



PHILIPPINES ~ NETHERLANDS
CONNECTIONS @ 70:

Reconstructing History and
Forging Ahead



J. EDUARDO MALAYA
MA. THERESA M. ALDERS
Editors

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THE EMBASSY OF THE PHILIPPINES
THE HAGUE

FOREWORD

The Philippines and the Netherlands marked in 2021 the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. As one of the events to commemorate this milestone in the friendship and cooperation between the two countries, the Philippine Embassy in The Hague conducted on November 9-10, 2021 the webinar “Philippines-Netherlands Connections @70: Reconstructing History and Forging Ahead,” in collaboration with the Netherlands Embassy in Manila, the Ateneo de Manila University and the Philippine Foreign Service Institute. This book contains the main presentations at the webinar.

The book provides a valuable survey of the key aspects of the relations, from the policy and political to the economic and business, as well as cultural and historical underpinnings, designed in a manner that will hopefully enable the reader to have a fuller understanding of the development and dynamics of the bilateral engagements.

And it has indeed been a consequential relation as can be gleaned from the following:

- The Netherlands has consistently been among the top five investor countries in the Philippines in recent decades, underscoring the contributions of Dutch businesses to the Philippine economy;
- Some 22,000 Filipino seafarers are onboard Dutch-flagged vessels that ply the waters of the world, making Filipinos the biggest single nationality group in the vast Dutch merchant marine fleet;
- Both the Philippines and the Netherlands are maritime countries, and they have much to learn from and share with each other, especially Dutch technologies in these times of rising sea levels and climate change; and,
- Looking back in history, while the Spanish colonial authorities in Manila were suspicious of visiting Dutch ships, the latter were much welcomed in the Sultanate of Maguindanao as they came for trade and in peace and friendship.

A slim book cannot comprehensively cover all aspects of diplomatic relations and people-to-people exchanges, but perhaps this one has enough nuggets of key facts, ideas and insights that will inform and delight the casual reader as well as provide decision-makers

in government and the business, cultural and other sectors sufficient basis for framing a roadmap that can continually scale up the bilateral partnership in the years ahead.

Proost! Mabuhay!

J. EDUARDO MALAYA
Philippine Ambassador to
The Netherlands

FOREWORD

We are looking back at 70 years of diplomatic relations and centuries of encounters and exchanges between our countries. Our joint achievements have been masterly documented in the compendium of agreements between the Philippines and the Netherlands 1951 to 2021. And that work has been published by the Philippine Embassy in The Hague and it has been edited by Ambassador Malaya.

When I'm looking into my crystal ball for our future relations, it's all about hope. As we are celebrating 70 years of diplomatic relations, we are celebrating our joint future and we are renewing our bilateral vows.

We want to reinforce our mutual engagement and repeat the "yes, I do" that we expressed 70 years ago. Our ties will hopefully soon be reinforced by the Memorandum of Understanding on Naval Defense collaboration that we are working on jointly, and we're also working together on revision in the modernization of the avoidance of double taxation agreement, and that is of most relevance for our respective private sectors. In the same way, we are working on amending an agreement on Social Security and that will facilitate our respective communities and these amended new bilateral arrangement will become, I hope, new chapters in the second term of the compendium of agreements.

Scrutinizing my crystal ball for the future, I predict a growing importance of European affairs in our bilateral relations. Currently, we are already experiencing the positive impact of the GSP+ system on our bilateral trade. At present, our agricultural exchanges are heavily regulated by European rules, and in the future, a Free Trade Agreement will hopefully see the impact positively on our exchanges. And we're all holding our breaths while awaiting the outcome of the audit of the European Maritime Safety Agency concerning the training standards of Filipino seafarers. This file is really of utmost importance for our maritime cooperation, and so the livelihoods of the 22,000 seafarers aboard Dutch-owned ships.

The next edition of the compendium will also probably include a chapter on European affairs, as well as on our cooperation in the multilateral fora, such as the Human Rights Council, the International Maritime Organization, or the Commission on Eradication and Discrimination against Women, and in many other UN agencies where we express like-mindedness and a shared vision of the world.

As diplomats in the Philippines and in the Netherlands, we are jointly working to create tangible conditions by which our companies and our people can thrive in the wide variety of sectors that underpin our relations. It's a very noble endeavor, and it takes two to tango. It's only by joining forces that we can succeed as demonstrated by the 70 years that are behind us. That is why, as we are forging ahead, we are once again saying wholeheartedly "yes, we do" to a future of even more intertwined bilateral relations.

Thanks to Ambassador Malaya and the Philippine Embassy team in The Hague for their tireless work in organizing this high-level event. Thank you to all participants and the very eminent speakers. Maraming salamat po.

H.E. SASKIA DE LANG
Netherlands Ambassador
to the Philippines

FOREWORD

The Ateneo de Manila University, through the European Studies program, is privileged to join the Philippine Embassy in the The Hague, the Dutch Embassy in Manila and the Philippine Foreign Service Institute, in commemorating the 70 years of Philippine-Netherlands relations.

The University has a long-standing commitment to international and area studies, including the European Studies program. Launched in 1998, it remains the only stand-alone academic department of its kind in the Philippines, initiated in part by a European Union project that began two years earlier with the aim of sending Philippine academics to study in Europe and conduct research about the EU and its relations.

The program brought together the faculty members from various disciplines, such as economics, languages, political science, business, history, and sociology with expertise on Europe. This expertise has been acknowledged by the European Commission with two Jean Monnet grants.

After more than two decades, the European Studies program of the Ateneo continues to nurture experts on Europe including faculty members who have extensive professional experience in international business management and diplomacy. The program faculty, apart from being involved in teaching and research projects, frequently engage in lectures and exchanges with institutional partners around the Philippines and in Europe.

Through its degree programs, workshops, conferences and research, the European Studies program remains committed to expand understanding and appreciation of Europe's significance to the Philippines, Southeast Asia, and the world and ensure that the Filipinos can contribute meaningfully as global citizens towards understanding among all peoples.

REV. FR. ROBERTO YAP, S.J.
President
Ateneo de Manila University

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Forewords by

Ambassador J. Eduardo Malaya	4
Ambassador Saskia De Lang	6
Rev. Fr. Roberto Yap, S.J.	8

I. PH-Netherlands/EU Relations: Forging Ahead

Foreign Policy Priorities of the Philippines with The Netherlands: Re-Energizing Relations through New Areas of Cooperation	14
Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs	
European Union’s Indo-Pacific Strategy: The Future of the Netherlands and the Philippines	17
Paul Huijts Netherlands Secretary General of Foreign Affairs	
Netherlands Indo-Pacific Guidelines	19
Hon. Karin Mossenlechner Director for Asia and Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
Reactor: Mr. Mark Versteden	24
Strategic Policy Advisor for Asia and Oceania	
Bilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation	26
Professor Alvin Ang Ateneo de Manila University	
The Dutch-Philippine Business Community in the Philippines – the Dutch Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines 2018 to Present	33
Mr. Mitchel Smolders Dutch Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines	
Philippines-Netherlands Areas of Cooperation in Agriculture Science and Technology	41
Dr. Mary Ann Pelagio Sayoc Philippine Seed Industry Association	

On the Verge of 25 Years of Agricultural Cooperation between the Philippines and The Netherlands Mr. Richard van der Maden AgriTerra	48
II. Reconstructing Historical Ties	
The Dutchman’s Day 1600: Early PH-Netherlands Historical Relations Professor Ambeth Ocampo Department of History, Ateneo de Manila University	55
Trade and Economic Relations in Early History: Philippine-Dutch Trade Relations during the Era of Expansion from Ship to Shore and Up Close Professor Ruurdje Laarhoven Hawaii Pacific University	68
Social Relations in Early History: Jose Rizal and the Dutch Connection Mr. Gerard Arp Translator of the Noli Me Tangere and El Filibusterismo in the Dutch Language	89
ANNEXES	
Webinar Program Resource Speakers and Panelists	97
“Philippines-Netherlands Connections @ 70” by J. Eduardo Malaya, Philippine Star, 24 October 2021	99
“PH, Netherlands Mark 70 th Year of Diplomatic Relations; Vow to Strengthen Ties,” Manila Bulletin, 10 November 2021	102
“Philippines-Netherlands Connections @ 70: Reconstructing History and Forging Ahead,” Diplomat Magazine, 17 November 2021	105
Photos	110
Acknowledgment	116



I.
PH-NETHERLANDS/EU RELATIONS:
FORGING AHEAD

Foreign Policy Priorities of the Philippines with The Netherlands: Re-Energizing Relations through New Areas of Cooperation

H.E. Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr.
Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs

I am pleased and honored to be part of this webinar. It is timely as the Philippines and the Netherlands commemorate 70 years of diplomatic relations this year. Coincidentally, the Philippines has recently assumed its role as country coordinator of ASEAN-EU relations up to 2025. That gives greater significance to these initiatives.

The relations between our two peoples began during the age of discovery and colonialism. In 1600, Olivier van Noort of Rotterdam tried to take Manila from the Spanish colonial forces. In failing to do so, his endeavor launched the Filipinos' enduring devotion to Our Lady of La Naval Manila. Her intercession is believed to have saved early Philippines from the Protestant Dutch Republic. In a sense, that action made us part of the great religious war within the Hapsburg domains – a war that led to the long decline of the Austrian House.

Fortunately, this did not deter Dutch trading vessels from braving the odds and coming ashore. Thus began our two peoples' longstanding friendship and goodwill up to the formalization of our diplomatic ties in 1951.

Like all friendships, our two countries have gone through cycles of dull inattention and vibrant cooperation. The Netherlands has been consistently among the biggest investors in the Philippines. Our countries' significant maritime interests built a robust cooperation in the area of maritime security, with about 22,000 Filipino seafarers employed in Dutch-flagged vessels.

Operational cooperation in water management, urban development, and sustainability and innovation are also important areas of practical collaboration.

We are on the right track with these substantial engagements, but there is still much room for growth in our bilateral relations.

The Philippines is committed to re-energizing its relationship with the Netherlands, with emphasis on economic cooperation, and special focus on the agri-food, water and infrastructure; the circular economy; and maritime and healthcare sectors.

Our Second Bilateral Consultations held via video conference on 29 June 2021, resulted in a joint blueprint for the future of our bilateral cooperation.

The Philippines also looks forward to updating our 1995 Memorandum of Understanding on Economic and Technological Cooperation, to raise our partnership to the next level.

The Netherlands' renewed foreign policy interest in the Indo-Pacific region is a positive development, particularly its commitment to sustainable trade and investment relations, to reducing one-sided strategic dependencies, to establish more reliable value chains in the Indo-Pacific region and to provide active support for EU negotiations on free trade agreements with Indo-Pacific countries. We are hopeful that this will further expand business-to-business engagements between the private sectors of our countries.

As ASEAN-EU country coordinator, the Philippines will work towards deepening ASEAN-EU synergy, to complement ASEAN Community building and cooperation mechanisms in the areas of maritime connectivity, economic cooperation, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

This bodes well with recent developments such as the European Council's conclusions on an EU strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, adopted in April 2021, and its follow-up Joint Communication on the EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy presented last month.

The Philippines appreciates the EU's recognition of ASEAN centrality and its support for the ASEAN-led process towards an effective, substantive and legally-binding Code of Conduct in the South China Sea that is not prejudicial to the interests of third parties or in any manner excludes them. In this regard, the Philippines welcomes the EU's pledge for enhanced security pressure in the region by its Member States with the possibility of establishing Maritime Areas of Interest in the Indo-Pacific.

Two years into the pandemic, the top priorities of the Philippines and within ASEAN are focused on addressing the pandemic, ensuring

timely access to safe and affordable vaccines for our peoples, gearing up for recovery and preparing for a post-pandemic future. We recognize that international cooperation is vital in ensuring the success of these endeavours.

Through all these challenges, the Philippines remains committed to promoting democracy and the rule of law, and stands ready to work closely with the Netherlands and its partners in the European Union.

European Union's Indo-Pacific Strategy: The Future of the Netherlands and the Philippines

H.E. Paul Huijts

Netherlands Secretary General of Foreign Affairs

This year marks the seventieth (70th) anniversary of our bilateral diplomatic relations, and the one hundred and fifty-five (155) years of consular relations between the Philippines and the Netherlands. I would like to thank Secretary of Foreign Affairs Locsin again for his warm message he recorded last May and for his message at the webinar. Many thanks also to the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in The Hague for their efforts in organizing the webinar, in close cooperation with the Ateneo de Manila University and many other parties.

Since the start of our bilateral relations, we worked together in many areas, including agriculture, sustainable transport, maritime and water management, and the circular economy. This is reflected in the Compendium of our bilateral agreements that was compiled in the initiative of Ambassador Malaya - a wonderful reference work for everyone connected with our two countries. And over the years, more than one hundred and fifty (150) Dutch companies have found their way to the Philippines, some of them have been doing business there for fifty (50), seventy (70), or even a hundred (100) years. At the same time, the Netherlands have welcomed many overseas Filipino workers, including some twenty-two thousand (22,000) Filipino seafarers who sail on Dutch-flagged vessels and help keep the global economy moving.

The strength of our economic ties is shown by the fact that the Netherlands is the second biggest EU trade partner of the Philippines and the biggest EU investor in the Philippines. And more recently, sustainability has become a key element for our bilateral cooperation. For example, the Manila Bay Sustainable Development Master Plan is the result of Dutch experts on sustainability and water management collaborating with Filipino experts to promote the sustainable development of Manila Bay.

And there are numerous ties between our countries and our people. Over the years, a multitude of Filipino professionals have pursued postgraduate studies in the Netherlands, and all these professional connections and people-to-people ties are highly valued. Last April, the Filipino agri-scientist Mary Ann Pelagio Sayoc received a knighthood in

the Order of Orange-Nassau, in recognition of her tireless dedication in promoting good relations between the Netherlands and the Philippines.

Besides economic cooperation, the Netherlands also cares about human rights. Combatting human trafficking and preventing sexual exploitation of children are important causes that we share. The recent appointment of a liaison officer from the Dutch police at the Philippine Internet Crimes against Children Center is a case in point.

In 2020, the Netherlands launched its Indo-Pacific Guidelines. This dovetails nicely with the recently adopted Indo-Pacific Strategy of the European Union. I would like to stress that this underscores the growing importance of the Indo-Pacific region in which the Philippines is a strategic player. As a seafaring nation, we take a particular interest in the freedom of passage and other topical issues in the region.

Here's to many more years of bilateral relations.

The Netherlands Indo-Pacific Guidelines and its Impact on Philippine Foreign Policy

Hon. Karin Mössenlechner

Director, Department of Asia and Oceania
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of the Netherlands

The Netherlands and the Philippines share strong economic relations especially in a field of maritime and agricultural cooperation. Both countries also face similar challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, which entail strong cooperation between the two countries.

This paper discusses in detail the following: Why the Netherlands and the EU came up with an Indo-Pacific strategy at this moment? What are the Indo-Pacific strategies of the Netherlands and the EU? Where are we in how these strategies are implemented? And what does it mean for Philippines- and Philippines-Netherlands/EU cooperation?

The Indo-Pacific Strategy

The Netherlands and the European Union are aware that the geopolitical and geo-economic balance of power in the world is shifting, and that the Indian and Pacific Oceans and the lands that border them are becoming more important.

The Indo Pacific region is increasingly becoming strategically important for the EU. The region was already economically very important for the EU, and especially for the Netherlands as one of the main investors. But the region's growing economic, demographic and political weight makes it a key player in shaping the future international order, and also a key player in addressing global challenges. Opinions vary as to the exact geographical boundaries of the Indo Pacific, but for the Netherlands, this region encompasses the countries around the Indian and Pacific oceans, extending to the South China and East China seas. So one could say that the Indo-Pacific extends from Pakistan to the islands of the Pacific. The shipping routes through the Indian and Pacific Oceans linking Europe with Asia and Oceania are central to this concept. Two-thirds of the world's oil shipping and one-third of its freight transport cross the Indian Ocean, which now has surpassed the Atlantic as the planet's main strategic trade route. Main shipping routes are also in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, including the Strait of Hormuz and the Strait of Malacca. In view of

these major economic, strategic and energy interests at stake, most of the countries in the region seek to prevent the Indo Pacific region from becoming a pawn in one of the great power competitions in the region, as a pawn in a conflict between them. The Netherlands wants stability in the region, while most of the countries in the region are looking for economic, political and security policy cooperation with others in a peaceful manner.

Economically, Europe and Asia are already closely intertwined. Over 35% of European exports, which is about 1.5 trillion dollars a year, go to markets in the Indo Pacific region, while fully 90% of worldwide trade in goods is transported through shipping routes. As such, for the Netherlands, the Indo Pacific is a very important area not just for the countries in the region. Additionally, the COVID-19 crisis has shown that countries have to look even more into the strategic dependencies and the reliability of global supply chains, thereby speeding up discussions on the importance of Indo-Pacific.

We need to join with our EU partners and other like-minded countries to consider ways of reducing one-sided strategic dependencies and of sustainably securing value chains, for example, by diversifying supplies from the Indo-Pacific region. That also opens possibilities for further strengthening our cooperation with the Philippines.

The COVID-19 crisis itself is also a major reason for collaboration. As I already said, it shows that we're all interconnected. It's a global challenge, and only by working together can the virus be defeated. So it is important that we join hands with the countries of the Indo-Pacific and work together in bringing about sustainable post-COVID-19 recovery with green growth. That is the rationale behind the Indo-Pacific strategies, both of the Netherlands and of the European Union.

So why do we have a national strategy or -as we call it, a little bit more modestly, because it is a modest document - 'guidelines'? And why do we have that on top of the EU strategy?

I can explain that to you because the Netherlands published its own Indo-Pacific guidelines before the EU did. We published them in November 2020. We did that also because we wanted to raise a discussion in the EU and to speed up a discussion in the EU to come up with its own EU Indo-Pacific strategy.

We also actually mentioned in our own guidelines that it is important for the EU to develop its own vision of the Indo-Pacific for all the reasons that I just mentioned. And so the main aim of our Indo-Pacific guidelines was to encourage our European partners to come up with a new agenda, to protect and promote our own interests and values in cooperation with countries from the region. At the same time, because we think it's also important for us to strengthen our bilateral ties with the countries of the Indo-Pacific region.

The Netherlands, as has been mentioned by many speakers, has a long historical and strong economic tie in the region, so we have a clear interest in working closer together with the region.

But when it comes to strategic operation, we see that we may have to act through the EU. We strongly believe that the Netherlands and the EU will benefit from closer cooperation, both bilaterally and for the EU, with the countries in the region.

The European strategic vision of the Indo-Pacific, according to the Netherlands, has to be the starting point for strengthening the EU's economic and political engagement with the region. It's not the end; it's just the beginning and we emphasize that we have to build on existing cooperation. They already exist through economic development cooperation with the region. It had to build on the EU's role as a major donor to efforts to achieve sustainable development goals in many countries in the region. EU free trade agreements with many countries in the Indo-Pacific already exist or are being negotiated; the EU-ASEAN Plan of Action and EU-ASEAN strategic partnership. ASEAN is a very important element of the EU strategy and we believe that we have to work closely together with the ASEAN countries. And for that reason, the Philippines, as the Country Coordinator for EU-ASEAN relationship cooperation, is an important player for us.

We work together with Germany and France to get this European project going, and we were very pleased that on the 16th of September of this year, the EU launched its strategy for cooperation with the Indo-Pacific. This EU strategy is, by the way, an inclusive strategy aiming at cooperation with all the countries in the region, but at the same time, looking at stronger cooperation with countries that share similar interests and points of views on several issues. We hope to create lasting and strong partnerships.

There are seven priority areas for the EU strategy and I will just touch upon them. We can come back to them in a discussion, maybe later on, but they will also be mentioned by other speakers. The seven priority areas are sustainable and inclusive prosperity; green transition; ocean governance, digital governance and digital partnerships, connectivity, security and defense, and human security. It sounds wonderful, and in many areas we're already working together. But as I said, it's also a starting point for further cooperation.

So let me go to the third element of this discussion - the implementation of the strategy. This is where we are now. This is a time to actually start making these ambitions concrete. But we are looking for partnership with countries in the Indo-Pacific region, focusing on promoting our joint interests in the areas that I just mentioned. And as for the Netherlands, I'm currently here in The Hague, which is also called "the capital of international law." Protecting together with the countries in the region the international legal order is also an important element for our cooperation. We like to work together with countries who have shared interest with us in a good, functioning, rules-based international order. The partnerships will take different forms in different countries, which depends on the extent of the shared interests and the degree of like-mindedness.

We do realize we have to work together with all the countries in the region if we want to face jointly the challenges that we have together, for example, in the field of climate change, international security, green recovery, maritime security, global health, poverty reduction, human rights, and protecting and upholding international legal order. That can only be done if we effectively work together with countries in the region and especially also the countries of the ASEAN region. As many of you know, the Netherlands attaches great importance in working together with ASEAN, also bilaterally. And we're very pleased that we will soon accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, which also shows our commitment to closer cooperation with ASEAN.

Now, I said the implementation is important. But also at the beginning of the implementation of our strategy, we are very much hoping to hear suggestions from the countries in the region itself-on what they see as the main topics of cooperation, and how they would like to strengthen the cooperation with the Netherlands and European Union.

What does it mean for the Philippines? The Philippines itself is mentioned several times in the EU strategy; the ASEAN, many times. And ASEAN is considered by the European Union and by the Netherlands as an important partner for cooperation. So that opens the door for cooperation with the Philippines in many areas: when it comes to rules-based system, the already-mentioned negotiations on the Code of Conduct on the South China Sea, FTAs with ASEAN members as well as ASEAN as a bloc, talking about the environment, data protection, disaster management and many areas where we'd like to cooperate with the ASEAN. We look for Philippine leadership in this regard.

