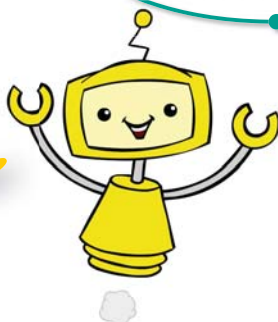


Come to school with me!

Gee! I wonder if schooling in Indonesia is similar to schooling in Australia ... Let's see if we can find out more about Indonesian schools!



LINKS TO:

Stage 2, Module 1

Learning Object 2: A pack of welcomes

1 Millions of students

The first thing you will have noticed about school in Indonesia is that Indonesian and English share similarities in vocabulary:

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| <i>sekolah</i> | school |
| <i>kelas</i> | class |

Having said that, you may decide that there are more differences than similarities between Indonesian and Australian schools. Let's compare.

In Indonesia, classes often have about 40 students. A class leader (*ketua kelas*) and a deputy class leader (*wakil ketua kelas*) are generally chosen each term. These leaders give the instruction for the students to stand when the teacher enters the room; they make sure that students stand in straight lines during assembly; and they run errands for the teacher. Students often have a roster to clean and tidy their classroom and its surroundings. Students are aware from an early age that sharing these duties is part of their culture's strong loyalty to the principle of mutual cooperation (*gotong royong*).

Children attend primary school (*sekolah dasar*) for six years and junior high school (*sekolah menengah pertama*) for three years. These names are abbreviated to SD and SMP respectively. The first nine years of schooling are compulsory for all Indonesian children.

In recent years, primary school enrolment has been as high as 96 per cent of the eligible population. This is a remarkable achievement in a large and diverse country such as Indonesia. However, there is a significant drop-out rate, with eight out of 100 primary students not completing the compulsory primary school years. This means that out of the 31,050,000 students enrolled in primary schools throughout Indonesia, 528,000 will drop out each year. Of the students who go on to SMP, two out of 100 do not complete the compulsory junior high school years. Of the students eligible to go on to the three years of senior high school (*sekolah*

menengah atas or SMA), only 51 per cent take up the opportunity, but about 90 per cent of these students will complete their studies and graduate.

While education is theoretically free in Indonesia, the basic necessities such as school uniforms, national textbooks, photocopying and stationery must be paid for by parents. Add to this the daily cost of food and transport, and it is easy to see that it can become difficult for parents on a subsistence income of just A\$2.80 a day to keep their children attending school. In Indonesia a significant number of families have to rely on their children to work from an early age.

Figures quoted by the Indonesian Minister for Education in *Pos Kota* (24 April, 2011).

2 Classrooms

In many Indonesian schools, the classrooms (*ruangan kelas*) are clustered around a courtyard (*lapangan*), which is used for school assemblies and the weekly *upacara bendera* ceremony.

The classrooms themselves are often sparsely equipped, with little more than wooden desks and chairs, and a blackboard. In wealthier areas, in the cities, the classrooms more closely resemble those you would generally find in Australia.

In Indonesian schools, the outside facilities are often limited to a basic playing field; playground equipment is uncommon. Throughout Indonesia, in both rural and urban areas, space for sporting facilities tends to be restricted by other competing pressures for land.

School routine

Indonesian students go to school six days a week from Monday to Saturday. Because of the huge numbers of students, most schools operate two shifts a day, from 7.00 am to noon, and from 12.30 pm to 5.30 pm.

Every Monday morning the whole school attends a flag-raising ceremony (*upacara bendera*). The flag-raising ceremony is an important part of the week not only for schools, but for all government offices throughout the country. It starts with the singing of the national anthem (*Indonesia Raya*) followed by reciting the *Pancasila* (the Indonesian Pledge).

The ceremony is important to schools and individuals: it promotes patriotism and nationalism. It strengthens the love of country as the participants watch and salute with pride as the Indonesian flag is raised.

While the ceremony is overseen by the principal, the entire process is conducted by students who train for the role. They start the ceremony, conduct the music and recite the *Pancasila* for the rest to follow. They also carry, unfurl and raise the flag with military precision.

