

Preface

Observing Policy-Making in Indonesia is the result of the first one-year Master in Public Policy 2013/14 of the School of Government and Public Policy (SGPP-Indonesia).¹ The SGPP-Indonesia started functioning in 2012, ran successfully a first one-year Master's program in 2013/14 and had to postpone its second one-year Master's program because of unexpected delays in the construction of its campus near Sentul, south of Jakarta. The book contains the six best Master's theses of the SGPP's first (and, at least for the time being, only) Master's program taught entirely in English by a completely international faculty. The six selected theses cover a representative sample of policy-making in Indonesia: from urban policy to the politics of administrative reform to the fight against rural poverty and innovative attempts to anchor health insurance in a commodity that exists everywhere, i.e., solid waste.

The introduction pursues two objectives. In his chapter, Erhard Friedberg will present the argument behind the pedagogical context and perspective of which these Master's theses bear testimony. Indeed, by requiring students to go to selected policy fields in order to empirically and directly observe the reality of policy-making in the field, this first year's program represented an experimental attempt to counteract what the founders of the school perceived as the analytical or design-bias, characteristic of most present day curricula and teaching in policy schools. During their year and at its end with their Masters' theses, graduates of the program had the opportunity to directly experience what policy-making looks like

¹The first class of the SGPP Indonesia comprised the following twenty-five students: Agung Nugroho, Bayu Mangkurat, Citra Andina Rosa, Dewi Arilaha, Dhanu Prasetyo, Dwi Wahyuni, Dwinanto Asmoro, Gavina Smara Paramita, Himawan Puji Nugroho, Imam Shofwan, Jamjam Muzaki, Junianto, Kristia Sianipar, Ludy Dwi Putradilaya, Melani, Mohammad Reza Adenan, Muhammad Reza Razak, Mursyidah Machmud, Primadi Wahyuwidagdo, Saiful Haryanto, Sri Haryanti, Patrick Sullivan, Suryanuddin, Tubagus Arie Rukmantara, Yulan Kustiyan. Out of the twenty-five Master-theses presented by the class of 2013/14, the six best were selected by the editors for publication in this book

in the field, and thus make them more realistic in, if not skeptical of, the use of the analytics of policy-making that policy schools also have to teach.

In Chap. 2, Mary E. Hilderbrand will then try and put the findings of these six theses in perspective by commenting on some of the lessons that can be drawn from their observations.

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