



# *Prominent* **Indonesian Chinese**

Biographical Sketches

—  
4<sup>th</sup> EDITION

**Leo Survadinata**

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Biographical Sketches

4<sup>th</sup> EDITION

Leo Suryadinata

**ISEAS** YUSOF ISHAK  
INSTITUTE

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## **PREFACE TO THE FOURTH EDITION (2015)**

This fourth edition (2015) is the most up-to-date version of my book on Prominent Indonesian Chinese.

The origin of this book was a long paper published by Ohio University in 1972 with the title of *Prominent Indonesian Chinese in the 20th Century: A Preliminary Survey* (papers in International Studies, Southeast Asian Series, Ohio University, it consists of only 62 pages). Six years later, when I worked as a researcher at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), I revised the paper and made it into a book and published it in 1978 with a new title: *Eminent Indonesian Chinese: Biographical Sketches*. This was officially the first edition of this book. Two years later, an Indonesian publisher in Singapore, Gunung Agung, expressed his interest to republish the book. But since the book would be sold in Indonesia, I had to come out with two versions, one with the Chinese characters and the other without as the Soeharto regime banned books with Chinese characters for distribution. As a result, I had to remove all Chinese characters from the book and prepare a separate booklet on the list of Chinese characters for readers who were outside Indonesia. I wanted my book to be circulated in Indonesia and I accepted

that arrangement, otherwise the book would have not been allowed to be distributed in Indonesia at all. This was the second edition of my book.

The book was out of print for many years. Fifteen years later, many new figures emerged and old ones passed away. An update was needed. I was interested in issuing a third edition and offered it to ISEAS, which was the publisher of my first edition. My offer was accepted and the book was published in 1995 with a new title: *Prominent Indonesian Chinese: Biographical Sketches*. Chinese characters in the book were restored. Within a year, the book was reprinted at least once.

In the last nineteen years, there have been a lot of new generation leaders and the book requires another update. This time, updating of the book becomes more difficult as not only do I need to revise the existing biographies, I also need to add new figures that have emerged in the last two decades. The number of new figures is significant, over 100 persons in total. This book has therefore become much larger. As in the past, the name of an individual in different versions and spellings are provided in the book for easy reference.

After the fall of Soeharto, more information on the Chinese in Indonesia become available. I also take the opportunity to correct some of the mistakes in the book based on newly available information. However, it becomes more difficult to identify the background of the persons as many have changed their Chinese names into Indonesian sounding names. Furthermore, the younger generation born after the 1966 Name Changing Regulation would not have Chinese names, at least officially. In compiling the new addition of this book, I have faced many difficulties to ascertain if the person is of Chinese descent or not. As a rule, if I do not have the original Chinese name or Chinese surname of the individual and even if the person is said to be an Indonesian of Chinese descent, I do not include him/her in this book, i.e. Rusdi Kirana (aviation tycoon) and Indah

Kurniawati (member of parliament). I have also decided to omit Dora Sasongko Kartono (supreme judge) who appeared in the previous edition as I am unable to obtain her Chinese name.

With regard to the names in their original Chinese characters, when available they will be provided together with their pronunciations in *Hanyu Pinyin*. However, when the original Chinese characters are not available, I still provide the names in Chinese characters marked with an asterisk to differentiate them from those which have original Chinese characters. Since these Chinese characters are based on transliteration, the *Hanyu Pinyin* will not be provided.

I have also decided to use some Indonesian Chinese names rather than their Indonesian names as the main entries if the individuals are better known in their original Indonesian Chinese names, or their activities were known when they still used their Chinese names although after 1966 they adopted Indonesian names. For instance, Bong A Lok instead of Suwandi Hamid, Nio Joe Lan instead of Junus Nur Arif, Tan Joe Hok instead of Hendra Kartanegara. However, when a person is equally known in his/her Indonesian name and Chinese name, his/her Indonesian name is used: Soedono Salim instead of Liem Sioe Liong, Mochtar Riady instead of Li Wenzheng.

I would like to thank the coordinator of the Indonesian Studies Group of ISEAS, Dr Hui Yew Foong, for recommending the publication of this revised version. Nevertheless, the contents of the book are solely the responsibility of the author.

