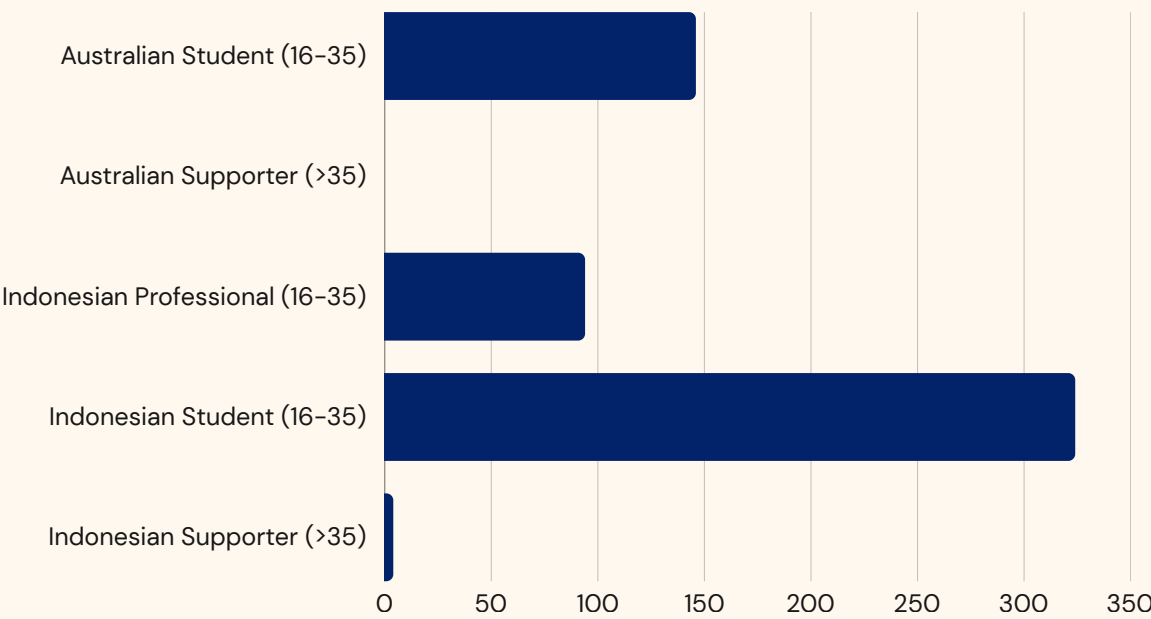
27,166

AIYA Social
Media
Followers

Chapter members by Industry



Chapter members by Type



Board Of Directors

2023 - 2025



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Jakarta

NAILA

National Australia Indonesia Language Awards



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Nandira Xavier

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Angus Baranikow

Language Officer



Luthfia Putri Utami

Language Officer



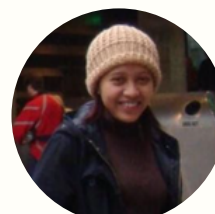
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Language Officer



**Dianita
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Language Officer



**Jasmine
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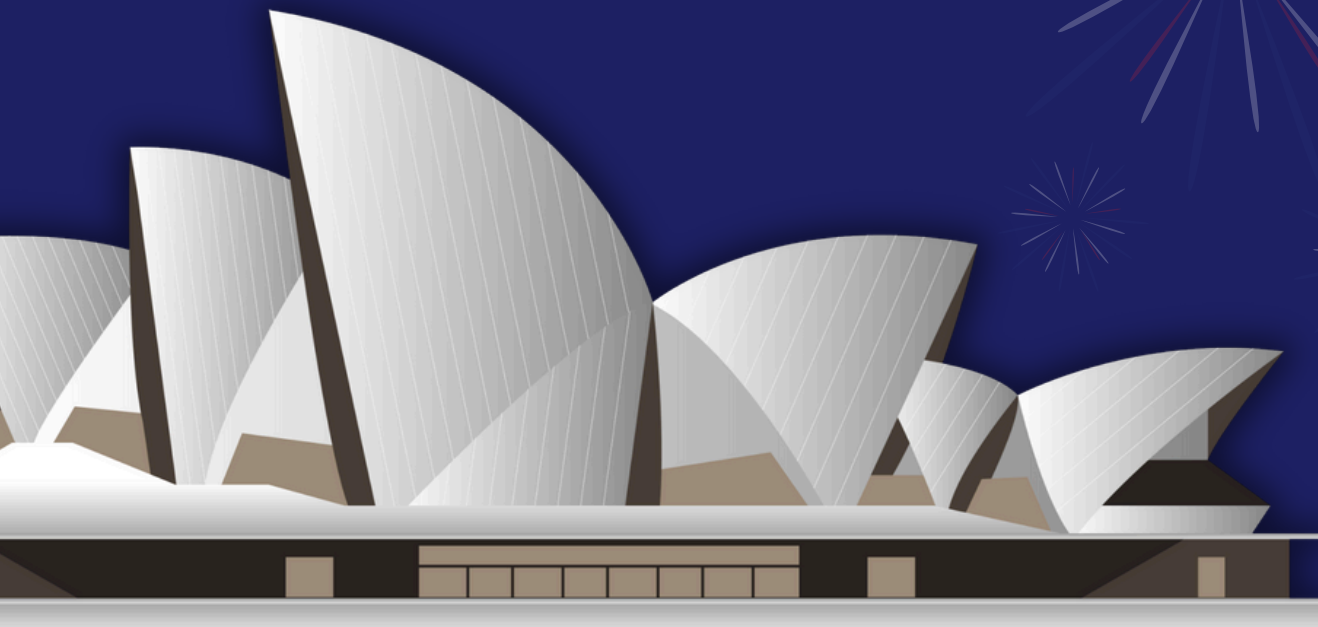
Message from the Australian Ambassador to Indonesia

Penny Williams PSM

Throughout 2024, the efforts of the Australia-Indonesia Youth Association (AIYA) have not only connected young Indonesians and Australians but have also played a significant role in strengthening the bilateral ties between two countries. Event programs such as language and mentoring, workshops and exchanges have given young Indonesians and Australians experiences, insights and connections they need to support a stronger bilateral relationship. The Embassy has been very proud to partner with AIYA in succeeding these efforts.

As Ambassador, I saw how people-to-people connections were formed as the foundation of our cooperation. For more than 75 years, these connections have built trust and understanding, and created networks that underpin our economic, security and regional cooperation. I am optimistic about the future of the Australia-Indonesia partnership. Today, it is growing stronger and wider than ever before. We are deepening economic ties through Invested: Australia's Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2024; acting on climate change and building new clean energy industries with support from the Australia-Indonesia Climate and Infrastructure Partnerships. Together we are also collaborating on regional security via the recent signing of the Defence Cooperation Agreement.

As I look back on my experiences with Indonesia, both as a student and as Ambassador, it is clear the future of our relationship will be written by young Australians and Indonesians. I want to acknowledge AIYA's work shaping many of these young leaders' views and experiences in a positive way and thank its members and volunteers for their dedication to enabling young Australians and Indonesians to connect even closer and understand each other better.



Message from the Indonesian Ambassador to Australia

Siswo Pramono

It is with great pleasure that I reflect on the collaboration between the Australia-Indonesia Youth Association (AIYA) and the Indonesian Embassy in Canberra. Over the years, we have been working together to strengthen people-to-people relations and promote mutual understanding and cultural exchange. This collaboration is vital, as Indonesia and Australia are nurturing the next generation of leaders.

The Indonesian Embassy and I have always taken part enthusiastically in AIYA programs. On our part, we have hosted many enjoyable cultural activities, and would like to ensure that every activity with AIYA is not only useful but also memorable.

The collaboration between the Indonesian Embassy and AIYA includes gamelan workshops (both Javanese and Balinese), angklung workshops, batik workshops, Bahasa Indonesia lessons, culinary classes and many more. Looking ahead, we are looking forward to collaborating with AIYA to promote Indonesian movie screenings and Indonesian pop culture, including *dangdut* and popular line dancing, such as *gemu fa mi re* (*Maumere dance*).

I am personally a believer in the importance of living identity. A living identity means enriching our way of life, which will strengthen the foundation of our inclusive world view. This world view attaches importance to the idea of friendship, partnership, and collaboration across cultures. AIYA is a social institution that can help achieve this mission, so that is why AIYA is important.

I believe that preserving our respective norms, traditions, and values is important. Equally important is how our identity can be developed to help us anticipate more complex challenges in our lives. Our identity must be alive and grow. Networking must also be cultivated. We need to establish a sense of extended family feelings between Indonesian and Australian youth.

I also want to commend AIYA flagship programs such as the Conference of Australian and Indonesian Youth (CAUSINDY) and the National Australia Indonesia Language Awards (NAILA). The Indonesian Embassy is ready to help and be involved in more AIYA flagship programs in the future.



Last but not least, I would like to mention the "Salad Philosophy". I am sure all of us know salad is a favorite food in Australia and Indonesia (in Indonesian, we call it Gado-gado). Just like salad, where different ingredients are mixed together, we must also be able to bring together diverse cultures, backgrounds, and ideas to create something harmonious and enriching. Our lives should be a mixture of good things that make us happy and healthy. Together, Indonesian and Australian youth can enhance one another, leading to a richer, more fulfilling experience. AIYA is an expert in mixing all the good things from Australia and Indonesia.

All the best to AIYA!

Sincerely,

Dr. Siswo Pramono
Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia
to Australia and Vanuatu



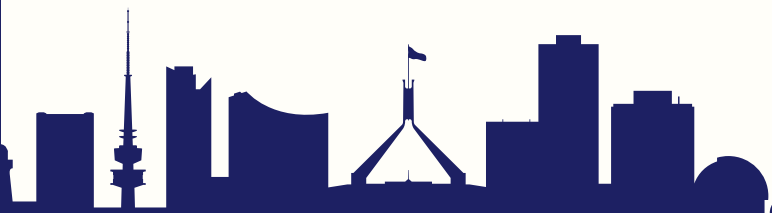
Australian Capital Territory



AIYA ACT continued to grow and strengthen the Australia-Indonesia community in 2024 through a diverse range of events that engaged students, professionals, and cultural enthusiasts alike. We began the year with our Welcome BBQ at Haig Park, a fantastic way to introduce new members to AIYA ACT and reconnect with familiar faces. This relaxed and friendly gathering set a positive tone for the year ahead, fostering a sense of community from the outset.

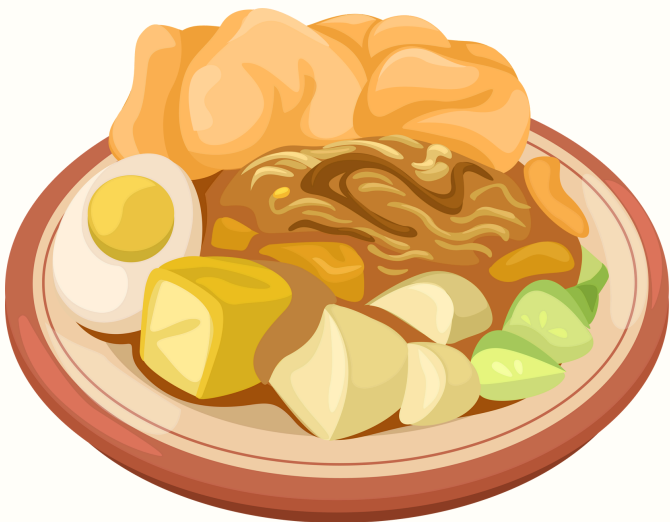


Our weekly **Gamelan classes** remained a highlight, led by our Events Officer Ayuningsih Hancock. These efforts culminated in impressive performances by the Gamelan Sedulur Monco group as part of the Australian National University's (ANU) Asia Pacific Week and twice during the ANU Immersia Festival, providing valuable cultural engagement opportunities for both our members and the broader community.





We also delved into important contemporary issues through our Educational Panel on Indonesia's capital relocation. Held in collaboration with the ANU Indonesia Institute, the event drew a full audience and sparked meaningful discussions on the implications of this historic move. This event underscored AIYA ACT's commitment to fostering intellectual engagement with Indonesian affairs.



Our culinary engagement continued with a Ketoprak Cooking Class led by Tante Avi. Her detailed explanations and hands-on approach were greatly appreciated by attendees, who enjoyed the opportunity to learn and taste this beloved Indonesian dish.

