

ASEAN CROSS-CULTURAL EXTERNSHIP PLACEMENT COUNTRY BACKGROUND



1. Name of the country: The Republic of Indonesia

2. History/Background

Indonesia is an independent state since the 17th of August 1945. At this moment, Indonesia has 34 provinces including 415 districts and 5 special autonomy areas (Aceh, Jakarta, Yogyakarta, Papua and West Papua). There are more than 17000 islands around the country where the Papua and Borneo Islands are the biggest Island in the country. Jakarta is the capital of Indonesia and the biggest city in the country. Previously the name of Indonesia was East-India but subsequently after the independence of the country East-India was replaced by Indonesia.

3. Population

According to the National Statistical Bureau census in 2011 the population of Indonesia is 237,424,363 or Indonesia is the fourth largest country in the world in term of population. The Java Island is the most populous island in the country where 57 % of the country population is located in the Island.

4. Main Religions and Ethnicities

Islam is a majority religion in Indonesia but there are a number of other religions such as Protestant, Roman Catholic, Hindu, Budha, Confucianism and the other local religions/beliefs. 87.12 % of the Indonesian population is Moslim. Protestantism is 7 % of the country population. Roman Catholic is 2.9 % of the country population. Hindu is 1.7 % of the country population. Budha is 0.9 % of the country population. The other religion/belief is less than 0.1 % of the country population.

The Javanese is the largest ethnicity in the country where 47 % of the country population is the Javanese. There are a number of ethnicities in the country as well such as the Sundanese, the Bataks, the Achenese, the Papuans, the Molucans, etc.

5. Main Languages and Dialects

Bahasa Indonesia is an official language in the country where Bahasa Indonesia is being used in the government, judicial, business, and education institutions. There are a number of local languages as well such as the Javanese, Sundanese etc. The Javanese is the biggest dialect in the country.

6. General Legal System and Laws of Everyday Importance

In general legal system in Indonesia is civil law both in criminal, administrative and civil matters. A certain province like in the Aceh Province there is a Shariah law and court. There is also a constitutional court where the people who claim their constitutional rights are violated by the laws can challenge the law before the constitutional court.

7. Cultural Do's and Don'ts

In general the cultures of Indonesia is similar in the other Southeast Asia countries like respecting the older people, the parents/grandparents. Also, in public spaces or at home the people speak to the other people politely. The people are prohibited to speak a taboo thing like mocking or bullying the other people.

8. Work Place Culture Do's and Don'ts

In a work place, the people provide food, drink etc in a self-service manner but a certain office the people can ask "the office boy" to provide food and drink etc. The people in a work place should keep their office things like computer etc. They are prohibited to bring the office things to the home unless their head of the office allow to bring the office things to the home. In general the people should do all their works in the office hour they cannot bring their works to the home. The office hour begins at 9 o'clock am and ends at 5 o'clock. There is also lunch time from 12 pm to 1 am. To eat food is prohibited at the office hour.

9. Dress Codes Do's and Don'ts

Dress code is as polite as possible in a work place. The people can wear a pair of long/short shirt and pant and cannot wear t-shirt, short pants and sandals in a work place.

10. Cross Gender Do's and Don'ts

A man and woman are prohibited to speak each other during a meeting in a work place culturally. During office hour a man and a woman are prohibited to raise his/her personal and family matters to the other members of the office.

11. Common Communication Challenges and Do's and Don'ts

The people in Indonesia use their own local and national languages and very few people speak english but the young generation and educated people can speak english specially in the biggest cities like Jakarta, Surabaya, Bali, Medan and Batam.

12. Types of Food (Delicious Foods and Foods to Watch Out For)

Generally type of food in Indonesia depends on the ethnicity like in the Java island the food is sweat but in another place like in Sumatera the food is spicy. The other places like in the Borneo and Celebes islands the food is a combination between spicy and sweat. Pork and alcoholic drinks are available everywhere in Indonesia unless in the Aceh province we cannot find pork in a restaurant or public spheres. The food with an extracted coconut like the rendang food is highly recommended to be avoided because such food contains of much cholesterol.

13. Eating Etiquette (Customs)

Spoon and fox are used for eating the food generally. The people do not use their right hand for eating the food so that it is prohibited to use our right hand for eating the food.

14. Body Language Etiquette (Customs) Do's and Don'ts

if the people meet face to face with the other people or their friends/colleagues they should shake their right hand. The older people are priority for public service purposes like at the public transportations. The young people should give their seat for the older people at the public transportations.

15. Money/Shopping/Item Buying Customs

There is no tip from the visitors to the restaurant attendance/ the bartender etc. Usually the people can bargain the price of the things at a people's market with the reasonable price. But they cannot bargain the price of the things in the malls/shops with the fixed prices.

16. Housing/Accommodation Do's and Don'ts

In the apartment/rented houses the people are prohibited to bring their unmarried couple unless they are still the members of their family or relatives. Pets are allowed in the rented houses but in the apartments to bring a pet depends on the management of the apartments.

17. Visa Information

The people from Thailand are exempted to have visa for entering Indonesia. But to those who want to visit indonesia for more than 30 days it is highly recommended to apply visa before the Embassy of Indonesia in Bangkok. The Embassy of Indonesia website is available at www.kemlu.go.id/bangkok.

18. Country Information Websites

The following recommended websites are www.kemlu.go.id/bangkok for the visa application purposes, www.parekaf.go.id for the tourism purposes, www.indonesiaeats.com for the indonesian foods.