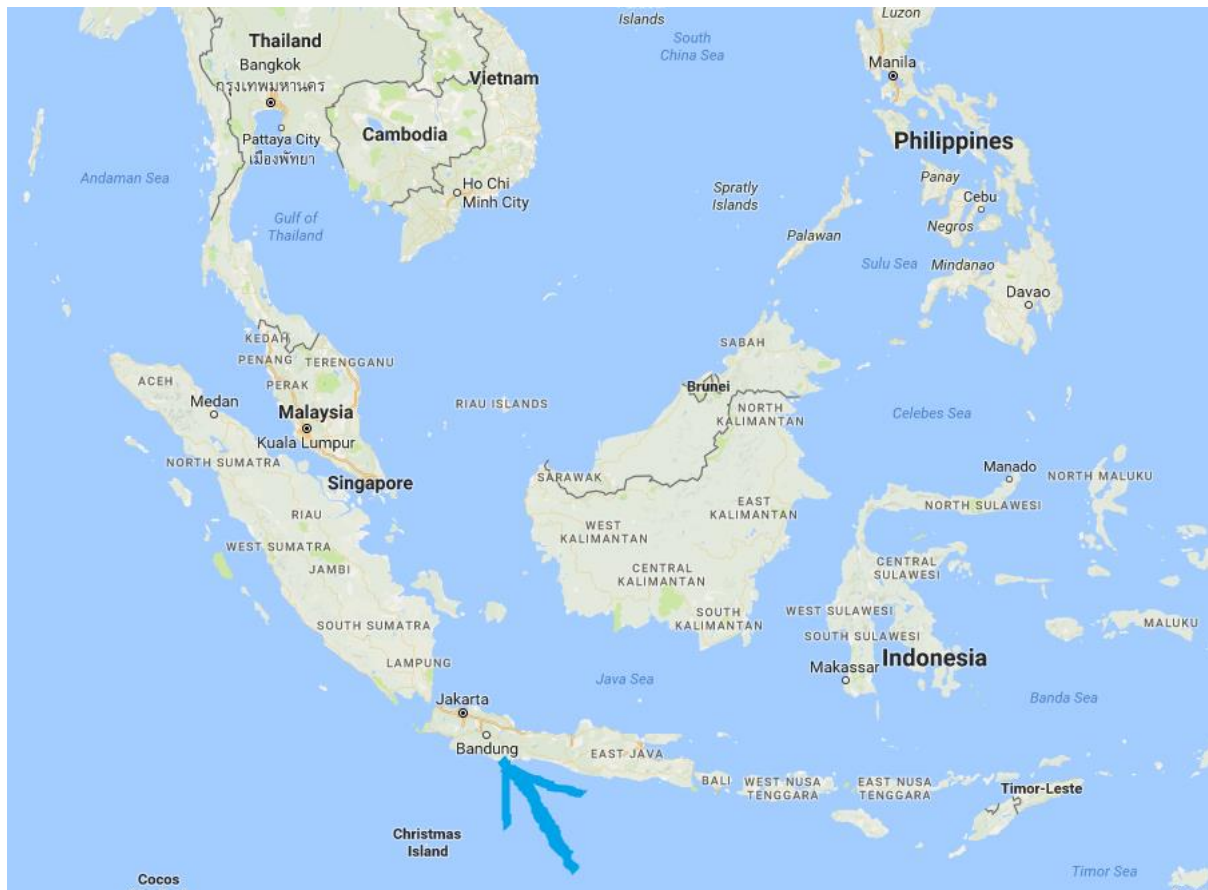


Seeds Planted in Indonesia - Jag Alit Kindergarten in Bandung

Manda Wellang



Jagad Alit Waldorf Kinder and Play in Bandung/Indonesia¹ has only begun operating in August 2016. However the journey it went through started years before. Starting with a study group with people who work in education or with children, and in parallel with parenting workshops to raise awareness of Waldorf education, there were many public talks and discussions on different ways to handle/educate/care for children. Jagad Alit started before it bore its name as a Waldorf kindergarten and playgroup. In its years of starting, spreading and growing, Jagad Alit built a small but solid group of people, and a small community is growing. This community has become the seedbed of the Waldorf

¹ **Bandung** is the capital of [West Java](#) province in [Indonesia](#) and [Greater Bandung](#) made up of 2 municipalities and 38 districts, making it Indonesia's 2nd largest metropolitan area with 8,199,892 inhabitants at the 2014 Badan Pusat Statistik data. It is nation's fourth largest city (by land area), and the third largest city by population (within city proper), with over 2.4 million. It is Located 768 metres (2,520 feet) [above sea level](#), approximately 140 kilometres (87 miles) south east of [Jakarta](#) (from Wikipedia)

movement in Bandung, and the study group members have proven to be the supporting resource that helps us hold events and talks in order to spread awareness and raise more interests in Waldorf education.



