

## Answers from Diana Consul-General to Sakai Citizens

### ● Questions about Indonesia

1. How do you describe Indonesia in a word?

United

2. I have the impression that there is a lot nature in Indonesia, but is there any wild animals which you can easily meet in daily life in Indonesia but not in Japan?

Indonesia is home to the second largest rainforest in the world. We have many different wildlife species that are present in different parts of Indonesia. I live outside of Jakarta, and I have seen many types of small reptiles such as lizards, salamanders and even some scorpions. There is also an area near us where you can see wild monkeys. I once saw a family of monkeys watching us on a fence when we went through a McDonalds drive thru.

3. Have you found the difference between Indonesia and Japan?

The weather is a big difference, in Japan you have 4 season which is very nice. In Indonesia we have summer every day, but we do have a rainy season although it is still very hot. There is a lot of great technology in Japan that is being used in day-to-day life – for example the toilets are all automated and amazing. Everywhere I go in Japan it is very clean which is wonderful.

4. Do Indonesian people prefer spicy food?

A large majority of people including myself do enjoy spicy food in Indonesia. If you do not like spicy food there is plenty of options for you. So do not worry.

5. Are there any actions or manners that you should not do in Indonesia, but does not matter in Japan?

There are a lot of similar manners and etiquette that Indonesia and Japan share. However, in Indonesia drinking alcohol is not part of our culture and although you can get alcohol in Indonesia, most Indonesians do not drink alcohol. Indonesians also avoid using their left hands when eating, for example.

6. Are there any unique creatures or endemic species in Indonesia?

There are many unique and endemic species in Indonesia. As Indonesia has the second largest rainforest in the world, there are so many species inhabiting the area. One of the most famous endemic species in Indonesia is a Reptilia called Komodo located on Komodo Island. It is the endangered Komodo Dragon which you may have heard of.

7. I like Rhinos, are there any endangered species in Indonesia? How about dangerous creatures?

Sadly, there are many endangered species in Indonesia. Indonesia is home to the Javan rhinos which are endangered and there are currently only an estimated 67 of them left in the world today. Orangutans are also

endangered. It is important to protect these animals before they are gone forever.

### ● Questions related to your career

8. What made you want to be a diplomat ? And when did you start aiming to become one?

When I was a young teenager, I had the opportunity to see Prime Minister Margret Thatcher from the United Kingdom when she visited Indonesia in 1985, that visit inspired me to learn about diplomacy and government in Indonesia. I went to the faculty of Political and Social Sciences – University of Indonesia, majoring in Politics in 1990 and in 1998 I began my career as an Indonesian diplomat.

9. How did you become a diplomat? How long did you study/prepare to become a diplomat?

I attended the University in Indonesia where I obtained a Bachelor Degree in Political Science, and obtained a Master Degree in International Relations. I also received a Chevening Scholarship to Nottingham University in the UK and obtained a Master Degree in International Human Rights Law. In 1998 there was a hiring opportunity for diplomats at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, after passing several tests, I began my career as a diplomat (foreign service officer).

10. What is rewarding about being a diplomat?

There are many things that are rewarding about being a diplomat. I get the opportunity to meet and help solve problems and issues for many people from Indonesia and other countries.

11. What is your good/happy memory as a diplomat?

There are many great memories that I have had while being a diplomat. But the ones that make me feel good are when we (myself and the Consulate Team) have been able to help our Indonesian citizens when they need help. It is an honor to be able to be part of a solution that can make a difference in their lives.

12. What do you think the most important or necessary thing for diplomats?

There are many skills that I have had to use while being a diplomat. It is important to be able to communicate effectively and clearly. It is important to be able to write well and respond quickly. It is important to be truthful and loyal to your leaders. You need to be able to be a tough but fair negotiator to be effective. You need to be adaptable and agile as well as having empathy and solidarity towards those in need, as you are representing your country and its national interests, including protecting your nationals (citizens) overseas. You need to have the ability to work effectively under pressure and be able to work with and help your team solve problems. Lastly, I would say you need a passion for diplomacy and international relations.

