

## OBITUARIES

*In memoriam Professor Emeritus Adrian Bernard Lopian  
Tegal, 1 September 1929 – Jakarta, 19 July 2011*



Source: <http://www.tanap.net/content/universities/counterparts.cfm?Article>

Amurang. I was wondering whether it might not be a good idea to establish a foundation under his name or that of his father, who at one time (in the early 1950s) served as the governor of the Province of Sulawesi might not be a good idea. In that way, the books and other printed materials could be preserved and, who knows, the collection could be expanded and not least important the rich collection might continue to be useful for students in the Minahasa region. His reaction however, was negative, when his sister whispered this idea to him.

I was about to leave when one of his relatives who also happened to be in the room handed me a mobile phone. Apparently, his cousin asked me to be present at a ceremony to be held sometime in August when the Achmad Bakrie Foundation would bestow on Adri the coveted Achmad Bakrie Award on “social thought” upon him. Of course, I would attend the ceremony. I was glad with the news because I felt he knew that he was about to receive the award. However, deep in my heart I felt that whatever happened to him one thing was certain. When the time for the ceremony would have come, he would no longer be able to say anything. There was simply no chance for him to deliver his acceptance speech, even a short one. I would miss the kind of

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A day before I went to Japan to attend a meeting I came to see him at his house. He could no longer welcome me. Suddenly I felt empty for I really missed his big welcome smile. Though he was unable to react in any way to my visit, I suppose he was aware that I was there. He had been bedridden for almost three months. During that time, he had been in and out of two or three major hospitals. I just talked softly to his younger sister, a retired law professor of the University of Indonesia. We discussed his condition and, of course, his book collections that were nicely arranged in his three houses – in Jakarta, Tomohon, and

short, thoughtful, but at the same entertaining acceptance speech as he made in 2010 when he received the Habibie Award which was simply superb. His exposé was of an outstanding level of scholarship while tamed by his aesthetic sense of humour.

I gently touched his hands. His eyes remained closed. I only hoped that he was aware of my feelings of friendship. I said goodbye to the family. A few days later, when I was about to board an airplane on my way home, I received a short message. The day of truth had finally come. The message said that he would be buried in his hometown in the Minahasa region. I could only console myself with the thought that from afar I could still bid farewell to a friend, whom I first met in January 1962, the day I joined the Bureau of the Majelis Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia (MIPI) – that was later to become the Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia (LIPI, Indonesian Institute of Sciences). A few weeks later, I did attend the award ceremony. The memories of our years of friendship came back alive while I was listening to the acceptance speech that was delivered by one of his former students, Susanto Zuhdi who himself had already become a professor of history.

My first impression of Adrian Bernard Lapijan, or Adri, was simply nothing less than admiration and a feeling of closeness. I was “fresh from the oven” when I joined MIPI. Perhaps I may be forgiven if at that moment I felt a little bit proud of myself. I was not only persuaded to move to this bureau, where some of the country’s most prominent scientists regularly held their scholarly meetings; I was also the second and by far the youngest person ever to have managed to obtain his doctorandus degree (PhD candidate in the old continental system) in history from the Gadjah Mada University. The moment I met Adri, I realized that he was simply also just a young man who had just finished his schooling. Soft spoken and never forgetting to smile while answering my not too bright questions, he immediately displayed his academic maturity. Although he received his doctorandus degree only a few months before I did, I immediately admired his historical knowledge, his erudition – *belezenheid*, as he preferred to call it – and above all his polyglot talent. I believe that until today no one can beat Adri in the number of foreign languages he mastered. In addition to Indonesian, Dutch, English, German and French he also managed to read not only newspapers but also historical archives written in Spanish and Portuguese. Although he could not master the Japanese written language, he could get by well with the Japanese language when he spent some time in Kyoto. Who would then be surprised to find out that from the late 1960s to the early 1990s he had the opportunity to conduct archival research in the Netherlands, England, France, Portugal, Spain, USA, the Philippines, and of course Jakarta and Bogor. No historian can beat him on this account. Who would then be surprised to learn that his doctoral thesis, defended at Gadjah Mada University, under the supervision of Prof. Sartono Kartodirdjo, le doyen of the Indonesian historians, was unanimously voted *cum laude*? The thesis was much later published under the title *Orang Laut, Bajak Laut, Raja Laut: Sejarah kawasan laut Sulawesi abad 19* (Jakarta, 2009).

