

LIVING IN ASIA: THE DUTCH SETTLEMENT IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY OF MALACCA AND AYUTTHAYA

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ABSTRAK

Sebagai akibat dari ekspansi besar VOC (Persekutuan Dagang Hindia Timur) di Asia administrasi perusahaan multinasional pertama di dunia itu berkembang luar biasa. Oleh karena itu perlu usaha untuk mengakomodasi pemukiman bagi orang-orang Belanda yang terlibat dalam kegiatan perdagangan yang dilakukan VOC. Pada saat itu, dengan perjalanan panjang dari Belanda ke Asia yang membutuhkan waktu lebih dari setengah tahun mereka harus berjuang menghadapi iklim ekstrim yang berbeda dari iklim di negerinya serta tantangan lainnya selama tinggal di Asia yang kebanyakan wilayahnya beriklim tropis. Dengan demikian, strategi bertahan diperlukan untuk mengatasi situasi ini. Tujuan penulisan artikel adalah untuk membandingkan pemukiman pegawai VOC di dua kota pelabuhan penting di Asia Tenggara pada masa itu, yakni Malaka dan Ayutthaya berdasarkan bentuk fisik dan pengaturan administrasinya. Abad ke-17 menjadi kerangka waktu karena periode tersebut adalah masa-masa gemilang VOC selama ekspansinya melintasi samudera dan benua. Dengan menggunakan sumber-sumber sekunder artikel ini tidak akan mencoba untuk menemukan sesuatu yang baru, tetapi hanya untuk mendapatkan wawasan lebih mengenai pemukiman VOC di kota-kota pelabuhan di Asia Tenggara.

Keywords: VOC, Malacca, Ayutthaya, settlement

INTRODUCTION

As a result of the great expansion of the VOC in Asia the overseas administration grew to a gigantic size (Femme. S Gaastra, 2003: 66). Therefore it was necessary to accommodate settlements for the Dutch people who were involved in trading activities undertaken by the company. Around 1685, the company had founded more than twenty settlements with different natures and function (Els M. Jacobs, 2006: 3). For a long time, in many oriental trading-ports from Middle East to Far East, the foreign traders lived in separate residential districts, each under the administration and to some extent the jurisdiction of its own headman (C.R Boxer, 1965: 188).

The Dutch defined their own position in the region by distinguishing three categories of administration for their establishments in Asia (Leonard Blusse, 2008: 34-35). First, the cities where they had attained by defeating the former sovereign as happened in Batavia and Malacca. Second, the large settlements of company servants and their dependants in kingdoms where exclusively trade contracts with local officials guaranteed a privileged position in the trade of certain articles, as seen in Ayutthaya. In the first decade of 17th century, VOC had built a small trading station in Ayutthaya to sustain the Dutch settlements in the Moluccas and Batavia in addition to export deerskins and sappanwood to Deshima, Japan. The third one is in the area where the Dutch was just

allowed to trade in specific seasons and subject with firmly subjugated regulations compelled by the local ruler like in Canton. The foreign merchants were merely permitted to linger in their post only during the trading season. Canton had served for almost a millenium as the designated port of call for foreign ships on the south coast of China (Leonard Blusse, 2008: 31).

The VOC Asian posts were manned by around 16.000 company servants in which most of them were military personnel. The title of the official in charge reflected the size and function of settlement: governors had some territorial powers, directors managed important trading posts, commandants (commandeur) had military responsibilities, residents and chiefs (opperhoofd) headed the smaller posts (Els M. Jacobs, 2006 :3).

At that time, with its long journey from the Netherlands to Asia, the Dutch had to face different extreme climate and other obstacles. Thus survival strategies are needed to cope with the situations overseas. The aim of this descriptive narrative paper is to compare the Dutch settlements according to its physical settlement and its administration in Malacca and Ayutthaya. If we choose the appropriate elements and objects carefully, comparison is a good way of improving our understanding of the characteristics of a certain society or area, enabling us to discover important and interesting aspects that may otherwise be neglected (Haneda Masashi: 2009: 13). The reason why I compare those cities because those cities were once two important ports in South East Asian region. The 17th century becomes the time frame since that was the glorious period of the VOC during their seaborne expansion. By using secondary sources this article will not try to find something new, but it is just to get more insight about the Dutch settlement overseas.