To round out our year of events, we hosted a screening of Reel Oz Ind, showcasing short films centred around the 2024 theme of diversity. This event provided a platform to explore different perspectives and narratives through film, reinforcing the importance of cultural storytelling in our community.

Overall, 2024 was a fantastic year for AIYA ACT. Our events fostered learning, collaboration, and community, strengthening the Australia-Indonesia relationship at both social and professional levels. We look forward to continuing this momentum in the years to come.



Jakarta

Professional Programs

As the heart of Indonesian diplomacy and culture, Jakarta plays a crucial role in strengthening the people-to-people ties between Australia and Indonesia. In 2024, AIYA Jakarta continued to be a vibrant platform for youth engagement, education, and intercultural exchange, fostering mutual understanding and collaboration between the two countries.

Language Exchange (LX): Commemorating Kartini's Day

On 5 May 2024, AIYA Jakarta hosted a special Language Exchange session to commemorate Kartini's Day at Taman Ismail Marzuki (TIM). The session created space for bilingual discussions about gender equality, education, and youth empowerment, inspired by the legacy of R.A. Kartini. With diverse participants from both countries, the event successfully blended language learning with cultural reflection, affirming AIYA's inclusive spirit and commitment to meaningful dialogue.



Beyond Books: Exploring Student Life in Go8 Universities



On 18 May 2024, AIYA Jakarta held a webinar entitled Beyond Books: Exploring Student Life in Go8 Universities Australia. The session featured Indonesian students and Alumni of top Australian universities who shared their experiences beyond the classroom, from adapting to a new culture to building global networks. The webinar reached a wide audience of prospective students, reinforcing AIYA's role in supporting education diplomacy and international student mobility.



AIYA Sports Day 2024

On 23 June 2024, AIYA Jakarta organized AIYA Sports Day at The Sanctuary Sports Hub, promoting healthy lifestyles, community bonding, and intercultural friendship through sports. With friendly badminton matches and interactive games, the event welcomed participants of all skill levels in a relaxed setting. It highlighted how informal activities can be powerful tools for strengthening bilateral goodwill.

Advancing Youth Diplomacy in Jakarta

AIYA Jakarta's 2024 programs reflect its dedication to building a strong Australia-Indonesia relationship at the grassroots level. The chapter continues to empower young people to become active contributors to bilateral relations by combining structured dialogue, educational outreach, and community-driven events.

In addition to running engaging public programs, AIYA Jakarta actively collaborated with educational institutions, embassies, and civil society partners to extend its reach and impact. The chapter's work also emphasized core values such as inclusivity, diversity, and sustainability, which are essential pillars in shaping a future-oriented relationship between the two nations.

As we move forward into 2025, AIYA Jakarta is committed to expanding its network, nurturing future leaders, and creating opportunities more accessible for cultural and professional exchange. In today's interconnected world, youth-led diplomacy is more vital than ever. The AIYA Jakarta, through collaboration, creativity, and shared purposes, is proud to contribute to a dynamic and enduring partnership between Australia and Indonesia.



West Java

2024 has been an exciting year for AIYA West Java. Our chapter organized 21 events that brought people together to celebrate culture, learn new things, and strengthen connections between Australia and Indonesia.

This year, we hosted the Flexible Language Exchange in collaboration with AIYA Western Australia and AIYA ACT. Participants had the opportunity to practice languages and share cultural experiences in a fun and interactive environment. We also showcased Indonesia's rich traditions through activities such as the Wayang Golek Workshop, Indonesian Traditional Dance and Music Sessions, and a Cooking Class, where participants learned to prepare traditional dishes from both Indonesia and Australia. These events provided a space for everyone to explore the arts, culture, and food of both countries.



We also focused on professional programs, including the Australia Awards Webinar and Work Holiday Visa Webinar, which offered insights into studying, working and building networks in Australia. These sessions provided valuable information and inspired many to consider new opportunities for their future.

Collaboration played a key role in our success. We partnered with organizations like Peace Engendering Organizations for International Women's Day, Ardan Radio for community talk shows, and the Australian Embassy Indonesia for events like the Aussie Banget University Roadshow and the Festival Sinema Australia Indonesia. Additionally, we worked with AIYA South Australia, Yogyakarta, and NAILA on initiatives like Instagram Reels about everyday slang, which allowed us to share cultural insights and strengthen bonds with fellow AIYA chapters. These collaborations helped us reach more people and create memorable experiences for the community.



We are incredibly proud of what we've accomplished this year. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our dedicated committee members, whose hard work, creativity, and teamwork made everything possible. Their commitment has been the driving force behind our chapter's success.

As we look ahead to 2025, we are excited to continue working towards AIYA's vision to connect, inform, and inspire both Australian and Indonesian youth. We remain committed to creating more opportunities for cultural exchange, learning, and professional growth, and we look forward to another year of strengthening our community and making a difference for young people across both countries.

New South Wales

In 2024, AIYA New South Wales (NSW) Chapter was able to deliver and maintain a variety of regular scheduled popular events whilst also expanding our event's scope and audience. We had a very strong and dedicated committee of 16 volunteers who worked hard to engage with our networks and deliver our events. Throughout the year, we delivered and collaborated with other organisations, 12 at professional and social events and 25 during the weekly Language Exchange meetings.

Our weekly Language Exchange continued to be one of our most popular events with dedicated regular attendees and new faces. Over the year, we discussed topics ranging from sports, cinemas, hobbies, and slang cultures. The weekly events have been able to strengthen the connections between our members and the sense of the Australian-Indonesian Community.



The Education Team of AIYA NSW always strived to find new ways to promote and support the study of Indonesian language in New South Wales' schools. We collaborated with organizations such as the Australia-Indonesia Association, Australia-Indonesia Business Council, and various Indonesian teachers to support the Year 11 Extension Indonesian Day and the HSC Speaking Workshop event. We do recognize the declining numbers of students studying the Indonesian language at highschool and university levels as a major significant issue. Thus, we will continue to engage with teachers and other stakeholders to encourage more Australian students to study the Indonesian language in the future.

One of our biggest events in 2024 was the Indonesia-Australia Banking Forum: Driving Australian Investment in Indonesia which managed to garner over 80 attendees. We were honoured to have Ibu Lani Darmawan, Dr. Robert Leonard Marbun, and Francisco Widjojo as our panelists for this event who provided valuable insights on trade, banking, and investment in the Australia-Indonesia space. This event was sponsored by the Indonesian Investment Promotion Centre, which was CIMB Niaga and Austrade.



After the Banking Forum event, the Professional Programs Team of AIYA NSW continued on the success by hosting a Speed Networking Night in May and Malam Karier in October. The Speed Networking Night was a fantastic opportunity for attendees to expand their connections through getting to know other university students and young professionals. Furthermore, our keynote speaker at Malam Karier, Elizabeth McClean provided insightful perspectives on her process in finding her own social enterprise whilst developing the cross-cultural links between Australia and Indonesia.



The Social-Cultural Team of AIYA NSW also worked hard throughout the year to develop a wide range of engaging events in an effort to build the connections and community within the AIYA NSW members. We hosted two popular badminton events with some very competitive matches. Moreover, AIYA NSW welcomed the visiting exchange students from Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) in September to Coogee Beach for a barbeque picnic and cultural games.

Another very successful event that was directly supported by AIYA NSW was the screening of the film Eksil at the University of Sydney and a live Q&A with the director and producer of the film which sold out with over 150 attendees.

These events and initiatives would have never been possible without the hard work and dedication of our incredible committee members and the support of our partner organisations. We are very grateful and appreciative of the never ending support from our members and event attendees throughout 2024. We are very excited to continue building our community, connections, and events into 2025!



East Nusa Tenggara



2024 AIYA NTT is a committee year focused on increasing the quality of existing chapter programs and exploring collaboration opportunities and event designs. The year was filled with successes and challenges that ultimately became essential learning experiences that helped the committee build a strong understanding of project design, management, and AIYA's guiding rules and policies.

At the beginning of 2024, AIYA NTT was immediately presented with various ongoing challenges: lack of active membership participation in events and the committee's lack of understanding of AIYA rules related to event organizing. To tackle this problem, the committee initially strategized to focus on increasing the quality of flagship events. By creating work templates and a clear workflow, the committee was able to create recurring events with a clear standard of quality. As a result, the flagship events targeting AIYA members such as Language Exchange, Sports Day, and Bonding Session were held successfully this year. At the same time, the committee became more active in communicating with finance and operations officers, boosting understanding of possible event ideas that can be pushed forward.

Other than external challenges, the NTT chapter also faced internal challenges towards some committee officers who were inactive without a report that was protracted due to the lack of consistent evaluation meetings. However, AIYA NTT was able to resolve the lack of manpower in the chapter divisions through closed recruitments.



At the beginning of 2024, AIYA NTT was immediately presented with various ongoing challenges: lack of active membership participation in events and the committee's lack of understanding of AIYA rules related to event organizing. To tackle this problem, the committee initially strategized to focus on increasing the quality of flagship events. By creating work templates and a clear workflow, the committee was able to create recurring events with a clear standard of quality. As a result, the flagship events targeting AIYA members such as Language Exchange, Sports Day, and Bonding Session were held successfully this year. At the same time, the committee became more active in communicating with finance and operations officers, boosting understanding of possible event ideas that can be pushed forward.

2024 was highlighted by new collaborative events and event types, tangible proof of the chapter's efforts to expand event types and collaborations. Connecting Young Filmmakers, an event that facilitated discussions between Australian and Indonesian filmmakers, AIYA NTT CV Workshop and socializations such as AIYA Goes to Universitas Terbuka Kupang were among such events. Although sparse in number, these events gained some of the highest numbers of participants and showed promise as recurring event types.

By the end of 2024, AIYA NTT experienced immense growth. The chapter organized 20 events, drawing 826 participants in total, and grew the number of active memberships from less than 20 to more than 50 members.

Furthermore, with a consistent event schedule now in place, awareness of AIYA NTT's existence as a youth organization started to emerge, inviting collaboration offers from outside of AIYA. The chapter reflects upon the importance of observation and evaluation of past projects and participant demands, and in establishing a consistent evaluation process to effectively take action upon internal issues. Lastly, AIYA NTT is definitely ready to grow even better and welcome more amazing projects and collaborations in the coming year.



Queensland



What a year it's been for AIYA Queensland in 2024! We've had some amazing events, and not only did we have fun, but we also had opportunities for growth and connection. Our journey kicked off with a picnic, painting, and Iftar event, where the committee and members gathered to meet each other. We celebrated culture, creativity, and community in a relaxed, casual setting—perfect for bringing everyone together!

Two of our standout events this year were the Networking 101 Workshop and the Coffee Workshop. The Networking 101 Workshop quickly became a member favourite, and we're especially grateful to have received sponsorship from Conscierra, which made the event even more impactful. Attendees equipped them with valuable networking tips and skills. We hope to help them excel at future networking events and create lasting professional relationships. We also held a Coffee Workshop in collaboration with a local coffee shop in Brisbane, where we explored the art of coffee making while bonding over shared experiences.

We also hosted a Language Exchange at UQ, where students in Indonesian elective classes had the chance to practice Bahasa Indonesia, share language-learning tips, and connect with others passionate about bridging cultures. During Reconciliation Week, we participated in a gallery tour, giving us the opportunity to reflect on Australia's history and Indigenous culture.





To close the year, we held the AIYA Alumni Picnic, inviting past committee members to return and reconnect. It was a great reminder that the community we've built allowed us to reconnect with the roots of AIYA in Queensland. We wrapped up the year with a ReelOzInd! Screening, where we gathered to enjoy a short film created by the talented youth of Indonesia and Australia, celebrating the rich culture of both nations.

Looking back on 2024, we're proud of everything we've achieved with our small but dedicated team. Although we faced several challenges, we pushed through and managed to create impactful experiences for everyone involved. Our team has also become more active on social media, especially Instagram, helping us engage with the community and promote our events. Moving into 2025, we're excited to reach a wider audience and boost engagement, continuing to build stronger connections and continue to grow our community.



South Australia

The South Australia Chapter of the Australia-Indonesia Youth Association is the smallest active chapter within the association. The chapter had a successful first half of 2024, establishing a number of initiatives and relationships in an effort to expand the opportunities for potential members to interact with the chapter and gain value from that interaction.

