



THE INDO PROJECT

is dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and celebration of Indo culture and history through education and raising public awareness.

Honor the Past. Preserve the Future

Who Are We?

We are a core group of dedicated Indos and Indo supporters who share the premise that our history and culture need to be preserved for the English speaking world. People of mixed European and Indonesian ancestry, in particular, those of Dutch and Indonesian ancestry are called Indos, Dutch-Indonesians, or Indo-Europeans. We are individuals who are bound by a shared identity rooted in the former Dutch East Indies and through the Indo Diaspora are now scattered to all corners of the globe. The majority of us are 2nd generation born right after WWII; however our supporters range in all ages. We all have some kind of direct connection to the former Dutch East Indies.

What is the Indo Project?

The Indo Project is an international nonprofit tax exempt organization established in the USA. It was created to address the issue of preserving Indo heritage and culture and will serve as a clearinghouse of all things Indo in the English language. It is also a source of education for those unfamiliar with Indo history and culture. On the agenda are four major initiatives that will take place in the near future:

The Indo Project serves as a portal between the academic world and the experiential world.

The Four Major Initiatives

- **The Documentary Film:** Chronicling the Indo Historical Narrative. This project will be the organization's most powerful short term method to spread the Indo story and will lay the foundation for other initiatives.
- **Family Oral History Project:** Using historical diaries to make Indo History Come Alive. This segment encourages Indo families to create their own extended family oral history on video, audio, or text and will be part of a collection.
- **Heritage Tours:** Professionally led tours to Indonesia visiting colonial historical sites, native festivals, and ancestral Indo family villages.
- **Education:** The creation of an Indo Cultural Center that will include a library, museum and educational resources to promote and preserve Indo history, culture, and values.

History

The origins of the Indos date back over 350 years to the Spice Islands of the Indonesian archipelago.

During and after the Indonesian National Revolution, which followed World War II, approximately 300,000 people, predominantly Indos, were forced to leave independent Indonesia to be "repatriated" to the

Netherlands. In the late 1950s and early 1960s roughly 60,000 of them continued their Diaspora mainly to the United States, where they have smoothly assimilated and integrated into mainstream American society. Many ended up settling in warmer more inviting locations in the West such as California, parts of the Pacific Northwest and Desert Southwest. They can now be found in almost all 50 states. This group of refugee-immigrants has been most successful in assimilating in their adoptive countries.

The rich history of the Indos has been well documented in the Dutch language, but unfortunately not much so in English. Therefore, few people in the English speaking world, specifically in the USA, are aware of what an Indo is. Even in the rest of the world, the Indo culture and history is still a “cold case”, waiting to be discovered or rediscovered.

Education

Inside the Indo community:

The expansive Diaspora and assimilation have eroded the collective identity of the Indo people. To address this, The Indo Project aims to provide information to those who have lost contact with their culture as well as for those who wish to strengthen their ties. Because of the wide spectrum of diversity, many Indos do not know the degree of richness of their own heritage. The role of The Indo Project is to facilitate the distribution of information to the Indo community at large. This will ultimately strengthen and rekindle the Indo tradition of respect, pride, integrity, cooperation and mutual understanding among the community.

Outside of the Indo community:

The Indo Project also aims to educate and raise awareness of the role of Indos in society and history. They are one of the most successful refugee-immigrant groups in the world in terms of assimilation. It is with great fortune that The Indo Project has support in the form of an Honorary Advisory Council comprised of academics and authors whose expertise range from Indonesian history, Asian studies, migration, integration and the fate of Eurasians in WWII. The Honorary Advisory Council provides guidance and expertise as the project progresses.

How You Can Help

There is a groundswell emerging as technology enables Indos to reconnect. Indos have been under the historical radar and now their voices are uniting to be heard. The 2nd, 3rd and even 4th generations are asking questions about their roots and desiring to know who they are. They deserve answers.

Join us in bringing visibility to Indo history and culture! Go to our website www.theindoproject.org and learn more and become involved. If you can help with our initiatives or have contacts that can, write us! Spread the word to your friends and family. Let us know of your interest by joining The Indo Project Facebook network or by simply emailing us. We need your support. We welcome feedback. So feel free to contact The Indo Project team at info@theindoproject.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

Visit The Indo Project Website

www.theindoproject.org

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