

# FORSCHUNGSBERICHTE

## The Present State of Indonesian Studies

At the recent European Colloquium of Indonesian Studies at the University of Passau, 22-27 June, 1987, representatives of the participating delegations reported on the state of the art of Indonesian studies in their respective countries. ASIEN was asked to publish these reports. Since there was no similar survey for the last ten years the editors found the information valuable and herewith gladly respond to the request.

### 1. Indonesian Studies in the Federal Republic of Germany

In a survey of the state of the art of Southeast Asian Studies in the Federal Republic of Germany in 1975(1) a total of 30 scholars could be ascertained, who devoted most of their time to Indonesian Studies. In the recent Directory of West European Indonesianists 1987(2), the number of those, engaged in Indonesian Studies has quadrupled: 126 German Indonesianists are listed, and four more at least could be added to the list. A division into various academic fields, using the key of institutional connections as in 1975, shows a spectacular increase, particularly in the disciplines of social sciences:

Table: German Indonesianists in 1975 and in 1987

Academic Discipline	1975	1987
Agrarwissenschaften	2	6
Erziehungswissenschaften	-	1
Ethnologie/Völkerkunde	4	31
Frauenstudien	-	2
Geographie	5	14
Geschichte	2	5
Kunst, Musik, Theater	-	5
Medizin	-	2
Polit. Wissenschaften	5	6
Rechtswissenschaften	-	2
Religionswissenschaften	1	9
Soziologie	2	13
Sprache/Literatur	7	15
Wirtschaftswissenschaften	2	11
Sonstige	-	4
Total	30	126

It has to be added, however, that - in contrast to the list of 1975 - there are some scholars included in the list of 1987, who have as yet not finished their dissertation.

Nevertheless, the comparison demonstrates that Indonesia, since 1975, has been "discovered" by German "ethnologists" or anthropologists as one of their favorite fields of research. There is no "center" for anthropological studies on Indonesia in Germany, most of the 30 or so scholars graduated, or are about to graduate, from different universities such as Cologne (with Professor Kurt Tauchmann, working on cultural change in Minahassa and the Riau-archipelago), Munich (Director of the "Institut für Völkerkunde und Afrikanistik" is, since 1985, Professor Matthias Laubscher, now working on tradition and change among the Ngaju-Dayak in Kalimantan Tengah) or Tübingen (Professor Thomas Schweizer, formerly Cologne, working on social networks in Javanese communities), or to a lesser degree, also from Hamburg, Berlin, Frankfurt or Freiburg. Ethnologists dominate also the annual conventions of the so-called "Südostasienkreis", younger German Southeast Asianists, meeting at universities with a regular Southeast Asia programme such as Bielefeld (1986) or Passau (1987). These usually well attended conferences provide a forum for reports on research, for the discussion of preliminary findings, or for the exchange of experiences with research-institutions etc.

The second largest group of German Indonesianists (15) consists of experts in Indonesian languages and literature. The Hamburg based "Seminar für Indonesische und Südseesprachen", was founded already in the early 1930's with the well-known linguist Professor Otto Dempwolff as its first director, succeeded by Professor Walter Aichele and, from the mid-fifties to the late seventies, by Professor Hans Kähler. After the untimely death of Kähler's successor, Professor Lode Brakel, in 1981, until now, the seminar has a difficult time. No new permanent appointment could be made to continue the great tradition. Courses on Indonesian Linguistics and Literature are regularly offered, however, by members of the staff (P.Pink and D.Toda) or by advanced students.

The other German institute focussing on Indonesian Languages and Literature as the so-called "Malaiologischer Apparat im Orientalischen Seminar der Universität Köln", from its beginnings in the late 1950's until now under the leadership of Professor Irene Hilgers-Hesse. Two of her former assistants, Bernd Nothofer and Rainer Carle, acquired the qualification of professorship (Habilitation) in recent years. Nothofer has been appointed Professor for Indonesian Linguistic at the University of Frankfurt, Carle is preparing his Habilschrift on the Batak opera for publication. Hilgers-Hesse herself plans to write a book on classic Malay literature.

Professor Nothofer was appointed as successor of Professor Karow and became head of the section "Südostasienwissenschaften" at the "Institut für orientalische und ostasiatische Philologien" at the University of

Frankfurt in the early 1980's. He and the members of his staff (K.H. Pampus and G. and S. Poedjosoedomo) have recently finished an Indonesian-German Dictionary Project. Among the new projects of the institute are research on the languages in Western Sumatra and in Brunei.