THE DUTCH SETTLEMENT IN MALACCA

An important port settlement has situated at the estuary of the Malacca River for some centuries. Malacca was a famous emporium in the Strait of Malacca, a strategic waterways connecting East Asia to India, Middle East and Europe. The city is situated on the southwest coast of the Malay peninsula along the narrowest part of the Strait of Malacca (Els M. Jacobs, 2006: 202). Tome Pires, a Portuguese explorer, in his masterpiece book *Suma Oriental* authored that no trading port as large as Malacca was acknowledged. Founded by Parameswara, a prince from Sriwijaya Kingdom of South Sumatera in the 14th century following Majapahit invasion, Malacca then became one of the biggest and important entrepôt in southeast Asia region during the premodern era. Once it had been established, the settlement at the mouth of the Malacca river expanded impulsively to summon the trade between East and West. The location made it as the most appropriate place to acquire goods like silk, camphor, and pottery from China.

Due to the influence of Monsoon, the busiest trading month in the city was April. The pattern of commerce roused the establishment of dweller trading community of merchants from various origins. They were, such as, Bengalis, Gujaratis, Persians, Javanese, and western traders. Other merchants came seasonally. It made the port of Malacca as a cosmopolitan city in natures and ethnics diversity.

A. Scramble for the Fort

For about 130 years, Malacca was occupied by Portuguese which had conquered the city in 1511 from Malacca sultan as the former ruler. Under the Portuguese occupation, Malacca transformed into a walled city defended by firearms. The heart of Portuguese Malacca was a military complex with a five storey keep (a Famosa), a residence for the commander, a governor's palace, bishop's palace, five churches including a cathedral, administration buildings, two wells, two schools, and a convent of religious orders, two

hospitals, a prison, also a council-chamber. All was surrounded by a massive wall nearly a mile long (E.J. Seow, 1983: 771; Sarnia Hayes Hoyt, 1993: 97).

After many trials to capture Malacca were failed, finally in 1641, VOC successfully seized the city. They fought with Portuguese to take control Malacca Strait. The last effort of aggression was begun on 3 August 1640. Soon, following the siege of more than five months, on 14 January 1641 the aggressors triumphantly struck the fort of Malacca. They took in by way of the bastion of S. Domingos. More than five months of Dutch's campaign against Portuguese, Malacca suffered from enormous casualties not only to the walls and citadels of the fortress but also to the vicinity. Most Portuguese architecture was badly devastated and the victims due to this blockade were more than 7,000 people departed from starvation, disease, or gunfire. Malacca had some 12,000 citizens when it was in the Portuguese possession before 1641 but had only 5000 under the Dutch thereafter (Anthony Reid, 1993: 75).

Shortly, as a consequently of its seizure, practically, the fort was without any security. This matter caused the Dutch, as the victor, to be responsible to restore it as soon as possible regarding a counter-attack by the Portuguese. The Sultanate of Aceh was a potential enemy as well. Unlike Johor, Aceh had refused to participate in the conquest. For Aceh, an attempt on the settlement by a European power other than the Portuguese could not be ruled out (Graham W Irwin, 1983: 793).

The main act of the first new Governor of Malacca, Johan van Twist, to recover the damaged fortifications was the dispatching a boat to Batavia for asking smiths, carpenters, and bricklayers. A while later to commemorate their victory against Portuguese the Dutch launched new names to the eight front lines of the fort at a solemn ceremony held on 7 November 1641. The new names were S. Domingos became *Victoria* (because it was by way of this bastion that the triumphant army had gained its entry), *Madre de Deus* became Emilia, As *Virgens* became Henrica Louisa (also known as Henriette Lousie), Santiago became Wilhelmus, *the Hospital dos Pobres* became Maurits, *São Pedro* became Prins Henrik, *Mora* became Ernestus (or Ernst Casimir) (Graham W Irwin, 1983: 793).

Malaccan Fort was initially set up by Malays in which it comprised of a system of earthworks that was surpassed by wooden stockades. Later, in the early sixteenth century the fort was sufficiently equipped with guns. As Portuguese invaded the city in 1511 these Malay works were much impaired. Right away, Alfonso de Albuquerque, the governor general of *Estado da India* (Portuguese Asian Empire). who led the invasion determined to build a temporary new wooden fortress to function as a safeguard for his soldiers against revenge by Malays. He figured out to replace it as soon as possible with a more permanent fortification. This fortification occupied the site of the former Malay fort using the stronghold, incorporated in its structure and good material from the abandoned Malay stockades (Graham W. Irwin, 1983: 783).

