



Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

Report Title: Mathematics Education in Indonesia **Name:** Charles Roth
Other Team Members:
Program: New York City Program
Trip Dates: 11/30/-0001 - 11/30/-0001 **Location Visited:** Indonesia
Post Fellowship Reporting Template: PFR Template 01

Project Summary: Having lived, taught and traveled to places like East Africa, Latin America, Europe, as well as our own country, I have learned to appreciate different cultures and the different ways people live, work and learn. I had never been to Asia, but was told that the culture in different parts of Asia were very diverse, as well as very different from other places in the world. I was initially drawn to Indonesia for cultural purposes. The archipelago's vast size and amazing history have made Indonesia one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world. I was very interested to see how such different people interact with each other on a day-to-day basis, as well as just experiencing the country and its people.

Later, I met an immigrant who formally was an Indonesian high school math teacher. He informed me that in Indonesia, most students consider math the most important subject and tend to take their math classes more seriously than their other classes. His wife, who unlike him continued to teach when they came to the U.S. found it difficult, he explained, to deal with that contrast to American education culture among students. I wanted to see what the Indonesian teachers were doing so that I could attempt to instill a similar respect for math in my own students.

Finally, I learned of an International Math Conference taking place in Indonesia over the summer. Having never been to a math conference, I decided this would be the perfect opportunity to meet mathematicians and math teachers from across the world. My goal was to have discussions with fellow math teachers to share best practices, and try to develop professionally by learning new and better ways to teach math.

Career Impact: * Attended Mathematics Conference.

* Visited schools throughout the diverse country.

* Learned about the Hindu religion in Indonesia and how it differs from Indian Hinduism.

* Met a Dutch Professor who works in mathematics education in many New York City schools, who will hopefully continue to help improve my teaching.

* Learned how mathematics is being taught in Indonesia.

* Experienced the cultural differences between cultures within Indonesia, as well as between those in Indonesian and other cultures I have experienced, as well as my own.

Classroom/Community Impact:* Increase appreciation for current mathematics curriculum.

* Sharing with colleagues has inspired others to attempt a similar experience.

* Helped with planning for "Cultural Awareness" unit of Advisory curriculum.

* Stories have inspired students to be more open-minded and have created a sense of appreciation for world travel in students.

Open Response: * Teaching a unit on "Cultural Awareness" for Advisory curriculum.

* Meeting with Dutch Professor while he is in New York to learn more about his mathematics teaching practices.

* Sharing with colleagues the practices learned from above meeting.

Quote: My multicultural experience was a lesson I will never forget.

Photos:



Charlie and Sarah at Bali Volcano



Gamelan Orchestra



Ubud School Children



Dinner at the Governor of Sumatra's Mansion



Visiting School at Pulau Weh



Traditional Dancing at Dinner with Mayor of Palembang



Hindu Temple in Ubud



Our Chef in Lembeh