

Newcomer's Guide to Jakarta
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Books: There are several bookstores selling English language books. There are: Aksara, Kinokuniya and QB World Books to name a few.

There are a few books that you may wish to purchase within a short time of moving here that are considered essential by many newcomers. The first is the Jakarta Shopper's Guide, published each year by the American Women's Association. It includes the addresses for just about everything from shops to restaurants, etc. and is available at many book stores in Kemang. It is considered by many to be the key to tapping into the many fine resources of Jakarta. It is often especially valuable for newcomers who typically find themselves making purchases before they have had the opportunity to really get to know much about shopping here. If you have trouble finding a bookstore when you first arrive just check with our newcomers group (newcomers1@cwajakarta.com) to help you locate one.

Another book which is handy to have, once you have hired a driver, is the Jakarta Street Guide. With its street maps, in theory, you will never be lost too badly.

The third recommend book would be Jakarta Explorer. This book recommends many of the tourist attractions of Jakarta and has some ideas for cultural tours. The Indonesian Heritage Society also hosts many tours and talks throughout the year.

Blood Donors Committee Rh Negative Emergency: Do you know your blood type? The supply of blood to hospitals in Jakarta is limited and, most importantly, there usually are no supplies of Rh negative blood because the Rh negative group is rare among Indonesians.

If you are Rh negative we need your blood. Please volunteer to be a standing donor for emergency use. Register with the Expatriate Emergency Blood Donor Committee for RH negative blood by contacting dorine.oppermann@gmail.com.

You can also register by filling out a Red Cross Blood Donor Registration Card. You can find these at SOS Medical Clinic in Cipete, Jalan Pangeran Antasari, on the reception desk. Please drop the filled out card in the Red Cross wooden box provided for this purpose.

If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact me either by telephone or e-mail: dorine.oppermann@gmail.com or 081384755545

Cable TV: Getting your first cable installation can be a little frustrating and may try your patience. The cost is approximately USD 60 monthly and it is available from KabelVision. There are a lot of different languages represented including English, French, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, German and of course Indonesian. There are also plenty of sports and news channels.

Climate: With Jakarta being close to the equator, its climate is consistently hot and humid in the day time with year-around maximum temperatures ranging between 30 and 33 degrees Celsius and hot at night with temperatures not falling below 16 degrees Celsius. Humidity ranges between 60 and 90 percent. Jakarta has two seasons, rainy and dry. During the rainy season which usually begins in October, there will be sudden tropical downpours with heavy thunder but it is often dry for the rest of the day. By February or March several successive days of rain inevitably bring flooding to many areas of Jakarta.

Flooding slows down the traffic and floodwaters may enter some of the houses so try to avoid renting a home in the flood zones or low lying areas of Jakarta. Another problem during the flooding is that well water is often contaminated bringing about more bouts of mild food poisoning from fruits or vegetables that are uncooked or not peeled. Also at this time, the mosquito population is sure to multiply which generally brings an increase in the potential risk of malaria and dengue fever. Fortunately most of these problems can be prevented by simply

taking the proper precautions.

Credit Cards: Be sure to take care when using your credit card and especially see that receipts are disposed of safely through shredding or burning. Get a local credit card with a minimal credit limit to use in suspect places. These generally include nightspots but your credit number can be sold for fraudulent use by even the most unexpected spots (i.e. including a seemingly respected and popular supermarket) so be on guard. Although the local banks may lack international standards of security, they are usually quite good at spotting phony charges. Sometimes their reaction includes cancelling your credit card, so have a back up card in place for when you are travelling.

Drinking Water: You will not be able to drink the tap water in Jakarta, so everyone will have a bottled water and a cooler. When buying these, it is important to keep in mind that as warm and hot are not the same, neither are cool and cold.

Driving/Traffic: Because traffic often moves so slowly in Jakarta, it is easy to forget about safety. However in Jakarta wearing a seat belt is the law and violations are subject to a Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) 1 million fine, should you or your driver be caught not wearing one.

The three-in-one traffic policy - in which a car must carry at least three passengers when passing through the restricted zone from Jl. Sisingamangaraja, South Jakarta, to Kota, West Jakarta, and from the overpass of Jl. S. Parman, Central Jakarta, to Kuningan intersection, South Jakarta - is applied from 7 to 10 a.m. and from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. If you have less than three in the car and are stopped by the police the fine is IDR 1 million or a lesser amount if you are able to negotiate only a warning from the police officer.

