

*oberlin shansi*

2012-2013 Annual Report



# oberlin SHANSI

*Oberlin Shansi believes in the power of people to bring diverse worlds together. An independent, nonprofit organization located on the campus of Oberlin College, Shansi's goal is to promote understanding and communication between Asians and Oberlin. This is accomplished through individual and group educational and social programs, educational and cultural exchanges, and community projects. Shansi partners with Oberlin College in the U.S. and universities and non-governmental organizations in China, India, Indonesia and Japan to achieve this goal.*



*Cover images: a doorway at dusk in Taijū, China (top), a snapshot of a performer taken by Fellow Jazmin Guerrero while traveling with Professor Paula Richman through India (see also this page, top image), shadow puppets in action photographed by Indonesia Fellow, Tino Merino (bottom), Japan Fellow Mathew Furda and his friend, Chisa (left).*



Dear Shansi Friends and Supporters,

I am honored to present the 2012-2013 Annual Report of the Oberlin Shansi Memorial Association. This is the first one published since I joined the organization as Executive Director in January 2013, and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to share with you Shansi's stories and accomplishments from the past year.

This was a year of transition for Shansi, as Carl Jacobson retired as Executive Director after 36 years of distinguished service and Deborah Cocco retired after 27 years as Associate Director. Under Carl's leadership, Shansi returned to China after a hiatus of nearly thirty years. Carl and Deb helped Shansi develop new partners and programs, brought together new generations of Obies with Shansi's history, and envisioned new and dynamic roles for Shansi to play linking Oberlin College to Asia. A tribute to Deb opens this year's Annual Report.

These connections between Oberlin and Asia live and grow through the passionate commitment to learning and sharing by Shansi Fellows, Visiting Scholars, In-Asia Grant recipients, and many others. Shansi Fellows in India, for example, work with a local non-governmental organization helping build awareness around issues of violence against women, while Fellows in Indonesia balance their teaching and tutoring responsibilities by performing with a jazz trio or a dance troupe. Visiting Scholars from Indonesia come to Oberlin to research and study, and also introduce Oberlin students and community members to Indonesia, Islam, and the delicious flavors of *nasi goreng*. These are just a few of the ways that Shansi's innovative exchanges not only benefit the Fellows and Scholars, but their institutions, students, colleagues, and broader communities as well.

Oberlin Shansi's vibrant yearly activities depend on the support received from our donors. We are grateful to everyone acknowledged in this report for the contributions, the encouragement, and the conviction they share toward this unique organization. We hope all of you will continue to support this crucial mission of exchange and learning by contributing to Shansi in the coming year.

Sincerely yours,



Gavin Tritt  
Executive Director

## letter from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





# DEBORAH COCCO *retires*



Since becoming the Campus Coordinator in the fall of 2013, I have learned some of the inner workings of Oberlin Shansi, and am only beginning to understand the amount of time, energy and work that Associate Director Deborah Cocco contributed to the organization. Deb retired from Oberlin Shansi in June of 2013 after 27 years of service. With her bright, contagious laugh, and unwavering devotion to the well-being of all Shansi Fellows in the field, she was crucial to the development of all of Oberlin Shansi's programs.

Deb began her career at Oberlin Shansi on April 1, 1986, and spent countless hours throughout each year corresponding with Fellows in the field; visiting Shansi's partner sites in India, China, Indonesia and Japan without missing a beat; and offering an empathetic ear for Shansi Fellows to vent, reflect, and ultimately grow and learn. Deb Cocco and Carl Jacobson's yearly presence at Fellow sites were important cornerstones to the Shansi Fellowship experience, and Deb intuitively knew that these visits validated the Fellows' work and provided them with invaluable support. There was nothing Deb hadn't seen. Shansi Fellow Nesaru Tehaas gratefully called Deb and Carl "international firefighters" helping to solve problems and offer warm words of encouragement.

