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Preface

Ancestors of the inhabitants of the Indonesian archipelago were renowned for their coastal life habitat associated with sea, fisheries, shipwreck, and sailing. As probably the biggest archipelagic country, Indonesia has been the focus of many interesting studies related to its waters. This edition of *Wacana, Journal of the Humanities of Indonesia* Vol. 17 No. 1 presents “Maritime culture” as its theme. The first article describes the life of the Bajo people, who live along the coasts of Kangean Island (East Java), East Flores, and Sulawesi. Their intangible heritage is outstanding because they move frequently by boat and live very close to the sea. Another article deals with the life of the Binongko people on the Coral Island, in Wakatobi District. The condition of the island forces the Binongko people to obtain their supplies through the sea. The next article brings us even closer to the sea with a historical account about the lost of a British Country Ship the *Forbes* in the Karimata Strait in 1806. Further, there is an article about the diverse livelihoods of fishermen in the Berau Delta, East Kalimantan. The last article reflects on Indonesia’s status as an archipelagic country and maritime nation from historical perspectives.

A summary of PhD thesis completes the colourful picture of the Indonesian waters. It explores the marine conservation and aquaculture development in the coast of East Kalimantan. An inaugural lecture from a professor of linguistics and five book reviews enrich this edition further.

A tribute to Benedict Anderson closes the edition of “Maritime culture”. The distinguished Indonesianist passed away last year in Batu, East Java. A few days before, he delivered his memorable last lecture in the Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Indonesia.