Leo Suryadinata  
1 October 2014



# INTRODUCTION<sup>1</sup>

This work is to present a documented study of Indonesian Chinese in the twentieth century and beyond. The term “Indonesian Chinese” as used here refers to “ethnic Chinese” in Indonesia who have or had Chinese surnames, regardless of their citizenship. Many Indonesian citizens of Chinese descent have adopted Indonesian-sounding names since 1966 — in a few cases, the adoption of such names occurred even earlier than that date — and they prefer *not* to be identified as “Chinese”, but for academic purposes, they are still included in this study.

It should also be noted that some Indonesian-born Chinese who migrated elsewhere in their early age and became well-known only in their newly adopted land (for instance, Wang Gungwu and Choo Hoey) will be excluded from this book, but those who migrated after they had made significant contributions in Indonesia will be included in the category of Indonesian Chinese (for instance, Thung Tjeng Hiang and Yap Tjwan Bing).

In fact, the Chinese in Indonesia, numbering about 4 million, are a heterogeneous and complex community. Culturally, they can be divided into Indonesian-speaking *peranakan* and Chinese-speaking *totok*,<sup>2</sup> but the Chinese-

speaking group has rapidly declined during the Soeharto New Order period (1966–98); legally they can be classified as Indonesian citizens and aliens, cutting across the above-mentioned cultural divisions; politically, they are split into pro-Jakarta, pro-Beijing, pro-Taipei groups, and others who are not sure of their orientation. The majority, however, remain politically passive. Economically, the Chinese are heavily engaged in, but not confined to, trading activities. As the present study shows, they are found in a wide range of professions.

The division between the *peranakan* and the *totok* has become less useful with the passage of time as most *totok* children by the third generation have become *peranakan* in the sense that they have lost their command of the Chinese language. This is especially true with the Chinese who were born or who grew up after Chinese schools in Indonesia were closed in 1966. However, for the older generation, some of the second generation, and some who have been educated in Chinese-speaking countries/areas, Chinese or Chinese dialect is still used at home as their medium of communication. In such cases, they can still be classified as *totok* in the cultural sense.

Such a division is not entirely useless, however, since ethnic Chinese have used Chinese language or dialect to establish networking for economic purposes. Many Indonesian Chinese who still have a command of the Chinese language or dialect can continue to take advantage of their ethnic connections to promote their economic interests within Indonesia and beyond. It is also true that the *totok* tend to possess more entrepreneurial spirit compared with the *peranakan*.

Nevertheless, sometimes it is difficult to tell whether an individual has become *peranakan* or peranakanized as he/she may be able to shift easily between Indonesian and Chinese when he/she speaks. As the situation of Chinese Indonesians

is becoming more complex, it becomes increasingly more difficult to identify a person as *totok* or *peranakan*. Therefore in this new edition, I have stopped providing the prominent Indonesian Chinese with such a label. Nevertheless, when reading their biographical sketches, the reader can still identify their different cultural backgrounds. It should also be noted that it has become more difficult to identify Chinese Indonesians who were born after 1966 as many no longer use their Chinese surnames. To obtain their Chinese names is not easy; those so-called Chinese figures without Chinese names or surnames will not be included in this book.

There are at least nine kinds of prominent Chinese included in these biographical sketches: community leaders, political party leaders, religious activists, writers, journalists, businessmen, academicians, artists, and sportsmen. These categories often overlap. The criteria used to select these prominent ethnic Chinese should be elaborated here. Community and political leaders are those who hold or have held major positions or are known to be influential in one or more of the following areas:

- (a) major Chinese socio-political organizations such as the THHK,<sup>3</sup> Siang Hwee, CHH, PTI, KMT (in Indonesia), Baperki, LPKB,<sup>4</sup> Qiao Zong, PBI, INTI, and PSMTI;
- (b) major political institutions such as the Volksraad (during the colonial period), the Tjuo Sangi In and BPUPKI (during the Japanese Occupation), and the DPR and MPR(S) after Indonesia's independence and DPD after the fall of Soeharto;
- (c) Indonesian political parties (PNI, PKI, Golkar, PDIP, etc.);
- (d) Indonesian administrative positions such as mayor, governor, bupati etc.; and
- (e) Indonesian major educational, cultural, and religious institutions (such as UI, LIPI, GKI etc.).

