UTAR NEW VILLAGE COMMUNITY PROJECT REPORT

NAME OF NEW VILLAGE:
KAMPUNG TOKONG 督公新村
KELANTAN

Project carried out by:

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DATE OF COMPLETION:
JANUARY 2013
KAMPUNG TOKONG

ABSTRACT

Kampung Tokong was established around the 1700’s. It is located in the district of Ketereh in the state of Kelantan. The town of Kota Bharu is a 30 minute drive away from this village. The main attraction in Kampung Tokong is the Chinese temple which was built about 300 years ago. The main economic activities in this village are rubber tapping and farming.

A signage to Kg. Tokong
INTRODUCTION

Kampung Tokong is located close to Kota Bharu which is about 25km away. The small town of Machang is about 15km from Kampung Tokong. Kampung Tokong was founded in the 1700’s.

Its current population is approximately 500 people. When the village was founded in the 1700’s, it had a population of under 100 people. Over the course of 300 years, the population has increased, but due to the lack of job opportunities, villagers have migrated to urban areas nearby such as Kota Bharu.
ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Rubber tapping and rice farming are the main sources of income for Kampung Tokong villagers.

*Rice fields in Kg. Tokong*
KAMPUNG TOKONG

SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS PRACTISE

Kampung Tokong has a population of approximately 500 consisting of 95% Chinese and 5% other ethnic groups. Although the majority of the villagers are Chinese, the most widely spoken language is Kelantanese Malay. Buddhism is widely practiced. Places of worship include a temple called Seng Choon Keong, which is dedicated to the Goddess of Matsu. The main festival held in the village is the celebration of the Goddess of Matsu’s birthday the 23rd day of the third moon according to the Chinese lunar calendar. This festival includes a procession with the statue of the Goddess Matsu, lion dance, concerts and “wayang kulit” (shadow puppet show). The celebrations last for 3 days. Besides worshipping the Goddess Matsu, villagers also pray to “Na Tuk Kong”, a local deity worshipped in many Malaysian towns and villages.

![The temple of the Goddess Matsu](image)

Villagers continue to celebrate many Chinese festivals such as the Chinese New Year, “bak chang” (meat dumpling) festival, moon cake festival and “tangyuan” festival (winter solstice festival). Every Chinese New Year, the local Seng Choon Keong lion dance association will tour the state of Kelantan to conduct traditional cultural rituals aimed at driving away evil spirits.
The temple of the Goddess Matsu (front view)
EDUCATION

Villagers in Kampung Tokong have to send their children to primary school at Sekolah Kebangsaan Gondang. This primary school is located close to Kampung Tokong. For secondary school and tertiary education, village youths have to travel further away from Kampung Tokong.

A primary school nearby the village.
INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

There are no medical facilities available in the village. Currently, villagers have to travel to nearby towns for medical care.

The drainage system is poor. Villagers face flooding every year during the monsoon season. Infrequent garbage collection worsens the problem because the drains are often clogged with garbage.

Security in Kampung Tokong is satisfactory. One adult male from each household will volunteer to assist in the village security committee. These volunteers watch over the security of the village, especially at night.
The road system in this village is satisfactory. The roads are well maintained and any problems are quickly dealt with by the authorities.

PROBLEMS

The main problems faced by Kampung Tokong are floods during the monsoon season and lack of job opportunities. The floods will affect the yield from the paddy fields and will directly affect the villagers’ income especially since the main source of income is from rice farming. Besides agriculture, job opportunities in other areas are severely lacking.

Paddy fields in the village
RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the authorities look into ways of improving villagers’ access to formal education. The absence of secondary schools nearby means that villagers have to spend a considerable amount on transport to and from school or on accommodation and food at towns where schools are located. Perhaps inexpensive public transport and/ or hostel facilities should be provided.

Poor access to medical care poses a problem for villagers. Perhaps mobile clinics could provide some assistance, especially for minor ailments. In addition, quick and inexpensive transport to hospitals in nearby towns should be looked into.

The drainage system and garbage collection system need improvement. This would be an important part of flood mitigation efforts.

DISCLAIMER:

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