

## Letter from the Editors

In Greek mythology the tale of the Titans ended in tragedy. The members of this race of giants, as legend tells, feared nothing or no one – not even the gods on Mount Olympus. In this issue we have a similar tale to present, with of course a more auspicious ending. Much attention is devoted to the Indian Ocean region, a region demanding an incredible large platform of expertise where, amongst the findings of other scientists, historians can share their, at times still too fragmented and panoramic, views. Two young historians, true Titans in the mythical sense, René Barendse and Eric Tagliacozzo, have taken up the challenges and faced the dangers of this treacherous field of study in two fresh of the press publications, directly inspired by their enthusiastic and original archival research and extensive literature-explorations.

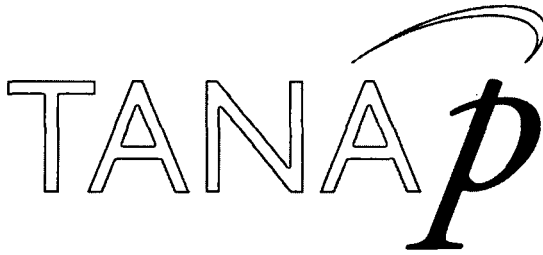
We are also pleased with a contribution from an Indian historian from the University of Mumbai, Dr Ruby Maloni, and hope that *Itinerario* will be able to publish more articles from Indian and Sri Lankan historians in future. Hopefully this would be the start of a productive collaboration that will also attract more readers in South Asia.

Other interesting articles bring this issue in balance, in particular the articles on French-African relations written by Bierwirth and Lewis showing how French colonialism was influenced by both practical developments such as immigration policy, as well as ideological influences, for instance the ideas of Félix Eboué (1884 to 1944) on France's *mission civilisatrice*. Rafael Ruiz writes about how the Spanish-Dutch war affected the south of Brazil.

As the editors of *Itinerario*, we strive to cover all the world's main geographical regions equally. As articles on Southeast and East Asian history have not been published in this journal for quite some time, we would like to invite our Southeast Asian colleagues to continue to send in their contributions.

The editors would also like to thank Marné Strydom (participating in the Leiden University TANAP program) from the University of Stellenbosch for her editorial assistance.

The Editors



**Second TANAP Workshop**  
**Bangkok, 23-28 October 2002**

## **'Asia in the Age of Partnership'**

***Comparative Studies in War, Trade and Diplomacy in Asia and Africa 1600-1800***

With special lectures on Thai-Dutch diplomatic and trade relations 1604-1767

### **Speakers:**

At this second workshop twelve students of the Advanced Master's Program 2002 and seven TANAP PhD candidates will present papers based on new archival research in the VOC archives in The Hague, Colombo, Chennai, Jakarta and Cape Town. Both their Asian and European supervisors will give comments on these papers and discuss new research directions. The contributors aim to further stimulate the international TANAP research group.

Those who would like to visit this workshop or receive the papers are requested to contact the coordinators.

### **Organisers:**

*Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok*  
*Research School for Asian, African and Amerindian Studies (CNWS), Leiden University*

*International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), Leiden*  
*Royal Netherlands Embassy, Bangkok*  
*Netherlands UNESCO Commission, The Hague*

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