

## Completion Report

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The study on Japanese Heritage in Bukit Besi Iron Ore Mining and Its Potential in the Terengganu Tourism Industry reveals the profound historical connection between the Japanese iron ore industry and the local community of Bukit Besi, located in Mukim Besol, Dungun, Terengganu. From the early 20th century until the closure of the mines in 1970, Bukit Besi was Southeast Asia's largest open-cast iron ore mining site, predominantly operated by Japanese companies. This heritage has left behind not only physical remnants such as chimneys, crushing plants, railway systems, and explosive storage facilities, but also intangible legacies such as stories, memories, and administrative developments which have shaped the local identity. The study employed three primary methods: document analysis, field observations, and interviews with local stakeholders including museum staff, authorities, and residents. Findings indicate that many mining artifacts remain intact and well-preserved, largely due to efforts by the Central Terengganu Development Authority (KETENGAH) and the establishment of the Bukit Besi Museum. This preservation initiative is vital in keeping alive the historical and cultural relevance of Bukit Besi, offering an immersive narrative of the past for future generations. In addition to its historical significance, Bukit Besi possesses considerable potential in heritage tourism. Its location amidst lush greenery, scenic trails, and peaceful village life positions it as a unique tourism destination that harmoniously blends nature, history, and culture. The concept of 'heritopolis'—a city of heritage—is introduced in this study to reimagine Bukit Besi not just as a mining relic, but as a living museum of Southeast Asian industrial heritage, enriched by Japanese involvement. The tourism potential extends to eco-tourism, wellness retreats, adventure trails, and educational tours. If strategically promoted and sustainably developed, Bukit Besi can emerge as a landmark that celebrates the diplomatic and industrial ties between Malaysia and Japan. The study recommends intensified collaboration among stakeholders to elevate Bukit Besi's profile, both nationally and internationally, with a long-term aspiration of being nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In conclusion, the Japanese mining heritage in Bukit Besi is more than a relic of the past—it is a cornerstone for future development in heritage tourism. Through continued preservation, community engagement, and international collaboration, Bukit Besi can once again gain global recognition, this time as the “Iron Heritopolis of Asia.”

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

**Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)**

1. 10th January 2024, Academy of Contemporary Islamic Studies (ACIS) - UiTM Kelantan Branch. International Conference On Islam And Global Issues (ICIGI) 2024. *Potensi Bandar Bukit Besi Sebagai Destinasi Pelancongan Warisan (The Potential of Bukit Besi Town as a Heritage Tourism Destination)*. Presenter: Wan Mohd Yusof Wan Chik & Abdul Wahab Md Ali)

**Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)**

1. Al-Qanatr: International Journal of Islamic Studies, 33(1), 17–32. *Heartware Tourism: Concept and Implementation Potential in Terengganu State: A Preliminary Study*. Author: Wan Mohd Yusof Wan Chik, Khiral Anuar Daud, Farah Syazrah Mohd Ghazalli Ahmad Faizal Ramly, Abdul Wahab Mohd Ali & Ahmad Iqbal Mohd Fadzli. <https://al-qanatr.com/aq/article/view/786>
2. Business Sustainability with Artificial Intelligence (AI): Challenges and Opportunities. *Studies in Systems, Decision and Control*, vol 568. Springer, Cham. *The Potential of Bukit Besi Town as a Heritage Tourism Destination*. Author: Wan Mohd Yusof Wan Chik, Abdul Wahab Mohd Ali, Ahmad Faizal Ramly Wan Mohd Rosli Wan Ngah, Mohd Fadzil Abdul Kadir & Ahmad Iqbal Mohd Fadzli. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-71526-6\\_35](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-71526-6_35)

**Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)**

1. Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin | e-Coffeetable@INSPIREUniSZA | eISBN 978-629-95039-0-3. Year Publication 2024. *Bukit Besi: Tracing the Iron Heritopolis of Asia*. Author: Wan Mohd Yusof Wan Chik, Abdul Wahab Mohd Ali, Ahmad Faizal Ramly, Wan Mohd Rosli Wan Ngah & Mohd Fadzil Abdul Kadir (English Version - Completed and Published).
  - Full PDF: <https://tinyurl.com/25erf2xw>
  - AnyFlip (password - bukitbesi123): <https://online.fliphtml5.com/hemou/rbxh/#p=216>
2. No Publisher Yet | Year 2025 Pending. *Bukit Besi: Menjejaki Heritopolis Besi Asia*. Author: Wan Mohd Yusof Wan Chik, Abdul Wahab Mohd Ali, Ahmad Faizal Ramly, Wan Mohd Rosli Wan Ngah & Mohd Fadzil Abdul Kadir (Malay Version - Coming Soon)