

# Transcript

00:00:00 Speaker 1

We now turn to our third presentation, which is from Mr.

00:00:05 Speaker 1

Amru Khalid Sazali, who's from Museum Pahang.

00:00:08 Speaker 1

I'm very glad to say.

00:00:16 Speaker 2

Good morning, everyone.

00:00:17 Speaker 2

Assalamu alaikum, Majesty of Pahang.

00:00:21 Speaker 2

I would like to thank the organizers, Museum Pahang, the chairman, .

00:00:28 Speaker 2

the director at the University of Oxford, Prof.

00:00:32 Speaker 2

Reihan Ismail, Dr.

00:00:34 Speaker 2

Rowena, honorable professors, esteemed guests, my colleagues and participants of Pahang and the Sea.

00:00:41 Speaker 2

Thank you for having me today.

00:00:43 Speaker 2

So my presentation today is on Pahang in the Maritime Sky's Road: Insights from Mismatics, Shipwrecks and Cartography.

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This is an AI-generated Pahang in the 16th century, perhaps in my imagination.

00:00:56 Speaker 2

where there are wooden palisaded city, where there is a palace there, right on the river of Pokan today.

00:01:06 Speaker 2

Right, before proceeding to discuss the sources of historical evidence, the mismatic cartography and shipwrecks, I will begin by discussing the maritime spice wood, and I deliberately use the term spice wood, because usually when we discuss along this theme,

00:01:25 Speaker 2

maritime trade route, we usually use maritime ship route, where it actually is a very modern term.

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It was introduced around the 1900s by European scholars and there are papers that has refuted the idea of or the concept of maritime ship route.

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And here I propose that we would rather move on to discuss this in the term

00:01:54 Speaker 2

maritime spice route and this is I think part of decolonization efforts in order to rename or to refocus the reality and the content of discussion towards what is there actually being in pursuit of traders around the world.

00:02:13 Speaker 2

So people from Arabia, from Europe, from India and also even from China you see very interesting

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presentation by Jonathan just now, it shows that spice was the real main trait that is pursued in this part of the world.

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And how to differentiate between perhaps silk and spice, perhaps you can see silk is used as textiles.

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And I like how Tuan Ku in our last program in this tech, Tuan Ku, despite being given the topic

00:02:51 Speaker 2

textiles in by the time Silk Road, Tuan Ku added food and spice food and textile because it's precisely because food and spices is cannot cannot be abandoned, cannot be ignored, cannot be separated in this discourse.

00:03:09 Speaker 2

So, also spice is the main commodity and the core driver of the trade in Southeast Asia, and because sometimes they want to use Silk Road because it's a luxury.

00:03:20 Speaker 2

right?

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But we must know, we must understand that at the time, said spices were also part of luxury.

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So, this is a quote by G.R.T.

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Betts.

00:03:32 Speaker 2

I think everyone's studying Saudi ASEA in the early times must have been read this.

00:03:40 Speaker 2

He said that the reason why Arab geographers want to write about Saudi ASEA was precisely because of spikes and drugs, and

00:03:51 Speaker 2

They give such prominence to notice on drugs and spices and go to such lengths to explain countries of origin and methods of extracting and mining for spices and drugs, so their main occupation.

00:04:01 Speaker 2

These are three maps that draws the Maluku, where they find, where they were known as Spice Islands and where spices were found in abundance.

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And then he goes to say that it is to Malacca that the main Arab roots go, and beyond Malacca, the sending direction seems only half-hearted.

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And in fact, the only real sending directions beyond are for China and Java, and these are main ghost directions, meaning they don't even really know in vivid details what are beyond Malacca.

00:04:36 Speaker 2

So this essence is not mainly to stop over, but also a destination.

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And when we discussed this in using maritime spice route, it has more sense of belonging for the locals.

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And it re-highlights the importance of Southeast Asia compared to just a mere stopover between India to China.

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And then we have a collaboration with from Jakarta.

00:05:02 Speaker 2

They are using this spice route to UNESCO.

00:05:05 Speaker 2

And so I was just back last few months from Bongal,

00:05:10 Speaker 2

in Sumatra and there are a huge archaeological site where they found these artifacts from 7th to 10th century and these are one of the earliest artifacts, Islamic artifacts being traded from Arabia and it's there in Sumatra.

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And it's very interesting because the artifacts shows as if there are industries of

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trying to extract these spices into medical properties.

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And they found like cloves, nutmegs, and they use glasses like if you know Alembic, found in mostly in Andalus, and they use this spoon for the pharmacological tools.

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And it shows that perhaps it was the pursuit of science in the global world.

00:06:05 Speaker 2

And the Arabs came to this part of the world not only for trade, but also because the advancement of science.

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And these are what they have done.

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And we see that the Kalamdan, the Kalamdan there, and they found it this in abundance.

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It is like a pencil box for writing.

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And perhaps there was writings and advancement of knowledge in the west coast of Sumatra even at that early time.

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So, proceeding to the sources of historical evidence that I want to share, how Bahang is involved in the maritime spikes route.

