

Innovation of Malaysian Batik Craft in Arts: A Reflection for Vocational Education

¹Hanipah Hussin, ¹Kalthom Husain, ¹Asiah Binti Hj Pilus, ¹Hazmilah hasan,

¹Cheong Kar Mee and ²Noorayisahbe Mohd Yaacob

¹Jabatan Pengajian Islam dan Kemanusiaan (PBPI),
Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka, Melaka, Malaysia

²Faculty of Information and Communication Technology,
Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM), 76100 Durian Tunggal, Melaka, Malaysia

Abstract: Batik is a unique cultural symbol for the Malay community. Innovation in the art of wax stamp on the cloth is Malay heritage has been documented and verified by western orientalisers. The purpose of this study is first to analyze the efforts and innovations of batik art and development. Secondly, is to identify the necessary injections elements of science and technology and innovation to increase the potential of batik-making industry in the future. There are 49 industries involved in the study cohort. Research methods such as participating technique (participatory research) and observation was the main method of obtaining data. While the method of analysis of chronological time and old documents in the national archives are secondary methods in an effort to add complete analysis of the study. The results showed that there was an additional 45 percent of the effort that has been done to develop the batik industry development in Malaysia. The impact of this study is to recommend on the use of innovative computer-aided machine in printing batik. The future work should focus on how to use computer-aided machine in mass printing batik.

Key words: Batik, heritage, innovation, art, civilization, Malay culture

INTRODUCTION

Batik is simply a patterned cloth stands (drawn or applied wax and dye). The word 'tik' means 'point of origin which has 'tik-tick ticking sound'. The terms batik is also referred as the process of dropping some candle wax on a white cloth via "canting" (is a tool/small device used to transfer or take a special fluid is used to produce hand drawn batik. Batik is one of the famous traditional handicraft areas in Malaysia. It is produced through a process of layering wax and dye. Historical development of batik in Malaysia believed to have started in the 15th century AD. Early development demonstrates the impact and influence of Javanese batik. Beginning in the 1930s until after World War II, the batik industry in Malaysia has grown rapidly.

The batik making is popular in the states of Kelantan and Terengganu and these states are the pioneers in the development of Malaysian batik. These local batik creations and designs are of high-quality. This represents creative Penan handicraft skills among batik makers homeland. The charm of batik is not only famous among the locals but it was well-received by foreign tourists who come from abroad as America, Britain, Japan, China and Australia.

Literature review: Batik is one of the unique cultural symbols for the people of the Malay Archipelago and Java. An origin of batik is still questionable to this day. According to some opinions, some say batik originated from India and some people say batik originated from Persia. Through the discovery of archaeological experts, they have found a piece of fabric that has a pattern that resembles Egyptian batik in those days of 70 AD. However, researchers believe that batik is indeed derived from the Malay Archipelago. This is based on the art of wax onto a Malay heritage formulated from studies by historians Winstedt and Skeat. Art does not exist in traditional Indian culture. There was just another opinion that batik might arrived in Egypt from the Malay Archipelago by Indians in their selling and trading process. Wan Hashim Wan The explains the term 'batik' which comes from the word Java, Indonesia.

'The term batik is of Javanese origin from the word 'ambatik', meaning a cloth having dots or dotted cloth. 'Tik' may have come from the word 'titik' meaning 'dots' while the word 'ba' means 'doing work actively' (Army, 1987)

Batik is a continuation of traditional heritage. To date the emergence of batik still remains a secret and it is still disputed by art historians. Archaeologists have made a statement and give an opinion based on the theory that the 'batik' actually born in the East countries. The original concept of batik production is from the world's great civilizations of Egypt, despite the fact that the term 'batik' actually came from the Malay island states. Zulfida SM Syed Noor, recorded:

The word "batik" appears to have originated from Indonesia from the Malay word for "point" and the Javanese word "Mba" means "writing". Therefore, "batik" means "to write the dots" is meant here whether in the points in the sense of actual or purported flowers and other small theme on the surface of white cloth. Then, the technique used to create themes depends on time and space Nawawi Norwani identified that batik in Java means 'ba' or 'Amba' that is making an active job.