The chapter started the year with a Welcome Back Party at Hello Indo in March. It was good to see many old and new faces. We held a poetry competition for Kartini Day in April at Warung Suka. We enjoyed a late-night Nongkrong event in May at the new Indonesian restaurant Abang Abang. Our last event for the first half of the year was a tour in June of the Indonesian shipwreck archaeology research being undertaken at Flinders University.



In the second half of 2024, the chapter attended a dinner at Pondok Daun in July before touring the Winter Lights Festival. We attended the INDOpendence event with the wider Indonesian community in South Australia and finished the year by attending a screening of the Indonesian Film Crocodile Tears at the Adelaide Film Festival in October. Along with these events, members of AIYA were also invited to attend a Masterclass with Intan Paramaditha, a Wayang Kulit Gamelan performance and the Reuniting Cargos exhibition opening at the Adelaide Festival Theatre.

The chapter partnered with the Indonesian Students Association of Australia (PIIA) Flinders in 2024 to continue running a Buddy Program to connect Australian and Indonesian Youth in South Australia. 4 buddy pairs participated in the program. The chapter also developed an ongoing relationship with the AIYA Chapter in our sister province of Jawa Barat. Together AIYA SA and JB exchanged short informational videos about Australian and Indonesian slang.



Our most successful event was the establishment of an Indonesian study session that ran twice a week during term time. This provided a regular touch point for young Indonesians and Australians to meet, talk and study together. We hope to make 2025 an even more engaging year for our members.

South Sulawesi

The year 2024 is a very big year for us; we have many events that we carry out in a more exciting way than in previous years. This year, AIYA South Sulawesi's main goal is to increase its presence through collaborative agendas with communities or organizations in South Sulawesi, especially those that focus on youth development and international relations.



Our journey began with a cultural exchange with students from the University of Tasmania in January. We did a series of activities such as discussions, fun games, feasting, and dancing. In addition, we utilized this momentum to network with each other. Collaborating with Rumata's Art Space, this event was attended by the Australian general consulate in Makassar.

The next event, we held an education event such as AAS and LPDP Scholarship sharing session in collaboration with Nutrihub. Introducing the other side of this scholarship that has links to the AAS program and opportunities to continue studying in Australia. Also we conducted the WHV-Talk with our former committee who get the visa and currently working in Australia.

Furthermore, we conducted a language exchange activity with BPEC (Badan Penynyua English Club) with an interesting topic that discussed the relationship between the people of Makassar and the indigenous people of Australia, the Yolngu Tribe in the Northern Territory, in the past that has been established for hundreds of years.





One of the key highlights of 2024 was AIYA South Sulawesi attending the General Consulate's invitation to the Australia Alumni Networking Night in May. We took full advantage of this event to network with some great Australian alumni, introducing AIYA and the potential to work together in the future. We also had the opportunity from the Consulate General to volunteer at the Festival Sinema Australia Indonesia (FSAI) in June, which showcases the best films between the two countries. Participated in Eight Festival Makassar as volunteers at the Australian booth, introducing Australia

and the opportunities that can be obtained from studying to working there.

In 2024, AIYA South Sulawesi experienced an increase in membership to 50 people. This is also a major achievement in the Aus-Indo space that we present in South Sulawesi, especially in Makassar. Looking ahead to 2024, we are eager to see AIYA South Sulawesi continue to grow and thrive by connecting, informing, and inspiring the youth of South Sulawesi. We hope to strengthen our relationships with both AIYA chapters and external organizations, providing our members and volunteers with valuable opportunities. Additionally, we aim to organize more impactful and enjoyable activities that not only foster connections but also encourage youth engagement, empowering them to become future agents of change.

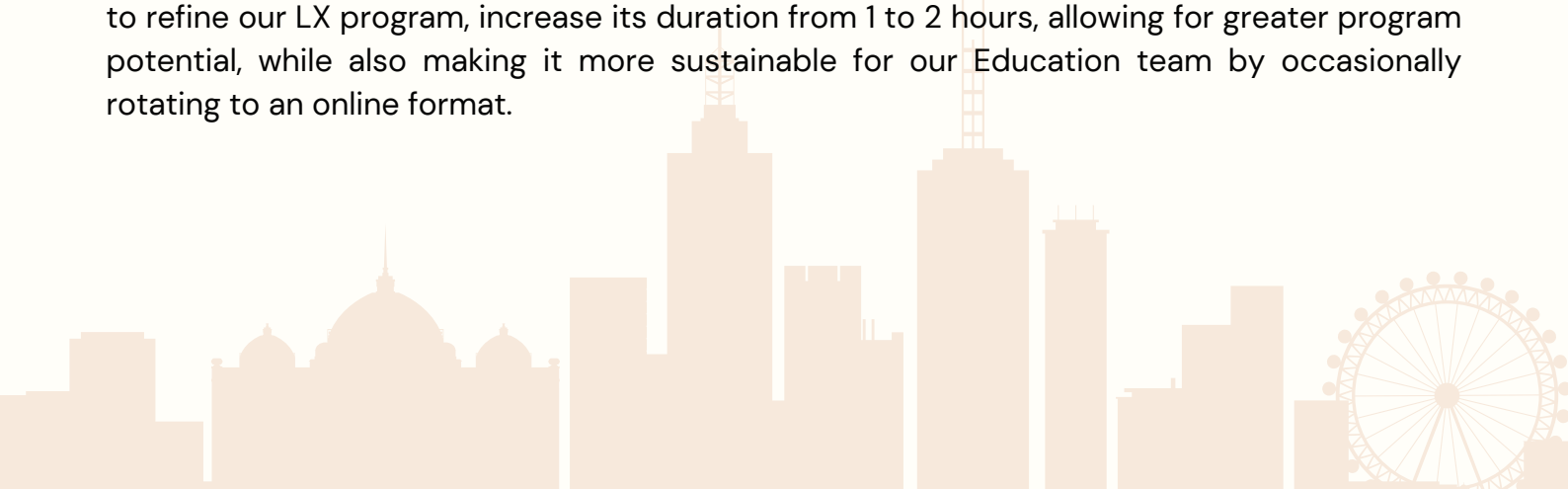


Victoria



In 2024, AIYA Victoria continued to build on the momentum of its 2023 event program with an enthusiastic focus on achieving new levels of partnership with new and long-time partners, collaborators and sponsors. One of the key objectives for Chapter President Angus was to connect AIYA Victoria with more local organisations and expand upon our pre-existing partnerships: In delivering 45 events in 2024, we achieved unprecedented levels of partnership, including internal collaborations with 5 AIYA branches and over 15 collaborations with over 7 external partners.

Throughout the year, Chapter President Angus and Vice President Argi worked closely together on one of AIYA Victoria's most ambitious event programs to date. Language Exchange (LX) program continued to be one of our flagship programs, providing a weekly opportunity for AIYA members, students and the broader community to practise their English and Bahasa Indonesia skills. Argi in particular worked closely with the Education team to refine our LX program, increase its duration from 1 to 2 hours, allowing for greater program potential, while also making it more sustainable for our Education team by occasionally rotating to an online format.



We were also incredibly fortunate to continue our strong partnership with the Krakatoas Football Club, delivering two watch AFL parties and two practice sessions, including one in collaboration with the Australia-Indonesia Youth Exchange Program, where over 20 Indonesians from across Indonesia were introduced to our national sport. During the year of the Indonesian Election, we couldn't say no to the opportunity of hosting not just one, but two events on the topic, and we could not have found better partners for the job than our friends at the Young Diplomats Society. And we were proud to partner once again with PPIA Victoria to deliver IKAN 2024, consisting of a Wayang/Gamelan workshop hosting by the amazing Melbourne Community Gamelan, and our Indonesian literary event, "Nusansastra".



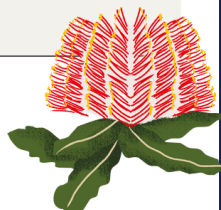
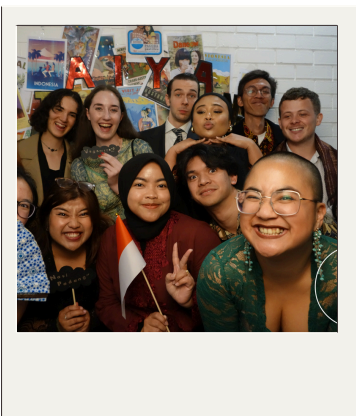
Both Angus and Argi worked extensively with the Indonesian departments at the University of Melbourne and Monash University to deliver a variety of programs throughout 2024. Argi worked diligently with our Education team to secure sponsorship from the University of Monash to deliver a number of high school engagement programs, most notably with Mansfield Secondary College. Throughout the year, Angus, with the help of our Socio-cultural and Professional Programs team, lead collaborations with the University of Melbourne including an "Indonesian Studies in Action" Panel event, a music and cultural workshop with Indonesian rapper Presiden Tidore, as well as a film screening and Q&A of the documentary film "Eksil", directed by Lola Amaria.

The end result of these collaborations is that AIYA Victoria has built and fostered strong relationships that will not only allow us to continue to find new means of collaboration in the future, but also, will increase our organisational presence and recognition amongst the broader community, increasing our chances for discovering new opportunities. None of this would have been possible without the help of all of our committee members, regular members, and supporters within our amazing community.



Western Australia

Rebuilding the Western Australia Chapter from the ground up has been a significant commitment, as the chapters' success depended on the engagement of key stakeholders, the Australian-Indonesian community, consulates, and various community organizations. Ever since its initiation, the first priority was to establish a clear understanding with the Indonesian Consulate-General (KJRI), as it is important to recognize the strong relationships as a foundation of the effort. Through the connection, the objectives of the Western Australia Chapter were defined, which was the aim to revitalize a dormant chapter and strengthen the bilateral ties through the engagement of youth communities. Acknowledging the significance of these goals, the Consulate provided critical support in multiple ways, such as facilitating brand awareness by amplifying the communications across networks and social media platforms, as well as bolstering the relaunch of the chapter by hosting the Western Australia Chapter Inaugural Event on its establishment.



Understanding the history of the Western Australia Chapter was also equally important. It was revealed that the prior iteration of the chapter had long existed, with prior committee members highlighting their insights on the persistent challenges of converting event attendees into actively engaged members. In an effort to address this, past membership records and attendance lists were leveraged to reconnect with former participants of AIYA. Newsletters emerged as an effective tool to promote recruitment opportunities, upcoming events, and offer exclusive member benefits to foster a sense of exclusivity and engagement to reignite interests and encourage long-term participation with the chapter.



The effort to build brand awareness requires the chapter to use an approach that extends beyond digital engagement to reach the broader community. A strong social media presence was essential to ensure consistent updates and heightened visibility through interactive content. Additionally, the chapter also recognized the cultural significance of in-person engagement known as “setor muka” to prompt a collaborative effort to attend Australia-Indonesia community events. The gatherings provided valuable opportunities to network, connect with prospective members, and promote the organization. Whenever possible, speaking opportunities were secured to introduce AIYA (Australia-Indonesia Youth Association) to new audiences, in an effort to ensure the awareness of AIYA extends beyond online platforms into real-world connections.

One of the key challenges in planning an AIYA event was to understand the demographic interests through a process of iteration and refinement. Rather than presuming on what the members wanted, AIYA adopted a flexible approach of trialling various event formats and assessing the responses. From casual meetups to structured networking sessions and industry panels, participation trends were closely monitored. Over time, it became evident that networking events and industry-related events resonated the most with the community, and we aim to prioritize these events in 2025. The assessments provided insights on future planning, enabling AIYA to curate events that align with its members professional and personal interests. Through strategic engagement, persistence, and adaptability, the chapter was successfully re-established, fostering a dynamic and connected community that strives to continuously Connect, Inform, and Inspire like-minded people to strengthen the Australia-Indonesia relationship.

Yogyakarta

AIYA Yogyakarta had huge thrills throughout 2024. Our chapter successfully held 19 events with 10 partnerships and collaborations which brought people together to learn about Yogyakarta's cultures and education, creating a strong and impactful bond of the Indonesian and Australian community. Partnerships and collaborations helped us to connect with more people and gain a lot of new insights. One of our most impactful collaborations was the collaboration with AIYA South Australia, AIYA Jawa Barat, and NAILA. Together, we made a collaborative video for a slang content which allowed us to learn more about Australian-Indonesian slangs and connect with other chapters.