Michele Clark, Shansi Fellow to India said, "Deb was always there - present, responsive, understanding, and always had a solution for navigating tense political situations. She always made me feel (and believe) that I made the right decision because of their absolute and unconditional trust in me. Everyone knew when Debbie entered a room, all would be well." Deb and Carl's impact continues across oceans and cultures. At the Shansi Breakfast in May 2013, Gavin Tritt, Executive Director of Oberlin Shansi, noted, "Every generation of Shansi Fellows, Visiting Scholars, and partners that I meet during my travels makes very clear the deep respect and affection they have for that remarkable team."

Deb worked with an inner force that was astounding, and the sheer amount she was responsible for was staggering. Evelyn Wilkins, the Oberlin Shansi Secretary who worked with Deb for ten years, said, "When things got busy, Deb would simply repeat her little mantra, 'just keep swimming,' put her head down, and keep at it until the work was done. Despite this, she somehow always had time to keep up with Fellows past and present, near and far."

There's a saying in Chinese, 妇女能顶半边天, which means, "women hold up half the sky." When I hear it now, I always think of Deb holding up half of Oberlin Shansi with her passion and her strength. Deb, we wish you the very best in all your future adventures and endeavors.

- *Sophie Grimes, 2007-2009 Fellow to Yunnan China*

**SHANSI FELLOWSHIPS** Two-year appointments teaching English or working at non-governmental organizations in China, India, Indonesia or Japan for recent Oberlin graduates.

**VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAM** Supports faculty from our partner sites in Asia to come to Oberlin to teach, study, and engage with the Oberlin College faculty, student body, and local community.

**IN-ASIA STUDY GRANTS** Up to \$1,500 awarded to Oberlin first, second or third year students to pursue research projects, internship opportunities, or creative endeavors in Asia over winter term or summer.

**OUTREACH PROGRAMS** Oberlin Shansi provides grants and support for events that fit within Shansi's mission of promoting communication and understanding between Oberlin and Asia.

**SHANSI PRIZE** A prize of up to \$500 awarded to seniors who have completed a project, paper, artwork, performance, musical composition, or other meritorious student scholarship on a topic related to Asia.

## *the* SHANSI PROGRAM



*Pictured above: Christina James's theater group collaborates on writing dialogue and creating scenes; Taigu Fellows snoozing while returning home from an outing; Sara Kadi teaching at Syiah Kuala University*



# SHANSI fellowships

*Every year, Oberlin Shansi sends Oberlin graduates to China, India, Indonesia and Japan for two years to teach and to work for non-governmental organizations. During 2012-2013 there were fourteen Fellows in the field. The next few pages provide snapshots of their activities and adventures while living and working abroad.*



*Pictured above: Skylar Sweetman, Amelea Kim, Veronica Colegrove, John Kamitsuka and Claire McGregor with a student at the International Martial Arts Competition; Jazmin Guerrero is “blessed” by an elephant inside the Meenakshi Amman Temple in Madurai*

**CHINA** As some of the few foreigners in a small town in rural China, the Shansi Fellows teaching English at Shanxi Agricultural University hold a very high profile. **Skylar Sweetman, Amelea Kim, Veronica Colegrove** and **Claire McGregor** were the four Fellows at Shanxi Agricultural University where together they navigated their very public image on campus with a balance of teaching, travel and Mandarin practice. Before the fall 2012 semester began, the Fellows were asked to participate in the “International Martial Arts Competition.” They, along with **Johnny Kamitsuka** (’11), wore athletic gear and joined the opening ceremony, which included fireworks and a procession, and then they watched impressive athletic exercises and performances. Though none of the Fellows are martial artists, Skylar wrote that their presence helped “create an exciting and uplifting environment for young students and the local community.”

