JURNAL ILMU PENGETAHUAN BUDAYA

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Preface

As Indonesia is preparing itself to make the most of the opportunities provided by the demographic window in 2040-2050, when the number of citizens at their most productive age will reach the highest, youth and children become strategic issues for the state and other institutions to come to terms with. Efforts have been made to 'tame' the young generation through various means, including education, religion, media, and lifestyle. The theme "Children and Youth Culture" comes timely for *Wacana, Journal of the Humanities of Indonesia* Vol. 15 No. 1, 2014, as the journal tries to show that youth in Indonesia is never monolithic and regulating the youth may result in highly problematic tensions between youth and the authorities if comprehensive understanding of who they are and how their identities are constructed fails to be adequately achieved.

In this edition of *Wacana*, youth and children are examined from the perspectives of Islam in intersections with adat and lifestyle, especially in Solo and Minangkabau; urban lifestyle and girls' media in Jakarta; language development and the phenomena of regional slangs in social media and teen fiction; as well as from the perspective of early marriage in Lombok. These articles consistently reveal the heterogeneity of identities amongst youth in Indonesia and how geography, locality, and education play a significant role in shaping them but also in helping them develop ways to negotiate with authorities and social norms. Creative strategies developed by different youth groups in different settings are highlighted by the articles to show that Indonesian youth are neither passive nor submissive in the construction of their identities. Moreover, they are quite sophisticated in devising various tactics in dealing with attempts to co-opt or subjugate them within an established structure.