

Dissemination of Religious Authority

In 20th-Century Indonesia:

The IAS research programme 'The Dissemination of Religious Authority in Twentieth-Century Indonesia', which commenced for a period of four years, in January, is presently still in its initial phase (See its introduction in the previous Newsletter, p. 43). A small workshop is planned for the (late) summer of 2001 to get the programme focused. Unfortunately, programme co-ordinator, Dr Nico Kaptein, fell ill, which caused him to stay at home for a couple of months. He is however expected to return after the summer.

By Sabine Kuypers

The upcoming newsletters will bring regular updates of the programme, as well as reports and articles by our research fellows, who will also publish their proceedings and results on the programme's website (see underneath).

Below an update of the developments within the programme's four sub-projects on 20th-Century Indonesia is given.

1) '*Ulama* and *Fatwa*: the Structures of Traditional Religious Authority'

Project leader, Prof. Kees van Dijk, Royal Institute of Linguistics and Anthropology, Leiden, will act as Jajat Burhanudin's (Indonesia) PhD supervisor. Dr Michael Laffan (Australia) from 1 January 2002 onwards will work on this theme and on *Tarekat*, mentioned below.

2) '*Tarekat*: Mystical Associations in Urban Communities'

Here Prof. Martin van Bruinessen, University of Utrecht, the Netherlands, will act as project leader and PhD supervisor of Noorhaidi and Ahmad Syafi'i Mufid (both from Indonesia). On 1 April 2001 Noorhaidi started with his research on contemporary Islamic movements, with special attention to Islamic militant groups in Indonesia. Dr Michael Laffan, will conduct his post PhD research, most probably on the history of Sufi orders in Indonesia.

3) '*Dakwah* Organizations and Activities in Urban Communities'

Project leader, Prof. Herman Beck, Tilburg University, the Netherlands is also PhD supervisor to Moch Nur Ichwan (Indonesia), working on the topic: 'Contesting Islamic Dakwah, Intellectualism and Politics in an Indonesian City: Muhammadiyah and Nahdlatul

Ulama in Yogyakarta, 1993 – 2003’, since 15 April.

Postdoc researcher, Dr Johan Meuleman, started with his research on ‘Dakwah in urban society in 20th-Century Indonesia’ on 1 January 2001.

4) ‘Education and the Dissemination and Reproduction of Religious Authority’

PhD supervisor is Prof. Azyumardi Azra, The State University of Islamic Studies (IAIN) Syarif Hidayatullah in Jakarta. Dr Dick Douwes, Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World (ISIM), Leiden, consented to become project leader. Both PhD students from Indonesia: Arief Subhan and Mohammad Dahlan, are expected this summer. Dr Mona Abaza (American University, Cairo, Egypt) will join the project for one year as of 1 September 2001, to work on ‘Rethinking the two Spaces, the Middle East and Southeast Asia’. Another research fellow will be appointed after the selection procedure.

For more detailed information, please consult:

[Http://www.ias.nl/ias/research/dissemination](http://www.ias.nl/ias/research/dissemination), or contact the IIAS at: ias@let.leidenuniv.nl

Dr Nico Kaptein is the Academic Co-ordinator of the above programme, Co-ordinator of the Indonesia-Netherlands Cooperation in Islamic Studies (INIS) Programme, and Secretary of the Islamic Studies Programme at Leiden University.

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