

Ken Thiess Memorial Scholarship

2012 Scholarship Recipient

Indrawan



In 2012, Indrawan was awarded the Ken Thiess Memorial Scholarship. This gave Indrawan the opportunity to study towards IWC's Master of Philosophy in Integrated Water Management at Monash University, South Africa.

Full Name: Indrawan Prabaharyaka

Age: 27

Country of birth: Indonesia

Academic Background: Environmental Engineering

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Why do you want to be a Water Leader?

I realise that water is a medium to connect people from different backgrounds. At the same time, water is a source of conflict as well. I am aspiring to be a water leader to be part of greater task of humanity: ensuring water is being delivered to the poorest of the poor.

What started your interest in water management in your home country?

Indonesia is an urbanizing developing country with an enormous population and chronic problems in environmental services. In most cities, raw water is polluted by waste so that the water treatment plant can not maintain its efficiency to the point where the polluted raw water is being wasted to the sea. Insufficient supply and limited access to clean water affects the lives of low income groups in Jakarta. I am curious about the bleak future scenario of Indonesia and looking for the answer to this question: Is it still possible to turn back the tide and improve the water management?

What are the greatest challenges that you believe need to be addressed in the water industry?

The greatest challenges in the water industry are coping and adapting with climate change while at the same time ensuring the sustainability of water processing. Most urban centers in the world rely on remote water sources, which are invisible in the eyes of urbanites. In fact, that manner of water sourcing threatens freshwater species and ecology. Although climate change might increase precipitation, population growth requires more food, which translates into more water for irrigation, and drinking water - but fresh-water availability is limited.

How will your studies assist you in reaching your goals?

My study in Integrated Water Management will allow me to tap in to vaster sources of theoretical and practical water knowledge. I am thankful that the site of my study is in South Africa, a country with 'developing' status but with a high concern about freshwater conservation.

