



The Maritime Culture of Madura, Indonesia

A Public Lecture presented by Dr Kurt Stenross,
Asia Research Centre

Among the maritime peoples of Indonesia, the Madurese, from the island of Madura off the northeast of Java, are very much the exception. As the only leading maritime ethnic group from central Indonesia, the Madurese stand in counterpoint to the other main maritime groups which are all from Sulawesi; their traditional vessels, extant until almost the end of the twentieth century, differed markedly from those of the Sulawesi groups and were also the only trading prahus of modern times with no European influence in either hull design or sailing rig; and despite their reputation as seafarers, the Madurese are by far the least understood of the main maritime groups. This lecture, illustrated by photographs from field research spanning two decades, explains the factors enabling the Madurese to become a leading force in prahu shipping and examines their maritime culture with reference to their vessels.

Thursday 13th October 2011

1:30 pm

Senate Room

All Welcome, Free Admission

Dr Kurt Stenross has been studying the traditional vessels of Indonesia since 1974 and is the leading authority on the maritime Madurese. He is the author of *Madurese Seafarers: Prahus, Timber and Illegality on the Margins of the Indonesian State* (Singapore: NUS Press / Asian Studies Association of Australia, 2011)

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