The Fellow to Beijing Normal University has only one year to squeeze in teaching, language courses, and travel. **Ricardo Barrios**, the 2012-2013 Fellow to BNU took full advantage of his time, teaching an Advanced English class where he introduced western philosophy to his students. Together they read and discussed Locke, Cicero and Machiavelli. “During the class,” he wrote in his narrative, “I saw some of the best of my students shine in ways that I did not think possible.” When he wasn’t studying or teaching, Ricardo traveled inside China, jetting off to Qing Dao to see his favorite Chinese rock band, or to visit the Fellows in Taigu. Ricardo also found time to visit Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

**INDIA** At Lady Doak College, **Jazmin Guerrero** was busy running the Shansi International Center, teaching Japanese language classes, and collaborating with faculty to create programs of interest to Lady Doak students. Last year, Jazmin traveled through Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka with Oberlin Professor **Paula Richman** over a period of two weeks. On her blog, Jazmin reflected on her journey with Paula, “We spent time at people’s homes, watched dance narrative performances in each state, and ate home cooked meals everywhere we went. So what does that mean? Basically I was able to see the country change across borders, I was able to taste the difference in all the food, smell the changes in the air, listen to the different speeches - experience this place I’ve been in for two years in a whole new way.”

In Himachal Pradesh, **Christina James** continued our partnership with Jagori Grameen, a non-governmental organization that is committed to the cause of building a just and equitable society. Christina has found an intersection of her Vocal Performance and Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies double degree through the use of community theater to open up opportunities for discussion and to work towards Jagori Grameen’s mission. Christina explained that she took examples that she witnesses in her work to create theater exercises and monologues. The ex-

ercises attempt to break down and clarify elements of oppression towards individuals in the community, “in their lives or in the lives of the people they work with.” Christina hopes to change the conversation and empower individuals to explore their inner dialogues and, ultimately, the perspectives that they have regarding self-worth and dignity.

**INDONESIA** **Santino (Tino) Merino** and **Sara Kadi**, the Fellows at Syiah Kuala University, need to have nimble teaching skills as they split their responsibilities on campus between the Faculty of Education and Teacher Training, and the Language Center. They teach students who hope to become middle or high school teachers of English, as well as students focusing on improving their TOEFL scores, which enables them to pursue advanced degrees abroad.

Beyond teaching, Tino and Sara immersed themselves in the unique coffeehouse culture that is an essential part of social life in Banda Aceh. Tino enjoyed the camaraderie he found there while practicing his language skills and meeting hip-hop artists and dancers. Sara, in contrast, observed many young Acehnese peering into their computer screens, seemingly oblivious to the cafe environment surrounding them. She describes the Aceh coffee making process in vibrant detail: “The guys that prepare it have these huge net filters that are almost torso-length and they hold it up above their heads. They pour it from the net to a ladle a few times before the final pour into your double-shot-sized glass, or a plastic bag if you’re taking it to go.”

At the Faculty of Cultural Studies at Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, Fellows **Cory Rogers** and **Zoë McLaughlin** wore many hats, working with experienced faculty as teaching assistants, as independent instructors, and as coordinators of extracurricular activities, like discussion tables and movie screenings. Cory, when not teaching or traveling, pursued a variety of interests in Jogja last year, including jamming with various jazz groups and writing articles for the Jakarta Globe on contemporary issues such as an agrarian land rights dispute in an area west of the city. Zoë, who has been dancing onstage since the age of six, joined a Javanese dance class the very first week she arrived in Jogja and never looked back. She performed in various venues and was a troupe member of the Ramayana Ballet at the Prambanan Temple. Following the conclusion of her fellowship, Zoë will continue her dance studies in Surakarta.

**JAPAN** The Shansi Fellows in Japan live and work at J.F. Oberlin University, located nearly two hours from downtown Tokyo. In their off-hours they find ample opportunity to practice their Japanese in noodle shops and cyber-cafes. **Matthew Furda**, one of the three Shansi Fellows who taught at J.F. Oberlin University’s English Language Program, set out to improve his Japanese language abilities during his time in Machida. With much diligence and great skill, he passed the national Japan Kanji Aptitude Test Level-2, a series of ever-increasingly difficult exams from 10 to 1, with 1 being the highest.

**Peter Edmondson** came out of his fellowship a well-trained teacher, something that he aimed to do during his tenure. He gained much from the training at Oberlin and the expertise he found at J.F. Oberlin to achieve his goal. Taking advantage of the rich food culture surrounding him in Japan, Peter also learned how to cook with more than just a little flair. He reported, “I have become slightly more knowledgeable about the chemistry between meats and vegetables, and while I have always enjoyed food, my palate has never before been so polished, and my cravings never so strong. I certainly would not have considered myself a foodie in the States. In fact, I laughed at foodies, something I fear I am starting to become.”

