

Integration of Contemporary Science & Technology and Culture Beliefs - with Mazu Patrols and Pilgrimages for Example

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Abstract

The most important event in Taiwan is Mazu patrols and pilgrimages in the 3rd lunar month every year. More than 100 thousand believers from all over the temples compose a very big pilgrimage team. The patrol activities continue and reach the climax on the day of Mazu's birthday (8th day, 3rd lunar month). Up until now, the traditional culture of people going on foot in patrols and pilgrimages can still be seen for Dajia and Baishatun Mazu. The thrilling sight is unrivaled. Through the humanistic view, this paper explores how the contemporary science and technology are combined with Mazu cult and infused into a new stage in terms of traditional beliefs.

In the whole patrol activities, each ceremony must conform to a traditional procedure. Any carelessness is not allowed. It let the whole route be filled with high indetermination. So GPS and photograph lens on Mazu's sedan chair, along with GIS, are used to share the real-time image on the website (<http://mazu.gis.tw/>). People at the scene can share the whole process with people online through wireless Internet and PDA. Even the believers who can't participate at the scene can enjoy this annual religious event through the internet.

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