

an industrial complex, a busy harbor city, a cultural melting pot, and a research and knowledge center.

As a center of knowledge excellence, UNAIR is hosting ICAS and using its pivotal role in knowledge production in Surabaya, which includes one of the oldest Schools of Medicine in Indonesia. Its ace card, the Medicine faculty, is strengthened by the equally strong existence of its faculties in the social sciences, humanities, and technology. Multidisciplinary approaches and collaborations further characterize the university. A consciousness of the importance of trans-sectoral and trans-disciplinary work grew during the COVID-19 context, where most approaches towards vaccinations had to be done both medically and culturally. Multidisciplinary teams from the university worked together to produce the vaccine and successfully launched it under the title *Inovac* or *Merah Putih* in 2022.

The monumental COVID cases in Surabaya also inspire how ICAS 13 is contextualized. ICAS 13 is not only a representation of the intersectional work of scholars, but also showcases and engages the multiplex socio-historico-cultural condition of Surabaya. Every piece of the city, whether its living people or historical objects, is entangled in an interconnected network. Thus, "Crossways of Knowledge" becomes a fitting theme for this ConFest.

A gaze towards the future

As ICAS 13 marks our initial agenda and the most intensifying propeller of our establishment, a sustainable future then becomes our main goal. Several capacity-building activities, workshops, and roundtables with our international partners in Thailand, the Netherlands, India, and Tanzania have been carried out. It reflects our focus that positions ICAS not already as our culmination, but rather as a strong start and foundation for our next path.

The festivity of ICAS brings us an opportunity to partner up with local Surabayan artist collectives. ICAS becomes an avenue for us to be immersed in their creative activities and to shape a future together beyond ICAS. Our collaborative projects also involve inhabitants of *kampung* (neighborhoods) as a way for us to grow a novel inter- and intra-connected forms of knowledge production and consciousness.

Aside from our very locally-rooted activities, we are also fortunate to participate in the South-South-North (SSN) and the Humanities Across Borders (HAB) initiatives at IIAS. These programs put emphasis on transdisciplinary pedagogies and research agendas, in line with AIIOC's spirit, in areas that are often overlooked in dominant discourses. The questions of who should produce legitimating knowledge and to whom such knowledge should be given are central to our attempts in rethinking and reshaping the vista of knowledge production. This spirit, gracefully instilled by IIAS, is also extended to our already-connected African colleagues in Dar es Salaam, where a research hub with the same spirit of AIIOC is about to enrich our network.

The excitement that we have for our future cannot be overstated. Accompanied by our strong and collegial partners, both national and international, we will further proceed to open up new programs (research clusters, fellowships for post-master and post-doctoral individuals, academic and artistic initiatives, and many more), always focusing on the interconnected Indian Ocean, literally and figuratively.

Irfan Wahyudi is one of the co-founders of the Airlangga Institute of Indian Ocean Crossroads.
Email: sekretaris@aiioc.unair.ac.id

Lina Puryanti is one of the co-founders of the Airlangga Institute of Indian Ocean Crossroads.
Email: director@aiioc.unair.ac.id

Alexei Wahyudiputra is a Young Researcher at the Airlangga Institute of Indian Ocean Crossroads.
Email: alexiwahyudi77@gmail.com

The (Pre-)History of AIIOC

Adrian Perkasa

The choice of location for the symposium in Surabaya was neither coincidental nor arbitrary. Surabaya was a part of the Southeast Asia Neighborhoods Network (SEANNET), which was another program of the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) that took place during the same time period. It was with the strong backing of Rita Padawangi, the principle investigator and coordinator of SEANNET, that she and Paul Rabé, the co-coordinator of that network and the coordinator of UKNA, agreed to hold the symposium in conjunction with the launch of the SEANNET program. As the local primary investigator, I recommended Kampung Peneleh as a neighborhood that could be included in the program for several years to come. Historically, the origin of this *kampung* can be traced back to the 15th century.

Even so many centuries ago, Surabaya emerged as a major urban settlement, which subsequently developed into Indonesia's second-biggest city today. The rapid urbanization and industrialization during the colonial period created complex legacies which affected but were not limited to the position of *kampung*s or neighborhoods. The term *kampung* in Indonesia received a more derogatory meaning and became a place where the authorities wanted to exert their power. As a distinct urban feature associated with elements of rurality (i.e., village-community), the notion of *kampung*s flourished in many parts of Asia, especially in Southeast Asia. Even in the Khmer language, the term is identical to that for 'port' or 'haven,' indicating the intensive and dynamic relations between many cities at the dawn of the age of commerce in this region. With this background, a *kampung* is not only a site but also a communal way to see the world and to be in the world. Attempts at molding collective human settlements into functional, class-based, ethnic compartmentalizations imposed by state and corporate norms that have elsewhere succeeded in fragmenting societies have so far failed to fully obliterate this truly Indonesian but also Southeast Asian way of living in society.

