

predominantly of Malay origin, there are, nonetheless, approximately 300 ethnic groups. The people of Irian Jaya are Papuan, and in the eastern Indonesian islands the populace tends to represent both the Malay and Papuan groups.

The Moslem religion is followed by 90 per cent of the population; there are also Christian, Hindu and Buddhist communities.

The official language, Bahasa Indonesia, is now spoken widely, although many other regional languages and dialects are also spoken. English is common among government officials and business representatives.

Adult literacy is estimated at 60 per cent; 19 per cent of the population are elementary school graduates; 2 per cent are high school graduates; and less than 0.5 per cent are graduates of universities or advanced secondary institutions.

Local Customs

Indonesians are very polite people. Handshaking is customary for both men and women on introduction and greeting, and smiling is a national characteristic. It is well to remember that as Indonesia is a predominantly Moslem country, alcohol is not important in social situations. It is polite not to start to consume proffered drink or food until invited by the host to do so. A certain modesty of approach is definitely well regarded. Only the right hand should be used for giving and receiving, and crooking one's finger to call someone is considered impolite.

As the climate is hot and humid throughout the year, safari suits are worn widely during business hours. Trousers along with shirt and tie are also worn. However, businessmen calling on senior officials are expected to wear a full suit and tie, and businesswomen are expected to dress appropriately as well. Formal dress is usually a long-sleeved batik shirt and dark trousers, considered to be the Indonesian equivalent of the "lounge suit" or "black tie." Travel to mountain areas warrants the wearing of a light jacket or sweater in the evenings. Women travelling to Indonesia should avoid halter tops, shorts and preferably opt for dresses that cover the shoulders and part of the arms.

Telephoning Muslims between 6:45 and 7:15 p.m. should be avoided since this is the time for evening