We are looking at the implementation of what is feasible and desirable at the moment, and we very much like to continue to have the bilateral dialogue with you on this, and also a dialogue in the EU context to make these plans concrete.

Our embassies can play a constructive role on this as well. I hope that we will have close cooperation with both our embassies and that we will be able to identify the priority areas for action for the seven areas the EU has identified for the EU Indo-Pacific strategy.

Before we address common challenges, we have to get together and work together to uphold international law, and defend our values and principles to which we are committed. The Philippines has an important role to play in this and I look forward to strengthening our cooperation and working with you in all these elements of this ambitious agenda.

I'm looking forward to the future cooperation connecting the Netherlands and the Philippines.

Deepening ties: The EU and the Netherlands Indo-Pacific Strategy

Hon. Mark Verstedden
Reactor

Strategic Policy Advisor for Asia and Oceania
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Kingdom of the Netherlands

It is a pleasure and honor to participate in this webinar as a reactor to what is discussed so far. What is very clear from what is put on the table, is that with 70 years of relationship with the Philippines - if I understand the history very well, it's actually way longer than 70 years that we already have ties - we have a good basis for cooperation. And we see that the relationship between the Netherlands and the Philippines is very wide and very alive. So I'm happy to see that.

Now, I think with the Indo-Pacific strategy, of the EU and of the Netherlands, we are also set for the future to start discussion on where can we deepen, where can we cooperate a little bit more.

I think it is good to share a little bit what the plans are of the European Union. The European Union has now set up an EU envoy for the Indo-Pacific, Mr. Gabriele Visentin. He is the one who is in charge of the implementation of the EU strategy. And his plan is, first, to talk to the member states, and then he will also travel to the region to see where indeed we can find cooperation and where we can bring things together.

As several speakers have said, it's a wide-ranging area of cooperation possibilities. There are seven areas that the EU likes to cooperate and you can see this as a sort of menu, where countries can choose basically where they would like to cooperate with the EU. We will discuss that in more detail. We'll see what the EU can do, and what individual states can do, and the idea is to set up groups for cooperation consisting of interested EU member states and countries from the region. Not all EU member states have to be involved in all topics. It can be a group of EU member states and it can be a group of, for example, ASEAN states, and the Philippines can be one of them.

We brand this as 'Team Europe'. That will be happening in the next few weeks and months, basically. From January onwards, France will take up the Chairmanship of the EU, and for them, implementation

of the EU strategy is also one of the priorities. So they are looking into what we can do to make this happen.

One of the things they are looking into, which Secretary Locsin has also mentioned, is to establish maybe a maritime area of interest in the Indo-Pacific. Details of that are yet to be determined. Probably, it looks likely that the EU would concentrate on the Indian Ocean rather than the Pacific, as it is a bit closer to home. It's also where the EU is already active with the Operation Atlanta. This will be coming up for discussion in the months to come.

To conclude, there is a lot happening at the moment of the implementation. I think the webinar is a good basis to continue discussing where can we work together, the Philippines and the Netherlands, as part of these efforts that are going on at the moment. And if anything is shown today, it is that we already have a good basis and that there is a lot going on.

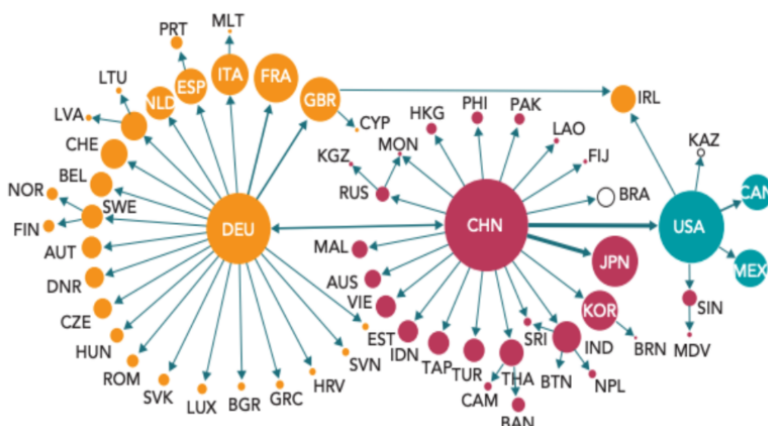
Bilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation

Prof. Alvin Ang

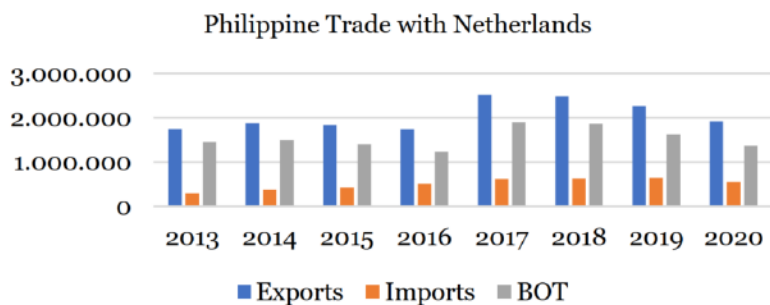
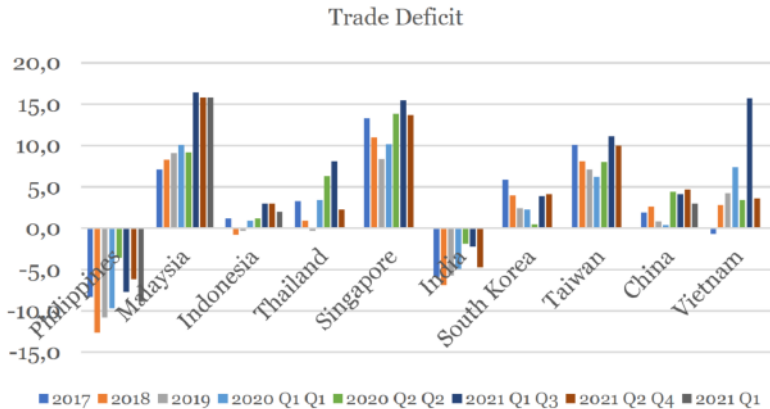
Ateneo Center for Economic Research and Development
Ateneo de Manila University

Global Value Chains

The Philippines figures very much into the global value chains. In fact, it is in three major sources of the chains countdown. One is in the European side, led by Germany and the Netherlands. And then, China, where the Philippines is, in the Asia Pacific. Then the US. Even during this COVID-19 pandemic, such global value chains dictate the directions of trade in all countries.



Just selecting a few countries in the Asia Pacific, the above diagram shows that in ASEAN, the Philippines is the only country with the largest trade deficit. This means that the Philippines is primarily an importing country. With Philippine trade with the Netherlands, interestingly, the country actually has a trade surplus, meaning it is actually exporting more than what is imported from the Netherlands.

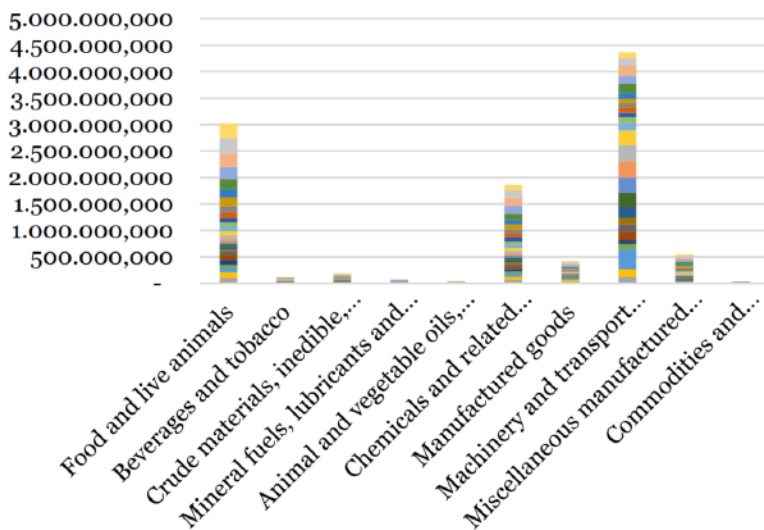


Source: PSA

The structure of our imports and exports to the Netherlands show, firstly, that the Philippines imports a lot of food. However, the biggest import come from food items basically, and machineries and transport and also some chemicals, some manufactured goods and manufacturing articles.

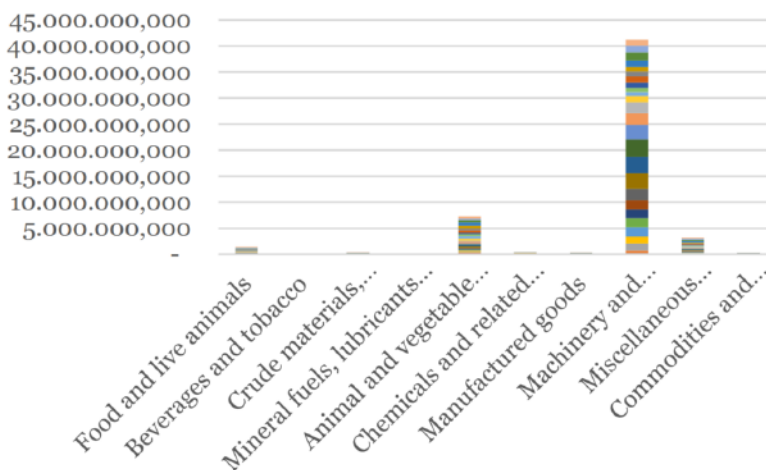
Looking at the Netherlands' imports from the Philippines, the bulk is in machineries and transport equipment.

Philippine Imports from Netherlands



Source: UNCTAD

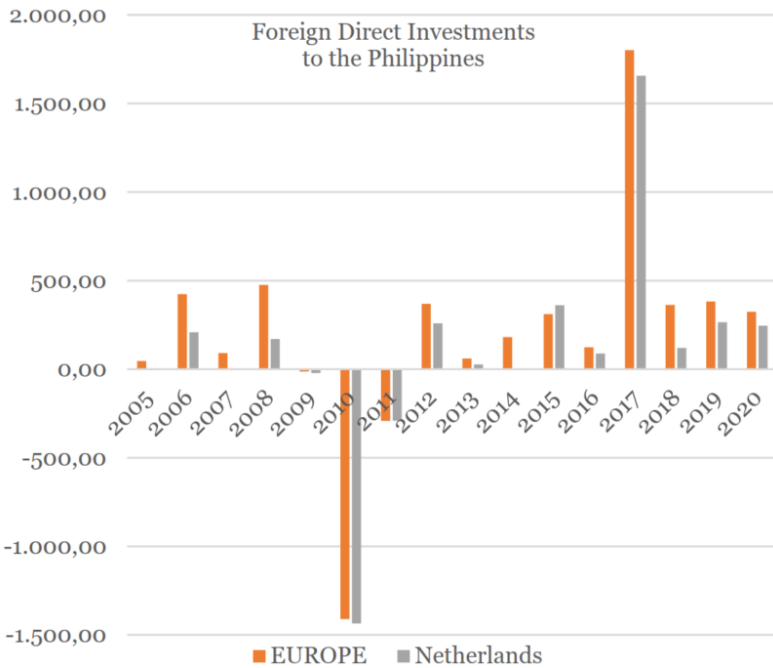
Netherlands Imports from the Philippines



Source: UNCTAD

Clearly, figures show that this has something to do with the Philippines contributing to the different production of large machineries that are in the Netherlands, at the same time importing it to the Philippines, and then the Philippines also exporting the components for these machineries. This is where very strong trade is happening in the last many years, now almost a decade, as shown in the pattern. This is data from UNCTAD for the last 20 years.

Figures below will tell us that foreign direct investments, and rightly so what our previous speakers have mentioned, that the Netherlands, is the biggest investor in the Philippines from the European side.



Source: BSP

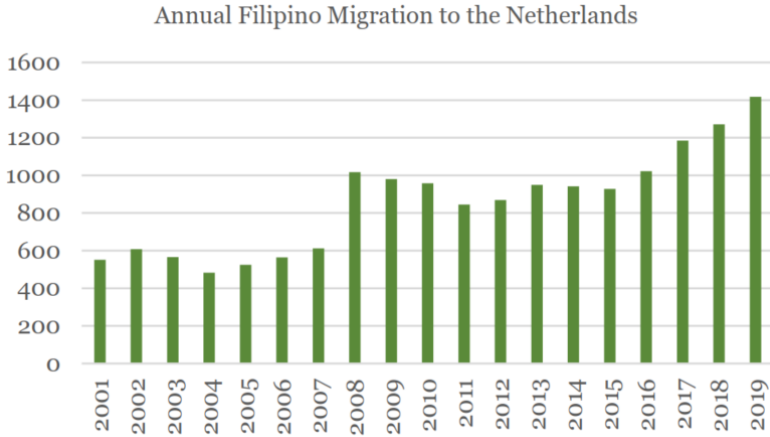
As can be seen in the above figures, the contribution is quite large, at least in the last few years. These are in the areas of service, maritime,

production, agriculture and water. In addition, as we have also heard from the speakers earlier, and based on data from our Board of Investments in the Philippines, in terms of the investment areas of the Netherlands to the Philippines, there is a total of 62 Dutch companies present in the Philippines as of 2019. These companies are into five sectors: service, maritime, production, agriculture and water. Of course, this figure could be more by now. The next matrix will tell us that these companies were opened last year in the middle of the pandemic, and even the partnerships that were being made by the different companies from the Netherlands coming into the Philippines, are spread into different sectors and industries:

Year	Firm	Project Description
2019	Solid Cement Corporation	New producer of cement in Antipolo City
2019	Holcim Philippines, Inc.	New producer of cement in DRT Bulacan
2020	PetValue Philippines Corporation	New domestic producer of recycled PET Resin
2020	Heineken International B.V.	Involved in the brewing and selling of beer and cider
2021	Energy Development Corporation	Renewable energy developer of geothermal resources
2020	Phinl Corporation	New producer of Tulips in Quirino province
2020	Lenovo International Coopertarief U.A.	Engaged in selling digital products (laptops, tablets, smartphones). Plans to expand its retailing operations to the Philippines through Lenovo Philippines, Inc.
2019	Vroon B.V. - Regional Headquarters	Engaged in shipping and shipping management with affiliated in the Asia Pacific region and other markets
2019	Sabang Renewable Energy Corp.	New operator of a Diesel-Fired Plant in Puerto Princesa, Palawan

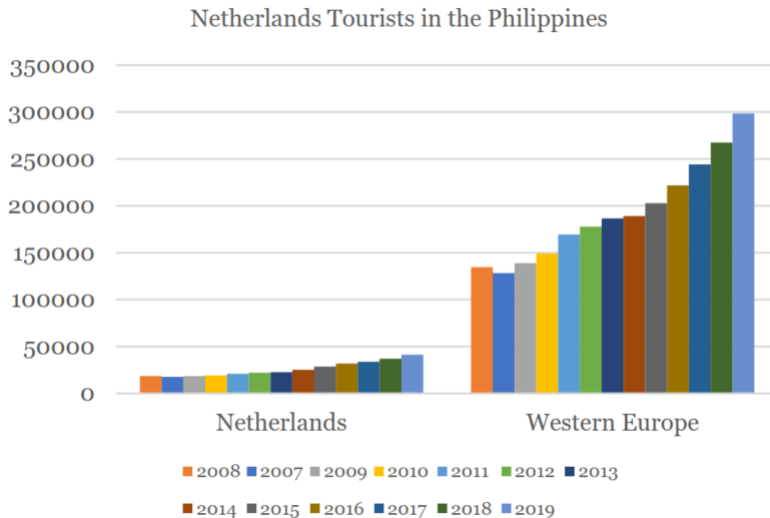
Annual migration of Filipinos to the Netherlands

Based on data from the OECD, there is a gradual increase of Filipinos migrating to the Netherlands.



Source: OECD

At the same time, we also see Dutch tourists coming into the Philippines.



Based on the above figures, 14% of Western European tourists coming to the Philippines come from the Netherlands. There is a very robust interconnection between our countries in terms of goods exports, and also movement of people, and also as mentioned earlier, we also have our OFWs, particularly our seafarers.

Bilateral activities between the Philippines and the Netherlands

Bilateral trade activity is basically reflective of the global value chain, particularly in the electronics and electrical machinery, where both countries have a very strong interconnectivity. The Philippines continues to be a large importing country, but have a trade surplus because of the buying and selling of machineries and transport equipment. In terms of foreign direct investments, FDI from the Netherlands continue to be in five major areas, namely, service, maritime, production, agriculture and water. Lastly, there has been Filipino migration also to the Netherlands.

The Dutch-Filipino Business Community in the Philippines and the Role of the Dutch Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines from 2018 to Present

Mitchel Smolders

Executive Director of the Dutch Chamber of
Commerce in the Philippines

Abstract

This paper was written in light of the 70th year anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the Kingdom of the Netherlands in 2021 and on the kind invitation of the Philippine Embassy in the Netherlands. As part of its content, this paper provides a brief overview of the recent history of the Dutch-Philippine business community in the Philippines, in particular the founding of the Dutch Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines in 2018 and its trajectory and activities since its initiation. This paper also touches on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, and the ways the Chamber was forced to adapt to a global crisis. Lastly, this paper includes a few of the many policy objectives the Chamber advocates on behalf of its members, with the aim of further developing a conducive environment for the Dutch-Philippine business community to thrive in. While the Chamber has many documents representing its founding and recent history, the history of the Dutch business community has to our knowledge never been formally documented or surveyed. The information presented in the paper, therefore, reflects the experiences of individuals in the Dutch business community in the Philippines as recounted to the Chamber. While these experiences are real, many statements that are presented as facts throughout this paper are based on the stories of these individuals, their memories or recollections of conversations they have had with others, and as such, form part of the oral history of the Chamber.

Beginnings of Dutch economic interests in the Philippines

Dutch colonial interests in the Philippines were formalized as early as 1875, when Jacob Adolf Bruno Wiselius, Controller with the Dutch Colonial Administration in Java, visited Manila and the neighboring

Laguna province. During his trip, he deplored the passive attitude of both the Spanish and the Dutch with regard to foreign trade with the early Philippines. He argued that while it was understandable for the Dutch traders to show no interest in sugar from the Philippines, as cane sugar was a major product of Java, they should have been more active in the tobacco and Manila hemp sectors (cited in van den Muijzenberg, 2001, 484-485). Wiselius' travelogue was remarkable as non-Spanish sources of the colonial administration of the Philippines by the Spanish government were rare. Wiselius' observations on the lack of active trade in the early Philippines was echoed by acting consul for the Netherlands, the Belgian J. Ph. Hens, who noted in his last report that,

The Netherlands appears not to participate actively in the trade. One sees only small quantities of paper, gin, cheese, and ordinary glasswork and ceramics of Dutch origin. Exports named are cigars and in particular a good deal of the publicly auctioned leaf tobacco, which has been bought on account of Netherlands Indies traders. The Dutch flag appears seldom in the Philippine archipelago. The official listings of 1874 mention only three Dutch vessels, which loaded sugar and hemp in Cebu and Iloilo, after having arrived in ballast from China, or with a load of coal from New-Castle (Australia). Only one ship under Dutch flag [referring to the *Colima*], from Makassar with destination Macao arrived in a damaged state in Manila, was condemned and sold (cited in van den Muijzenberg 2001, 484-485).

Later on, P.K.A. Meerkamp van Embden, from a tobacco trading family in Rotterdam, claimed to be the only Dutchman in Manila and therefore the rightful person to serve as the new honorary consul, a position he held for more than three and a half decades, taking over from George Petel, who in turn succeeded van Polanen Petel in 1869 (cited in van den Muijzenberg 2001, 487; also van den Muijzenberg, 2008).

It bears noting that, since then, there appears no conscious effort to systematize or institutionalize business or other economic interests by Dutch traders or business persons in the Philippines, until the establishment of the Philippines-Netherlands Business Council (PNBC).

Foundations of the Dutch Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines (DCCP)

The Dutch Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines (DCCP), in its current legal entity, was founded in 2018 and registered as a corporation with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission. This was preceded by over two decades of activities under the Philippines-Netherlands Business Council (PNBC). While led by an independent Board representing the Dutch-Philippine business community, the PNBC's assets and activities were managed in agreement with the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI). As this community grew in number, as well as in ambition, an increased demand arose to establish a new legal entity, independent of the works of PCCI, and resulting in the eventual founding of DCCP.

This was followed by extensive deliberations and hours of efforts by the Board of Trustees and volunteers ambitious to see the Chamber founded, and the history of the Chamber cannot be noted without noting their contributions in those early days. Many of the initial PNBC objectives and purpose aligned with those of the earlier PNBC, an organization now effectively defunct, and a large share of overlap between the members of both organizations. DCCP's primary purpose is to act as the official gateway to, a platform for, and the voice of the Philippines-Netherlands business community, with its mission to bring together passion, spirit, knowledge and skills to strengthen business ties within the Philippines and the Netherlands.

