

Children Storybook  
WORDS National  
Competition 2019

Bella The President

2nd Winner

FULBRIGHT

AMINEF  
American Indonesian Exchange Foundation

# WORDS

Future  
of  
Indonesia



Children Storybook  
WORDS National  
Competition 2019

# Bella The President

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# Foreword

**As Director of AMINEF, the binational Fulbright Commission in Indonesia, I am pleased to provide a few words of explanation and encouragement for this series of three books, which represents one of the outcomes of the Fulbright English Teaching Assistants (ETA) Program this year, 2018-2019.**

**American ETAs work together with local co-teachers of English in various secondary schools throughout the archipelago. The program is now in its 15th year in Indonesia.**

In 2007, the fourth cohort of ETAs came up with the idea to hold what they called a “WORDS Competition” at the schools where ETAs are placed and then to bring together for a national competition the student winners of those local contests. In previous years, this has mostly meant a speech and talent contest and has since its beginning always been an exciting part of the AMINEF year. The 10th or 11th-grade students got to demonstrate their prowess in spoken English (helped of course by their ETA and co-teachers over the previous months) as well as to tell their personal stories and to show off local cultural riches and their own talents. This format was fine-tuned by last year’s cohort into a storybook and story-telling competition instead of a speech and talent contest.

This year’s cohort of 22 ETAs – who by the way come from all over the US and are very diverse in background and interests, and are spread out in 22 schools in eight provinces in Indonesia – together with the AMINEF American Program staff who work closely with them came up with this year’s story-telling theme “The Future of Indonesia.”

The national competition was held in Jakarta on April 4th at @america. Each of the 22 students participating had to first win their local school competition to qualify for the national competition. In addition to the competition itself, there were also evening activities (bowling at a local bowling alley), a trip to Monas, and a visit to the newly built US Embassy in Jakarta. Other sessions focused on peace education and tolerance building in collaboration with Ayu Kartika Dewi, a Fulbright Visiting Student alumna who is currently Managing Director of the Indika Foundation and co-founder of SabangMerauke.

But the real excitement of the event was in the oral presentation of the stories and the judging of the presentations and the physical books themselves. The jury consisted of Americans and Indonesians and included Aziza Noor, a graphic book artist, and Fulbright Visiting Student alumna; Brad Horn, Regional English Language Officer at US Embassy, Jakarta; Peggy Shaw, Education Coordinator, Public Affairs Section, US Embassy, Jakarta; Aditio Tantra Danang of Dongeng Toleransi, and Theresia Pratiwi, Fulbright Visiting Student alumna and English language specialist.

The three books are “Big Sharkie and Little Remor” by Tiara Fitra Ramadhani Siregar (SMAN 1 Padang Sidempuan, North Sumatra), who was the grand-prize winner; “Bella, The President” by Carina Hakim (SMA Don Bosco Padang, West Sumatra) who took home the second prize; and “Unexpected Journey” by Laksmi Anindita Kusnanto (SMAN 1 Temanggung, Central Java) who garnered third place.

Another change in this year’s competition concerns the prizes. AMINEF chose to work with Ferdinandus ‘Nando’ Watu, a Community College Initiative Program alumnus. Nando is involved with ecotourism efforts in his hometown of Detusoko, Ende, East Nusa Tenggara. The winning storybooks are combined in a collection of story books that AMINEF is donating to the Taman Bacaan Masyarakat Ende and RMC Detusoko libraries in Ende. The three national winners, Tiara, Carina, and Laksmi, and their ETAs will travel to Ende to lead reading and writing workshops for these communities, among other activities.

I want to congratulate here the student winners of the competition and to salute all the 22 student participants for their creativity, enthusiasm, and high spirit. I also want to thank all the judges who gave of their time to help make the WORDS competition a success. The 2018-2019 ETAs did a tremendous job in conceptualizing and realizing the whole project and showed dedication and enthusiasm at all stages. Finally, my thanks to this year’s ETA Coordinator Arshelle Carter, and the tireless staff of AMINEF’s American Program led by Astrid Lim: Ceacealia Dewitha, Muhammad Rizqi Arifuddin, Thasia Rayinda.

**Alan Feinstein,**  
Executive Director,  
AMINEF





# BELLA the PRESIDENT

Carina Hakim



By 2030, Indonesia becomes a country that helps the rest of the world.  
To learn how this happened, let's start from the beginning of the story.



Indonesia was a very beautiful country with many forests.  
The world needed its wood for furniture and construction.  
Unfortunately, the forest had grown smaller.  
One of the factors was illegal logging.



There lived a family in a beautiful village on one of the islands in Indonesia.  
Bella and her mother had a big company in the wood industry.  
Bella's father had passed away a few months ago.  
They were a rich family. But, they never felt they had enough.  
Their business needed more wood to export,  
so every day they cut the trees without planting more.





They were ignorant, stubborn and selfish people in their area.  
 The forest was growing smaller so that when there was rain,  
 it brought great floods. Bella and her mother didn't care,  
 because they lived in a two-story house and the water could not reach them.  
 The other villagers' houses flooded but they couldn't do anything because  
 they need the money they earned from working for Bella and her mother.