Drugs: People caught with recreational drugs in their possession are often dealt with very harshly here. Severe imprisonment and/or deportation are certainly not uncommon. This applies to even those associated with someone who is found to be in possession, so take extra precautions with teenagers and know their friends well, especially if they go out to the clubs.

Electricity: The electricity in Jakarta is subject to many surges and power outages. Although these tend to inconvenience you for only a few minutes in most cases, they can raise havoc with some of your electrical appliances especially computers and stereos. So it is a wise idea to protect your equipment with voltage regulators if possible. Always buy computers with local warranty service, as you may need to replace them due to power surges. Places such as Ace Hardware, Carrefour or Kemchicks will sell voltage regulators etc.

Housing Districts: Generally expatriates seem to settle in a few areas of Jakarta; the Kemang district, the Pondok Indah area or Kuningan. Having said this, you will still find a few expatriates who have scattered throughout the city for various reasons. The advantage to being in one of the mentioned expatriate areas is quick access to services. Traffic and the length of time it takes to get anywhere is often the biggest complaint. So location is an important factor to consider when you decide on housing. Schools, shopping, restaurants and recreational facilities have been placed in these areas to attract and cater to the expatriate market.

Kemang has the most services for the expatriate. Pondok Indah has some of the most beautiful houses and backyards in Jakarta. Kuningan is close to a number of great restaurants and oil company offices.

Generally your company will show you a selection of properties to choose from. When choosing your residence you may want to consider location, security, traffic and the condition of the house.

Always select a home on the basis of its "AS- IS" condition, even though the landlord may seem quite accommodating to any repairs or improvements. House maintenance here can be a very frustrating experience, taking a long time and many trips to complete. When finished, the work is often to a standard lower than what westerners are used to. So chances are that those water stains that were on the ceiling when you moved in, although painted over, and repaired many times, will still be there, when you move out.

Apartments are deemed to be the safer choice for security, but keep in mind, you are affected much more by your neighbours. If they drag things across their floor instead of picking them up or spray for bugs, or cook fish for dinner you will be all too aware of this. Houses are a greater security risk but if you hire trust worthy security staff it should not be a problem. Houses will also require more staff to maintain them but in return will give your family more room, their own outside pool and maybe even a backyard.

Try and decide what your family's routine outings may look like. For instance, how far (or rather how long) is the trip to the office? the school? the grocery store? which recreational centres will you or your family be going to?

Indonesian Culture: The majority (90%) of the population is Muslim. Most Indonesians speak the national language, Bahasa Indonesia, just as well as one or more of the 300+ local Indonesian languages. It is expected that most westerners will learn Bahasa Indonesia and appreciate the Indonesian culture. If they do so, westerners will quickly gain the respect of the Indonesian people.

Indonesia remains one of the most traditional countries in Southeast Asia. "Keeping face" is an important value that causes the people in general to be very courteous to the point of avoiding anything considered a directly spoken criticism. Indonesians will often agree with what you say rather than risk offending you. They will also prefer to say something rather than appear as if they don't know the answer. They mean well but the answer you may get to a question may be very incorrect. If this is not understood it will look like Indonesian are less honest by Western standards. However from their point of view, their primary focus is not to upset or insult someone.

Indonesians will be very concerned if they feel they have upset you, and likewise if you raise your voice to them, they will be very intimidated. The best way to approach conflicts with Indonesians is often by addressing the situation early before a person is frustrated and the issue becomes an emotional one. An emotional outburst will in all likelihood not get things done any faster or differently. Even when it would appear that good English skills are present, generally when Indonesians get upset they really won't understand a word of English that is being said. On the other hand, the Indonesian people are generally quite accommodating and will try to please their employer once they understand what is expected of them.

The social culture and religion of Indonesia is marked with a very interesting set of rules and etiquette. While westerners guard their privacy quite adamantly Indonesians are quite comfortable with crowded and small spaces. In the communities where they live it is tradition to leave the doors unlocked until 10 in the evening and neighbours will come in and out of their house like family. Therefore often it will be hard for Indonesians to understand the Western need for privacy and space. For peace of mind, it would be important for westerners to establish firm boundaries with Indonesians from the onset before problems arise.