**Lisette Lorenz**, the junior fellow to Peter and Matthew, is an enthusiastic teacher who brings enjoyment into learning English. She is very curious about life in other countries and has taken great advantage of opportunities to travel in Asia. She visited her co-fellows Christina James at Jagori Grameen and Jazmin Guerrero at Lady Doak College. Under their guidance, she experienced life in India far from the main tourist thoroughfares, and reflected on the difference of life in the States and Japan with that in India.



*Pictured left: Pak Syamsul and Tino Merino enjoy their Sumatran coffee; Lisette Lorenz chatting with students in English at the lunchtime Conversation Circle at J.F. Oberlin University.*



# OBERLIN programs

*Oberlin Shansi has partnerships in China, India, Indonesia, Japan, and right here at Oberlin. Our diverse on-campus programs bring relevant, important Asian issues and projects to the Oberlin community in adherence to our mission to promote understanding and communication between Asia and Oberlin.*



*Pictured above: Visiting Scholar, Anita Tiphagne; Cory Rogers with a student at Pak Eddy's community arts center applauding a gamelan orchestra performance*

**VISITING SCHOLARS** The Visiting Scholar Program brings faculty and staff from our partner institutions in Asia to Oberlin for one or two semesters. This provides them with opportunities to build working relationships with Oberlin professors, do research, teach, experience the academic lives of Oberlin students, and volunteer with local community organizations. During 2012-2013 there were four Visiting Scholars.

**Anita Tiphagne**, Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, Lady Doak College, Madurai India, Fall 2012

**Syarifah Faradina**, Lecturer, Department of Psychology, Syiah Kuala University, Banda Aceh Indonesia, Fall 2012

**Teuku Roli Ilhamsyah Putra**, Lecturer, Economics Faculty, Syiah Kuala University, Banda Aceh Indonesia, Spring 2013

**Chao Mi**, Visiting Instructor of Chinese, graduate student at Beijing Normal University, 2012-2013

**IN-ASIA STUDY GRANTS** Supporting students who are pursuing research, academic exploration, or creative endeavors through Shansi In-Asia Study Grants is key to creating independent points of view. Recipients' projects often spark further study and academic development in the students' Oberlin college careers, at times inspiring the beginning of a capstone or honors project. After returning to campus, In-Asia Grant recipients share their findings with the Oberlin College community by giving performances or presentations.

Both **Joelle Lingat**, second year Comparative American Studies/Environmental Studies double major, and **Kelsey Scult**, third year Studio Art/African American Studies double major, completed projects over the summer of 2013. Joelle's project took her to Philippines where she examined "Cities as Systems: Analyzing the Intersections of Policy, Culture and Planning in Urban Centers." Kelsey headed to Indonesia to immerse herself in the vibrant public art and mural movement there. **Leila Goldstein** and **Patrick Gilfether** both completed projects in the summer of 2012. Back on campus in the fall, they presented their experiences exploring public health and the arts in India (Leila) and the rock climbing community in China (Patrick).

Other students completed their projects over Winter Term. **Alexander Bianchi**, third year Religion major, went to India. His project was entitled, "Becoming the Breath: A Critical Field Study of Ashtanga Vinyasa Yoga." Upon returning to campus, Alexander gave a presentation in April. **Angela Kwon**, third year Geology major, examined "Re-vegetation Procedures for Mine Waste Spills in the Philippines." Angela talked about her experience interning in the Environment Monitoring Lab at the National Institute of Geological Sciences, University of the Philippines in February. **Teresa Tippens**, second year Musical Studies major, pursued her project, "Hearing Cultures: Japan and the U.S." and came back



from her Winter Term with what she called, “sonic photographs” of Tokyo. These are compositions of recorded sounds that attempt to capture the sound atmosphere of a place. She shared these “photographs” with the Oberlin community in April.

