

Samenvatting & highlights

Als Malinostudent naar Nederland (1946 - 1950)

© Hin Oey (hin.oey@gmail.com), februari 2025

Summary and high lights

With a Malino scholarship to The Netherlands (1946-1950)

This a first translation into English. Has yet to be edited and some more explanation for non-Dutch readers.

See the original summary for the pictures and the picture references.

Hin, 30/3/2025

Malino students and Malino scholarships refer to the conference in 1946 in the village of Malino in the mountains above Makassar on South Celebes (now Sulawesi). After World War II, it became clear, still in 1945, that restoring the pre-war colonial structure was not an option. This was true both in relation to the independent Indonesia declared by Soekarno, and due to international pressure. A future scenario envisioned the creation of the United States of Indonesia. A conference was convened in March 1946 in the Hoge Veluwe between the Dutch government, the Dutch-Indies government, and the Republic of Indonesia. The conference failed due to differences of opinion about how the Indonesian Republic should be recognized by the Netherlands. To break the political deadlock, Lieutenant Governor-General H.J. van Mook initiated talks with representatives from Borneo and 'the Great East' (all other islands east of Java and Borneo). Therefore, not with the Republic of Indonesia and also without other representatives from Java and/or Sumatra.

"During his opening speech, Van Mook announced the availability of scholarships, with the 'intention that as soon as possible these future highly educated workers for the development of Indonesia will be able to begin their studies.'"

"It was well known that after World War II, Malino students came to the Netherlands. The newspapers of that time reported hundreds of times about the availability of Malino scholarships, as well as the departure and arrival of ships carrying Malino students. Later, reports were also made about the problems caused by the withdrawal of the Malino scholarships in 1950. Malino students and Malino scholarships are mentioned in about thirty publications. The attention in these publications is generally limited to a single mention, sometimes a paragraph or half a page. The most extensive coverage of the Malino students appears in the publication by Van der Mee and Tomasouw (Andere verhalen, 2005). They place the 48 Moluccan Malino

students in the broader Moluccan political-social context, after the arrival in the Netherlands of the Moluccan KNIL soldiers and their families."

"Interesting is that there are two autobiographical books in which the authors also pay some attention to their Malino past. These were the well-known doctor within the Moluccan community, De Lima, and for the Indo-Chinese community, 'the dentist of Sukarno' Oei Hong Kian."

Page 2

"Immediately after the Malino conference, the first students departed for the Netherlands on August 20. Interestingly, they traveled by airplane, a Skymaster. Within a month, the Kota Inten departed, followed a few weeks later by the Klipfontein. In total, 80 students arrived in the Netherlands on these two ships. However, Malino students also often traveled alone or in pairs, sometimes with a spouse, and occasionally as a family with children. In total, there were approximately 100 crossings.

It has been possible to trace some archives about the management of the Malino scholarships. There may be more archives in Indonesia. For example, there are some address lists of Malino students, and a report on the progress of the Malino students. Deduplication of these lists and combining the information results in a total of 381 Malino students."

In het onderzoek wordt ook aandacht geschonken aan de besluitvorming tussen de Nederlands-Indische regering en de Nederlandse regering ten tijde van het beschikbaar stellen van studiebeurzen. Intrigerend is dat de Nederlandse regering, als gebaar naar Indonesië toezegde honderd beurzen te financieren. Later, toen Indonesië de Malino-beurzen introk, ontstond er enige discussie over de vraag of Nederland de financiering van 'hun' Malino-beurzen zou moeten of willen voortzetten. Het intrekken van Malino-beurzen in 1950 leidde onder meer tot het initiatief voor vervangende studiebeurzen door de stichting 'Helpt Ambon in Nood' (HAIN).

"From the address lists, it is known where the students lived. Amsterdam, with 113 students, had the largest number of Malino students. Following that are Leiden, Delft, and The Hague, each with 40-50 students. The remaining approximately 175 Malino students lived spread across 35 other locations. The most remarkable location is Terschelling, with one student (he likely studied at the maritime school).