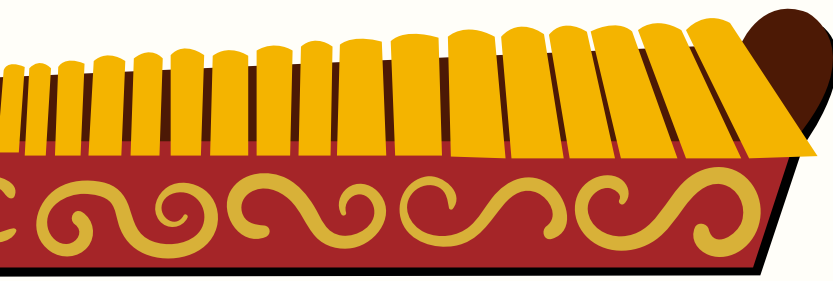
The Social Culture Division held five amazing events by following the theme of Indonesia's current trend and season. The first event was a "takjil" hunt to introduce Indonesia's culture of buying "takjil" in the afternoon after fasting throughout the day. The second event was a food tour to introduce Indonesian and Australian traditional cuisines. Moving on to the third event, we introduced "gawe gerabah" (a Javanese word of making handcrafted potteries such as jugs, vases, or plates from molded and fired clays) through a "gawe gerabah" class on how to make the potteries using clays as demonstrated from professionals. The fourth event was called AIYA Hompimpa, which was a celebration for Indonesia's Independence Day through several fun and interactive traditional games from both Indonesia and Australia. The fifth and last event was the "AIYA Musim Spooky" in November, where the participants played games and wore unique spooky costumes. Overall, the social culture events held this year have given us a lot of marvelous events demanded by our members.



Our education officers also organized eight language exchanges. The LX are featured by our collaboration with Nangkring Cafe. Through a strong relationship and partnership with our partner cafe, we had our own membership discount and private room for our LX. Aside from cafe partnerships, we had a walking tour with Trash Hero to collect garbage in the forest, fostering an incredible journey along the way. Moreover, we also had a collaboration to connect with the Indo Insider Tour for the Malam Ngobrol Event, attended by Australian High School students. Our Professional Programs also created impactful events, such as online scholarship and webinar talks where we invited speakers to give insights to our audience.



This year also saw big engagement on our social medias especially Instagram. We gained more followers, profile visits, and website taps as we strive to upload more content on our Instagram Story and Instagram Reels of event recaps. We created a TikTok account and a guidebook on our Linktree to reach more engagement. The guidebook was intended to provide more thorough information on AIYA and how to become an AIYA Member. We are so proud of our achievements this year, and we express our deepest and sincerest respect and gratitude to all of our committee members who put their heart into making 2024 a successful year for AIYA Yogyakarta. Their commitment, teamwork, hard work, innovation, and creativity is what ultimately made AIYA Yogyakarta's 2024 run a success. We are anticipating the AIYA Yogyakarta 2025 to continue the amazing work reflective of our visions, and we are committed to holding more exciting events, opportunities, cultural exchanges, and professional developments. Therefore, we are looking forward to another year of AIYA Yogyakarta to make an impactful community for young people to have a strong connection with Indonesia and Australia.



East Java



Starting AIYA East Java Chapter has been an amazing and meaningful journey for all of us. It all began with a simple idea, we noticed that there is no local platform where young Indonesians and Australians could connect in East Java. A part of AIYA Jawa Timur was inspired by the thought of Australian and Indonesian students sharing ideas and growing together. As the students of Australian Studies, we felt this vacancy was something that should initiate a change. Hence, we decided to start the brand new chapter of AIYA Jawa Timur, a simple collective wish that became each of our turning points.

Together as a team, consisting of Roger, Berlian, Rani, Christabela, and Nova, we worked hand-in-hand to make this happen. With the unconditional support from AIYA National and the Consulate-General of Australia, we began building the foundation for the chapter from scratch. We drafted proposals, reached out to universities, and contacted potential partners. Slowly but surely, our chapter grew from 5 people to 13 people, gathering different youths around East Java who also had the same aspirations, initiatives, and interests. As the journey continued, the dream of having an AIYA presence in East Java started to take shape.

One of the biggest highlights of our journey so far has been the successful launching event on 14 March 2025 at the Country Heritage Resort Hotel, Surabaya. Seeing so many people came together to celebrate this milestone was truly heartwarming. The event was attended by many appreciative partners, such as representatives of the Australian Consulate-General, AIYA National, national students, various youth organization leaders, and university partners. It made us realise that AIYA East Java is more than just an organization, it is also a community where young people from Australia and Indonesia can connect and collaborate.

The event itself was a big moment and the starting point of our chapters. We invited inspiring keynote speakers, presented a beautiful traditional dance from East Java, and panel talks on how the youth generations can be a direct actor to strengthen the Indonesia-Australia bilateral relationship. Watching people engage with the discussions and network with like-minded individuals after the event gave us a sense of pride and excitement for what's to come.

The preparations for this event was not easy, as we are a newly established chapter that faces many hurdles together as a team. Together, we overcome the challenges of organizing logistics, building partnerships, and managing our time as both students and young professionals. But eventually, we managed through it all and we learned so much. It was very memorable for us to grow both as an individual and a team.



Looking ahead, we are very excited to keep going. We want AIYA Jawa Timur to be a home for language exchanges, cultural activities, workshops, and networking events that bring together Indonesian and Australian youths, especially students. We believe that this chapter can open new doors for young people who want to explore more on Indonesia-Australia bilateral relations and create long lasting friendships through communities. Similar to AIYA National's mission, we aspire to connect, break the boundaries of cultural differences, spread information amongst the youth community, and inspire people as an agent to join our new and exciting events we bring to East Java.



We are grateful to everyone who has supported AIYA East Java so far, AIYA National, our respective universities, our partners, and every single person who believes in the importance of this mission. This is just the beginning, and we cannot wait to build something even bigger together. We aspire the creation of AIYA East Java to be a place where the youth generations can grow, collaborate, and make an impact.

NAILA 2024

Students excel at the National Australia Indonesia Language Awards 2024

On Saturday 7 December 2024, the winners of the National Australia Indonesia Language Awards (NAILA) were celebrated at the NAILA Awards Ceremony at The Australian National University Hedley Bull Building in Canberra.

NAILA is an annual speech competition for young Australians who are learning Indonesian.

The competition is open to primary school students, secondary school students, university students, and young professionals. To enter, contestants film themselves delivering a speech in Indonesian on a specific themed question. These speeches are then evaluated by an independent panel of expert judges. This year, the theme for NAILA was Innovation (Inovasi), with topics including “What is your favourite app?”, “Pitch a game that captures Indonesian mythology, culture or history to a potential investor”, and “What is the greatest digital challenge facing Australia and Indonesia?”. This year, NAILA received 94 submissions across its 7 award categories from around the country.

The NAILA Awards Ceremony was the capstone of a day of cultural immersion for the awardees who came from across Australia, including Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

Awardees and their families started the day with a cultural workshop on Saturday morning at the Indonesian Embassy in Canberra, where they had the opportunity to learn how to play gamelan. Gamelan refers to the traditional Indonesian percussion orchestra and to the set of musical instruments used. Consisting primarily of ornate, percussive instruments made of hand-forged metal, the ensemble typically includes xylophones, gongs, gong-chimes, drums, cymbals, string instruments and bamboo flutes.



Workshop participants also had the chance to learn about wayang kulit, a traditional form of Indonesian shadow puppetry.

The workshop concluded with a delicious Indonesian lunch catered by local Indonesian restaurant Kopiku, featuring dishes such as nasi goreng (Indonesian fried rice), sop buntut (oxtail soup), sate (skewered meat) and krupuk (Indonesian deep fried crackers).



During the evening's Award Ceremony, each winner was presented with their trophy and certificate by NAILA's partners and sponsors, followed by the winners delivering their speeches in Indonesian. Each category winner also received a cash prize.

2024 marked a special milestone for NAILA, celebrating its 10th Anniversary. Attendees heard remarks from dignitaries including Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities, Treasury and Employment The Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP, who shared childhood memories of living in Indonesia and Ambassador of Indonesia to Australia Dr Siswo Pramono, who spoke on the importance of Indonesian language learning.



NAILA also hosted the presentation of the Australia-Indonesia Institute (AII) Indonesian Studies Awards. These awards recognise the achievements and contributions of Indonesian language teachers, researchers and leaders in Indonesian cultural outreach in Australia. All of the recipients have worked in their respective fields for many years and often decades to promote Indonesian Studies in Australia.

At the conclusion of the event, NAILA Director Jade Lee unveiled the theme for NAILA 2025 which will be "Sports/Olahraga", following which the audience were treated to an enthralling performance by Borobudur Dance Troupe, a traditional Indonesian dance group based in Canberra.

Congratulations to all of the winners and to everyone involved in helping to make NAILA 2024 such a great success.



NAILA 2024 Awards Recipients

Early Primary	Abheeshta Chavali (Essex Heights Primary School in Victoria)
Upper Primary	Amelia Quinn (St Peter’s Lutheran College Indooroopilly in Queensland)
Middle	Emma White (Lyneham High School in the Australian Capital Territory)
Senior	Wes Fraser (Dromana Secondary College in Victoria)
Tertiary	Leo Barry (University of Sydney in New South Wales)
Executive	Inalya Altmann (Braemar College in Victoria)
People’s Choice	Angus Wood (Queensland)

All Indonesian Studies Awards Recipients

Indonesian Studies and Cultural Leadership Award	Minako Sakai (UNSW Canberra in the Australian Capital Territory)
Indonesian Studies and Cultural Leadership Award	John Cheong-Holdaway (Gamelan DanAnda in Victoria)
Indonesian Language Teaching Award	Emily Brien (Language Teaching Award in Scotts Head Public School in New South Wales)
Indonesian Language Teaching Award	Danielle Horne (School of Isolated and Distance Education in Western Australia)
Indonesian Language Teaching Award	Gladys Wangke (Essex Heights Primary School in Victoria)
Indonesian Language Teaching Award	Timi Ardiyanti (Huntingtower School in Victoria)
Distinguished Service Award for Indonesian Studies	Dirk Stobbe (Retired, Victoria)





From left to right: Amelia Quinn (Upper Primary Category Winner), Sophie Dawson (NAILA Program Coordinator), Emma White (Middle Category Winner), Jade Lee (NAILA Director), Inalya Altmann (Executive Category Winner), Abheeshta Chavali (Early Primary Category Winner), Leo Barry (Tertiary Category Winner), Wes Fraser (Senior Category Winner), Andaleeb Akhand (NAILA Partnerships Coordinator)



From left to right: Emma White (Middle Category Winner), Inalya Altmann (Executive Category Winner), Amelia Quinn (Upper Primary Category Winner), The Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP (Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities, Treasury and Employment), Wes Fraser (Senior Category Winner), Abheeshta Chavali (Early Primary Category Winner), Leo Barry (Tertiary Category Winner)

ANNUAL SUBMISSIONS 2024

From Soybeans to Soundwaves: Navigating Cultural Appreciation Between Indonesia and Australia

By: Hafidah Faizah, Kayla Ulfa
Ramadhani

What do a plate of tempeh at Melbourne's plant-based café and a gamelan beat echoing through a jazz bar in Sydney have in common? At first glance, they might seem like trendy novelties. But beneath the surface, they reflect something deeper: a growing movement of cultural appreciation between Indonesia and Australia. In today's globalized world, cultural exchange is not only inevitable—it can also be a meaningful force for connection. Still, a crucial question remains: when does cultural borrowing become cultural appropriation? The line between the two can be subtle, yet the consequences are far-reaching, especially in the context of cross-cultural diplomacy.



Tempeh in Australia: A Case of Culinary Diplomacy

Tempeh, has long been a staple in Indonesian households and is now gradually making its way into Australian kitchens as part of a broader embrace of global plant-based cuisine. Its rise is largely driven by the growing interest in plant-based diets and sustainable protein sources. However, what makes tempeh's presence in Australia noteworthy isn't just its health benefits, but how it has been introduced and embraced. Rather than treating tempeh as an exotic, decontextualized product, many Australian producers have shown genuine curiosity about its cultural roots. Primasoy, a tempeh producer based in Melbourne, explicitly acknowledges its Indonesian roots, stating that their passion for tempeh began with a desire to recreate the flavors of their hometown, Malang, Indonesia.