B. Fort of Malacca

Morphologically, the town of Malacca in the course of the Dutch period could be subdivided into three main sections (Nordin Hussin, 185). The first was the fort in which only company servants and Dutch freeburghers— The Dutch who were not employed by VOC ,whose time with the company had elapsed but remained to stay— were permitted to settle. The next section was the town of Malacca which was lined with streets named by the Dutch as *Herenstraat*, *Jonkerstraat*. And the third one was the outer suburbs. As the basis of the Dutch activities, Fort of Malacca, played an important role in the dynamics of the city. There were six small towers furnished with sufficient cannon, and a ditch towards the sea and channel. The two gates were one towards the river, and the other towards the south cape. There was also a garrison led by the governor.

Forts were miniature towns within towns, and housing and go-downs in separate structures (Pauline D. Milone, 1983: 214). The permanent fort made from stone which later became known as A Famosa (The Famous) was constructed by Portuguese with approximately 1500 compulsory laborers. They were royal slaves owned by Sultan Malacca recruited by Albuquerque since the Portuguese defeated the sultanate. Disregarding Muslim who had lost their power in the city, the Portuguese that admitted their god (God here means to spread the Catholic religion over the world), gold and glory as the motto to sail through the oceans, developed their new fort on the ruin of great mosque of Malacca. A Famosa, with its eight feet thick walls, was completed as a fort in January 1512. It was square in plan. By building the fort right on the sea, Albuquerque ensured that during a siege its garrison could be supplied by ships anchored alongside the walls (Graham W. Irwin, 1983: 784).

For the greatest part, the Dutch attack in 1641 not only wrecked but also aborted almost the Portuguese constructions in the town. The conqueror continued on repairing the ruin that still lingered besides built the new ones. In this circumstance, the comprehensive report on Malacca after its conquest was drawn up in September 1641 by Joost Schouten, a commissioner appointed for this purpose by the High Government in Batavia. So far as the fort was concerned, the Dutch at this early stage were content to strengthen, improve, and adapt, as yet they could spare no funds for major modifications. Schouten's recommendations reflected this cautious approach. The *Fortaleza Velha* (Old fortress) had to be repaired, at least to the height of the first storey, and made into a strong redoubt. As an insurance against treachery, a wall was built connecting it with the main curtain at Prins Henrik (Graham W. Irwin, 1983: 784). He discovered not only that some churches and monasteries unrecoverable, but also orchard and rice-fields laid bare. He also recommended that *Nossa senhora da Annunciada*, on the top of the hill, should be renovated too, as a Dutch Reformed Church and renamed it as St. Paul (Sarnia Hayes Hoyt, 1993 :47).

The recommendations from Joost Schouten were agreed by VOC authority in Batavia. For the Dutch, rebuild the fort was not merely an event of reconstructing the fort to the condition it had been before the conquest. Not only had they themselves discovered and profited from its weaknesses, but they also brought the ideas on the theory and practice of fortification which differed somewhat from those of Portuguese Henrik (Graham W. Irwin, 1983: 794). These ideas originated from their experience fighting with Spain in the eighty years long war in their flat, low-lying, watery homeland. They intended to establish a typically Dutch fortification as they had in the Netherlands.

In their country, the Dutch would rather work with earth banks than stonework for their fortifications and with brick for household buildings. They did so in Malacca that many of their architectures in Malacca give more than an impression of the Dutch city. In the Malacca Dutch stood the Stadthuys, and clock towers. Stadthuys was the residence of the governor that was believed to have been completed around 1650 (Mohammad K. Ar Rahman, 2007: 577). A long wing of stadthuys proper built later (E. J. Seouw, 1983: 772). They were uncomplicated structures, commonly Dutch buildings with their large high windows which were appropriate for tropical climate. Moreover, their open monumental staircase were completely characteristics of Dutch provincial town halls. As time goes by, Dutch-ruled Malacca took for granted on its own character. The Portuguese buildings such as churches, monasteries, and convents which had previously spotted the town were devastated, allowed to decay or resumed for company use. Yet, the canals, breeding grounds for disease which contributed to Batavia's death toll, were notably absent (Barbara Watson Andaya, 1999: 200).