The DCCP's objectives, as shown in its Articles of Incorporation, reflected its socio-economic thrusts as follows:

1. Promote, encourage and facilitate bilateral trade, strong commercial, economic and technical cooperation, and tourism between the Republic of the Philippines and The Netherlands as a whole, as well as the interests of persons, firms or corporations engaged in such commerce and industry;
2. Establish a channel of communication with its counterparts in The Netherlands and with other agencies and organizations concerned with the promotion of Philippines-Netherlands economic and business relations;
3. Foster friendship and understanding between business communities of the Philippines and The Netherlands in general, and to establish closer cooperation which will enhance the growth of trade and tourism between the two countries;

4. Identify trade and investment opportunities and develop other areas of cooperation between small, medium and large enterprises of the Philippines and The Netherlands;
5. Represent the interest of the members of the Chamber, as well as perform and offer services and support;
6. Act as a representative of its members on all issues of commercial interest vis-a-vis The Netherlands and Philippine authorities and other institutions;
7. Collect, collate, supply, provide and disseminate information relating to the economic situation in The Netherlands and the Philippines, as well as develop and update the business, economic, commerce and industry as well as commercial topics;
8. Conduct events, such as seminars, discussion forums, workshops, press conferences and similar affairs; and,
9. Provide ways and means for specific projects of the Chamber.

The Chamber continuously works towards finetuning its objectives in coordination with the nine trustees elected each year during the annual general meeting, while the strategy to achieve these objectives is also planned annually. The Chamber initially held office at 88 Corporate center in Salcedo Village, Makati, right around the corner of the Netherlands Embassy, with whose valuable support the Chamber was able to navigate the first few years of its existence. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Philippines in 2020, the Chamber has relocated its office to First Maritime Place in Makati, generously provided by DCCP Platinum member Philippine Transmarine Carriers.

The transition from PNBC to DCCP also witnessed the election of a new Board of Trustees in 2018. This started the term of Mr. Bas Hogendorf representing KLM Royal Dutch Airlines as the first DCCP President. Mr. Hogendorf completed his term with the end of his posting in the Philippines as of 1 January 2020, and was succeeded by Mr. Joost Mes, representing Avior Marine.

An informal policy the Chamber has taken up since its inception is for both the Philippines and the Netherlands be jointly represented in the presidency and chairpersonship of the Board of Trustees. As such, if the President is a Dutch national, the Chair of the Board should be Filipino, and vice versa. The DCCP Board was first chaired by Mr. Don Paulino of Shell Philippines Explorations from 2018 to March 2021, and since then by Dr. Mary Ann Sayoc of East West Seed.

Under the guidance of all trustees, the Chamber has steadily grown since its inception. A full-time executive team was hired in the first quarter of 2019, with the ambitious task of expanding the member-base, promoting the Philippines in the Netherlands, and developing an events calendar. While in 2018, 66 members had been registered, the collected payments had been much lower for that year. It is from that basis that the Chamber has since more than doubled its number of paying members, to surpass the 100-member milestone in the first quarter of 2021. The types of memberships have also differentiated, with a growing number of corporate memberships in favour of individual memberships.

Majority of DCCP members can be subdivided in four distinct categories where much of the Dutch-Philippine business community exists. The most numerous members belong to the maritime and logistics sector, represented by numerous ship-owner representatives, manning agencies, and training institutes. Filipino seafarers in Dutch-flagged vessels, numbering about 22,000 at any one time, remain essential to the Dutch, Philippines and global commercial maritime industry. This sector is represented through a Maritime Committee hosted together with the Chamber's German, Nordic and Norwegian counterparts since 2019, and convenes monthly.

The second biggest sector represented in the DCCP is agriculture and food. A broad category, ranging from food manufacturing and import/export, vegetable seeds and innovative technology, the DCCP Agri-Food Committee was launched to represent this sector's interest and exchange best practices in January 2021. The agri-food Committee convenes bi-monthly.

The third largest represented sector is sustainable services, consisting of the nexus between energy, water-management, waste-management, and circular economy. While diverse, these sub-sectors represent innovative technology and services that will only grow in demand as the impacts of climate change will become more urgent.

The last sector (business services) represented in the DCCP include several sub-sectors, such as banking, consulting, accounting, offices and flights. The Chamber provides a broad range of services and events for members, ranging from networking to government engagement. A flagship event for the Chamber and the Dutch community in the Philippines is the annual King's Day celebration, a tradition that celebrated the Dutch national day and brought together over five hundred guests with the support of various Dutch and Philippine businesses.

The Chamber aims to increasingly engage the Dutch market in the coming years, introducing Dutch companies to the opportunities the Philippines may offer. Together with the Embassies of the Philippines in The Hague and the Netherlands in Manila, the DCCP has undertaken several initiatives, such as the DCCP Doing Business in the Philippines Roadshow that took place in May and June 2021. Additional sector-specific incentives cover among others digital agriculture, meat exports, and sustainable mobility.

Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on DCCP's activities

The combination of further growth in members and an increased number of events was also the expectation for the Chamber's trajectory in 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. The Chamber was able to come together physically on 10 March 2020 for the Annual General Meeting at the Netherlands Residence after which the Metro Manila-wide lockdown was announced later that same week.

The extended lockdown had a profound effect on the Chamber and its members. Without the prospect to host physical events like the annual King's Day celebration and its complementing golf tournament, the Chamber became deprived of a major source of revenue causing a direct threat to the continuity of the Chamber. Furthermore, many of the Chamber's members struggled to adjust to a changed business environment, resulting in no guarantees for the continuation of business in the Philippines or membership with the Chamber.

In reaction to the prolonged effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chamber managed to adjust and reposition itself to come out stronger, while providing necessary support to its members. Firstly, the Chamber partnered with the Dutch Embassy in Manila and NLinBusiness for the implementation of several private sector engagement projects, providing critical new sources of revenue. Secondly, in support of its members, the Chamber partnered with other European Chambers to execute its full event calendar digitally for 2020 and 2021. For 2020 and 2021, respectively, many of the roughly fifty events focused on information dissemination, especially during the early stages of the various community quarantines, as rapidly changing situations impacted businesses in their day-to-day operations. In addition to this, the Chamber organized roundtable discussions with the members exchanging experiences and strategies to navigate the pandemic-challenging business environment.

In the second half of the 2021, the Chamber facilitated obtaining travel ban exemptions for about fifty members and their dependents to be able to return to the Philippines and attend to their businesses. Lastly, the Chamber also facilitated its members to enter into a tri-partite agreement with the Government for an approximate fifty thousand COVID-19 vaccines purchased for priority groups. Through those activities and close engagement with its members, DCCP was able to grow its membership substantially, which helped to further stabilize its financial position. This culminated in May and June 2021, with the “DCCP Doing Business in the Philippine,” which initially planned to take place across five different cities in the Netherlands with each session introducing business opportunities on a certain sector. Held virtually in light of COVID-19 restrictions in the Netherlands, the five sessions attracted over two hundred interested attendees, a quarter of whom were looking at the Philippines for the first time.

Way forward in attracting Dutch business, investments, knowledge and talent

To continue efforts at promoting the Philippines as a priority destination for Dutch business and investments, the Chamber believes that, given the current COVID-19 pandemic, there is a need for the mutual recognition of vaccination certificates especially for those travellers from the European Union and the Netherlands and ensuring entry for business travel with limited restrictions. While many aspects of setting up a business abroad can be prepared online, there are limits after which a physical presence is needed. Another concern that needs to be addressed in the short-term is the need to upgrade the quality and reduce the costs of public utilities, such as water, energy and internet connectivity.

On the longer term, the following are pathways to attracting Dutch businesses and investments to the Philippines:

- EU-Philippines Free Trade Agreement
- Support of the amendments to the Retail Trade Liberalization Act
- Support of the amendments to the Foreign Investment Act
- Support of the New Public Service Act

On retaining Dutch businesses, some short- and long-term considerations are identified:

Short-term:

- A more efficient and less restrictive process and an improved timeline for Travel Ban Exemption for short-term entry in the Philippines.
- Continue the increase of the flight capacity at NAIA. Beneficial not only for manning agencies in charge of a large number of Filipino seafarers, but will also reduce costs for airlines.
- The gradual opening of (international) schools to physically teach classes. The continued closure of the schools is the primary reason why Dutch expats and foreign talent have moved out of the Philippines during the pandemic.

Long-term:

- Support of the Freedom of Information Act
- Digitalization of the periodical reporting requirements (eg. BIR, SEC, Pagibig etc.).

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Filipino and Dutch Perspectives on Cooperation in Agriculture Science and Technology

Dr. Mary Ann P. Sayoc

President, Philippine Seed Industry Association
President, Philippine-Dutch Fellows Network, Inc.

Pig husbandry and the beginnings of Philippine-Dutch cooperation

The Netherlands has a strong agriculture sector. More than half of the land area of the Netherlands is used for farming. Agriculture accounts for almost ten per cent of its national income and employment. Despite its relatively small land area, the Netherlands is the second largest exporter of agricultural products in the world, after the United States.

One of the first areas of cooperation between the Philippines and the Netherlands dates back in June 1985, when a bilateral cooperation project between the Philippines' Department of Agriculture and the Netherlands' Barneveld College was signed. In 1985, under a parliamentary government, former Assemblyman Salvador H. Escudero III, who was also former Director of the Bureau of Animal Industry and Deputy Minister of what was then the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, expanded the Philippine government's animal dispersal program, particularly the *Bakahang Barangay* (cattle-raising at the village level) and *Pagbababuyan* (swine raising), among other programs he spearheaded. Barneveld College in 1985 was known as the International Training Centre on Animal Husbandry and Milling Technology, which provided courses to candidates from developing countries who wished to learn poultry and animal husbandry. The project called for the setting up of the International Training Center on Pig Husbandry (ITCPH) aimed at providing training to extension workers and agriculture teachers in the Philippines and Southeast Asia. Just like the Philippines, pork production is an important sector of Dutch agriculture. Pork is the most popular meat in both countries.

During the first eight years of the project, a good number of Dutch experts came and trained the local Filipino team on the science of pork production. Adopting the "learning by doing" approach, the Dutch team helped set up a 60-sow level training farm in the Philippines, which served as the laboratory for traineeship and practical classes. The knowledge and skills were then passed on to the thousands of extension

workers, agriculture teachers and farmer leaders, who trained at ITCPH. The technical staff were also given the opportunity to attend a number of trainings on pig production, animal feed milling and teaching methodology in several Dutch learning institutes.

A milestone achievement for the ITCPH project was its institutionalization as a regular training center under the Agricultural Training Institute with 39 plantilla positions and an annual budget. With this strategic move from being a foreign-assisted project to a regular training center, ITCPH was able to continue its mission of uplifting the lives of farmers through hands-on training of various stakeholders across the pork value chain. ITCPH has remained the center of excellence in pig production for the past 36 years. The Netherlands continues to provide technical assistance to the ITCPH primarily through the *Programma Uitzending Managers* or PUM, a volunteer organization in the Netherlands with financial support from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Netherlands Senior Experts Program.

Seed technology and the Dutch contribution

Around that time that the ITCPH project was being negotiated between the governments of the Philippines and the Netherlands, there was a pioneering sixth generation Dutch seedsman named Simon Groot, who thought of bringing in Dutch knowledge and technology to the Philippine seed sector.

In the 1970's and early 1980's, there were no private seed companies doing research and variety development in vegetables in the Philippines. Majority of the seeds available were either farm-saved seeds or seeds imported from Japan, Europe and the United States of America.

Seeing the big potential of the Philippines in developing the local vegetable seed industry, Simon Groot founded East West Seed together with a Filipino seed trader BM Domingo and introduced market-oriented plant breeding in 1982.

Knowing fully well that Dutch vegetable seeds will not thrive in a tropical climate like the Philippines, Simon Groot instead established a research farm and brought in young plant breeders from Wageningen University, considered as one of the best agricultural universities in the world. Together with some horticulture experts from UP Los Banos

and local plant breeders, they developed the first hybrid bittergourd or ampalaya and squash, which revolutionized the Philippine vegetable seed industry. These high-quality seeds and better agronomic practices gave farmers higher income and better productivity.

The Netherlands is one of the world's leading countries in the production and trade of plant reproduction material, in particular for vegetable seeds. It plays a major role in the global seed market. The Netherlands is the world's largest seed exporter, with 24% of the total world export value, with France and the USA coming in far second and third respectively.

Because of the leading position of the Netherlands in the seed sector, the Philippine Department of Agriculture requested the Dutch government, through the Embassy of the Netherlands in Manila, for technical cooperation in the establishment of the National Seed Technology Park (NSTP) in 2020. The project aims to establish a better system of propagation materials to achieve food security and boost farm productivity and income. A scoping mission composed of Dutch experts from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Naktuinbouw or the Netherlands Inspection Service for Horticulture was carried out in November 2020. It was recommended that there is a good basis to start a follow-up project between the Philippines and the Netherlands on capacity building in the seed sector. The capacity building module will provide an assessment of the training needed by the NSTP personnel and relevant stakeholders. Naktuinbouw will also provide advice on achieving an enabling environment for the Philippine seed sector and on complying with the international standards to increase the Philippine presence in the global seed trade.

These examples of technology transfer highlight the vital importance of the Dutch Diamond approach of collaboration between and among government, knowledge institutions, business and civil society organizations.

Training and capacity building initiatives

The Philippines has long been a recipient of scholarships offered by the Netherlands Ministry of Education through the Orange Knowledge Programme, formerly known as the Netherlands Fellowship Programme. Through its many years of existence, the Program sponsored more than 7,000 Filipino Scholars occupying mid-level to executive level positions, both in the private and public sectors. The OKP and its predecessor

(NFP) have led to many positive exchanges between the Netherlands and the Philippines through institutional collaboration projects, group trainings (tailor-made, tailor-made plus, refresher's courses), individual scholarships for mid-career level professionals, and alumni activities benefiting individuals, government and private institutions, including non-government and civil society organizations.

A recent survey conducted among 107 Filipino alumni of the Orange Country Knowledge Programme, who had attended post-graduate studies and short training courses in various Dutch learning institutions from 1985-2020 showed that the vast majority (68%) of the scholars are from the government sector (both national and local) and 32% are from the academe (colleges and universities). The top three courses attended/completed by the NFP/OKP Scholars are agriculture-related postgraduate and/or short-term courses (31%), governance and policy-related courses (17.86%), and environment and climate change-related courses (11.21%). More than one-third of the Filipino scholars earned postgraduate diploma and/or certificate courses from Wageningen University-Center for Development Innovation and Research, followed by the Erasmus University of Rotterdam-Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies, and Erasmus University of Rotterdam-International Institute of Social Studies.

Findings from the survey also indicated that the majority (71.96%) of the Filipino respondents ascended to higher-level positions after attending the postgraduate courses through the grants provided by NFP/OKP. Some twenty-four per cent (24%) reported moving from a technical to managerial position and about 13% indicated moving from managerial to leadership positions, while five per cent of the scholars expressed that they moved from a technical to leadership position. About nine percent moved laterally, that is from the same organization but was assigned to other strategic or critical offices or portfolios. There were also those respondents who moved from government to government (a case of change in career or change in location), from private to government, or from government to non-government organization. Moreover, of those who indicated career ascension or vertical movement (n:26), 65% had 2-3 salary step increments, while about 35% had 4-5 salary step increments. Almost all of the respondents (98%) expressed that their academic scholarships in the Netherlands through the NFP/OKP have contributed to their personal and professional growth.

About 94% of the Filipino respondents confirmed that their Dutch Education contributed to the attainment of their respective organization's mission and objectives, as well as to nation-building. Some programs initiated by these Filipino respondents that had created an impact in their sectors include food security, coastal protection plans and strategies for vulnerable areas in the Philippines, environmentally sustainable land reclamation projects, international trade events that promoted Philippine trade, environmental protection and management, and capacity building programs on good urban management.

The Orange Country Knowledge Programme enabled Filipino scholars to pursue and adopt technological advancement and innovation in the fields of agriculture, animal and plant sciences, integrated seed sector development, animal and plant genetic resources conservation and use, environmental conservation, urban environmental management, water science and engineering, and geo-information systems.

Strengths and weaknesses in the bilateral relations

The Philippines and the Netherlands have shared policies of poverty alleviation, sustainability and gender inclusivity. There is also a strong presence of Philippine and Dutch counterpart institutions in implementing projects.

What is needed, however, is the good adaption of knowledge-based technology suited to the local conditions. There are strong partnerships between the government, academe and private sector in carrying out project objectives and activities. On the other hand, Philippine counterpart funding for projects is not readily available.

The Philippines also has a lack of adequate local infrastructure to optimize the scientific and technological gains from the cooperation.

Challenges

- Poor image of the Philippines in the international community.
- The Philippines is not in the list of priority countries for development cooperation projects.
- The Philippines has been dropped from the list of countries qualified for Dutch scholarships.
- There is an increasing competition among developing countries for Dutch technical assistance.

Opportunities

- Science and technology are central to the progress and development of both nations. The Philippines has improved its ranking in the Global Innovation Index from 73rd in 2018 to 51st in 2021 among 132 economies. The Netherlands ranked 2nd globally in 2018 and 5th in 2021.
- Agriculture continues to be a priority sector for both the Philippines and the Netherlands.
- The Netherlands' expertise in agriculture science and technology is well recognized i.e., digital/precision agriculture, drones, sensors, etc.
- There are opportunities to scale up existing partnerships.

Way Forward

One of the ways of strengthening PH-NL cooperation in science and technology is to continue with capacity building and technology transfer through the Orange Country Knowledge Programme. Putting back the Philippines in the list of countries qualified for Dutch scholarships will be an enabler for this strategy. In the words of one of the scholars:

“There are still so many aspects in the management of water supply and sanitation systems that have not been fully mastered by Filipino scholars. The challenges brought about by COVID 19 have impacted most of the water supply providers in the Philippines more so to the water consuming public. The pandemic has taught us so many lessons that only developed countries like The Netherlands can provide solutions to the emerging issues brought about by this global phenomenon, hence, the need for more free educational assistance to Filipino scholars with the aim to help our struggling economy rise up again.”

When asked about other evolving developments in the Netherlands that are wanting in the Philippines, the alumni survey respondents cited the following priority thrust areas: *Agriculture - Food and Nutrition Security* (Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security, Modern Agricultural and Fisheries Practices and Technology Applications, Soil and Water Management, Animal Genetic Resources Conservation and Use, Livestock and Poultry Products Logistics); *Water Energy and Climate* (Water Resource Management), *Security and the Rule of Law* (Human Rights, Peace and Security). And for the cross cutting themes:

Sustainable Development - Environment (Environmental and Disaster Risk Management, Flood Control and Water Surge Management, Climate Adaptation, Mitigation and Resilience, Environmental Planning and Management, Energy Generation, Conservation, and Management) *Inclusivity of Women and Marginalised Groups* (Human Rights and Gender Equality).

There is also a need to strengthen policies for public support of science and technology and increase funding for research and innovation as a percentage of the national income. The share of R&D in the national budget of the Philippines is 0.76% in 2019 and 0.39% in 2021. This is very low compared to the Netherlands' target R&D spending of 2.5% of GDP in 2020.

Another recommendation is to promote collaboration and forge strong partnerships following the Dutch diamond model between and among these actors: government, research institutions, business and civil society organizations. The Philippines can learn from the Dutch on how to strengthen commercialization of public research through strong links with the business sector with a high share of industry funding in public research. For the Dutch business sector to step up its investment in agriculture science and technology in the Philippines, an enabling environment like improving the ease of doing business should be improved.

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On the verge of 25 years of agricultural cooperation between the Philippines and the Netherlands

Richard van der Maden

Agriterra

“Once farmers realize they do not need to wait for external parties to provide development, a tipping point is reached. The moment they take development in their own hands by hard work and investments with their own capital, things will change, and the ambitions of the farming families will be achieved. It triggers a quiet revolution, spurs the structural transformation of the economy, and when done massively within associations and cooperatives, economic growth will be boosted, the income distribution will improve, and democratic relations may come to prevail.”

-Kees Blokland, Founder and former
Managing Director Agriterra

Agricultural cooperatives play a key role in linking farmers to markets, providing a collective platform for negotiating with buyers, offering aggregating, marketing and processing services, providing distribution channels for primary products, and delivering training, business planning and capacity building services to their members.

As of December 2020, the Cooperative Development Authority in the Philippines reported that there were 5,758 operating cooperatives engaged in agriculture. Of this number, micro and small agri-cooperatives constitute 85.42 percent or a predominant majority. If categorized according to their membership by asset size, the membership of micro and small agri-cooperatives are less than 200. Majority of their membership are between less than 50 members to 150 members. This means a big majority of agri-cooperatives are financially weak, have a small membership base, and need a lot of capacity building support. Agri-cooperatives need to have a paradigm shift that entails re-focusing its energy towards becoming a competitive force in the modern agricultural economy and in creating value in agricultural products that they produce, thus creating more value for their members who are largely farmers.

With this shift, Agriterra can contribute to the process, being an agricultural cooperative specialist. Agriterra is an agri-agency founded 24

years ago, in 1997, by Dutch farmer organisations and cooperatives. Our mission is to strengthen and professionalize farmers' organisations and cooperatives in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Our expertise is built on over a century of cooperative development experience in the Netherlands. Agriterra wants to be the leading global organization that strengthens cooperatives by using cooperative expertise and peer-to-peer advice.

Historical Background

The connection between the Philippines and Agriterra goes back to the 1990s, when local departments of the female farmer organisations involved in the foundation of Agriterra were already supporting income-generating activities for women in rural areas in the Philippines. Since then, Agriterra has supported initiatives focused on commodity value chains, such as coconut and dairy. We also supported improving the position of young people in rural areas of the Philippines and internships in Netherlands.

Agriterra, through the LTO Nederland (the Dutch Farmers' Federation) and Interpolis (one of largest cooperative insurance companies in the Netherlands) also supported Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA) and other people's organizations and poor communities. In 2010 – 2011, it implemented the Philippine Farmers for Food project with PAKISAMA, National Confederation of Cooperative (NATCCO), Katipunan ng mga Maliliit na Magniniyog ng Pilipinas (KAMMPIL) and Federation of Free farmers (FFF).