Further to the privacy issue, if you have English speaking staff, never be under the assumption that you can say something and it won't be repeated. Indonesians are very sociable and information is generously shared. When throwing out garbage, it is quite normal for it to be sifted through and recycled. So don't be surprised if you see your driver suddenly wearing that old shirt of your husbands that you just threw out. In Indonesia nothing is wasted; a juicy piece of gossip, a ragged piece of clothing or that old visa slip you didn't shred.

Internet: Internet is widely available in Jakarta, including by subscription via KabelVision (with your TV) or via a telephone landline with ADSL or via a Telekom dial-up service using your standard telephone landline. It is common to find internet cafes, where you will be able to check your e-mail (in case your home service is not yet installed). Connection speeds in Jakarta can be aggravatingly slow at times. Installation will test your nerves, but just be patient and persistent and remember everyone has gone through the same experience as you are. Service problems are another issue; so the best and maybe the only advice that can be given is: just hang in there!

If you need to use the internet but do not yet have an account, there is a existing service

through Telekom that is charged by the minute directly to your telephone bill. There is no activation fee. The phone number: 080989999, User name: telkomnet@instan, Password: telkom.

Kissing in public: Public shows of affection are typically frowned upon and considered counter culture in Indonesia. There is a move afoot to make kissing in public illegal.

Low Wages & Plentiful Resources: Often it has been said that the rich volcanic soil is so fertile that people need only drop a seed for a plant to grow. This makes possible, the intense agricultural development that exists beyond the city. Because wages are low and there are so many people to employ, it is common to employ more than one person to do a single job. As it is local custom to take life at a slower pace, it is important that when you want something done quickly that you be quite specific about the time frame. Saying something vague like "could you do this later?" is asking for real trouble. Better to say "please do this at 2:00 or please do this now".

Being a city of great economic contrast, Jakarta has many fine restaurants and shopping malls catering to the more economically fortunate. As well, there is an abundance of shops where various locally made treasures can be purchased at low prices by expatriates who have developed their bargaining skills. With the decline of the American dollar prices are not as good as they once were, but with the continued devaluation of the Indonesian Rupiah, purchases, especially those with a significant local labour component are less costly than elsewhere in the world.

Medical Care: Though most people will go to Singapore for serious medical concerns, local medical centres like SOS Clinics have very excellent doctors who will recommend a trip to Singapore for treatment of any life threatening condition if warranted. Some people actually prefer the doctors in Indonesia. Doctors in Indonesia are very personable and compassionate taking the time to explain things to you or answer any questions. There is not the same sort of "assembly-line doctoring" that you find in the west. Local doctors have an experience advantage here in some cases, especially where things like tropical rashes and dengue fever are concerned. There are medical concerns frequently seen here and the local doctors know very well how to recognize the symptoms and treat them effectively.

By the time most expatriates have been here for a couple of months they will experience food poisoning on some level. This will present itself in harsher cases with flu-like symptoms such as a mild fever, fatigue and an overall "rotten" feeling. Oh, and did I forget to mention the major symptom; diarrhoea? In most cases this will run its course in a few days to about a week. In the large part it is just the bacteria in your stomach that is adjusting and after you recover, future food poisoning may never be as severe. Common advice is to, get lots of rest, try and replace your lost fluids, stay close to a bathroom and take some charcoal tablets if necessary. They are found in most drug stores. If symptoms persist or become severe make sure you visit a medical doctor.

Skin rashes (usually fungus) in Indonesia are quite common. Most rashes here are very aggressive so don't delay long in treating them. If you're not seeing a noticeable result in a few days, be sure to consult a doctor.

Pink eye (conjunctivitis) in Indonesia is also more of a problem than in Canada. In a tropical country with low standards of sanitation, a highly contagious condition such as this can easily be transmitted if one does not resist the common tendency to touch one's face frequently and is not in the habit of the extra-frequent hand-washing that is recommended here. Since tropical pink eye strains are a lot more aggressive than those in Canada, seek treatment immediately; within hours, if possible. Treatment is quite easy; generally consisting of an eye ointment or an eye flush. Sometimes if the redness is made worse by pollution, a bit of saline or Visine dropped into the eye will also help, but be careful that you keep the tip of the dropper sterile and don't touch it to the affected eye. Saline and Visine are always sold at most drug stores.