In selecting businessmen for inclusion in the Biographies, wealth was one criterion, but this was often taken into consideration together with affiliation with the above-mentioned socio-political organizations, of which many leading businessmen were members. The so-called *cukong* or *Konglomerat*<sup>5</sup> is also included in the category of prominent businessmen.

The criteria used in selecting prominent writers, journalists, artists, and academicians were rather arbitrary. For prominent writers, although publications in book form were considered, equal weight was also given to their impact and reputation among Chinese or Indonesian readers, depending on the language the writers use. The judgment on this was often subjective. Nio Joe Lan's book on *Sastera Indonesia-Tionghoa* [Literature of *Peranakan* Chinese] was also consulted to aid selection here. With regard to journalists, their association with one or more major *totok* and *peranakan* newspapers was an important criterion. Prominent artists and sportsmen were selected on the basis of their national reputation; again, the judgment was a subjective one. In choosing leading academicians, the possession of a PhD was often used as an indicator, but equal weight was also given to publications and positions held by individuals in academic and higher-learning institutions, especially in Indonesia.

Whenever available, I have provided for each individual such information as field of activity, occupation, place of birth, educational and religious backgrounds, offices or positions held, and original Chinese dialect group (speech group) when available.

In the past editions, Indonesian citizens of Chinese descent were entered under their Indonesian names followed by their Chinese names within parentheses. Their Chinese names were also entered separately for cross reference purposes. For alien Chinese or Indonesian citizens of Chinese descent who do not have Indonesian names, their Chinese names were used as

entries. However, for this edition, Indonesian names are only used as entries when the individuals are better known in their Indonesian names. For those figures who were better known by their Chinese names (e.g. Tan Joe Hok, Nio Joe Lan etc.) as they became famous before changing their names to Indonesian names, their Chinese names will be used as entries.

All Chinese names are spelt as they appear in Indonesia (that is, Dutch romanized–Hokkien or Dutch romanized–Hakka, and so forth, depending on the individual's ancestral origin). The Pinyin system is used when the Indonesian spelling is unavailable. Chinese characters are also included when known, those Chinese characters which were based on transliteration are marked with asterisk.

The present work is a substantive expansion of my previous study entitled *Prominent Indonesian Chinese in the 20th Century: A Preliminary Survey*, published in Athens, Ohio, in 1972, *Eminent Indonesian Chinese: Biographical Sketches*, published by ISEAS (1978) and Gunung Agung (1981), and *Prominent Indonesian Chinese: Biographical Sketches* (1995). It contains more names and more detailed information and is therefore more comprehensive. It is fully documented and more systematic in its presentation. It is the result of several years of research using both published materials such as newspapers, periodicals, biographies, and handbooks (see the Select Bibliography section) and — whenever possible — correspondence or oral interviews.

It should be noted here that two pioneering works of a similar nature but much more limited in scope were published before World War II. One was Tan Hong Boen's *Orang-Orang Tionghoa Jang Terkemoeke di Java* [Prominent Chinese in Java] (Solo: Biographical Publishing Centre, 1935). This work contains valuable biographical data on over two hundred prominent Chinese in Java before 1935, but it is very sketchy and poorly organized. The other was Liu Huanran's *Heshu*

*Dongyindu Gailan* [A Brief Introduction to the Dutch East Indies] (Singapore: Nanyang Baoshe, 1939), which contains the biographies of approximately 100 prominent Indonesian Chinese before 1939. Like Tan's biographical study, Liu's book has some valuable information; but unlike Tan's book which confines itself primarily to *peranakan* in Java, Liu's work tends to stress the *totok* community in both Java and the Outer Islands. My present study has benefited from these two pioneering works, as shown in my frequent inclusion of them as a source of information. In recent years, I have also benefited from various Indonesian language publications such as *Apa dan Siapa Sejumlah Orang Indonesia*, especially the 1985-86 edition, a Tempo publication, and the *Tokoh-Tokoh Etnis Tionghoa Indonesia* by Sam Setyautama, which was partly based on the early edition of my book (1995) but has included more recent figures. Unfortunately, Setyautama's book is not only poorly organized but also marred with numerous errors in names and data. The book is weakest in providing the Chinese characters of names.