13. What do you keep in your mind as a diplomat?

It is important to be respectful, professional and listen carefully so that you can help if needed. Plus be aware of any political implications that your actions may have.

14. How many foreign countries have you been visited for public affairs?

I have been very lucky as I have been posted to three countries and have traveled to over 50 countries throughout my diplomatic career of 24 years in service.

15. Did you have any anxiety to work in a foreign country?

No, I never feel any anxiety about working in a foreign country. I enjoy the opportunity and the experience of meeting new people and learning about new cultures while promoting all the great things about Indonesia.

16. What is the most challenging thing, moment or experience you had as a diplomat? If there is any...

There have been many challenging moments in my career, which is a good thing as it helps makes me a better diplomat. I would say the biggest challenge I had was being the lead negotiator for the non-aligned countries at the United Nations in New York City for four years. I was one of the leading negotiators for 119 non-aligned countries and negotiated on behalf of them. I had to work professionally to ensure representing the various positions of 119 countries.

17. Have you ever been nervous about making a speech in front of people, and speak to a lot of people including people from abroad?

At the beginning of my career, of course. Having said that I do not get nervous often when making and speeches or speaking to a lot of people from abroad. One important note to remember is – I always make sure that I am prepared and I often speak every day in different capacities so it a big part of the job.

18. Have you ever met a famous person (people)?

I have met several famous people during my career. At the United Nations in New York City, I met actors George Clooney and Michael Douglas and the singer Rod Stewart (sharing an elevator with Mr. Rod Stewart). In Geneva at the United Nations, I attended a speech given by HRH the Prince of Wales (now King Charles III).

19. As a Consul-General, is your job tough? Have you ever thought to leave the Consul-General post?

The job of Consul-General can be challenging at times and there are many different issues that occur that present different challenges. It is my job to help overcome those challenges and find a positive outcome for everyone. The job of Consul-General is temporary so I will only be doing this job for a few years and then I will be on to the next challenge. It has been a very rewarding experience and I am enjoying my time in Japan.

● **Questions about your personal life or your opinions**

20. What is your favorite hometown food?

I really enjoy Padang food from West Sumatra which is very delicious and spicy.

21. What Indonesian food do you recommend?

I would recommend Padang food (rendang and cow-brain curry are my two favorite Padang food).

22. Is there anything that you have been surprised in Japan (Osaka)?

I really am surprised at how clean everything is. It is great.

23. What is your favorite animal?

I was given an opportunity to see and feed a giraffe while I was in Japan and I quite enjoyed that. So, I will say a giraffe.

24. What do you want to be if you had another life?

I cannot really imagine doing anything else to be honest. I have been very lucky to be able to have a career in the job that I love. It has brought me many wonderful experiences and I have enjoyed being able to share all the great things about Indonesia to other people.

25. What is your favorite place to recommend in Indonesia?

There are many wonderful sights to see in Indonesia but I really recommend seeing the Borobudur temple in Yogyakarta. Indonesia is home to many beautiful beaches and temples and has many volcanos and mountains to explore.

26. Do you miss your country?

Yes, I always miss Indonesia when I am away – but I do enjoy the experience of living and working in a different country.

27. Do you believe that dreams can come true?

It is good to have dreams, but if you want them to come true, you need to plan and work hard as well as pray and God willing, they might come true.

28. What do you usually eat with your family?

I will often have Bakso Soup (meat or fish ball soup) and tempe goreng (fried tempe) with my family, accompanied with super spicy sambal (chili sauce).

29. What are your goals in life?

My biggest goal is to contribute to society in a positive way and help Indonesia prosper.

30. What do you usually do in your free time?

I enjoy traveling around Japan and exploring many great places and meeting lots of wonderful people and trying the delicious food.