Of the 177 students from the 1948 Malino report, it is known which studies they pursued. In total, this involves nearly 50 different programs. 142 students followed a university education, and 30 followed an MBO (vocational education). Notably, there were five students who attended secondary

education, one of whom still needed to complete his primary education. Medicine was the most pursued study, with 29 students. This includes two doctors who came to the Netherlands to specialize. To maintain clarity, the studies are clustered. With 34 students, the socio-economic cluster is the largest, including studies in economics, sociology, accountancy, and the new Amsterdam 7th faculty.

Page 3

On the personal cards, which all municipalities kept for their residents, it is also recorded where individuals were born. This makes it possible to provide insight into the distribution of students across Indonesia. So far, 58 personal cards have been consulted for this study. It was to be expected that Batavia would appear frequently, and with six occurrences, this is indeed the case. What is striking, however, is that seven students were from Surabaya. Intriguingly, the next is Banjarmasin (South Kalimantan) with three students, along with Bandung and Manado (North Sulawesi). Clustered by island, it shows that the majority of students were from Java (41 out of 58).

What the personal cards also record is when a resident deregisters and where they move to. This allows an image to be formed of how many students returned to Indonesia and how many stayed in the Netherlands. Of the 58 students whose place of birth is known, it turns out that only 21 students (36%) returned to Indonesia, while 37 students (64%) stayed in the Netherlands. This raises questions about the (intended) goal that the Malino students would contribute to the reconstruction of Indonesia after their studies. Of course, the political reality developed differently, and the original context of 1946, with the aim of a federal Indonesia, had changed by the end of 1949 into an independent Republic of Indonesia.

More is known about the management of the Malino scholarships. In the first two years, the government seemed to play an active role in 'finding' candidates. For 1948 and 1949, the availability of scholarships was advertised. Upon arrival, the students were received at a central location. In the beginning, this was at 'Huis te Warmond' for a period. Each university had contact professors to guide the students. Their main task was to ensure that students with inadequate prior education still obtained the necessary qualifications. Some contact professors also supported the students in other areas, such as finding accommodation.

The students received a scholarship, but also an exemption from tuition fees and sometimes additional allowances for care or families. The Malino file from the Municipal University of Amsterdam shows that granting tuition fee exemptions required quite a bit of administration. It consists of more than 500

documents with individual decisions and many lists and records of students. Often, there were students who, for various reasons, had not studied for a year. This had to be corrected and confirmed again.

Page 4

The most famous Malino student was and is Lee Man Fong. Even before and immediately after World War II, he was already well-known in Indonesia. During his Malino years, he exhibited several times in Amsterdam and The Hague. Today, his work remains very popular, especially in Asia, and the prices for his paintings have now risen to nearly one million euros. Other well-known Malino students were the Djaya brothers, both also painters, and the violinist-conductor Lim Kek Tjiang.

Research has also been conducted on what happened to about 20 other students. Han Bhik Hwa stayed in the Netherlands, married a Dutchman, and did nothing with her education. Yap Kie Tik returned to Indonesia and became vice president of the Indonesian airline Garuda. Oemboe Hina Kapita was a co-author of the Kambaraas (East Sumbawan) - Dutch dictionary. A museum on Sumba is named after him. A.A.F. (Goos) Manusama completed her medical studies in 1954 in Leiden with a scholarship from 'Helpt Ambon in Nood.' She stayed in the Netherlands and worked for many years as a pediatrician. Kwee Swan Liat, described in the progress report on Malino students as 'very intelligent,' became a professor of philosophy at the Technical University of Eindhoven

Most Malino students were in their twenties during their Malino years. They would now be around 100 years old. How many of them are still alive is not known, but it is possible. Perhaps the Raya of Kupang was the last living Malino student. He passed away in September 2024. In 1948, he came to the Netherlands as a 12-year-old boy (which was an exception) and first had to finish his primary school in Groningen.