Abstract

The Fuging was one of the poorest dialect groups in Southeast Asia before the second world war. However, a considerable number of them are now among the wealthiest in Indonesia, and have played an important economic role in the Indonesia private economic sector since the early 1970s. The new order government in Indonesia was instrumental for their success in business.

The academic exercise aims to study the relationships between the Indonesia Fuging and Singapore Fuging Association. It begins with an overview of the Fuging community's development in Indonesia and its relationships with the Indonesian people before the second world war. The study then traces the development of a group of Indonesian Fuging Businessmen's relationships with the Singapore Fuging Association. How they contributed and influenced the Association and the overseas Fuging are explored.

Although the Indonesian have long had traditional ties with those in Singapore, it was not until the post war period and particularly since the late 1960s that the ties became strengthened when some Chinese tycoons such as Liew Sio Liong joined the Association. Meanwhile their businesses in Singapore expanded, apparently traditional ties with the Association in Singapore facilitated their business activities. As a result their roles in the Association become more and more important. They have contributed significantly to the new building of Singapore Fuging Association, for example it may not be an exaggeration to suggest that the Association is very much led by
these Indonesian Fuqing. The reason they were able to achieve leadership is perhaps the economic position of the Fuqing in Singapore remains relatively weak. Having established a base in Singapore, these Fuqing have been able to extend their traditional ties to other parts of the world.

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