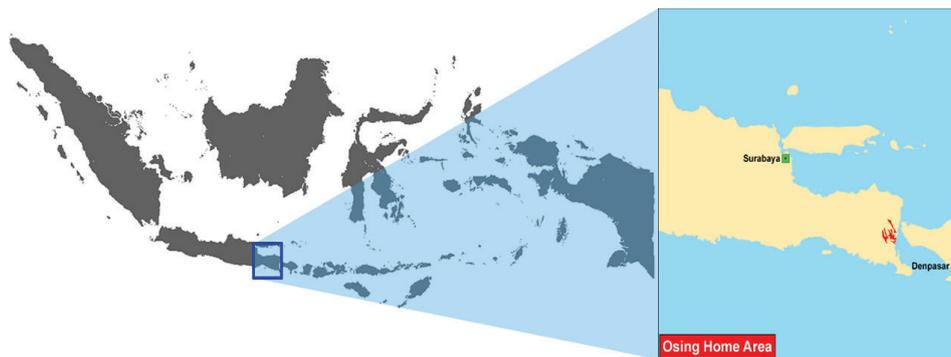
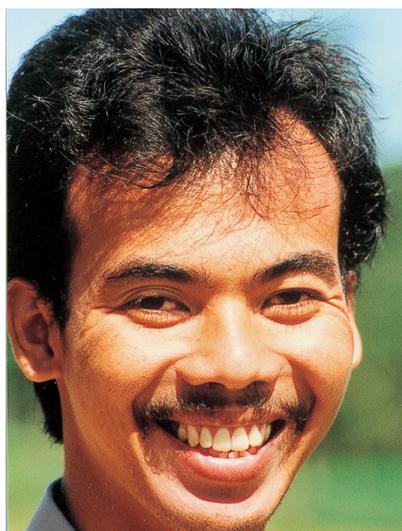


OSING



Demography	Osing Language	Status
Location: East Java Population: 330.000 Major Religion: Islam	Bible: Yes Jesus Film: No Online Media: No	Believers: <3.300 Engaged: Yes Indigenous Church: 1

Identity and Location

The Jawa Osing people reside in the Banyuwangi district of the East Java Province and seem to be the original occupants of this eastern-most area of Java. The Jawa Osing people are part of the Jawa cluster of peoples, but they have their own cultural variations which differ from other Jawa peoples. Banyuwangi is a transit city for tourists who are en route to Bali. Banyuwangi was the capital city of the Hindu Blambangan Kingdom, which was the last kingdom in Java. The Osing speak Ngoko Osing (Osing language). For other people groups of Java, this language is considered old-fashioned, a direct derivative of Old Jawa, as is Balinese. Osing history began at the end of the Majapahit Kingdom about 1478 AD. Civil war and the growth of Islamic Empires, especially the Malacca Sultanate, accelerated the fall of Majapahit Kingdom. After the fall of the Majapahit Kingdom, Majapahit people fled to places such as Mount Bromo, Blambangan, Banyuwangi, and Bali.

Society and Culture

Family, home, food, and social and health patterns of the Jawa Osing people are very characteristic of Jawa culture, but Bali culture also has many similarities because of historical proximity. One example is the janger dance, with love-based themes, which is performed to the rhythm of the two-sided drum called the kendang kempul. Jawa Osing clothing is Javanese in style, but the women's hair buns (sanggul) resemble those of the Balinese. Also Osing people's architecture resembles Balinese style, especially the decorations on rooftops. Many of the Jawa Osing make their living by farming, raising livestock, and trade. In addition, some work as local government officials or employees in private industry. They never experience water shortages because they live on the slopes of Mount Ijen and Mount Merapi.

The Jawa Osing take great care and highly value preserving their relationships with relatives, whether they are near or far. Good relationships with others are also maintained through mutual sharing and giving, as well as trying to understand other people's feelings and abilities. This practice is called tepo seliro, which means not doing to anything to anyone which you would not want done to you. The Jawa Osing are known as hospitable and well-mannered people. Their culture, which is under government protection, has become popular and interesting to tourists. The government wishes to preserve and utilize the unique beliefs and culture of the Jawa Osing people. This has added to the pride the Jawa Osing take in their culture.

Beliefs

Islam became the dominant religion of the Jawa Osing people after Hinduism was pushed out from their area to Bali and Islam spread, beginning on the north coast of Java. The kyai (Islamic teacher) has the ultimate authority in matters of religion. The Jawa Osing people have many selamatan (ritual meals) specific to various occasions, including cleaning of the village, tilling land, harvesting crops, birth, marriage, and moving to a new house. Selamatan rituals are a mixture of Jawa culture and Islam, such as celebrating Islamic holidays including Suran, Muludan, Ruahan, Punggahan, Rejabatan, and Sekaten. The traditional dukun (shamans/healers/occultists) are well known for their ability to apply black magic from long distances. The Jawa Osing people believe that through magical powers the dukun can heal or destroy whoever or whatever they desire.

Needs

As farmers and livestock breeders, the Jawa Osing are somewhat limited in their abilities. Because of this, they need training in small-scale technology to raise their level of productivity.