The collection of materials for this book was made possible by the cooperation over a long period of time of various Indonesian Chinese individuals and scholars with an interest in the field. It is not possible to list the names of all those who had kindly helped me for two reasons: there are too many and some wish to remain anonymous. Nonetheless, I would like to single out the late Mr Tio Ie Soei, who had kindly shared with me his notes on various pre-war *peranakan* writers, journalists, and a few individuals whom he had known personally. I have occasionally cited this information in my study with acknowledgement in the "Source" section.

Over the years I have received many comments and letters from friends and people whom I have never met. Some know the persons mentioned in the book and others are related to the individuals in the book. They have kindly

provided me with new information. A study of this kind can never be exhaustive. It needs continuing research and updating. Additional information and corrections are therefore welcome and would be appreciated.

Leo Suryadinata  
Singapore  
August 2014

## Notes

1. This is a slightly revised version of the "Introduction" appeared in the 1995 version of *Prominent Indonesian Chinese: Biographical Sketches*.
2. See Abbreviations and Glossary section for the definitions of *peranakan* and *totok* Chinese.
3. For the meaning of those and subsequent abbreviations, refer to Abbreviations and Glossary section.
4. Strictly speaking this was a mixed organization because it consisted of both indigenous and non-indigenous Indonesians. However, because of the dominant role of the *peranakan* Chinese in the organization and its rivalry with Baperki, it is included here in the category of "major Chinese socio-political organizations".
5. The English term for *konglomerat* is conglomerate, but in Indonesian, the term refers to tycoons rather than the organization itself.

# **LIST OF PROMINENT INDONESIAN CHINESE**

*\*Please note that Chinese characters with an asterisk indicate that their original Chinese characters are not available. The characters included are transliterations.*

## **A**

A WU (阿五)  
ADIDHARMA (李永隆)  
ADMADJAJA, Usman (饶耀武)  
ALI, Mohammad (李杰登)  
ALIM, Markus (林文光)  
AMIEN, Muhammad (陈振文)  
ANANTA, Aris (陈连虎)  
ANG Ban Tjiong (洪万昌\*)  
ANG Jan Goan (洪渊源)  
ANG Tjiang Liat (洪昌烈\*)  
ANGKOSUBROTO, Dasuki (吴瑞基)  
ANTON, Abah (魏兴安\*)  
ARBI, Haryanto (洪阿比\*)  
ARIEF, Jackson (汤泰动\*)  
AW Tjoei Lan (区翠兰)

## **B**

BARKI, Kiki (纪琦辉)  
BE Kwat Koen (马厥群\*)



BE Tiat Tjong (马铁宗\*)  
 BONG A Lok (王亚禄)  
 BUASAN, Bahar (黄才文\*)  
 BUDIANTA, Melani (陈石芯\*)  
 BUDIKUSUMA, Alan (魏仁芳)  
 BUDIMAN, Arief (史福仁)

## C

CHAN Kok Cheng (曾国清\*)  
 CHEN, Bubi (陈埔毕\*)  
 CHENG, David G. (郑大卫\*)  
 CHIAO, Evelyn (赵春琳)  
 CHU Chong Tong (朱昌东)

## D

DANANDJAYA, James (陈士林\*)  
 DARMADI, Jan (霍佐幼)  
 DARMAPUTERA, Eka (郑运兴\*)  
 DARMAWAN, Hari (陈灿福\*)  
 DARMAWAN, Hendra (黄贵德\*)  
 DARMOHUSODO, K.R.T. Obi (温文英\*)  
 Dawis, Didi (俞雨龄)  
 DEWI, Utami (梁碧婉\*)  
 DIPOJUWONO, Budi (李宝友\*)  
 DJIAUW Pok Kie (饶博基)  
 DJIE Ting Liat (徐定烈\*)  
 DJIE Ting Tjioe (徐庭州)  
 DJOJONEGORO, Husain (朱国盛)  
 DJUHAR, Sutanto (林文镜)  
 DURIANTO, Darmadi (林德纯)