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Demography of Indonesia's Ethnicity

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Demography of Indonesia's Ethnicity

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FOREWORD

It is a great pleasure for me to write this foreword. Firstly because I have known Evi and Aris for many years and regard them as dear friends as well as important and gifted Indonesian scholars. However, the ethnic diversity of Indonesia has always been part of my research in the country. Ever since I found the treasure trove of ethnicity data in the 1930 Dutch-applied Volkstelling, I was hooked on following the important interactions between ethnicity and politics and the threats to it of attempts to rationalize Indonesian “culture”, language etc. As a geographer, too, the spatial complexity of the heartlands of the various ethnolinguistic groups was fascinating. One of my great disappointments with the censuses of 1961, 1971, 1980 and 1990 was that they did not include an ethnicity question because of its sensitivity during a period when governments encouraged national Indonesian identification over ethnic-regional associations. However, this has fortunately changed. The 2000 census data was excellently analysed by Evi, Aris and Leo Suryadinata. As Professor Widjojo Nitisastro, one of Independent Indonesia’s greatest economists and social scientists, said in his foreword to the volume, this study will see a flourishing of more ethnicity-based studies in Indonesia, and it certainly has.

Turning to the new study based on the 2010 census, Evi and Aris have been joined by three new co-authors — M. Sairi Hasbullah, Nur Budi Handayani and Agus Pramono — all from the BPS (Badan Pusat Statistik/Statistics – Indonesia). The latter have certainly added a significant understanding of the measurement of ethnicity in Indonesia and the ways in which they have been classified and the methods used to meaningfully aggregate small-sized groups into ethnic and sub-ethnic groups. A distinctive feature of the book is the development a new classification of ethnicity in Indonesia which reclassifies the 1,331 coded separate ethnicities into 600 ethnic groups

and two excellent recommendations have been made to BPS to refine this further for the next census. The book contains the most detailed account of concepts, collection methods, data definition and methods of analysis that has yet been written and is to be highly recommended to scholars in this area.

The new classification will excite much discussion among scholars in this area. The choices are justified in Chapter 3. The new classification is tabled alongside the equivalent initial classification group for each province. The authors argue that the new approach has brought to light new evidence of increasing diversity within Indonesia. Particularly interesting is a spatial analysis of the ethnic diversity in each of the thirty-three provinces and a special analysis of foreigners in Indonesia. There is then a focus on the fifteen largest ethnic groups' demography and distribution, which is useful to read together with the equivalent chapter in the volume based on the 2000 census. In Chapter 7 there is a very interesting discussion on *Religion and Language* as two key ethnic dimensions in Indonesia.

Given the predominance of demographers and statisticians among the authors, it is not surprising that this is a very data-rich book which makes it extremely useful to scholars. However, there is a great deal more within the covers. Providing a full understanding of the way ethnicity was measured, but more importantly providing so many culturally based insights, which help us understand what is happening to Indonesia's languages and those who speak them. The book is presented in an excellent, accessible and readable style which makes it an essential read, not just for scholars focusing on ethnicity. It is crucial to those studying in other areas where the dynamic variable of ethnicity is playing an important role. Moreover, it is a very interesting "story" for those who love Indonesia.

The five authors are to be highly congratulated, as is the BPS for its continued emphasis and openness in making data available and in this case sharing their expertise with academic authors. Secondly, as with the first volume in this series, the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) has done us a great service in publishing the book.

I thoroughly recommend this volume to all readers.

Graeme Hugo

Adelaide

17 December 2014

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This is a very cohesive and engaging research collaboration between ISEAS (Institute of Southeast Asian Studies) and BPS (Badan Pusat Statistik; Statistics-Indonesia). The team consists of five researchers: two from ISEAS: Evi Nurvidya Arifin, a statistician-demographer, with intensive statistical experience involving large data sets, and Aris Ananta, an economist-demographer, with expertise on development issues. The three researchers from BPS are statisticians: M. Sairi Hasbullah, a senior researcher at BPS and the Head of Statistik-Indonesia in the Province of East Java, has the administrative capacity to manage the analysis of the very large and complex data set with a huge number of categories. Agus Pramono and Nur Budi Handayani, two researchers at BPS, are some of the people at BPS who were deeply involved in the field during the census. Not only did they gain statistical information, but they also obtained invaluable qualitative information on the various communities, enriching the statistics produced in this project.

We have also obtained information from our nationwide network. Our colleagues all over Indonesia have been willing to share their local expertise on ethnicity, religion, and language. We contacted the regional informants by email or telephone. We virtually travelled to all parts, including the remote areas, of Indonesia from our respective offices. Our study has also been much facilitated by the excellent collection on Indonesia's ethnicity in both ISEAS's and the University of Indonesia's libraries.

This study has been considerably sharpened by comments and questions from Prof. Charles Hirschman, a sociologist-demographer from the University of Washington, Washington State, and Prof Geoffrey Benjamin, an anthropologist-sociologist from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

We would also like to acknowledge critical questions and comments from ISEAS colleagues during the ISEAS internal seminar discussing the preliminary finding of this study. We are also indebted to important inputs from participants of the 27th IUSSP International Population Conference in South Korea, 2013, where we presented a poster on some results of our study, as well as participants of the Indonesian seminar series on 19 November 2013, when we shared the findings with members of the public in Singapore. We greatly appreciate the detailed comments from two anonymous referees.

This work has been made possible because of the continued openness in Indonesian politics, particularly on ethnicity. BPS also made an invaluable breakthrough by collecting information on ethnicity from the 2000 population census as well as the 2010 census.

The book would have never been realized without important contributions from many parties. First of all, we would like to convey our appreciation to Dr Suryamin, MSc, Chief Statistician of BPS, for supporting and providing tabulations based on the coded raw data set of the Indonesia 2010 population census. The strong encouragement from Bapak Wynandin Himawan, MSc, Deputy Chief Statistician for Social Statistics, BPS, has been very influential for the implementation of this study. We owe much to Bapak Sumarwanto, Dip. REIS, Chief of Sub-Directorate for Politics and Security Statistics, and Bapak Ano Herwana, SE, MM, Chief of Sub-Directorate for Environment Statistics, for their continuous support to this research.

Second, we are grateful to ISEAS for assigning us and providing a conducive environment in which to conduct this study. Our sincere thanks go to Ambassador Tan Chin Tiong, Director and Dr Ooi Kee Beng, Deputy Director for their strong support. Dr Hui Yew-Foong, coordinator of the Indonesian Studies Programme in ISEAS, has been highly instrumental in initiating and facilitating this study.

As usual, however, all remaining errors should be acknowledged by the authors themselves.