

# TANAP Diary: Unequaled Success

Due to the exceptional standard of applications and the encouraging performance in course work, eight students in the TANAP AMP (Towards A New Age of Partnership Advanced Master's Programme) have been awarded scholarships and admittance to its PhD programme. Two students from South Africa, two from Indonesia and one from India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and Taiwan each, will be able to continue their research at Leiden University.

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General

By *Nirmal Dewasiri & Anjana Singh*

The submission of the PhD proposals on a hardly auspicious 'Friday the thirteenth' of September 2002 symbolically marked the end of the Advanced Master's Programme. Shortly after, the students received diplomas for the successful completion of the rigorous ten-month TANAP training programme, which was concluded with seminars in Bangkok on 24–26 October.

Struck by a tsunami of research material in the Nationaal Archief, The Hague, the students were perplexed by the magnitude of possibilities that this project offered them. Apart from the general academic atmosphere of Leiden, regular classroom sessions, and one-on-one interaction with their supervisors, the students have benefited greatly from educational trips to Amsterdam, Dordrecht, Breda, Gouda, Delft, and Antwerp. The authors to this article further had the unique chance of establishing contacts with other scholars, working on India and Sri Lanka. The semi-formal monthly meetings organized by the Research School for African, Asian, and Amerindian

Studies (CNWS) gave them an opportunity to exchange ideas with Dutch scholars and debate perceptions and the usefulness of the VOC archives in reconstructing history.

Eight of the eleven students who started the AMP 2002 will continue their research next year as TANAP PhD students, proving the success of the programme. With the selection of these eight students, new research in the Dutch records in Chennai, Colombo, Jakarta, and Cape Town will soon commence. ◀

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