One day, there were heavy rains in the area.  
 The flooding was higher than usual, and the people started to panic.  
 After flooding passed, the chief held a meeting with the villagers  
 including Bella and her mother.

The chief of the village recommended that villagers focus on the  
 environment but Bella's mother refused and said,  
 "Don't do that! It would be a waste of time.  
 Keep cutting the trees down! You need money, right?".  
 The villagers said, "Oh yeah, that's true.  
 Cut the trees! Without them, we have no money".







A few weeks later, storms brought loud thunder and lightning to the area.

This time, the rain was even worse. It went on for a week.

The water got higher, higher and higher.

The villagers were so panicked that they ran away in search of higher places.

Bella and her mother went to the roof of their house.



Suddenly, both of them slipped from the roof because the rain was so strong.

They were washed away in and out of the water.

Luckily, the mother grabbed onto a log, she shouted, "Bella, hold my hand tightly!"

They both floated in the water at first but the current was too strong and the log was not enough for both of them.

Her mother said to Bella, "Bella, it can't be for two of us.

Save yourself, I love you," she disappeared into the flood.

Bella cried a lot and shouted, "Mom, nooo!! Don't leave me alone!!"





After the big flood, Bella always tried to forget that day but she couldn't.

One night, she was laying on her bed.

She missed her mother so she cried and sang her mother's favorite song.

Bella soon fell asleep. In her dream, her mother came to her and said,

"Bella, I missed you so much, my little girl.

Remember, I want you to be a good girl and have a bright future.

Help other people, take care of the environment and make Indonesia a better place.

I'll always be by your side."

They hugged each other and her mother disappeared once again.



Since that night, Bella promised herself that she wouldn't let her mom down.

She started working hard with other villagers to make both cities and forests greener.

She held seminars to promote the importance of caring for the environment by planting trees and keeping the ecosystem in balance.





Bella also founded an organization which promoted the environmental movement.

That organization spread all over Indonesia in just few years.

Because of that, many people began to care about the environment.

The flooding in Indonesia reduced drastically.

Then, she received many awards from the Indonesian government

as well as from international organizations.

She was invited to speak at the general assembly of the United Nations.

UNITED  
NATIONS



Bella, 2030

Bella becomes one of the most inspirational people in the world.

Finally, the citizens of Indonesia elected her as president.

She used this position to protect the environment and turn Indonesia  
into a country that could help the rest of the world.

The end.



## About the Author



Hi, my name is Carina Hakim. I am a student at SMA Don Bosco Padang, West Sumatra. My hobbies are singing, dancing, playing guitar, cooking, acting, and traveling. I am also interested in fashion and beauty. I am very grateful to be an Indonesian. I love my country!

# About WORDS Competition

In 2007, the fourth cohort of ETAs came up with the idea to hold what they called a “WORDS Competition”. They planned competitions at the schools where they were placed. Then, the first place winners of the local competitions along with their ETA’s gathered in Jakarta for a national competition.

Following this same format for ten years, the WORDS Competition was a speech and talent competition. In 2018, WORDS was revamped as a storybook and storytelling competition and includes a service-learning component.

Since the beginning, the WORDS Competition has always been an exciting part of the AMINEF year. The 10th or 11th grade students demonstrate their prowess in spoken English (helped of course by their ETA and co-teachers during months of preparation) as well as to tell their imaginative stories to show off local cultural riches and their own talents.

2019 marks another Indonesian presidential election. Capturing this moment, the theme for this year’s WORDS competition is “The Future of Indonesia.” The top 3 winners of the national competition and their ETAs will participate in a service-learning trip to Flores Island. For the service component, the students and ETAs will volunteer their time to share their storybooks and engage with community members in Ende, Flores.

# About AMINEF

The American Indonesian Exchange Foundation (AMINEF) is the binational Fulbright Commission for Indonesia. For twenty-five years AMINEF has carried forward the vision and mission of the Fulbright program in Indonesia, which in 2017 celebrated its 65th anniversary. AMINEF’s many programs for educational exchange have increased mutual understanding between the United States and Indonesia and strengthened the ties that unite our two countries. Since 1950, 2,815 Indonesians and 1,120 Americans have participated in exchanges. Approximately 80 percent of the Indonesians received graduate degrees at the master’s or doctoral levels from American universities. The remaining 20 percent participated in non-degree exchanges administered by AMINEF.



# About the Fulbright ETA Program

The Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Program, one of US State Department-funded Fulbright programs carried out in many countries throughout the world, places recent college graduates and young professionals as English teaching assistants in primary and secondary schools or universities overseas. The program helps improve foreign students' English-language abilities and knowledge of the United States while increasing the US student's own language skills and knowledge of the many host countries around the world.

In Indonesia, the Fulbright ETAs are placed in high schools (both SMA, SMK and madrasah) where they assist local English teachers. The program has now been going for 15 years and has affected many thousands of Indonesian students and their communities across the archipelago over that period. AMINEF, in charge of the Fulbright program in Indonesia since 1992, works closely with the Indonesian ministries of Education and Culture and Religious Affairs to administer the ETA program in Indonesia.

