



Sunrise shoot at Mount Bromo

By Agatha Anne Bunanta,
HonPSA, GMPSA, GPSA,
EFIAP/p

2nd PSA Photo Gathering 2024 in Java *The Land of Wonder, Indonesia.*

The 2nd PSA International Photo Gathering 2024 in Indonesia was very successfully held three months ago on July 22-29, 2024, but it felt like yesterday. We are still talking about it and remembering all the fun memories. 222 participants from 22 countries landed in Yogyakarta on the 22nd of July. Some of them were travelling in groups but some were travelling alone. However, within seven nights and eight days, they blended together and became good friends. We travelled together to four different cities: Yogyakarta, Surakarta, Probolinggo and Mount Bromo with a total of more than 350 pieces of luggage and bags.

D-Day MINUS 1 YEAR

It took one year of preparation by the Core and Support teams of PSA-PG Indonesia to make sure that every single detail of the schedule, program and logistics - i.e. food, transportation, luggage, hotel, documentation, decoration and many more things, were done according to the plan. Two months before the D-date, we assigned the Volunteers that we called Red Hats to create the “WhatsApp” group and contact the participants even before they came to Indonesia. The term Red Hats (volunteers that literally wore red hats) was introduced in the 1st PSA-PG 2023 India and we will continue to use them for the next PSA-PG.

Day 1 JULY 22, 2024

Participants were picked up at Yogyakarta International Airport and brought to the hotel for registration. The Volunteers greeted the participants, distributed the welcome kits and explained the program. At night we had the 1st Gathering Dinner, a reunion for some people that already knew each other from the 1st PSA-PG India, and an introduction for those who joined for the first time.

Day 2 JULY 23, 2024

We started the day with the Opening ceremony of the PSA International Print Gallery Show in Gallery Katamsi, in Indonesia Institute of the Arts of Yogyakarta. The details of the gallery show can be read at the International News section in this Journal. Then we had lunch and continued with photographing the Silver Smith. Around 3 p.m. we were heading to a restaurant located uphill where we could photograph the breathtaking scenery of surrounding Yogyakarta for the Opening ceremony of the 2nd PSA-PG Indonesia. We stayed there until sunset and then proceeded to Prambanan Temple to watch the Ramayana Ballet Show.

Harjanto Sumawan, the lead coordinator of PSA-PG Indonesia, gave the first participants vest to the PSA President J.R. Schnelzer, FPSA, GMPSA, EFIAP, ESFIAP



The details from the
1st Gathering Dinner



Participants taking
pictures of the performers

Day 3 JULY 24, 2024

After breakfast, at 7 a.m. we drove to Borobudur Temple in Magelang City. Twenty-two minivans were escorted by Policemen to ensure a smooth one-hour journey to Magelang. After the participants had the opportunity to climb up to the temple, Mandatara Dance was performed in front of the Borobudur Temple specially for the PSA-PG Indonesia guests. This performance required special permission from the Indonesian Heritage Agency with which we have a collaboration. In the afternoon we moved to Parangkusumo Sand Dunes where more than 30 young traditional dancers were ready to perform. The day was ended by visiting the Parangtritis beach during sunset.



Minivans were escorted by policemen to ensure a smooth journey from one location to another



More than 30 local dancers performed colossal dance at the sand dunes



Taking pictures of the famous Borobudur Temple



Drying the colorful fabric in Surakarta

Day 4 JULY 25, 2024

We drove in the early morning to Mojolaban Artisans Village in Surakarta to take pictures of many village activities such as Batik Fabric artisans, Shadow Puppet Wayang artisans, umbrella artisans, traditional instrument Gong artisans and many more. Participants were divided into 20 groups and each group rotated to each location so everyone had enough space and time to photograph the activities. Participants also had the opportunity to walk around by themselves to photograph the local daily activities including visiting the elementary school. Even though we had spent half a day in the village, many people felt

it was not enough time to capture the many photo opportunities. In the afternoon, we had lunch and continued to shop at the local batik and handicraft shops, before resting at the hotel. In the evening, we went for dinner and had a birthday party for those who were celebrating birthdays during the PSA-PG.



Seeking the best angle between the batik fabric



Kimber Hughes photographing the batik maker.