Agriterra also funded and implemented a 4-year project, "Building Sustainable Full Value- Chain Agri-based Cooperative Enterprises in the Philippines" to PAKISAMA, and "Developing Sustainable Agro-Enterprise and Marketing For the Small Farmers in Mindanao" to PASAKA. The objectives of these projects were to strengthen the agri-based businesses of farmer member cooperatives of the two federations.

Establishing roots in the Philippines

Seeing the opportunity of assisting more agri-based cooperatives, Agriterra established its local office in the Philippines in 2017 and supported two national level agricultural cooperative federations and five primary cooperatives under its Farmers Fighting Poverty program. Today, Agriterra continues its developmental mission to agricultural cooperatives in the Philippines (and globally) by implementing its

Farmers Focus Transformation program with the objective of up-scaling the businesses of its clients to achieve their full value chain potentials in the commodity industry.

Earlier, Agriterra provided advice and financing to set up a campaign that has resulted in the establishment of a fund for coconut farmers in the Philippines. A fund of €1.2 billion was mobilised in 2014 for 3.5 million coconut farmers. The annual interest on this fund amounting to some €50 million ended up in regional coconut projects and was invested in further development of the coconut sector. Through PAKISAMA, the farmers had a say in how the funds were spent. PAKISAMA's board of management and employees had the skills required to lobby and achieve concrete results for its members. They needed less and less support from Agriterra. Significant components from the FACT method or the Farmers' Advocacy Consultation Tool were being actively implemented by PAKISAMA within their day-to-day work.

Since the establishment of a local office, Agriterra worked with six agricultural cooperative clients in the Philippines that received funding support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) through the Farmers Fighting Poverty (FFP) ASEAN program. The fund was utilized for local project costs to support the cooperatives' own action. This local action was matched by Agriterra's services—advise, training, and exchange—that are in support of the cooperative clients' growth ambitions defined as their big, hairy, audacious goals (BHAG). The focus of the cooperation was on growing and expanding agricultural businesses that will lead to improved services and incomes for their members.

The six cooperatives and their agribusinesses that were spread in different regions in the Philippines were Abrasa Multi-Purpose Cooperative in Quirino (working on cassava trading), Fatima Multi-Purpose Cooperative in Leyte (on cassava trading), Labo Progressive Multi-Purpose Cooperative in Camarines Norte (on pineapple processing), Patanom Credit Cooperative in Iloilo (on organic fertilizer production), Sorosoro Ibaba Development Cooperative in Batangas (on feed mill & livestock, consumer retail, savings and loans) and Federation of People's Sustainable Development Cooperative in Quezon City (on marketing and distribution of agricultural products).

The impact of Agriterra's services on the agricultural cooperatives could be seen in the three focus areas of farmer-led business, farmer

services, and farmer lobby. Agriterra also launched advisory missions and provided customized solutions that allowed clients from cooperatives to address specific problems or issues. Agriterra also provided training modules customized for farmer organizations and cooperatives that enabled them to draft follow up plans that led to improvements in their financial management, governance, marketing, lobby and sustainable services. Through local and international exchanges, clients from cooperatives were able to learn from the experiences of successful cooperatives that led to reinforced ambitions for growth and expansion. Internships also provided the cooperatives with needed expertise for research assignments that support their businesses.

Current state of Agriterra in the Philippines

Aside from the six cooperatives, Agriterra increased its roster of clients, such as San Isidro Upland Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative in Agusan del Norte (abaca), Bontoc Multipurpose Cooperative in Leyte (meat shop), and AgriCOOPh Federation (marketing services and capacity building of primary coops).

In 2021, Agriterra is pursuing the Farmer-Focused Transformation approach as its overarching strategy towards its vision of making professional cooperatives and farmer organizations an engine of progress and key to sustainable economic development. The strategy will be the basis of the Philippine country team for deeper and more impact-oriented engagement with local partners in the coming years.

The Farmer-Focused Transformation strategy is anchored on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG 2: Zero Hunger. Its main trajectories shall be towards lobby and advocacy, farmer-led business, and sustainable services.

Through this approach, Agriterra aims to support one million farmers through 320 farmer organizations by 2025. This goes alongside mobilizing €110 million from financial institutions and lobby and advocacy proposals to support organized farmers. Within this timeframe, Agriterra targets to set up and operationalize 30 new farmer-led enterprises that will improve farmers' access to markets and agri-services. This will support 10,000 direct jobs and 110,000 on-farm jobs. The Farmer-Focused Transformation strategy will also include and touch on crosscutting issues on gender equity, youth empowerment, and climate action.

Agriterra Philippines will contribute to these goals through continued provisions of its services to existing and potential clients, from selecting ambitious organized farmers to providing them the skills to thrive in their businesses through training, business advisory services, and knowledge exchange. It is also implementing the “Generating Rural Opportunities by Working with Cooperatives (GROW Coop) Project” in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The project develops successful agri-based cooperatives, federations, and private companies into Local Resource Organizations (LROs) that provide mentoring support to growth-oriented small and medium agricultural cooperatives (GOACs). This will eventually result in their improved governance, operations, and sustainability in the selected value chains of the LROs, while similarly resulting in improved socio-economic conditions and expanded rural livelihood opportunities for farmers. In this project, four clients of Agriterra and two private companies, i.e., East West Seeds and Citicore Candlewick Bioenergy Inc., are being trained and coached to use Agriterra tools and services with their partner cooperatives focused on improving their integration in their selected value chains, such as corn, coco sugar, dairy, sweet potatoes, pineapple and cassava. In this project, Agriterra Philippines is targeting to improve the capacity of at least 40 agri-based cooperatives.

Through the GROW Coop project, Agriterra and the LROs are initiating an Agricultural Cooperative Development Agenda that promotes the creation of an enabling environment for agri-cooperatives in terms of government policies and private sector engagement. The GROW Coop consortium also initiated a study on the design, feasibility and strategy for setting up a cooperative resiliency mechanism (CRM) that will be sustainable and accessible to cooperatives in times of crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

Partnerships

Agriterra Philippines is forging partnerships with different organizations like financing institutions, potential markets, and government institutions to compliment its work in the professionalization and integration of agri-based cooperatives in the value chain. One such example is its partnership with Landbank Countryside Development Foundation Inc. (LCDFI). Agriterra and LCDFI will be offering advice and training to existing clients of Landbank in the areas of management, financial management and business development that will ultimately lead to cooperatives being able to access loans from the bank.

Agriterra Philippines is also a member of the Dutch Chamber of Commerce (DCCP) and an active member in its agricultural committee. Agriterra Philippines sees the social and economic potential of linking these cooperatives to Dutch businesses and establish stronger value chains within the agriculture industry while enabling market access for farmer organizations and cooperatives in the Philippines.

DCCP member, Alaska Milk Corporation, with Friesland Campina, a Dutch multinational dairy cooperative and its major stockholder, are currently working with Agriterra in strengthening dairy cooperatives in Southern Luzon. This is also in partnership with the National Dairy Authority of the Philippines.

Agriterra is also pursuing closer collaboration with the Cooperative Development Authority and the Department of Agriculture (DA) in the provision of technical and advocacy support in having more sustainable policies and programs for agri-based cooperatives.

Agriterra is localizing the AgriGRADE approach that is an integrated solution to graduate the cooperative landscape at scale. It is an approach of scaling up Agriterra's work through cooperative landscaping, segmentation and graduation, and bringing other technical experts and chain actors in a more integrated system of support. The proof of this concept is the work that Agriterra has already done with cooperatives, as well as the results of partners in their respective domains.

Agriterra will remain committed to work with agri-based cooperatives that have the potential to bring about structural transformation in the rural areas. It is focused on collaboration, scaling and preparing for institutionalization of what the organization does.



II. RECONSTRUCTING HISTORICAL TIES

The Dutchman's Day 1600: Early PH-Netherlands Historical Relations

Prof. Ambeth Ocampo

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Knight Grand Officer, Sucesos Chapter,
Order of the Knights of Rizal/
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Philippine Daily Inquirer

This paper will discuss the very first naval battle between the Spanish Philippines and the Dutch, way before the battles of La Naval de Manila, as a way to understand our long historical and cultural relations.

For many Filipinos, *Holand* (with one L), is a popular brand of Chinese pastry or “hopia.” While Filipinos learn in school that Holland with two L’s is part of the Netherlands, and that Holland is often used to refer to the whole Netherlands, they see few connections between these countries except three products which they see in everyday life. As a boy, I grew up with the Dutch in daily life: Dutch cleanser, Dutch Boy Paints, and Dutch Maid milk.

It was not until I first traveled to the Netherlands that I realized that Queso de Bola that graces our Christmas tables, sprinkled over ensaymada, or made into cheese spread, was actually a Dutch product, because we grew up knowing them by their iconic brand names Marca Piña (or pineapple brand), and Marca Pato (or duck brand). We can guess that the cheese was introduced to Filipinos during the Spanish period, because this was a hardy cheese that would travel well. It surprises many to discover that these actually are Edam cheese imported from the Netherlands. These two brands, however, are harder and saltier than fresh Edam, probably because it has aged during transport. Like the red wax surface of Queso de Bola, if we scratch on the surface of Philippine history, we can actually find some Dutch connections.

If you go very far from Manila, to Zamboanga City, and go to Plaza Pershing in the background, you can see is the City Hall of Zamboanga City, and the white monument is actually a Rizal monument. When I visited this place some years ago, I realized that there are two cannons guarding the Rizal monument, and one of them actually has markings.

I would like to think that more research should tell us about the

origins of this cannon with the mark of the Dutch East India Company. Probably this will help give us a picture or something more tangible than the outline that has been presented by Laarhoven and Wittermans' Philippine studies article that explains how the Dutch moved from blockade—and I would probably say piracy, if we use the Spanish sources—to trade in the year 1600 to 1750. This cannon in Zamboanga is not alone, because I have seen another cannon with similar markings in Intramuros.

When people say that the Philippines spent four centuries in the convent and fifty years in Hollywood, they oversimplify history into the pre-Spanish, Spanish-American and post-war periods, but the four centuries of Spanish rule were far from cozy as the far-flung colony in the beginning was not ruled directly from Madrid, but via Mexico. Those four Spanish centuries were marked by internal conflicts from native and Chinese revolts and external challenges from foreign rival countries.

As such, when we actually say the Philippines spent 400 years in a convent and 50 years in Hollywood, we actually forget that there were challenges from rival countries. The British, for example, successfully took over Manila from 1762 to 1764. There were other unsuccessful attempts to take Manila—the Portuguese in the 16th century, and in the 19th century we even had the Germans who sent a large naval fleet in Manila Bay to challenge the grip of the United States during the Spanish-American War. Leopold, King of the Belgians, contemplated buying the Philippines, but got the Congo instead.

The Philippines is truly a melting pot of many cultures and influences and the Dutch are footnotes in this long history. That often leads us to “what if” questions: What would the Philippines be today had the Dutch succeeded in taking the Philippines from Spain in the 17th century (and they tried not once, but many times)?

The Philippines, as we were taught in school, is an archipelago; meaning it is a group of islands that is separated by water. It was only when I became an adult, long after I had left school, and I was studying ancient maps, that I realized that this definition of what an archipelago is, is not quite correct. Rather, the Philippines is an archipelago, or a group of islands, that is actually connected by water. I would like to think that the Netherlands and the Philippines are connected not just by history, but are also connected by the sea.

The Philippines and the Netherlands are, therefore, connected by the sea because the Dutch had been a great seaborne empire, and the Philippines was part of the Spanish Empire. We actually share some history because we share Philip II for whom the Philippines is named, the man who inherited an empire from Charles V, that included the Philippines and the Netherlands. So when you actually come to look at the 400 years of the Spanish Philippines, it's not just Spanish. If you look closely or look harder, you will find some Dutch connections.

Ortelius map



The Philippines appears in this old Ortelius map of 1571, and though it is incomplete due to the emerging knowledge of the 16th century world, you will see that some of the Philippine islands already appear in this map by the Dutch cartographer Abraham Ortelius, who created what we know today as the modern Atlas.

While more antique maps are obsolete in the face of Google Earth today, they can be quite charming, because when you look at their ornamentation, like this one here, you will see sea monsters and mermaids looking at themselves in mirrors. These actually reflect what people at the time believe to lurk in the seas. When you think about the 15th and the 16th centuries, when the known world was not as we know it today, going to the ends of the sea was very much like exploring outer space.



Another staple in any collection of Philippine antique maps is the *Insula India Orientalis*, a classic map made by Hondius around 1619 that depicts what was then called the East Indies. To appreciate it fully, remember that the cartographer did not have Google Earth, nor a hot air balloon to draw the archipelago from the sky. Yet, the general shape of what we know and recognize as the Philippines today, was already drawn in 1619. The map not only reflects the state of knowledge about the Philippines in the 17th century. It comes with a charming vignette on the upper right, which depicts a naval battle between the Spanish and the Dutch, reflecting European rivalry over 17th century insular Southeast Asia.

With these old maps, you can see that aside from old records, they can give you a visual clue into Philippine-Dutch relations.

The most famous battles for which I was invited to speak today, is celebrated every year on the second Sunday of October at Santo Domingo Church in Quezon City.

Looking at the facade of the Santo Domingo Church shows the preparations and the victory over the Dutch. Inside the Church, it is the shrine of the bejeweled 16th century image of the Virgin of the Most Holy Rosary, also known as Santo Rosaryo, or La Naval de Manila for the five naval battles fought by the Spanish Catholic forces against the Protestant

Dutch in 1646. Those naval victories were attributed to a miracle by the Virgin who is believed to have repeated her intervention in Manila in 1646, as she did in the Battle of Lepanto in 1571 against the Turks. Beneath this story is not only a miracle story, but also how religion is preserved against an invader who carries a different type of Christianity. The Battle of Lepanto is masterfully depicted in a painting by Juan Luna that presently hangs in the Senate in Madrid. It's called La Batalla de Lepanto.

Since the five naval victories against the Dutch in 1646 are quite well known, we should not forget that there were earlier battles led by Joris van Spilbergen in 1616 when he established the blockade in Manila Bay, Francois Witter who engaged the Spanish in Playa Honda near Zambales in 1609, and Olivier van Noort, who engaged with the Spanish under the command of Antonio de Morga of Nasugbu in 1600. It is this 1600 battle that I wish to focus on in this paper.

1600 battle against the Dutch

Antonio de Morga, Lieutenant Governor of the Philippines, led the Spanish against the Dutch in 1600. He had no military training, but he was called upon because of his rank to lead the expedition against the Dutch. Therefore, because he had no military training, he actually failed in this endeavor, but that is not how he depicted it in his book, "Events of the Philippine Islands" or "Sucesos de Las Islas Filipinas" in Mexico in 1609.

His book is considered today as one of the most accurate depictions of the Philippines and the Filipinos at the Spanish contact. So important was it that Jose Rizal actually chose this book over other books, copied it by hand in the British Museum, and published an extensively annotated edition in Paris in 1890.

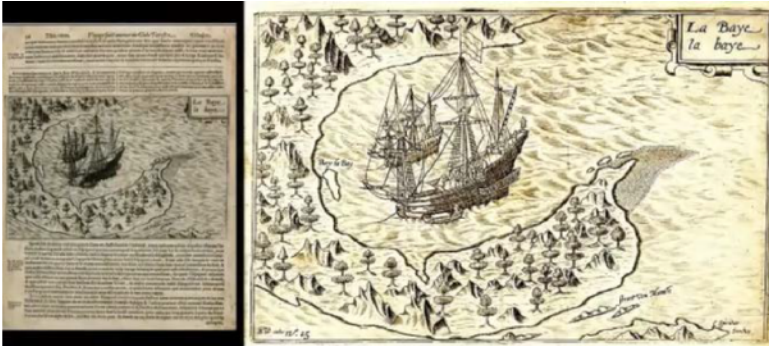
For many years, Filipinos have only known Morga's account of the battle against the Dutch in 1600, until his flagship, the *San Diego* was found off Fortune island in 1992, leading us to another version of the battle from the Dutch side.

It is not well known, at least in the Philippines, that Olivier van Noort was the first Dutch man to circumnavigate the world, the fourth to do so after Ferdinand Magellan in 1521, Francis Drake in 1580, and Thomas Cavendish from 1586 to 1588. An account of van Noort's voyage was published in Rotterdam in 1620.

In this engraving of circumnavigators (*referring to the image shown below*), Magellan's flagship, the *Victoria*, is shown on the upper left. Magellan is the figure on the upper image on the left. In little medallions below, flanking the two globes, shown are Francis Drake and Thomas Cavendish, two English circumnavigators, and two Dutchmen, Olivier van Noort, and Joris van Spilbergen.



In the book called *Peregrinaciones* published in Amsterdam in 1602 by De Vries, it is mentioned that on October 16, 1600, van Noort anchored at the Bay of Albay to get supplies. It changed flags, and even pretended that his ship was French, and that he had royal permission to trade. He even went so far as to disguise a sailor as a Catholic priest. Van Noort got directions to pass San Bernardino Strait on October 20, and stopped by Capul where he was sighted by a Spanish captain, who sent word to Manila of the arrival of a friendly fleet.



Above is another version of the previous engraving, showing the Dutch anchored in Albay. The Dutch unfortunately were exposed by two incidents. On October 22, Manuel Salvador, a Spanish sailor of African descent, escaped from the Dutch and reported to Spanish priests, who then warned Manila. On October 27, one of the men in van Noort's fleet, an English musician named John Callaway, was drinking on the shore when he was captured by natives and turned over to the Spaniards in a cage.

Van Noort heard about this, and he retaliated by burning the villages. By October 31, promptly warned, the Manila Audiencia sent 20 soldiers to Capul to prevent a Dutch landing. When he saw this, van Noort, probably presuming more army people were to come, sailed away. Along the way, he captured a Chinese junk, who had a crew member who actually spoke Portuguese, and who provided the information that between December and April, it was trading season in the port of Manila.



The above charming engraving of Manila Bay not only shows topographical landmarks like Taal volcano with smoke billowing from its tip, and Intramuros or the walled city, but also on the foreground are shown different trading vessels—European, Chinese junk, and Asian vessels. Manila was an important trading port, especially when the Spanish galleons arrived with its trade of silver, which is why it was a dangerous route to and from Manila and Mexico where the galleons were beset not only by Dutch pirates, but also by English and French as well.

In 1992, and in 1993, a Spanish shipwreck off Fortune Island was retrieved by a combined team of archaeologists from the National Museum, and another led by Franck Goddio. They found 34,000 artifacts, or Chinese porcelain for export to Europe, and Zhangzhou wares from the Wan Li period 1573 to 1690. They found jars from China, Thailand, Myanmar, Spain and Mexico, and European and Japanese weapons, etc., giving a picture of trade and life on a 17th century galleon, giving life to a story long forgotten.

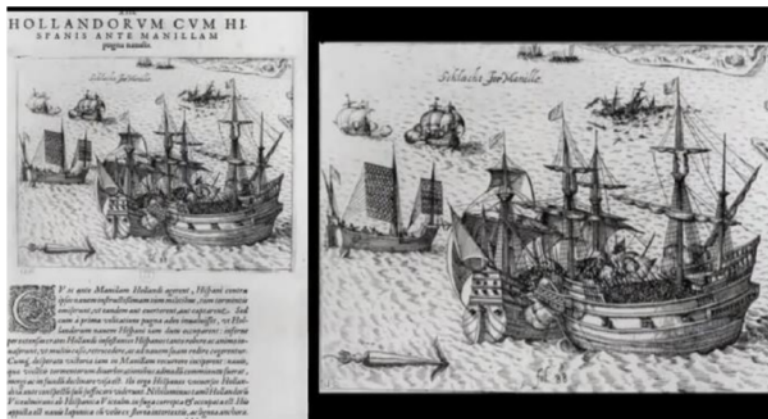
Archival research identified the wreck as that of the *San Diego* that sunk following the battle with the Dutch in December 1600. Below are photographs from Gilbert Fournier, one of the Frenchmen who now lives in the Philippines, that shows what they found in the early 1990s. These are some rather romantic pictures of pots with fish, and even a Spanish cannon which was taken from the fortifications of Intramuros and loaded into the *San Diego* to defend the colony.



The battle with van Noort near Manila on December 14, 1600, is depicted again by De Vries. The Dutch venture appears more daring of course, because the Dutch are shown to be outnumbered by the four Spanish vessels, which are labeled A, C and E above. There were only two Dutch vessels which are here indicated as B and D, shown to be smaller than the Spanish vessels.

There are actually two accounts of the battle: an official version by Morga, and a Dutch version by van Noort. Morga narrated that the fleet under his command, the flagships San Diego, San Bartolome and two smaller vessels sailed from Mariveles at dawn on December 14, and caught sight of the Dutch vessels at daybreak. The San Diego, A, the big ship, engaged the Mauritius, B, for six hours because the San Bartolome, which was supposed to reinforce them, actually left and pursued the other Dutch ship, the Eendracht.

At 2pm, a leak was discovered on the San Diego, prompting Morga to order that the ships connected by rope be cut, and he proceeded to Fortune Island but the ship San Diego sank. Morga was the last to abandon ship, and he swam for four hours to shore carrying two standards of the enemy vessels, while the Dutch sailed away.



The unofficial version of the battle found in documents from the *Archivo General de India* paint a different picture and actually corroborate the Dutch version of the story.