"...Amba' the meaning 'servant' or 'enslave themselves' and 'tik' means the point. The word 'ba-tik' means to drip wax on a white cloth. Points generated from the candles by using a canting. Canting is a tool made of metal (copper) small shoe shaped space where the wax filled"

In the Hall's Dictionary (3 ed) records a relatively simple definition of 'batik' means which means a patterned fabric, (painted or applied wax and dye). The word 'tik' means 'point of origin atau'tik-tick ticking sound'. Terms of batik is also taken from the use of candles and dripped onto the surface through a canting white cloth. Malaysian batik has a greater meaning than just a simple definition of physical processes related to its production. Batik in Malaysia includes design, patterns and themes. The batik process is a matter of secondary importance.

"...In Malaysia the meaning of batik is much larger than a simple definition of the physical batik process. For most Malaysians batik connotes certain design characteristics and particular themes. The process is secondary..." (Army, 1987)

In another context the meaning of batik is seen from the use of materials that act as a barrier on the fabric surface during the dyeing process; these approaches and technique it selves is something called batik. The views and opinions on painting batik expressed by the pioneers is meant as a process for producing colour block pattern design on the fabric surface. With a variety of specified meaning of batik, it can be concluded that batik is an art that is produced from wax impression through the techniques of points or other insulating material also can be a barrier to permeate the fabric dye on the surface of the fabric which can cause or produce a certain designs on the surface of the fabric. Due to these effects it is called batik (Belfer, 1972).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research methods such as participating technique (participatory research) and observation were the main methods of obtaining data. While the method of analysis of chronological time and old documents in the national archives are secondary methods in an effort to add complete analysis of the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of this study focus on two research questions. The first is to analyze the efforts and innovations of batik art and future development in the industrial sector. The findings were compiled in Table 1,

Table 1: The injection of science and technology in malaysia's batik industry

Years	Effort on transformation of Malaysian batik industry	Results of the injections of science and technology and innovation elements
1921	Batik industry first developed by Hj Che Sue Bin Ibrahim	Batik work centre at Lorong Gajah Mati in Kota Bahru. Then progressed and moved to Kg. Sireh
1930's,	Batik fabric is manufactured using carved wooden blocks and stamped onto the fabric. Colors taken from a fruit that has a black rubber block and stamped on white cloth and chop wood block artefacts' carved	Rubber pieces applied to the wood; White cloth stamped with floral shoot; black rubber fruit
1946	Yusoff Abdullah famous batik	The onset of batik glory
1950	Use canned block vanity call block, batik or batik stamp	Block artefacts' can begin to use
1960	Blocks can then be replaced with copper being used to this day	
1960	First the method introduced in Malaysian batik canting use copper Canting batik with a piece of copper	
1970	The government of Malaysia declares national batik clothing for people of all races industry batik painting by hand	MAS air hostess formal batik dress
1976	Institut Teknologi Mara in Shah Alam start a new syllabus 'batik painting' the subject 'textile'	Canting techniques taught in formal education at Malaysian institutions of higher learning
1978	Rashidahs Kelantan Exclusive Batik batik produced many hands as exclusive	Women began to open up and do business in the batik industry in exclusive

