Dutch Gold in Madras
Towards A New Age of Partnership in India

At the end of 2001, several events in the South Indian city of Chennai (formerly Madras) highlighted the importance of Dutch archives to the early-modern history of India. The launch of an archival guide to materials in the National Archives in The Hague was coupled with an exhibition of archival material in the National Archives of India. The seminar devoted to the study of Indian history with the help of Dutch archives. Undeterred, the Indian students and myself gave short lectures about research possibilities and the accompanying pros and cons. Undertaken, the students Anjana Singh, Mahesh Gopalan, and Gulam Nadri presented their proposals for a PhD research to be conducted within the scope of TANAP under the auspices of Leiden University. Basing themselves largely on the records of the Dutch East India Company, they intend to study internal and external relationships of the Dutch at Cochín, Christian missionaries on the Coromandel and Fishery Coasts, and Dutch trade and the

TANAP Diary: A Warm Welcome for 13 Asian and South African Students

On 30 December 2001, the second group of TANAP Advanced Master’s students landed at Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam. We were warmly welcomed by Prof. Leonard Bissell and Dr Henk Niemeijer, who were accompanied by the film-maker Steef Meijknecht. Steef focused his video camera on us right from the beginning and he will accompany the students during their study period in the Netherlands. The students will be restored, put on microfilm, and made accessible through a new, digital archival inventory.

The following day, a small seminar was devoted to the study of Indian history in Asia and to the help of Dutch archives. The students Moscambi, by herself and with the help of Dutch archives, contribute to the intellectual discussions of Asia. The TANAP students will continue to follow us throughout the year.

During our study period in the Netherlands, we will find ourselves often confronted with this year’s celebrations taking place in the Netherlands of the founding of the Dutch East India Company 400 years ago. Newspapers, politicians, television channels, and radio stations are giving it quite a lot of attention, and the TANAP students will

The day to come held promises that will unfold in the contributions to this page by more TANAP students.

Editor’s note

The “TANAP Diary” by students of the programme will continue to appear as part of the TANAP section in future issues of the IIAS Newsletter.

The TANAP PhD Programme

This year TANAP (Towards A New Age of Partnership) has entered the PhD phase. Atsushi Ota and Ressl Vlijmen were sufficiently prepared to enter the PhD programme directly, three others were selected from the Advanced Masters Programme 2001 with the approval of the Scientific Board of Research School CNWS. Below you will find an overview of this year’s names, e-mail addresses, and research topics:

1. Atsushi Ota (Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan; e-mail: A.Ota@let.leidenuniv.nl), Dynamics in Pre-Colonial Society. Changes in the Social Structure of Bantam (West Java) 1750-1808.
2. Rissel Vlijmen (University of the Western Cape, Bellville, South Africa; e-mail: R.S.Vlijmen@let.leidenuniv.nl), “Land of our Forefathers”: Jan Pael, a KhooKhoi Prophet in Cape Colonial Society. 1750-1851.
3. Bhawan Rangavelp (Chulalongkorn University, Thailand; e-mail: R.Rangavelp@let.leidenuniv.nl), The TANAP Diary by students of the programme will continue to appear as part of the TANAP section in future issues of the IIAS Newsletter.

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