The fort did not have any restorations except a small renovation. For example, in 1660, Jan Thyssen built Middleburg, a small oblong bastion at the western corner of the trace next to the estuary. It escalated the number of bastions to nine. Although two governors, Jan

Thyssen in 1656 and Jan van Riebeeck in 1663, made a plan to reduce the fort. But their ideas were refused by VOC authority. When Balthasar Bort's rule lasted from 1665 to 1678 the fort had its final form. The fort design that he inherited to his successor was in the same design when the fort fell to British in 1795.

C. The Dutch Settlers and Administrative Organization

Dutch people in Malacca settled down in the fort, as the central of the VOC administration. Even though they occupied the city, just like in Batavia within the town itself the Dutch inhabitants were a small minority. The VOC station in Malacca was manned by around five hundred servants. Among these were four hundred soldiers, while others were consist of the scribes, book keepers, officers, who maintained the company's affairs functioning. There was not much but a few women in the fort. The company's authority did not extend much farther than some thirty kilometers inland (Els M. Jacobs, 2006: 203). Hence, their language and culture contributed little impact to the society. Even it was formidable to find person whom he was capably skilled with both Malay and Dutch to be an interpreter.

Administratively Malacca was divided into wards (*wijken*), each with its own officer. Still, a more important role was considered by the leaders of the various ethnic groups. These captains, the rank position of the leader, were appointed by the company, remained as the company servants. They also accepted their duty, the respect of both the governor and their own people, to act in the position the rest of their life. Although their principle job was to discharge minor altercation in each ethnic member and to determinate which cases should be conveyed to the VOC court, the responsibilities of these captains were varied. They might be called on to collect taxes, to arrange for the cutting of grass to feed the company horses, to organize ships for patrols against pirates, to act as envoys in important missions to neighboring courts, or to assist the orphanage board in the administration of a deceased's estate (Barbara Watson Andaya, 1999 : 213).

In Malacca, the highest rank was a governor. He was chosen by nine members of Malacca council. This Malacca council was appointed by Governor General and Raad van Indie. Governor along with Malacca council were in charge of political, military, criminal and civil affairs. Then, the governor supervised garrison, council of justice, board of guardians of orphans, city wards, regents of hospital, regents of orphanage and poorhouse, board of matrimonial and minor judicial matters and church council.

THE DUTCH SETTLEMENT IN AYUTTHAYA

After Malacca fell to Portuguese in 1511 followed by their effort to control access of the strait, prompted alternatives for trade itineraries especially for moslem traders. Those alternatives were either caravan beyond the land masses or down the west coast of Sumatra to the Sunda Strait. This shift gave birth to the new entrepôts or stimulated old ones at Aceh, Tenasserim, Ayutthaya, Patani, Pahang, Johor and Banten (Anthony Reid, 1993: 65). If the location of these ports was determined largely by the needs of foreign traders, they quickly developed their own parallel home based shipping (Anthony Reid, 1993: 65).

Ayutthaya is a city shaped by the meeting of the Chao Phraya and Pasak Rivers with the some strategic canals. The founder of the city was Prince of Ut'ong. The name of Ayutthaya as a center of international trading had not appeared in the records of other countries, until the Chinese maritime ambassador arrived at the new port in 1370 (Anthony Reid, 2002: 113). In the seventeenth century, Ayutthaya was ne of the biggest city in Asia. An English visitor in 1617 reckoned it "as great city as London," which had over 200,000 people at the time.

A. Starting relationship with the Kingdom

Before the coming of the Dutch, for almost one hundred years the Portuguese had been only the western traders in Ayutthaya, except for the Spanish who did not arrive until 1598 (George Vinal Smith, 1977: 68). The early contact between VOC and Siam kingdom happened in the 1604. In the reign of King Naresuan the great (1590-1605), Cornelis Specx and Lambert Jacobsz Heijn visited Ayutthaya court as the envoys from Wijbrand van Warwijk, the VOC official stationed in Pattani. They were delegated to pursue royal cooperation to establish a trading post in the capital of Siam. The request was agreed by the King after all. Then, the diplomatic and trading relations between the company and the kingdom continuously went on. In the year 1608 Siamese ambassadors were sent to the Netherlands and were received in audience by Prince Maurice of the Netherlands (W.A.R Wood, 1924: 159). In the early of the same year, Lambert Jacobz Heijn opened an impermanent factory in a moslem section within the city wall. Only the moslem and the chinese trading communities had any substantial population within the wall in the seventeenth century. From then on, VOC became active traders in Ayutthaya. In just over six years the Dutch had become an important factor in both the economic and the political life of Ayutthaya (George Vinal Smith, 1977: 72).