This growing interest has also caught the attention of researchers and health professionals. For example, a 2024 review in Future Foods outlines tempeh's nutritional benefits and its role in sustainable diets. While many of these studies focus on health, they often acknowledge tempeh as a traditional Indonesian food—integral to the country's culinary heritage for centuries and now globally recognized. Indonesian culinary expert William Wongso has referred to tempeh as “the pride of Indonesia,” underscoring its deep cultural significance and the sense of national pride when it is appreciated abroad. This kind of engagement transforms a culinary trend into a cultural bridge. In the context of Indonesia-Australia relations, tempeh becomes more than a source of protein—it becomes a shared space for storytelling, sustainability, and mutual respect.

From Bali to Melbourne: Gamelan-Jazz Fusion as Cultural Appreciation

While food is one pathway to cultural connection, music offers another powerful medium for creative exchange—and gamelan-jazz is a striking example. One notable example is a cross-cultural musical collaboration is Anglayang (2024), a joint project between Melbourne-based Balinese gamelan ensemble Gamelan DanAnda and electro jazz-fusion group Firetail. The album explores the intersection of traditional Balinese gamelan and contemporary jazz, reflecting a respectful artistic dialogue that celebrates both cultures.

This kind of collaboration reflects a deeper form of cultural appreciation—one that doesn't merely remix tradition for novelty, but reimagines it through mutual respect and creative partnership. As former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan once remarked, “We can love what we are, without hating what—and who—we are not. We can thrive in our own tradition, even as we learn from others, and come to respect their teachings.” This quote encapsulates the spirit of projects like Anglayang, where musicians from different cultural backgrounds do not dilute their identities but instead find harmony in contrast.



ANNUAL SUBMISSIONS 2024

Combating the 'Bule' Stereotype: The cultural praxis necessary to function in Indonesia

By: Gwyn Roberts

Introduction

As an Indonesian major, one cultural question kept popping into my head: what should I be aware of to communicate seamlessly in Indonesia? During my time there, I quickly encountered the ever-present label of the *bule*, literally meaning 'white person.' *bule* is colloquially synonymous with 'European Foreigner'. Usage is most often benign however a particular image follows (Living in Indonesia, 2023). Given that many foreign encounters are with Bali holidayers, for some, '*bule*' embodies extravagant splurging, booze abuse, obnoxiousity, and ethnocentrism (Chong, 2020).

Though I wasn't offended, because I feel this stereotype is well deserved, I do find myself recoiling slightly from this label. The lack of cultural awareness in white foreigners is no new phenomenon, and there is certainly no shortage in stories exemplifying 'what not to do'. Due to Indonesia's composition, there is a much greater opportunity to act in a culturally inappropriate manner, interrupting the smooth transition into harmonious cultural fluency and belonging. Understanding cultural norms and difference is crucial for successful work practice and intercultural encounters, so that one can be a 'good member of the group' (Hofstede, 2018). Consequently, the following is a (limited) inquiry into how to integrate and assimilate as an Australian.



Understanding Jam Karet

'Jam Karet', meaning 'rubber time' or 'flexible time', is a phenomenon for which Indonesia is renowned for. Compared to Australia, there is a more polychronic relationship with time (Shimoda, 2017). This means that daily schedules are less structured; actions don't have to take place in a pre-determined chronological order (Berninghausen & Minshawi, 2009). In Australia there is almost always some guilt for being late to any function, whether it's meeting up with friends, a lunch date, a business meeting etc, regardless of the late individual's position or the formality of the event. Indonesia is different; nevertheless, it is certainly an oversimplification to explain Jam Karet as 'everybody being accepting of lateness despite the inconvenience'. It may not be unusual to hear of individuals waiting hours for someone to show up, whether it's a business meeting, a doctor's appointment, a job interview, or a casual hangout (Slatter, 2021).

However, power distance also impacts what lateness is acceptable. Power distance describes the willingness of those without power to accept its unequal distribution (Berninghausen & Minshawi, 2009), and Indonesia's power distance is high (Hofstede, 2018; Gupta & Sukamto, 2020). Flexibility is afforded to those with power. A meeting starts and finishes when the boss says it does, irrespective of schedule. Professors can show up late to university lectures. Teachers can be absent without being questioned by their students (Slatter, 2021). Joint research of Australian Aid and the Indonesian Ministry of Education reveals that regional Indonesian schools have a 10.7% teacher absence rate (Slatter, 2021).

As a highly collectivist society (Gupta & Sukamto, 2020), the availability of flexible time in Indonesia also depends on what is accepted by the group. If an individual is late and there is no real harm; it is better to prioritise harmony rather than shame them for lateness, to avoid communal discord. In this way relationships are prioritised; allowances are made even if responsibility is breached. Thus, acceptable impunctuality is dependent on sincerity and respect, much like Australia. In high contexts (University, the workplace etc) where you are not the power wielder, Jam Karet is not a 'get out of jail free card'. However, in rural villages where life is generally slower, don't be surprised if your 6am lift arrives at 8am (a valuable experience described by my tired friend in Lombok).

Respect in the Social Hierarchy

Indonesia is a high context collectivist society. The formalities through which communication takes place aren't decided at the participants' discretion, and there's a large emphasis on how one conducts themselves (Berninghausen and Minshawi 2009), which relates to the idea of maintaining or losing 'face'. During a first-time encounter, a high level of respect is typically afforded to the rich, the learned, the powerful, the elderly, and (some) foreigners. This respect isn't limited to one's sphere of influence as personal identities are based on social roles (Li 2022), meaning that a university lecturer is held in high regard even outside of their university. The level of familiarity and etiquette observed, going forward, is determined by the individual higher in the hierarchy, however positioning is often nuanced so that this may be unclear.



Regarding elders, the initial term of address should be 'Ibu' (F) or 'Bapak' (M) if older than 30 years. Younger than this, but still your elder, 'Mbak' or 'Mas' is appropriate (in Java). For the elderly, use 'Nenek' (grandmother) or 'Kakek' (grandfather). Usage of these honorifics occur concurrently with formal Indonesian, and if unsure of what honorific is appropriate, one's name can be used as a pronoun.

The position of European foreigners is particularly complex. With regard to semiotics (the study of symbols and their interpretation), skin tone as a signifier has two different meanings in Western and Indonesian cultures, evidencing dualism. In the West, browner skin is desirable; a tan indicates an active, healthy lifestyle. In Indonesia lighter skin is desirable, and skin whitening practices are common. This in part (Saraswati, 2021) relates to the existence of a perceived racial hierarchy (Anibal Quijano, 2007 ; Annisa, 2020) which was introduced during the Dutch occupation in Indonesia

As a white foreigner, you might be treated with more deference than expected. Walking around Jakarta, I was addressed as 'Mister' by many people, despite often being the clear junior. Even after using informal language to assert casualism, I was still referred to as 'Mister Gwyn'. Position is also dependant on region. Within the Jakartan framework, it can be assumed that foreigners are there for study or work, that they are well educated and well-funded. Within the Balinese framework, foreigners are more likely to be *bule*. As a rule, the greatest level of respect should be assumed beforehand, however if clearly older than the other party, you can confidently dictate what level of formality is appropriate.

Something About Privacy

One way a collectivist society manifests itself is through lower levels of privacy, which assists in establishing communal belonging and mutual loyalty. Prior to the 1960s Javanese families lived in unfenced homes, and it was etiquette that prevented trespassing (Li, 2022). Today footpaths run immediately past often open doorways, and it is no strange thing to peer in and see a family going about their business with you on their doorstep. In discussion with an atheist lecturer, he described what it's like to look for a job. Whereas it's illegal to discriminate based on religion in Australia, many positions are exclusive to a certain religion. He says this relates back to the *kampung* days (village days), where a lack of a centralised government meant that people had to rely on stereotypes and prejudices to ensure accountability.



Children are a good indicator of cultural perspective due to their openness and lack of learnt etiquette. When swimming with my Indonesian friend, several Muslim children asked our religion to assist in determining what kind of person we are (using stereotypes to make sense of a complex situation). They then denied that my friend could be Muslim because of her western swimwear. Religion and spirituality are however deemed much more personal/private in Australia. Additionally, sensitivity around public photography is different. Foreigners might find themselves the subject of spontaneous photos, especially outside of Bali (Bima, 2016). It's usually done with curiosity, not malice. It is also common for people taking photos of others and places without permission, as it is a normalised form of communication. I have both heard of and witnessed occasions where individuals have disproportionately reacted to having their photo taken, asserting that this is a breach of their privacy. Unless you're in a particularly revealing outfit (which is probably inappropriate anyway) and it comes off as creepy, let it go or if given the choice, politely decline.

Other

Above is a more academic and in-depth analysis of certain cultural phenomenon. However, some other cultural differences also worth mentioning in passing:

- If you're riding a scooter or walking to a beach and there is a traffic stop on the way in, make sure to park your scooter within the designated parking area and pay the locals if it's requested. While it may seem unnecessary to an Australian, this payment is for both entry to the beach and for supervised parking- to refuse is considered extremely disrespectful.
- A small bowing of the head when passing the elderly is considered both polite and friendly.
- It is normal to be stared at as a foreigner.
- And bidets are everywhere, toilet paper is not.



Conclusion

An understanding of the Indonesian relationship to time, social hierarchy, and collectivism is essential to assimilation as it can then be coupled with action, resulting in appropriate praxis. Reflecting personally, it is most helpful to understand that application of cultural theory is not just immediately important, but the outcome also has a communal impact as global stereotypes are affected. Identifying as a representative helped save me from many faux pas, but I did still fall victim to my own ethnocentrism. With the slowness of traffic and the flexibility of scheduling, it was difficult not to become frustrated being accustomed to my fast-paced Western lifestyle. I had to overcome the privileged idea that low education and poverty meant unsafe food. Police escorts for the rich and powerful was not considered an abuse of power. I briefly had to hide shock when a young girl put the back of my hand to her upper lip (cium tangan), not realising this traditional way of showing respect was still practiced. In closing, the actions and ideas that support the bule stereotype must be combatted by assuming nothing and questioning everything. Overseas travel isn't an opportunity to 'let go' of etiquette, but rather to learn a new one.



ANNUAL SUBMISSIONS 2024

Understanding Indonesia through the music genre 'Dangdut' - In'Dangdut'onesia

By: Joe Tomai

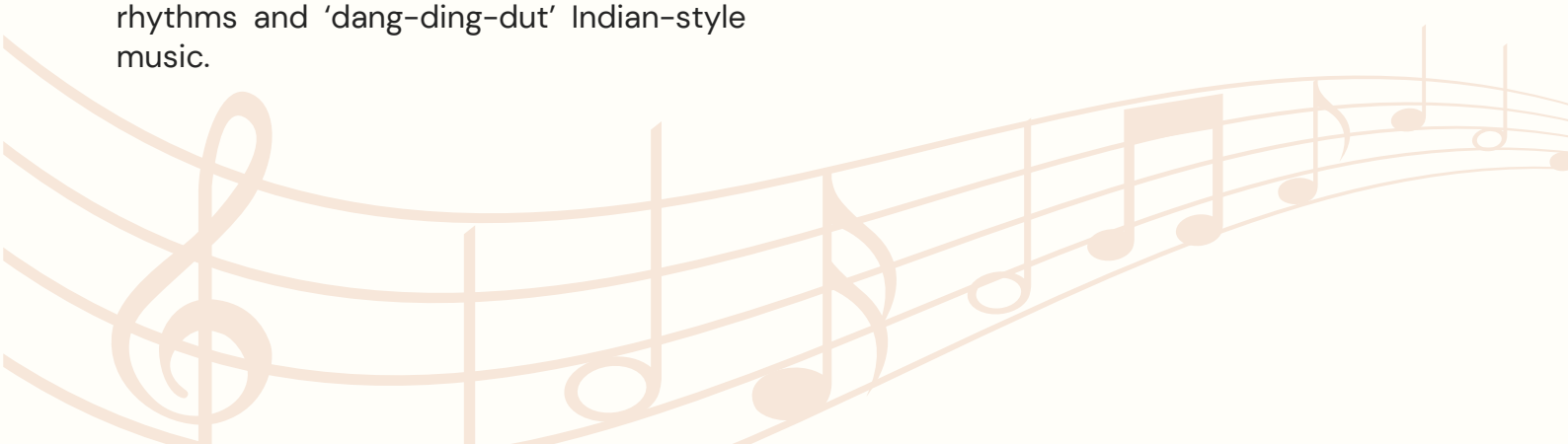
Indonesia is a diverse and complex country with a wide range of influences. Indonesia has more than 300 ethnic groups, over 700 languages and more than 17,500 islands stretching the same distance from London to Tehran! How does one begin to understand the country, culture and people of Indonesia? Well, I say... Dangdut!

