1 MALAYSIA ORANG ASLI COMMUNITY PORTAL
(CULTURAL HERITAGE REPOSITORY SYSTEM)

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APRIL 2010
“I declare that the content of this thesis is my original with the exclusion of references that has been appropriately acknowledged.”

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ABSTRACT

The Orang Asli are indigenous people and their community are scattered in remote areas of Peninsular Malaysia. According to our study, the Orang Asli has many interesting cultural heritage that are not commonly known to others outside their community. As with many indigenous tribes all over the world, the Orang Asli’s original culture and knowledge are slowly being eroded by modernization and assimilation. If left unchecked, one day their rich knowledge of the forest, folklore, dances, traditional dress and other cultural heritage will be lost forever. Efforts to save the cultural heritage have been carried out by the Malaysian government such as the setting up of the Orang Asli museums. However, accessibility is an important issue. With many physical organizations, the knowledge repositories of the museums are only available to those who could take time to visit the museums during their opening hours. The 1 Malaysia Orang Asli Community Portals (Cultural Heritage Repository System) is an effort to act as a supplementary Knowledge Management repository for the Orang Asli museums. With the portal, the cultural heritage of the Orang Asli will be accessible to the whole world at any time and by electronic means. Multimedia information, in the form of text, pictures, video and audio are stored systematically in an ontological structure for easy retrieval and dissemination. This project was carried out by studying the needs and requirements of the various stakeholders and the Orang Asli communities in Johor by applying Action Research and Soft System Methodologies. This project is one of the components in the Orang Asli Community Portal Project carried out under the Information Service System Innovation (ISSI) Research Group.
ABSTRAK

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction of The Project

How many Malaysian really knows how to define the word “Orang Asli” accurately? Do you call them “Sakai”? Do you ever tell your foreign friends about Orang Asli? And how do you describe our Orang Asli to your foreign friends? The answer from Wikipedia, Orang Asli (lit, "original peoples" or "aboriginal peoples" in Malay) is a general term used for any indigenous groups that are found in Peninsular Malaysia.

As you can see, most of the people today do not know much about Orang Asli as they do not have the acquire knowledge as the limited information from the internet. Moreover, most of the students do not benefit well from the school or books. Therefore, the Government initiated the first official website of the Jabatan Hal Ehwal Orang Asli (JHEOA) in order to provide information about Orang Asli, some formal articles, and news and events.
In fact, the Cultural Heritage Repository System aims to give a route to Orang Asli to share their exceptional skills, cultural heritage, folklores, history, lifestyle, and traditional herbs knowledge with public. In addition, some folklore will be shared in texts and some will be in downloadable and streaming mp3 format or both, so that audience will be able to understand folklore better.

In short, the 1 Malaysia Orang Asli Community Portals (Cultural Heritage Repository System) is a supplement to Orang Asli culture information. It imparts information to individuals through text, pictures, video and audio. Research or study through electronic wise, public can easily rip and download the mp3 files and videos from the Cultural Heritage Repository System. They can also absorb knowledge on forest ecology, tree species, jungle herbs, crafts and, wildlife behavior and habitats. Through this system, public could get the information for their school assignment, research projects, and have some entertainments from Orang Asli video and audio.

1.2 Background of Problem

Today many people have no interest in understanding and learning Orang Asli culture and in fact they only learn nature knowledge from books. They think that learning Orang Asli culture and nature knowledge is unnecessary as this knowledge does not help them much on their life. Therefore, although Orang Asli rich in culture and knowledge about nature, but still people do not practice the habit to explore them voluntarily due to abovementioned reasons.
Moreover, the JHEOA web page does not provide complete information about Orang Asli cultural heritage. Out of all the information including folklore, traditional medicine and so on, the JHEOA web site only provides literature on Orang Asli population history and development project designed for them. In short, there are still lacking web portal that store complete information about Orang Asli.

As conclusion, information like Orang Asli culture, folklores, history, linguistic, lifestyle, craft skill, and traditional medicine knowledge should be available and the portal should be presented in an interactive way and not in a boring way. So the portal will not only provide useful and effective information to our remote communities but also interesting to skim through.

1.3 Statement of Problem

Refers to the background of problems that have been discussed, there are several problems that can be found and need to be solved. The main question to discuss is:

“How to collect all the information of Orang Asli culture, folklores, history, linguistic, lifestyle, craft skill, and traditional medicine knowledge from them?”

Several additional questions are generated to examine or support the major issues. Additional questions to support the main questions are as below:
i. How can we know that the information they give us are still virgin or been modified or a totally new folklore?

ii. How do the losses of cultural heritage can be found?

iii. How to draw the public attention to use this system?

iv. What are the requirements for the Cultural Heritage Repository System?

1.4 Aims of The Project

The aim of this project is to develop a prototype web-based information system specifically to provide knowledge for public to study, learn, entertain themselves, and get the information for their school assignment and research projects.

1.5 Objective of The Project

In achieving the project goal, several objectives have been identified. The objectives of this project are as follows:

i. To study the requirements for an Orang Asli cultural heritage repository.

ii. To develop a prototype web-based information system to manage and disseminate information on Orang Asli culture.
1.6 Scope of The Project

To ensure that all the objectives that been specified can be achieved and performed, the system that being developed must be based on several scope. The scope of the project can be identified are as below:

i. The study will be conducted on the Orang Asli culture, history, and lifestyle.

ii. The user organization targeted for this study will be the Orang Asli communities, Jabatan Hal Ehwal Orang Asli (JHEOA), Ministry of Regional and Rural Development, and RTM Malaysia.

iii. The information system will be a web-based system and developed using the Microsoft Dot NET system.

1.7 Importance of The Project

After this project is carried out and done developing, it will benefit public, Malaysian students, foreign students, academics and researchers. First of all, the Malaysian students as well as the academic students can retrieve information related to the history of interest places, folklore, myths and so on just in one click to our portal. They can learn a lot about Orang Asli culture and nature knowledge as well. Besides that, our portal’s forum will offer them useful trekking tips and introduces some jungle adventures as well. They can exchange and share perspective inside the forum and put forward their comments about Orang Asli culture and perhaps it were another effective way to learn from Orang Asli.
In addition, at the same time we are also promoting Asyik FM as well as the only Orang Asli radio channel. For your information, we will categories the radio content into different medium like radio live broadcast, download, songs, news, and history and so on. It is designed to replace what we can learn from mp3 and education wise, it is a better way to teach information through storytelling and interviews from radio.

As conclusion, this cultural heritage system not only contribute to research project, publication and community projects but also please the people who intend to learn Orang Asli traditional medicine, behavior and culture.

1.8 Summary

There is some important information that can be disclosed in Chapter 1 such as the background of problem, problem statement, project aims, project objectives, project scope and lastly is the importance of the project. All the information is important because it is the guidelines that should be referred before the development of a system can be begun. Background of problem is the description about the situation or the current state of the organization. From the problems that can be identified, some of it in the form of a statement made to determine the ability in solving problems that have been analyzed. The objective is to answer all the questions about what I want to achieve. The aim of the project is associated with what to be achieved in the project or study. Every project or study must have only one goal. Next, the scope of the project aims to determine the system boundaries or system restraint. It also provides information on matters that have to be taken note during the system development process is executed.