

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

The Official Launch of Indonesia Distanced Stories Programme
*A Collaborative Effort to Support Individuals and Communities through
Documentary Film Making*

Jakarta, 17 September 2020 – The British Council, In-Docs and Scottish Documentary launched **Indonesia Distanced Stories**, a documentary filmmaking programme that aims to support communities and individuals in creating documentary to spark dialogue, build deeper understanding on complex societal issues and hopefully make a lasting impact in our society.

Indonesia Distanced Stories is a three-month documentary filmmaking programme convening 13 aspiring filmmakers, who were selected out of more than 120 applicants, where they will connect, learn, discuss and produce six new short films. Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, the programme – launched digitally during the British Council’s Culture Connects Us online festival, is designed to bridge the distance among participants and mentors by creating new ways of working creatively and collaboratively in these challenging times.

During the launch, British Council Indonesia Head of Arts Camelia Harahap, In-Docs Interim Director Mandy Marahimin and Director of Scottish Documentary Institute Noémie Mendelle came together in a virtual talk and discussed an inclusive and collaborative filmmaking topic.

“We are excited to collaborate with In-Docs and Scottish Documentary Institute through the Indonesia Distanced Stories programme to encourage young filmmakers in Indonesia and the UK to connect, exchange ideas and collaborate more inclusively. We try to ensure that this programme is accessible for our friends with disabilities, participants from diverse cultural backgrounds and geographical reach across Indonesia. The pandemic might disrupt our everyday life, but it should not stop our creativity and spirit of collaboration in creating meaningful works,” said British Council Indonesia Head of Arts, Camelia Harahap.

“In-Docs feels really honoured to have a collaboration with British Council and Scottish Documentary Institute in holding this workshop, Indonesia Distanced Stories. This program is geared towards emerging filmmakers from all around Indonesia, spread out in 4 different provinces, and through this workshop they have to collaborate and respond to the pandemic crisis. This makes the workshop relevant to the current state of the world and it will be exciting to see the stories that will come out of this collaborative experience. In the end, we hope this workshop will enrich their knowledge of documentary filmmaking and empower them to tell their stories to the world,” said In-Docs’ Interim Director, Mandy Marahimin.

“Indonesia has a strong cultural identity associated with storytelling making the opportunity of running *Stories* in Indonesia a very exciting challenge, all the more that we are experimenting with online delivery. *Stories* celebrates the art of creative documentary and is the main international training activity for Scottish Documentary Institute to engage with different realities, alternative stories and growing talent. Such international

collaboration is essential to help filmmakers develop synergies and connections across borders. In this day and age of fast news, it is really important to nurture filmmakers able to tackle the complexity of our reality and create a long-lasting reflection,” said Scottish Documentary Institute Noémie Mendelle

The three-month programme is structured around the production of short films about life in Covid-19 confinement at the end of the workshop. Close mentorship, classes and set of exercises will be held throughout the week. The participant will also spend time outside of classes to watch films from around the world, writing and work on collaborative tasks with their groups. The curriculum covers story development, visual language and sound design, camera and sound techniques, shoot and direct, editing, screening and film production. The public can also take part during the programme as the organizer will share film making resources and some seminars will be open for public.

About British Council

The British Council is the UK’s international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries. We do this by making a positive contribution to the UK and the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust. We work with over 100 countries across the world in the fields of arts and culture, English language, education and civil society. Last year we reached over 80 million people directly and 791 million people overall including online, broadcasts and publications. Founded in 1934, we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body.

You can visit our website www.britishcouncil.id to get further information or you also can connect with us through our Twitter [@idBritish](https://twitter.com/idBritish) and Facebook <https://id-id.facebook.com/BritishCouncilIndonesia>. Instagram: [@idbritish](https://www.instagram.com/idbritish)

About InDocs

In-Docs is a non-profit organisation that is committed to cultivate a culture of openness through documentary films. In-Docs believes in the power of documentary films to spark conversations, to touch people’s hearts, to open minds, and to enable change. That is why we strive to build an ecosystem where great documentaries can be made and shared to the widest audience possible. You can visit our website <https://in-docs.org/> to get further information.

About Scottish Documentary Institute

We grow films. Established in 2004 by Noe Mendelle to nurture documentary filmmakers and audiences in Scotland and beyond, SDI specialises in documentary training, production and distribution, supporting filmmakers through its diverse programme of international activities and high-quality training programmes. Based at the Edinburgh College of Art, University of Edinburgh, SDI has produced over a hundred films, screening in sixty countries worldwide, garnering international recognition as being at the cutting edge of the documentary sector. Bridging art and industry, SDI is committed to supporting authored films driven by content and emotional experience. Scottish Documentary Institute is a non-profit organisation, with charitable status since April 2019, delivering a ladder of development opportunities to benefit all Scottish filmmakers and producers, in addition to running Scottish delegations, in collaboration with Screen Scotland. For further information please visit <https://www.scottishdocinstitute.com/about-us/>

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