

Report 28 June 2007: Indonesia Heritage Day, Leiden, The Netherlands

The CIE organised a well-attended symposium on heritage cooperation with Indonesia. The attendance of around 85 guests for our first Heritage Day was even higher than we expected. We got a lot of positive reactions, to give a few examples: 'an inspiring meeting', 'very useful' and 'a great initiative'. This Heritage Day aimed to bring Dutch stakeholders into Dutch – Indonesia heritage cooperation and to discuss the possibilities for improving collaboration. Future incidental heritage projects can potentially evolve into a heritage programme. Steven Engelsman, director of the National Museum of Ethnology, was so kind to host the Heritage Day.

At 9.30 a.m. the day was opened by Steven Engelsman, director of Museum Volkenkunde and the host of our Heritage Day. He supported the initiative for the Heritage Day Indonesia and he was glad that it took place in his museum. Frits van Dulm held a speech in name of the board of the CIE in which he addressed the long road that eventually led up to this day. Unfortunately the Indonesian Ambassador was unable to come, but the cultural attaché Sir Muhadjir was there to represent the Indonesian Embassy.

Robert Parthesius, director of the CIE, gave a short introduction to the day and after this

The morning programme continued with four presentations on different fields of heritage cooperation with Indonesia:

- Frans van Dijk (National Archives) - 'Dutch' archives over sea. He discussed not only archives that are kept in Indonesia but also other countries where 'Dutch' archives can be found. He told what the National Archives can mean and contributes to these archives over sea.
- Cor Passchier (PAC Architects)- different built heritage projects in Indonesia. He gave a presentation about his new inventory project for forts that is in cooperation with the Indonesian Ministry of Culture and Tourism.
- Pim Westerkamp (Tropical Museum) - museum cooperation between ten museums in Jakarta and the Tropenmuseum (KIT) in Amsterdam. He not only told about the program but also about the cooperation with the museums.
- Hans Versnel - Cemetery Peneleh in Surabaya. This cemetery can be a revitalisation project in the near future when the community of Surabaya has put forward a project proposal.

The morning programme ended with a presentation of Robert Parthesius about the plans for the project database of the CIE and how this is formulised right now.

The afternoon was planned for workshops to discuss the cooperation and cohesion in built heritage projects, museum projects and projects related to archives, photos and books. Another workshop discussed the term 'mutual' in Mutual Cultural Heritage. The participants in the workshops developed recommendations for the cultural policy makers on the subjects of cooperation between Dutch organisations and the cooperation with counterparts in Indonesia.

All groups came back with positive reactions and they had a real opportunity to discuss difficulties and chances for cooperation. The more theoretical workshop about mutual heritage came to a reasonable agreement that 'mutual heritage' is not a very pleasant term. This group also came with a recommendation for the future to investigate the possibilities to determine 'lieux de memoire' in Indonesia. In cooperation with Indonesia points can be addressed where there is overlap in the history of the Netherlands and Indonesia.

After the chairmen of the workgroups presented the first conclusions the CIE Heritage Day came to an end and Museum Volkenkunde took over with a lecture of their curator Pieter ter Keurs. He closed the project that Museum Volkenkunde had with the National Museum in Jakarta and they opened a new project for the coming three years. The whole day was closed of with a drink that was offered by Museum Volkenkunde.

All the participants had the opportunity to send in information on and images of their heritage project. 22 organisations presented their heritage projects with Indonesia on posters. These posters give an interesting insight in the Dutch cooperation with Indonesia's heritage field today. With these posters they were able to generate attention for their project and get in contact with interested participants.

Recommendations Heritage Day

The Centre for International Heritage Activities organised a Heritage Day for Indonesia on June 28th, 2007. On this day we brought together the Dutch heritage field holding projects in Indonesia. Workshop discussions revolved around the possibilities of more cooperation and a better connection between the involved organisations. The ultimate idea is to work from incidental heritage projects that would eventually evolve into a comprehensive heritageprogramme. This process has been started first for Indonesia, and the Centre is working on recommendations for Suriname and for 2008 South Africa, Sri Lanka and Russia are also on the programme.

The discussions gave interesting insights and resulted in four important recommendations for the cultural policy makers at the Dutch Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education, Culture and Science.

The recommendations:

- A better structure is needed for the coordination of international heritage projects and for the sharing of information about projects. This should be organised from one central knowledge institute and should cover all partner countries. The Centre for International Heritage Activities has started a process to improve coordination and information facilities. The participants of the Indonesia Heritage Day regard this very useful.
- To join expertise, knowledge and information about heritage projects via the Internet (through an online database), will benefit the larger heritage field. A joint database will give access to the knowledge in the field supporting an efficient working-method and facilitating opportunities for connecting the field.
- Capacity building should be one of the most important themes and goals in the countries where the projects are implemented, in order to assure a long-term impact of the work.
- Infrastructure is needed for small organisations to make expertise and capacity available. Large institutes that already have these should support and, if possible, facilitate the development of infrastructure in small organisations.