**OUTREACH PROGRAMS** During the academic year Oberlin Shansi was buzzing with activity. In addition to Visiting Scholars interacting with the Oberlin community and returned In-Asia Study Grant recipients sharing their newly gained knowledge, Oberlin Shansi coordinated or supported the following lectures, film screenings and celebrations.

East Asian Studies Department Moon Festival, Sept. 28, 2012

**Haili Kong**, Professor of Chinese, Swarthmore College, “Beijing: a City of Walls,” February 28, 2013

East Asian Studies Department Lunar New Year Festival, February 21, 2013

**Jeff Redding**, Associate Professor, St. Louis University School of Law, “Transgender Rights in Unlikely Places? The Case of Pakistan,” March 5, 2013

*Tales of the Waria*, film screening, March 11, 2013

*The Island President*, film screening, April 17, 2013

**Elizabeth Rogers**, Shansi Fellow to Taigu, China, read a selection of poems from her new book, *Chord Box*, April 21, 2013

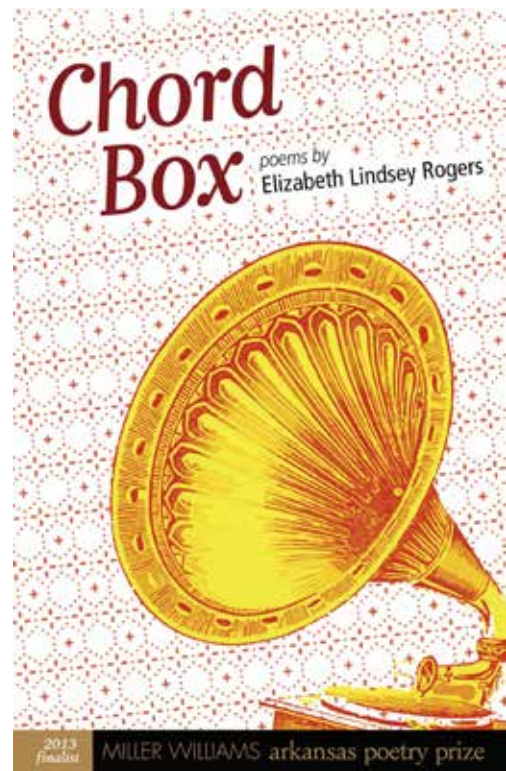
*Surviving Progress*, film screening, April 25, 2013

Beatrice Camp, former U.S. Consul General in Shanghai, Shansi alum and Trustee, lectured on “China Bookends: From Spiritual Pollution to the Shanghai Expo” May 18, 2013. The event took place at an alumni gathering in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

The Visiting Scholars engaged in dialogues with students and community members throughout the year. In October, **Anita Tiphagne** of Lady Doak College presented a lecture on caste, untouchability, and denotified communities in India and **Syarifah Faradina** of Syiah Kuala University discussed cultural and Muslim activities in Banda Aceh. Then in the spring, **Chao Mi** of Beijing Normal University led a Chinese paper-cutting workshop and **Teuku Roli Ilhamsyah Putra** of Syiah Kuala University presented on the topic of reconstruction, redevelopment, and natural disasters in Banda Aceh.

**SHANSI PRIZE** Every spring, Oberlin Shansi awards a prize to seniors who have completed a paper, project, or creative endeavor on a topic related to Asia. This year, two Oberlin seniors shared the prize:

**Isadora Jaffe** for her paper, *Hereditary Democracy in Japan and Its Effect on War Memory* and **Cassandra Guevara** for her capstone project entitled, *The Struggle of Okinawa: Contentious Social Movement in the Anti-Base Movement*.



