**Welcome Package**

**Dear participants of the RCRC’s Social Media Learning Exchange,**

Welcome to Jakarta, Indonesia! Here are some information which you may find useful when preparing for your trip and arrival in Indonesia.

**Location & Topography**

Indonesia is located in the South East Asia Region, composing a total area of 1,904,443 square kilometres (735,310 square miles). A portion of Indonesia shares the island of Borneo/Kalimantan with Malaysia and Brunei. It shares the island of New Guinea; the western section, known as Papua, is under Indonesian administration, and the eastern section is part of Papua New Guinea. The rest of the Republic includes the Greater and Lesser Sunda Islands, and the Moluccas.

A stretch of relatively open water—consisting of the Java, Flores, and Banda seas—divides the major islands of Indonesia into two unequal strings of islands: the comparatively long, narrow islands of Sumatra, Java, Timor, and others, to the south, and Borneo/Kalimantan, Sulawesi, the Moluccas, and New Guinea to the north.

A chain of volcanic mountains rising to heights of more than 3,805 metres (12,483 feet) extends from west to east through the southern islands from Sumatra to Timor. Mount Jaya (5,030 metres/16,502 feet), in the Sudirman Range of Irian Jaya, is the highest elevation in the Republic. Each of the major northern islands has a central mountain mass, with plains along the coasts. The most extensive lowland areas are on Sumatra, Java, Borneo/Kalimantan, and Papua. Over many centuries, periodic volcanic flows from the numerous active volcanoes have deposited rich soils on the lowlands, particularly in Java.

Indonesia is situated on the ring of fire, a system of fault lines and chains of volcanic mountains situated along the Pacific Rim. The archipelago is prone to natural disasters, with earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, flooding and landslides occurring often.

Indonesia is the fourth most populated nation in the world, with some 240 million people inhabiting an archipelago of more than 17,500 islands dispersed across a distance of 6,500 kilometres from west to east. Most people inhabit the five major islands of Sumatra, Java, Borneo/Kalimantan, Sulawesi and Papua. It is a culturally diverse country, consisting of many ethnic groups and a variety of religions with Islam predominant among them.

#### Climate

The climate of Indonesia is tropical, with two monsoon seasons—a wet season from November to March and a dry season from June to October. The weather is more moderate between monsoons. Many parts of the country have only slight differences in precipitation during the wet and dry seasons.

Humidity is generally high, averaging about 80 per cent annually. The daily temperature range (about 20° to 32°C/about 68° to 90°F at Jakarta) varies little from winter to summer. Rainfall in the lowlands averages about 1,780 to 3,175 millimetres (70 to 125 inches) annually and in some mountain regions reaches about 6,100 millimetres (240 inches).

**Time**
Indonesia is divided into 3 time zones; Western Indonesian Time: GMT plus 7 hours (Sumatera, Borneo/Kalimantan, Java Island), Central Indonesian Time: GMT plus 8 hours (Bali, West Nusa Tenggara, East Nusa Tenggara, Sulawesi Island), and Eastern Indonesian Time: GMT plus 9 (Moluccas and Papua Island). Java island, where this event is held, belongs to Western Indonesian Time: GMT plus 7 hours.

**Language**

The official language is Bahasa Indonesia, which is similar to Malay. More than half the population speaks some Bahasa Indonesia. However, about 300 local languages are also spoken in the country. Of these, Javanese is the most common, with more than 70 million speakers. Some older people still speak Dutch, the official language until 1942. English is spoken as the main international language after local languages and Bahasa Indonesia, and commonly understood in big cities.

**Transportation**

The best access to reach Jakarta downtown is taxi. You can find many taxi companies in front of arrival terminal at the Soekarno-Hatta International Airport (SHIA). For this SEA Social Media Learning Exchange participants, we strongly recommend you to take Blue Bird Company for their good reputation and safety. You can find the Blue Bird Taxi in the taxi line after the exit door of arrival terminal (right side). Please contact **Ms Riris Sirait** (+62 812 1861 2140), our senior admin officer, for any arrangement inquiries and emergency call regarding transportation.

**Accommodation**

You will be staying at Gran Kemang Hotel which is located at Jalan Kemang Raya No. 2H, Kebayoran Baru, Jakarta Selatan 12730, Indonesia, Phone: +62 21 7194121, not far from IFRC Indonesia Country Office.

Your venue for the first day of workshop will be at PMI headquarter, Jl. Gatot Subroto Kav. 96 Jakarta. IFRC will provide a bus for all participants. Please be ready at the hotel lobby at 08:00 local time. The opening ceremony will be scheduled at 09:00.

**Currency**
The unit of currency used in Indonesia is rupiah (Rp). There are coins of Rp 25, 50, 100, 500, and 1,000. The denominations of the notes are Rp 1,000; 2,000; 5,000; 10,000; 20,000; 50,000; and 100,000.