Initially, the company expected to exploit the kingdom's interrelation with China for their business enlargement. Afterwards, during the time when VOC enhanced its share in the intra-asian trade, particularly with Japan, Ayutthaya, the capital city of Siam Kingdom, then played more important role as the source of deerskins, and sapanwood. The company exported those kind of things to Japan to get silver and copper. Furthermore, among the European who conducted trading activities in Ayutthaya, the Dutch merchants were very influential, particularly during the time of King Songtham (1610/1611-1628) and that of King Narai the Great, 1656-1688 (Bhawan Ruangshilp, 2007 :123). Later, with the royal permission, surely, VOC monopolized Ayutthaya's goods aforementioned.

B. Dutch Lodge in Ayutthaya

City walls spread in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries with the rapid growth of cities and the need to defend them (Anthony Reid, 1993: 88). For instance in Ayutthaya, the walls surrounding the city was built in 1550. Now that foreigners were usually forbidden to inhabit within the walls, the persistent presence of seasonal merchants emerged settlements outside the wall. It happened as well in Ayutthaya. By the seventeenth century, there was a large number of foreign communities staying outside Ayutthaya. They were manly the merchants communities that established their settlement along the Chao Phraya River.

After having impermanent trading station for many years, King Prasatthong VOC to develop a small lodge. This was the result of the increasing Siam-Japan trade. Next, the permanent Dutch Lodge in Ayutthaya was founded by Joost Schouten in 1634. The Lodge was situated about in the east bank of Chao Phraya river opposite directly to the Portuguese and Japanese. Native people called it *teuk daeng* means red brick building.

The lodge was circled by a sufficiently spacious rectangle of bamboo fencing. Along this fence, in addition to the above-mentioned rooms, were the brick built buttery, kitchen and prison, as well as a stable for about eight horses—though this is built of bamboo (Barend Jan Terwiel, 2008: 55). A small bridge on each side connected the lodge with its main storehouse in the east and with the community surrounding it. The whole compound consisted of the main building, smaller storehouses, a garden, a cemetery and a prison (Bhawan Ruangsilp, 2009: 14). Besides the lodge another important company building was warehouse called “Amsterdam” situated in the estuary close to the Gulf of Siam. The warehouse had a large, strong wooden warehouse made of thick, heavy beams and planks lashed together and covered with tiles. Since the factory site was not in the sea side,

the large ships could not reach the lodge, which was around eighty kilometers inland. So, they dropped anchor in the Amsterdam warehouse.

Bhawan Ruangshilp states that the VOC settlement in Ayutthaya was established under conditions and in a way which reflected the importance of Siam to the Company, the dependency of the Dutch upon the Siamese court, and at the same time, a certain degree of autonomy to handle its own affairs (Bhawan Ruangsilp, 2007: 42). This small settlement had no strong fortification just as in Malacca. Gijsbert Heeck described the protection system of the settlement in Ayutthaya as follows:

“For greater security, a deep moat had been dug around the fence, with a broad exit and a proper gate. Beyond that, all the way the river was a strong, wide pier with railings and benches on both sides, which was very useful for barged and other vessels to moor alongside to load and unload. From this pier one goes straight through (to above mentioned corridor) under the main office and the one descends, via a brick gate and wooden bridge, to another wooden warehouse (of the same size as the Amsterdam warehouse), on the far side of the moat on a green field. In this warehouse is usually stored the purchased rice and dried planking. The two gates ([of the corridoe] under the lodge) fir very neatly. The whole main office and the brick buildings are all covered with Siamese tiles, but the stables and other bamboo houses only with atap.” (Barend Jan Terwiel, 2008 :39)

The VOC seemed to be the sole winner among the foreigners coming out of the power struggle of 1688 in Ayutthaya under King Phetracha (Remco Raben, 2007: 217). They remained the only European with permanent settlement in Siam. The VOC was authorized to settle since the company kept themselves from court conspiracy. Another reason, however, the King required European contacts for the supply of luxury goods from Europe. And, indeed, the company also stored special business that other traders could not supply those kind of services, for instance credit facilities as well as European craftsmen that helped to build palace, temple and ships.

