

1) *Resilient Communities for Sustainable Cities: Understanding Urban Informality, Inclusion, and Innovation*. A summer course offered by the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM) and Universitas Diponegoro (UNDIP)

Spanning two weeks in late July and early August 2023, the Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP) at University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM) partnered with the Department of Urban and Regional Planning (PWK) at Universitas Diponegoro (UNDIP) to offer their second international summer course in Semarang, Indonesia. *Resilient Communities for Sustainable Cities: Understanding Urban Informality, Inclusion, and Innovation* was the second edition of this joint effort. DURP faculty **Ashok Das** and **Priyam Das** guided the designing and detailing of the course, and served as two of its four coordinators. Five facilitators and a six-person support team, aided by other members of PWK, helped to deliver the course. To participate in this course, four Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) students received scholarships—three from DURP, and one from the UHM/EWC Luce SEA Transitions grant. The DURP students joined nine Indonesian undergraduate students from PWK’s International Urban Planning (IUP) program, as well as two foreign students from other Indonesian universities. Over 20 foreign students from universities within and outside Indonesia also participated in the course online, asynchronously.

The course sought to encourage students to appreciate planning challenges related to urbanization, climate change, and evolving institutions in the Global South in more nuanced ways. It also hoped to reflect critically on the adequacy of extant planning theory and practice approaches to grapple with a range of issues, especially those that are uniquely contextual and seem intractable. The course included lectures on relevant topics and field research fundamentals; site visits to five settlements (cases) that exemplify unique planning issues; learning from the local communities; and studio-style group work to analyze the cases and explore possible interventions; and presentation of findings and suggestions to the course participants and invited guests. UNDIP generously offered free accommodation for the duration of the course to all the participants who came from elsewhere.



Photos: Ashok Das



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2) Summer Workshop on Critical Research, Writing, and Publishing for Young Scholars of Urban Planning and Policy from Indonesia

In August 2023, DURP, UHM and PWK, UNDIP also organized in Semarang a two-day *Summer Workshop on Critical Research, Writing, and Publishing for Young Scholars of Urban Planning and Policy from Indonesia*. It was a component of *Towards Inclusive Urbanization: Bolstering Planning Research and Education in Indonesia* – a project about strengthening urban planning pedagogy in Indonesia, led by **Ashok Das** (PI) and **Wiwandari Handayani** (co-PI). Organized by UNDIP's **Wiwandari Handayani**, UHM's **Ashok Das** and **Priyam Das** designed and conducted this workshop. Its 12 participants, including 10 women, were mostly young Indonesian scholars of urban planning, policy, and urbanism, who research issues related to informality, justice, equity, sustainability, and resilience. Most also came from urban planning and related departments at Indonesian universities; a few were from foreign universities. The workshop prioritized scholars from smaller, outlying islands of Indonesia. The multi-year *UHM-EWC LuceSEA Transitions: Environment, Society and Change* initiative funded by the Henry Luce Foundation paid the attendance costs of the participants.



Photos: Ashok Das (top), UNDIP (bottom)

- 3) In February 2024, **Ashok Das** taught two online classes—epistemological stances and logics of inquiry; and ethical considerations in public affairs research—for a course, *Methods of Inquiry and Research Design in Public Affairs Management*. Offered in a hybrid format, offline and online, it is a core course for graduate students in the College of Local Administration (COLA), Khon Kaen University, Thailand.
- 4) During the summer and fall of 2023, **Ashok Das** guided a team of researchers from Kota Kita (Our City), an Indonesian NGO and think-tank, to develop a survey of Indonesian civil society organizations (CSOs) to understand the contours of civil society in the country today. Ashok worked closely with **John Taylor**, Co-Founder of Kota Kita, who oversaw the administration of the survey and follow-up interviews. Preliminary results were presented by John and Ahmad Rifai (Co-Founder and Executive Director, Kota Kita) at the 10th Indonesia Urban Social Forum in Surakarta, Indonesia December 9-10, 2023. A second phase to expand the survey is to be completed in 2024.

- 5) During July-August 2023, **Ashok Das** conducted fieldwork on urban agriculture in low-income settlements in the cities of Surabaya and Semarang, Indonesia, with a focus on institutional collaborations and design innovations.