Taking pictures of the gong maker



Capturing the moments in Probolinggo City

Day 5

JULY 26, 2024

Now it was time to move to Probolinggo. It was a five-hour drive to reach the city. The local government of Probolinggo, that collaborated with us, greeted the participants of PSA-PG at lunch time. After that we visited the Red Church and Tridarma Temple. The day ended with a nice dinner at the resort surrounded by mangroves near the seashore.

Day 6

JULY 27, 2024

This day was another exciting one that the participants had been waiting for. We took pictures of the Cow racing festival called “Sapi Brujul”. The festival was opened by releasing 1000 doves, then continued with the cow parade and the exciting cow racing where all kinds of techniques – high angle, low angle, high speed, slow speed etc. – were used to take

Hundreds of photographers capturing the best moment of the cow racing



thousands of pictures. At lunch time, we visited Permata Beach where we photographed the local dancers, long dragon kites and children. To show PSA cares about the environment, we initiated a mangrove plantation near the beach area. At 2 p.m. we travelled to Mount Bromo for other activities.



The happy children with the happy photographers

Day 7

JULY 28, 2024

After Breakfast, we drove to Savanah where a special campsite had been prepared for PSA-PG. Bean bags and food were provided for relaxing and taking a rest. Participants had an opportunity to explore the Mount Bromo Crater and walk around the surrounding area. Cultural Festival Dances were also performed in the afternoon. Seven nights had passed by so quickly and it was time for the gala dinner called Appreciation Night. It was a night where we appreciated everyone, participants and volunteers, for the company, hard work and most importantly the friendship that we shared. The grand event was held outdoors at the Amphitheatre Jiwa Jawa Resort with amazing lighting, big screen decorations, live music and great food.



Appreciation night at Amplitheater Jiwa Jawa Resort, Mount Bromo

Day 8

JULY 29, 2024

We woke up early, at 2 a.m., to get ready for the sunrise from a hilltop with amazing scenery of Mount Bromo, Mount Batok and Mount Semeru. Jeeps had been prepared to take us to the location.

We were so lucky to be able to capture the sunrise of Mount Bromo with foggy surroundings, which does not happen every day. But now the end had come to PSA-PG and we had to say goodbye. We were sad, but had a warm feeling in our hearts. We split the group into half (more than 100 people) and continued the journey to Bali Island.

Extended Tour in Bali

JULY 30-AUGUST 3, 2024

105 participants of PSA-PG flew to Bali Island and enjoyed the extended tour in Bali and on the August 3rd, most of the people flew back home with great memories. With such a big group



Photographing the Balinese girls

and tight itinerary, PSA was so fortunate to have a solid PSA-PG Indonesia team consisting of the Core team, Support team and Red Hats that made this event such a great success.

Let's embrace the journey with gratitude and pride and cherish the connections we share with others as PSA strengthens and grows our friendships into one big family. May the PSA-PG be a source of inspiration, connection, friendship and joy. Heartfelt appreciation and huge thanks to all participants and volunteers and we hope to see you again in February 2025 for the 3rd PSA Photo Gathering in Sri Lanka.

Note: More photos and video can be seen at the PSA Website under Int (International Menu), Photo Gathering Sub Menu.



Many Thanks!

Great recognition to the 2nd PSA-PG Core team who started the work and preparation a year ago, for their unwavering hard work and wholehearted dedication: **Harjanto Sumawan, APSA**, as the lead coordinator; **David Lumentut, Gabriel Darlius** and **Hendra Winarto** as the Core team; **Jeffry Hanafiah**, Muhana Syafiquddary, Erlangga Sudjono, Mawaruddin and Bagus Handoko as the Support Team.

We are also grateful for the vigorous Red Hat Team: **David Somali Chow, GMPSA/b, Dan Bowman, Sugiarto Widodo, QPSA, Lucyana Jap, Robert Lie, PPSA, Jusuf Budiono**, Evi Herlina and **Ajay Kapoor, QPSA**, for their energy, time and passion. Without them, PSA-PG Indonesia would not have been an effective, well organized, successful and memorable experience for those involved.

I also extend heartfelt gratitude to our collaborators: Indonesia Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy, Borobudur Authority Board, Indonesian Heritage Agency, Borobudur Conservation Center, Municipality of Probolinggo, Department of Youth, Sport and Tourism of Central Java, Bantul Regency, Jiwa Jawa Resort, Eksotika Bromo, and to our sponsor and media partner who believes in our vision.