Changing money in the most developed places, such as airport terminal, tourist area, in Indonesia may not cause any problems. You can also change your money at any bank, but you will always get a better rate if you go to a moneychanger. If you are planning to go to areas which are less developed you should take precautions and change your money before visiting the area. There might be few moneychangers in those small towns/villages, but it is suggested to change it before going there.

Almost all goods in tourist areas require bargaining, especially arts, crafts and clothing. Accommodation has a fixed price but it is often negotiable for non-star hotels.

**Telecommunications**
International Direct Dialing (IDD) or trunk calls may be dialled directly using operator codes of 001 or 007 followed by your country code and destination number. The country code for Indonesia is 62. You can also buy a mobile SIM card (Telkomsel, Indosat, or XL) easily around the hotel or ask our IFRC and/or PMI officers to buy it.

**Business Hours**

Banks opens at 9.00 am - 3.00 pm (Monday to Friday), whereas shopping complexes opens at 10 am - 10 pm daily. Government and private sector usually open their services from 8.00 am – 5.00 pm. During Ramadhan (fasting month), most of offices –including IFRC degelation-- reduced their office hour (8.00 am – 3.00 pm, if with no lunch break).

**Electrical Supply**

Electrical supply is on a 240-volt. For the most part, electrical sockets (outlets) in Indonesia is the "Type C" European CEE 7/16 Europlug or the "Type F" European CEE 7/7 Schuko (with two round holes plug). You can bring travel plug adapters which simply change the shape of your appliance's plug to match whatever type of socket you need to plug into.

**What to Wear**

As Indonesia mainly is an instamatic country please make sure that you are properly dressed especially when you go to religious or official occasions. And considering the climate it can be very humid and hot so wearing light (smart and casual) clothes is advised.

Especially in Aceh, well-known as a religious area where some parts of Islamic Law (Sharia) is implemented, people should aware of their dress. Please wear a polite clothes. Women is advised to wear scarf to cover their hair.

**Etiquette**
On every island of the Indonesian archipelago you have to be very careful with all drinks and food. In all places water of the tap is not drinkable but it is easy to buy some bottled water and it is very cheap. Use this water also to brush your teeth. We advise you to avoid eating any food that has not been peeled or well cooked. Eating without spoons and forks (using bare right hands) is also common in Indonesia. Be aware that there is a risk of malaria when travelling to more isolated islands. Mosquitoes carry malaria so the best precautions you can take, are wearing lots of insect repellent and wear long sleeves and trousers. To be vaccinated against tetanus, hepatitis, polio and typhoid is also recommended.

**Passports**
You must be in the possession of a passport that has at least six months' validity at the time of your arrival.

**Visa**

**Every visitors to Indonesia need to get their visa. There are several categories of visa, depends on your origin country:**

* Visa on Arrival: USD 25 (max 30 days)
* Free Visa Facility (max 30 days) for some countries, including South Korea and Japan. All ASEAN countries except Timor Leste will enjoy their free visa facilities. For Timor Leste, visitors can arrange their visa on arrival (VoA) at the airport.
* Common Visa. For those who are not in categories above, you need to arrange visa in Indonesia Embassy or Consulate General in your respective countries. It is recommended that you have a social-cultural visit visa instead only tourist visa.

For more details, please read: [Indonesia Visa Regulations](http://www.lotusasiatours.com/indonesia-visa-regulations) at Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ website (<http://www.deplu.go.id/Pages/ServiceDisplay.aspx?IDP=7&IDP2=21&>

Name=ConsularService&l=en)

Should the visitors have any difficulties to obtain entry visa, then the committee will provide supporting letter to obtain a visa at the nearest Indonesian Embassy in your country.

**Security**

Indonesia is generally a safe country. However, do take note of your surroundings and be careful as the normal array of criminals can be found here. Keep as little cash as possible on yourself as you are walking around.

Like any modern city, walking alone in broad daylight is generally not a problem in Indonesia but there have been robberies reported by day in busy shopping areas. Walking around at night is generally safe, but do take care and be cautious, and walk opposite the traffic direction. **It is advisable that visitors do not walk at night without accompany by Indonesian colleagues.**

Travelling on public transports is safe, but it is advise to have an eye on the luggage that is taken out on interstate stops. Watch out for pickpockets. Do not leave valuables (cash, camera, electronic devices, and passport) in your in tents. Carry them with you at all times, or leave them in the safety place or with our appointed person in charge.

**Emergency Contacts in the venue**

1. IFRC Indonesia Office: +6221 72793440

* Mr Giorgio Ferrario (HoD) +62811 824 859
* Ms Riris Sirait (Sr Admin Officer) +62812 1861 2140
* Mr Ahmad Husein (Sr NS Development & Communication Manager) +62 8121064579

2. Indonesian Red Cross Office: +6221 7992325

* Ms Aulia Arriani (Head of Public Relations Bureau): +62 816 795 379

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