Since the two Dutch ships were outnumbered by the Spanish, van Noort ordered the Mauritius to engage the San Diego and allow the Eendracht to escape with important information on Manila and its defenses. Mauritius fired as soon as San Diego was within range, causing damage. Despite Morga's orders to return fire, the San Diego would not because water was coming in from the gun courts. The San Diego was not a war ship, but a commandeered trading ship loaded with cargo which they did not offload. Therefore, it was overloaded with ammunition, men, and actual trading material. A second volley from the Mauritius produced more damage on the San Diego, so Morga ordered the San Diego to get alongside the Mauritius and board it. However, he ignored advice to trim the sails, causing the San Diego to ram the Mauritius.

With the two ships, which were attached, a canvas screen was lowered and exposed 350 armed Spanish to the 59 Dutch, who put up token resistance by firing some arcade before retreating down and inside the hall of the Mauritius. About 30 Spaniards boarded the Mauritius and demanded a surrender. The standards were taken and presented to Morga on the San Diego, who was found pale, and lying on deck protected by a couple of mattresses. Advised to order full boarding and capture of the Mauritius, he simply replied, "But what can I do?" So the Spaniards were demoralized to see their commander in this state. A sailor splashed water on Morga's face to wake him up, but he remained speechless on the mattress. He could have accepted the easy Dutch surrender, but he was just so dumbfounded.

Then the San Bartolome that had sailed later than the San Diego came by and started firing at the Mauritius, until the Spanish on board shouted that it was already taken and that they should pursue the Eendracht. Five hours passed, and the Spanish did not finish off the 59 Dutch hiding below deck. It was then that van Noort decided on an idea to set fire to his own ship. This resulted in a lot of smoke, which scared the Spaniards who were onboard and forced these men out of hiding. By this time the leak on the San Diego caused by the Dutch cannonballs or by the San Diego ramming the Mauritius became a cause for concern. Instead of ordering his men to board the Mauritius, Morga ordered the San Diego to be cut loose and head for Fortune Island.

After moving 20 meters away from the Mauritius, the San Diego sank like a stone.



When the San Diego sank, Spanish sailors tried to swim to the Mauritius but were finished off by the Dutch who then sailed away.

Contrary to the official war version that Morga gave, he was not the last man to leave the sinking flagship. Rather, he was one of the first to abandon ship, escaping on a raft made of wood and a mattress, with his secretary and two sailors. He took off his clothes but kept the Dutch standards, and, upon reaching Fortune Island, took a small boat to Manila, leaving the remainder of the crew to die either by drowning, by the Dutch, or simply without medical care on Fortune Island.

Morga then arrived in Intramuros and gave his version of the story. When the San Bartolome arrived later with a captured Eendracht in tow, its captain was in prison so he could not expose Morga's incompetence and cowardice.

Among the many artifacts salvaged from the San Diego, perhaps the most significant find was quite small, the gold seal of Antonio de Morga that matches the coat of arms in his *Sucesos de Las Islas Filipinas*. This proved beyond doubt that the wreck found off Fortune Island was that of Morga's flagship, the San Diego.



The significance of the Dutchman's day of Nasugbu in 1600 is not so much that van Noort returned home and became the first Dutchman to circumnavigate the globe, but rather his report made the port of Manila desirable and led to the establishment of the Dutch East India Company soon after. What we see in the Spanish-Dutch battle between van Noort and Morga in 1600 is the beginning of Philippines-Netherlands historical relations. It antedates the birth of the Filipino nation and antedates the formal establishment of consular relations over 155 years ago and the establishment of formal diplomatic relations 70 years ago.

The magic of history is not in chronology, but rather about connections—historical, cultural, economic, people-to-people exchange.

Our countries share a maritime past, and from this, we can choose a history that can divide, just like the 17th century Spanish and Dutch historical accounts of these battles. Or, we can choose a history that unites nations and peoples through mutual understanding and respect.

Two years ago, I was in the British Library to revisit the original edition of Morga's 1609 *Sucesos* and Rizal's 1890 Paris edition. It was an act of pilgrimage, because on the last page of Rizal's edition, he wrote that he copied the original Morga in the British Museum and provided the call number. It was a thrill to go back and handle the actual book that Rizal had used to annotate. Rizal used C 32. F 31, which is the same call number that it still has today.

With this, I end with a quote from Rizal, which I think is quite apt in our remembering and commemoration today. Rizal actually says, "I enter the future with a memory of the past." Therefore, as we remember early Philippine-Dutch relations, we bring with it not only the versions of the past, but with it a memory so that it will enlighten us in the present and help us towards an uncertain future.

Philippine-Dutch Trade Relations During the Era of Expansion from Ship to Shore and Up Close

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Introduction

The following presentation also refers to the period and theme under discussion, namely the Philippine acquaintance with the Dutch, but from a commercial point of view between 1600 to 1800, the period when the Dutch East India Company or VOC (*Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie*) was the first and largest corporate trader of its time in Batavia, nowadays Jakarta, Indonesia.

The subtitle part ‘from Ship to Shore’ pertains to when most of the Dutch officials and crew that arrived at the Philippine shores, predominantly lived, and slept on their vessels and only came ashore to obtain provisions, to trade or to visit and inquire about the local situation. In my view, Dutch interaction with the Philippines during those two centuries may be seen in two parts.



The first part is the economic relationship between Spanish Manila and Dutch Batavia whilst the second part, I call the “Up Close,” refers to when the Dutch from Ternate in the Moluccas frequently visited the Maguindanao Sultanate. The documents of the VOC that have been preserved present with careful and impressive details what transpired in the harbors and on the streets of what is now Cotabato in the province of Maguindanao. My estimate is that during those two centuries, Dutchmen were present in Maguindanao for altogether approximately 20 years.¹

Central to the success of the enterprises for both the Dutch in Batavia and the Spaniards in Manila were the three most valuable commodities circulating in the inter-Asiatic trade: *metals* (silver, gold, and copper), *cloths* (handwoven, decorated cottons from India, silks from China) and *spices* (cloves and nutmegs from the Moluccas, cinnamon from Ceylon), and pepper. The unequal quantities and movements of these three main commodities over time during the two centuries under discussion are complicated. Suffice it to say that for the Spaniards to have access to the necessary cloths from India and spices from the Moluccas to meet the demand locally and to New Spain, were as much an issue to them as it was for the VOC to have access to enough metals, specifically silver. Therefore, when the Spaniards were called back to Manila from Ternate in 1663 because the city needed military aid for protection against the looming attack by the Japanese-Chinese rebel and pirate Coxinga, it gave the Dutch a chance to strengthen their monopoly on the coveted spice trade in the Moluccas.

What would, however, prevent the Spaniards from buying spices in other open international open ports like Makassar and Banten? Due to economic rivalry between the European nations as well as the ongoing smuggling of spices, the Dutch also captured both Makassar in 1669 and Banten in 1682. Thus, the question arises, could the Spaniards legally have sailed to these trading ports and bought spices that included also cinnamon and pepper? The answer is...

Not really!

¹The 20 years are calculated from the timeline of Dutch visits to Maguindanao in Laarhoven, Ruurdje *Triumph of Moro Diplomacy*: 87 and the five years that the Dutch at the invitation of Sultan Kudarat, were allowed to stay and live in a trading lodge at Simoay, on and off between 1653 and 1658. I like, here to express my gratitude to the late Fr. Gabriel S. Casal who understood the importance of this research and enabled for me a grant from the Filipinos Foundation Inc, Makati, Metro Manila in 1984-85.

Let me explain why not. The enmity between the Dutch in Batavia and the Spaniards in Manila during the first half of the 17th century was an extension of a long lasting 80-year war between the two nations in Europe. A thread throughout the Dutch-Spanish war was not based on an immediate struggle for power. Instead, it was predominantly a disagreement between the Spanish King who avidly wanted to hold on to his rights under the Roman Catholic Church and the Dutch citizens who wanted freedom from the Roman Catholic beliefs claiming that reformed protestantism was their only true religion. Besides that, the Dutch also wanted complete recognition of their independence from Spain. The long war finally ended in 1648 with the Peace Treaty of Münster, which ceased consequently the Dutch blockades and raids transforming the combatant relationship between the Dutch in Batavia and the Spaniards in Manila to one of trade albeit under disguise and other nations' flags.

The reason for that was the fifth article in the Peace Treaty which stipulated that the Spaniards should keep their trading routes as they were then, before the treaty in the East Indies, without being allowed to extend them. Similarly, the inhabitants of the United Netherlands also should refrain from frequenting the Castilian places in the East Indies.² This meant that the Dutch could continue to expand their trading empire in Asia except to the Philippines, but the Spanish could only maintain the routes that they already had established, but not expand westwards. In this 5th article lay the crux of the problem.

For the Spaniards to trade for spices or other items such as wax for candles in the churches, pearls from Sulu, tobacco from Maguindanao, just to mention a few, the medium of exchange in the Malay world had always traditionally been handwoven and decorated cloths from India. For more than a thousand years of Asian international trade, India had provided the Asian traders with cloths that targeted and accommodated their specific markets and that was exported in the millions of pieces each year. The Spaniards did not have a trade route established to India and there never existed a Spanish factory there. Just one vessel would sail annually from Manila to Bengal for this important commodity, not nearly often enough to supply the Manila demand for cloth. After the Peace Treaty of Münster, the Spaniards depended even more so on other nations to bring the Indian cloths to Manila. So how else did this 5th article

² Roessingh, M.P.H. "Dutch Relations with the Philippines, 1600-1800," in *Asian Studies*, Vol. XXI, 1983: 59-78.

Translation by Ruurdje Laarhoven from the Dutch publication "Nederlandse Betrekkingen met de Philippijnen, 1600-1800 in *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde*, Deel 124, 4de aflevering, 1968.

in the Peace Treaty impact the relations between the Philippines and the Dutch East India Company?

Of course, profit is more powerful than any treaty. Therefore, the enmity between the two large trading towns, Manila and Batavia, yielded to a strange mixture of subterfuges and conventions that allowed *de facto* trade to flourish between the two cities. To illustrate this development here, are a few examples.

Trade relations between Manila and Batavia

A first attempt to open trade between Manila and Batavia after the Peace Treaty was through official channels. In the 1650s, the VOC directors in the Netherlands approached the Spanish ambassador in The Hague with an offer to take oriental products, specifically spices, to America in exchange for silver. However, in the end, fear for Dutch competition and further expansion in addition to loss of import and export duties in Seville and Cadiz stopped negotiations in 1657.

The next year, Johan d'Erquesa, a merchant from Manila—who was also regularly visiting Batavia—suggested to the Council Members that different kinds of goods could be included in the cargo to America that were not part of the monopoly trade items of Seville and Cadiz. D'Erquesa's proposal was never realized, but it was interesting to learn that during his visit in 1668, Johan d'Erquesa conducted business in Batavia lasting five months. He bought a larger ship and left with a cargo worth 10,000 rixdollars and was allowed to borrow a Dutch navigator and six sailors. That looks like a cooperative and friendly relationship there, doesn't it?

The Dutch, eager to sell their spices, boost the sales of cloths and get their hands into the Manila trading market, allowed the freeburgher, Crijn Leendertsz Geel, to sail to Manila in 1665 with a pass from the Spanish governor in Ternate. Crijn Geel was received and treated courteously, but the Governor-General Diego de Salcedo—wanting to show that he knew his duty not to contradict the orders from the King of Spain—issued a letter of protest to the Governor-General of Batavia because he argued that this trade was contradictory to the peace treaty between the King and the States-General of the Netherlands. Crijn Geel and his shipmates were verbally told, however, that the Dutch were welcome to Manila with a pass from Siam, Cambodia, or Makassar; that they could sail under another flag, use crew and ships of other nations on which a Dutchman was the

supercargo, or use native crafts for their cargoes. They were welcome for as long as they were disguised as non-Dutch, which prompted the VOC Directorate in Batavia to conclude “... if there is something to be traded in Manila, it needs to be done in silence and by connivance.”³

At approximately the same time, the VOC in Ayutthaya and Malacca traded respectively with a Spanish merchant and a Manila Chinese, exchanging their cargo consisting of trade goods that had been destined for Manila, for thousands of pieces of Indian cloths, sappanwood and tobacco. Batavia government approved of it, but it was to be kept discreet. Another well-documented case is the covert enterprise that started in the 1680s with a Polish so-called gentleman trader, Don Theodor de St. Lucas, also known as Don Pollak. As a resident of the Coromandel coast, he was supplied by relatives of the Dutch VOC Governor there and some Dutch merchants and gentlemen with bales of cinnamon and colored cloths from the Company’s warehouses, with which he departed to Manila. His trade was still ongoing more than twenty years later when a Dutch VOC soldier who had deserted from Batavia became his friend in Manila.⁴

The Governor-General in Manila regularly requested anchors from the Governor-General in Batavia. Out of gratitude and friendship, he accompanied these requests with large gifts, for example six specially bred mules, 12 pots of chocolate, 12 pairs of stockings from Laguna, 12 bamboo containers filled with fruit, and more. On one occasion, the Manila Governor also asked as a special favor the delivery of a bundle of papers to the secretary of the High Court of Inquisition in Madrid.

In 1716, due to heavy winds, an Asian Portuguese merchant sailing to Manila arrived in Batavia instead and sold his cargo there. This same Portuguese merchant vessel returned the next year from Manila bringing aboard a Spanish passenger, Don Joan de Torralba Y Balcasar, the son of the Governor of Manila who asked to be able to go on a Dutch ship to Holland because the route would be faster than via New Spain. The request was granted.

Not only did trade and cooperation take place on a level of inter-governmental understanding, also many private Manila traders came to Batavia and *vice versa*. Portuguese, French, Armenians, Moros, Hindus,

³ L.C.D. van Dijk, *Neerlands vroegste betrekkingen met Borneo, den Solo-Archipel, Cambodja, Siam en Cochîn-China: 262-263*

⁴ Jan Parmentier en Ruurdje Laarhoven, *De avonturen van een VOC-soldaat. Het dagboek van Carolus Van der Haeghe 1699-1705: 32*

and Philippine-born Spaniards came from Manila to trade with the Dutch in Batavia, Malacca, Ayutthaya, and at other VOC factory ports. Aside from spices bound for Manila, tradegoods also included benzoin, iron, chintz, coarse and fine cloths woven with gold and silver thread. The Dutch were naturally eager for Chinese goods and the silver that Manila provided. The largest sale was in cinnamon with a yearly profit of 870 percent, but the highest profit was made in nutmegs at 6,500 percent. Prices were the same in Europe, but profits in Batavia were so large because it did not have the transportation costs and a smaller risk of spoilage. At this point in the 1730s, the trade with the Manila merchants comprised half of the total sales in Batavia for the Company according to the VOC records.⁵

A biographical account published last year by Flannery and Luiz-Stovel about a certain Captain Thomé Gaspar de León may serve as a good example of the frequency with which Manila-based private traders voyaged to Batavia. The sources used for this account were not from the Dutch East India Company, but from Spanish and Filipino Colonial primary documents.⁶ Thomé Gaspar de León originally came from Pondicherry on the Coromandel coast. He described himself to be of *paravar* descentance, meaning from Catholic black Christians who had converted under the Portuguese in exchange for protection and patronage. His father who had preceded him had arrived in Manila in 1729. Thomé Gaspar de León made regular and frequent voyages to places in Southeast Asia and Batavia, most of them presumably with his own vessel, the *Esperitu Santo*. He was in Java fifteen times between 1736 and 1768. His crew and passengers counting between 27 and 50 were of multi-ethnic origins, which confirmed the point made earlier from Dutch sources. During a twenty-year period around the middle of the 18th century, 131 voyages had been recorded leaving from Cavite's harbor westwards to India, Southeast Asia, and Batavia. These Manila-based merchants traded outside the European East India Companies in almost an equal percentage to India (36%) and Batavia (37%).

These Spanish and non-Chinese traders connecting Manila with Batavia were not the richest merchants. Accumulated wealth from trade

⁵ M.P. H. Roessingh, "Dutch Relations with the Philippines, 1600-1800:" 75

⁶ Kristie Patricia Flannery and Guillermo Ruiz-Stovel "The Loyal Foreign Merchant Captain: Thomé Gaspar de León and the Making of Manila's Intra-Asian Connections" in *Vegueta*. Anuario de la Facultad de Geografía e Historia 20, 2020, 189-215 eISSN: 2341-1112. <https://accedaocris.ulpgc.es/bitstream/10553/70265/2/VEG-20-08.pdf>

was reserved to those having lading space on the Manila galleon. Our biographic character, Thomé Gaspar de León for example, had shown in his genealogy to be a *paravar*, thus a Christian, which was a requirement if one wanted to make a living in Manila. When after three decades of service to the Crown, he petitioned to King Charles III for an honorary acknowledgement for his services, a *vecinidad*, which was denied. He was black and from the Indian coast and thus still regarded an outsider which made him unqualified for the special privilege of a *vecino*, a status which afforded besides honor, also included some cargo space on the galleon to Acapulco and reduced customs duty. This prevented private traders like him from becoming the wealthiest traders in Manila.

What is interesting from the Spanish-Filipino source material is that they confirm the heavy emphasis on the cinnamon spice trade to New Spain. But besides spices, the main products that were obtained were for Philippine domestic consumption. The colonial documents confirm that the Spanish government commissioned the private traders to purchase European iron anchors for the large ships because it was of superior quality to the iron brought from China. Batavia was also closer to Manila and easier to sail to. In 1768 for example, Thomé de León purchased for the Crown eight large anchors in Batavia weighing a total of 4,000 pounds. Other important commodities the traders acquired were geared towards items for defense, saltpeter and munition. Not mentioned in the Dutch sources but listed in the Spanish-Filipino primary documents are the rather important “nostalgic consumption” goods for the Spanish-Filipino community in Manila. Nostalgic consumption goods are referred to things like fashionable clothing items, materials, hats and feathers, edibles such as cheese and olives, drinks of many varieties of beer and hard liquors, not to forget the very important consecration-wines used during mass. The VOC provided mostly Spanish Carlón wine which preserved well due to its high alcohol content. It is still being produced since the 13th century in Benicarló today.

With the increased demand for spices to the Americas, the VOC government began to support its own private entrepreneurs in Batavia by lending them ships with a cargo of cinnamon on credit to be sold in Manila. By the 1750s, a century now after the Peace Treaty of Münster, the competition among free traders in the Southeast Asian archipelago picks up whereas the VOC trade was slowly diminishing. The proportions of the major trade goods—metals, cloths, and spices—in the Inter-Asiatic trade were changing. The import of the Indian cloths by the VOC decreased, the prohibitions of trading in certain types of cloths were being released by the Company, while the free traders were beginning to carry more

and more textiles produced by the Southeast Asian women themselves. That was the case for Indonesia. Whether the same transformation by cloth substitution took place in the Philippines is not yet known. Private trade from Java to Manila continued throughout the remainder of the 18th century except for a short interruption during the English occupation of Manila in 1762.

When a direct trade connection was set up between Cadiz and Manila via Cape of Good Hope with the first ship arriving via this route in 1765, the Dutch objected, but not too strongly, because the trade between Batavia and Manila was too valuable to be subject to threats of countermeasures according to the VOC government. From the Batavia-Manila trade and its significance to both entrepôt cities characterized by the mutual indispensable exchange of Spanish silver and Dutch spices, we can conclude that the open rivalry and enmity of the first half of the 17th century was eliminated after the Treaty of Münster. Formal policies could not prevent the creative energy of free enterprise and the love for profit from conspiring ways to circumvent official trade bans.

Dutch trade relations with Maguindanao



A very different relationship existed between the Dutch VOC officials in Ternate and the Islamic rulers in the Southern Philippines, the Maguindanao sultanate in the floodplains of the Rio Grande de Mindanao or the Mindanao River. The first contact that we know of between the VOC and the Maguindaos is a letter from Admiral Cornelis Matelieff dating from May 1607 to the kings of Sarangani and of Mindanao written in Malay and Dutch addressed to their Muslim friends and relatives. It called for assistance to the people of the Sultanate of Ternate in preparation for an attack on the Spaniards. This was to happen as soon as additional naval forces from Holland would arrive. More than 90 years

later, in 1699, skipper Cornelis Claasz Silver learnt from Sultan Kuday that this first letter was accidentally destroyed in a fire ten years earlier.⁷ *Kapitan Laut* Maulano, who was in charge of all matters pertaining to the sea, was just newly appointed as Sultan Kuday. He recounted himself the event of what had happened around the time of the fire when the English were at Maguindanao. Skipper Claasz Silver, the Dutch skipper, was listening as they walked towards the mountains from whence, Maulano pointed to him saying that the Maguindanao quarried saltpeter and sulfur there. Silver recorded his conversation on August 14, 1699.

I do not know if this first letter still exists among the VOC materials. However, one can find a contract that Sultan Kudarat closed with the VOC official, Captain Paulus Andries Visscher in 1658. Firstly, in this contract Sultan Kudarat and his subjects put themselves under the wings and protection of the Honorable Company whom they accepted as their patron and guardian [against the Spaniards]. It also stipulated that no Dutchmen would be allowed to station themselves in Mindanao without the approval of the Sultan. Secondly, the Maguindanao would not permit any other foreign Europeans, whoever they were, to settle down in their territory; they would swear to that. On the other hand, the Company would not prevent the Maguindanao rulers and their *nakodas* (ship captains) from trading with other nations because the members of the royalty and Council wanted to maintain friendly relations with whomever they chose. If they would want to contract with other nations, they would inform the Governor of Ternate thereof. This contract was confirmed by the Governor in Ternate and the Governor-General in Batavia in 1658. By 1700, both sides—the Dutch and the Maguindanao—acknowledged that the contract was still in force and abided by. It had never been broken, even though there were some turbulent times in the 1680s when the English were testing out Maguindanao as a place to settle to get access to the spice trade and had challenged the Dutch.⁸ When the Dutchmen asked to see the contract of 1658, they were told it had been misplaced.