Since joining SEANNET's project in 2017, a number of staff and students at Universitas Airlangga, particularly in the Faculty of Humanities, have gained experience in interdisciplinary thinking and working on a local and worldwide scale. Our group uses SEANNET's community-engaged research paradigm to investigate various approaches to understanding urbanism, particularly in the neighborhood setting. In this initiative, we collaborated with Arsitek Komunitas Surabaya ('Surabaya Community Architects'), to conduct participatory mapping with Kampung Peneleh locals. In addition, we invited Urban Sketchers Surabaya to host public sketching workshops in this neighborhood. Drawing, as stated in a number of works, serves a variety of objectives by distinguishing and assisting us in comprehending our complex environment. It may also enable us to discover, either via our personal experience of seeing, observing, and documenting, or through the shared experience of viewing another's drawn record of an event,

Surabaya is one of Indonesia's largest cities, yet it is understudied. That's what I realized when I first got involved in the preparation of the Urban Knowledge Network Asia (UKNA) symposium in 2017. In contrast to other Indonesian cities such as Jakarta, Bandung, and even Solo, which is not the provincial capital, Surabaya has relatively few internationally recognized studies. At least that was my impression when I exchanged ideas with almost all of the participants in the symposium. In my field of study (history), I know of only a few works by authors like Howard Dick, William Frederick, and most recently Freek Colombijn, among others. Therefore, I believe it was a great opportunity to host the UKNA symposium to push Surabaya into an intensive discussion with other cities in Asia.

by employing signs and symbols, mapping, and labeling our experience.

Furthermore, being involved in the SEANNET program provides many privileges for all members of the group to collaborate with and learn from various international scholars, artists, and communities. The students and a member of the local neighborhood association in Kampung Peneleh participated in workshops in several countries in Southeast Asia, such as Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines. Participating in the SEANNET program exposed me to a variety of IIAS activities. Prior to my appointment as a lecturer at Universitas Airlangga, I had only established a connection with the institute once. I visited Rapenburg 59 together with several Indonesian officials during a heritage workshop in 2013. On that occasion, I was really impressed with how IIAS, under the directorship of Philippe Peycam, created various programs related to Asia. Subsequently, the acceptance of the paper I co-authored with Rita Padawangi into a seminar that IIAS co-organized in Taiwan provided me with an opportunity to learn more about the institute. I met with several figures who have been in this institute's network for several years. Philippe's invitation to attend

a workshop in Zanzibar, just days before the Africa-Asia Conference in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, heightened my interest in such activities. In fact, IIAS also invited the director of Airlangga Global Engagement, Ni Nyoman Tri Puspaningsih, to the event. However, due to several issues, only I could join that inspirational event from Surabaya.

The relationship of Airlangga with IIAS actually originated during the early years of the institute. In 1996, IIAS sent a current copy of *The Newsletter* to the Universitas Airlangga's library [Fig. 1-2]. After two subsequent decades of no significant collaboration, the relationship between Universitas Airlangga and IIAS has now grown stronger than ever. This was accelerated by the embryonic period of the newly established Airlangga Institute of Indian Ocean Crossroads. This partnership and mutual support has provided a model that we all hope will endure for many years into the future.

Adrian Perkasa is a PhD candidate at Leiden University, and a lecturer in the Department of History, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Airlangga.
Email: adrianperkasa@fih.unair.ac.id

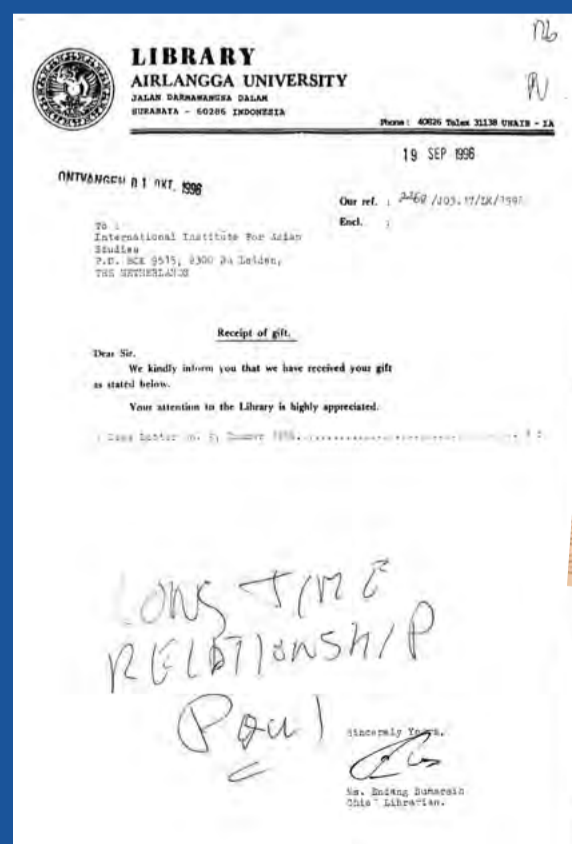


Fig. 1 (above): Issue #9 of *The Newsletter* (Summer 1996), an early point of connection between IIAS and Universitas Airlangga.

Fig. 2 (left): A note from Chief Librarian Endang Sumarsih at Universitas Airlangga to IIAS, confirming receipt of *The Newsletter* in 1996. (Photo courtesy of IIAS)