*Pictured above: Ricardo Barrios in class at BNU with two of his students, Mona Yu (center) is the 2013-2014 Visiting Instructor to Oberlin; Matthew Furda and Peter Edmondson wait for a train to carry them to dinner; Shansi alum Elizabeth Rogers' collection of poems, Chord Box*



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2013	2013			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
<b>Operating Revenues</b>				
Investment earnings and gains	\$ 129,628	\$ 661,980	\$	\$ 791,608
Private gifts and grants	37,817	6,328		44,145
Net assets released from restrictions	710,068	(710,068)		
<b>Total operating revenues</b>	<b>877,513</b>	<b>(41,760)</b>		<b>835,753</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Program				
China	125,791			125,791
Indonesia	96,314			96,314
India	118,988			118,988
Japan	63,765			63,765
Oberlin Campus	175,245			175,245
Administrative and general	90,640			90,640
Fundraising	73,020			73,020
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>743,763</b>			<b>743,763</b>
<b>Change in net assets from operating activities</b>	<b>133,750</b>	<b>(41,760)</b>		<b>91,990</b>
<b>Non-operating Activities</b>				
Investment earnings and losses	(88,353)	(471,690)		(560,043)
Unrealized gains	80,601	422,772		503,373
Capital and deferred gifts			32,493	32,493
<b>Change in net assets from non-operating activities</b>	<b>(7,752)</b>	<b>(48,918)</b>	<b>32,493</b>	<b>(24,177)</b>
Change in net assets	125,998	(90,678)	32,493	67,813
Net assets at beginning of year	2,484,620	7,120,025	2,708,352	12,312,997
<b>Net assets at end of year</b>	<b>\$ 2,610,618</b>	<b>\$ 7,029,347</b>	<b>\$ 2,740,845</b>	<b>\$ 12,380,810</b>

**STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS OF JUNE 30, 2013 AND 2012**

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	43,567	150
Pledges receivable	100,000	50,000
Deposits and prepaid expenses	1,106	136
<b>Total current assets</b>	<u>144,673</u>	<u>50,286</u>
<b>Pledges Receivable</b>	<u>46,729</u>	<u>90,401</u>
<b>Long-Term Investments</b>	<u>11,847,113</u>	<u>12,127,635</u>
<b>Property, Plant and Equipment</b>		
Land	56,000	56,000
Buildings	225,427	225,427
Building improvements and renovations	305,617	305,617
Furniture and equipment	104,548	102,022
	<u>691,592</u>	<u>689,066</u>
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(314,330)</u>	<u>(289,105)</u>
<b>Net property, plant and equipment</b>	<u>377,262</u>	<u>399,961</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>12,415,777</u></u>	<u><u>12,668,283</u></u>
<b><u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u></b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and other liabilities	34,967	28,146
Payable to Oberlin College		327,140
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<u>34,967</u>	<u>355,286</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
<b>Unrestricted -</b>		
Current operations	331,266	172,291
Unexpended Plant and facility funds	145	1,196
Invested in plant facilities	377,262	399,961
Board designated funds	1,901,945	1,911,172
<b>Total unrestricted</b>	<u>2,610,618</u>	<u>2,484,620</u>
<b>Temporarily Restricted -</b>		
Unexpended gift fund	133,339	175,099
Cumulative earnings - endowment funds	6,896,008	6,944,926
<b>Total temporarily restricted</b>	<u>7,029,347</u>	<u>7,120,025</u>
<b>Permanently Restricted -</b>		
Endowment funds	<u>2,740,845</u>	<u>2,708,352</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<u>12,380,810</u>	<u>12,312,997</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<u><u>12,415,777</u></u>	<u><u>12,668,283</u></u>



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# oberlin shansi PEOPLE



*Pictured above: Trustee and Oberlin Chinese Professor Qiusha Ma (center) with Charlotte Hopkinson (left) and Katherine Xenna Goh (right)*

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Alessandra Ferrer

*Shanxi Agricultural University*  
Charlotte Hopkinson  
Katherine Xenna Goh

### INDIA

*Lady Doak College*  
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*“In the center of the Shansi knot logo there are four squares. I have chosen to use this image as the central theme for this annual report’s design. As a group of four, the squares look like a crossed window. This imagery focuses the annual report on providing ‘small windows’ into Shansi’s work in the past year. This also happens to work well with Shansi’s four sites, as the four windows correspond pretty accurately with Asia’s geography (northern window being China, eastern being Japan, southern being Indonesia, and western being India).”*

*- Karl Orozco,  
current Shansi Fellow at Syiah  
Kuala University in Banda  
Aceh, Indonesia and designer  
of this annual report*



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