Dangdut! Well, what on earth is that? It is a music genre I came across while travelling through East Java. Bouncing bass, meandering vocals and tapping percussion elements caught my attention while I bounced along in the back of a minivan toward some epic volcano.

Dangdut is an onomatopoeia which sounds like dung (like the beetle) and doot (rhyming with foot) 'dung-doot'. The word Dangdut is created from the sound of the Gendang drum (also known as a Tabla). The word Dangdut was first coined in the magazine 'Tempo' in 1972, describing an Indonesian song called "Boneka dari India" (Doll From India). It was described as a mixture of Malay music, Arabic desert rhythms and 'dang-ding-dut' Indian-style music.

Dangdut has become the most popular music genre for many people, of 277 million Indonesian citizens. It is often played at weddings, parties, concert venues, television competitions and other festive occasions including long karaoke sessions! Dangdut has various components making it a perfect lens into the kaleidoscopic characteristics that make up the wonderful, colourful and complex history and culture of Indonesia.

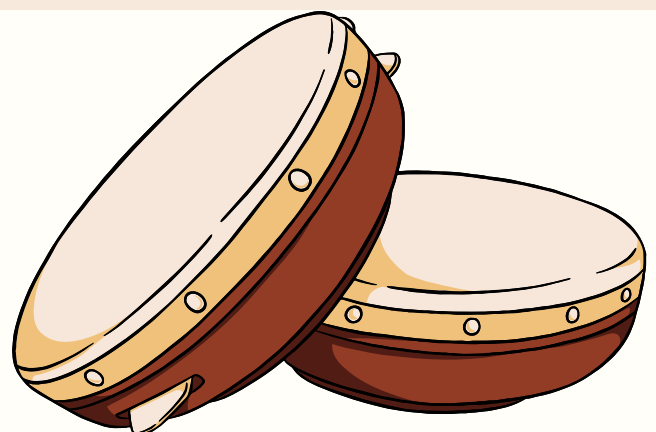
Early Indonesian music origins stem from local instruments and songs, gradually incorporating foreign influences. The Suling (Flute from West Java) along with other ethnic instruments like the Angklung (bamboo tube instrument), Gamelan (Javanese brass bell/gong ensemble) and metal Xylophones created the basis for early Indonesian music. Arab traders brought Arabic phonetic teachings (Kasidah) along with 'Arabic desert music' and Indian traders brought classical Hindustani music traditions. The mixture of these foreign elements evolved into early Indonesian musical foundations.



Stringed instruments like the Oud (an Arabic precursor to the lute and then guitar), the Rabab (2 stringed fiddle from Central Asia) and the Gambus (6 stringed Yemeni lute) added to the changing sound of Indonesian music through various festivals and ceremonial worship. Guitar-based folk songs made their way into the musical vernacular of Indonesia as trade routes developed along the northern coastlines of Indonesia.

Keroncong (pronounced 'Kronchong') is one interesting style brought by Portuguese sailors in the 16th century and adapted by Indonesians. Comprising a ukulele-like instrument called a cavaquinho, melancholic songs about ocean journeys and longing for home that were both vocally transient and reflecting loss and longing were shared along trade routes. Keroncong birthed the beginning of European influence within Dangdut music and Indonesian culture.

Under Dutch colonial rule from the 17th century, European and local music genres started to merge. Stringed orchestral instruments like the violin, cello and double bass contributed to the development of Indonesian music, also with its forms of governmental rule and bureaucratic development across the 'Indian Islands' (from the Greek Indos and Nesos 'Indo/nesia'). The Gendang drum and Rebana (skin drum tambourine) created the distinct 'ding dang dut' sound of the bass and beat which became the foundational element of the pre-Dangdut genre Malay Orchestra (Orkestra Melayu) in the early 20th century. It was during the 1930s that Malay Orchestra music groups used the Gendang, Rebana and additionally the Gambus (Oud, lute) to form a distinct Malay Orchestra style music (sung predominately in Indonesian). After Independence from the Dutch (and temporary residents the Japanese) following World War Two, Malay Orchestra groups had a resurgence throughout cities and districts in Sumatra and Java. The 1950s brought a post-war counterculture arising from young musicians of urban Indonesia to develop a distinct Indonesian musical style that was both modern and appealing... Think Bob Dylan or the Beatles! The Malay Orchestra became Dangdut and the Dutch East Indies became the Republic of Indonesia.



Like the new nation of Indonesia, Dangdut continued to be formed from internal struggles of identity and outside cultural influences, such as music, fashion, style, cue... Bollywood! Dangdut, off the back of the growth of Bollywood films in the 1950s and 1960s birthed a new pop cultural revolution, not the 'swinging' but 'swaying' 60s. "Boneka India" (Doll from India) by Ellya Khadam became popular in the late 1950s with its unique rhythm, bamboo flute and upbeat tempo. Poetic melancholic folk ballads like that of M. Mashabi's song "Renungkanlah" (Think it over) popularised the genre. Indian-style ornamentation accompanied with the Indonesian language, became hallmarks of a distinct Indonesian genre. Dangdut was here to stay and begin its ascension into popular Indonesian culture.

In the 1970s Dangdut revolutionised. Western influences and global trends generated industrialisation and urbanisation throughout Indonesia and within it a new music order (Orde Baru). One man who became credited with this new order is Rhoma Irama colloquially known as 'King of Dangdut'. The 'King of Dangdut' brought the genre into the mainstream and moved away from airy romantic songs toward songs that addressed social issues.

Music influences from the Americas (Latin and the United States) 'rocked up' Dangdut. Costumes such as Rhoma's James Brown style cape and hairstyle created a rock and roll persona. Instruments and stage setups combined with Rhoma's origins in Malay Orchestra style music elevated Dangdut music to new heights.



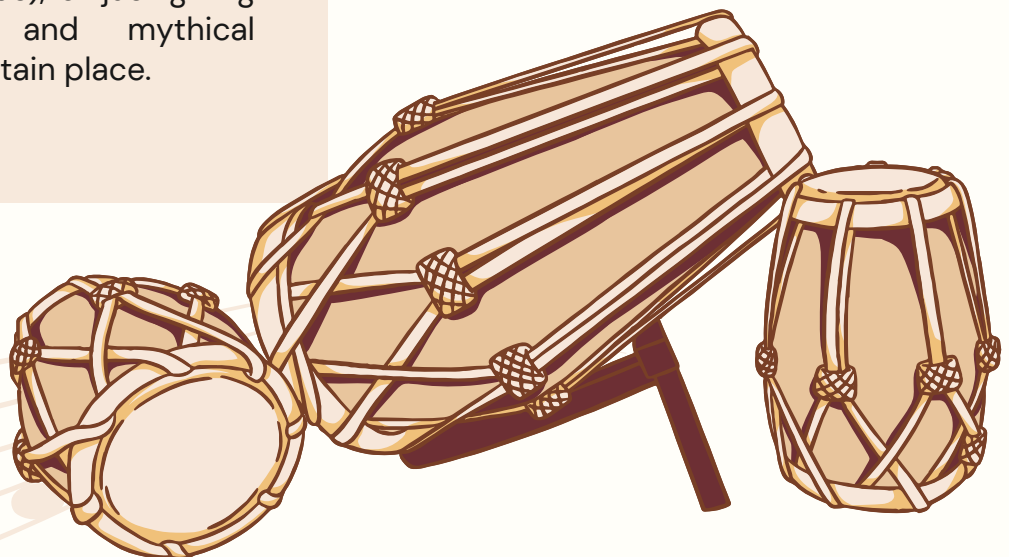
Malay Orchestra style music was in his opinion "too soft, too acoustic, too polite and unable to compete against the power and energy of rock music", so the music was electrified. These same sentiments may have reflected an Indonesian state of being at that time a previously subdued and subjugated nation, now liberated and on the rise. It came time to scale things up, be bold and be vocal. Electric instruments like guitars, bass and keyboards along with the saxophone, trumpet and drum kits were added to the traditional instrument set-up. Lyrics with religious ideas and social views made Dangdut songs become nationalistic anthems for the middle and lower social groups throughout Indonesia, a revolution. From the beginning of a Rhoma Irama song until the end, you feel like you are traversing on the road in the jungle, transporting listeners on a vibrant journey! Unlike Jimmy Barnes's "Working Class Man," which echoed in pubs and worksites, Rhoma's "Terajana" resonated on mopeds winding through the city streets or in a village gathering.

The 1980s and 1990s brought sweeping electric solos and shredding metal guitar licks, raising Dangdut to capitalist levels of wealth and prestige, even making its way into the political sphere. Today, Dangdut comprises various subgenres which expose Indonesia's diversity and contemporary evolution. Dangdut mashes include metal (Alam), pop love ballads (Ndarboy Genk) folk and reggae/ska (Shaggy Dog), Dangdut Koplo (named after a local hallucinogenic pill), a style which has challenged conservative norms with a sensual dancing style (Inul Daratista), hip hop (NDX Aka), electronica (Denny Caknan), and more and more Korean popular music aka K-pop (Via Vallen). The more you learn about the changes in the genre Dangdut the more you can understand the unique cultural influences present in Indonesia.

Dangdut elements like the quirky percussion taps, electric buzzing guitar, electronic samples and jumpy back-up vocals resemble Indonesia's unique ways of doing things. Whether it is Indonesia's mode of transport (boats, food carts, mini trucks or speeding colourful flashing tourist buses), cuisine (fried, sweet, and spicy cooking, cheese additions in sweet foods), or just giving abstract directions and mythical information about a certain place.

The dynamic impulsive stop, start, stutter moments within a Dangdut song reflect Indonesia's large cities (overpopulated, traffic congested and innovative). The bass and wind instruments reflect the beautiful tropical sway throughout Indonesia (Majestic island beach locations, boat travel, and animated jungles). Orchestral elements in a Dangdut song represent the drama within Indonesian politics and society (loud, robust and dramatic). Sensual dances and vibrant expressions associated with Dangdut parallel the country's rich variety of spices, colours, and cultures. The hypnotic vocals create a mesmerising sonic dance like the rivers, steaming craters, flowing lava, and the myths and legends that ensue.

Finally, there is the 'Dang' and 'Dut' of the Gendang drums which are the soul of Indonesia. The continuing beat of nationalism, sovereignty and a country of which its growing middle class and global significance march loudly on toward the future. The complex make-up and diverse nature of Dangdut is that of Indonesia, endlessly interesting. Indonesia is Dangdut and Dangdut Indonesia, In'Dangdut'onesia.



AIYA KONGRES 2024



Every year since 2020, AIYA has been hosting Kongres, our annual conference, in both Australia and Indonesia to bring together our volunteers from different states and provinces to meet in-person, attend cultural workshops, internal upskilling and participate in events. This year, we rearranged our conference to make the most out of the time we had in-person. Therefore, the weekend before on Sunday 25 February 2024 we held a Strategic Planning day to allow each portfolio and chapter to update us on what they have achieved in the past year and what they are planning for the upcoming year. Our Kongres occurred between 1-3 March 2024 in Melbourne, Australia and 8-10 March 2024 in Jakarta, Indonesia. It consisted of our Board of Directors, Chapter Presidents, and Officers from our National and Chapter Teams based in the host cities.



1 - 3 March 2024, Melbourne, Australia

We began on Friday at Monash University Clayton Campus with an opening session and cooking class hosted by Bu Ati from Dapur Indo. We were taught how to make three main dishes that included martabak telur, bakwan, and klepon.



