

Aturcara

- 9.00 pagi : Pendaftaran dan ketibaan tetamu
9.30 pagi : Ucapan Alu-aluan oleh Pengarah, PPPM UM
: Pembentangan
: Sesi Soal Jawab & Rumusan
11.30 Tengahari : Jamuan Ringan
Bersurai

TERIMA KASIH

SYARAHAN UMUM WACANA PRIBUMI

Orang Asli and their water world : A case study on the Batek in Kuala Koh, Kelantan

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Moderator : **Goplasamy Reuben Clements**
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Masa : 9.30 – 11.30 pagi
Tempat: Bilik Seminar Tingkat 14,
Wisma R&D
Universiti Malaya.

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SIRI 10

Abstract

The “Batek” are one of the Orang Asli groups in Malaysia numbering around 960 individuals. The Batek in Kuala Koh, Kelantan, still maintain their traditional way of life as hunter-gatherers. This talk will be in two sessions. Session 1 will provide insight into the Batek’s way of life and session 2 will elaborate on their spatial relationship with the environment and the need to rethink land ownership systems.

Session 1: The Batek way of life in Kuala Koh

About 200 people (40 households) who call themselves “Batek” live in Kuala Koh, the entry point to Taman Negara in Kelantan. Most of their houses are simple shelters built of tree, palm, and plastic sheets with no electricity. They still lead their own traditional lifestyle and widely depend on natural resources. Their direct contact with outside society is very limited. This session will provide basic information on: (1) social organization (kinship and how they carry out important events to reproduce it: birth, marriage, and death.); (2) subsistence activity (blowpipe hunting, fishing, gathering, and forests product trade); and (3) special manners based on their world view (treatment of illness, taboo, and ritual). Those topics will be explained with pictures, their language, and quantitative data.

Keywords: Orang Asli, kinship, hunting and gathering, taboo, cosmology

Session 2: The Batek and water systems

Most indigenous people have some problems with land ownership in the world. As court cases have shown, Orang Asli are no different. The Orang Asli land rights movement has been conducted with the slogan “tanah kami” (“our land”). Land ownership is based on the concept of area, an extent of a two dimensional ground enclosed within a boundary. But this concept doesn’t seem to fit for the Batek, who traditionally make their territory with water systems such as rivers. In this session, I will talk about how the Batek recognize and use space in relation to water systems. Lexicon of space, moving history, and their naming customs that connect society and rivers will be presented. This case study is relevant to land ownership issues, not only for the Orang Asli, but also for Malay communities who also have historical links with rivers.

Keywords: landownership, indigenous land use, naming custom, river

Biodata

Ms Aya Kawai is a PhD student in anthropology at Chiba University Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences. She conducted fieldwork in Kuala Koh, Kelantan state (among the Batek people of Kelantan and Pahang (Oct.2011 to the present). Her research interests include indigenous knowledge, ethnobiology, the social impact of deforestation, and the relation between nation-state and indigenous populations. She has been in Malaysia as a researcher with Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA) since 2011.

Education

M A (Chiba University 2009), BA (Chiba University 2007)

Academic Society

The Society for Ecological Anthropology , International Society of Ethnobiology

Research Interests

Ms Aya Kawai research interests include indigenous knowledge, ethnobiology, environmental anthropology and cognitive study. For her current research, she carried out her field work on Batek community in Kuala Koh, Kelantan to understand the transformation of indigenous environmental knowledge. While the Batek are mainly in Kuala Koh, her research also includes Batek from other areas. This study will investigate how they produce and reproduce indigenous environmental knowledge through practice as a process of adaptation under deforestation and in a context of nation-state formation.

Publications, Presentations

- 2011. The Development Projects of Malaysian Government and the Orang Asli: A case study of Batek in Kuala Koh, Kulantan. *Ethnography of International Cooperation Report on Research Project No.230*. Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences Chiba University pp.16-41.
- 2009. “A study on sharing of knowledge among Japanese black beef famers” (Presentation at Annual Conference of The Society for Ecological Anthropology)