

# Professor Darwin Karyadi (1933–2014)

## Remembering a National Hero of Nutrition in Indonesia

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It was with shock and great sadness that I and many of my colleagues in Indonesia learned that Professor Darwin Karyadi had passed away in Jakarta on October 6, 2014. Prof. Karyadi had formerly been Director of the Center for Research and Development of Nutrition (CRDN) at the Ministry of Health in Bogor, Indonesia, a position he had held for more than 25 years.

### A passion for creating collaborations

As Director of CRDN, Darwin Karyadi was the first person to establish collaborations with international research institutions. In the 1970s, he collaborated with Prof. Nevin Scrimshaw from MIT and the World Bank to conduct research on iron deficiency anemia and productivity among rubber plantation workers in West Java (*Am J Clin Nutr* 1979;32:916–25). He also initiated a WHO-SEARO (World Health Organization, South East Asia Regional Office) nutrition research collaboration in the 1980s known as the WHO Collaborating Centre for the Identification, Development and Propagation of Methods for the Control of Nutritional Blindness and Anemia. This aimed to establish a research network among the WHO-SEARO, especially on vitamin A and anemia studies. Various laboratory trainings on vitamin A were conducted in CRDN Bogor involving numerous participants from Bangladesh, Vietnam, Nepal, Myanmar and other Asian countries.

Darwin Karyadi was also the first CRDN director to collaborate with Helen Keller International (HKI) Indonesia. This was on MSG fortification with vitamin A. It occurred in the 1980s and

was the first effort to reduce the xerophthalmia rampant in Indonesia at the time. The vitamin A studies were expanded with vitamin A supplementation in West Java and Aceh in collaboration with HKI and Johns Hopkins University. The latter were published in the *Lancet* 1986;1:1169–73 and the ACC-SCN Nutrition Policy Discussion Paper 1992, No 13.

### Fostering new innovations as a nutrition scientist

As Vice Director of a Nutrition College (*Akademi Gizi*) at the Ministry of Health in Bogor, Darwin Karyadi also helped train nutrition professionals from Indonesia and elsewhere in South East Asia. He introduced the traditional food *tempeh* to the world at many international conferences; *tempeh* is the most popular vegetable protein source for most Indonesians (*Nutr Rev* 1996;54(11):S94–S98). As a member of the National Research Council, Prof. Karyadi contributed to the recognition of nutrition not only among academics but also among politicians in Indonesia. The Country Medal of Honor, presented by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in 2005, recognized him as a Nutrition Hero of Indonesia.

## “Darwin was laid to rest at the Kalibata National Heroes Cemetery”

Darwin Karyadi graduated as medical doctor from the University of Indonesia Faculty of Medicine, receiving a Fellowship in Nutrition in 1963. He was awarded his doctorate in medicine by the University of Indonesia in 1974. He was Vice Director of Bogor Nutrition College from 1960 to 1965, and became Director of Central Research and Development of Nutrition, Bogor, at the Ministry of Health from 1965 to 1993. On retiring, he was ap-



Darwin Karyadi

pointed Director of the SEAMEO-TROPED network, University of Indonesia, Jakarta (1994–2000).

Darwin was laid to rest at the Kalibata National Heroes Cemetery in Jakarta at the age of 80. He is survived by his beloved wife, Lies, to whom he was married for 52 years; two sons (Elwin and Erwan); a daughter (Elvina), who follows his path in medicine and nutrition; two daughters-in-law (Lily and Lelan); a son-in-law (Isaac); and five lovely grandchildren (Tania, Dio, Tasya, Delvin and Verina). His family keenly feel their loss, but he is very much alive in all their hearts.

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