“Not only was the food tasty, but it was a great first opportunity for the AIYA members to work together as a team to create a delicious bounty of food, with Bu Ati’s expertise. With food and laughter, this session was more than just creating meals, but also creating friendships and partnerships.”

Lachlan Cropley (AIYA Culture Coordinator)



Later that evening we hosted the ASEAN-Australia Networking Night which was accredited as the first of the many ASEAN-Australia Special Summit events that week. We had speakers from all different fields provide their perspective on the current state and future of the ASEAN-Australia relationship. Thank you to our speakers Leigh Howard, Grant Dooley, Trang Nguyen, Laura Burke, Melissa Conley Tyler, Ruth Stewart, Monash Herb Feith Indonesian Engagement Centre and AASYP for the collaboration.

The Saturday consisted of internal upskilling workshops on marketing, partnerships and sponsorships, grant writing and internal solutions to assist with planning the upcoming year of events, and provide our volunteers with the skills required to execute the upcoming initiatives. These workshops were broken up with a fun Amazing Race to boost spirits and our competitive nature.

That evening was the Indonesian Chill Out Night, hosted by the AIYA Victoria Chapter and emceed by Indonesian-born local actress Miranda Anwar. Chill Out Night consisted of many games, networking and delicious food. The games included asking question bingo, kahoot, and a lucky draw. There was also a special performance by singer and guitarist Nugraha Saputera.

The final day in Melbourne consisted of a final wrap up, presentation of certificates, and a screening of award-winning Australian film 'The Drover's Wife', before we all headed back to our states.



8 - 10 March 2024, Jakarta, Indonesia

Kongres Jakarta began with a lunch at Teras Dharmawangsa where we had our opening remarks and briefing. Then we went to Jakarta Amara Creative Centre and had a dance class where we learnt four dances from Kalimantan, Papua, Sumatera Barat, and Riau.



That evening was spent at the Australian Ambassador's residence with Deputy Ambassador Stephen Scott as we discussed AIYA, the Australia-Indonesia relationship and what it looks like in the future. Celebrating 75 years of diplomatic relations this year!

The following Saturday began at Monash University BSD where Bu Sabina Puspita gave us a tour of the current levels and the preparation of the Monash University Open Day. The AIYA workshops consisted of an interactive partnerships and sponsorships session, communications workshop and an Aussie Snack Tasting workshop that had participants guessing flavours and the chocolate tiers.



The evening was spent at our ASEAN-Australia Networking Night moderated by Stephanie Silalahi. Thank you to our incredible speakers! Ibu Anna enlightened us on the need to collaborate more between Australia and ASEAN through downstreaming business, exchanging knowledge on electric vehicle manufacturing, and funding. Bapak Luthfi reinforced the importance of history, and provided some interesting facts on the Balinese Subak system. Bapak Rio Afifudin provided insight on CAUSINDY and how important writing is to develop our career. Ibu Zurina Moktar notified us on the ASEAN Young Science Network which was so valuable for me as a social science student. Ibu Arumi informed us on the ASEAN economic community and 3 main issues of digital transformation, sustainable development, and inclusive growth.



The final day was held at the Perpustakaan Nasional. We held an AIYA solutions workshop to discuss what we can improve on internally and externally, combined with brainstorming what can be done to resolve these issues. To conclude we had a presentation of certificates and thanks to our team.

I would like to personally thank our sponsors, supporters and facilitators. We would not have been able to organise such a big conference across two countries without the support for our organisation within the Australia-Indonesia communities.

Claudia Wijaya
AIYA National President



PEOPLE AND CULTURE PORTFOLIO

The People and Culture portfolio continues to provide essential behind-the-scenes support to both AIYA National and its Chapters. Our core focus remains on managing end-to-end recruitment for National portfolios and offering strategic guidance to Chapters on best practices for their own recruitment processes. Given that volunteers are the backbone of our organisation, our work is not only vital but ongoing, with a constant emphasis on improving and streamlining operational procedures.

From the Culture portfolio perspective, there has been a noticeable decline in demand for online bonding sessions. While we actively communicated our availability to assist with organising such sessions, the return to in-person events in the post-pandemic era significantly reduced the need for virtual engagement—contrasting with the frequency of monthly online sessions seen in 2021 and 2022. However, this shift led to an increase in face-to-face bonding activities, particularly at the Chapter level. These gatherings often took the form of committee outings or in-person meetings. In many cases, bonding occurred organically during team interactions. As such, integrating bonding activities into regular weekly meetings, rather than organising separate events, may offer a more effective and holistic approach moving forward.



Conversely, the People portfolio experienced a substantial increase in volunteer recruitment, with a 37% rise in 2024 compared to 2023. This growth reflects the organisation's continued expansion. A notable example is the establishment of AIYA Jawa Timur, which began its recruitment process at the end of 2024. As our newest Chapter, the Jawa Timur Executive team was highly enthusiastic about contributing to AIYA's people-to-people initiatives. The People portfolio supported their efforts by conducting a tailored workshop on effective chapter-level recruitment strategies.

In a significant development this year, the People and Culture portfolios were reintegrated into a single unit. This restructuring was designed to enhance coordination, streamline delegation, and foster stronger collaboration between the two portfolios. As a unified team, the People and Culture portfolio remains committed to supporting AIYA's broader mission and strengthening our organisation's volunteer-driven foundation.



2024 Committee

People Coordinator: Rizky Citra Anugrah

Culture Coordinator: Lachlan Cropley

Culture Officer: Agus Firman, Indah Jenkins, Rahel Gloria Pranoto, Maya Willis

People Officer: Regita Nurina Salsabila Mars, Atha Meka Zahra, Zalsabila Hasianka, Christine Raharja, Saba Ashraf, Allya Azka Deviani

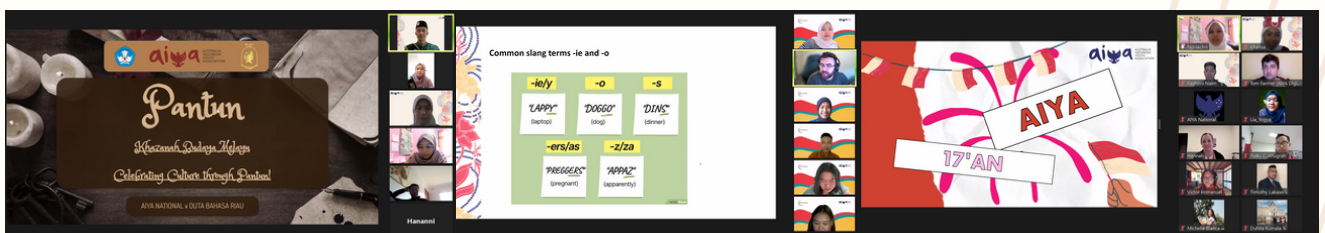
Digital Operations Portfolio

This year, the Digital Operations team absorbed the Kumpul Cultural Diversity team, with the intention of consolidating AIYA National's digital events initiatives into a single team.

The Digital Operations team had a vibrant and productive year during 2024. We regularly organise cross-cultural flexible language exchanges (FLEX) throughout the year. Events were organised in collaboration across Australian and Indonesian AIYA Chapters, including the Western Australia, Jawa Barat, ACT, Sulawesi Selatan, Queensland, Jakarta and South Australia chapters.

Our first FLEX coincided with the holy month of Ramadan, with the topic centred on "Mudik" which means leaving and returning home during a certain occasion. In the following months, we explored traditional cultures, tourist attractions across both Indonesia and Australia, and also went down memory lane with attendees exploring childhood memories.

In 2025, we aim to expand beyond FLEX, with a focus on online collaborations with AIYA chapters across both countries.



Digital Operations Coordinator

Sekar Ramadania



Digital Operations Team

Michelle Bianca Rosalia Sumakul

Fara Shamara

Thomas Farmer

Noviachri Imroatul Sadiyah

Arie Satria Audiananda

Shania Prasad

Analisa Svastika Ning Gusti Djajasasmita

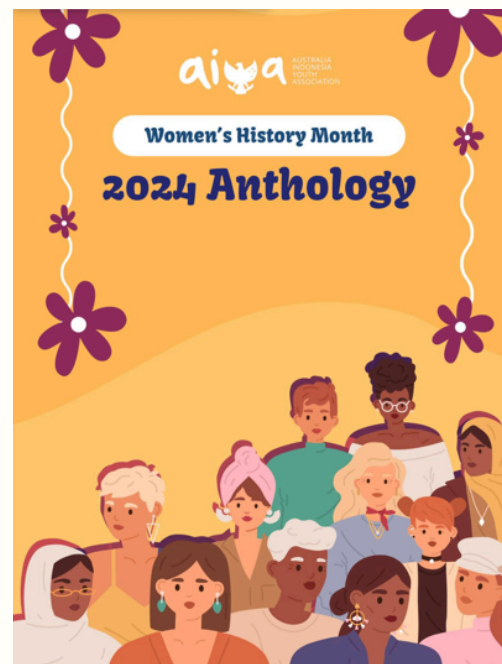
Eliza Utami Sunardi

AIYA Women's Empowerment 2024

In 2024, AIYA's national Women's Empowerment team led a series of thoughtful, cross-cultural initiatives that placed gender equality at the heart of Australia-Indonesia youth engagement.

International Women's Day Anthology

To mark International Women's Day, the Women's Empowerment Team launched an anthology exploring the lived experiences of women and gender-diverse people in Australia and Indonesia. Contributions were written in both English and Indonesian, ranging from research pieces and interviews to poetry and opinion writing. The anthology surpassed expectations, offering a powerful platform for connection, reflection, and shared learning across both nations.



Trailblazers: Women Leaders in the Aus-Indo Space

Not long after launching the anthology, the Women's Empowerment Team introduced the Trailblazers interview series, which showcased women leading change in the Australia-Indonesia sphere.

Through interviews with figures such as Ibu Listiana Operananta (Indonesian Consul General in Perth), Penny Williams PSM (Australia's first female Ambassador to Indonesia), and Magenta Marshall MLA (AIYA alumna and Member for Rockingham), we explored themes of diplomacy, leadership, language, and cultural connection. We also highlighted grassroots voices, such as Sulastris Miharja, Director of PPMK Yogyakarta, who spoke about empowering women through microcredit and confronting structural inequality. Each interview helped bring critical gender conversations to the heart of our bilateral discourse.



Women's Empowerment Chat

Throughout the year, our AIYA Women's Empowerment WhatsApp Chat served as a dedicated safe space for women and gender-diverse individuals across the Australia–Indonesia network. This moderated group encouraged open dialogue around cultural norms and everyday challenges.



More than just a support channel, it also became a hub for Women's Empowerment updates and grassroots coordination—exemplifying our commitment to building inclusive, accessible spaces.

Together, these initiatives reflect the growing strength of the Women's Empowerment portfolio in AIYA. As we look ahead, we remain committed to ensuring that gender equity remains central to our bilateral engagement, and to amplifying the voices that are too often left out of mainstream narratives.

Women's Empowerment Coordinator

Tyler Michelle Connelly

Women's Empowerment Officers

Jazmin Wright

Madeleine Dawkins

Nadia F. Romadhona,

Samara Welbourne



PARTNER TESTIMONIALS

ASEAN-Australia Youth Strategic Partnership (AASYP)

Going Far, Together: Youth Reflections on 50 Years of ASEAN-Australia Relations

2024 marked a historic milestone, 50 years of diplomatic relations between Australia and ASEAN. It was a moment to reflect on how far we've come, and to recommit on building a future grounded in mutual respect, shared opportunity, and genuine connection. But for those of us in youth organisations, this anniversary was more than just a celebration of the past. It was a call to action.

For the ASEAN-Australia Strategic Youth Partnership (AASYP), working alongside the Australia-Indonesia Youth Association (AIYA) was a clear reminder that bilateral and regional engagement are deeply intertwined, and that we're stronger when we collaborate. Our co-hosted ASEAN-Australia Networking Night during AIYA's Kongres in Melbourne connects young leaders, diplomats, and professionals from across the region. It was a vibrant space where Indonesia-Australia connections sat within the broader ASEAN context, and where stories, ideas, and laughter flowed in equal measure.

