SIGNIFICANCE OF A PLACE: THE MALAY CULTURAL HERITAGE OF KERIAN DISTRICT, PERAK, MALAYSIA

RESEARCH MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE (RMI)
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA
40450 SHAH ALAM, SELANGOR MALAYSIA

BY:

KAMARUL BAHRAIN B SHUIB
HABSAH BT HASHIM

FEBRUARY 2013
Table of Contents

Table of Contents ........................................................................................................... ii
1. Letter of Report Submission ...................................................................................... iii
2. Letter of Offer (Research Grant) ................................................................................ iv
3. Acknowledgements ..................................................................................................... v
4. Enhanced Research Title and Objectives ................................................................. vi
5. Report ........................................................................................................................... 1
   5.1 Proposed Executive Summary ................................................................................ 1
   5.2 Enhanced Executive Summary .............................................................................. 2
   5.3 Introduction ............................................................................................................. 3
   5.4 Brief Literature Review .......................................................................................... 3
      5.4.1 Landscape Meanings ...................................................................................... 4
      5.4.2 Concept of Cultural Landscape ...................................................................... 5
   5.5 Methodology .......................................................................................................... 7
      5.5.1 Data gathering ............................................................................................... 8
      5.5.2 Analysis .......................................................................................................... 8
      5.5.3 Findings and Conclusions ............................................................................. 8
   5.6 Results and Discussion ........................................................................................... 9
      5.6.1 Overview of the State of Perak and its Districts .............................................. 9
      5.6.2 Landscape Character Types in Kerian District .............................................. 12
      5.6.3 Landscape Character Areas ......................................................................... 15
      5.6.4 Rice Fields of Kerian .................................................................................... 38
      5.6.5 Malay Villages of Kerian ............................................................................. 39
   5.7 Conclusion and Recommendation .......................................................................... 41
   5.8 References/Bibliography ....................................................................................... 43
6. Research Outcomes ..................................................................................................... 45
Appendix A: Field Marking Sheet ................................................................................. 46
Appendix B: Research Group Brochure ........................................................................ 47
Appendix C: Conference Article ................................................................................. 48
Tarikh : 20 Januari 2010

Prof. Madya Dr Kamarul Bahrain bin Shuib
Ketua Projek

Prof. Madya Habsah binti Hashim
Ahli Projek

Fakulti Senibina, Perancangan dan Ukur
UITM SHAH ALAM

Tuan/Puan

KELULUSAN PERMOHONAN DANA KECEMERLANGAN FASA 03/2009
TAJUK PROJEK : SIGNIFICANCE OF A PLACE: THE MALAY CULTURAL
HERITAGE IN PERAK

Dengan segala hormatnya perkara di atas adalah dirujuk.

Dengan sukacitanya, Institut Pengurusan Penyelidikan (RMI) mengucapkan tahniah kepada tuan/puan kerana telah berjaya ditawarkan Geran Dana Kecemerlangan bagi projek penyelidikan tersebut tertakluk kepada syarat-syarat dalam lampiran.

Tempoh projek penyelidikan ini ialah satu (1) tahun, iaitu bermula 01 Januari 2010 hingga 31 Disember 2010. Peruntukan yang diluluskan ialah sebanyak RM15,000.00 sahaja bagi Kategori B. Tuan/puan diminta mengemukakan kertas cadangan penelitian beserta bajet yang baru seperti yang dicadangkan dan bersesuaian dengan jumlah kelulusan yang telah diluluskan.

Sekian, harap maklum dan terima kasih.

"SELMAT MENJALANKAN PENYELIDIKAN DENGAN JAYANYA"

Yang benar

MUSTAFAR KAMAL HAMZAH
Ketua INFOREC

Merangkap Ketua Penyelidikan (Sains dan Teknologi)

s.k.
1. Dekan, Fakulti Senibina, Perancangan dan Ukur, UITM SHAH ALAM
2. Puan Rosnani Abdul Razak, Penolong Bendahari
   Unit Kewangan Zon 17 (Penyelidikan)
5. Report

5.1 Proposed Executive Summary

Rapid development that had taken place in most places in Malaysia as a result of favorable economic growth and political stability following the country’s independence had encroached into the countryside. The rural countryside environments such as stretches of paddy fields, rustic villages, pristine forest reserves and peaceful coastal areas are slowly being eroded in the name of progress and development. The process of land use change from agriculture to development (housing, commerce and industry) had often ignored the significance and unique character of a place. Malay culture and heritage areas are areas that have Malay characteristics and are influenced by the Malay tradition and values for a long time. The countryside of the Malay heartland represents the transformation of the people, their culture and livelihood over time. However, pressure on land and eagerness for modern development threatens these areas and could destroy the ‘sense of place’ that has evolved. The study would focus on the existing landscape character that has evolved from the various historical periods that shaped the community, settlements and livelihood of the people living in the district. The landscape character types that will be analyzed include hills and uplands, plains, lakes, dams and settlement patterns. The elements that would be studied include the historical background, physical character, uniqueness of a place, existing use and the importance of the place to the nearby community.
5.3 Introduction

Rapid development that had taken place in most places in Malaysia as a result of favorable economic growth and political stability following the country's independence had encroached into the countryside. The rural countryside environments such as stretches of paddy fields, rustic villages, pristine forest reserves and peaceful coastal areas are slowly being eroded in the name of progress and development. The process of land use change from agriculture to development (housing, commerce and industry) had often ignored the significance and unique character of a place. Pressures on land and eagerness for modern development had threatened these areas and could destroy the 'sense of place' that has evolved since its early history.

The relationship between people and the landscape and the experiences in which they encounter with the landscape needs to be the primary focus in heritage management and not necessarily the specific physical features of the landscape (Stein, 1997). However, as Taylor (1989) argued, the traditional heritage practitioners and managers have focused solely on tangible physical properties and ignored the important social components that make up the cultural and social fabric of rural landscape. As such this study is aimed at portraying significant cultural landscape characteristics of the district of Kerian in the northern state of Perak, Malaysia based on a comprehensive study of the landscape characters in the district. These landscapes, which are characterized by extensive stretches of rice fields and traditional settlements, were shaped by the Malay community, namely the Banjarese who had migrated to Malaya since the early part of the 20th century. The study that had been done focuses on the existing landscape characters that have evolved from the various historical periods that shaped the community, settlements and livelihood of the people living in the district of Kerian. The importance of conserving heritage landscape and the need to understand the significance of these cultural landscape areas calls for a workable and practical action strategy.

5.4 Brief Literature Review

The European Landscape Convention (European Council, 2000) defines landscape as an area

- as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors. The term “landscape” is thus defined as a zone or area as