Infrastructure
In the Making
The Case of Chao Phraya dam (1902-1957)

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KING OF THE WATERS
Homan van der Heide and the origin of modern irrigation in Siam
Han ten Brummelhuis
“Very close to wet season, the company’s engineer still did not know how to station the water pump until the Thai staff had to advise the method, running the work six weeks behind schedule. Due to insufficient knowledge, the engineer made mistakes, such as having installed wrong-sized power and pump machines, making the machine function below its full capacity. Then he blamed the machinery purchased from America for not performing as advertised – an act which is equal to putting blame on Thai government for having blindly ordered such machine.”
“The other major mistake was digging the soil for construction not according to the plan, which could endanger to the building. [In addition,] the crucial task of soil work was delayed. Out of the total 2.5 million cubic meters, only 150,000 cubic meters were finished during the past ten months. At this rate, it would take 40 years to finish.”