That same spirit of cooperation carried through to the ASEAN-Australia Emerging Leaders Dialogue, held as part of the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit in Melbourne. Supported by both AIYA and AASYP, the Dialogue was an inspiring example of what happens when young people from across Southeast Asia and Australia come together to explore shared challenges, climate resilience, digital inclusion, and education equity with energy and optimism. The dialogue was not just about youth voices being heard. It was about youth being at the table, shaping the regional agenda.

In a year of milestones, these collaborations highlighted something important: that our bilateral relationships, especially one as rich and complex as the Indonesia-Australia partnership, do not sit in isolation. They are part of a dynamic regional ecosystem. And youth organisations like AIYA and AASYP hold an important role not just as connectors, but as incubators of ideas, trust, and long-term cooperation.



As we look to the next chapter of ASEAN–Australia relations, the need for deeper regional engagement has never been clearer. We need to invest in the kind of education, cultural understanding, mobility, and research partnerships that will allow our communities to thrive. We need youth leadership that reflects the diversity and ambition of our region. And we need to work across borders, between sectors, disciplines, and countries, to build solutions that are inclusive and future-focused.

There's a proverb we often come back to: If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. In 2024, we went far, together.

Here's to the next 50 years.



Australia Indonesia Business Council (AIBC)



The AIBC is delighted to have continued its long-standing association with AIYA over the past year.

We value greatly the role that AIYA serves as a forum for younger Australians and Indonesians to connect and share their interest and passion for each other's countries. Across our membership, AIBC is continuing to see strong interest in engaging with Indonesia and building trade and business connections with our nearest neighbour.

A highlight for 2024 was AIBC's highly successful National Conference held in Sydney from 11-13 November. With the theme "Invested Australia/Indonesia: The Time is now/Sekarang Waktunya", the Conference brought together over 250 delegates from Australia and Indonesia to discuss opportunities for strengthening two-way trade and investment. AIBC was delighted to see strong engagement from AIYA and its membership.

Throughout the year, AIBC continued to support the implementation of initiatives under the Government's "Invested: Australia's Southeast Economic Strategy to 2040." This included participating in the ASEAN Australia Special Summit held in Melbourne in March; the inaugural Australian Digital Tech Mission to Indonesia "Partnering for a Digital Future" in June, and the SEA Education/Skills Mission to Indonesia and Vietnam in September.

AIBC held national webinars on the Indonesian elections and digital transformation, ensuring that members were kept up-to-date with contemporary trends in Indonesia. In addition, AIBC's State Chapters held a range of networking events that aimed at providing up-to-date market intelligence and connections, as well as valuable opportunities to engage with younger members.

AIBC's Industry Groups (Healthcare; Mining and Energy; Agriculture and Food; Education, Skills and Training and Investment, Finance and Infrastructure) continued to provide a valuable industry sector focus for our membership and stakeholders.

As part of our advocacy efforts, AIBC has been actively engaging with Government on key issues of interest to members, including the revision of the Export Market Development Grants (EMDG) Guidelines, the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IA-CEPA) Skills Development Exchange; expediting Indonesian import permits for Australian agribusiness and food products as well as making a formal submission in relation to the Government's SEA Economic Strategy. AIBC has also continued to advocate on the need for ongoing reforms to visa requirements to facilitate tourism and skilled migration from Indonesia. AIBC welcomes input from AIYA on issues of interest to its membership.

We look forward to providing ongoing opportunities for mentoring younger Australians and Indonesians so that they are equipped to play their part in strengthening bilateral relations.

We once again look forward to future collaboration with AIYA in another successful year ahead.

Asialink Support for AIYA: Advancing Australia–Indonesia Relations Through Youth Engagement

2024 was a defining year for the Australia–Indonesia relationship and for Australia’s broader engagement with Southeast Asia. Amid growing complexity, shaped by geopolitical competition, economic transformation, and energy transition, the opportunities for deeper cooperation have never been greater. Initiatives that foster understanding and build lasting connections are essential to realising this potential. The Australia–Indonesia Youth Association (AIYA) continues to play a vital role, creating platforms for young Australians and Indonesians to engage meaningfully.

Leigh Howard, CEO of Asialink Business, was pleased to speak at AIYA’s Kongres 2024, held in conjunction with the ASEAN–Australia Special Summit, including the Youth Diplomacy Networking Night. He was honoured to address a dynamic audience of young leaders committed to strengthening the bilateral relationship and advancing Australia’s engagement with the region.

The program explored a variety of issues, from trade and investment to climate and education, reflecting the real-world challenges facing Australia and Indonesia. It was energising to witness such thoughtful dialogue on respective strengths, the barriers to deeper economic engagement, and the essential role of Asia capability in unlocking long-term value.

Throughout, our shared message was clear: Australia’s success in the region will be shaped not only by the quality of our goods and services but also by the strength of our understanding, the depth of our relationships, and our readiness to collaborate on shared challenges. We also welcomed the opportunity to highlight the importance of people-to-people links and Asia literacy, particularly as enrolments in Asian languages, including Bahasa Indonesia, continue to decline. This is an issue that deserves urgent national attention.

Through its events, leadership and growing network, AIYA continues to lead by example. It provides a meaningful platform for engagement and ensures that youth voices play an active role in shaping our bilateral future.

We congratulate AIYA National President Claudia Wijaya and her team for their outstanding work and wish them continued success in the years ahead.



Fostering Lifelong Bonds with Australia-Indonesia Youth Exchange Program (AIYEP)

Value Learning is committed to advancing global competence and fostering intercultural understanding. We have been proud to partner with AIYA during 2024 for the delivery of the Australia-Indonesia Institute (AI) of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade flagship program the Australia-Indonesia Youth Exchange Program (AIYEP).

The Australia-Indonesia Youth Exchange Program (AIYEP) has long been vital in strengthening bilateral relationships between neighboring nations. This program is an opportunity for participants to grow their intercultural skills, professional experiences, and international networks through facilitated and immersive experiences.

One of the most significant aspects of AIYEP is its ability to connect Australian and Indonesian youth to create lifelong bonds which align seamlessly with the goals of AIYA. Many AIYEP2024 applicants had prior volunteering experiences with AIYA, with several becoming successful delegates. We are proud to promote AIYEP through AIYA platforms, reaching passionate individuals with shared interests in Indonesia.

A highlight of the AIYEP program is the collaboration with the AIYA during the Indonesian delegates' in-person phase in Australia. AIYA played a significant role in engaging delegates through a series of exciting curated events and activities in Canberra and Melbourne.

As part of the arrival phase in Melbourne, AIYA organised a footie workshop and BBQ with the Krakatoas. This fun day featured an intro to AFL, skill building and a spirited mini game providing all involved with a taste of Australia's most loved sport.

In Canberra, AIYA hosted an incredible Aussie Barbecue event for host families featuring delicious food, fun games, and vibrant cultural performances, in fact, the delegates also performed to an impromptu Saman. The following week all delegates had an opportunity to, step into the heart of democracy, AIYA treated the AIYEP2024 Indonesian delegates to a tour of Parliament House and a picnic lunch. Another engaging and informative day. All activities gave AIYEP and AIYA youth the opportunity to meet, chat, and share their experiences- invaluable.

Value Learning was also very pleased to support the AIYA - National Australia Indonesia Language Awards (NAILA) awards by sponsoring the Middle School category. We are committed to promoting the value of learning Bahasa Indonesia and congratulate AIYA on their important contribution to this need.

We are incredibly grateful to have a partner like AIYA and look forward to strengthening this collaboration over the coming years, fostering deeper ties and mutual respect between Australia and Indonesia.



Herb and Feith Indonesia Engagement Centre



MONASH
University

HERB FEITH
INDONESIAN
ENGAGEMENT
CENTRE

In 2024, the Australia-Indonesia relationship remains strategically important for both countries, shaped by shared challenges and opportunities like climate change, education, trade, and personal connections. However, it's lacking momentum in many areas—particularly language learning. Alarming, more Australian schools, including well-resourced private ones, have stopped teaching Indonesian.

Amid this decline in Australia's interest in Indonesia, the work of AIYA and the Herb Feith Centre is more critical than ever.

The Australia-Indonesia relationship is important because we rely on each other for prosperity and security in our increasingly connected Indo-Pacific region. With this in mind, it's worth reflecting on the legacy of people like Herb Feith and the ongoing impact of organisations like the Australia-Indonesia Youth Association (AIYA).

Herb Feith was a pioneer of Australian engagement with Indonesia. His strong commitment to the country was evident not only in his groundbreaking scholarship on Indonesian politics and democracy but also in his efforts to build bridges between Australians and Indonesians. Feith's legacy is especially relevant to AIYA's mission of fostering understanding and connections between young people in both nations. While Feith passed away before AIYA's founding in 2011, his ethos of cross-cultural respect and collaboration resonates strongly with the organisation's goals.

AIYA's work in 2024 is more critical than ever. With shifting geopolitical dynamics and global challenges such as the climate crisis requiring collaborative solutions, young people are central to sustaining the Australia-Indonesia partnership. AIYA facilitates language exchanges, networking opportunities, and cultural programs that empower youth to become ambassadors for bilateral relations. By encouraging Australians to learn Indonesian and Indonesians to understand Australia, AIYA nurtures the next generation of leaders equipped to navigate complexities in the relationship.

Herb Feith's involvement in fostering people-to-people ties—particularly his advocacy for mutual understanding—aligns seamlessly with AIYA's efforts. Feith believed deeply in the power of personal connections to transform perceptions and dismantle stereotypes. His emphasis on language learning, cross-cultural exchange, and the human dimension of diplomacy would likely have made him an enthusiastic supporter of AIYA's mission. Reflecting on 2024, the Australia-Indonesia relationship is marked by both progress and pressing challenges. On the one hand, bilateral trade has expanded, with Indonesia's growing economy presenting opportunities for Australian businesses. On the other hand, issues such as environmental degradation and regional security require closer cooperation. Organisations like AIYA play an indispensable role in ensuring the relationship remains resilient by fostering goodwill and trust at a societal level.

Herb Feith's values remind us that the Australia-Indonesia relationship cannot rely solely on government initiatives or economic partnerships. It must be underpinned by genuine connections between people. As AIYA's programs bring young Australians and Indonesians together, they honour Feith's vision of a relationship built on mutual understanding, empathy, and collaboration. These personal ties are the foundation of a robust and enduring partnership.

Looking ahead, the challenges and opportunities of the Australia-Indonesia relationship demand sustained effort from both nations. Organisations like AIYA ensure that the relationship is not only maintained but strengthened through genuine human connection. By investing in the youth of today, AIYA and similar initiatives are building a future where the Australia-Indonesia partnership thrives on shared respect, trust, and vision.

Here's to a fruitful 2025!



GET INVOLVED WITH AIYA

Join a community of young Australians and Indonesians

AIYA membership connects you with like-minded people in your area who are engaging in the Australia-Indonesia relationship. AIYA members share their language and cultural experience through peer-to-peer language exchanges and frequent educational and social events. AIYA runs a range of exciting events each year but most importantly through joining AIYA you will make lifelong friendships and connections.

A stepping stone to shaping the Australia-Indonesia relationship

Joining AIYA opens the door to a range of opportunities. Through our education, sociocultural and professional events, you'll have a chance to meet the many high-achieving young professionals that are AIYA members and sit on our executive committees. Members receive access to information about overseas study and career opportunities in government, academia and the private sector. AIYA expands your network and connects you with potential mentors and career champions.

Get involved in running your local Chapter

Anyone can be a member, but you'll need to be aged 18-35 to have a vote at Chapter or National AGMs and have a role on a Chapter or National committee executive.

You can then lead events, develop and advocate for policy and liaise with our likeminded partner organisations. As a member, AIYA is your organisation to shape!

Discounts and member-only opportunities

Be the first to hear about member-only opportunities! As a member you will get exclusive access to AIYA member-only ticket prices at Chapter and partner events. This includes discounted tickets to PPIA events, Australia-Indonesia Business Council (AIBC) and other major organisations engaged in the Australia-Indonesia relationship. There is also free access to the UniBRIDGE online language exchange platform. Your local Chapter also has extra deals and local initiatives so check out their social media, go to events and stay updated.

AIYA membership operates for the whole organisation

While most of our events are organised by Chapters, your membership is valid across the whole of AIYA. This means you can attend AIYA events and receive member benefits all around Australia and Indonesia! So what are you waiting for?

Become a member today at aiya.org.au/membership/



