

## **7. Sidahin Bangun**

I received the orangutan caring scholarship in 2008 when I was a student in Biology Department, Faculty of Mathematics and Nature Science, North Sumatra University. I have just completed my study in January 2011 and completed a field research on social behaviour and interaction of mother and infant of Sumatran orangutan in Bukit Lawang, Gunung Leuser National Park. The OCS enabled me to get involved in the life of



sumatran orangutans in Bukit Lawang and I become more aware how this animal become more critically endangered due to tourism activities and mainly habitat loss. I was amazed so much about how the mother of orangutan teach her offspring to survive in the wild for at least 4-6 years and I think orangutan is the best mother model amongst all living creatures on this planet. Through my research, I also become very concerned about the behaviour of tourists who did not respect the orangutans by feeding and touching orangutans for their joy. Tourists should be aware that their behaviour can impact on the life of orangutans and thus they should follow the guidelines when they view orangutans. During my research, I witnessed some foreign tourists touch and fed orangutans and I believed this illegal practice had led more semi wild orangutans in Bukit Lawang become more aggressive. Thus I hope my research would be useful for better management of orangutan viewing centre in Gunung Leuser National Park. I have recommended in my research that the GLNP authorities must be proactive to monitor the presence of tourists and guides and thus enforce the law for those who put the sustainability of orangutan population and their habitat rainforest at risks. Now I have finished my study and I dream that I have the opportunity to work with OIC in order to enable me to dedicate my life for orangutans.