

## Documents

Bakar, A.A.<sup>a</sup>, Awalluddin, S.H.<sup>a</sup>, Rahman, S.A.A.<sup>b</sup>, Abdullah, A.<sup>b</sup>, Zaki, M.I.M.<sup>b</sup>

**DOCUMENTING THE CULTURAL CEREMONIES OF ORANG ASLI PAHANG**

(2025) *Planning Malaysia*, 23 (2), pp. 293-305.

DOI: 10.21837/pm.v23i36.1720

<sup>a</sup> Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Design, Universiti putra Malaysia, Malaysia

<sup>b</sup> Kulliyyah of Architecture and Environmental Design, Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia, Malaysia

**Abstract**

The Orang Asli Pahang celebrate their heritage with vibrant ceremonies embodying the spirit of community, culture, and nature. This study aims to develop a digital documentation strategy to archive the cultural ceremonies of the Orang Asli Pahang in a cultural repository. This will preserve and enhance access to this cultural information, filling gaps in collective memory and improving documentation of lesser-known communal ceremonies to help revive the cultural heritage. Purpose: The primary objectives of this paper are (i) to document the cultural ceremonies of Orang Asli Pahang, and (ii) to assign themes to the cultural ceremonies widely applicable to all tribes of the Orang Asli in Pahang. Method: Qualitative research method is employed to explore, document and thematize the cultural ceremonies of Orang Asli Pahang. Such methods include content analysis, semi-structured interviews, and thematic analysis. Findings: There exists a rich tapestry of cultural ceremonies that interrelate with other domains of cultural heritage. These cultural ceremonies are commonly motivated by marital celebrations, ancestral honorations, supernatural phenomena, and occasional communal feasts. Concerning all tribes of Orang Asli Pahang, the cultural ceremonies are thematized under rite of passage-related, ancestor-related, supernatural-related, and communal feast-related. The findings also highlighted the urgency to digitally document the Orang Asli Pahang's cultural ceremonies. Respondents remember individual rites of passage but struggle to recall communal ceremonies involving feasts, ancestors, and the supernatural. © 2025 by MIP.

**Author Keywords**

Cultural Ceremonies; Intangible Cultural Heritage; Orang Asli Pahang

**Funding details**

This research was carried out under the Sponsor Research Grant Scheme (SPP22-126-0126) provided by Perbadanan Muzium Negeri Pahang.

**References**

- Abu Bakar, A., Mohamed Osman, M., Bachok, S., Ibrahim, M.  
**Analysis on Community Involvement in Cultural Activities: Transmission of Ethnic Language**  
(2014) *Planning Malaysia*, 12 (4).
- Chan, C. S., Saidon, Z. L.  
**Advocating contemporary traditional indigenous Semai music through an exploration of youth interest**  
(2017) *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 7 (7), pp. 454-463.
- Ghani, Erlane K., Muhammad, Kamaruzzaman, Hassan, Razinah  
**Understanding the influence of Remoteness on Culture and Socio-Economic of the Orang Asli in Malaysia**  
(2020) *PalArch's Journal of Archaeology of Egypt/Egyptology*, 17 (2), pp. 366-376.
- Goh, Y. S., Teh, P. Y.  
**Ceremonies and the theory of inclusive development in Malaysia: Perspectives from**

**a ceremony organizer**

(2022) *ASEAS-Advances in Southeast Asian Studies*, 15 (2), pp. 295-307.

- Lazaro Ortiz, S., Jimenez de Madariaga, C.  
**The UNESCO Convention for The Safeguarding of The Intangible Cultural Heritage: A Critical Analysis**  
 (2022) *International Journal of Cultural Policy*, 28 (3), pp. 327-341.
- Linggang, D. A. D. J., Wirunsakunphiban, W., Nusen, R.  
**Mah Meri's Main Jo-Oh (Hari Moyang Puja Pantai Ritual Dance): From Traditional to A Tourism Art Entertainment**  
 (2024) *Jurnal Gendang Alam*, 14 (1), pp. 64-79.
- Monova-Zheleva, M., Zhelev, Y., Nikolova, E.  
**Intangible cultural heritage presentation and preservation—Challenges and Opportunities for Museum Specialists**  
 (2020) *Digital Presentation and Preservation of Cultural and Scientific Heritage*, 10, pp. 233-240.
- Selkani, I.  
**Ceremony attractiveness literature review**  
 (2018) *International Journal of World Policy and Development Studies*, 4 (9), pp. 89-97.
- Shaari, J., Zulkifli, N. B. I., Abu, R., Wan, C. W. I. R. C., Razab, N. A., Embong, A. M.  
**Orang Asli Knowledge—The Wisdom Inheritance of Indigenous Peoples**  
 (2024) *Educational Administration: Theory and Practice*, 30 (5), pp. 11952-11966.
- Tume, T. K.  
**Awarawari'rawa... performing statehood for unity in the Nigerian National Ceremony of Arts and Culture**  
 (2021) *South African Theatre Journal*, 34 (1), pp. 47-59.
- (2003) *Implementing the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage*,
- Zuhairi, M. H., Rosnon, M. R., Shaari, J.  
**A systematic review on the Mah Meri people in Malaysia**  
 (2020) *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 10 (16), pp. 73-95.

**Correspondence Address**

Bakar A.A.; Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Design, Malaysia; email: aisyah.ab@upm.edu.my

**Publisher:** Malaysian Institute Of Planners

**ISSN:** 16756215

**Language of Original Document:** English

**Abbreviated Source Title:** Plann.Malays.

2-s2.0-105005488968

**Document Type:** Article

**Publication Stage:** Final

**Source:** Scopus