The people

It was this group that made possible an IASWECE-supported mentoring program with Edith van Der Meer. Organizers included Jag Alit founders Kenny Dewi, who completed her Waldorf Early Childhood training in Bangkok in 2014; her husband Iwan Kurniawan, who is mainly in charge of finance and development; and Manda Wellang, who completed her Waldorf teacher training in Melbourne in 2012. Kenny is now working as head teacher for the mixed age Kindergarten, Iwan as financial administrator/building and developmental manager of the Kinder, and Manda leads the weekly parents and children's group, while also researching and preparing for future development of a Waldorf primary school. Other participants in the visit included assistant teachers Melati Sesaria, Risy Astrienofika, and Citrarini Ceria. This internal team is held closely and supported by members of Jagad Alit study group, made up of people from a variety of backgrounds from psychologists, to a theoretical physicist and of course teachers and parents. Our small community also includes Jagad Alit parents, parents from the general public who come to participate in monthly parenting discussions in Jagad Alit, and others who are curious about Waldorf education.

The programmes and activities

Daily discussions with the class team gave insights and understanding to the operational team members of Jagad Alit and helps support our daily activities in running the Kinder. Edith's guidance gave us confidence that we have been doing everything in the best interest of each child's development. She also helped us ponder how our culture and environment have shaped us, as well as our practices of child rearing and our approaches in educating children. These sessions have also brought new consciousness to our actions and responses. Practicing child study without labeling it as such also has been introduced, and helped us get to know and understand each individual better. This activity has brought joy and nourished our longing for deep understanding as well as reassurance that we have been doing things appropriately.

Weekly craft meeting and including lazure painting the classroom involved the Jagad Alit internal team and supporting team. For the lazure painting we also invited Jagad Alit parents to help, which gave an opportunity to knit the school and home relationship. We managed to do doll making, felt pictures painting/making, and needle-felting, while at the same time discussing topics that came up related to children, craft and practical skill in education.



Small activities for the general public provided a preparation and marketing for our public talks. First, we had Edith do a storytelling session at a local children's library where parents and children came to enjoy a puppet story. This was followed by some eye opening discussions about Waldorf education and topics that covered parenting issues closed to many parents' hearts. We also held public discussions, yoga and small bazaar at Jagad Alit.

Public talks - 3 days of public talks on parenting issues - included the following topics:

- Day 1: Loving Authority and Discipline
- Day 2: Rhythm at Home
- Day 3: Grandparenting

All talks were designed to help parents and our wider community to be aware of healthier ways to raise children. The topics were picked to attune to the needs and problems of Indonesian/Bandung urban parents.

The final events included a team evaluation, a farewell gathering for the mentor, and further sessions. And we are now supporting the other initiative, with Ubud people in Bali, and making connections that work as the seed bed for the Indonesia Waldorf Steiner Association.

Our presence in Bandung is growing slowly, and hopefully strongly and significantly. The mentoring program, made possible by Edith van Der Meer and IASWECE, made a deep impact on our slowly progressing development. More of this kind of empowerment is needed and would be deeply appreciated. We are grateful for all the seeds that has been planted in our backyard and we will care for them with all our hearts - for our children, for our future.

As a new Waldorf initiative in Indonesia, Jagad Alit needs all the support and guidance that can be obtained. In an effort to gain more support, Jagad Alit initiated a facebook group of [Indonesia Waldorf Steiner Association](#) as a hub for sharing any interest in Waldorf Education, sharing information on events, discussion topics, and initiatives in the vast physical space of Indonesia

Manda Wellang has been spreading Waldorf spirit in Bandung since 2011 through study groups with teachers and colleagues. She is now leading a weekly parent-child group at Jagad Alit and is preparing for the founding of a Waldorf school in Bandung.

