



Resilience and Renewal: Fostering Broad Community Connections to Malaysia's Indigenous Food Systems



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E-217, Agriculture Main Building

This talk will explore the challenges faced by Orang Asli communities in Malaysia in reclaiming their food systems as a way of building resilience and promoting renewal. The Orang Asli are indigenous peoples of Malaysia who have been marginalized and excluded from mainstream society, and who have faced significant challenges in maintaining their traditional practices and food systems. They are experiencing a myriad of environmental, socio-cultural, and nutritional issues that have impacted their overall well-being. In recent years, however, Orang Asli communities have been working to reclaim their land, their resources, and their cultural heritage, and to build more sustainable and resilient food systems that reflect their traditions and values.



Based on the current development of food sovereignty, I propose the development of a sustainable food sovereignty model that advocates the need for the Orang Asli to self-determine their own food systems, thus allowing them to respond to their own needs, utilizing culturally based indigenous food, as well as facilitating decisions about the allocation of their resources.



This talk will highlight some of the innovative approaches that Orang communities are using to achieve these goals, such as community-led agroforestry, developing culturally relevant curricula, and forming traditional knowledge networks. Drawing on examples from Japan, the talk will also explore how circular economy innovations, such as ecovillages, community supported agriculture, and circular supply chains, can provide models for Orang Asli communities to build more sustainable and regenerative food systems. By bringing together insights from both Orang Asli communities and circular economy innovations, this talk will provide a hopeful and inspiring vision for the future of food systems in Malaysia and beyond.

***This lecture is open to anyone.**