

## COMPLETION REPORT

Hasanuddin University  
Meta Sekar Puji Astuti

**Subject of Research Project: Indonesians as Witnessed in Kawahara Keiga's Artworks: Study on Historical Japan-Indonesia relations in the Edo Period** (川原慶賀が見たインドネシア人：－江戸時代における日本－インドネシア関係史に関する研究－)

This research investigated into the artworks of the artist Kawahara Keiga (1786–1860) and their historical context, offering fresh insights into the historical dynamics between Indonesia and Japan during the Bakumatsu era in the late 1860s. By examining Keiga's works and background information, this study contributes a more comprehensive perspective to our understanding of the historical connections between the two nations. While existing discourse mainly revolves around Japanese-Dutch relations, this research sheds light on the direct interactions between (indigenous) Indonesians and Japanese individuals, during the Tokugawa, and particularly Bakumatsu periods. Fieldwork conducted in Japanese cities, including Nagasaki, Kobe, and Fukuoka, as well as in the Netherlands, Leiden, uncovers the significance of Keiga's artworks in Japanese-Dutch relations.

The study emphasizes three key findings: the complexity of **Indonesian-Japanese interactions**, the **cultural exchange** between Nagasaki and Indonesia, and the **educational impact** of the research.

### *1. Complexity of Indonesian-Japanese Interactions:*

The majority of research into this relationship has relied on Dutch archival records, making it difficult to gain new insights. Furthermore, there is a tendency in Japanese and Dutch historiography to focus disproportionately upon narratives relating solely to the Dutch East India Company (VOC). However, significantly, the study reveals an important discovery: the diamond-shaped kite, which holds immense cultural significance during the spring season in Nagasaki, can be historically traced to the Indonesian inhabitants in Dejima. One of Kawahara Keiga's artworks effectively portrays a vivid visualization of this perceptive connection.

### *2. Cultural Exchange between Nagasaki and Indonesia:*

Nagasaki's designation as part of Japan's Sugar Road Heritage is the focal point of exploration in this study. Sugar, a notable Dutch import, possesses historical connections to Nagasaki. Moreover, the iconic castella cake of Nagasaki prominently features sugar as a vital ingredient. This linkage serves as a prime example of the vibrant cultural exchanges that transpired between these two nations, thus warranting an in-depth investigation into their culinary and trade interconnections. The study elucidates the profound significance of *Jagarata Kuronbo* (the black-skinned boy from Jagarata/Java) within the context of Dejima's history and Nagasaki's heritage. Further research is recommended to uncover additional artworks associated with *Jagarata Kuronbo*. The study which focus on Jagarata Kuronbo has been noticeably absent. The significant impact of Jagarata Kuronbo on the history of Dejima and Nagasaki will be important and unique to Japanese history and Nagasaki's cultural heritage.

### *3. Educational Impacts:*

This research has had a transformative impact on the Japanese Literature study program at Hasanuddin University. The institution has successfully generated a scholarly work on Kawahara Keiga and modified its curriculum to include a course named "Art History of Indonesia-Japan Relations."

In conclusion, the examination of Kawahara Keiga's artworks within their historical context offers a fresh and

illuminating perspective on the intricate historical dynamics that characterized Indonesia and Japan during the Bakumatsu era. Through an exploration of the multifaceted interactions, rich cultural exchanges, and educational implications, this study significantly underscores the pivotal role of cross-cultural analyses in enhancing our comprehension of global history.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022; Public Lecture for Japanese Studies Study Program of Airlangga University; Venue: Airlangga University, Surabaya; Title of Presentation *Kawahara Keiga: Sang Fotografer tanpa Kamera* (Kawahara Keiga the Photographer Without Camera); Presenter: Meta Sekar Puji Astuti and Syahrur Marta Dwi Susilo, Ph. D

Date: 14 January 2023 Indonesian Recorded by 川原慶賀 (Kawahara Keiga) in Dejima, Public Lecture; Venue: Kurara Hall, Hiroshima Presenter: Meta Sekar Puji Astuti.

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023 Webinar hosted by BPPI (Indonesian Heritage Trust) (*Heritage Hubungan Indonesia-Jepang di Masa Isolasi Negara Jepang Akhir Zaman Edo* Heritage of Indonesia-Japan Relations during Japan's Isolation Period in the Late Edo Period (幕末におけるインドネシア人と日本人関史; Monthly Discussion on Heritage Conservation; Presenter: Meta Sekar Puji Astuti.

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023 Venue: Denpasar/Bali (Hybrid) *Hubungan Jepang-Indonesia: Masa Isolasi Negara Jepang di Periode Akhir Edo (Dokumentasi dan Rekam Jejak dari Lukisan Kawahara Keiga)* Japan-Indonesia Relations: Japan's Period of State Isolation in the Late Edo Period (Documentation and Trace Records from Kawahara Keiga's Paintings); International Symposium and Seminar on Japanese Studies in Indonesia (ASJI); Presenter: Meta Sekar Puji Astuti.

Date 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023; Public lecture for Keio University's Students; Venue: Hasanuddin University, Makassar Title of Presentation: 幕末におけるインドネシア人と日本人関係史; Presenter: Meta Sekar Puji Astuti

Date 12<sup>th</sup> August 2023; Workshop and Seminar of ASPBJI South Sulawesi Chapter conducted in Hasanuddin Makassar; Venue: Makassar Venue: Makassar ASPBJI South-Sulawesi *Kawahara Keiga: Signifikansi Karya-Karyanya dalam Sejarah Hubungan Indonesia Jepang di Masa Bakumatsu* (Kawahara Keiga: The Significance of His Works in the History of Japanese-Indonesian Relations in the Bakumatsu Period)

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2023; Brushstrokes of Hidden History: Unveiling Japan-Indonesian Interactions through the Artworks of Kawahara Keiga (1621-1868); International Seminar on Japanese Education and Japanese Studies, ICLJ ASPBJI-Padang, Wes Sumatra (Hybrid Conference); Presenter: Meta Sekar Puji Astuti

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

Undergraduate thesis for Hasanuddin University (8 August 2023)

Title: *Representasi dan Visualisasi Sejarah Hubungan Jepang-Indonesia di Masa akhir Isolasi Jepang Jepang (鎖国時代) Melalui Kompilasi Koleksi Digital Karya Seni Lukis Kawahara Keiga (川原慶賀) 1786-1860* (the original title in Indonesian)

(Representation and Visualization of the History of Japan-Indonesia Relations in the Late Japanese Isolation Period (鎖国時代) through the Compilation of Digital Collections of Kawahara Keiga's (川原慶賀) 1786-1860 Paintings)

Author of Thesis: Muh. Agam Albari M.

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)

Publisher: Reiwa Media Publisher; On progress (draft and negotiation on copyright issues) will be published in 2024/2025; Indonesian-Japan History through Art History (draft); Author of the Book: main author Meta Sekar Puji Astuti and Syahrur Dwi Susilo as contributor.