C. Personnel and Administration

Foreign trade was placed under the control of the *Phrakhlang* or Minister of the Treasury and Finance, and most of the business came ultimately to be transacted by him, or by one of his subordinates, acting on behalf of the King (W.A.R Wood, 2001: 163). The Siamese King with strict rules, gave permission to foreign communities in his domain to administer their own settlements and dweller. One of the rule was that the foreigner was forbidden to appear around royal court or any places where there was a possibility they would meet royal family. Based on the Siamese concept of social organization, the Dutch settlement was classified as a *ban* (village or community), with the *Opperhoofd* as a *nai* (head of community) who, like the head of other foreign communities, answered to the Phrakhlang Minister through the Syahbandar (harbor master) and via the interpreters (Bhawan Ruangshilp, 2009: 144). To find interpreters who understand Dutch in Ayutthaya was not easy. Even in 1640 the company sent four young Dutch boys to Ayutthaya to be trained in the Thai language by various Thai officials (George Vinal Smith, 1977: 100). Unfortunately this attempt was not succeed.

While it seldom played a significant role in the company policy, the Ayutthaya office probably was typical of a great number of factories. Nevertheless, several characteristics of the Ayuttaya factory need to be pointed out to understand better of its position in the overall structure of the company (George Vinal Smith, 1977: 100). The Ayutthaya lodge was directly

responsible to the central administration in Batavia. Previously, for some year of its early presence the factory was under VOC factory in Pattani. Later, in 1672 one factory, Ligor, became subordinate to lodge in Ayutthaya. The office was managed by a council consisted of the chief, a bookkeeper, a surgeon and usually one or two other persons who supervised various storehouses. The importance of the Ayutthaya lodge altered over time so that its physical size as well as the rank and number of its employees promoted a great deal.

After the founding of the lodge throughout most of the century, the number of the settlers was an average of 30 to 40 permanent settlers. The Inhabitants of the VOC lodge in Ayutthaya were divided into two groups: administrative and non administrative. The administration was staffed by three to five persons, where the chief was the highest grade of the system. Under the chief was two other administrative commissioners, whom they were together with the surgeon, usually accomplished the council. The chief assistant considered specific responsibilities that may have involved in charge of the warehouse or certain office records. The third in command was the bookkeeper, who mastered the finance and other office records. The non administrative inhabitants in the Ayutthaya office of the VOC presented certain abilities and services to run the office. They were, such as a chief surgeon, assistants, several carpenters, sailors and translators, a bricklayer, a butler, a cooper a smith, a quartermaster, four or five soldiers and some people who captained the offices' river craft.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Dutch Settlement in Malacca occupied Famosa, a fort owned and founded by Portuguese, with many reconstructions because the Dutch ruined it when they were capturing the town. The Fort was situated very close to the Malacca strait while the Dutch settlement in Ayutthaya was not exactly located on the seaside but it was more into the bank of Chao Phraya river in which the settlement was only a lodge less smaller than that of in Malacca. The factory was not surrounded by the solid wall as if the fort but with bamboo fencing.

Both in Ayutthaya and Malacca Dutch settlements had similarities in the existence of some public facilities, such as moat, storey, cemetery, prison although Malacca as a larger settlement had more supporting buildings like church, hospital and orphanage. Fort of Malacca became a kind of another "Dutch miniature city" in Asia, after Batavia, despite the absence of canals but the development of *stadhuys* and the clock tower mirrored the Company seriousness for making their employees "feels like home" in their seaborne trade.

The VOC tried to make their settlement as comfort as possible to delight its employees. For that reason, in the bigger settlement like Malacca, they developed such buildings typically Dutch just like in their fatherland. Although it was not exactly as good as the fort of Malacca but at least the Dutch settlement in Ayutthaya were special enough. Unlike most of buildings in the city that were made from bamboo, the factory of VOC was constructed with stones. Furthermore, the function of the settlement was not only to dwell but also to run their business.

The administration of VOC in Malacca and Ayutthaya were different since their different positions as well. They also had different role in the trading activities where in Malacca the Dutch played as the European main traders while in Ayutthaya they were not majority traders and the lodge there was one from several factories which were the lowest ranking administrative units of the company. Moreover, the total economic contribution of Ayutthaya lodge was very little in quantity of all VOC activities in Asia. This can be seen from the top leaders of the VOC in Malacca which was held by the governor and Ayutthaya was only led by the chief (*opperhoofd*). The arrangement of administrative in certain detail proved the company effort of utilizing its resources to the maximum extent possibility. The

presence of settlers such as carpenter, bricklayer and other supporters out of the duty as administrators, also showed similarities in the two settlements which indicated ways to overcome the life in the tropical area.

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