



JURNAL ILMU PENGETAHUAN BUDAYA

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Preface

Multiculturalism is a discourse, a cultural policy, and an ideology that emphasizes tolerance and respect for difference. Multiculturalism has developed in countries that have faced all kinds of problems related to heterogeneity in various contexts and, as a cultural policy, it endeavours to find its form and embody a variety of discourses in order to suit prevailing conditions. In 2010, *Wacana, Journal of the Humanities of Indonesia* organized a Scientific Article Writing Contest on the theme “Multiculturalism” by inviting the public to examine the many ways in which the pluralistic Indonesian communities manage their lives. Two of the seven articles published in this issue of *Wacana* Vol. 13 No. 2 (October 2011) were selected from the entries for this contest. The first article investigates inter-ethnic relations in Padang, and the second concerns a cultural investigation of *keselarasan* as a foundation for peaceful coexistence.

This year the Humanities lost two great authorities in their respective fields: maritime historian Adrian Bernard Lopian and leading Indonesian linguist Anton M. Moeliono. Impressions of their works and lives by former colleagues can be found in this issue.