Throughout the two centuries during the reign of eight sultans, Dutchmen from Ternate came to trade or just visit, but never to attack Maguindanao. They sailed during the SW monsoon from May to November to the River Simoay where the Sultan resided. Coming closer to the shore,

⁷ VOC 1637, fol. 110. K.J. de Jonge, *Opkomst van het Nederlandsch Gezag in Oost-Indië, 1595-1610*, vol. 3: 226-227. The house of the Admiral-at-sea, *Kapitan Laut* Maulano, had been set afire by the accused English Captain Charles Swan.

⁸ VOC 1641, fol. 733. Part of the diary in which this was related is translated in Laarhoven, Ruurdje *Triumph of Moro Diplomacy. The Maguindanao Sultanate in the 17th Century*. New Day Publishers, Quezon City, 1989. All VOC documentation on which much of this second part “Up Close” is based can be viewed in the Bibliography of this book pages 259-263.

they would announce their arrival with a salute of an odd number of cannon shots, could be 3, 5 or 7 depending on the size and significance of the ship. From the shore came a similar response in acknowledgement. Soon a boat with messengers from the sultan's court rowed to the vessel to find out where they came from, who and how many they were, and if there were more ships to follow. They then would be brought some refreshments like bananas, young coconuts or *siri* leaves on order of the sultan. Small boats with fishermen and vendors would surround the ships to sell fresh fish and other foodstuff to the crew. The Dutch liked to anchor at a small settlement of 20 huts, named Sampenitan in Suguru Bay where they were hidden from sight by those sailing along the coastline of the Moro Gulf. The surroundings of the bay also provided fresh water, firewood for cooking aboard, and good timber for a mast or other repair to their ships. An interesting aside concerning ships is that the Sultan ordered some of his carpenters to observe their Dutch counterparts when repairing their ships or building a house. On one occasion the Dutch hoped to sell a large surplus of nails they had brought from Ternate. When offering them for sale, the sultan told them that he had no use for them. The Maguindanao used dowels, pegs and tenons to fasten the different boards and parts when building a junk, not nails in the 17th and 18th centuries.

From the anchoring location in Suguru Bay near Sampenitan, one could walk overland to the town of Simoay in 30 minutes. If one had to row a boat to Simoay, it took two hours.

Within a few days of arrival, the ship's officers and soldiers would be invited for an audience with the Sultan and his court when it was expected that they presented letters and gifts. The Sultan sent *Korakoraks* to collect the VOC officials. The vessels decorated with two prince's flags and pennants carried not only the VOC officials in their uniforms, but also their letters from the Governor of Ternate in a fine decorated lacquer box and the gifts under a state parasol, guarded by a young noble prince in his finery. Letters from the Dutch were usually written in the Malay language; letters from the Sultan might be in Malay, Maguindano, or Spanish. We know that Maulano, the *Kapitan Laut*, had been raised speaking Spanish and spoke it fluently besides his Maguindanao and Malay, but the Dutchmen heard him also speak Chinese, some English and Dutch. Maulano was a clever politician, a shrewd trader and not to be trusted, according to the Dutch reports. The VOC took care of always including among the crew what they called a "taalkundige," someone who spoke fluently local languages including Malay, the language spoken in every harbor in the Southeast Asian archipelago.

The gifts that the Dutch presented could consist of instruments that the rulers requested in their letters such as a soldier's drum with all that belonged to it, a large clock, twelve muskettes, a little *laken* woolen cloth, dozens of different kinds of Indian cloths like silk *patolas* from Surat, cotton *chintz* blankets or *palampores* from the Coromandel coast, blue *salempuri*, Ternatan *betilles*, fine *baftas*, bleached fine *muri*, and many more. Also ten or twenty pounds of the finest quality cloves.⁹ On one occasion the Sultan requested opium and writing paper in his return letter to the VOC Governor in Ternate, but when the Dutch returned the next year, the response was that the Ternate warehouse was out of stock of opium, however the two packages of writing paper were presented. Gifts were also prepared for other important members of the royal families. The *Kapitan Laut*, Maulano, the second-most important and powerful person the Dutch most frequently dealt with, received less than the Sultan, and the *raja muda*, the crown prince even less. Members of the royal family sometimes ordered rice, a cow, a goat or cookies baked from rice powder brought to the ships for which they were compensated with, for example a bottle of brandy, rosewater, a piece of cloth not during that occasion, but surely before the ship left.

One's status among the population as well as aboard ship was reflected in the minutest details, be it in dress, how one spoke and addressed one another, what one gave or received as gifts or what one ate. For example, a Dutch officer of a certain rank could wear only a certain number of silver or gold buttons on his coat. The royalty of Maguindano could wear certain colors not permissible to others. The sultans always seem to wear white, the Islamic simple dress code but likely of the best quality of cloth. Hence, the status of a *datu* who passed away in 1693 can be seen from what a Dutch officer recorded about his inventory which included imported as well as locally made items of prestige to mention a few: a *kriss* with a golden hilt, gold jewelry, a string of coral beads, gold threaded abaca cloth, brass lamps, incense burners, gongs, many porcelain dishes and bowls, an assortment of weapons and tools, a collection of sixteen different kinds of Indian cloths, five male and six female slaves.¹⁰ It is obvious that the household of this *Datu* was wealthy. The fact that the Dutch VOC Officer was able to document all these details shows the closeness that could exist between individuals from these very different cultural backgrounds, but most likely of a status recognized as equals.

⁹ VOC 1554, No. 7: fol. 8. VOC 1637: fol. 267-270. For an explanation of many textiles imported in Maguindanao see R. Laarhoven, "A Passion for Plaids," Chapter 3, pp. 132-153 in Roy W. Hamilton, *From the Rainow's Varied Hue, Textiles of the Southern Philippines*.

¹⁰ VOC 1554, No 12: fol. 139-40.

As the decorated *korakora* was leaving, VOC soldiers stepped into a lesser vessel to follow their commander who accompanied the captain of the ship, navigator, merchants, accountant, and translator. As the rowers started rowing from the ship to the shore, an odd number of gunshots were fired. This was responded to with equal volleys in thanks from the beach. Coming to the mouth of the river one would see along its bank clusters of houses on stilts to keep them free from floodwater. After one hour, the *negeri* Simoay was reached. There were streets on both sides of the river, but the more important part was on the left bank looking upriver where Sultan Kudarat's, and later also his grandson, Sultan Barahaman's house stood. Next to it was the mosque and beyond it a large open space serving as market and training ground for military exercises and martial arts. In the same vicinity also stood the house of the younger brother of Sultan Barahaman, the *Kapitan Laut* Maulano. Sultan Barahaman was the eldest grandson of Sultan Kudarat and ruled just and fair from 1671 to 1699. He consolidated, strengthened, and expanded the Sultanate under his rule. Passing the rulers' houses, the main street bent to the right and the commercial district began with shops such as arak suppliers, jewelers, smiths, tailors, carpenters, scribes, money lenders and exchangers, etc.¹¹

The Dutchmen were welcomed at the bank of the river by a family member of the sultan accompanied by numerous armed artillery men. Behind them followed the *babatos*, the village heads. They walked to a *hale*, a large open structure for a gathering where other dignitaries, the *Bichara Atis*, the advisory body of elders and official council members joined them, many of them Islamic functionaries. In almost every preserved report and journal, the Dutch remark on the large number of warriors, heavily armed with shields, many types of swords and throwing spears while dressed in Spanish fashion. VOC officials and personnel, sailors and soldiers were regularly transferred during their lifetime of service to the company and would have had opportunity to make comparison. One can therefore conclude that their remarks about Maguindanao's heavily armed status must have seemed remarkable compared to other island populations. Onlookers and even large numbers of young children were on occasion seen to wear knives and spears as if they were adults.¹² The Dutch were made to watch military practice many times which apparently included Filipino Martial arts because they describe the practice as funny jumpings and acrobatics and laughed among themselves about it afterwards. Shooting at the white on a target board was practiced daily

¹¹ Ruurdje Laarhoven, "We are many nations: The emergence of a multi-ethnic Maguindanao sultanate:" 38 in *Philippine Quarterly of Culture & Society*, vol. 14, March 1986.

¹² VOC 1641: fol. 670, 735.

around 1700.¹³ The Maguindanaos had learned to make ammunition by this time from deserting Dutch soldiers. In 1628 when Daniel Ottens visited Maguindanao, he mentioned that the men knew and tried to make ammunition, but they did not know how to mill or corn the powder.¹⁴

Reaching the plaza for the audience, the Dutch were received with obvious respect and friendliness. They would be seated on *alcatieven*, carpets spread out on the ground or on small benches. The members of the Sultan's council took their place opposite them on a low stage surrounded with hangings of colorful *palampore* curtains. Sometimes even the pillars were decorated with cloths. Everyone was seated according to rank. In the middle of the stage the Sultan sat on a throne covered with a red scarlet cloth.



The Sultan of Mindanao in a Sedan with his Following

The Sultan, always the last to arrive, dressed in white with a *subha* or Islamic prayer beads around his neck, had been carried in by four men in a sedan chair including his regalia of official guns and *kris*-of-State. After the usual polite niceties were exchanged, the Sultan gave a signal that the letters could be read and the gifts opened. As soon as the Governor's

¹³ The practices the Dutch watched, I assume, was comparable with what I saw during my fieldwork in Cotabato in 1985 at a Datu's house where, within a high-walled compound the warriors practiced every day their art, jumping high, kicking side wards, and other directions, while pretending to hit with their iron weapons something in the air. One of the first things I was taught after my arrival in Cotabato was to fire a gun standing on the shore and needing to aim and hit a bobbing coconut on the water. My attempts were of course futile!

¹⁴ L.C.D. van Dijk, *Neêrlands vroegste Betrekkingen*: 256

letter was read which customarily acknowledged the satisfying political and economic relationships of loyalty, understanding and cooperation between the Company and the Sultan, the Sultan gave again a signal at which the crowd of thousands shouted out their joy on the good news and were jubilant and happy. Cannon shots were fired once again, and the armed guards discharged their *sinápan*. *Sinápan* is the Maguindanao word for *snaphaan*, a term introduced during the second half of the 17th century by the Dutch for an improved weapon from the musquet. The Dutch introduced the *snaphaan* to the Maguindanaos where it still is a generic name for a fireweapon or gun today. VOC officials at the audience were in awe and impressed by the show of wealth and remarked that the Sultan was not one of the least rulers. The Sultan always was accompanied at these official occasions by two guards, one in gold and the other in silver armor-clad.

After the audience, Maulano told the Dutch Officials that the relationship with the Honorable Company was so whole and complete that he compared it to a young coconut, full of milk that when cut open, the liquid bursts out; it could not have held a single drop more. The metaphor would be confirmed by the VOC official with equally laudable speech of friendship, but he would strike the iron while it was hot and express the hope to strengthen the bond and assure it with the exchange of tradegoods.¹⁵

However, no trade could begin unless the Sultan had given his permission. He was the first and foremost trader. All trade in harbors were negotiated through a Shabandar. The Dutch in Simoay communicated with regards to trade products and prices with the Chinese Shabandar Mataram, originally from Java, who was in-charge of the Sultan's trade products, prices, and warehouses. He could only talk business with the Dutch merchants though if the Sultan's secretary was present. He was attracted and commissioned by Sultan Kudarat and still served under the fifth Sultan, Manamir.¹⁶ Shabandar Mataram was highly respected by the Dutch who sometimes visited with him at his house where he received them very politely according to local customs.

The Maguindanao traded themselves annually to Manila, and frequently to Ternate, Banten, Batavia, Sumatra, Makassar, and Amboina. It is the reason that sometimes the Dutch could not obtain a satisfactory quantity of wax, paddy, or rice. When they complained and tried to get

¹⁵ VOC 1554: fol. 55-61.

¹⁶ VOC 1809: fol. 207-10 Mataram's letter to the Governor of Ternate.

promises of a certain quantity to be kept aside for them, Maulano would say that they traded with whomever they chose and not with empty ships. In my view the Maguindanao did not want to disappoint the Dutch too much and gave them opportunity to buy their products to keep the friendship alive, but the prices they could get for the wax for example in Manila were much higher than the Dutch would ever want to pay. For one *pikul* of wax of 125 Amsterdam pounds the Maguindano could receive the value of 30 reals or rixdollars in Manila but the Dutch only paid 18-20 rixdollar equivalent in cloth for it. Whenever during the bargaining stage the Maguindano raised the price of a trade product, be it tobacco, rice, paddy or wax, the Dutch would raise the price of the cloth. I have never come across any records of an exchange that involved actual coinage. The trade was completely a barter trade. There sometimes was disagreement about the quality of a product such as the wax not being clean enough which would be a bargaining chip for a cheaper price or the weights that were used were incorrect according to standards used. Shabandar Mataram would handle these disagreements. The Dutch cloths might be soiled and needed to be washed before it could be sold.

When a settlement of prices and quantities between the *shabandhar* and VOC merchants was reached, the mutual exchange of goods took place. All this time the sultan would have been kept informed. After the wares were counted and weighed, they were transferred to the ship and the sultan's stores. The items exchanged were in order of importance: wax, rice or paddy and tobacco against predominantly many types of Indian cloth of which Guinees Lywaet was one of the most important, the English call it long cloth. That the Guinees Lywaet was of importance to the population at-large is obvious from the generic word in Maguindanao for cloth nowadays, which is *ginis*. It reminds me of the term "Kleenex" which has also become a common generic reference for a paper tissue. On one occasion Maulano was seen distributing pieces of Guinees Lywaet to the town's people, setting it out against the collection of wax to accommodate the Dutch request.

The subject region of the Maguindanao rulers counted minimally 180,000 people according to a census taken by Brieving and Cloeck during their visit from June 1700 to January 1701 of which 25,000 lived in Simoay, now Cotabato City. To attract people was a high priority for the Sultanate and was successfully employed, not only through raids for which the Iranus and Maguindanaos are well known, but also through certain policies including escaping slaves who were always welcome, so were deserters, and Muslim rebels from the Moluccas area who did not

want to become Christians or Reformists. There was a prohibition on exporting slaves. The Dutch sometimes sold slaves at Simoay, especially those from Africa, who were desired by the Chinese who shipped them to China.

Chinese traders who came from China, Ternate, Java, and many other Southeast Asian ports were not allowed to leave without the Sultan's permission. They were encouraged to become Muslim and stay longer, a tactic also applied to the Dutch by slowing down the collection of the raw products from the hinterland, with some getting married and given a loan to pay bride wealth which subsequently had to be paid back. In the meantime, they added to the labor force. The Dutch had many dealings with the Chinese who would come to trade with them sometimes secretly through the ship's portholes at sunset or dawn because the sultan had not given his permission yet or was not going to. Quite a few Chinese were known to the Dutch officers as informants and came aboard for a chat and answered their questions for which they were rewarded with some cloth.

To further enhance this second part of the subtitle, the "Up Close," I like to relate about the mutual visits between the VOC employees and the *Kapitan Laut* Maulano, who was also addressed apparently with the title *General* by his subjects, but always referred to as Maulano in the Dutch sources. He was small of stature, simply dressed, but very curious. He sought to engage with his foreign visitors in conversation whenever he could find the time. He liked to discuss world affairs and was intrigued with how European rulers lived and governed. He inquired about habits and customs of other nations. He constantly put questions and tried to learn the foreigners' languages. The Dutch also remarked that he was proud, arrogant, insidious, cunning, and surpassed all his subjects in shrewdness.

On December 24, 1693, a day before Christmas, which was never celebrated among the reformed Dutch communities in the archipelago, the VOC officials were invited to Maulano's house. They describe the inside to be decorated the Muslim way with graceful wall-hangings of colored silks all around. Present were also two of Sultan Barahaman's sons who were married to Maulano's two daughters. The daughters wore costly gold bracelets and bands, the men carried their krisses with golden decorations on the sheaths and dressed in clothes to match their wealth. Maulano himself wore a simple white outfit with a few golden buttons on it. After polite traditional verbal exchanges, the men were invited to sit down. Maulano began to tell stories and boasted about his victorious expeditions to Borneo and about the time when the people of Sulu came

with eighty-six *korakor*s against his twenty, and he still won the fight. When he was asked about the events and stories about fighting with the upriver Kingdom of Buayan, he did not want to say much about it except that he chased 3,000 people away with his force of 1,300 and he conquered the town after which they made peace.

Next it was the turn of the Dutch to speak. After a conversation about some little things, they made it a point not to find the support they wanted in matters of trade with the Sultan since they were told that there was no wax. Large quantities apparently had just left for Manila. Hence the Dutch proposed to contract with them stipulating that a certain quantity of wax could be collected annually for a competitive price. Ideally, they wanted a residence and have some men in there to collect from whomever wanted to sell to them the fatty substance. But that proposal was out of the question and never allowed after the 1658 contract had been closed. The argument was that it would save the company costs because ships were sent without results. Maulano said he understood that, but he was not sure the Sultan would. He promised nevertheless to talk with the Sultan about it. It concluded the conversation inside the house, and they all stood up to take a walk. During the walk Maulano recalled memories of the past. For example, the place where the Spaniards had massacred many Maguindanaos in their fight opposing the building of a church when the Spaniards wanted to force them to convert to Catholicism. The story was familiar to the Dutch on this stroll in 1693 because it was written up in Governor Cos's register at the time in 1657 and customarily officers arriving on a new station had read the past registers and happenings of their predecessors. The Officers' opinion was that Maulano exaggerated his ability to be able to provide the number of fighting men and warships he said he was able to contribute when and where needed. Conversations like these were common when the Dutch visited Mindanao.

One might wonder why all these dozens and dozens of journals on a day-by-day basis were written during the VOC times? When the charter for the Dutch East India Company was composed in 1602, it stated on page 6 in the translation, "So as ships return from the journey, the generals or commanders of the fleet, ship or ships shall be obliged to deliver a report to us about the success of the voyage and provide us with a written account of it in the required format."¹⁷

¹⁷ Peter Reynders, Translator, Rupert Gerritsen, Editor *A TRANSLATION OF THE CHARTER OF THE DUTCH EAST INDIA COMPANY (VERENIGDE OOSTINDISCHE COMPAGNIE or VOC): GRANTED BY THE STATES GENERAL OF THE UNITED NETHERLANDS, 20 MARCH 1602*: p.6 https://rupertgerritsen.tripod.com/pdf/published/VOC_Charter_1602.pdf

On return from their walk with Maulano and his male family members, they found three tables with food prepared. While everyone was invited and sat down to eat his *baljar* dancing girls began to perform who danced very well according to the report. The wives and concubines of the Maulano and his household attended too. After the meal, the group was invited to a gun shooting match between the Maulano and his sons who, judging from the Dutch interpretations, were quite skilled at it. It was becoming dark and the party ended with the men being rowed aboard ship. It was suspected that the Maulano wanted to impress the Dutch officers.¹⁸

On August 8, 1699, the Maulano came to visit Captain Silver aboard his ship. Maulano noticed immediately that the skipper had no cannon or defense on his vessel, which greatly surprised him. The reason was that Silver accidentally had been stranded on Mindanao due to bad weather. He was supposed to have gone to Menado on Sulawesi. While aboard, Maulano ordered Silver to write down in his diary while watching him do it, that he desired from the Company to receive two drums, two trumpets, two measures for rice of 40 and 80 pounds, a scale and a 100 pound weight, two African slaves, two cranes, two pull saws, hacks of four thumbs size and two halberds. He told Silver to make sure that the Governor learned about this request.¹⁹ One year later, three vessels, a yacht, a sloop and a *pantjallang*—a small native vessel—were sent from Ternate to Simoay. The Dutch were allowed to build a temporary house next to the Maulano, now Sultan Kuday's residence which caused much curiosity. The Dutch had been sent to congratulate him on becoming Sultan which had happened at the time that skipper Silver was stranded at Simoay. They also came to collect the debt Maulano had made by taking the value of 442 rixdollars in cloths out of Silver's boat.

Unannounced, Sultan Kuday came to visit the Dutchmen in their new house and commented on how uncivil and unaccommodating it looked. Sultan Kuday was dressed this time in a damast padded Japanese rok or Banyan, which was fashionable for men to wear in the house in Europe. He was carried in a hangmat by heavily armed guards with his kriss, a pistol and sidegun alongside him. A very large contingent of heavily armed men surrounded him too as if ready to fight. Actually, he did fear for his life lately because of the way he had forced himself to the Sultanate. He was feared also for his tyrannic inhuman behavior and ruthlessness when having people krissed for very minor misdeeds and

¹⁸ VOC 1554: fol. 109-115

¹⁹ VOC 1637: fol. 118, October 19, 1699.

was therefore not liked by many of his subjects but in particular not by those from Boayan, the inland kindom or *sa raya* in the floodplains from where all the food and rice came. After the usual polite exchange, Sultan Kuday expressed the wish to hear some music. Two soldiers who played the violin and the flute very well were summoned. The Sultan requested some diminutions to be played, melodies in which the time values were shortened, which had been popularized in Venice a century earlier but were still practiced throughout the 17th and 18th centuries.

