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*Bi-Weekly News Letter from the Desk of Evelyn Lee
President of Global Book Rights, Amer-Asia Books, Inc.
Monday August 19th , 2013*



Anton Waldemar

A GREAT LOSS TO THE WORLD OF BOOK PUBLISHING

Last Friday morning, August 9, Indonesian time, Anton Waldemar and I wrote emails back and forth to one another concerning an offer he was making on Indonesian rights to the series, "Everyday Geniuses" by Barbara Esham. It was just before his lunch time.

Then on Tuesday evening my time, I received an email from his daughter, Grace saying... "My father passed away on Saturday 10 August 2013".

After our emails and his lunch on Friday, he had suffered a stroke that hit his brain stem causing massive bleeding. His wife and Grace's sister brought him to the ICU but he passed away the next day. He was only 59 years old.

I worked with Anton for a number of years and he always made me feel particularly happy to be in the international rights business. I knew that we were educating and spreading knowledge. He was a very special person and it seems almost impossible to believe he is gone.

One wouldn't know he was of Chinese ancestry with his last name Waldemar. However He was a Chinese born Indonesian. After the civil war, his father moved to Meulaboh, Sumatera Utara and met his Chinese born Indonesian mother. He was the last of 7 children. Earlier on his family became Indonesian citizens and it was a requirement to change their Chinese name to an Indonesian name. His middle name reflects his love of literature (sastra = literature). Interestingly with Indonesia having the largest Muslim population in the world -- reported in 2010 at 2014,847,000, with 88.4% of the population and home to 12.7% of the world's Muslims, Anton attended The Methodist University of Indonesia where he studied English literature.

He was obviously an important figure in bringing foreign books to Indonesia. He always enjoyed reading books and had the opportunity to work for Addison Wesley as the Indonesian representative when he first started into the publishing business. He then moved to McGraw-Hill then Simon Schuster, Prentice Hall and Pearson Education. In 2003 he founded PT. Indeks with Gramedia Group. In 2006, Gramedia Group sold their shares to Intan Pariwara Group. PT. Indeks is now a joint venture between Anton and Intan Pariwara Group. Gramedia is the largest retail bookstore in Indonesia and Intan Pariwara Group is the largest publishing and printing company in Klaten, Central Java.

His death particularly struck me remembering the miraculous time a few years ago when he missed a horrible death. I heard about a huge airline crash in Indonesia and wrote him about it. It turned out he was in Yogyakarta for a board meeting and was scheduled to fly back to Jakarta on the earliest flight but somehow decided to change his tickets and flew on a later flight. The earlier flight that he had been scheduled to take crashed. He wasn't too fazed about it.

His daughter Grace said, "All he ever wanted was to educate and spread knowledge to the whole world. He was great man with a huge heart and many great qualities. He taught me how to be strong in difficult times and thankful for everything I have in life." In addition to Grace Inamorata Waldemar, he leaves his wife Amelia Anatasia Wijaya, and another daughter, Christin Nathalia Waldemar.

I shall always remember the lunch we had with him, his wife and Grace in Singapore during a book fair there and I hope that the books we helped him bring to Indonesia will serve as a remembrance of him to readers there. Some of them are:

- ***From Oxford University Press - Dictionary.***
- ***From Hickory Grove Press - Becoming a Master Teacher by Dennis Healy; Primary Grade Challenge Math, Real World Algebra; 25 Real Life Math Investigations; Challenge Math and Becoming a Problem Solving Genius, all by Edward Zaccaro.***
- ***Word Structure Workbook by David L. Meth.***
- ***From Crown House Publishing - Winning the Mind Game, Teachers Change Your Bait, Learners Toolkit, Impact Techniques in the Classroom, First Steps to a Physical Basis of Concentration, Active Learning.***
- ***And from ABDO publishers, too many titles to list – 49.***



Anton is buried here in Indonesia's San Diego Hills Memorial Park. May he rest in peace...

Evelyn K. Lee

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