

Prof. Dr. Yekti Maunati*
(28 September 1959 – 1 November 2023)

By KIM, Dong-Yeob**

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of a distinguished scholar and cherished friend, Prof. Dr. Yekti Maunati, on 1 November 2023. Dr. Yekti was a prominent Research Professor at the National Research and Innovation Agency in Indonesia, where her contributions to academia and her commitment to fostering international collaboration have left an indelible mark.

Born on 28 September 1959, Dr. Yekti's academic journey was marked by a relentless pursuit of knowledge and a passion for understanding complex social issues. Her research focused on border concerns, the Indonesian diaspora, and the lives of indigenous people and minorities in Southeast Asian countries, shedding light on crucial aspects of these communities often overlooked.

Dr. Yekti was a prolific writer and researcher. Her recent article, "The Emerging Diasporic Connections in Southeast Asia and the Constitution of Ethnic Network," published in *Suvannabhumi: Multi-disciplinary Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* in 2019, is a testament to her intellectual depth and insight. Her commitment extended beyond articles to include several important books, such as *Women at Work: A Study of Migrant Women in a Melbourne Auto-Parts Factory* (2002), *The Cham Diaspora in Southeast Asia*:

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Social Integration and Transnational Networks: The Case of Cambodia (2013, as co-author), and *Identitas Dayak: Komodifikasi dan Politik Kebudayaan* (2004).

Dr. Yekti obtained her PhD from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia in 2001, and her master's from the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia in 1993. She earned her bachelor's degree from the Department of Sociology at Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

In addition to her significant contributions to academia, Dr. Yekti was a valued colleague and friend of the Korea Institute for ASEAN Studies at Busan University of Foreign Studies (KIAS-BUFS). She played a crucial role as a bridge between Indonesian and Korean academia, fostering mutual understanding and collaboration. Dr. Yekti faithfully participated in annual international conferences organized by KIAS-BUFS, where she presented and discussed her outstanding scholarship. Her commitment extended to serving as member of the editorial board of *Suwarnabhumi*, where she dedicated over a decade to help develop and sustain the journal. She never missed the annual board meetings, demonstrating her unwavering commitment.

Dr. Yekti breathed her last as she was scheduled to attend the 2023 KIAS-BUFS International Conference and editorial board meeting on 9-11 November 2023. Her absence left a void deeply felt by colleagues, friends, and the academic community at large. Her legacy as a scholar, mentor, and bridge-builder between nations and cultures will endure, inspiring future generations to continue the pursuit of knowledge and cross-cultural understanding.

Our thoughts and condolences go to her family, friends, and all who have had the privilege of knowing and working with her.

May she rest in peace.