1. Everyone belongs to many different communities and/or groups defined by (among other things) shared geography, religion, ethnicity, income, cuisine, interest, race, ideology, or intellectual heritage. **Choose one of the communities to which you belong, and describe that community and your place within it**. (300 words)

The butterflies started to kick in as I waited behind the curtains, dressed in my mother’s traditional white *pepadun* embellished with chunky gold jewelry to match the other girls. This dress clearly didn’t fit me; I tried my best to hide the pins which held the extra fabric at my waist, but I was keen on sharing my mother’s traditional dance to my school on the one day where we could truly show off our culture: International Day. Every year, together with the girls in the close-knitted Indonesian community in Brunei, we would share one of our country’s many traditional dances. That year, it was from my mother’s tribe, so with my mom, we spent 4 weeks teaching the girls to perform our dance.

When I moved to Russia, the Indonesian community only consisted of 3 families. This didn’t stop us from creating a communal environment. My mom and I brought our traditional dance to my new school’s International Day. This time, I chose to perform a new dance, traditional to Papua so as to not limit my knowledge of the vast Indonesian culture to that of my mother’s. Every Tuesday after school, I practiced with my mom and her 2 Indonesian friends, and prepared costumes with make-do props consisting of a metal rod sawed from my mom’s broomstick with feathers attached on either end. The day I performed, I shared a taste of my home with Sakhalin for the first time.

Now in Oman, I immerse myself in the Indonesian community through our Indonesian Students Association. While my younger self made it a point to share my culture with those coming from international backgrounds, I now work on making an impact on the Indonesian community itself. I teach English weekly to Indonesian migrant workers, I teach Bahasa Indonesia to Indonesian children who are out of touch with their culture as a result of spending their whole lives outside. I organise online events and games to celebrate Indonesian Independence Day.

No matter where I go, I know there is one community I could guarantee I would feel home in: the Indonesian community.