00:06:44 Speaker 2

First, the mismatics, these are only in one private collection, whom I know from Tamer Lok.

00:06:52 Speaker 2

This is only one person's find from the Bahang River, and there are a lot more.

00:06:57 Speaker 2

He said there must be hundreds of thousands of Chinese copper that were found in the Bahang River.

00:07:01 Speaker 2

This is not even in the riverbed, this is just on the riverbanks.

00:07:05 Speaker 2

So, numerous points were also found along with ceramic shirts.

00:07:10 Speaker 2

This is our survey, a very brief survey for three days with an expert from a French person, from an archaeologist.

00:07:22 Speaker 2

So, we found around 170 ceramic fragments along Sungai Pahantur, because I think Sungai Pahantur is not well studied until today.

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and we have some suspicion, perhaps the name Pang Tua would indicate something because it's an old bang.

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So we tried to traverse through the rivers and we found this ceramics and we traverse through this part of the river and we found actually there is another river here.

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And today it's known as Sungai Tros, but when we find it on an old map published by MLT Nautical Chart,

00:08:04 Speaker 2

1898, there is no that part of the river.

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So perhaps the river must have changed route so many times from the earlier times.

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But even along this river, we have found a lot of interesting things, and we ought to do more in the future.

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Right, so last time in Tuen Ku was in Pahang Museum, you asked about this flag.

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So

00:08:34 Speaker 2

One of the way I could think of how to explain why there are so many Chinese coins in the Bahang River, because I encountered this article, Majapahit, which is the currency of Manila society, and he goes to write that actually Majapahit doesn't have its own currency, so they used Chinese coin.

00:08:55 Speaker 2

And we know in Nagaraka Tagama, one of the chronicle in Majapahit Empire, the

00:09:00 Speaker 2

they labeled perhaps the whole peninsula as Bahang.

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So perhaps they have quite a close connection to Bahang, even at that time, because perhaps they are capital in trouble and here perhaps it's easier to move.

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If they want to cross here, they would cross the Penarikan route.

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Later I will show many maps that draws Penarikan route as if it's one of the even more convenient ways to avoid perhaps

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these so-called pirate-infested lands near to Singapore.

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Next, a very interesting thing to note that there is a shared and a uniform metrological system, the way to measure money, measure weight around Southeast Asia.

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And we noticed Tahil, it's originated from

00:09:52 Speaker 2

Malay word and a lot more and these are used throughout South China Sea and you see these are in multipliers 0.6 times 4 and 2.4 this is in a very uniform standard used throughout South China Sea and even to an extent to the Indian Ocean and these are Sagar Kundi where they use 5 Sagar is equal to 1 Kupang, 1 Kupang is like this, this is 1 Kupang and these are all Malay coins and this is Sultan or Gafar coins

00:10:22 Speaker 2

For information, and we still don't have it in our museum.

00:10:28 Speaker 3

Wow, we don't have it.

00:10:30 Speaker 2

Abdulgafu is this one and this one.

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And for information, this is in the British Museum.

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This is Bahang coin, Bahang team coin, produced by Sultaness of Bahang.

00:10:45 Speaker 2

And interestingly, Dr.

00:10:47 Speaker 2

Amal mentioned yesterday there are resemblance between the Swahili coast and the South Asia.

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I have received comments that actually Malay coins have much resemblance to Swahili coins as well.

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So these are

00:11:00 Speaker 2

All these are Bahang coins, and they are not even documented well until today.

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And this is in British Museum, I think just two or three years past, only they know these are from Bahang.

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And we can be certain that this is from Bahang because Linehan brought three of these.

00:11:20 Speaker 2

Linehan brought back three of these.

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And this is in the British Museum, I've seen it.

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And three of them is Sultan Mugafa's coin.

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Two are Sultan Muzaffa's coin.

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And even the tampang follows the same multiplier or the same metrological system, right?

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So the second source of historical evidence is shipwreck.

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I think my colleague Amizah has discussed a bit on this, but the one thing I want to show is that even a lack of archaeological efforts has been done, but still we have found

00:11:56 Speaker 2

In a straight line, a beautiful straight line, a lot of shipwrecks have been found across the east coast of Peninsula Malaysia, and like near to Kuantan Waters and is really parallel to Pahang River.

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And I've received comments from UIA's marine science department.

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They said they saw many shipwrecks in the sea, but they don't know what to do and how to.

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utilizing.

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So, these are nautical charts that shows there are soundings in the maps that they traverse through these Pahang waters and shows that Pahang is part of the maritime spice group.

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So, next source of historic evidence is cartography, and we have this in our museum, recently acquired J.

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W.

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W.

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Nori 18th century.

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It's a very, very huge map of the Indian Ocean and it shows these points

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these soundings and the rumble lines throughout the maps, and we have these as well in our museum.

00:13:02 Speaker 2

And what I want to show is this early European maps that shows the Penarikan route, and it's very consistent, right?

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And it's from to Pahang.

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So it's really, there is such a route back then.