A TB vaccination is one that you will most likely have here. In the UK and Asia it is quite a standard vaccination although it is uncommon to have it in Canada. The vaccination is actually quite complex and requires first a TB test, which is evaluated again after a few days and then

later the actual vaccination is given. It is applied between layers of skin tissue and will create a small fluid bubble that is absorbed by the body after a time. It will normally leave a small permanent mark on the arm which generally fades quite well as it heals. Some people prefer to have the vaccination in Singapore as they feel the vaccines are fresher but many people have had TB vaccinations in Indonesia safely with no problems and certainly less hassle than making the flight to Singapore. With matters to do with medical safety; it must always be your own decision.

Though TB in Indonesia is quite a serious problem, most experts agree that it is not easily contracted by someone who is generally healthy and eats well. Eating well is not a problem for most westerners as they are knowledgeable in basic nutrition and have access to and can afford to buy everything that is needed for a healthy diet. However people with low immunity conditions (like the majority of Indonesians who are anemic due to poor nutrition and pollution) will have to be quite careful. A few lessons learned by the SARS scare will be useful. If possible, choose well ventilated areas if you are in a crowd and if you are stuck in a taxi with someone coughing furiously, roll down the windows to keep the air moving. Keep your hands clean, especially before eating a burger or some other food which may require you to handle it first. Bring tissues with you everywhere since the bathrooms in Asia are well known for seldom having any toilet paper. Keep and use the special purse-size bottles of bacterial hand sanitizer that are available here. Take a vitamin supplement (usually Cs or a good multi) if your diet lacks nutrition. Don't touch staircase rails if you have good balance, however if not, you may have to make a judgement call on this one. Don't touch the door knob/handle if you can enter a door without doing so. This also works well to reduce risk of getting general rainy season flu and colds. Usually the peak season for flu and colds here is after the Ramadan holiday. One can relate it to the Christmas Holiday in the west where there are lots of crowds, travel and late nights. Your staff will often bring back flu as a result of this. Remember their immunity has most likely already been weakened by the early morning prayers and fasting and then late nights that follow. This will occur during the fasting month prior to the Hari Raya holiday celebration.

Money: The currency conversion rate fluctuates. In October 2006, it was about Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) 9,200 to USD 1. Sometimes it gets a little confusing but everyone here, in essence, is a millionaire. The coins really don't have much value so don't be surprised if the coinage portion of change is sometimes not exact. Coins are valuable to the Indonesians though, as they can buy a local snack at a vendor stall or a bag of noodles. Indonesia is much more of a cash society than Canada is, especially with the high rate of credit card theft. You will often withdraw what appears to be large bundles of cash in IDR 50,000 or IDR 100,000 bills because ones of greater value are not being produced.

In many restaurants if you are paying cash for your bill, it is best to try and carry some small bills (i.e. a few IDR 20,000, IDR 10,000 and IDR 5,000) so you do not have to ask for much change. It is a common practice in restaurants here to make you wait a very long time for the change from your bill in the hope that the westerners will grow impatient and in doing so, leave a larger tip than they normally would. This has proven to be a very successful strategy as far as restaurant staff is concerned. In some restaurants a tip is not required though, as a cover or service charge is included in the bill which in theory, includes the tip. Applicable taxes are included as well.

Newspapers & Magazines: The main newspaper read by expatriates in Jakarta is the Jakarta Post. Typically a paper delivery boy will appear at your house and ask you if you would like a subscription. There are also a few really good free expatriate magazines available, which you will see in different venues throughout Jakarta, Kemchicks being one. Jakarta Kini is a great magazine and often has reviews on restaurants, great holiday spots and shopping places. A few standard expatriate magazines (often Australian) are also available in bookstores and Kemchicks

Population: Jakarta is a large city with an urban centre population of 9 million and a metropolitan population of 18 million (as of 01 Jan 2006). The numbers are not truly known as many new urban villagers come to Jakarta each year in hope of finding a job and they often do not register with the local Jakarta officials.

Schools: There are many international schools here, but the preferred choices for Canadian

expatriates are the Jakarta International School (JIS) with an American curriculum and the British International School (BIS) which is based on the UK syllabus. There are advantages to both which include your travel distance to these schools. Anyone with high-school students, however will often find JIS (www.jisedu.org) an easier cross over from the Canadian School System. In the lower grades the British School (www.bis.or.id) might look more attractive as they have smaller class sizes.