During the visit, they toasted each other with glasses of wine, to the Honorable Company government in Batavia and in Ternate as well as to the Sultan and his council members. It pleased Sultan Kuday very much. The highest honor to be bestowed to a ruler was to have his face and head washed with some bottles of rosewater that was respectfully applied. After several hours he returned to his own house. On a Friday, a few days later the Sultan returned twice on one day, at 9:00am and again at 4:00pm with the same entourage and for the same reason, but he wanted to hear the music accompanied under the beat of a gong. Again, there was more talk and drink. He repeated his visit once more when on 1st September, 1700 a large galley with sizeable muslim flags but also a prince's, a Dutch flag arrived from Sulu carrying as emissary shabandar Kindigan, a letter in Malay with Arabic letter and many tradegoods. Of course, he had to take his guest for a "concert" at the house of the Dutch too. It was a very busy time with hundreds of heavily armed men around which seemed to make the Dutch officials uneasy. They returned to their ship because salaries had to be paid to the crew anyway.

While there, the Sultan's pleasure boat with ten rowers passed by in which they could see his wife sit in it with other women and on the prow a trumpeter playing wailing sounds.

One of the Dutch crew members had been sick for a long time and died. They dressed him with a new shirt and pair of trousers, burying him on the beach on a place that had been drawn on a map where it said "doodkist" or coffin. In the meantime, negotiations took place about the price of wax. The Dutch found the asking price too high, however they wanted to sell about 400 rixdollars worth of cloths.²⁰ When five deserters left the ship and the Sultan took them under his protection, the Dutch decided to leave. They did it following the code of ethical rules.

Once the trade process was concluded, the Dutch would let the Sultan know when they were intending to leave and ask if he had any

²⁰ VOC 1641: fol. 674
Page 86 |

letters or matters to convey, so that the necessary preparations could begin. When ready, the Sultan's letters were paraded three times in front of the gathered crowd, slowly moving towards the ship and eventually being delivered on a silver platter under three parasols followed by the usual odd number of gunshots from both sides.²¹ They sailed away when the NE monsoon began in December or January. Depending on the wind and the current it took them five to seven days to return to Ternate.

Conclusion

The double Dutch trade relations—with Manila and with Maguindanao—recounted in this paper are remarkable for the striking contrasts in the contents, the manner the trade was conducted, the personalities involved, and the politics revealed in these trading transactions. In terms of contents, the three commodities circulating across the Asia-Pacific trade networks were metals, cloths, and spices. Cloths and spices were under Dutch control, while metals, particularly silver from Spanish America was a near-monopoly of the Spaniards. These shipments of Inter-Asiatic major transactions were carried out with cargoes amounting to large quantities and high values of one hundred thousand to several hundreds of thousands rixdollars between major entrepots.

In contrast, the principal commodities from Mindanao were forest, agricultural and sea products such as bees wax, paddy, rice, tobacco, coconut oil, a low-grade cinnamon, and clove bark in exchange for Indian cloths, and Dutch and European products, including weapons. Wax and at times rice and tobacco were their primary commodities through which the Maguindanao rulers confronted the world of trade and politics of Southeast Asia.

In terms of the manner of trade, there is a striking contrast between illegal black-market subterfuge utilized by Batavia and Manila traders, versus fully open face-to-face trade diplomacy between the VOC office in Ternate and Maguindanao. The wealth and almost cinematic ethnographic details revealed in Dutch-Maguindanao interactions are unmatched by any Batavia-Manila trading accounts, which had to be conducted through unofficial intermediaries that were often neither Spanish nor Dutch.

In terms of personalities and politics, the Manila protagonists were subject to guidance and control from Madrid and Mexico, and so was

²¹ VOC 1637: fol. 124

Batavia under the control of the Directorate of the Gentlemen XVII in the Netherlands to the Governor-General and Council in the Indies, but the Maguindanao sultans were autonomous. As mentioned in our text “the Company would not prevent the Maguindanao rulers and their *nakodas*, ship captains from trading with other nations because the members of the royalty and Council wanted to maintain friendly relations with whomever they chose. If they would want to contract with other nations, they would inform the Governor of Ternate thereof.” This surely was just diplomatic speech for agency, not seeking permission from a Dutch overlord.

The Dutch in Ternate, where all policies, regulations and movements of ships were in the interest of maintaining the monopoly on spices, as well as the connections with the Maguindanao, were seen as necessary voyages to an outpost that needed to be kept neutral and function as a buffer zone against infiltration from possible outsiders, especially European traders.

The immediate question arising from this review of trade conduct occurring some 400 years ago is the altered contexts of contemporary trade relations. Batavia is no longer Dutch, but Indonesia is in control of Jakarta, just as Manila is no longer Spanish, but the Philippines in control of Manila.

The unresolved central historical question is how to mediate the incorporation of the once independent Maguindanao sultanates recently incorporated into the Philippine nation-state under the negotiated compromise of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. In my book, *Triumph of Moro Diplomacy*, I attempted a historical reconstruction of Moro economic independence in relation to Dutch and Spanish colonial rivalry. The conference paper just presented is to push that narrative into deeper concrete detail and existential human drama. Obviously, there is much more to be written, unearthed, and understood about these trade relations. The field awaits younger historians, anthropologists, economists, and other scholars to expand our understanding of the circulations of commodities, the modes of transaction, and the mediation of inter-group politics at the regional, national, and specially at the local level.

Social Relations in Early History: José Rizal and the Netherlands Connection

Gerard Arp

Translator of “Noli Me Tangere” and “El Filibusterismo”
from English to Dutch language

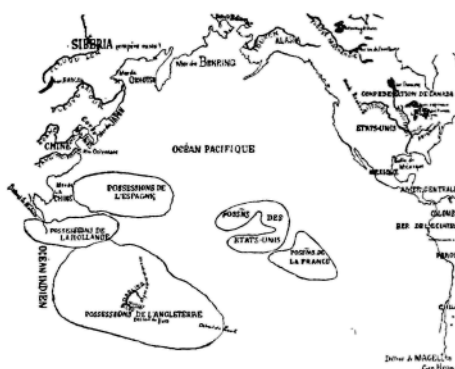
For many people, Dr. José Rizal (Philippines, 1861-1896) needs no further introduction. He was an eye doctor, an academic and a linguist. But Rizal became famous as the writer of the novels *Noli Me Tangere* and *El filibusterismo*.²² As the leading advocate for reforms, he was tried and executed by the Spanish in Manila. Rizal is considered a national hero in the Philippines.

Rizal and the Dutch ... far away, but close neighbors

The Netherlands is so far away from the Philippines, and yet, in the days of Rizal, the Dutch were some of the Philippines' closest neighbors, especially in the nearby islands of the Dutch Indies—the present-day Indonesia. The Dutch ruled the many different peoples of the Indonesian islands at the time.

Rizal drew a map once of the colonial powers in the Pacific, for an article titled *The Philippines a Century Hence*.²³

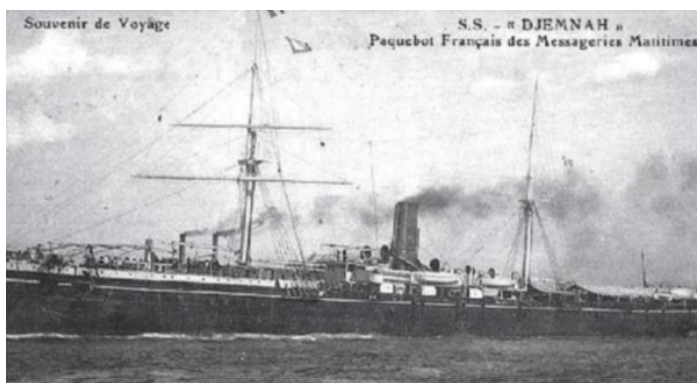
In many ways, the story of Rizal and the Dutch is related to colonization, to the Dutch in the Dutch Indies.



José Rizal's first contact with the Dutch was probably during his first trip abroad, on the ship to Europe in 1882. He wrote about meeting many foreigners:

²² The novels are available in Dutch, titled *Raak me niet aan!* and *De revolutie*.

²³ Source: José Rizal, *The Philippines A Century Hence* ([The Philippines a Century Hence](http://ThePhilippinesaCenturyHence.org) (gutenberg.org)); originally published in Spanish in *La Solidaridad* from Sept. 1889 to Jan. 1890.



The mailboat Djemnah took Rizal from Singapore to Marseille

‘Everything that is happening here is amusing. I’m with a German, an Englishman and a Dutchman. I realize that this is a small Babel.’²⁴

Rizal, then 20 years old, easily befriended people, and was especially fond of the four young Dutch girls, sisters, who were on their way from the Dutch Indies to The Hague. It was hard for him to say goodbye in Marseille. He wrote:

*‘Farewell then, merry companions and friends. ... I realize that if friendships are forged in travel, I have not been born to travel.’*²⁵

These girls probably taught him his first Dutch words.

Did Rizal visit the Netherlands?

Rizal studied and traveled all over Europe. But it is not clear whether he ever visited Holland. There is no record of that, but some remarks he made in his letters may suggest that he did.

About his first travels in Europe, in 1886, Rizal wrote to his family:

*‘In some houses in Germany, particularly in Holland, what I see with regard to paintings is that they hang on the walls very old plates’*²⁶

²⁴ *Reminiscences and Travels of Jose Rizal*; part II, Travel diaries; Singapore, 12-5-1882.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, Marseille, 13-6-1882.

²⁶ *One hundred letters of Jose Rizal to his Parents, Brothers, Sisters, Relatives*; letter from Heidelberg, 7-2-1886.

During his second trip to Europe, in 1890, Rizal wrote to his German friend, Professor Ferdinand Blumentritt:

*'I am leaving Paris but I do not know where I am going; maybe to Holland to visit the libraries there. There must be some books on the Philippines of the XVIIIth century there.'*²⁷

Rizal was interested in the history, culture and languages of Southeast-Asia.



Prof. Blumentritt (portrait by Rizal)

Blumentritt replied a few days later:

*'When you go to Holland, the libraries of Leyden and Utrecht will offer you rich material for your studies.'*²⁸

Rizal wrote back:

'I am studying Dutch and I am searching the bookstores to complete my collection. I already wrote to Holland ordering Kern's new book.'

Professor Kern at the University of Leiden was an Orientalist and a specialist on Southeast-Asian languages. Anyway, Rizal almost came to live in Holland.

As a result of his books, it was dangerous for him to go back to the Philippines. Therefore, his friend Blumentritt suggested:

*'Don't go to the Philippines yet; it is better for you to go to Leyden and see professor Kern and you study the scientific basis of the Malayan language.'*²⁹

Doctor Blumentritt suggested that he could earn a living at one of the universities in Holland and make it his permanent home. But Rizal

²⁷ *The Rizal-Blumentritt Correspondence* (Vol. II – part 2); Paris, 20-1-1890.

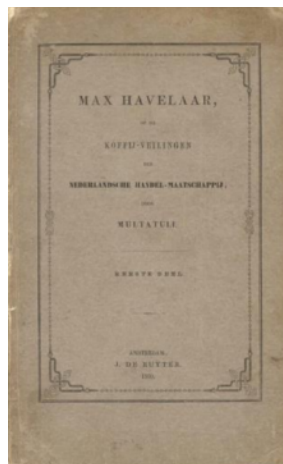
²⁸ *Ibid.*, 24-1-1890.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, 26-4-1891.

replied that his parents did not like the idea of leaving the burning sun of the tropics for the cold Dutch mists. Rizal's love for his country and his dedication to the cause of the people in his homeland may have been a stronger reason.

Rizal's ties with the Netherlands – as a writer

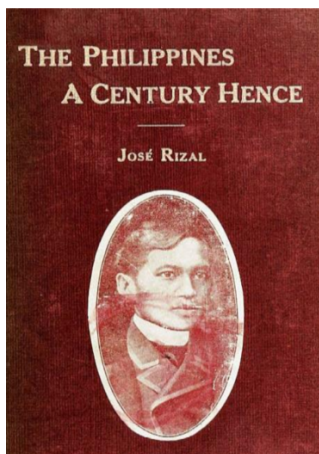
Dr. José Rizal was an academic and a writer. He not only read scientific literature from Holland. He also read the novel *Max Havelaar* by the Dutch writer Multatuli (Eduard Douwes Dekker), though maybe in the English translation. This novel was a protest against the abuse of the people in the Dutch Indies.



Cover first edition of the 'Max Havelaar'

Rizal wrote to his friend Blumentritt:

'The book of Multatuli that I will send you as soon as I get it, is very interesting. But since the author is a Dutchman, his attacks are not as violent as mine.'



One of Rizal's political writings is an essay named 'The Philippines A Century Hence'. In it he gives Holland as an example of colonialism, blocking the road to progress ...: 'Now, statecraft has various means at its disposal for checking a people on the road to progress: the brutalization of the masses through a caste addicted to the government, aristocratic, as in the Dutch colonies, or theocratic, as in the Philippines ...'³⁰

³⁰ Source: José Rizal, *The Philippines A Century Hence* (The Philippines a Century Hence (gutenberg.org)); originally published in Spanish in *La Solidaridad* from Sept. 1889 to Jan. 1890.

Rizal goes on:

'If the Philippines secure their independence after heroic and stubborn conflicts, they can rest assured that neither England, nor Germany, nor France, and still less Holland, will dare to take up what Spain has been unable to hold. ...'

'Holland is sensible and will be content to keep the Moluccas and Java. Sumatra offers her a greater future than the Philippines, whose seas and coasts have a sinister omen for Dutch expeditions.'

Rizal's ties with the Netherlands – as an academic

Later, while Rizal was in exile, an article he had written on the spelling of Tagalog was translated by professor Blumentritt to German, and published in a Dutch magazine.³¹ This was probably through the efforts of professor Kern in Leiden.

Professor Kern also wrote a review of Rizal's publication about the story of the monkey and the tortoise, comparing it to other Indonesian versions of the story.³² In his article Rizal had asked:

*'... that Oriental scholars who make a study of the Archipelago may tell us if there are tales of this kind known there in connexion with the versions we have been placing before our readers.'*³³



Hendrik Kern

³¹ Die Transcription des Tagalog, in: *Bijdragen tot de taal-, land- en volkenkunde van Nederlandsch-Indie*, 1893.

³² Prof. H. Kern, The Tale of the Tortoise and the Monkey, article published in 1893 in *Actes du huitième congrès international des orientalistes*.

³³ Dr. J. Rizal, article Two Eastern fables in *Trübner's American and Oriental Literary Record*, 1889.

Rizal admired the work of the Dutch professor Kern.

But Kern was an academic, who, unlike Blumentritt, was critical about Rizal's ways to seek progress in the Philippines. He wrote:

*'In my opinion Rizal, though with the best intentions, was wrong to elevate his people by writing a political novel in Spanish.'*³⁴

In Kern's more colonial ideas, the Filipino people had no need for politics or the knowledge of Spanish.

Rizal in the Dutch press

What did the Dutch people know about Rizal?

During his lifetime Rizal was unknown in Holland, because his novels had not been translated into Dutch.

The first Dutch article about Rizal was published in 1889 in a newspaper in Soerabaja, in the Dutch Indies. It mentioned the *Noli me tangere* and how Rizal's family suffered the punishment by the Spanish. They wrote:

*'Last year he published in Berlin a Tendenz-novel with the title 'Noli me Tangere', in which he, like Multatuli once did for the Dutch Indies, painted the present conditions in the Philippines and especially the unbearable torturing tyranny of the priests.'*³⁵

Other newspapers and magazines in the Dutch Indies wrote about the banishment of Rizal to Mindanao and the ban of his novel *Noli me tangere*.

Only after his death did Rizal get attention in the press in the Netherlands, when the revolution in the Philippines had already started. Many newspapers shared articles about his execution and about his book *Noli me tangere*, as:

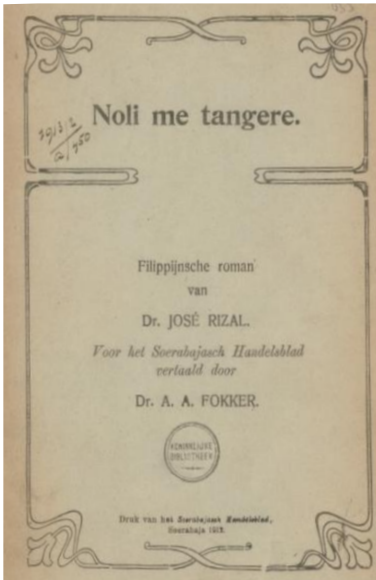
'In the full sense of the word a masterpiece of delicate and at the same time precise analysis ...'

³⁴ Prof. H. Kern, *Tijdschrift voor Neerland's Indië*, 1897, 1e deel.

³⁵ *Soerabaiasch-Handelsblad*, 14 January 1889.

Of course the Catholic press was less positive about his book.

It is remarkable that the newspapers wrote positively about Rizal's cry for reforms in the Philippines, without comparing it to the just as abominable conditions in the Dutch colony at the time.



First Dutch translation of the *Noli me tangere*, in 1912.

Long after Rizal's death in 1912, the first Dutch translation of his novel *Noli me tangere* was published by the newspaper *Soerabajasch Handelsblad* in the Dutch Indies.³⁶ It did not get any attention in the Netherlands.

But this Dutch edition, and the story of Rizal's life and death probably inspired the young Dutch writer Theun de Vries. In 1933 he published the book *Doctor José droomt vergeefs* (Doctor José dreams in vain).³⁷ The book is only available in Dutch, and is about a man coming back to his island, a school, the betrayal by a priest, and finally his execution. But this novel lacks the character and feeling of Rizal's work, though De Vries became a famous author later in life.

Unfortunately, today, Rizal and his work are still little known in Holland, so there is still some work to do.



Cover of the novel *Doctor Jose droomt vergeefs*, 1933.

³⁶ *Noli me tangere*; Dutch translation of 1912.

³⁷ Theun de Vries, *Doctor Jose droomt vergeefs*; 1933.



ANNEXES

Webinar Program Resource Speakers and Panelists

**"PHILIPPINES - NETHERLANDS CONNECTIONS @ 70:
RECONSTRUCTING HISTORY AND FORGING AHEAD"**
 9 - 10 NOVEMBER 2021 | 8:30 - 11:00 AM NL/CET | 3:30 - 6:00 PM PST
 #FILOUTCHSOLIDARITY@70

DAY 1 | 9 NOVEMBER 2021

<p>KEYNOTE SPEAKER</p> <p><i>Future of PH - NL Relations</i></p> <p>H.E. TEDDODO L. LOCSIN JR. Secretary of Foreign Affairs</p> 		<p>KEYNOTE SPEAKER</p> <p><i>Future of PH - NL Relations</i></p> <p>H.E. PAUL HUIJTS Secretary - General of Foreign Affairs</p> 	
<p>OPENING REMARKS</p> <p>H.E. J. EDUARDO MALAYA Philippine Ambassador to The Netherlands</p> 		<p>OPENING REMARKS</p> <p>H.E. SASKIA DE LANG Dutch Ambassador to the Philippines</p> 	
<p>PANELIST</p> <p><i>Netherlands Indo-Pacific Guidelines</i></p> <p>HON. KARIN MÖSSENLECHNER Director Department of Asia and Oceania</p> 		<p>REACTOR (OPEN FORUM)</p> <p><i>Strategic Policy Advisor Department of Asia and Oceania Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kingdom of The Netherlands</i></p> <p>HON. MARK VERSTEDEN</p> 	
<p>WELCOME REMARKS</p> <p>HON. JOSE MARIA A. CARING Director-General Foreign Service Institute</p> 		<p>OPENING REMARKS</p> <p>REV. FR. ROBERTO C. YAP, SJ President Ateneo de Manila University</p> 	

SESSION 1: STATE OF PH - DUTCH / EU COOPERATION

<p>PANELIST 2</p> <p><i>Bilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation</i></p> <p>PROF. ALVIN P. ANG Professor Economics Department Ateneo de Manila University</p> 		<p>PANELIST 3</p> <p><i>Doing Business in The Netherlands and The Philippines</i></p> <p>MR. MITCHEL SMOLDERS Executive Director Dutch Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines</p> 		<p>PANELIST 4</p> <p><i>Human Capital Development in Ports and Shipping Business</i></p> <p>HON. ALBERT BOS Philippine Honorary Consul General, Rotterdam Director, STC International</p> 	
<p>PANELIST 5</p> <p><i>Science and Technology Cooperation</i></p> <p>DR. MARY ANN P. SAYOC Chairperson Philippine Seed Industry Association</p> 		<p>PANELIST 6</p> <p><i>Agricultural Cooperation</i></p> <p>MR. RICHARD VAN DER MADEN Chairperson AgriterraPHs Inc.</p> 			

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IN CELEBRATION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PHILIPPINES - NETHERLANDS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

PRESENTED BY:



DAY 2 | 10 NOVEMBER 2021

BOOK LAUNCH: "CROSSROADS: A COMPENDIUM OF AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE NETHERLANDS, 1951 - 2021"

SESSION 2: RECONSTRUCTING HISTORICAL TIES

PANELIST 2
Trade, Economic Relations and Social Connection in Early History

PANELIST 1



Battle of La Naval de Manila
PROF. AMBETH OCAMPO
Professor of History, Ateneo de Manila University |
Knights Grand Officer, Success Chapter,
Order of the Knights of Rizal |
Editorial Page Columnist, Philippine Daily Inquirer



Jose Rizal and the Dutch Connection
MR. GERARD ABB
Translator of the
Noli Me Tangere and *El Filibusterismo*
in the Dutch language

PROF. BUURDJE LAARHOVEN
Professor
Department of Arts and Humanities,
Hawaii Pacific University

PANELIST 3



PANELISTS 4
*Hotel Orange Documentary Project:
Influence of Blessed Titus Brandsma in The Philippines*

MR. BERNARDO F. CANABERAL
Documentarist |
Media Practitioner





MR. ANTONIO Y. REYES
Film Director |
Writer | Producer

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by the [ateneo](https://www.ateneo.edu/2021/11/08/crossroads) team

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PHILIPPINES - NETHERLANDS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

PRESENTED BY:



RESOURCE PERSON
Intro to Session Objectives, Structure of Session, Background of Panelists and Synthesis

OPEN FORUM | MODERATOR



MR. KEVIN CDC PUNZALAN
Senior Policy Officer
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
in the Philippines



ASSOC. PROF. WILHELMINA L. CABO
Associate Professor
National College of Public Administration and
Governance, University of the Philippines

MASTER OF CEREMONIES



PROF. MANUEL B. ENVERGA III
Program Director
European Studies Program,
Ateneo de Manila University

RESOURCE PERSON
Intro to Session Objectives, Structure of Session, Background of Panelists and Synthesis

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MR. KRITZMAN C. CABALLERO
Lecturer
European Studies Program
Ateneo de Manila University



SIR ANTON LUTTER, KCR
Chapter Commander
The Hague Chapter, Knights of Rizal

MASTER OF CEREMONIES |
SUMMARY, CONCLUSION,
CLOSING



PROF. MANUEL B. ENVERGA III
Program Director
European Studies Program,
Ateneo de Manila University



Philippines-Netherlands Connections @ 70

J. Eduardo Malaya - The Philippine Star

October 24, 2021 | 12:00am

2021 is an auspicious year for the Philippines and the Netherlands as it marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations. Most Filipinos have long been familiar with Dutch products without much thought about their origin, such as buying Dove, Surf and other Unilever items or filling up for gasoline at Royal Dutch Shell stations.