00:13:18 Speaker 2

And perhaps it's even been used since the 7th century up to the 17th century.

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Linehan claimed that after the coming of the Dutch, then the Panarican route is not being used anymore because the Dutch managed to get rid of the pirates in these islands.

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So this is one of the maps.

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And interestingly, Pahang is consistently mentioning so many maps in European maps and even after that.

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And this is, the name is Paon.

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in the 1700s, previously it was in the 1600s and the 1700s as well.

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And then this is one of the maps we have also in our museum, a map from Haji Ahmed, a Tunisian who drew, there you see the pam.

00:14:05 Speaker 2

This is red as pam, pa, in Persian spelling.

00:14:10 Speaker 2

And it's a very huge map, a heart-shaped map, and Pahang is there, Klantan is there, and Simrat is there, and others.

00:14:19 Speaker 2

This is Ibrahim Tafarika map, 18th century.

00:14:26 Speaker 2

This is easily we can know that this is a copied map from the European tradition because they spelled Johor as Ihor.

00:14:34 Speaker 2

Some of the European maps spelled Johor I-H-O-R, so perhaps this is a copy, so it's spelled Ihor, right?

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Okay, this is a very interesting

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perhaps from Batani map, the Jawi map.

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Among the few Jawi map we have, that I've seen everywhere.

00:14:54 Speaker 2

I only know three Jawi map, about Berat one, and this is the second one, and the 1950 map by Abas Nasution, and there is Bahang over there.

00:15:04 Speaker 2

If you see, I cannot see from here, there is Terengganu here, there is Klantan here, Bukit Putri in Terengganu, and Selat Singapura here.

00:15:17 Speaker 2

Right, odd ship, because they want to emphasize Patani here, because it has like a big harbor.

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This is Tasik Patani here, very odd map, but it's very interesting because what they want to highlight.

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So this shows there is a story behind the cartography.

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Right, so Tioman is also very consistently mentioned by many cartographers.

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This is Puro Tioman, this is Bugis map from, it's now in Utrecht, Netherlands.

00:15:45 Speaker 2

1820, it is drawn on a venom, and then there is five copies of this map, and it shows .

00:15:53 Speaker 2

So I've been asking a friend whether this is Bahang or not, but he didn't answer yet.

00:15:58 Speaker 2

He said he needs time.

00:16:01 Speaker 2

Perhaps if you ask , he might be able to read this.

00:16:07 Speaker 2

This is map, the map in the time of Zhengke's expedition.

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There is , where it is .

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And Peng Hang Gang, Jonathan need to correct me if I'm wrong.

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And then this Pahang Hubbard there, 1621.

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This is a very, very interesting map.

00:16:28 Speaker 2

I hope I can see it when I'm in Oxford.

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This is a very, quite recent, recently quiet map in Portin-Lavis, 2001.

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And this is Tioma here.

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The problem is with Arabic writing is because sometimes the dots is everywhere.

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So when they copy, it becomes the Tuma, the Numa.

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And we know this is Tuma because Arab geographers from the 9th century, 8th century, they have known Tuma because of its importance in terms of stopover before arriving in China.

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The question that you can ask is whether Pahang entioman is a

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Is it actually seen as important as a political entity, or is it a geographical region that they wanted to pinpoint?

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So, this is a very, very interesting study by Liang Sao Heng.

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She classified this.

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Her study is focusing on pre-1400s, and she said from during the late Middle Age, because these are all the sites that have been excavated archaeologically.

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So she classified into anthropods, collection centers, and feeder points.

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My colleagues also mentioned a bit yesterday.

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And none of these classification has among these.

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It doesn't have the labels of whether it can be considered as anthropods, collection centers, or feeder points.

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That is exactly because I think lack of archaeological excavation is being done.

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in Pahang River and even Johor River.

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So these are the drum delay because they found a lot of bronze artifacts and even they found the Dongsuan culture.

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In Tameling we also found a Dongsuan drum but because perhaps it is not really properly documented or it's found in isolation so it doesn't she doesn't consider that as a part of collection center of Villa Point.

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So

00:18:35 Speaker 2

My point is that until archaeological excavation is being done, then we can substantiate our claim.

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So, conclusion is, drawing from numismatic shipwreck cartography evidence, this study reassesses Pahang as an active participant in the Maritime spice rope.

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And these are among a few possible material sources to substantiate the Pahang as an active Maritime node in the Wider Maritime trade group.

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And many works need to be done, especially archaeology, I think, to properly substantiate the claims and evidence on Pahang Maritime history.

00:19:05 Speaker 2

Thank you.

00:19:13 Speaker 1

Thank you very much, Andrew.

00:19:14 Speaker 1

And really fascinating paper.

00:19:18 Speaker 1

I think you've just seen from the reaction of the audience that, you know, it was really, really wonderful for you to share some knowledge of those finds.

00:19:28 Speaker 1

Really, really interesting.

00:19:28 Speaker 1

And again, I think emphasizing the importance of the man, you know, not its marginality in many of these exchanges.