Security: Although you will often receive standard security warnings it is important not to be overwhelmed by them. After all no place in the world is really considered safe these days. There are a few general guidelines to follow though that do make sense. Avoid demonstrations; although usually friendly, you can quickly loose control of your security in a large crowd (even at some sporting events in Canada). Demonstrations in Indonesia can become violent against westerners with little warning. Try to shop at off-peak times when crowds are smaller. This also has the added bonus of giving the expatriate a lot more room to move around in. Try and screen your staff carefully. It is best to get a referral from other expatriate if you can. Heed warnings when there are reported problems and don't go vacationing in trouble spots until things have settled down; your safety just isn't worth the risk.

In the wake of the 2002 Bali bombings, there has been increases in hotel, office and shopping centre security measures. Cars will be stopped and sometimes the doors will be opened and the trunk inspected. Likewise, purses and backpacks are checked. If you are shy about personal items being in your purse make sure you put them towards the bottom of your purse before you leave home. Usually security for westerners just entails a quick "look-see" and then purses or packs are handed back to you to close. With the wand scanner hold your purse out for scanning and in doing so you will avoid your body also being scanned by association.

Staff: It is not uncommon for an expatriate to employ 5 - 6 household staff. Living in Indonesia, you will soon become the manager of a house full of employees. Remember that Indonesians place a high value on fairness, so what you give to one the others will expect. This does not relate to wages as there is a bit of a hierarchy that they follow. Wages for the staff vary but most will expect the same benefits. With live-in staff you are expected to pay a meal allowance. Often there will be a mix of live-in staff and those who go home for the night. Once they have been employed by you for a full year you are expected to pay a Ramadan bonus. This is calculated as one month's salary. At this time the staff will usually take a paid leave of 7 to 10 days to visit their home villages. It is not necessary or normal to pay for their travel tickets. Staff that have been employed by for less than a year, should receive bonus that are pro-rated accordingly.

Something that you may have to keep in mind with respect to staff, is that for many low income Indonesians, their home may not have the relative luxuries we have or sometimes even basic electrical service. That being said you may have to ensure that they are instructed on how to properly use appliances and clean furniture. If you don't take the time up front you may find your maid has taken a steel wool pad to your expensive wooden table or has blown up your microwave oven by putting a metal spoon or fork into it.

Loans: Many expatriates will be asked by their staff for loans. Normally giving loans is not advised for a few reasons. By local standards staff who are hired by westerners are considered to have fairly high paying jobs. Similar jobs with different cultures pay far less and usually have longer working hours. Often if your staff can not budget the higher salary you are paying them, they will certainly not have the ability to pay off a loan. If you pressure them for repayment, more than likely you will find that normally great staff, will suddenly start coming in late, taking days off etc. in the hope that you will fire them or they will just leave for good and they will not have to pay the loan off. Unfortunately, with this reasoning, they are giving up a very good paying job. So really they were much better off without the loan. Sometimes they really do not even want the loan, but are asked by one of their immediate family or a relative to try and get one for them. If they do succeed in getting a loan, often it will just be the first of many subsequent requests. Do not feel badly about telling them no, and even "No... and if you ask me again, I'll fire you." This usually gives them a good "out" with the relatives. With multiple staff you must also be careful because after you give one something, all will expect similar treatment, especially where loans or gifts are concerned.

Hiring Staff: The general criteria for selecting staff are nothing new. You will want someone who is pleasant, respectful, honest and dependable. With a little time and patience, staff can always be trained to do a specific job, but if a good attitude isn't there, the staff won't last long no matter how much experienced they may have brought with them to the job. Some expatriates have found that if they focus on finding a good houseboy or head maid, that they will often give them good recommendations for other staff members, usually relatives. Indonesians are quite respectful of their elders so it will be quite easy for them to manage your staff.

Having the extra staff in one's house can be a little disconcerting especially for someone who enjoys their privacy. It seems that the people that adjust the best are those who take the opportunity to have their staff do the daily tasks (once they have been instructed to do tasks the way you like). The expatriates' time is then freed to join clubs, pursue their hobbies, explore Jakarta, travel, volunteer or just enjoy the luxurious lifestyle Jakarta has to offer.