It was after a stint as a newspaperman that Adri, who at one time spent a few years as a student of the faculty that is now called the Bandung Institute of Technology, finally made his decision to become a historian. From the time he wrote his skripsi – that is a thesis before one could receive one's doctorandus degree – he showed his academic interest in maritime history – the history that was for him full of adventures and romance. Also this history showed that despite their differences, the thousands of islands in the Indonesian archipelago really belonged to one world. He began to concentrate on this branch of historical knowledge in earnest after spending some years at the historical section of the Indonesian navy. Soon after MIPI was transformed into LIPI, the institute that was to be in charge of several “national research centres”, he returned to LIPI and he became a research staff member at LRKN (National Institute of Cultural Research) and later moved to LEKNAS (National Institute for Economic and Social Research). After LIPI had been reorganized, he joined the Research and Development Centre for Society and Culture and was eventually appointed Director (1989-1990). In the meantime, from 1961 until 2004, he continued to teach at the Faculty of Letters of Gadjah Mada University and later at the Faculty of Letters of the University of Indonesia – the university that appointed him as Professor of History in 1992.

Adri, or Pak Lapien as he was best known, was also active in a number of national and international academic organizations and conferences. When I met him in early 1962, he was busy with the organization of the second Kongres Ilmu Pengetahuan Nasional (National Science Congress) and later, in the early 1970s he served as the Secretary General of the IAHA (International Association of the Historians of Asia) when Yogyakarta hosted its conference. Later we (together with Prof. Sartono) became almost regular participants at IAHA conferences. Because he was quite knowledgeable about Japan – after all he had spent some time in Kyoto – or because of his keen scholarly interest in developing a scientific relationship between Japan and Indonesia, he was appointed coordinator of Social Science and Humanities in the scientific cooperation between LIPI and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. Although I cannot prove it, I suspect Adri was proud of the fact that he was also appointed a member of the UNESCO Consultative Committee of the “The Integral Study of Silk Roads: Roads of Dialogue”. He immensely enjoyed the program. Not only was the subject matter close to his heart, the program also gave him the opportunity to participate in meetings and seminars held in Paris, Osaka, Muscat, Baghdad, Venice, Izmir, Cairo, Karachi, Xian (China), Goa, Colombo, Athens, and Tehran.

Pak Lapien left behind a number of books and articles that not exclusively deal with maritime history. In addition to his masterpiece on the history of “piracy” on the Sulawesi Sea, he also published *Pelayaran dan perniagaan Nusantara abad ke-16 dan ke-17* (Jakarta, 2009). He edited a number of books, among others (with co-editor P. J. Drooglever) *Jalur diplomasi dalam perspektif sejarah* (Jakarta, 1992). He also translated a book on Surakarta, written by D. Larson, *Masa menjelang revolusi: Kraton dan kehidupan politik di Surakarta, 1912-1942* (Yogyakarta, 1990).

Three books dedicated to him have also been published. The first was published in 2001 when he and his friends celebrated his nine windu (seventy-two) birthday. Edited by Edi Sedyawati and Susanto Zuhdi, the thick book was nicely titled, *Arung samudra – Persembahan memperingati sembilan windu A.B. Lapien* (Jakarta 2001).

While writing this obituary, my mind travelled to the time when he patiently showed me the way to make myself better acquainted with the strange country, the Netherlands. That was when we worked on our respective research in the late 1960s.

Bon Voyage, Adri.

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*In memoriam Professor Emeritus Anton M. Moeliono  
Bandung, 21 February 1929 – Jakarta, 25 July 2011*



Photograph by JP/Setiono Sugiharto, 2009.<sup>1</sup>

### **Achadiati**

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By many who have known him and his work, Anton Moeliono will always be remembered for his dedication to the cause of promoting our national language and his tireless efforts to mobilize everyone for that cause. His earnest and enthusiastic endeavour to set the right course for the Indonesian language policy earned him the nickname of “the Pope of language”.

He also has left his mark on modern Indonesian by the many words he has created: *lugas, canggih, pemirsa*, and many more, which at first were felt awkward, but now are household words.

For the many students who saw him as their mentor in their search for knowledge and truth, he has been a hard taskmaster, but they will not easily forget the lessons of life he has instilled in them and his generosity in their direst needs.

With his demise, the cause of the promotion of Indonesian as a modern national language has lost an ardent champion.

<sup>1</sup> [Http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2009/10/28/anton-m-moeliono-the-walking-dictionary.html](http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2009/10/28/anton-m-moeliono-the-walking-dictionary.html).