Table 1: Continue

Year	Effort on transformation of Malaysian batik industry	Results of the injections of science and technology and innovation elements
1980	Commercial production of batik in Malaysia. Wan Mohamed Ariffin business start Noor Arfa Batik Sdn. Ltd., Batik become commercial material	Modern Batik popular composition. Noor Arfa Batik Sdn. Ltd., became the first millionaire batik among the Malays
1990	Commercial production Batik Summit in Malaysia Prof. Associate Zaharah Othman, Textile Design lecturer, UiTM has taught batik pattern-woven tie, tie dyeing patterns that belong to the exclusive batik	Batik got the attention of all the people and the arts
1996	Noor Arfa Batik expand into overseas markets through the web site:	Initially www.noor-arfa.com e-business with commercial use ICT in Malaysian Batik. Web: www.noor-arfa.com
12 July	Inauguration of Entrepreneurial Seminar-Motivation and	Batik entrepreneurial courses in Punjab
2001	Entrepreneurship Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan	
2003	Consumer Acceptance Study Malaysian Handicraft Development Batik Innovation Center was established in Manitoba Corporation (PKKM) Malaysian Batik Innovation Convention. Batik Design Competition Endon 2003-launched. Batik Malaysia and international favourite products	
2004	Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage has made policies: Back-developing industry. Study the local batik marketing strategy	Help policy batik industry made by the KKK and Heritage Minister
2005	Design Competition Endon Batik May 2004: For the seventh time. Chief Executive Officer of Loving Kindness Foundation of Malaysia, Datuk Leela Mohd Ali said the annual contest has three categories namely, fashion, jewellery and furniture crafts category. Nov 2005: Malaysia Loving Kindness Foundation, pledged to continue the former patron, the late Datin Seri Endon Mahmood to get international recognition for Malaysian batik	May 2005: A Batik fashion show beyond the shores of Malaysia was organized Malaysia Batik Exotica: 5 local batik producers/fashion designers parading solely for collections in the Hague, the Netherlands at a charity auction
2006	Estimate batik to the year 2006: RM180.6 million-high potential and viability	Malaysia's textile and clothing industry 7th largest contributor to total manufacturing export earnings in 2006
2007	September 2007: MINISTRY of Culture, Arts and Heritage, through its agency, the Malaysian Handicraft organizes joint Malaysian Craft Promotion Sarawak Government in conjunction with the 50th Merdeka in Kuching Waterfront October 2007: Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage Commission (folder) with the Malaysian Handicraft Batik Appreciation Forum held chaired by Prof. Prof Dr. Dzil Haimi Md. Brothers, lecturer, UiTM Shah Alam, in conjunction with the Merdeka Batik Promotion at the Craft Complex, Jalan Conlay	Batik Malaysia craft promotion and industry throughout Sarawak and Sabah October 2007: Wives Association Chief Foreign Missions in Brasilia hosted the International Bazaar at the compound of the Venezuelan Embassy in Brasilia. Participants from Malaysia exhibit batik collection and some other items in this bazaar
2008	Tournament Series Faith Batik Cup 2008-Gala Night Cup Series Faith, 2008 December 2008: Kuala Lumpur International fashion week at The Gardens Hotel and Residences	The >20 countries from around the world have confirmed their participation
2009	Kuala Lumpur International Batik (KLIB) Convention and Exhibition 2009. 15 countries participated and 10 thousand visitors	Yayasan Budi caring as organizers showcase art, craft, fashion, product marketing, technology and Business opportunity
2010	The Malaysia Batik: Crafted for the World	The 79 workshop participants throughout the world, women, artists, managers and traders
2011	The use of batik has grown massive in Japan and China	Production inroads among nations
2012	Industry batik cotton and buy directly from China to meet the demand for raw materials batik fashion	www.kraftangan.gov.my/main/.../46/?page. Indonesia and India are also local batik process
2013	Besides batik from China, Indonesia was raided by the Malaysian batik Industri Policies Hotel Grand Hyatt, Batik Bandung	How to fight raid import Indonesia, Malaysia and China-envy. Efforts to uplift the batik industry in Malaysia. ... March 29, 2013

(Hussin *et al.*, 2011)

as shown. RQ: To analyze the efforts and innovations of batik art and future development in the industrial sector. This study focused on identifying the injection of science and technology and innovation are essential to increase the potential of batik-making industry in the future.