Even at this time of pandemic when economic activities have slowed down, dredger vessels from the Royal Boskalis Westminster NV, one of the world's leading dredging companies, are busy in the Manila Bay undertaking land reclamation and development for the new international airport being developed by the San Miguel Aerocity Inc. in Bulacan. As the second international gateway to Metro Manila, it will unlock further opportunities and boost growth north of the capital region.

Having been in The Hague for the last seven months, I have been surprised to learn of numerous connections between our two countries and peoples, many going a long way back. The cherished queso de bola that Filipino families cannot go without as part of Christmas noche buena fare turned out not to be Spanish but Edam cheese from the Netherlands.

Our devotion to the Our Lady of La Naval de Manila, which is enshrined at Quezon City's Santo Domingo Church, arose from the anxieties over the forays in 1600 by a Dutch fleet under Olivier van Noort, who was in search of spices and conquests. Repulsed by Spanish and Filipino forces, van Noort managed to return to Rotterdam and when he did so, became the first Dutch to circumnavigate the world.

Rizal's writing of the *El Filibusterismo* was influenced by his reading of the 1860 novel *Max Havelaar* by Eduard Douwes Dekker on the similarly oppressive colonial conditions in the then Dutch East Indies, now Indonesia. Dutch and Belgian priests and nuns came in at the turn of the 20th century when Spanish religious had to leave, and through the parishes and schools they ran, helped shape hearts and minds.

Bilateral relations at the present time are based on more practical foundations. The Netherlands has consistently been among the five top investor countries in the Philippines, and at \$245 million in 2020, was the number one among the 28 European Union (EU) countries. Philippine exports to the Netherlands was \$1.9 billion in 2020 and growing.

As countries with significant maritime interests, cooperation in the area of maritime sphere is robust, with some 22,000 Filipino seafarers onboard Dutch-flagged vessels that ply the waters of the world. Some 41,313 Dutch tourists visited and enjoyed our pristine beaches and shopping centers in 2019, and we would like to see them back once leisure travels normalize.

We are fortunate to have active collaborators in keeping business-to-business engagements strong. The Makati-based Dutch Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines has been proactive, serving not only as a valuable platform for collaboration and engagements with Philippine agencies and other companies but also in encouraging more Dutch companies to do business in the Philippines.

In mid-November, in cooperation with the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, they will conduct an investment seminar on opportunities in Davao. Its counterpart, the Philippine-Netherlands Business Council, has commenced planning of activities for the months ahead.

With refreshed outlook and to properly mark the 70-year milestone in relations, the Philippines and Netherlands got together in June 2021 for a Bilateral Consultation meeting, producing a joint work program with emphasis on cooperation in trade and investments, water management, maritime matters, agriculture and science and technology.

All these come timely with the issuance by the Netherlands in November 2020 of its “Indo-Pacific: Guidelines for strengthening Dutch and EU cooperation with partners in Asia,” which was followed in September this year by the European Union’s “Strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.” These policy papers are clear signals for a significant, long-term and cooperative engagement with our region. The Philippines has a big role in this region-to-region interface as coincidentally it recently assumed the role of country coordinator of ASEAN-EU relations up to 2025.

Indeed, as the Netherlands and the EU have realized, the Indo-Pacific region has become the world's strategic and economic center of gravity, with ASEAN in the middle of it.

It is with this outlook that the Philippine embassy, in partnership with the Ateneo de Manila University, the Netherlands embassy in Manila and the Foreign Service Institute, is hosting the webinar “Philippines-Netherlands Connections @70: Reconstructing History and Forging Ahead” on Nov. 9-10 (<https://sites.google.com/dfa.gov.ph/fildutchsolidarity70/>).

It will feature senior government officials, business leaders, historians and other distinguished personalities with the aim of assessing the relations and contributing to a roadmap to strengthen and scale up cooperation. The book “Crossroads,” a compendium of the bilateral agreements signed from 1946 up to the present, will also be launched during the webinar.

At around the time when Spanish-held Manila was wary of any sightings of Dutch ships, a different, more congenial interaction was taking place down south. Dutch VOC trading vessels from Ternate in the Moluccas came to trade with the Maguindanao sultanate in Cotabato. After sailing for five to seven days depending upon the winds, they would drop anchor in Morro Bay and be warmly received by Sultan Kudarat and his court. Accounts say that these arrangements lasted for two centuries during the reign of eight sultans. Indeed, mutually beneficial relations between our two peoples have gone for ages and have deep roots.

As we mark 70 years of diplomatic relations, we say proost! Mabuhay!

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J. Eduardo Malaya is the Philippine Ambassador to the Netherlands.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2021/10/24/2136225/philippines-netherlands-connections-70>

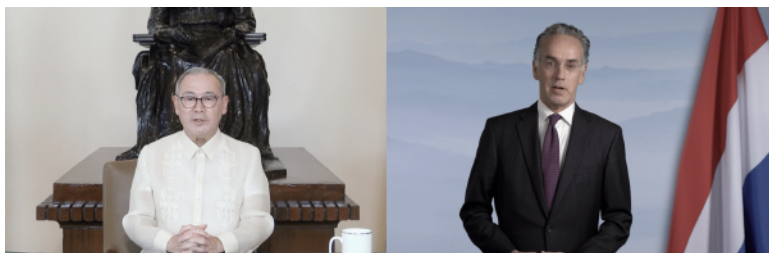
MANILA BULLETIN

PH, Netherlands mark 70th year of diplomatic relations; vow to strengthen ties

Published November 10, 2021, 2:08 PM

by Betheena Unite

The Philippines and the Netherlands have affirmed their intent to forge stronger bilateral partnership and mapped out areas where they can further collaborate as both nations mark their 70th year of diplomatic relations.



DFA Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. (left) and Secretary General Paul Huijts of The Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs (right) (Photo courtesy of The Hague PE)

The two countries commemorated their seven-decade partnership through a webinar on Nov. 9, where they both conveyed their commitment to sustain their cooperation in various sectors.

It drew a large and diverse audience in both countries, including government officials, business leaders, community members, and students.

Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. expressed that “the Philippines is committed to re-energizing its relationship with the Netherlands, with emphasis on economic cooperation, and special focus on the agri-food, water and infrastructure; the circular economy; and maritime and healthcare sectors.”

“The Netherlands’ renewed foreign policy interest in the Indo-Pacific region is a positive development, particularly its commitment to sustainable trade and investment relations, to reducing one-sided strategic dependencies, to establish more reliable value chains in the Indo-Pacific region and to provide active support for EU negotiations on free trade agreements with Indo-Pacific countries,” Locsin said.

“We are hopeful that this will further expand business-to-business engagements between the private sectors of our countries,” the top Filipino diplomat added.

Secretary General Paul Huijts, of Netherlands’ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the other hand, said that “the strength of our countries’ economic ties are shown by the fact that the Netherlands is the second biggest EU trading partner of the Philippines and the biggest EU investor in the Philippines, and more recently, sustainability has become a key element for our bilateral cooperation.”

He cited the Manila Bay Sustainable Development Masterplan as a result of the collaboration of Dutch and Filipino experts on sustainability and water management.

Huijts also noted the contributions of some 150 Dutch companies operating in the Philippines while the Netherlands have welcomed “many overseas Filipino workers, including some 22,000 Filipino seafarers who sail on Dutch flagged vessels and help keep the global economy moving.”

The Netherlands’ Indo Pacific guidelines and the EU’s Indo-Pacific strategy “underscore the growing importance of the Indo Pacific region in which the Philippines is a strategic player,” Huijts said. “As a seafaring nation, we take a particular interest in freedom of passage and other topical issues in the region.”

Ambassador Karin Mossenlechner, director for Asia and Pacific in the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, underscored that the Netherlands and the EU are aware that the geopolitical and geo-economic balance of power in the world is shifting, noting that the Indo-Pacific region is increasingly becoming more strategically important for the EU. Thus, he said that “it is important that The Netherlands and the Philippines, and the countries in the Indo-Pacific, join hands and work together in bringing about a sustainable post-COVID-19 recovery with green growth.”

The Philippines recently assumed its role as country coordinator of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-European Union (ASEAN-EU) relations up to 2025.

“Both the Philippines and the Netherlands are maritime countries, and perhaps we can learn from the Dutch, most of whose land has been

reclaimed from the sea. This knowledge is crucial in these times of rising sea levels and climate change,” said Philippine Ambassador to The Netherlands J. Eduardo Malaya, who also spoke during the program.

The two-day webinar is hosted by the Embassy of the Philippines in The Hague, in partnership with the Embassy of the Kingdom of The Netherlands in Manila, the Ateneo de Manila University and the Philippine Foreign Service Institute.

The second-day session will focus on the historical foundations of the relations.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/11/10/ph-netherlands-mark-70th-year-of-diplomatic-relations-vow-to-strengthen-ties/>

**Philippines-Netherlands Connections At 70: Reconstructing
History and Forging Ahead**

By Roy Liet Atjam | November 17, 2021 | The Hague



The Hague, 10 November 2021, the Philippines and the Netherlands celebrated the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries on the 9th and 10th of November 2021 utilizing a webinar.

Following is the inaugurating remarks by H.E. Ambassador Jose Eduardo Malaya.

It is with delight that I open and deliver welcome remarks at this webinar, the vision for which is both ambitious and grounded, forward-looking and retrospective, and deals with historical matters but more so, on current issues that are relevant to the Philippines and the Netherlands.

As Ambassador, I can perhaps be excused for being effusive and highly optimistic about the bilateral relations and its prospects, after all this year 2021 is its 70th year anniversary. There are indeed strong reasons for highlighting these relations. Just consider the following:

- Netherlands has consistently been among the top five investor countries in the Philippines historically, thus Dutch businesses are crucial for the Philippine economy;
- 22,000 Filipino seafarers are onboard Dutch-flag vessels that ply the waters of the world, making Filipinos the biggest single nationality group in the vast Dutch merchant marine fleet
- Both the Philippines and the Netherlands are maritime countries, and perhaps we can learn from the Dutch, most of whose land have been reclaimed from the sea. This knowledge is crucial in these times of rising sea levels and climate change
- And going back to history, to the Spanish colonial times, while the Spaniards in Manila were apprehensive when seeing Dutch ships, similar vessels were much welcomed in Cotabato in the then Sultanate of Maguindanao as they were there for trade and commerce

But I would be getting ahead of myself and of this webinar, and it's better to hear about all these from the impressive line-up of resource persons – from government, business, the academe and other sectors – in the course of today and tomorrow.

Suffice it for me to say that we are fortunate to have had the strong partnerships of a number of key entities in preparing for this webinar.

First, the Ateneo de Manila University, particularly its European Studies Program, the first entity we asked for support, which was equally enthusiastic. Thanks for ensuring that we have substance and academic rigor in this webinar;

Also, salamat po to Ambassador Saskia de Lang and her team at the Dutch Embassy in Manila for their whole-hearted support to this project. Tending to the bilateral relations is less challenging because of Ambassador Saskia's helping hand at the Manila-end.

And certainly, dank u wel to our friends from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, notably Director Karin Mossenlechner and Strategic Policy Advisor Mark Versteden, who are here with us in person at the Philippine Embassy.

And also to the Foreign Service Institute and many others who lent valuable support.

A two-session webinar is certainly not enough to cover all the key aspects of the relations, but in my view, we have a good mix of policy makers and subject matter experts who can share key information, ideas and insights about both countries and the relations, including people-to-people engagements, which we – including the students with us – will be delighted to know and can benefit from. And with deeper understanding of and focus on the relations, those of us in government and the private sector can be guided in hopefully framing a workable roadmap for the future of the relations.

My embassy team and I hope that the webinar will contribute to forging a stronger bilateral partnership, even as we look forward to the next 70 years of productively working together.

I wish everyone an insightful and engaging webinar.

Ambassador J Eduardo Malaya's welcome remarks on day two of the webinar.

In my opening remarks yesterday, I expressed optimistic about the bilateral relations and its future. The presentations and discussions that followed affirmed that view.

But to be candid, I am more excited about today's session. As someone who occasionally dabbles in and find joy in writing on law, history and other subjects, I am excited to know more about the cultural dimensions of the relations, especially the early interactions between Filipinos and the Dutch. Today, more than even before, culture plays a vital role in international relations. Cultural engagements provide us the chance to appreciate points of commonality and, where there are differences, to understand the motivations and humanity that underlie them. As one will learn from today's session, our two peoples share much in common despite belonging to different corners of the world.

The other reason for my excitement is that this morning we will launch a compendium of the agreements between our two countries.

The book *Crossroads: A Compendium of Agreements between the Philippines and the Netherlands, 1951 to 2021* is a chronicle of the work that we have done together in the past years. It is important to document the past and present works because it is only by building upon them that we can achieve more. *Proost! Mabuhay! Salamat po!*

Foreign Affairs Secretary Mr Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr and Secretary-General Paul Huijts of The Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs also addressed the festive online gathering.

In his keynote address, Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. stated that “the Philippines is committed to re-energizing its relationship with The Netherlands, with emphasis on economic cooperation, and special focus on the agri-food, water and infrastructure; the circular economy; and maritime and healthcare sectors “. Secretary Teodoro went on to say, “The Netherlands’ renewed foreign policy interest in the Indo-Pacific region is a positive development, particularly its commitment to sustainable trade and investment relations, to reducing one-sided strategic dependencies, to establish more reliable value chains in the Indo-Pacific region and to provide active support for EU negotiations on free trade agreements with Indo-Pacific countries,” Secretary Locsin added. “We are hopeful that this will further expand business-to-business engagements between the private sectors of our countries.” The Philippines recently assumed its role as country coordinator of the ASEAN-EU relations up to 2025, and it will give greater significance to bilateral initiatives.

For his part, Secretary General Paul Huijts of The Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs remarked: “the strength of our countries’ economic ties is shown by the fact that the Netherlands is the second biggest EU trading partner of the Philippines and the biggest EU investor in the Philippines, and more recently, sustainability has become a key element for our bilateral cooperation.” He cited the Manila Bay Sustainable Development Masterplan as a result of the collaboration of Dutch and Filipino experts on sustainability and water management.

Secretary General Huijts also noted the contributions of some 150 Dutch companies operating in the Philippines, adding that “at the same time, the Netherlands have welcomed many Overseas Filipino workers, including some 22,000 Filipino seafarers who sail on Dutch flagged vessels and help keep the global economy moving.”

The Netherlands’ Indo Pacific guidelines and the EU’s Indo-Pacific strategy “underscore the growing importance of the Indo Pacific region in which the Philippines is a strategic player,” Secretary General Huijts said. “As a seafaring nation, we take a particular interest in freedom of passage and other topical issues in the region.”

With the theme “Philippines-Netherlands Connections @ 70: Reconstructing History and Forging Ahead,” the first day of the two-day webinar drew a large and diverse audience in both countries, including government officials, business leaders, community members, and students.

Ambassador Karin Mossenlechner, Director for Asia and Pacific in the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs expounded on the Dutch Indo-Pacific Guidelines and the implications of this policy shift for the Philippines. “The Netherlands and the EU are aware that the geopolitical and geo-economic balance of power in the world is shifting. The Indo-Pacific region is increasingly becoming more strategically important for the EU. It is important that The Netherlands and the Philippines, and the countries in the Indo-Pacific, join hands and work together in bringing about a sustainable post-Covid-19 recovery with green growth.”

Ambassador De Lang stated that “the future of The Netherlands and the Philippines is all about hope — as we are celebrating the 70 years of diplomatic relations, we are celebrating our joint future and we are renewing our bilateral vows.”

Other panelists of the first-day session included Professor Alvin Ang of the Ateneo de Manila University, Mr. Mitchel Smolders of the Dutch Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines, Philippine Consul General, a.h. in Rotterdam Albert Bos; Dr. Mary Ann Sayoc of the Philippine Seed Industry Association; and Mr. Richard van der Maden of AgriTerra.

The second-day session “Reconstructing Historical Ties” will be held on 10 November, and will focus on the historical foundations of the relations.

The two-day webinar was hosted by the Embassy of the Philippines in The Hague, in partnership with the Embassy of the Kingdom of The Netherlands in Manila, the Philippine Foreign Service and the Ateneo de Manila University.

Kudos to the organizers for hosting such an outstanding webinar, it has been a demonstration of the excellent ongoing cooperation between the Philippines and the Netherlands. *Salamat po!*



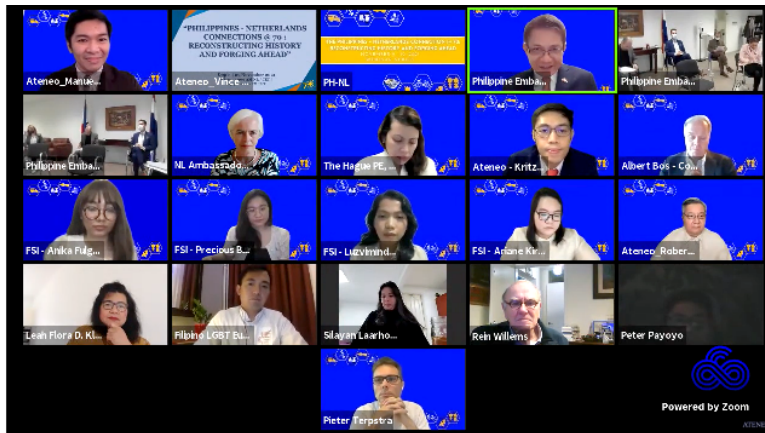
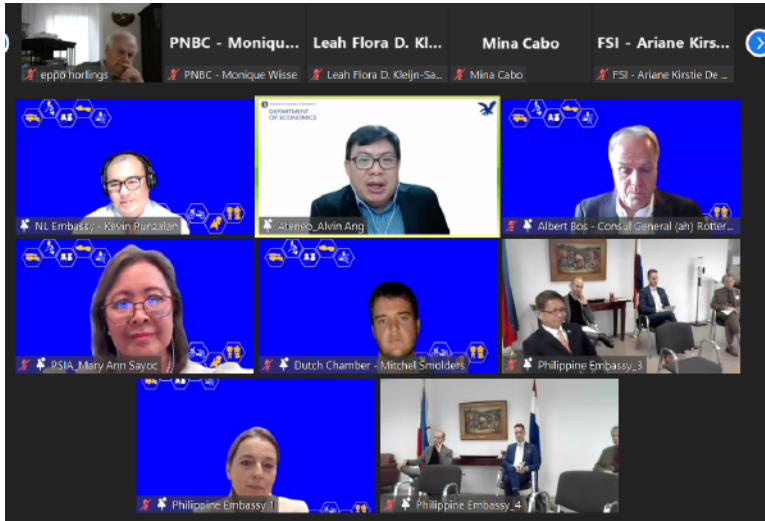
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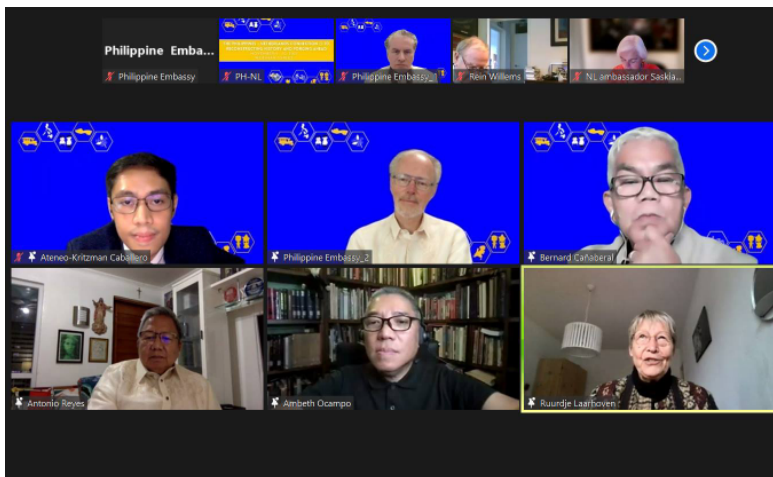






EMBASSY OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE HAGUE





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