On Fridays, lessons usually finish earlier to allow Muslim students to attend Friday prayers.

On Fridays or Saturdays students wear a brown uniform for *Pramuka* activities. *Pramuka* is similar to the Australian Scouts and Guides Movement; however, *Pramuka* activities are compulsory for all Indonesian students as part of their schooling. Indonesia has the world's largest Scout Movement with 17,103,793 registered members in 2011. *Pramuka* is short for *praja muda karana* which means 'young people willing to work'.

The *Pramuka* movement incorporates both boys and girls and is an educational movement with scouting activities. The education is directed towards achieving a new, just, peaceful and prosperous Indonesian community based on the national ideology. Activities of the boys and girls are conducted separately.

Routine activities focus on the development of character, patriotism, physical fitness, skill and intelligence, all of

which are very important for their future life. *Pramuka* is so important in Indonesia that *Hari Pramuka* (Scout Day) is celebrated on 14 August each year.

Another common and colourful feature of Indonesian schools is the food sellers who wait outside the gates for the breaks. During the morning break, students buy snacks and drinks from them, or from the canteen, if there is one. At lunchtime students buy food and a drink at a local food stall (*warung*).

Pancasila



Ketuhanan yang Maha Esa
Belief in the one and only God



Kemanusiaan yang Adil dan Beradab
Just and civilised humanity



Persatuan Indonesia
The unity of Indonesia



Kerakyatan yang Dipimpin oleh Hikmat Kebijaksanaan dalam Permusyawaratan/Perwakilan
Democracy guided by the inner wisdom in the unanimity arising out of deliberations amongst representatives



Keadilan Sosial bagi Seluruh Rakyat Indonesia.
Social justice for the whole of the people of Indonesia.

The Indonesian Pledge

Exercise 1

Read the passage below.

Unless otherwise instructed, answer all questions in **English**.

Tahun pelajaran untuk sebagian besar sekolah di Indonesia mulai pada bulan Juli. Satu tahun pelajaran dibagi menjadi dua semester. Semester ganjil dimulai dari Juli sampai dengan Desember dan semester genap dari Januari sampai dengan Juni.

Anak-anak berusia 6–11 tahun masuk Sekolah Dasar (SD). Tingkat pendidikan ini wajib bagi seluruh warga negara Indonesia berdasarkan konstitusi nasional. Sembilan puluh tiga persen dari seluruh sekolah dasar di Indonesia disediakan oleh negara. Sama seperti sistem pendidikan di Amerika Serikat dan Australia, para siswa harus belajar selama enam tahun untuk menyelesaikan tahapan ini.

Sekolah Menengah Pertama (SMP) juga merupakan bagian dari pendidikan dasar di Indonesia. Setelah tamat dari SD, para siswa wajib masuk SMP selama tiga tahun pada usia 12–14. Setelah tamat, para siswa dapat meneruskan pendidikan mereka ke sekolah lanjutan tingkat atas (SLTA).

Di Indonesia, pada tingkatan SLTA terdapat dua jenis sekolah, yaitu Sekolah Menengah Atas (SMA) atau Sekolah Menengah Kejuruan (SMK). Siswa SMA dipersiapkan untuk melanjutkan pendidikannya ke perguruan tinggi sedangkan siswa SMK dipersiapkan untuk dapat langsung memasuki dunia kerja tanpa melanjutkan ke tahapan pendidikan selanjutnya. Jumlah sekolah lanjutan tingkat atas di Indonesia sedikit kurang dari 9.000.

1.1 The title of this passage has been deliberately omitted.

Provide an appropriate title for the passage in Indonesian.

Explain in English why you have chosen this title.

1.2 According to the passage, what aspects of Indonesia's education system are similar to those of Australia and the United States of America?

(continued on following page)

(continued from previous page)

1.3 How is the Indonesian school year structured?

Is this similar to or different from the way the school year is structured in Australia?

1.4 How is the passage in Exercise 1 different from the information about Indonesian schools provided in the text in English at the beginning of this work sheet?

1.5 How does senior high school in Indonesia (SLTA) cater for the diverse needs of students?

(continued on following page)