New in innovation injection of Malaysian batik:

Innovation on old idea and follow the trends breathe new life into the industry, but shows Malaysian batik able to

go further. As he said, many of batik is not trying to introduce new ideas. Static design and was not renewed cause batik enthusiasts shy away for a while and what more when batik is only used as 'batik sarong'. With the expectations of the buyers themselves will bring it to a tailor. This is among the causes why the batik industry can only go half way. I think, if we want to develop this industry as a commercial product, batik cannot be semi-finished products only. Batik should be directly

usable products or ready-to-wear clothes according to their tastes and trends, “comments the Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Malaysia Batik: Crafted for the World.

Identity of Malaysian batik: However, if batik wants to be featured as a lifestyle product, there must be identity of Malaysian batik. Besides Malaysia, countries like Indonesia, China, Japan and Thailand also have batik art. But somewhat surprisingly, Indonesian batik only just tipped. Although, Malaysian batik also penetrated in other European countries, but it is better known Indonesian batik. To Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak (Hussin *et al.*, 2011), Indonesian batik is known as a continuous effort to maintain their tradition of pattern and colour. While in Malaysia, not many makers producing batik patterns exclusive to the Malaysian culture although admittedly this country rich in culture that can be batik themes such as architecture and crafts. However, according to a lecturer at the Malaysian Institute of Art (MIA), Samsudin Abu Bakr, when mention of batik as a lifestyle, rather than the batik makers are not able to produce batik decor products, but they do not have the expertise to carry out. For the example we need different fabrics for furniture. In addition, the fabric used for batik as available in the market today may not be suitable for the market in the countries of the four temperate seasons, “he said who is also a batik entrepreneur.

Bold bright colours by theme: Inspiration from the founder of Innovation, Masrina Abdullah mentioned that Malaysian batik has an identity, Hussin *et al.* (2011). If you look at the bright colours theme, the identity of Malaysian batik has long been created and tried by our earlier generations. A move must be made on this. We cannot leave behind all that was once held and available because batik is a tradition. Therefore, I think if we want to innovate, we cannot say this is batik. That change batik identity. Perhaps another name like “Inspiration Batik” will do. If we modernise but goes on to claim that is batik, we will deceive the world and change something original, “continued Masrina. An effort to collaborate with Italian fashion designer, Camerino Roberta has bring about “Inspiration Italian Batik” (Evelyn, 1977).

From craft to fine art: The question about the price of an expensive batik, especially in the fashion industry,

Masrina said it depends on the approach used by operators in the presentation of the results of batik. If the design pattern targeted at an exclusive market, it would be more expensive coupled batik has become a fine art. While another famous batik, A.B. Kareem Khadaied, Inc. Khadani view of the traditional method of batik craft existing good enough to be exported as he himself has been involved for 20 years in the European market or large companies overseas. He gives examples of the problems faced by entrepreneurs in obtaining information on the effect or action of colour when mixed with water that has a high pH value. According to him, even hand-drawn batik in Malaysia has existed for almost 20 years, until now no study on the effect of high pH water air on the overall colour.

“...Batik industry should collaborate with scientists to enhance technological innovation. Besides research in material technology, operators should also be documenting their results for the continuity of the batik industry in Malaysia”

CONCLUSION

This study suggested that the involvement disabilities people in batik industry in Malaysia has become an opportunity and career development. Batik industry also highlighting the talents of this disability people. Batik industry could be a vocational training place as shown at Deaf batik entrepreneur Tengku Arman Haris bin Tengku Ismail.

REFERENCES

- Amy, S., 1987. Malaysian Batik: Creating new Tradition. Kraftangan Malaysia Publication, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Pages: 121.
- Belfer, N., 1972. Designing in Batik and Tie Dye. Davis Publications Inc., Worcester, Massachusetts, ISBN: 9780871920478, Pages: 116.
- Evelyn, S., 1977. Introducing Batik Printing. BT Batsford, Baguio, Philippines,.
- Hussin, H. and A.A.Y.B.H. Ruziah, 2011. Batik Coat Inheritance and Innovation. Penerbit Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka, Malacca, Malaysia, ISBN: 9789670257006, Pages: 122.