



## **HABI: Sustaining Traditional Textiles of the ASEAN**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Traditional Textiles Symposium

February 1-3, 2009

National Museum of the Philippines, Manila

<http://aseantextiles09.museumfoundationph.org>

Hosted by:

Museum Foundation of the Philippines and National Museum of the Philippines

### **About the Symposium**

The First Symposium on Traditional Textiles from the ASEAN Region was organized in December 2005 by the officers and members of the Jakarta-based *Himpunan Wastraprema* (HW) led by Mrs. Adiati Arifin Siregar, Chairperson, and Dr. Mariah Waworuntu, Chair for External Relations. Its aim was to provide textile experts, researchers, weavers, artisans, entrepreneurs, community workers, students and government decision-makers in and around the ASEAN region the opportunity to engage in an exchange of ideas relating to the preservation and better understanding of weaving traditions in ASEAN communities.

Textile specialists and entrepreneurs from seven of the ten ASEAN countries participated in the symposium. Textile experts and enthusiasts from Canada, the United States, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, and Germany also participated.

The members of *Himpunan Wastraprema* or the Indonesian Traditional Textiles Society — textile researchers and collectors — dedicate themselves to the preservation and study of indigenous weaving in Indonesia. The ASEAN Secretariat supported *Himpunan Wastraprema* in its founding efforts and provided the symposium venue.

By holding periodic gatherings, it is hoped that weaving traditions in the ASEAN region may be kept alive and that each member country will take turns hosting these. **The Second Symposium, from 1 to 3 February 2009, will be organized jointly by the National Museum of the Philippines and the Museum Foundation of the Philippines**, with guidance from the *Himpunan Wastraprema*. Primary funding will come from the ASEAN Foundation.

The second symposium's theme, *HABI: Sustaining Traditional Textiles of the ASEAN*, aims to once again assemble textile experts, weavers, collectors, researchers, and students to continue to learn ways of preserving the tradition of textiles in member countries. Many of these weaving and dyeing methods are deeply rooted in the cultures of ASEAN communities and it is this symposium's hope to find ways of keeping them sustainable.

The 2009 Symposium will showcase twenty-one sessions. These will consist of presentations of papers on new research and workshops that will demonstrate weaving techniques. Every effort will be made to achieve balance between new ideas and tried and successfully tested concepts, and the participation of experienced specialists as well as younger generations of textile experts. Additionally, the second evening will see a *Culture of Clothing Show* and a post-symposium textile tour of Iloilo will offer a first-hand view of the pineapple fabric weaving industry in this central Philippine island. An exhibition of the broad span of textile traditions in the Philippines from the National Museum of the Philippines collection and that of other Southeast Asian institutions will complement the symposium.

## **Other Components**

### **T/ISSUE: Cloth and Its Complications in Southeast Asia**

The exhibition presents three ensembles of early 20<sup>th</sup> century clothing and jewelry originating from the Philippine B'laan and Ga'dang peoples, and the Tetum people of the island of Timor. The extremely focused exhibition, which will draw attention to few instead of many artefacts from different ethnolinguistic groups, is curated to raise the level of awareness of complex challenges traditional textiles pose to academics and cultural workers who wish to preserve this heritage. The exhibition points out that these social, economic and aesthetic complexities issue from the extraordinary levels of refinement of these textiles. Complex materials will pose complex problems, as the originating cultures transition from archaic to post-industrial worlds. T/ISSUE asserts that without this idea, assistance programs run the risk of eroding— not just the textile traditions—but the forms of being human these traditions represent.

In this exhibition, therefore, old clothing ensembles "ask" eloquently for depth of understanding.

T/ISSUE will bring together artefacts from private collectors from the Philippines and Indonesia, and in this sense will be an unprecedented exhibition. The National Museum of the Philippines is the ideal setting for this exhibition, in that early 20<sup>th</sup> century textiles from its collection will be on exhibit at a nearby gallery, for viewers to make cross-references.

National Museum of the Filipino People

Exhibition Curated by Marian Pastor Roces

**Opens to the public February 4, 2009**

### **Market Encounter**

Market Encounter is from February 1-3, 2009 at the Ground Floor of the National Museum of the Filipino People. There will be 30 participating vendors to showcase the range of textile being woven in the Philippines today. The booths will feature traditional as well as contemporary weaving and fabric goods from weaving communities across the country, clothing items from Philippine designers using indigenous textile, and selected pieces from other countries in the region. The textile bazaar will include pieces woven with backstrap looms, handlooms, and floor looms, using cotton, *silk*, *piña*, *sinamay*, *jusi*, *abaca*, and other natural fibers. Many of those participating will be from weaving communities in the provinces that are not normally represented in Manila. The bazaar will also showcase traditional Asian fabrics and products. It will be a rare chance for bazaar goers to purchase these weaves.

### **Culture of Clothing Fashion Show**

***Habi: Weaving the Fabric of Life***, is a fashion show on February 3 at the Museum of the Filipino People which will showcase the exemplary and colorful patterns of the fabrics woven by our ethnic communities in Davao, Aurora, Aklan and Ilocos designed by the country's top designers, Lulu Tan Gan, Cary Santiago, Randy Ortiz, Rhett Eala, and Patrice Ramos Diaz. "Habi" will be staged by Jackie Aquino, one of the country's most brilliant fashion show directors. Through our partnership with ABS CBN's Lifestyle Channel, "Habi" will be featured in a 30-minute special that will air thrice and will also include the interviews with the main proponents of the symposium. Tickets will be sold to the public (non-symposium participants) at Php 2,500 each.