The revitalization of Mak Yong in the Malay world

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ABSTRACT
Culture can only be revitalized when a cultural tradition is considered of significant importance by its owning community. How important it is for the identity of that community or to what extent it symbolizes that community can only be established after in-depth study. It is crucial that revitalization activities involve the community. If not, efforts would be pointless. Mak Yong is one of the Malay performing art traditions that has been revitalized over the last five years. It is an art form that originates in southern Thailand and was brought to Bintan in the Riau Islands (Kepulauan Riau, Kepri) via Singapore. It combines dialogue, dance, singing, music, and stories and may still be found in the Riau Islands in Indonesia. It is interesting to show how Mak Yong has represented and expressed Malay dynamics by means of revitalizations efforts.

KEYWORDS
Oral Tradition Revitalization, Mak Yong, Riau Islands, Malay world.

INTRODUCTION
Mak Yong is an oral performing art tradition that may still be encountered in the Riau Islands (Kepri) and more specifically in the islands of Batam and Bintan. In Batam, Mak Yong is performed by a group from Pulau Panjang. In Bintan it is still found in two places, Kampung Keke, Kecamatan Kijang, and Pulau Mantang Arang, an island off the coast of East Bintan. In both places, the performers of Mak Yong belong to the third and fourth generations after the founders of the Mak Yong groups.

I would like to thank Dick van der Meij for his translation of my article from Indonesian to English.

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