

By NICHOLAS MARK

Asian Festival of Children's Content 2013 Panel: Young Professionals' Journeys Tuesday 28 May – 10:15am

'Petualangan Anak Indonesia' ('The INDOVENTURERS') is a collection of original fantasy/adventure tales written by a young Australian from Sydney, Nicholas Mark, and illustrated by an Indonesian artist from Yogyakarta, Bambang Shakuntala. The book is written entirely in Bahasa Indonesia and is published by 'GREAT! Publishers' of Galang Press Group.

About the book

'The INDOVENTURERS' contains three short stories set in Bali, Sumatra and Java. There are mischievous monkeys, evil witches, giant Garuda birds, ancient curses, Indonesian fairies, secret tunnels, exploding volcanoes...and more!

The stories draw on elements of Indonesian and Western mythology to explore Indonesia's rich natural beauty and mystery through the eyes of four young adventurers. The fantastical illustrations authentically capture the atmosphere and spirit of Indonesia.



About Nicholas Mark

Nicholas is a 24 year old Greek-Australian who has been learning Bahasa Indonesia ever since high school. Writing a children's story in Bahasa Indonesia was initially an assessment task in his first year university class at University of Sydney in 2007. Years later he took the project to Yogyakarta where he found an illustrator and publisher. Nicholas launched the book in Yogyakarta and Jakarta in July 2012 and it is now available throughout Indonesia.

It is currently being used in Indonesian schools that are part of the Australian Government's BRIDGE program, as well as in schools in Australia as a teaching resource both for Bahasa Indonesia classes and for units on 'Engagement with Asia'. Nicholas has also produced an accompanying Teacher's Guide for 'The INDOVENTURERS'.

The importance of 'Asian literacy'

Children's literature has an incredible power to introduce and familiarise young people to different cultural backgrounds and to inspire them to engage in global stories. Nicholas is passionate about promoting the importance of Asian cultural and linguistic literacy through organisations such as the Australia-Indonesia Youth Association (AIYA – www.aiya.org.au).