The third strongest group of German Indonesianists according to the directory are the geographers (14). In this field the situation is similar to that of anthropology. There is no geographical institute in Germany dealing exclusively with Indonesia. But there are a few universities with a major emphasis on Indonesian geography, like Bochum (Professor Werner Rutz), Gießen (Dr.habil. Ulrich Scholz) and Kassel (Professor Werner Röhl). Kassel has the longest tradition. Röhl, after his research on Central Java and Lombok, is now conducting research, together with the Nommensen University in Medan, on the migration of Toba-Bataks in Northern Sumatra.

Most of the 13 sociologists mentioned in the directory, are connected with or graduates from the "Fakultät für Soziologie" at the University of Bielefeld. Although its "Forschungsschwerpunkt Entwicklungssoziologie" is free to choose its area of research, this institute, since its foundation in the early 1970's directed by Professor Hans-Dieter Evers, has concentrated its work on Southeast Asia and on Indonesia in particular. After research on problems of subsistence economy and urbanisation, the present emphasis lies on an analysis of social and economic effects of transmigration in East Kalimantan.

Also the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Passau, founded only in 1984, deals systematically with Indonesia. Indonesian language is regularly taught (lecturer H.Holzwarth). Its director (the present writer) tries to focus teaching and research on the impact of cultural traditions in modern developments. Among current research projects one is dealing with the function of Tarekats in Modern Indonesia (Werner Kraus), others deal with regional developments in Tapanuli (Bernhard Dahm) and Bangka (Mary Somers Heidhues).

The remaining German Indonesianists of various academic disciplines are spread over German universities and cities throughout the Federal Republic such as (in alphabetical order): Berlin (W.Karcher, Education; A.Simon, Musicology; J.Berninghausen and V.Kerstan, Women Studies); Bonn (K.H.Junghans, Agrarian Sciences); Bremen (W.Wagner, History); Gießen (H.Fischer, Veterinary Medicine); Göttingen (M.Heidhues, Political Science); Hamburg (O.Schumann, Religious Studies; K.Fasbender and D.Kebschull, Economic Sciences); Heidelberg (H.H.Dengel and H.Kulke, History; E.Schaarschmidt-Kohl, Political Science); Marburg (J.Röpke, Economic Sciences); München (H.Heinzlmeir and R.O.G.Roeder, Current Affairs); or Wuppertal (L.Schreiner, Religious Studies). - This list could be continued, but the general trend is clear: Indonesian developments are finding increasing attention in the various academic disciplines in the Federal Republic of Germany.

*Notes*

- (1) cf. Bernhard Dahm: Die Südostasienwissenschaft in den USA, in Westeuropa und in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Göttingen 1975, pp.58 ff.
- (2) Compiled by the Documentation Centre for Modern Indonesia, KITLV. Dordrecht and Providence: Foris Publications 1975, pp.33 ff.

Bernhard Dahm, Passau

## 2. The State of Indonesian and Malay Studies in the German Democratic Republic

The Department for Southeast Asian Studies at the Humboldt University of Berlin, Sektion Asienwissenschaften, is the leading centre for Indonesian and Malay studies in the GDR. There are, of course, other scholars outside Berlin, notably at the universities of Jena and Leipzig who are engaged mainly in philology and linguistics. In order to give some names should be mentioned above all Erich-Dieter Krause, the author of a textbook of the Bahasa Indonesia and a new dictionary Indonesisch-Deutsch (1985) which replaced the older ones published by Kahlo and Simon-Bärwinkel, then Renate Eisengarten and Harry Spitzbardt (Indonesian linguistics), and Hans Herrfurth (modern Javanese).

For practical reasons the Department is divided between different branches, the most important of which are Indochinese and Indonesian studies. Instruction is possible for all countries and national languages of the region with the exception of Thai (but including Lao). The academic staff for Indonesian and Malay studies consists of eight members, at present, with the addition of native speakers and two research assistants who graduated from that institution. The specialization relates to language and literature (Kurt Huber, Elke Voß, Elke Wehden), history (Ulrich Gneupel, Hans Dieter Kubitscheck, Ingrid Wessel), and economics (Helmut Fessen, Bambang Roseno). The study at the Department occupy five years, as a rule, for full-time students. Besides part-time students from other departments in a somewhat greater number there are only small groups of students, enrolled every two years or so, beginning in 1967 for the first time. The curriculum prescribes not only studies in Indonesian and Southeast Asian subjects and modern European languages but also a specialization in general linguistics (in case of interpreters), history or economics, respectively.

The development of Indonesian studies in the GDR was stimulated by several factors as, for instance, the tradition of good and friendly relationships between Germany and Indonesia in the field of culture and sciences. The beginnings go back to the old Berlin "Seminar für Orientalische Sprachen" (SOS, Seminar for Oriental Languages), founded in