Street People: Once the expatriates have begun to explore Jakarta they may be surprised to see a lot of vendors and pan handlers weaving their way through the stalled traffic. It is debatable whether the pan handlers are actually legitimate. There have been all kinds of theories about this. Some say local babysitters are hiring out the children they were suppose to be caring for. Others say it is organized by gangs. It is doubtful that the Westerners will really ever discover the true facts. This being said, it is hard not give out some money to them, especially the mothers with babies in their arms. However, be careful how much you give and at which locations you give. Usually a IDR 500 coin is still considered generous but not crossing the line. Keep in mind that here this amount buys a meal. Be warned, if you give out too much money or in the wrong location, your Kjang will surely be mobbed by others looking to receive a comparable amount. If a number of them surround your Kjang and begin to bang on your window it can be a very frightening experience even if they are only 8 years old. Normally, to avoid this, only coins are handed out while being careful to roll down your window only slightly. Better yet, have your driver give them the coins. If you are approached again, you can wave them off with your hand. As a rule, this is respected. Many times it is accepted that only one pan handler will receive money from a vehicle unless you are pegged as a new expatriate and then all the rules are off.

Telephones: In Indonesia, because getting a new residential landline telephone service can take a very long time, many of these numbers are never disconnected. However, this will often mean that you won't be able to call long distance without a phone card. These are available throughout Jakarta, or can be found on the top floor of Ratu Plaza (while you're out computer shopping).

It is recommended that each family member that is old enough to operate a hand phone should be carrying one for security purposes whenever they are out and about. Most people will also get a hand phone for their driver to be able to easily contact him. These hand phones can be paid for by subscription, or pay-as-you-go. Pay-as-you-go can be "high-maintenance" as you have to buy a top-up card every month but controlling its cost is much easier, especially when it comes to one use by staff.

If you use a hand phone and want to phone a landline you must include the city code (example: Jakarta is 021).

Taxis: Although many people who have been living in Jakarta for a while may find they have no problem in taking a local taxi, it is recommended that the newcomer to Jakarta use only Blue Bird and Silver Bird Taxis as they are consistently reputable. Reports of taxi drivers attacking their customers are on the rise. As a word of caution; there is also a local company who has blue taxis as well, and is often mistaken as being a Blue Bird taxi by a person who is new to Jakarta. If you decide to take a "no-name" taxi even though not recommended, (i.e. sometimes getting out of the rain seems more important), make sure that the taxi has a working meter and that it has been started. If the driver claims the meter is broken you must negotiate a price up-front. As a general rule, IDR 20,000 will take you to most places.

Testing Appliances: New appliances have a high failure rate here, so it is wise to accept offers to plug in things such as fans, blenders and especially ghetto blasters etc.

What is hard to get in Jakarta? Most things are available in Jakarta, but must be found. Bigger size clothing is difficult to buy, however there are ways around this. Some people will stock up while on their trips to Canada; others will have tailors custom make clothes. clothes can be tailored at quite reasonable prices, but you must negotiate such prices. Exercise and sports equipment is very expensive to buy here. Sheets for beds that come from Canada will be difficult to find here, so bring extra from Canada. The sheets are generally sold with no top sheet, only a bottom, pillow cases and often a long pillow case for the daybed pillow that is common in Asia. Department stores such as Metro or Sogo or Mega Dua will, at reasonable price, carry bedding for beds made here.

The selection of over-the-counter medicine is also different from what is available in Canada. So if you commonly use things like Neo Citran, Roloids or Tylenol, it is best to bring extra stock from Canada. Though there are comparable products here, who feels like looking for them when you're feeling "under the weather". If you get stuck though, Panadol is considered to have an effect similar to aspirin.

Women's Groups: It is generally a good idea to join a Women's organization fairly soon upon your arrival if possible. Of course we would recommend The Canadian Women's Association as first choice but we might be just a little biased. Actually, there are many good women's groups around including: Australia New Zealand Association (ANZA), American Women's Association (AWA), British Women's Association (BWA) and the Indonesian Heritage Society. Many of our CWA members hold memberships in a variety of clubs and vice versa. A practical reason for why you should join a group, is that doing so puts you into a strong social circle and quickly onto an e-mail list. Not only does this facilitate your emotional support, but in a relatively short period of time you are notified of bazaars, meetings and otherwise fun events to attend. In years gone by most advertising was done through posters or ads in the Jakarta Post, but with recent security concerns, in many cases, e-mail notices are used for advertising.